

# COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST SUPPLEMENT

FEBRUARY, 1943

(WHOLE NO. 2)

## A Message From the President

Dear Fellow Members:

There has recently been vested in me the honor of election to the presidency of the Collectors Club.

That this is an honor is due in part to the basically artistic and educational nature of our hobby—in part to the attractive corporate and physical structure into which we have organized and housed ourselves as a Club—in part to the unique worthiness of my predecessors in establishing high standards of Club policy and carrying out these policies with diligence and industry—and last, but far from least, your interest and willingness to operate as a unit toward maintaining a high place in philately and an attractive central gathering place for our philatelic pleasure.

We all recognize that to merely stand on our laurels is in effect, especially in these fast moving times, to really retrograde. Accordingly, the following policy will be inaugurated—

- a) The bi-monthly meetings of members will devote a few minutes to the regular business of the Club prior to entering upon the program for the evening. An executive officer will be in charge. By this means opportunity will be afforded to acquaint members with the reports and activities of the Board of Governors and permit them to submit ideas, suggestions, or news items of interest.
- b) Recognizing the invaluable support of our dealer members, there will be created a Dealers' Advisory Committee to the President.
- c) A committee will be created, comprised of three or more outstanding members, to receive suggestions, ideas, and complaints from the members, which committee will carefully weigh the merits thereof and make recommendations to the President.
- d) There will be a development of closer relationship between our Club and other philatelic organizations, with stress being laid upon the exchange of visits between representative members, particularly those residing in the New York—Metropolitan area.

The primary purpose of all except the last proposal is to afford to any member of the Club full access and opportunity to present his ideas to the President and to the Board and to thereby grant to the administration the full benefit of any thoughts which may stimulate our growth and unity.

1943 will be a year of losses in membership, of sacrifice and curtailment in many ways, yet at the same time it can be a year of growth for our Club and a year of happiness for its members. In a larger sense the results of 1943 rest on you—on your willingness to initiate ideas and to work for their attainment—to come out into the open with your suggestions or complaints—to be as big as our hobby—to take joy in its membership and to bring joy to it. Thus, united we stand, and united we grow great.

ROBERT L. GRAHAM, JR.

**MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 1943****EDWARD WEEKS SHOWS SLIDES**

Following the first official talk by President Robert L. Graham, Jr., printed elsewhere in this Supplement, the meeting was turned over to Edwin E. Elkins, as Chairman of the Program Committee.

Mr. Elkins, as a preliminary introduction, noted: "On several occasions at these meetings, I suggested that members might use the frames on these walls to exhibit and I would like to suggest now a frame for photographs of members in the services.

"Two weeks ago we had the very great pleasure of hearing Mr. Edward Weeks, in the capacity of an honored guest. Tonight we have the pleasure of having him as our special guest, and he is to show us colored slides of activities at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington."

Mr. Weeks projected about twenty pictures onto the screen, and in a most interesting manner explained each one as he went along. (John Boyce.)

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**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 1943****LIECHTENSTEIN NIGHT AT THE COLLECTORS CLUB**

February 3, 1943 was another big night at the Collectors Club, when Alfred F. Lichtenstein showed an interesting portion of his collection of Newfoundland. This was the second of three solo exhibit nights scheduled by Edward E. Elkins for the current season at the Collectors Club. The first was Steinway night on December 2, 1942, and the third will be Ferrars Tows night on March 3, 1943.

The main part of Mr. Lichtenstein's exhibit and talk was devoted to the Newfoundland issue of 1866, which is so well known to the older collectors. The codfish and the seal in particular are almost classic stamps in the minds of collectors who started about twenty-five years ago. Mr. Lichtenstein stated that he knows of no other country where a single issue is available in so many interesting forms, for here you have varieties of paper, perforation, roulette, as well as proofs, and covers that will run the whole gamut of philatelic interest. Stamps of Newfoundland have long been a favorite with Mr. Lichtenstein, and he frankly stated that one of his reasons for showing this lot at the Collectors Club was the hope that he would stimulate interest and research in them. These stamps are not high priced, so that they are within the reach of the average collector. All covers of this period are rare, and really fine covers are almost unheard of.

The series of stamps was produced by the American Bank Note Company, and as a consequence, they are well printed, well designed, and in most cases well centered. Town cancellations on the issue are real rarities, but even the general collector may occasionally run into them. The 3c vermilion of 1870 in unused condition is a real rarity, although it catalogs but \$13.50. Mr. Lichtenstein stated that he has only seen two blocks in his entire collecting career. Collectors are advised not to be too fussy about the covers, for most of them have a rather smudgy appearance, and what Mr. Lichtenstein designated as a "joy piece" is something to really look for. Mr. Lichtenstein also showed a very nice selection of the 3c stamp of 1890 which comes in a large variety of shades.

After completing his exposition of these issues, Mr. Lichtenstein went back to some of the classic issues, of which he also has a fine variety. One of the prize pieces in the Lichtenstein collection is a letter written by the Postmaster General of Newfoundland to the Postmaster General of Halifax, showing a complete set of the first issue, with the exception of the 2 pence. Some of the 1 shilling values on the thin paper were on sale at the St. Johns Post Office up to as late as 1896, and this accounts for the low price quoted on this stamp, but they are rapidly disappearing from the market.

### ARTHUR W. DEAS HONORED BY COLLECTORS CLUB

At the conclusion of Mr. Lichtenstein's exhibit, Robert L. Graham, the new President, presented Arthur W. Deas with a beautiful gavel inscribed, "Presented to Arthur W. Deas by the Collectors Club in appreciation of his services as president 1937-1942." The members extended Mr. Deas a rising vote of appreciation. Mr. Deas has been an active worker in the club for a good many years, and continues as Secretary-Treasurer.

—H. L. LINDQUIST.

## Board of Governors

### MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Held January 27, 1943

Regular meeting of the Board of Governors was held on Wednesday, January 27, 1943 at 8 P. M.

Present: Paul F. Berdanier; Hugh M. Clark; Arthur W. Deas; Edwin E. Elkins; George R. M. Ewing; Jacob S. Glaser; Robert L. Graham, Jr.; James B. Kremer; Thomas F. Morris; Theodore E. Steinway; Hans G. Zervas.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Graham, the President, who outlined the policy for 1943 of the new administration to include (1)—closer co-operation with dealer members, (2)—an increase of membership participation in club activities including a Committee for consideration of suggestions and complaints, (3)—and an increase of relations with local philatelic organizations.

### REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

The Chairman of the House Committee reported on the condition of the building with recommendation that the windows in the rear rooms, particularly those of the meeting room and library needed zinc stripping.

The Chairman of the Library Committee reported on the condition of the Library and the necessity of an active Librarian. He announced his ultimate goal of completing a card index of philatelic articles appearing in magazines, a work which has already begun, and when completed it is to be kept up-to-date by a yearly supplement.

He suggested the continuance of W. Lloyd Heath as Librarian and the appointment of George Cabot, who has expressed his willingness to do such work, as Assistant Librarian. The President, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chairman of the Library Committee, appointed W. Lloyd Heath as Librarian and George Cabot as Assistant Librarian.

In the course of conversation of the Library it was also suggested that this topic might be the program for one meeting night on: How the Library Can Serve the Members.

### Committee Appointments:

The President announced the appointment of the following gentlemen as chairmen of the following committees:

Hans G. Zervas, Library Committee  
Jacob S. Glaser, House Committee  
Edwin E. Elkins, Program Committee  
Charles Brooks, Audit Committee  
Ferrars H. Tows, Admission Committee  
Harry L. Lindquist, Publicity Committee

### Membership Report

The Membership Report was received and accepted with thanks.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the following be elected to membership.

Resident:  
Edward Buser, Jr.                      New York City

Re-inst. Resident:  
James Obrig                              New York City

Non-Resident:  
Paul F. Hoffman                      Elizabeth, N. J.

## Holcombe Proprietaries Index

In a seven-year period Henry W. Holcombe has written a series of 122 historical-technical articles covering the Private Die Proprietaries. These articles have appeared in six publications, including *The Collectors Club Philatelist*. An index, prepared by Mr. Holcombe, was published in *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* of January 9, 1943.

## In The Trade

The retail stock of C. D. Reimers of Fort Worth, Texas, a member of The Collectors Club, is to be sold in New York by Hugh C. Barr, Inc., during April . . . Edson J. Fifield is to sell the George E. Burghard collection of rare Swiss imperforate stamps of the Cantonal & Transition Periods, and "Strubel" Issues at The Collectors Club February 25. Outstanding pieces of the sale were from such collections as Paul Miraubaud, George H. Worthington, Henry Duveen, Count Philippe Ferrari de la Renotiere, Arthur Hind, Baron A. de Reuterskiold and Alfred F. Lichtenstein . . . Carl E. Pelander's sale held at The Collectors Club grossed \$36,794 with hundreds of lots bringing away over catalogue . . . H. R. Harmer, Inc., will sell the Col. Spencer Cosby collection of France and Colonies (1849-1876) February 23 and 24 . . . United States stamps and essays and proofs, gathered by a former United States Senator will be auctioned by Harmer, Rooke & Co. on February 23 and 24, also . . . Finally, though by no means the least, F. W. Kessler will have a four-day sale Feb. 23 through 26 of the M. L. Schaul general collection . . . H. E. Harris & Co., of Boston, have purchased the important Kenmore Stamp Co. stock of British Colonials . . . The Nassau Stamp Co. has brought out a comprehensive price list of France which is available at a slight charge. . . . Philip N. Ward's sale at The Collectors Club is slated for the week of April 26.

## Additions to The Library

Stamps of Turkey. 78 Plates. By Adolf Passer. Gift of author.

Bulls Eyes, The First Stamps of Brazil (Translated by L. I. G. Leveson.) By Dr. Jose Kloke. Gift of author.

STAMPS, Volume 40. Published by and gift of H. L. Lindquist.

Os Sellos de 100 Reis de 1894-97, Os Effigies Trocadas. By Dr. Mario de Santis and Roberto Thut. Gift of Rev. Phil. Bandeirante.

Official Program, 1942 "Stampex," Essex Stamp Club. Gift of Col. Hans Lagerloef.

Priced Catalogue of Local Postage Stamps. By E. F. Hurt and L. N. Williams. Gift of the authors.

Revenue Stamps of the United States. By Roger W. Sargent. Gift of publisher, Tatham Stamp & Coin Co.

The 1847 Issue of United States Stamps. By Lester G. Brookman. Gift of the author.

Who's Who on the Postage Stamps of Colombia. By Jose Iribarren. Gift of the publisher, Pan American Union.

Postal History, with Supplement. By and gift of T. S. Smyth..

Zumstein's Spezial Catalog, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, 1942 Edition. Gift of the publishers, Zumstein & Cie.

Stanley Gibbons' 1942 Catalogue I, 48th Edition. Gift of the publishers, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Supplements 2 and 3, Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland. By and gift of R. C. Alcock and F. C. Holland.

Uruguay, Sello 5 Cts., azul, Emision 10 de Enero 1866. By Jose Ramon Seijo. Gift of Club Filatelico Uruguay.

Una Emision extraordinaria de sellos Del Correo. By and gift of D. Miguel A. Salvador.

The First "Window" Envelope. By and gift of E. Tudor Gross.

Great Britain and Ireland, Catalogue of Internal Air Mails, 1910-41. By N. C. Baldwin, and gift of F. J. Field.

The Regent Catalogue, September, 1942. Gift of Robson Lowe.

Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Vol. I. By and gift of Fritz Billig.

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FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, JR., *Editor*

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### THE COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.

OFFICERS, 1943

ROBERT L. GRAHAM, JR.,

*President*

THOMAS F. MORRIS,

*Vice-President*

ARTHUR W. DEAS,

*Secretary-Treasurer*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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PAUL F. BERDANIER

TRUSTEES

ALFRED F. LICHTENSTEIN (1945)

THEODORE E. STEINWAY (1944)

HARRY L. LINDQUIST (1943)

## Bluss Purchases Library Duplicates

Robert L. Graham, Jr., president, has announced the sale of all duplicate stamp magazines, catalogues, philatelic handbooks and guides now housed in the basement to Mr. Paul Bluss of 15 West 47th street. This sale, consummated under authority of the President, with the approval of the Board of Governors, was completed Friday, February 19.

Included in the sale were all of the remaining Pack "Victoria's," the Kohl Handbooks, and surplus copies of The Collectors Club Philatelist, as well as surplus copies of the Bulletin now stored in the basement and such other duplicate magazines as may be deemed

unnecessary by the Chairman of the Library Committee and the Librarian.

As an additional consideration, Mr. Bluss has given to the Collectors Club the metal filing cabinet housing the excellent index file of the late Arnold F. Auerbach, and two other metal cabinets for the club's use.

By this purchase Mr. Bluss now has one of the largest—if not the largest—dealers' stocks of philatelic literature in the world.

## Zeltmann Transferred

Frank J. Zeltmann graduated from Buckley Field Armorer School at Denver, Colorado, and is now at Jefferson Barracks assigned to an overseas replacement training center—27th Technical School Squadron, Barracks 606.

Frank expects to be shipped overseas as soon as he finishes his advance basic training. He is one of those who, despite the fact that he is considerably over draft age, offered his services, which proved to be valuable by virtue of his experience in World War No. 1. It will be recalled that in the last war he served with the 104th Aero Observation Squadron as Technical Sergeant in the Artillery, doing ordnance work on machine guns and bombs.

Frank is a real veteran. His record indicates that he was actually on the other side for a period of nearly two years. It is Frank's boast that he can take apart any machine gun in the U. S. Service and put it together again in a matter of less than ten minutes—with a little further time he can do the same job blindfolded.

## Meetings

**March 3**—Ferrars H. Tows—Miscellaneous pages from his collection of rarities covering Hawaii, Danish West Indies and many other interesting items.

**March 17**—Airmail Night. This program will be under the direction of L. B. (Bart) Gatchell, and will be held in cooperation with the American Air Mail Society.

# Book Reviews

by

MALCOLM JOHNSON.

Send all books to be reviewed to the Editor, Collectors Club Philatelist,  
22 E. 35th St., New York, N. Y.

Please mention sale price. It is of interest to our readers.

Most of the world's great catalogues have managed, in this time of war and shortages, to bring out their annual editions or at least supplements bringing past editions up to date. Stamps, portable, negotiable, not subject to the losses of inflation, are growing in interest in every country. Even in France and Germany the Swiss press reports unprecedented demands, and Yvert & Tellier and Michel appear to have published much as usual. Neither one may now be imported, but in the meantime the catalogues from England and America have arrived and are listed here:

**SCOTT'S STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE.** Volume I: The Americas and the British Commonwealth of Nations. Volume II: The Nations of Europe, Africa, Asia and their colonies. Combined Edition: Comprising the entire contents of the two individual parts. Part prices: \$2 each; Combined Edition, \$4.50. Ninety-ninth edition. New York: Scott Publications, Inc.

**CATALOGUE OF UNITED STATES STAMPS SPECIALIZED.** 21st ed. Boards, 504 pp. Price \$3. New York: Scott Publications.

After a year of heart-to-heart talks with collectors in the pages of the philatelic press, the new Scott catalogues have been published: in two parts or in one volume, complete. The part division, supposed to have been necessitated by widely heralded bindery troubles, has been happily solved. Volume one lists the stamps of the Americas. Volume two lists the rest of the world. Somehow or other the bindery also managed to produce an edition with the complete book within one set of covers. The way the contents are broken up has been widely discussed, and appears to be satisfactory to most of us, but next year, unless part sales have been extremely satisfactory and unless the W.P.B. intervenes, Scott might like to look into the binding oper-

ation used on telephone books, which is cheap, perfectly satisfactory for an annual volume, and can encompass almost any number of pages.

Prices, of course, have gone up, but in a series of zigzags. Demand has moved more swiftly than can a cataloguer, and there are still items in Scott that can be purchased for a quarter catalogue, and others that will cost you a premium on catalogue quotations. In general there seems to be a tendency toward net pricing, and particularly in airmails the levels of valuation are by all odds the most reliable in print. Some countries, as usual, are handled with skill and certainty; and others, like China, continue to be listed the hardest and least comprehensible way. More cooperation with specialist groups by some one in the Scott organization with a strong enough hand to curb the specialist's habit of running up side alleys, would do the catalogue a great deal of good.

On the other hand—and in an enterprise of the complexity and high responsibility of producing a standard handbook for an industry dealing in thousands of items and millions of dollars there is a very important other hand—the work on this year's edition meets the same high standards as those of past years. I may quarrel with Scott about their treatment of my favorite country, but I pay full tribute to the infinite labor, the infinite care and the unquestioned integrity that stamp the whole work. In a little world full of criticism, special interest and pressure groups the existence of Scott's catalogues is a necessary anchor for the hobby. Let all those whose interests touch stamps in any way acquire their copy at once.

No less an achievement is the new edition of the specialised United States catalogue. At one time it was apparently intended to issue no 1943 edition because of priority and other troubles, and the publishers are to be congratulated on proceeding in spite of their difficulties.

There is no stimulus as much needed by the trade and the collector as this year-book, now in its 21st edition and covering the whole of our postal and tax paper with all-embracing thoroughness. The innovations this year are not many; a section on war stamps has been added, there are new A. P. O. listings, prices have, as expected, advanced. Some of the finer points of listing over which the authorities are currently arguing have, very sensibly, been left as they were. Explanatory material has been enlarged and in spots improved, and if the war hampered production the finished volume shows no signs of it. Aside from its virtues as a catalogue, it is becoming a good book to browse through, full of history and a great variety of information, and a credit to its editors and the groups contributing to it in their special fields.

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**STANLEY GIBBONS PRICED CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.** 48th ed. Part I: British Empire. Cloth, 540 pp. Price 10/7. London: Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

**THE REGENT STAMP CATALOGUE.** September 1942. Edited by Robson Lowe. Paper, 106 pp. Price 5/-. London: The Regent Stamp Co.

**THE STANDARD CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD.** 1943 ed. Cloth, 376 pp. Price 7/6. Ipswich, England: Whitfield King & Co.

Three of the leading British catalogues come this winter much altered in appearance. The great Gibbons catalogue contains only the Empire countries, for in the spring of 1941 the standing type and the cuts were destroyed by enemy action, and it has been necessary to reset the entire text. That is a long and tedious task, and it is doubtful if a complete work can be assembled before the end of the war. Because of the shortage of time and help, the opportunity of reorganising the contents could not be taken, and except for the thinner paper and the different type face the pages are much the same as in the last printing. Changes have been rapid in the values of British colonials and while most of them are reflected, those of many of the used George VI issues are omitted altogether. The British collector is limited in his new issues; he cannot for instance acquire mint copies of the new Canadian commemoratives, and stocks in the British market appear to be growing scarcer and dearer.

The Regent catalogue, published now for some years in two volumes, the first covering all empire issues up to the end of 1930, and the second covering in its successive editions those appearing since, together with a list of price changes to

be transferred to the first volume, is well known to collectors in the field it covers. Robson Lowe's particular speciality is postal history, and the Regent alone among catalogues consequently lists and prices all specimen sets, plate varieties and similar details. Both Scott and Gibbons numbers are used.

This year's edition of Whitfield King consists of a British Empire section with a supplement to the foreign listings in the 1942 volume. Paper shortages have cut the size of the volume, but the simple methods of listing and the general appearance are unchanged. Prices, as in all other catalogues, are on the rise. Less comprehensive than Gibbons or Scott, the Standard remains one of the best of the inexpensive quick reference books in the field.

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**THE STAMPS OF TURKEY.** By Adolf Passer, F.R.P.S.L. Edited for the Publications Committee of the R.P.S. by J. H. Barron and John Simons. Paper, 240+viii pps., 76 loose plates. London: The Royal Philatelic Society.

This massive study of the stamps and the postal history of Turkey, bearing the imprimatur of the Royal Society and examining every possible aspect of the subject, is a specialist's essential. The number of Turkish stamps issued is so great that Scott takes nearly 24 pages to list them and for the most part they have scanty English inscriptions, if any, so that a true student requires not only patience but some knowledge of the Turkish script. The various plates and printings were made in Constantinople, Vienna, Paris, London or elsewhere, and abound in varieties, while the operations of the postoffice were frequently obscure and hard to comprehend. In supplying a guide-book to the mass of relevant information Mr. Passer has accomplished his task with distinction, and it is unlikely that another full-dress study of Turkey will be attempted for many years to come. Nothing of import seems to be omitted, and the amount of material assembled, whether on plating varieties, on proofs, on postal stationary or on the multifarious general issues is genuinely impressive. Format and production are in keeping with the high quality of the contents, although there are some peculiar typographical errors not invariably corrected in the errata sheet. The title-page date on the copy reaching the Philatelist is 1938, which would indicate either a mailing time unusual even in these days or delays in manufacturing which in view of the large number of excellent plates and the complexity of the material is not surprising.

**THE EXPRESS LETTER STAMPS OF CHINA.** By Lloyd Stanton Ruland, D.D. Paper, 64 pages, 35 illustrations. Price \$1. The China Clipper, 24 Hawthorne Terrace, Leonia, New Jersey.

China's express letter stamps are the largest of the world's stamps, and probably the least known. The catalogues now list them, but never with complete accuracy. Printed albums provide no spaces for them and collectors and dealers generally ignore them. The first major study was published as lately as 1930 (by James Starr in these pages), but Dr. Ruland's further research has now provided what must become the definitive work on the subject. Thoroughly illustrated, clearly written, it covers every aspect of these interesting and peculiar issues.

For the collectors to whom a new field will be opened by these pages there will be only one problem: to find the stamps. The first one, printed by Waterlow, was issued in 1905; the last was printed in Peking in 1914. By 1916 they had been demonetised. Since that time the lack of interest has led to few copies reaching the market, and the early issues are genuinely rare; so rare, in fact, that it is doubtful if more than a handful of some of the earlier ones exist in a mint state, and few dealers bother to carry the commoner items. Yet the large green strips divisible into several parts, each with its particular use, carried express letters without any other stamps and are among the most attractive of all postal issues. There is still work to be done before their complete story is worked out, and it may be hoped that Dr. Ruland's brilliant research will inspire other students to further probing.

**PRICED CATALOGUE OF LOCAL POST-AGE STAMPS.** Compiled by E. F. Hurt and L. N. & M. Williams. Part I, Aalborg-Edinburgh & Leith. Paper, 32 pps., illustrated. Price \$1.20. Harpenden, Hertfordshire, England: E. F. Hurt.

When Gibbons banished locals at the turn of the century the other great cataloguers followed suit, and most collectors obediently dropped them. Only a small body of specialists continued to study them, until the immense barrage of new issues in the last decade led many a collector back to groups of stamps which were relatively unknown, relatively unspeculative and which richly rewarded a little research. As a whole they have not before had a satisfactory catalogue, priced or otherwise, and though few books answer that worn phrase: a long-felt want, this compilation by one of the greatest of authorities on locals, together

with England's best philatelic writing pair, actually does.

Omitted are several groups: the Zemstvo and German locals, because they now have definitive catalogues; Egyptian interpostals, which are not properly postage stamps; United States locals, omitted until more exact knowledge of the reprints and forgeries is available, and the railway letter stamps of Great Britain. It is apparently proposed also to omit the recent Chinese communist locals, although the treaty ports are better listed than they have ever been before. With those exceptions all other types of locals are covered, and to anyone used to the normal confines of Scott they open a new philatelic world. Here are the stamps of steamship, bicycle and motor-boat deliveries in remote regions, of the posts of Morocco, the Coolgardie goldfields, the underground communication system of Belgium in 1914; of Japanese prison camps, city delivery companies of Norway and Denmark, of English colleges and Colombian express companies. For the most part these stamps, often far from common, arose from necessity, and have an appeal that the great bulk of routine or speculative issues lack. Whether or not you have ever collected locals you will be well advised to follow the publication of this catalogue.

**BILLIG'S PHILATELIC HANDBOOK.** Volume I. Jamaica, N. Y., Billings Stamp Co., 1942. 236 pp. paper. Price \$2.50.

This is really not so much a handbook as a semi-specialized catalogue for a group of countries. The lands of central and eastern Europe are covered. The difference from the usual catalogues is simply that cancellations are shown, and airmail flights are listed.

The collector who is starting to specialize in any of these countries will find this handbook useful.

The section on Poland reprints the lists of offices in Russian and Austrian held parts of the country, and also reports the various groups of stampless covers, without giving dates of the various groups.

The postmark illustrations throughout the book tend to be rather crude and inaccurate tracings or drawings, although a fair number are direct replicas of accurate pictures. A number of overprints are also illustrated rather crudely.

We cannot speak with any authority as to the prices quoted by Mr. Billig for the various items; but it is clear from those about which the reviewer has information, that the pricing is a subjective guess as to values, and bears little relation to the actual market prices.

STEPHEN G. RICH.