

THE INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT

Experience had taught me that others would have heard the rumours as soon as, or before, I did, and that prompt action alone would be of use. After a short time I had the pleasure of learning that my overtures were acceptable and that the celebrated Tiffany Library was on its way across the seas. In due course a good many tons of books were safely delivered at Cavendish Square.

In the meantime, I had been fortunate enough to secure the assistance of Mr. E. D. Bacon, than whom no one in this section of the world's learning is better known.

In the course of time we got all the books shelved and into a provisional scheme of order. The general lines of a catalogue were considered, and I determined to separate the Library into two main divisions, the one comprising all the writings on the subject as individual works, the other consisting entirely of periodical literature and journals. Much had to be done to restore the continuity of the collection for the years since the death of Mr. Tiffany, 1897-1902, and then to endeavour to fill up gaps and wants. Mr. Bacon prepared lists of desiderata, and for some years I advertised largely, with a considerable amount of success. In this I was greatly assisted by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Limited, by the use of their "Monthly Journal," which is to be found in all parts of the civilised world.

Since then no opportunities have been passed of adding to the Library, either in single purchases or by buying *en masse*. The most important acquisition I have made in this way occurred some three years ago on the death of Herr Heinrich Fränkel, who was Librarian of the leading Philatelic Society in Berlin for many years, and who was possessed of one of the best Libraries on the Continent. Herr Fränkel's collection was very rich in European and especially in early German literature, a section where I was but poorly supplied. I was fortunate, therefore, in being able to secure it, and then, having taken out such works as I was in need of, I transferred the whole of the remaining volumes to the Library of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and thus every portion will be utilised to the best advantage.

The first issue of Postage Stamps was made on the 6th May, 1840—and the first book known to have been printed on the subject was published in December, 1861. In those twenty-one years, the pursuit had grown sufficiently to induce persons to risk printing and catering to an increasing demand. From that moment a steady movement forward has continued, and I consider that no other pursuit has evoked so large an output of literature in the short space of fifty years.

I will go further—I know of no branch of writing in which there exists so great a number of *actual* rarities. Little journals exist by the score whose lives did not go beyond a week and whose existence is only known by single copies. They are found in Manuscript, in Hectograph, in Lithography and typewritten and in printed form of the roughest description with illustrations in the text very nearly approaching in ugliness to some of the stamps they are anxious to describe.

Now a great change has come about—both in the methods of collecting and arranging the collections which are made, and in the books and the journals which abound. The illustrations and general appearance of these publications compare favourably with any similar work.

It may well be understood that I do not possess every one of these rare little works, and further that it is probable others may still exist unknown to me. However, in order to make this catalogue of more general use, I have endeavoured to describe everything that has come under my notice. I could only effect this purpose by appeal to friendly collectors, and I am most anxious here to record my most grateful thanks for the generous help which has been afforded to Mr. Bacon and to myself by the following gentlemen:—

P. J. Anderson (Aberdeen).
F. A. Bellamy (Oxford).
H. Clark (Angmering).
J. A. Cook (Waterloo, Iowa, U.S.A.).
A. Dethier (Bruxelles).
H. E. Deats (Flemington, New Jersey, U.S.A.).
Dr. Emilio Diena (Rome).
Abel Fontaine (Buenos Ayres).
W. V. Morten (Leeds).
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A. J. Parés (Toulon).
F. J. Peplow (Dulwich).
E. B. Power (New York).
W. R. Ricketts (Forty Fort, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.).
Dr. Otto Rommel (Leipzig).
B. T. K. Smith (London).
V. Suppantsehitech (Graz).
The late H. Fränkel (Berlin).

Many rare little volumes are described in the following pages, from the unique copies in their possession, thereby greatly adding to the interest of the Catalogue.

CRAWFORD.

2, CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.
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