



A Look Back

“Philately Was At First Held In Disrepute”
by C. E. Finney, a Tucson Stamp Club member.

“That philately was not held in high esteem in its early days is indicated by an article in the Boston Daily Advertiser in 1860, in which the hobby is referred to as a ‘mania,’ in the practice of which some persons had collected as many as 300 varieties of stamps.

“The article further states that ‘The comparisons of the different heads and legends adopted by the several powers of the world, makes the collections something more than a mere pastime, and gives to it something of the dignity and value of a collection of coins or medals.’

“The great variety of stamps ceases to be surprising when it is recalled that in each of the countries where they are employed at all, several denominations are issued, and some of them (as in the United States) are old and new patterns, all of which are necessary to a complete collection. This elegant and curious ‘mania’ is now chiefly indulged by young ladies, but we cannot tell how soon it may take possession of the more mature portion of mankind.’

“An auction with many attractive lots entered was featured at the meeting of the Tucson Stamp Club, Monday, Jan. 22, in the Indian room, YWCA, 738 North Fifth avenue. The Mission Philatelic society will meet Thursday, 8 p.m., at the Santa Rita Hotel.”

Taken from the Tucson Citizen, January 27, 1940
Len Miller, Vice President