BLANK ALBUMS
BY STOKES
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Collectors who have a fondness for the stamps of a certain country or countries, naturally
endeavor to obtain as many stamps of that country as possible. In gathering these they are liable to
discover varieties in color, paper, perforations, watermarks, etc. for which no set spaces will be found in
the printed albums – for instance, there are over one hundred and thirty varieties of postage stamps of
Canada, the International album (which claims to include all varieties of postage stamps) there are spaces
for only eighty five different Canada. Of course there are blank pages in the more expensive albums, but
when varieties of various dates are mounted thereon it presents a very patchy appearance. It is evident
therefore, that the printed albums are of little use to the true specialist, who is forced to seek the blank
one.

If you intend to specialize successfully it is necessary to obtain one of these: some dealers have
them in stock, but if you are not acquainted with any, the perusal of philatelic advertisements, or upon
enquiry to the publisher, you will readily obtain addresses of such. A competent bookbinder can turn out a
good album ranging in price from three dollars up. Of course for the more expensive ones a better quality
of material must be used, which point must be considered if you intend keeping your album for any
number of years.

It is advisable to obtain an album with the pages ruled with very pale ink into small squares about
three sixteenths of an inch in width. This will greatly aid in spacing off and also provides a good
background.

In reference to spacing, consult two or three catalogues to obtain as large a list as possible, then
space accordingly. The pages can be ruled or dotted into blocks or strips of squares (allowing about 1/2
inch around each stamp) or an occasional fancy design, adds greatly to the appearance of the album: for
instance, an issue of Canadian could be nicely arranged in a faintly tinted maple leaf (the maple leaf issue
would be very suitable); the diamond Jubilees issue would be appropriately arranged in a diamond.

A short time ago I had the pleasure of looking over a collection of British Colonies mounted on
sheets of white cardboard, but being unbound, great care was necessary to avoid damaging the stamps.

The stamps of British North America, and British West Indies, are the choice of many Canadian
specialists, which countries make a total of nearly one thousand varieties. If this is considered too many,
British North America is the next choice with varieties numbering nearly one hundred and fifty.

By being constantly on the lookout for varieties which have no set spaces in the printed albums,
the collector’s faculty for minute observation receives excellent training.

The blank album plays another important part in the philatelic world, namely for the mounting of
entires this being the only way of collecting these, as the printed albums only provide space for envelopes
and wrappers, which have to be ruined by cutting to get them on their allotted space.
In closing I must state that the beauty of having but one or two issues to the page instead of five or six must be seen to be appreciated.