

## The STAMP COLLECTOR

by RICHARD M<sup>C</sup>P. CABREN

The postoffice department has completed the first stage of an experiment with electronic separation of air mail from ordinary letter mail and is preparing a trial run. The 8 cent red air mail stamp with fluorescent coating is to be used first in Dayton this month, but on a date not yet announced. In the new separation process, special equipment will select envelopes bearing the coated stamp and reject all others, even tho they bear proper labels and are prepaid at air mail rates. The equipment was developed by the National Cash Register company, Dayton, hence the selection of that city for introduction of the new variety of stamp.

Collectors who may be interested in obtaining a first day cover should send an addressed envelope and remittance to the postmaster at Dayton at once. Mark the inclosing envelope, "First Day Coated Air Mail Stamp."

At various times suggestions have been made that the United States should have a metric system of weights and measurements for its coinage. Our coinage, except for the 1 cent and \$1 pieces has been metric for 90 years. The act of 1873 under which our coinage is produced incorporated metric terms when the bills were introduced in Congress, but to please some members, the weights were

converted from grams to grains.

For reference, the coins, their diameters and weights are: 5 cents, 21 millimeters, 5 grams; 10 cents, 17.5 mm., 2.5 grams; 25 cents, 24 mm., 6.25 grams, and 50 cents, 30 mm., 12.5 grams. Uncirculated coins may be used as balance weights or to set up a unit of linear measurement when no metric scale is at hand. In the British-American system of weights and measures, the 1 cent coin is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in diameter and weighs 48 grains or 2 penny-weights. Ten 1 cent pieces weigh 1 troy ounce. Thus our coinage is useful as well as expendable.

The consul general of Ireland in Chicago reported that his country will commemorate the centenary of the founding of the Red Cross with an issue of two stamps in December. The denominations will be 4 pence and 1 shilling 3 pence.

Morris W. Beck, Box 116, Whitewater, Wis., cachet director of the Universal Ship Cancellation society, and of the Nuclear Ships chapter of that society, provides a continuous series of cachets of ship events. More than 350 have been handled since the series started in February, 1962. Collectors provide stamped, addressed envelopes

and Beck prints the multi-color cachet and obtains the postmark for a fee of 2 cents per cover. Beck will send three information and instruction sheets if a stamped, addressed envelope is provided. He has a ship list of seven pages for 5 cents plus a stamped, addressed return envelope. Both this list and instruction sheets can be obtained for 5 cents, plus a No. 10 addressed return envelope bearing 10 cents in postage.

At the meeting of the Chicago Philatelic society on July 18, at 8 p. m., in the Sherman House, Sherman Rogers will talk on early Greek covers and show some unusual usages at foreign offices.

An invitation has been extended to members, their families and friends, to attend the 1963 convention of the American Philatelic society in Mexico City Oct. 7 thru Oct. 13. Five special flights, including one from Chicago, have been arranged. Send to A. P. S. Convention Headquarters, Suite 1301, 36 S. Wabash av., Chicago 3, for details.

George W. Brett, president of the Bureau Issues association, has announced in the Bureau Specialist that two plate blocks of the St. Lawrence Seaway stamp bearing numbers 26343 have been dis-

covered. At the time the stamp was issued the bureau of engraving and printing announced that all impressions from the plate had been "mutilated."

Collectors of "slogan" cancellations can learn much from Slogan Slants, published by Moe Luff, 12 Greene rd., Spring Valley, N. Y. In the April number Luff discussed the seven errors that have occurred in slogans in the last 70 years. If the slogans were typeset, we might expect many errors and later corrections but it is our understanding that they are cut in steel, which makes it difficult to understand how an error such as the recent "RED CORSS MONTH" of South Orange, N. J., could occur. It was used for only a day, but a duplicate was used in Jamestown, N. Y., for about two weeks. Milwaukee, however, apparently holds the record for retaining a garbled slogan. Thruout 1920 and 1921 its post-office used one containing the misspelled word "VALU-APLE."

On June 4, 35 countries issued stamps in a common design in cooperation with the Freedom From Hunger campaign. They show the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II at the left and a central subject consisting of protein foods with the official symbol of three ears of wheat at the upper right.