

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage

Swapping Stamps Teaches Youngsters Trading Art

Despite all the publicity periodically given to rare old stamps there must still be thousands of them in the country whose owners are unaware of the values.

Lately a man I know was astonished to have his 10-year-old boy tell him that he'd swapped 2,000 modern American and British stamps, worth about \$30, for an agglomeration of some 1,500 stamps, mainly from Latin America and Canada.

"It seemed like a pretty large transaction for a boy of 10," the father said. "And I thought I'd better look into it as a means of making sure the youngster had learned all the lessons there might be in the deal. Frankly, I suspected the other fellow had got the better of him."

"And had he?" I asked.

The father proudly pulled out a small cellophane envelope containing "two stamps. They were blue, with a profile portrait of Queen Victoria and the words VANCOUVER ISLAND above and TEN CENTS below.

Monroe looked at a tray of deringers and reached for one that had ivory grips carved with the head of a classic warrior.

"Now if these were in good condition, and not overpriced, it would be exactly the gun I would want for around the house."

"As for the price, sir, it is only \$60."

"Why?" I asked. "You expecting an antique burglar and want to blast him with an antique gun?"

"Not at all," Monroe replied. "But this antique would be much better to use on a modern burglar than the very latest magnum. Can you guess why?"

I shook my head. Monroe starting taking the gun apart.

"Because a gun like this won't be hard on the neighbors or the furniture, and it will also do everything necessary to any invader of the household."

"Now that little .30 caliber rim-fire with its three-inch barrels and carved Greek soldier grips is . . ."

"As for the price, sir, it is only \$60."

Monroe examined the silver-plated frame marked "C. Sharps Patent 1859." "I'll take it," he said.

"What about ammo?" I asked when we got outside.

"I have some .30 caliber rim-fire cases," he said. "But I'd have taken it anyway. It would have been a good buy even at \$100."

NUMISMATIC DISEASE CAN BE A PROFITABLE MALADY

Some of us were smoking those villainous, crooked black cigars beloved by the denizens of San Francisco's North Beach. Others were chewing them.

I was getting up my courage, with the aid of a bottle of home made Chianti, while our host, Signor Arturo, expounded on the virtues of Victor Emmanuel III.

"He was a little man, lost in the enchantment of his coin collection, suffering from the disease of numismatics, and hence an easy prey to Mussolini."

He paused briefly, picked up something from behind the cash register and spun it on the bar.

"I know well," he continued, "because I suffer so from it myself."

It was a coin he had spun on the bar, and it rattled to a stop as he finished speaking. A gold coin, about as big as our \$20 gold piece.

On its obverse side was a portrait of the little king, looking very fierce in profile.

On the reverse side was the crowned eagle of the House of Savoy with the words Regno d'Italia above and the date 1903 below. There was also the symbol L 100, standing for 100 lire of the time when the lira was worth 20 cents American.

"And yet it is a nice disease—this numismatics," Arturo resumed. "I just wish I got it earlier and suffered to the extent of getting 20 of these, instead of the five I did."

"And why?" he asked. "Because today these that cost me \$200 originally I can sell for \$2000."

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Sealed bids endorsed "Proposal for the installation of an Eight (8) Inch Cast Iron Water Main on Grape Street from Melrose Avenue to Steward Avenue in the City of Medford, Oregon" will be received by the City Council of the City of Medford, Oregon, at the office of the Superintendent of the Board of Water Commissioners, City Hall, Medford, Oregon, until 11:00 A.M. on the Twenty-ninth day of April, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-seven and will then be publicly opened and read.

The work for which proposals are invited will be paid by Improvement Fund Warrants from assessments to be levied upon the property benefited by such work and by Water Commission Warrants as set forth in Section 48 of the "General Provisions".

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The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals and to accept such proposals as are to the best interest of the City.

Dated this 12th day of April, 1957.

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