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**Philatelic Bibliography**  
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**PHILATELIC BIBLIOGRAPHY**

In the first issue of the new Munich *Postwertzeichen*, **Emilio Diena** mentions the publication of the new Munich *Nachschlagebuches über Philatelistische Litteratur* [*Reference Book of Philatelic Literature*] and gives a complete listing of all previously published works. His idea is not entirely new as about ten years ago **Mr. Tiffany** in St. Louis did the same thing fairly comprehensively, though in a way which was only available to a select circle. **Diena**, though, has wider plans for his ideas. He aims at a complete bibliography of philately, covering not only all the independent literature but also an ordered survey of all individual articles, no matter where and in what language they appear.

Carrying out this plan is a formidable task, far beyond the capacity of a single researcher, though it is a project of extraordinary importance, a task of international significance, and when it is completed would be a basis for philatelic science. Can willing helpers be found in the various countries? Can **Diena's** plan really be carried out? Is it time to address ourselves to this difficult task?

As far as the first two questions go we have high hopes that in every country where our science has borne literary fruit someone will be found who is willing to catalogue bibliographical notices, but we will answer the last question differently. There is always time to solve this problem, and now is the right time, and if the work is divided between a number of people it could be carried out in a relatively short time. As far as Germany is concerned, its philatelic literature could be completely covered by the libraries in Vienna, Dresden and Munich and some private book collections. Once this is started it only needs willing hands and the German component would be ready as a stone in the complete building.

However, bad news comes after this hopeful message! Would such a work, which must be very detailed and must have a relatively high price, also find purchasers? Will the philatelic world meet it with the interest which it must have? In which countries will it be published? Which publisher will sacrifice money and take the risk?

In view of the uncertainty about **Diena's** plan, only one of these questions can be answered. We firmly believe that there is interest in such a work in Germany – but not on the part of purchasers, who must be the publisher's first concern. With the exception of one copy for every society, the cost of production would hardly favour the publisher. Here again though there could be a way out if the German specialist societies provided the means between them to issue a bibliography of the German philatelic literature. We hope the effort to produce the work will not be lacking; if the societies will meet the cost, then the appearance of this work in our great Fatherland is assured.

The esteemed editors of this journal worked out a cost for drawing up and producing a work on the entire German philatelic literature. The preliminary work has been done. This has to precede the detailed treatment of the main materials. When this has been done and proof afforded that the editors of the main work can carry it out, the actual work can be started.

The aim of this chat is to show how we can take an active part in the **Diena** project, and all interested circles should exert themselves to bring it about. A bibliography of the entire philatelic literature would be a very important event in the field of philately.

**END**