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Philatelic literature of the year 1894

[*Die philatelistische literature des jahres 1894*]

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PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF THE YEAR 1894.

Once more I take the opportunity of pointing out the great importance of an exact knowledge of the literature and of reporting that, happily, an increasing number of philatelists have started to consolidate their journals into ordered collections, thus saving them from destruction and providing the means for systematic study.

The present modest study should be a little help in this direction.

My original plan was to deal with the German-language philatelic literature of 1892-1894 in connection with Suppantschitsch's excellent bibliography of philatelic literature. However, I was forestalled in this by H. Fränkel of Berlin with his useful and reliable tables to the end of 1893. A survey of the non-German literature would have been equally useful in conjunction with Suppantschitsch's work on philately of 1893, but I lacked the material. So, not without reflection, I was led to the subject given in my title, especially as regards journals that ceased to appear and other topics. Magazines that are still coming out, and have neither undergone changes nor been discontinued will remain totally unmentioned. I have thus covered only the new publications of 1894, along with changes and closures in the years 1893 and 1894. Titles that were announced to appear, but in fact did not, are also given a mention.

I have no doubt that my work contains many mistakes. I have not been able to get hold of everything published in the world: many remain unknown to me or have ceased publication. I have just occasionally indulged in conjectures, and have always pointed this out. However, when I give a positive report this can basically be relied on and may be used as a starting-point for future bibliographers.

I also bore in mind that I was writing before the year 1894 had completely finished, so that there was a possibility of new magazines appearing or becoming known during the last few days of the year. However, I had to ignore this consideration, since I did not want to take the risk of someone getting in before me.

Possibly, someone may feel impelled to write and subject my work to rigorous technical criticism. This would help to lay the foundation for a really valuable discourse, and would thus not lack either usefulness or result.

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