HISTORY OF POSTAGE STAMPS AND OF PHILATELY

(STAMP COLLECTING)

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

To the present edition has been added everything important that has happened in the course of the last two years which comes within the scope of this work. There has been a particular increase in the headings relating to the German technical literature and the life of the society. Illustrations of watermarks have also been increased.

The work can thus claim the description complete to the present day; may the collectors of Germany find renewed information and usefulness.

Oybin, 30th June 1880.

The Author.

Editor’s note: This has been a rather difficult document to edit since the author does not appear to have referred to his renown library for all of the information on the publications he quotes or persons and organisations he lists, but rather appears to have written much of the work from his evidently prodigious memory. This has unfortunately resulted in the appearance of many spelling &c. errors. I have made numerous minor corrections, generally to the names of authors or titles of publications, as well as adding the occasional note. These were originally indicated by being placed in square brackets. However, the brackets were so frequent that they disrupted the text so I eventually simply made the corrections and omitted the brackets. No attempt has been made to check and correct everything, just the obvious mistakes that jumped out at me.
HISTORY OF POSTAGE STAMPS

Pages one to seventeen comprise a concise history of postage stamps which it was not thought worth translating since the information is readily available in many English-language handbooks.

PHILATELY (STAMP COLLECTING)

PHILATELY

We ask first what is the meaning of the word philately, which has been used for over a decade by stamp collectors for their avocation, and now, thanks to an etymological paper by Treichel, we are in a position to give a most exact answer to this*.

The word Philately [in German Philatlie] is purely Greek and its first part consists of the stem phil (from philos = friend), and the next pair of syllables consists of the letter a, which in Greek grammar is the privative alpha, which in our German is -able, free or without, and by the word telos from customs”, taxes, or tariffs. Thus, a rather free translation gives us a liking for or a concern with customs or tax-free activities, a very satisfactory term which has been adopted in France and Belgium since the year 1866, and then over the entire globe wherever stamp collecting has adherents. It has also found a place in Lexica, etc. It deserves at least a mention here that in Germany, and especially in Dresden, there has been a further tendency to ignore the a that extends and explains the term, and to use the derivation of philos and telos to write Philately instead of Philately.**

Another more technically correct term is Timbrology – stamp science – usually used in France and Belgium. The Société Française de Timbrologie decided in favour of this word. The word Timbrophilie – Stamp Friendship or Stamp Hobby, has also gained a certain amount of currency. However these French names are bastard terminology which has borrowed from the French and Greek language, which is good reason for the purely Greek word Philately to receive the most sympathy.

The same thing applies to the names which the stamp collectors of the world, now numbering a hundred thousand, use for themselves. Now to stamp collecting itself.

* A. Treichel: Philatlie. An etymological correction. Moschkau’s Magazin, 1872, Issue 8. This interpretation was sharply questioned in Issue 9, p.39. Treichel’s explanation was supported as early as 1866 by an anonymous author in Briefmarken Sammler, Issue 2; also by G. Kaufmann in Illustrierte Briefmarken Journal, Issue 3 and in Issue 6 of the Philog Dr. J. Kümmel. [I can not trace this final reference.]

** This Dresden idea also appears in Moschkau’s Magazin, 1872, Issue 10, in a definition by Baron Gutmann, who supports Philately.

ORIGIN AND EXPANSION OF STAMP COLLECTING

2
Stamp collecting can really be called a science now in view of the way it is treated and the literature, etc., to which it has given rise. According to the accepted story, it began as a result of a bet decades ago, in which one person undertook to collect enough stamps to paper a room, whilst the other denied this. The first person collected the necessary amount of stamps by advertising, etc., and the wine that was the stake was finally drunk in the stamp-papered room. Whether and why there are no more bets in philately at the present day is not quite clear to me; however, the action that sets a stone rolling is often quite comical, so I did not wish to leave out this curiosity here.

The actual year in which philately began can hardly be determined with precision, but it is safe to say that we cannot speak of collecting in the real sense before the years 1858-1862. However this does not exclude the possibility of collecting at an earlier period, 1854-1857, as has often been suggested.

The cradle of philately was in the capitals of England and France, and probably also Belgium. It was nourished and cared for there until it bounded over the ocean and over the Rhine until it soon arrived in the capitals of America and Germany and roused the same interest there as in its original homelands. There, people of every rank collected with lively interest and real passion, but in our case it was first young people who began the collection of stamps to give them a new favoured object for exchange. In Paris collecting took place on all levels, at court and in diplomatic circles, in schools and playgrounds. Stamp collecting became a furious mania that knew no boundaries. The Terrasse des Feuillants in the Tuilleries garden was for a long time a principal gathering point for stamp collectors, and young ladies and gentlemen gaily carried on their dealings under the open sky in the shadow of tall elms and chestnuts. A formal stamps market was set up later in the Palais Royal, where the trade was on a larger scale: now antique book dealers have moved to the quays along with cigarette cards and stationery dealers etc., and stamp collecting itself got a certain foothold*. Similar things happened in England and Belgium, and though we lack such detailed descriptions of them, we know that major stamp dealers soon arose in the first named, simply as a result of the enormous demand.

* Petersen: Genrebilder aus dem Modernen Babel., p.138.

In Germany, philately spread at the speed of lightning, and Leipzig, then as now, was the centre of activity and found zealous advocates in the bookseller G. Wuttig and the antique dealers C. C. Zschiesche and C. E. Köder himself. However philately found its way not only into the principal German cities but also down to the small towns and the industrial districts, and I do not think I am going too far when I say that by 1862 in Germany 50% of all students in higher seats of learning and primary schools were collecting stamps. This should also be an adequate explanation of the fact that stamp albums were first issued here with a sharp eye on the value and future of the pastime, and before Belgium and France. G. Wuttig of Leipzig has the distinction of publishing the first German album. It began as an album-like carton containing only loose sheets of red-squared paper without text, gradually expanded, and reached nineteen editions up to 1870 under Bauschke and Kümmel. This album was followed in Leipzig in 1863 by the first German catalogue from Zschiesche & Köder, and in this and the following years a large number of German dealers put out price lists for the stamps they had for sale. Examples are from G. Bauschke, Leipzig, 1864, J. Braunschweig,
Berlin, 1863, E. Heim in Vienna, Oskar Jann in Breslau, etc. in 1864. The lively interest in philately shown in all circles in Germany during this period, and the increase in passionate adherents is due not least to the daily press, which with few exceptions gave its vote to the science. In this connection we may mention an illustrated description of all stamps in what was then the widely read fashion magazine, Der Bazar, 1862-64, and also a very interesting unbiased article, Stamp Collections in the Leipziger Illustrierten Zeitung, 1862, Issue 1014.

As in Germany, the press in France, England, America, etc., had already written about philately, and to me the articles in the Annuaire Scientifique (London), 1855; the Monde Illustre (Paris), 1864 and the Union Review (1862) are worth reading in the first place.

If France can lay claim to the first history of stamps for collectors (Boyer: Histoire des Timbres Poste., Paris, 1862), England can claim the first postage stamps journal, which was edited by F. Booty in Brighton on the 1st January 1862 (Published by H. and C. Treacher) under the title The Stamp Collectors Guide. [This is a catalogue – see later for the correct information.] This undertaking was however the signal for general imitation, and the first of January of the following year brought us Le Timbre-Poste of Moens in Belgium (which is still appearing after 17 years), The Stamp Collectors Magazine from A. Smith & Co. in England, in Germany the Magazin für Briefmarkensammler from Zschiesche and Köder in Leipzig. On the 1st January 1864 Le Timbrophile by A. Maury appeared in France in Paris.

In this period the literature sprang up like mushrooms from the earth in accordance with the significant expansion of philately. Albums, catalogues, handbooks on individual countries, on forgeries, watermarks, etc., musical compositions about stamps, artistic products such as photographs, lithographs, woodcuts – in short anything even remotely saleable – was produced and found plenty of purchasers. To satisfy this keen demand, all places with stamp dealers who put out catalogues or price-lists in line with the extent of their business, tried to a greater or lesser extent to get into this business, which in the contrary view was worthy of a better object!

Thus, philately arose rapidly and expanded just as rapidly over the whole of the globe, and found access to young and old, high and low.

**VALUE OF STAMP COLLECTING**

Can it be any wonder, if the question is raised here and there about this pure mania, in the end, is stamp collecting anything more than childish?, etc. The subject is taken to basics by scholars and pedagogues, and the finders differ in their conclusions as much as the seekers. Teachers condemned stamp collecting for ruining the pupils, leading them to barter and neglect their lessons, and this view was expressed in print in [the popular magazine] Gartenlaube, and at the same time stamp collecting was also banned in schools. Philately was supported from other no-less competent sides as stimulating and informative in many ways.

The golden truth lay however in the middle. Many voices raised in a completely unprejudiced manner the question of the value of philately, and could thus speak for it. They brought both the total condemnation and the exaggerated praise, back to the right proportions, and also expressed in clear words the actual value and uses, etc., of philately. They refer to the foundations on which philately was built, and oppose stamp mania, the unplanned, pointless and aimless acquisition of stamps.
Dr John Edward Gray, the director of the British Museum, says The usefulness and attraction of collecting any kind of object lies in educating the mind to careful observation, exact comparison and correct judgement of their differences and similarities that they show, and in interesting the collector in the design or art that has gone into their creation or manufacture, and rousing interest in the history of the country which produces or uses the collected object. Stamps are useful for all branches of study, since they vary sufficiently to offer broad grounds for classification. The fact that we obtain stamps from so many countries leads us to ask about the circumstances which led to their introduction, what is the history they depict and why some countries (France for example) find it necessary to make so many changes in so few years, whereas others have never felt the need to do so.

The changes in postage stamps overall give an account of important historical events, such as the ascent of a ruler to the throne, a change in regime or the incorporation of a smaller state into a larger one, a change in the standard of coinage etc. Hence a stamp collection, like a coin collection, acts as an epitome of the history of civilised people over the last quarter of a century. At the same time, it shows great variations in design and execution, like an art collection in miniature, characteristic of the country from which it comes. The extent of the collection, the kind and manner of its display and upkeep are finger-posts to the working methods, sense of order and cleanliness and finally the taste of the collector.

Similar views are expressed by the author of the interesting article Stamp collecting in the Leipziger Illustirten Zeitung, 1882, Issue 1014, whilst adding to the remark: people try in the end to bring a certain plan and arrangement to collecting, so as to give it its rightful place along with collections of coins, weapons, autographs, seals, etc. He says: If we look on postage stamps as a sort of paper money, its collection and preservation could perhaps be looked on as a division of coin collecting. Also, if they are clean and well-maintained they can be added to a portrait or weapon collection, since they add up over time to a miniature gallery of the ruling house, and can thus lay claim to historical, heraldic and genealogical interest. Regarded and treated from this standpoint, a good, systematically maintained stamp collection becomes more than just a mere children’s pastime and deserves to be taken into account along with many other dilettantisms of the modern age.

These voices in favour of the subject and based on fact, stand opposed to the divergent views expressed on the pedagogical side, not only against student collectors, but above all by the short article already mentioned in Gartenlaube, 1864. This tried to give the subject its death-stroke in a sideways sort of manner, as it stated that stamp collecting promotes inattention in pupils, and even leads to dishonesty in what is called “swapping”. However the author of this article seems to have left completely out of account the fact that long before stamp exchanging became popular in the schools, and even in spite of it later, pictures, counters, balls and hundreds of other things were traded, in spite of the fact that the most vigorous efforts were made to ban swapping and trading in schools.

However, as must in fact be proved, since stamp collecting has become an unavoidable preoccupation of young people, perhaps a parallel should be drawn between the collecting of stamps and the collecting of beetles, butterflies, coins, weapons and seals.

As far as the last-named objects are concerned, we have already heard from Dr. Gray, etc., about their affinity of one for another, but the collection of beetles and butterflies is something different. They depend partly on nature study in schools, and for the most part they are under the control of animal protection societies. Youthful collectors use the most refined
media to kill fresh specimens on fine summer days, and burning matches are as popular as red-hot needles. It is clear what satisfaction the children get from such direct cruelty, and that they are cruel, heartless and lacking in feeling, and who dares oppose it?

How comparatively blameless, and therefore more teachable, is stamp collecting? Dr. Faber says: In no better way can we awaken in the older pupil a feeling for cleanliness and order than to plan a stamp collection. A dirty stamp collection is an absurdity, a disorderly one a contradiction in terms. No-one could or would deny that maintaining the purity and precise order of even a relatively important collection calls for a fair degree of industry and care, which can make their beneficial effects felt to some degree in even wider circles. Above all it should be noted however that the eyes are opened, considerations raised and attention directed from the narrow circle of the everyday towards distant lands and zones. Geographical and ethnographic data are presented in the most entertaining and impressive manner, and the thirst for knowledge is linked to directly connected regions of business. These impressions are much easier and more lasting than those gained for example by looking at a map or plodding through a dull book. (Bazar, Heidelberg, 1869, p.2.)

In his account of the value of stamp collecting, Dr. Faber comes to this conclusion: Philately is not merely as valuable as numismatics and heraldry, but is much more stimulating than either of these. If they are not on a level with it, it is the popular foundation for them.

More than three decades have passed since the Annuaire Scientifique published the first known article on stamp collecting. Since then, philately has grown in a way that no-one could have predicted, and is now handled as a scientific subject, which has indeed become a science, whose value is acknowledged on practically all sides as we shall demonstrate later by certain examples of widely differing types.

**POSTAGE STAMP LITERATURE**

It is thanks to an item so rich as to explain and deal with all branches of this topic, and which is unique of its type, the magnificent The Philatelic[al] Library. A Catalogue of Stamp Publications., by John K. Tiffany (St. Louis, 1874) distinguished by diplomatic accuracy, and which we can definitely take as gospel*.

* Tiffany’s masterwork, 14 large quarto sheets, was published in an edition of 150 copies which Tiffany presented to his friends. The author was lucky enough to obtain a copy for his philatelic library, where pride makes it beautiful.

Literature came into flower earlier in foreign countries than in German countries, and philately took root there earlier and found true and numerous friends. Foreign literature will thus be dealt with first, with the briefest practicable account of its extent and significance.

After America, England has been able to show the richest literature. As mentioned above, it has the distinction of publishing the first stamp magazine, The Stamp Collectors Review published in Liverpool in 1862 by Moore & Co., there have been more than sixty magazines since then up to the present, of which the following my be designated as the most important: The Stamp Collectors Magazine by Alfred Smith & Co., Bath, 1863-74. The best of all
English journals! Its 11 volumes comprise 138 issues and 2300 pages. [Actually 12 volumes, etc.] The Stamp Collectors Magazine was also the first technical journal to use the excellent Mulready cover as the masthead. Equal to this in rank should be mentioned The Philatelist, from Stafford Smith in Brighton, which appeared from the 1st January 1867 to December 1876, i.e. 9 years. [Actually 10 years.] The disappearance of these two famous journals after such long and noteworthy existence is regrettable and inexplicable to us, but both have had successors in a more modest style. These are Alfred Smith & Co’s Monthly Circular and the Philatelic Quarterly from Stafford Smith and Smith; this last journal, the Philatelic Review (Butler, Maidenhead), and the Universal Postage Stamp Advertiser (Cox, London) are the most read specialist magazines in England at the present time. Outstanding amongst the English journals was Edw. L. Pemberton’s Philatetical Journal, which had coloured illustrations and was edited by an illustrious name, but nevertheless lasted only one year (1872). There was also the Stamp Collectors Journal (1863) and Werninek & Co.’s The Stamp, also with coloured illustrations.

F. Booty brought out the first stamp catalogue in England in the year 1862 under the name The Stamp Collectors Guide. Although as early as 1863 there was a new edition with the new title Aids to Stamp Collectors, it lost ground when Mount Brown brought out his Catalogue of British Colonial and Foreign Postage Stamps. The first edition was also in 1862, and the 5th appeared as early as 1865. However, collecting was so vigorous in England, that these catalogues did not satisfy for very long. At the same time, 1862, Dr. J. Edward Gray, the Director of the British Museum brought out his excellent Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps, the 3rd edition of which appeared in 1865, and the 6th in 1874, when it took the title The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps. It is not only the best illustrated but also the quite outstanding catalogue for England. Neither Dr. C. Viner’s Postage Stamp Collectors Catalogue & Guide (1869), nor J. B. Moens’ Postage Stamp Illustrated can rival it. Only Edward L. Pemberton’s Stamp Collectors Handbook is worth mentioning as of importance, and the same author’s Philatetical Catalogue (1874) can be represented as a sort of ideal catalogue, in a very large format and complete with reproductions of original photographs. Unfortunately, because of its high price only one edition appeared, though this showed Pemberton’s great knowledge and goodwill in the most brilliant manner.

England was at its least productive in the issue of stamp albums, a circumstance which explains why Belgium, Germany and even Holland turned out English editions and sold them in quantity. The first place amongst English albums is definitely taken by the E. S. Gibbons Imperial Postage Stamp Album, which is in its third edition at the present time. Rich in pictures of coats of arms and stamps, magnificently produced, its only drawback is to be printed on both sides, which makes it impossible to put in supplementary sheets. Great popularity is also enjoyed by Edward A. Oppen’s Postage Stamp Album, the first edition of which appeared in 1862, and the eighth in 1866. We should also mention Johnson & Rowe’s Postage Stamp Collectors Paquet Album, the first English one, and H. Stafford Smith’s Permanent Stamp Album (1869), which, like Stanley Gibbons & Co.’s Improved Postage Stamp Album has no text, etc., and is designed for the permanent display of entire covers, cards, etc. Finally there is the same publisher’s The Philatelical Album (1878). The best known of the translations are J. Lallier’s Postage Stamp Album (Paris & London 1862, 9th edition 1870), J. B. Moens’ Postage Stamp Album (Brussels and London 1874, 10th edition 1874 [sic]), Von Rinsum’s four-language Permanent Stamp Album (Amsterdam 1869), Bauschke’s The Illustrated Postage Stamp Album (Plymouth and Leipzig 1867), and L. Senf’s four-language Internationales Briefmarken-Album (1879).
Forgery, which was in full swing in England as early as the beginning of the sixties, gave rise to the following special publications: **E. Dobie**: *Over the Falsification of Postage Stamps*, (Falmouth, 1862), the **Lewes and Edw. L. Pemberton**: *Forge[ed] Stamps*. (Edinburgh, 1862), **Thomas Dalston**: *How to detect Forge[ed] Stamps*. (1865), and **J. M. Stourton**: *Postage Stamp Forgeries*. (London 1865). Works that established their value, became superfluous with time however, since the magazines turned their whole attention to forgeries. How big a volume it would take to describe all the forgeries put into circulation to the present day. How soon would it be incomplete because of the activities of forgers? England’s literary productions since belong more to art, etc., and will be dealt with correspondingly.

If we now give a short glance back at England’s scientific literature, we must start with the cessation of its best journals and state that in terms of its technical press it is now the worst of all the countries that embrace philately. On the other hand it cannot be denied that the excellence of its albums make it harder and harder to sell translations, since they take part in the topic of “seasonally lower prices”. Outstanding services to the English technical literature have been performed, in addition to the above-named authors and publishers by **Edw. L. Pemberton** (†1879), **Dr. J. E. Gray**, **Dr. C. Viner**, **W. Dudley At[te]e, Dr. Boley [?]**, **Overy Taylor**, **Rev. R. B. Earée**, **J. G. Wilson**, **C. H. Coster** [American], **Don M. P. de Figueroa** [Spanish], **Herbert Camoens** [Pen name of Adelaide Lucy Fenton] and many others whose names will often be met with in the English technical literature.

Let us now go on to a closer consideration of the French (including Belgian) literature.

**French Philatelic Literature**

This is less extensive, but on the whole however, more scientific than that of England or any other nation. We must give France, including Belgium, the honour of having produced the most superior literature, on whose research and results the whole of literature largely depends at the present time, whereas earlier it was only an echo itself. However the active production has tended to move from the central point of Paris and concentrate more in Brussels, where the Regent is responsible for all French technical literature and is notable for the development of philately.

Of journals, **J. B. Moens’ Le Timbre-Poste** (Brussels) has appeared regularly from the 1st January 1863, to the present day. It has the distinction of being not only the oldest and longest lasting, but also the most important of all the specialist journals of the world. Its 16 volumes build up into one majestic grand volume, full of the most valuable material on philatelic science, and is loved and read well beyond the limits of the French-speaking world. As well as this, another technical journal is currently appearing in the French language, the *Ami des Timbres* from **Charles Roussin** in Paris, which is now in its 7th year, and is distinguished by an abundant chronicle and regular supplements that build up to a very complete illustrated catalogue (see below). The *Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* from **Maury Jr.** (Paris 1864-74), *Le Timbrophile*, from **P. Mahé** (Paris 18[6]4-71), *La Gazette des Timbres* from the same (Paris 1864-76) were read and requested for years, but have gone under with many less important ones.

As for French catalogues, the first to get known was **A. Potiquet’s Catalogue de Timbres-Poste** (Paris 1862), though the year 1861 saw Laplan[t]e’s Catalogue (Paris) and **J. B. Moens’ Manuel du Collectionneur de Timbres Poste** (Brussels). This last appeared this year
(1877) under the slightly altered title *Catalogue-Prix-Courant des Timbres Poste* in its fifteenth edition, and is the most complete of all existing catalogues and handbooks. Its completeness depends on minitiae, but it is widely read and loved. Of the older catalogues, *Valette* *Petit Manuel de l’Amateur des T. P.* (Paris 1862), *Baillieu’s Guide de l’Amateur de Timbres-Poste* (Paris 1863), *Moen’s Illustrations du Manuel du Collectionneur* and *Nicolas’ Catalog de l’Amateur de T. P.* are worth mentioning. Of the newer ones, on the other hand, apart from the first-named, is *Charles Roussin’s Catalogue de tout les Timbres* (Paris 1874, 2nd edition 1877), like that of *Moen’s*, it includes not only stamps but also cancellations, and is extremely accurate. There are also *A. Maury’s Catalog Complet des Timbres-Poste* (Paris 1865, 5th edition 1876), and *P Mahé’s Guide-Manuel du Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* (Paris 1863, last edition 1870). Of the handbooks without details of prices *J. B. Moens* put out in Brussels his *Timbres-Poste Illustres*, a work which stands alone until today in its costly format – 45 tables of illustrations in copperplate, and in 1867 *Oscar Berger-Levrault* in Strasburg put out his *Catalogue Méthodique*, which was the most reliable source-work till that time, and can still claim a high value today. Various specialist works appeared in Belgium as well. I would mention the following *Timbres d’Offices Americains* by Consul *James Lesley* (Brussels 1868), *Timbres de Moldavie et de Roumanie* by *Dr. Magnus* (Brussels 1869) and *Les Timbres-Poste Rureaux de Russie*, by *Graf S. Kaprowsky* (Brussels 1875). In the years from 1877 to the present *J. B. Moens* has put out his large-scale *Bibliotheque des Timbrophiles*, a multi-volume work which covers the history of the stamps of individual countries in the best diplomatic manner, and *Dr. Magnus*’s work on watermarks: *Essais sur les Filigranes des Timbres Poste* (1867) which, because of its high price would never be generally popular but is of importance for the serious collector, and – made topical by forgeries as in England – *Moen’s* *Falsifications des Timbres-Poste* (Brussels 1862), neither of which have had new editions and are now out of date and unusable.

Not many stamp albums have appeared in France, but those that have, have been with a few exceptions outstanding, and are still highly regarded and used. *Justin Lallier’s Album Timbres-Poste et Cartes Postales* (Paris) contends with *J. B. Moens’ Album Timbres Poste* (Brussels) for superiority as regards format and completeness. The first edition of both appeared in 1863. *Lallier’s* went to 14 editions in its first decade, and *Moen’s* to 11 in the same period, but reached its 17th in 1876. These two still appear in cross-quarto. Apart from them, France only has *A. Maury’s Petit Album des T. P.* (Paris 1876), and the same author’s *Album Universell* (Paris 1876) as worthy of note. After that we have to go to Holland (*v. Rinsum*) and Germany for their translations, of which *G. Bauschke’s Album Timbres-Poste* (Leipzig 1867, 2nd ed. 1869) is worth mentioning, as apart from this translation, a literal reprint was produced, followed by the *L. Senf Internationale Briefmarken-Album* (in four languages, 1879).

That is our initial review of the French literature, fully described in the Bulletin de la Société Française de Timbrologie (Paris 1877, Issues 5-8), and we have nothing else to say on it. It is a model literature which every philatelist should study as a duty, whatever language he speaks.

It should also be mentioned that France also favours the collection of revenue stamps, and devotes a special magazine to them, *Le Timbre Fiscal, Moens*, (Brussels 1874 - on). A *Monographie des Timbres Fiscals Mobiles de la France et des Colonies Françaises* by *Ph. d. B.* appeared from *Mahé* in 1875. The catalogues from *Moen’s* and *Roussin* also give exact details of all known revenue stamps of the world. Finally *J. B. Moens* again in 1869 put out an *Album Timbres Télégraphes*, which however, is now united with his major *Album Illustre*
Useful information on the French literary domain has been given in the first place by Dr. Legrand in Paris, writing under the pseudonym Dr. Magnus, and Oscar Berger-Levrault in Nancy. Also active are Baron A. v. Rothschild, E. Regnart, E. de Rives de Seine, Ph. de Ferrari, Mahe, Maury, Schmidt de Wilde, etc., the greatest part of whom are still active in the literature of their own country.

Switzerland

Switzerland came to life in philately only recently. H. Riesen in Schwanden put out the Schweizerische Briefmarken-Zeitung, but had no success with it. The Schweizer Illustrierte Briefmarken-Zeitung from R. Deyhle & Co. in Berne is now in its second year and still appears to be viable, which is not surprising as its contents are rich and suitable. Switzerland has no special literature to report; handbooks, albums etc., are obtained from Germany and France. The Swiss dealers put out various price lists, but only one is worth mentioning here, that on Schweizer Cantonalmarken by A. Schulze in Zurich, since it gives a complete enumeration of the stamps named with the exact dates. These stamps are shown in a photograph that appeared recently in Zurich. A. Schulze moreover, obtained a silver medal from the Paris Society in 1877 for his work on Schweizer Cantonalmarken published in Le Timbre-Poste.

North America

Going on now to the specialist literature of North America, an exact list of which was published by the American Journal of Philately in its fourth volume (p.127 and p.172), the quantity is greater than the quality. The urge to publish specialist journals has grown to a mania, as can be best seen from the fact that more than eighty journals have appeared since 1862. Over half of them hardly survived for half a year, often reaching only a single number.

The better journals are Scott & Co.’s (New York), J. J. Casey’s Coin and Stamp Journal (New York) and The Philatelic Monthly (Philadelphia 1879 and still here at present). The American Journal of Philately was notable for being the first specialist journal which for some years published a coloured illustrated chronicle. The only other journals worth a mention are E. A. Craig’s The Postman’s Knock (St John, New Brunswick. 1867-70), The Philadelphia Monthly (Philadelphia 1870-71), The Stamp Collectors Guide (Meriden 1870-73), The Stamp Advertiser (1872-73), Mason’s Coin and Stamp Collectors Magazine (Philadelphia 1867-72), and the Guia Coleccionista de Sellos de Correos, which has been published by E. C. Eberhard since 1878 in Valparaiso (Buenos Ayres).

Catalogues also appear in countless numbers, but without exception minus price lists, which are of not practical value for our studies. So as not to leave this section empty for America, we think the following catalogues are the best known: F. Trifet, Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of all Nations (Boston 1877), Fr. King, The Postage Stamp Collectors Handbook (Boston 1867), Kline, The Stamp Collectors Manual (Philadelphia 1862. 3rd edition 1875), and Scott & Co.’s Postage Stamp Catalog (New York 1876 3rd edition). Since there are collectors of revenue stamps here as well, Trifet in Boston has published in Boston, 1877 a Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of all Nations, which deserves to be accepted as a standard work.
Of albums, the first in America was: Appleton’s Postage Stamp Album (New York, 1863), and the best, Beifeld’s Postage Stamp Album (Chicago, 1876), Scott & Co.’s Common Sense Postage Stamp Album (New York, 1877) and the same firm’s Permanent Postage Stamp Album (New York, 1877), and Durbin’s Youth Companion Album (Philadelphia, 1880). The last named recently put out a postcard album, The Post Card Album, it is very zealous in the field of literature, and has certainly given great service to the propagation of this in America.

Of American philatelists, J. W. Scott, W. K. Fremann, R. Dinwidde Jr., Dr. J. A. Petrie, L. W. Durbin, Joseph Casey, Walter Leo Brown and John K. Tiffany have taken up literature, particularly the last, whom we have to thank for the valuable work The Philatetical Library.

Italy’s Specialist Literature

Up to a few years ago, this was represented only by G. Brecker’s Guida di tutti i francobolli (Florence, 1864). Since the year 1873 however attempts have been made to make up for lost time, and a considerable number of journals have been published. The first was: La Posta Mondiale by P. R. Torres (Leghorn, 1873), it was followed by E. Carlo Usigli’s Il Raccoglitore (Florence, 1874), which gave only some space to philately along with certain antiques, coins, etc., both had a very short existence. Leopoldo Quartini’s L’Étoile d’Italie, a monthly review, has issued since March 1876 (and still?) a supplement under the title L’Ami du Collectionneur Nouvelles faits divers et annonces pour les amateurs et negociants Philatélique, about which, we know little. Longer-lived on the other hand has been G. J. Morpurgo’s Il Timbrofilo (Trieste from 1876), and Th. di L. Mayer’s Corriere dei Francobolli (Trieste from 1874), also the Guida Illustrata del Timbrofilo by G. Leoni (Bologna), now in its 5th year. Some years this magazine gives it contents in French and Italian. There has only been one album: E. C. Usigli’s Nouvo Album di Francobolli, which appeared in November 1875.

Catalogues, apart from Brecker’s, have been P. R. de Torres Descrittivo Cataloge de tutti i Franco-Bolli (Leghorn, 1873), E. C. Usigli’s Catalogo di Francobolli (Florence, 1872) and the Deposito Centrale Timbrofilo Italiano put out a Catalogo e Guida Generale dei Francobolli etc., (Florence, 1874). As well as a number of outstanding price lists, Italy has produced an Adressbook von H. Tartarini & Co. in Bologna and the Bibliografia dell Italia by G. Leoni, (1878, awarded a prize by the Paris Society), otherwise there has been nothing noteworthy.

Denmark

Denmark has also begun to put out journals in recent years. These are the Scandinaviske Frimærketidende by A. Phillipsen (Copenhagen, 1876), the Scandinaviske Frimærke-Journal from Bertini, and the Nordisk Frimærkeverden Mannedsskrift from L. J. Jensen and S. Schmidt (Copenhagen, 1878) – all three of no particular value. Their predecessor, the Nordisk Frimaerketidende (Copenhagen) published by Karl Lund in 1867 lasted for 9 issues. A better price catalogue was issued in 1867 by Sopus Apel in Copenhagen, and a dealers and collectors address book Adressebog voor Scankinaviske Frimærke-Sammler was issued in 1877 by François Bertini in Copenhagen.
Norway

All we know from Norway is: J. A. Fischer’s *Catalog over alle Bekjendte Postfrimaerker* (Christiania, 1877), a work which in form and content appears to be a translation of Moschkau’s *Handbook für Postmarkensammler*, and the small *Brev-aller Frimaerker-Album* published by L. Senf in 1879 (Leipzig and Nuremberg).

Netherlands

In Holland, C. v. Rinsum, mentioned earlier, has put out some literature. This consists of his four-language *The Permanent Stamp Album* (Amsterdam, 1869), and the following three journals: *The Continental Philatelic Magazine* (1869), *The Timbrofilist* (1869) and the *General Stamp Advertiser* (1870), but without exception these only lasted for a few issues. Apart from Blokzeyl’s *Catalogue of Postage Stamps* (Amsterdam, 1873) nothing else has been published in Holland as far as we know.

Russia and Finland are only represented in philatelic literature by a few commonplace price lists, and so we are now left with only Spain.

Spain

Of its literature, etc. Dr. Thebussem in 1874 published a very interesting pamphlet *Literatura Philatélica en España*, which however leaves much to be desired as regards completeness. Tiffany mentions the following two journals ignored by Dr. Thebussem: D. B. C. Cortes, *El Colleccionista de Sellos*, four issues of which appeared in 1871, and Gilabert, *El Indicador de los Sellos*, one issue of which appeared in 1870, *El Averiguador*, a first-rate publication, appeared in Madrid from January 1871 to February 1873 and devoted a fair proportion of its columns to philately, but at the moment Spain has no sort of literary publications*. Its oldest specialised magazine, *Revista de Correos* (Madrid 1866) lasted hardly one year. Spain produced no albums of its own, but its philatelists are active in many branches of journalism, particularly in the French literature. As well as Dr. Thebussem we may mention Francisco Lopez Fabra, Eduardo Gilabert, Aurelio Vasquez, A. Rentero, M. [P.] de Figueroa [Who used the pseudonym Dr. Thebussem], and Dr. Diario of Cadiz.

* Der Kpankler, a sort of magazine that appeared in 1871 has a considerable number of good philatelic articles.

Germany

The German philatelic literature, whose description we have deliberately left to the last, was of little importance to us in the first years of collecting, but it must be stated that its development exceeds all others, with the exception of France and England, in excellence and scientific method. It first began to have success in the course of the last decade, and it simply cannot be denied that it has produced valuable items which can sometimes act as examples even though there are so many that some are bound to be of lesser value. Foreign countries, which used to take no, or very rare, notice of the German literature, now tend to give it lively
attention, discuss and use it extensively, award it medals and prizes, and often rate much German work higher than do the Germans themselves, who tend to have a feeling of we can’t do it, which is less and less justified as time goes on.

At this point we hope to give as complete a survey as possible of the German literature arranged by its various branches, which, ignoring the supplements that have become necessary in between, we have taken from the Illustrirten Briefmarken-Journal of 1876 (Leipzig, L. Senf). However we shall accept that the German Briefmarkenzeitung in 1870 gave a survey of all German specialist journals; the Moschkau Magazin für Markensammler 1871 gave a survey of all the homeland literature and the above-mentioned Senf journal published a supplement to it in 1874. This, when compared with the survey in the Moschkau magazine in 1871, should give the best idea of the progressive growth of our scientific literature in the short span of a decade.

Translator’s note: Pages 37 to 54 provide a complete inventory of the German-language philatelic literature. There is no point in translating what is simply a list of publications so the translation continues halfway down page 54, where the normal text continues.

There are in Germany a large number of philatelists who vigorously support the specialist press. Germany stands almost alone in this respect. From an earlier time we can think of W. Th. Clausius, Prof. Dr. Weiss, Dr. Joseph, Theodor Israel, G. Wuttig, Baron v. Thümen, etc. At the present time the first rank is occupied by manor owner A. Treichel, who for years has been a zealous and well-read contributor to our various specialist journals, particularly with his pioneer collection of watermarks, his many highly scientific articles, the discovery of the Cordoba stamps, etc., so that he enjoys high regard in German collecting circles. Other names that are well known in philatelic circles are Ludwig Berger, W. Enke, Th. Haas, Birgham, F. Michel, teacher E. Huxhagen, Dr. Ehrentheil, Chancery Counsel Mödinger, Dr. Eyselein, R. Mosta, E. P. Schiffmann, pharmacist G. Kauffmann, school inspector G. Wendtland, etc., because of their valuable contributions. The authors of monographs, which obviously also play a very important part in our specialist press, have been included in the above list. We have delved too long into the philatelic literature, though we have discovered in it the foundation on which philately was able to develop so successfully, and the expansion and further development of our young science definitely depend on it. Hence the attention we have devoted to it is absolutely necessary, which we can justify on more grounds than one.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Another major support for philately is the Philatelic Societies which have grown up in the major cities of all countries. Their main aim is to educate their members in the field of philately, the extension of philatelic efforts and as far as possible the erasure of abuse: forgeries and imitations sold as real stamps.

England

England led the way in this respect as well. The first information we have on the existence of a philatelic society is from November 1865, when a number of collectors of coins, seals, autographs and stamps got together in Bridlington under the name Bridlington Hobbies
Society. This put out a journal of its own: *The Collectors’ Journal for British, Continental and American Stamp, Coin, Coats-of-Arms, Autographs and all Curiosities*. We cannot find out how long this society existed. On the 10th April 1869 the London Society *The Philatelic Society, London* came into being, which is still today the most important society. Its society reports are given in the *Stamp Collectors Magazine* and the *Philatelist*. This is headed by Sir Daniel Cooper as President, with lawyer [F.] A. Philbrick as vice-president and Professor de Ioannis as secretary. Amongst the members we may mention Dr. Ch. W. Viner, Victoriano G. de Ysasi, Artillery Lieutenant Speranza, Dr. F. Smith, Th. F. Erskyne, etc. The Society’s offices are in Great George St.

North America

America got its first society on the 1st May 1866. This was *The Excelsior Stamp Association* in St Johns, New Brunswick, a society whose organ is *The Postman’s Knock*. We can find out nothing about its committee, membership, etc., but we do know that on the 1st November 1866 the Society held a major Stamp Lottery, which was reported in the following years. *The Philatelic Society* founded in New York in February 1868 acted on a sounder basis, and at present it meets twice a month, at the Society headquarters, 34 Liberty Street. The Society organ is the *American Journal of Philately*. W. R Freman officiates as President. B. Matthews as Vice-President, and Dr. Petrie as Secretary. Important members are: Dr. Morley, Dr. Grafton, J. W. Scott, G. P. ten Bröck, Prof. Bunger, Baron Münchhausen, etc. The Society has rendered many services to philately. Thus, in 1871 it established the following prizes: a gold medal to the owner of the most complete album, silver medals for the second- and third-largest albums, and silver medals for the best laid out collection of stamps and covers, for the best production of a catalogue of all North American stamps, etc. The New York Society’s idea for the formation of an *International Philatelic Society* found no response in England. As well as this society, a *National Philatelic Society* has existed in New York since 1878, and there is also a philatelic society in Wytheville, but we have no details of either. We found the name of the first secretary, Bogert, and the *Stamp Journal* was the society organ.

South America

South America has also had a philatelic society since the 24th November 1878 in the shape of the *Sociedad Filotélica Sud America de Lima*. The president is Paul Ascher, and the society organ is the *Eberhardt Guia Colecionista*. Unfortunately I cannot find out whether the *Sociedad Filotélica Uruguaya* announced in October 1879 did come into being.

France

France followed for the first time in December 1874, when the *Société Française de Timbrologie* was constituted in Paris, and has gained a respected name. In May 1877 it had 66 members of whom 25 were French, and the rest came from countries in all parts of the world. This number has increased significantly since. It published first-rate Bulletins (15 of which have appeared to date), they specialize above all in special catalogues of individual countries, but issue other important material as well, particularly the readable meeting reports. Many of these have been reproduced in the texts of French, English and Italian specialist
journals. The Society also owns a fine library. The post of President is still held at present by Baron Arthur von Rothschild, Dr. Legrand is secretary and M. Bouchez editor. Of the members may be named: Professor de Ferrari, E. Long, de Rosny, Baron de Saint Saud, Ph. de Bosredon, Civil Engineer Cossmann, Schmidt de Wilde, etc. German collectors belonging to the Society are: W. Enke, L. Berger, Director H. Hirsch, A. Treichel, von Oppenfeld, Ferd. Meyer, Dr. Kloss and many more. Many of them have gained prizes from the Society in the course of the last two years. Messrs Ferd. Meyer and Dr. Kloss have won medals. Messrs F. Meyer, Dr Moschkau and A. Treichel have gained diplomas of honour.

**Italy**

In Italy the Club-Sociale Timbrofile di Livorno, was founded in October 1873 and had its headquarters in No. 1 Via Maggi, Leghorn, as long as it existed. P. R. de Torres and Pini Alberto head the club, and these gentlemen also acted as editors of the Society organ *La Posta Mondiale*. We doubt if this club is still in existence, and the Societa Timbrofila in Florence and the Club Timbrofilo Mondiale in Trieste appear not to have got beyond the project stage.

The idea put forward in Florence in September 1878 for an Associazione Nationale Timbrofila Italiana was officially objected to, since Issue eleven of the Corriere dei Francobolli, which published the suggestion in its columns underwent confiscation, an event unique amongst philatelic journals.

**Austro-Hungary**

Austria-Hungary has tried very hard to start a society. In spite of the known great interest taken there in philately, these efforts have been fruitless up to recent times. In March 1875 an attempt was made by R. Odabassian in Vienna to start an Austrian society, but only 30 members registered and with such weak support it was thought as well to retreat. However on the 28th December of the same year the Gesellschaft der Briefmarkenfreunde in Wien was started and held regular meetings at Schottengasse 1, from then on the Vice-President was Eduard Heim. As far as I know this society broke up again in 1876. Even more recently, the stamp dealer S. Friedl of Vienna finally managed to start a Wiener Philatelisten-Club. It was set up on the 25th April 1880 and the gentleman named was chosen as overseer. The Erste Ungarische Philatelisten-Verein, in Pest, under the Presidency of Sigmund Stein, the Philatelistika in Brünn (Moravia), Ignaz Veith President, finally the Briefmarkensammler-Club in Raab (Hungary) founded in February 1878 with A. Stierlitz as President, have been engulfed in silence ever since, only the Literary Philatelic Society in Agram (Croatia), founded in 1876, seems to be still in existence, and its long-time President was the Catholic Priest Oscar Simic (now in Vugrovec).

**Switzerland**

In Switzerland, the first society appeared in Berne in autumn 1877, but we have no details at present.
Germany

The need for stamp collectors to form societies was felt most strongly in Germany, though it must be admitted that few of these societies lasted long, and only in the last two years or so has the society trend become really important.

The Süddeutsche Philatelisten-Verein founded by the student lawyer W. Faber in Heidelberg 1869 was the first in Germany. Its statutes ran to 12 paragraphs, its society organ was the Bazar für Briefmarkensammler. An offshoot of this society was the Verein zur Unterdrückung Antiphilatelistischer Elemente, also located in Heidelberg, which has done outstanding work in uncovering many swindles and bringing many forgers before the criminal court. The German war thinned out the ranks of the members – finally both societies closed.

If Dr. Alfred Moschkau had at this time tried to find out whether it would be possible also to found a Norddeutschen Verein, his efforts would have met with no success (a meeting in Dresden attracted only one collector!) – up to May 1871. Then, in conjunction with trainee lawyer Alexander Treichel and Dr. Arldt he put out an appeal in the Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung that he edited, and this lead on the 10th of May, to the formation of the Vereins Deutscher Philatelisten, with its headquarters in Dresden. In the early days, the society organ was the German Briefmarkenzeitung, later Moschkau’s Magazin. In the end however they got their own organ in the Philatelist, which however could not thrive because of the lack of strong support from the public. For members only, the Society issued the Vertraulichen Mittheilungen, whose contents were interesting and useful, and protected the membership from many precursory losses. In the later years of its existence the Society used the Hamburger Briefmarken-Anzeiger for its announcements. As long as the Society lasted, the committee had Dr. A. Moschkau as its first President, and A. Treichel as its second. In its flowering season the Society had 26 members, including all the major German collectors, e.g. B. G. Gerdeisen, Apothecary von Hymen, Customs Official Lindenberg, Mine Director G. Pilz, Chamberlain Freih. v. Schütz-Pflummern, War Councillor Winkler, Apothecary Vigener, Editor Louis May, etc., collectors who without exception are still today real adherents of philately. As well as the Vereine Deutscher Philatelisten, the Philatelisten-Club appeared in Hamburg in the year 1871. It was set up on the 12th of November of that year and was comparatively rich in members and honorary members. It had its meetings every week at 15 Pelzerstrasse, and gave all of its members a beautiful photograph album with pictures of all its members. Choirmaster Hönecke dedicated his waltz Die Philatelisten to the Club. The Club was not inactive, it repeatedly reported major meetings at which lectures on philately were given. The President Louis May, who once ran a “philatelic journal reader’s circle” in Hamburg was very active in promoting the Society. On the 24th November 1876 the Society celebrated five years of existence. It should be mentioned at this point that the single noteworthy Philatelisten-Congress in July 1872 at Lübeck was the work of the Hamburg Club. This Club dissolved subsequently, but, as will be mentioned later, reappeared in a new form. We lack precise information about the Philatelic Clubs in Bremerhaven, Kiel, Lübeck, Schwelm, etc., but we can say that they all used the Hamburger Briefmarken Anzeiger as their society organ. The Union philatelic club in Brunswick was founded in 1876 by Ludwig Berger, who was also President. It is questionable whether these last clubs still exist. The Philatelisten Verein in Leipzig held its first meeting on the 19th February 1876 in the Gehrike Restaurant, Reichsstrasse. It found lively support only at the beginning. Its founder, merchant Oswald Schroeder was Chairman of the Society, which closed after a year of life, and was also not viable after rejuvenation in 1878. At first the Leipzig Society used the Senf journal as its society organ. A Verein für Briefmarkenkunde was founded on the 1st January
1871, with its leadership in the hands of language teacher **G. Fouré** and its location at 2 Hausvoigteiplatz, but seem to have gone the way of all flesh. The same applies apparently to the **Berliner Briefmarken-Verein**, which I found mentioned in 1878, with **W. Bruseberg** as Chairman. The **Junge Briefmarkenverein der Provinz Posen** in Bromberg was founded in 1878, but I do not know if it still exists.

The following societies actually exist in Germany at the present time:

**Verein Schlesischer Briefmarkensammler**
Founded on the 1st April 1876, located in Breslau. This has two meetings a month at 79 Oblauerstrasse, used the **Senf Briefmarken-Journal** at first, then later the **Hamburger Briefmarkenzeitung** as its society organ and is lead by the Railway Director **Kletke** as President and **J. Schlesinger** as Secretary.

**Philatelistenverein**
Founded at Cöthen on the 17th February 1877 with the branch society **Allgemeiner Deutscher Postmarken-Börsen-Verein** since August 1877.

**Verein Strassburger Briefmarkensammler** from November 1877.

**Internationale Philatelisten-Verein**
Of Dresden, which with its official organ, the stamp magazine **Union** began its life on the 1st January 1877. The President of this important society was then the chemist **A. Nieske** of Dresden. Since May 1880 however the Committee of this society has consisted of **Theo Thimäus** as Chairman, Doctor of Law **P. Kloss** as Secretary, **F. A. Schuhmann** as Treasurer. From the 1st June 1880 the society replaced **Union** which it had used up to then by their own society organ **Der Philatelist** and the confidential magazine for members only, **Vertrauliche Mittheilungen**, appeared at certain intervals. At the moment, this society has 78 members, outstanding amongst which are Messrs: Court President **Suppantschitsch** of Adelsberg, Chancellery Counsel **Mödinger** of Berlin, Custom Officer **Lindenberg** of Spremberg, World Priest **Simic** of Vugrowec, Count **von Ungern-Sternberg** of Hapsal, etc.

**Philatelisten-Club**
Also at Dresden, which we first find mentioned in 1878, and which used the **Allgemeine Briefmarken-Anzeiger** as its society organ. In the year 1879 the committee of the society was **L. E. Lorenz**, President, and **A. Liebscher**, Editor.

**Briefmarken-Verein**
This society was restarted in 1878 in Hamburg and it now has a well-edited society organ in the **Hamburger Briefmarken-Zeitung**. Initially **A. Owitch** was President and **D. G. E. Brasch** Editor, but since the 24th May 1879 **Adolf Sternberg** has been President and **Otto Meyer** Vice-President and Editor. It holds its meetings in Kloth’s Bierhalle, Kleine Bäckerstrasse. In 1878 the Society used the **Senf Journal** for society purposes.

**Rheinisch-Reichsländische Philatelistenverein**
Founded on the 1st May 1878 in Colmar (Alsace), the President is **Dr. H. Fischer**, Secretary **Prof. A Frischbier de Raab**, and the society meets in the Café de Globe in Cathedral Square.

**Philatelisten-Verein**
This society was set up on the 19th June 1877 in Wiesbaden, with H. Koch of Eltville as President and Th. Engel as Secretary. It meets in the Restaurant zur Union.

Verein für Briefmarkenkunde
Founded on the 6th June 1878 in Frankfurt. Until recently the committee consisted of Messrs G. J. Gerlach as President and L. Lücke Editor. However after new elections on the 8th December 1879 the names out of the urn were G. J. Gerlach, Chairman, F. H. Westphal, Deputy, G. Fries and O. Pajunk Editors. The Frankfurt Society not only enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most zealous specialist societies, but was one of the constituent members of the Verbands Deutscher Philatelisten-Verein, which we shall come back to later.

Philatelisten-Verein
The society was called into life in Hildesheim at the end of the year 1878. This meets regularly every Thursday at J. Bremer, Paradeplatz, with M. Isenstein as President, Ganz as Editor.

Verein Schlesischer Philatelisten
Founded shortly before the end of 1878, on the 14th November in Hirschberg, Silesia, under the leadership of G. Wende as President, O. Leopold and A. Neumann as the willing Editors. They use the Senf Journal as their society organ, and meetings are held in the home of the President.

Philatelle
This society joined the ranks of the German societies for Geithain and district on the 7th April 1879. The officers since then have been A. Mosdorf as Chairman and M. W. Wittrisch as Editor.

Verein für Briefmarkensammler
Founded a few days after, on the 10th April in Munich, it has met every Sunday evening since then in the Café Scholastika. The original committee was G. Wetzstein as Editor and Bank Official Deuerling, whereas at the moment First Lieutenant Count v. Eseback is President.

Verein für Briefmarkenkunde
Founded in Cologne on the 31st May 1879 with Fr. Böhle of Cologne as President. Meetings take place every Wednesday in the small hall of the Gürzenich. On the 1st December 1879 the society decided on a “Society Album”.

Karlsruher Briefmarkensammler
Founded in July 1879, printed its Statutes and is presided over at present by Architect W. Fässy, with Layh as Editor.

Magdeburger Briefmarkensammler-Verein
Seems to have been started in spring of the year 1879. We have its duplicated Statutes, which name P. Schmuckert as President and C. Friedrich as Editor.

Essener Philatelisten-Verein
Founded in the year 1880. It started up on the 10th January, and had S. Preen as Chairman, L. Merländer as Vice-President, H. d’Alquen as Editor.
Philatelisten-Verein
I know nothing of when this society was started in Chemnitz.

Some of this large number of German philatelic societies have united to form the Verband Deutcher Briefmarkensammler-Vereine, which was brought about by the Verein für Briefmarkenkunde in Frankfurt-am-Main. This published a proposal in June 1879, and by December 1879 the societies of Frankfurt, Munich, Geithain, Breslau, Magdeburg, Hirschberg, Strasburg, Wiesbaden and Chemnitz had joined, whilst other German societies are confidently expected to join this union, which was set up on the 2nd October 1879. For the first two years the Frankfurt Society held the Presidency, and the union organ was the Senf Journal which serves likewise as the organ for most of the above-mentioned societies.

We hope that these numerous societies that have come into being recently may go on existing to the profit of our science, and that the purpose of these societies will be still better known in future.

STAMPS AS GOODS

If we look on stamps as goods, as trade articles, we have to accept that we ourselves never dreamt that they would ever become such an important article of exchange. However if we merely look at the first and best of the many address books, and study the number of stamp dealers all over the world, we are compelled to recognise that this odd activity must be called a business. In fact stamp businesses have appeared everywhere in response to demand. On the Continent there is hardly a small town which does not have at least a sale point for stamps for collectors, and thus its widespread expansion explains itself.

The principal trade in stamps was concentrated from the beginning in Paris, Brussels, London, New York, Hamburg and Leipzig, cities which still dominate without exception. They are the seats not only of the most-read journals, but also of the most important dealer-houses. For the most part they limit themselves to the purchase and sale of postage stamps, but some of them also go in for secondary trades (such as book and antique dealing). Large stamp dealers include J. B. Moens in Brussels and Maury in Paris, whose stock must be of immense value. Other important dealers are Stafford Smith & Co. of Brighton, named the Court Stamp Dealer by the Prince of Orange, J. W. Scott & Co. in New York, Julius Goldner in Hamburg and Louis Senf of Leipzig, which for business and stock rivals the first-named firms. On the cover of his price lists, Maury gives us a picture of his business premises, which is no less striking than the picture of the premises of the firm of J. W. Scott & Co. in New York given in the American Journal of Philately, 1876. Also worth seeing are the large impressive stock fittings in L. Senf's business in Leipzig, which are pictured in the first number of volume four of the Leipziger Illustrierte Briefmarken-Journal, which have excited wonder in many researchers.

The trade in stamps also brought the stamp exchanges into existence, and businesses which operated in this way, first at the Paris market, which was situated in the Terrace de Feuillant and later in Palais Royal, became fairly important. The Paris exchange closed however a long time ago, and we still get regular reports only from the Hamburg exchange, though in the German countries Bremen, Lübeck, Coethen, Mannheim, Gablonz, Kaufbeuren, Leipzig, Dresden, Berlin, Ohrdruf, etc., claim either to have or have had exchanges. Regular exchange and market reports are currently given by the Hamburger Briefmarken-Zeitung, the Union of
Dresden, and the *Corriere du Francobolli* of Trieste, this last in three languages. An *Exchange Sheet for the German Stamp Trade* appeared in Kaufbeuren but only for a very short time, as did Theodor Müllers *Regelmässiger Wochen- und Marktberichte der Hamburger, Lübecker und Bremer Briefmarkenbörse*, of which we only know four issues.

There was a plan to centralize the wholesale stamp market in England by a joint-stock undertaking, which led to the foundation in London in 1864 of *The London, Provincial, Colonial and Continental Stamp Company*, with the respected name of Dr. C. W. Viner at the top, but it was never more than an idea. The same is true of a project for a stamp joint stock company in Hamburg in 1874. On the other hand, stamp lotteries (e.g. 1867 in St John’s, New Brunswick, etc.) and stamp auctions proved viable and still take place yearly in London (where the famous collection of W. Th. Claudius came under the hammer) and New York had extremely well-attended auctions. It now only remains to mention the Dealer’s Congresses in Wolfenbüttel in 1873 and ‘74, and in Berlin in 1877. These were devoted to the common interest, but their actual result remains unknown to us.

**FORGERIES INDUSTRY**

This must be the right place to turn again to forgeries, their production and the trade in them. In earlier days the main locations of the forgery industry were Hamburg and Nuremberg, but recently these have been joined by Boston, Liverpool, Paris, Brussels and Dresden, and its business and extent has gradually become so significant that neither warnings nor punishments have been at all effective and in fact there can be hardly any collections into which this sort of production has not found its way. Since of course forged stamps call for totally different treatment than the often difficult to produce originals, it often happens to inexperienced dealers who are only used to this side and make the stamp trade one of confidence, they are taken in to their own damage, and confidence is steadily lost, to the constant harm of a considerable number of enthusiasts and friends. Already in the history of stamps we have dealt adequately with forgeries, and we will point out the following consequences. The best forgeries come from Liverpool and Paris at the moment. The first-named place, the home of the Persian, Shanghai, Brazilian, Centennial covers, etc. has supplied the most perfect possible, and the workshops there, which pretty well flood the market, have certainly got into albums in their thousands, often distinguishable from the originals only by being better made. Paris however delights us with doubly dangerous items, deceptive items not even lacking a watermark. We need think only of the rare old Tuscany stamps, which leave very little to be desired and come into commerce neatly cancelled. Against these excellent copies, the ones produced in Dresden, Hamburg, Zürich, etc. on a factory scale are only “pictures”, as is well known and are increasingly aimed for sale abroad. At the beginning of the year 1877 a whole stamp-forging firm came up before the law in Philadelphia, and had to pay heavy compensation for their cheating, also, stamp forgers were severely punished in Berlin in 1873 and 1877, Jassy (Rumania) in 1874, and Vienna in 1876. The once common forgeries, which the expert could usually detect at a first glance, could easily be brought to the attention of the public, likewise chemical forgeries (alteration to the colour) could almost always be detected at once. However, before the introduction of watermarks into his products collectors had nothing to fear, we have now reached a point where we must take things less lightly than previously seemed to be the case. Who can we trust now? The only precaution against losing money in this respect is simply to buy only from firms with a good reputation, which if they do sell anyone an undetected forgery, as is easily possible under existing circumstances, will immediately and readily either refund the
cost or replace it. Dealers and experts are not always the same people, and it is more than likely that good forgeries can be purchased and repurchased at will.

The writer of this, has for years taken on the task of checking stamps and deals with a yearly average of 500, and knows only too well how easily long-standing large-scale collectors can be deceived. A forgery collection which he build up contained some 2000 varieties without being even approximately complete. He must therefore welcome with pleasure the establishment of as many test points as possible, even though he knows from experience that the ultimate removal of this cancer is not in sight. Postal Secretary D. Herrmann in Berlin, Ludwig Berger in Brussels, S. Friedl in Vienna, the Secretariat of the International Philatelic Union in Dresden have already decided to carry out free testing, but there is still much to be done to eliminate such a deep-seated evil*.

* The present writer has closed down his own testing [expertising] service, since the many calls on his time made it impossible to go on.

MAJOR STAMP COLLECTORS AND COLLECTIONS

Who is really collecting stamps at present? This is a question which the seeker after knowledge often finds answered with an ironical laugh and a simple children collect stamps! This is quite wrong and explains nothing. Children collect beetles, butterflies, stones, pictures and coins simply as pure items for collecting, and adults are a thousand-fold more-interested and collect the same things; likewise innumerable children also collect stamps. However, not only children: as early as 1876 I undertook to answer this question for Senf’s Briefmarken-Journal on the basis of my own extensive private correspondence and I cover adherents of philately from princes to manual workers. Philately attracts devotees from every rank of life – from the Postmaster General to the post office assistants, higher officers on land and sea, university students to village school pupils. Staff of all Faculties, Theologians to Franciscan monks, officials of the law, mining, customs and monastic callings, court and nobility, merchants and booksellers, manual work and industry, and all at every age. The father often collects for, and often with his son, often the two of them have a wager. The world of ladies has even taken up philately, and some collect with a great deal of understanding. We have here the collections of Princess Auersperg, Countess Thun, etc., amongst the largest and most beautiful. It is interesting to see how eagerly philately has been embraced in princely circles. It has already been mentioned that the Prince of Orange has his own Court Stamp Curator, but the Empress of Austria and the King of Italy also have fine collections. Pope Pius IX collected with his Chancellor Antonelli, and the Union (Dresden) has told us wonderful things about the latter’s collection. It has long been known that the King of Portugal has preferences in collecting, and certainly the numerous Portuguese colonial issues are only to be seen as a result of this predilection. The late Duchess Sophie of Bavaria and Princess Napoleon were the owners of costly albums, as was Princess Auersperg. The uncle of the German Emperor, Prince William of Prussia should possess one of the finest collections, since he has been a philatelist for years and was still an ardent collector not long ago. When the author of this sent the first edition to Prince William, he replied with one of his gracious letters, an honour also conferred on the editor of the Weiner Briefmarken-Zeitung, S. Friedl, for sending him philatelic works in the year 1877. Finally Count Galitzin has paid great attention to the completion of his collection, and still knows how to attract great attention to it today.
Major collections exist in great numbers, virtually complete, lacking no official postage stamps. A few even have stamps which only exist in single examples, and so can only belong to exceptional collectors. They include the 27 Para from Moldavia, the 1 shilling Mauritius cover, the first issue from British Guiana, etc., stamps which few collectors have ever seen and can only dream of. A totally complete collection in Germany belongs only to Postal Secretary D. Herrmann in Berlin, but significant collections of the first rank belong to A. Nieske in Dresden (previously in the possession of G. Hartig in Blasewitz near Dresden), which numbers 10,000 kept in loose-leaf portfolios in a tall narrow cupboard, and to Chancery Councillor Mödinger of Berlin, who is particularly strong in covers, cards and postal wrappers, which are kept in fifty portfolios. There are also estate owner A. Treichel in Hochpaleschken, hotelier Nelböck in Salzburg, opera singer Perotti in Pest, bookseller P. Lietzow in Berlin, whose collection takes up the space of six large albums, language teacher Fouré in Berlin, senior magistrate Goldfuss in Creutzburg, G. J. Gerlach in Frankfurt-am-Main, doctor of law Kloss in Dresden, H. Schwaneberger in Leipzig, W. Fickert in Berlin and very many more. Of earlier major collections we may mention those of Prof. Dr. Volpi in Munich, Prof. Dr. Weiss in Lemberg, Dr. Joseph in Breslau, member of the Diet Th. Israel in Eidau, W. Th. Clausius in Frankfurt-am-Main, Professor Eltz in Hanover and that of the writer. This last, as is known, served as the basis of Schaubek's excellent album and catalogue; it was given honourable mention by the Geological Society of Dresden, and it was given as the best of the German Field Post Offices after it was publicly exhibited in Dresden in 1870. After it had been exhibited to His Majesty King Johann, who has since died, the also deceased, Princess Sophie Duchess of Bavaria and his present Majesty, King Albert of Saxony, then the Crown Prince, at their request the collection was described in the Deutsche Briefmarkenzeitung 1870/71. Of major collections outside Germany we may mention those of Baron Arthur Von Rothschild, Dr. Legrand, Ph. de Ferrari, law student Schmidt de Wilde, M. de Bosredon, all in Paris, Oscar Berger-Levrault in Nancy, who try to complete their collections, Baron Cooper, Prof. de Joannis, Dr. John Edward Gray director of the British Museum in London, though we do not in the least claim to have listed all important collections at home and abroad.

Finally, we find major collections still in the possession of the authorities, principally the postal authorities, but also various museums, archives, etc., since there is increasing acknowledgement of the indisputable value of postage stamp collections.

The best known is the Post Museum in Berlin which has the collection of the German General Post Office. This came to about 4,500 items in April 1876. It is kept in 134 loose-leaf binders and 113 portfolios and must have increased considerably since then. It was shown at the Vienna World Exhibition, and was the object of general attention, and received the same degree of interest in the Imperial Parliament when it was shown to the members. The creation of this collection was a service of the German Postmaster-General and State Secretary, his Excellency Dr. H. Stephan, who, to keep it current, has set up a lively exchange service with the postal undertakings of all countries. The stamp collection in the Hotel des Monnais (State Mint) in Paris, Quai Conti, deserves a more-detailed description. A side room near the large coin collection a dozen large glass cases hanging on the wall contains the postage stamp collection specially, whilst, the collection of covers and postcards in entire untrimmed examples are in a large glass case in the middle of the room. The stamp collection contains several thousand items, but is nowhere near as complete as that in the German Postal Museum. The archives of the General Post Office in London and St. Petersburg, and the Baden State Railway in Carlsruhe have spent large sums on the amassing of fine collections.
The custodian of the City Museum in Brunswick, teacher Huxhagen, has built up a collection. A. Treichel made a gift of a collection of all Prussian and North German stamps to the Stamp Museum in Berlin. The Historical-Ethnic Museum in Herrnhut has given an outstanding place to China’s indigenous postcards. The Museum of Antiquities in Oybin has a fair number of balloon letters from Paris and Metz, and the Royal Grand Ducal Institute of Luxembourg prides itself very much on having a balloon letter from Metz amongst its valuable items.

**STAMP EXHIBITIONS**

Postage stamps, these so tiny but still so important bearers of a culture, were also the regular objects of international exhibitions, reflecting not only the art of the engraver but also the taste of the country concerned. They appeared as early as 1862 in London and then on a larger scale in Paris in 1867. We have more detailed reports on the stamps exhibited in Vienna 1873 and Philadelphia 1876. In Vienna the crown of philately was the collection of the German General Post Office and the Imperial Postal Inspector Adrian often had to state, The greatest attraction for the visitor to the postal exhibition is the stamp collection in the last division of the Imperial General Post Office. Apart from this collection, Germany also exhibited complete displays of the then Imperial postage stamps, German trials/essays, those for the North German Union, the stamps of Alsace-Lorraine, cancellation stamps, etc. Bavaria was represented by a collection of all its postage stamps, as were Württemberg, Austria, Russia, Italy, Belgium, Holland, etc. Portugal even sent the original plates of an earlier issue. The most magnificent items were from the American Banknote Company, from whose studios in recent years have come the most beautiful stamps, particularly for America, the Sandwich Islands, Newfoundland, etc. One curiosity was a table whose glass top was covered with a mixture of stamps in very tasteful groupings. A less rich stamp exhibition was held in Philadelphia in 1876. The principal exhibit was a splendid tableau from the Banknote Company, also J. W. Scott & Co. showed a tableau from old New Granada, Mexico; Enchedé & Sons in Harlem showed an album with stamps of Holland and its colonies, and the English General Post Office showed its album with a complete set of England and its colonies. Stamp exhibitions were found especially in Dresden, Munich, Vienna and Berlin, in Dresden and Munich during the war of 1870/71. The author of this had his collection judged the best from Field Post Offices. G. Gerdeisen of Munich was the best of the surprising ones. The German Briefmarkenzeitung, 1870, Issue 3, gave a detailed report of the first exhibition. The album exhibition contains about 6,000 stamps and was complete to within 7 items. Along with the album its owner showed his philatelic library of books, journals, music, etc., plus Sir Rowland Hill’s portrait. In the year 1873 S. F. Friedmann showed a very expensive collection in Vienna, its value being over 25,000 francs. In the year 1873 P. Lietzow in Berlin showed his significant collection of the best of the Russian issues. This last exhibition nominally enjoyed a significant attendance. Also to be remembered is the Hungarian stamps and maps exhibition in Nyireghazan in spring 1877, at which the firm of L. Senf of Leipzig showed a complete collection of its philatelic publications, which was distinguished by the prize judge with highest recommendation*.

* L. Senf also showed an outstanding tableaux of stamps and a variety of philatelic articles at the Learning Media Exhibition in Dresden in 1877. O. Petritz of Chemnitz, who had displayed earlier at the Trade and Industry Exhibition, also brought a stamp exhibit to Dresden.
The importance for philately of all such public exhibitions of stamps and their associated literature is obvious, and it must be stressed that the actions of the German Postmaster-General **Dr. Stephan** in planning a collection, exhibiting it in Vienna, finding it a permanent home in the Berlin Postal Museum by means of a bill in the Reichstag, etc., have contributed very much to the acceptance of stamp collecting, especially in Germany. Philately in Germany enjoys increasing sympathy in all circles, and this can only lead eventually to a higher estimate of its scientific value, as has already happened in France, England, Belgium, etc.

**POSTAGE STAMPS IN ART, MUSIC POETRY AND INDUSTRY**

Philately however, is not just a commodity for dealers, an amusement for collectors, but has found approval and profit also in art, music, poetry and even industry. Photography has supplied us with a great number of accomplished artistic works showing postage stamps. For example, **B. G. B. Brewerton** in New York has turned out a visiting card with all American revenue stamps and postmarks. **J. R. Grant & Co.** of Dawlish produced a tableau of the old Californian stamps, **Moens** of Brussels a visiting card with reproductions of 108 North American private stamps. **Torbechet, Allain & Co.** of Paris produced one with all North American postmarks and the rarest postmarks of Europe (Paris, 10 different sheets), **H. J. Dauth** in Frankfurt-am-Main a photographic tableau of the North American periodical stamps, and the **Moschkau Studio** in Nossen a “philatelic souvenir” of 6 sheets, showing balloon stamps and pigeon-post dispatches from 1870/71, North German trial essays, and also a collection of postcards of the most-read specialist journals and the best-known editors and writers. Under the name **Markotypie** a Parisian artist has made garlands, crowns, baskets of flowers and other ornamental products from stamps (philatelic flowers), and has met with great success. Using scissors alone, cutting up the stamps and choosing the colours with care, he was able to make the most wonderful mosaics and had given instruction in this art, which has found lively acceptance in England in particular. This was the art used in making the stamp-covered table mentioned above, which was shown at the Vienna International Exhibition.

Stamps have a good reputation in music. More than a dozen composers have given them their approbation and helped to popularise them. Postage stamp polkas were composed in Germany by **Doppler** (1863), **J. V. Hamm** (1863), **Hartleb** (1874) and **Ad. Müller** (1877), of these, the one by **Hamm** was so popular that it is still occasionally heard on a number of barrel organs in Hamburg. The postage stamp waltz *The Philatelist* was dedicated by **V. Hönecke** to the **Hamburg Philatelic Club**. A *Postcard Potpourri*, produced by **Fr. Zickoff** in 1874 was distinguished not only by its melodic sound but also by the good title illustrations: Amour, a coachman, driving a pair of Cupids across a German postcard. Three of the polkas have titles decorated with coloured stamps, and the one by **A. D. Müller** has a portrait of **S. Friedl**. In this latter case it is interesting to note that both the composer and the publisher were keen philatelists. France is represented twice, by the *Postage Stamp Polka* by **Emil Périer** (Paris 1864) and the *Postage Stamp Polka-Mazurka* by **Gautier de Valhrey** (1865). From America we only know of two compositions, the *Stamp Gallop* by **Oliver Dithon** (Boston), and the *American Stamp Polka* by **Maria Sequin** (New York), though the latter enraged philatelists. Finally we may mention **Arthur O’Leary’s Stamp Gallop** (London 1863), which attests to
the fact that even in England there was a harmonic side in addition to the learning, conservation and commercial sides.

Philately has inspired the poets of all languages, the Italian and English journals in particular often publish this kind of item. We have come across *Il Mio Album* by L. Vindrola in Guida Illustr. del Timbrofilo (Trieste), 1877; *Who invented the Postage Stamp* in Stamp Collectors Magazine (London), 1868; *The Stamp Collector; Nelly’s Collection; The [plaint] of the Postage Stamp*, and *Ye Conelle* in The American Journal of Philately, 1869, and *Timbromania* in Stamp Collectors Miscellany, 1869. Obviously philately is glorified in Germany as well. *Zschiesche & Köder’s Magazin, Faber’s Bazar, Moschkau’s Magazin, the Hamburger Anzeiger*, etc., have repeatedly published poems which passed for excellent within the scope of these journals. We cannot forbear giving two samples of German philatelic poetry here:

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*Translator’s note:* The poems would not make sense in translation and should be accessed via the original document.

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Philately has often been used in romances, novels, etc., as for example in Thekla von Gumpert’s *Töchteralbum*, which formed Volume 11 of a narrative *Die Friemarken* by Louise Höcker. In Bauschke’s Briefmarkensammler, 1866 a modern robber story by John Retcliff IV was published under the title *Marko Timbroschetti*. The same magazine also published a very well written sketch by S. A. Brandt Jr. of Saarbrücken: *Experiences of a Stamp*, also the *European Stamp Dream* by Yo (A. Treichel) and the humorous *Experiences of a philatelist, at the Leipzig Carnival*, (1868). The novel *Leontinen’s Stamp Album* appeared in the Hamburger Briefmarken-Anziger, and *The Stamp*, an autobiography, etc. in the Wiener Illustr. Briefmarken-Zeitung.

So far as we know, industry’s first product was a packet of tobacco under the name *North German Stamp Canister*, decorated with a big postmark. This was followed later by an *Imperial Postmark Canister*; there were also ornaments enamelled with the stamps of all nations, for example cuff-links, broaches, also pocket stamp holders made of metal and printed with English postmarks, liqueurs with pictures of stamps on their labels, stamps games for young people, such as stamp dominoes, stamp purses etc., wrappers for chocolates, bonbons, etc., were decorated with stamps, and fashions? In England ladies wore silk scarves on their heads printed with coloured stamps, and at the carnivals in Paris, London, Florence, Vienna, Hamburg, Löbau, and at Kroll in Berlin, etc., one saw complete costumes made out of stamps, which gained a good deal of applause, in Hamburg for example. For the carnival in Genoa in 1870 there was a special carnival post with stamps, which with their symbolic three heads were collected for a long time as a sort of actual postage stamp.

Of the available mass of philatelic funny stories, jokes, sayings, riddles and the like, with the best will in the world we could only give a few here, but anyone interested could refer to the more detailed studies in our technical literature, where there is an abundance of this kind of material.

There is one joke in a advert in the Illustrated London News of 1850, which reports that a father would send his daughter into a convent unless she gave him a million used stamps by the 30th April of that year, and that after this had appeared that people everywhere wanted to save the girl from the cloister cell. Boxes, bundles and packets of all shapes arrived in such
great numbers that finally newspapers and circulars had to be used to ask for the supply of stamps to be stopped, since the young lady’s freedom had long since been assured. Equal success was obtained by a note in the journal Esztergomi Ujsag which asked for the collection of old stamps since for every 1000 stamps a child could be purchased in China to be brought up in the Christian religion. We will close this with a nice riddle, whose solution our distinguished readers will hardly find difficult.

If they carry Coats of Arms, Shields and Crowns
They are available for everyone to purchase
Anyone who uses them must lick them in advance
This riddle will really tease you.

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