Leading British Philatelists have been greatly excited over the discovery of the 20 cent St. Louis, some doubted their genuineness, others believed in them. The doubters were perhaps justified in their opinions as the stamps had been issued about twenty-five years and only just discovered; then again none of these stamps had ever been seen in England, and there the genuineness of a stamp is usually decided by the test of its being duplicated in the Philbrick collection, as it is not possible that there could be any old issue not to be found in the collection of this wealthy barrister.

Dr. Petrie wishing to help the science in Europe, wished the writer to send the two copies in his collection, and with the Dr’s one to be examined by one of the leading lights in England, but after due consideration could not trust his treasure with anyone in England, except Mr. Philbrick; our own experience was about the same as the doctors, but we had found two English dealers trustworthy, and one gentleman; but as he was the editor of a paper he could not be asked to write for any other periodical, for it must be understood that we were willing to do anything for the science, but were determined that every thing known about American stamps should be learnt from THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY; that European philatelists have long done this is admitted, but our readers will be surprised when we tell them that not a single leading collector in England subscribes for it, but borrows it from our English exchanges and reads it regular every month, this we can prove. We are happy to say, however, that we have many subscribers in England, but they do not belong to the class whose honor is called in question at the head of this article. To cut a long story short, Dr. Petrie sent his collection of St. Louis stamps to Mr. Philbrick, together with the borrowed 20 cent stamps; but upon his written word that he would write an article on them for this number of the paper. This paper was to be for exclusive publication in the JOURNAL. After these written assurances of his were received, the stamps were sent in plenty of time to get the promised article by the first of the month. About the tenth inst.,* a registered letter, containing the stamps was received (but if the Stamp Collector’s Magazine had come to hand first we should never have expected them, for in our opinion any one who would lie would steal when they think it would pay them), but Mr. Philbrick stated that he did not think he could write an article on the stamps that would suit the editor of this Journal, and admitted that he had showed them to Mr. Pemberton. When the above mentioned paper had come to hand, it was found to contain a two page article on the stamps of St. Louis.

We do not believe the editor of the S.C.M. was aware of these particulars, or he certainly would not have published the article. It is possible that Mr. Pemberton was not aware of Mr. Philbrick’s contract. If he was not, he would do well to state the fact; but if this is a specimen of honor as practiced amongst the wealthy office holders of the English government, we shall blush to call ourselves a Briton, a name we have often been proud of.

*To this is owing our late appearance, but as it is our first offence we hope our readers will excuse us.