

**Der Philatelistische Bücherwurm
March 1929, Volume 9, Issue 2**

Translation Digest

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(Note: A **Translation Digest** provides a translation of the article titles and general headings for a complete issue of a specialised bibliographic periodical and includes full translations of all articles of permanent interest to bibliophiles.)

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The Literature Question - A Youth Question

Felix Schauf, Düren

First of all I want to mention that I believe the Literature Question is one of the most important tasks of our hobby. You can never stress enough how much good literature influences the young collector.

Instead of letting the young collector buy "packages" (glassine envelopes containing an assortment of stamps), it should be suggested he subscribe to a good magazine. I myself did this and I must say that the philatelic education it afforded me was worth more than all the stamps in my general collection. I often regretted a stamp purchase but never the subscription to a magazine.

My personal situation demanded that I be self-sufficient and it doesn't warrant to go into details of my philatelic development. It is too personal to be of interest to the general public. By sheer coincidence I became a subscriber to the *Sammlerwoche* [Collector's Weekly] at the age of 17 and it is remarkable that it was my first scientific periodical. Of course, in the

beginning it was difficult to follow the technical articles and a number of articles remained "undigested".

In those times the *Sammlerwoche* was issued promptly every Friday. I sacrificed half of my meager pocket money, but never regretted (mostly subconsciously) that the subscription was more valuable than, let's say, a package of 200 Poland or the urgently needed 1000 Balkan States. The *Sammlerwoche* meant so much to me that I would like to suggest that more mature young collectors should receive this publication. Starting at the age of 17, every eager collector can understand this paper and reap great benefits. It is really astonishing that there are still so many "collectors" who do not subscribe to *Sammlerwoche*. I still cannot quite grasp, why *Das Postwertzeichen* [The Stamp] was issued nationwide. Why not *Sammlerwoche*, which in times of the most dire distress continued under great sacrifice, which brings up the question why a founding of a "Bundeszeitung" [Federal newspaper] was necessary. The *Sammlerwoche* is offered to the Germania Ring at a preferred price of 7 Marks per year and this amount is so small considering what it offers, that every sincere collector should be able to afford it. Whoever thinks this amount too much can stay outside - he is not worthy to be an organized collector. Let's drop the also-collectors.

Unfortunately it was impossible for me to subscribe continuously, especially since the price was raised. I had to cancel for 2 months and was without the paper - sheer excruciating pain for me. I looked for a cheap publication. The *Illustrierte Briefmarken-Journal* [Illustrated Stamp Journal] of the Senf Brothers was an acceptable substitute. I say substitute, because I was so spoiled by the *Sammlerwoche*, that the more popular tone of the *Illustrierte Briefmarken-Journal*, which is probably preferred by the mature young collector who can grasp the story-like articles more easily, did not suit me as much as the "sophisticated" language of the *Sammlerwoche*. I still get a lot of benefit from reading the *Sammlerwoche*.

The accepted trade paper for the young collector is the *Baseler Täubchen* [Basel Dove]. This well-equipped paper is being printed in its 3rd year and has already attained a respectable level. The tone is adjusted to the age of the young collector and the articles of the *Baseler Täubchen* are prepared systematically for study as in the scientific press. To look into its content more closely would be to go too far. Besides the articles of renowned philatelists, those of the young collectors are remarkable. The latter have to be retained as they undoubtedly contribute a lot to the popularity of the paper. The Mail Box is a good feature. A number of collectors surely didn't know what is printed in it. The illustration of new issues could be better. The new issues are certainly the pulse of philately, and because of it, popular with the young collector, since new stamps are easier to obtain and as current issues are always topical.

But the meaning of the literature question for philately? The answer lies in the proverb *Jung gewohnt ist alt getan* [What you are accustomed to as a youngster, you practice when you are grown]. He who thinks he can do without scientific literature in his early years, is not going to subscribe in later years. The majority of collectors unfortunately falls into that category. These remain lifelong loyal "omnivores", who remain happy with their accumulated stamps until one day, when they have reason to sell and discover that their holding is worth nothing. Sure, you can get a publication for the equivalent of 1200 different stamps. The "leading" **Michel** catalogue will suffice. But beware the collector who reads no publications. He will vouch for his **Michel**. The **Michel** is the Jack-of-All-Trades. You exchange "basic **Michel**" or buy - very inexpensive - with 50-80% discount on **Michel**. Such collectors believe firmly that these stamps were bought with this discount and bask in their ownership.

Proudly the owner says that this collection is "worth" x-thousand Marks according to **Michel**. But the sad part is that the highest values in such an "also-collection" are missing and dealers have no interest in acquiring such collections. Like I said: what you are accustomed to ...

That is why it has to be the main task of youth group leaders to awaken the consciousness for philatelic literature in the earliest beginnings. In the clubs every older collector should be a mentor for a beginner. And he should pay for half of the subscription to the *Baseler Täubchen*. To simply give away the publication is not an option. A collector will take care of the paper, if it was paid for. He has learned that it wasn't printed for free and therefore cannot be given away. The subscription to the *Sammlerwoche* should be made available especially to eager and talented young collectors. Other publications should be made available to be looked at. The beginner should also keep copies, since the bound annuals should form the foundation of his library.

While stressing the idealistic reasons for collecting to the young collector, we should not neglect to point out that now and later great material advantages occur and the subscription to one or more periodicals always pays for itself.

Many beginners prefer to purchase the "200 Poland" package or something similar, rather than investing the money in a periodical. That is where the youth group leaders have to be insistent and demonstrate clearly how worthless the "package" will be in the future, since he sooner or later will decide to specialize and in most cases he will be stuck with his accumulation of stamps. But the money invested in the periodical will never be lost (or do you want to be an "also-collector"?). The "Knowledge of Things" makes the true philatelist and his knowledge is attained mainly through good periodicals. May all leaders of youth groups promote the literature idea and through it contribute to the growth, development and thriving of philately.

Pages 3 to 4

New Literature

- A.) Periodicals
- B.) Books, etc.

See the original document for titles.

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Verein Philatelistischer Literatursammler

New members: See the original document for names.

Subscription for 1929.

END