Postage stamp collecting is a pursuit that has exercised its charm over persons of both sexes and in every class of life, ever since the mania – as it was then called – commenced about 1863. No doubt, stamp collecting, as a mania has to a great extent died out, but the collecting of stamps as a science has probably taken a firmer hold than ever among that class of persons most suited for its propagation. Now that the time has come when gentlemen are willing to travel miles to attend an auction sale or to inspect a choice assortment of stamps and who are eager to give from fifty to a hundred dollars or more for some great rarity, one has no right to complain of the decline of Philately, at least considered as a science and not as merely the frivolous pastime of schoolboys.

Philately, as I understand it, does not mean merely the accumulation of a number of pieces of paper of different colors and designs, and issued by various countries and towns, sticking them into an album and then boasting over the large number you possess, but it implies a careful and accurate study of the postage stamps of all nations, in all their phases and varieties. – Granite State Philatelist.