THE ALBUM QUESTION
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To the Editor of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY.

SIR:

“As every one has something to say upon the permanent “Album Question,” will you kindly allow me space to advance a few ideas of my own. Having carefully reviewed the argument of the “Lady Collector,” in the last number of your magazine, I am obliged to abandon the alphabetical scheme. According to her arrangement, stamps representing Nations from every quarter of the globe, are thrown together without the slightest consistency whatever, and this alone would be sufficient to convince me of the impossibility of this system to secure a “Permanent Album.”

I think it must be apparent to all, that the chronological arrangement is the only one by which a strict order and classification can be maintained, and this is the idea I have adopted. Instead of mounting all the emission of the same country together, I should place all the stamps according to the year they were issued, these might be arranged still further chronologically, in the order in which they came out during the year, or, as it will perhaps be difficult with some of the earlier issues to ascertain this with sufficient accuracy, either geographically or alphabetically, according to the taste and fancy of the party collecting. In this way we would have a complete history of the country the stamps represent, handed down to us by the specimens themselves from year to year as time rolls on.

How much valuable information might be derived from such a collection, if any one were to devote a moderate amount of study to it? I should thus begin with the first English stamps in 1840, and proceed to arrange all the subsequent issues of all nations in the order in which they appeared, until my volume is full; then I would have a new one bound exactly the same, dated at the back the year the first volume ceases. By this means an album as permanent as it is possible to make one would be secured.

Trusting that these suggestions may be of some use and soliciting the views of some of your numerous readers, I am dear sir,

Yours truly,

CHARLES JOHNSON.