

Now for the other side of the picture. The stamps *never left the auctioneer's possession*. For private reasons the purchaser did not clear the lots in sufficient time to satisfy the auctioneers, so that exactly ten weeks later they were again offered for sale by the same auctioneers, in whose possession they had been ever since, and this time they appeared in the catalogue as *one* lot, and described as follows:—

AUSTRIAN ITALY: 1861, 5 soldi red, and 15 soldi brown, unused with gum, but latter clipped; and BADEN, 1862, perf., 13½, 3kr. rose, unused, damaged - - - 3

*And the lot was knocked down for five shillings.* Somehow in the interval the 5 soldi Austrian Italy had regained the other part of its gum, while the Baden had lost it, in addition to becoming damaged. Why they were put together in one lot, with the best stamp last, is not for us to discuss here. The original purchaser is supposed to pay 13s. 6d. difference, whereas someone else gets a lot at less than one quarter its value at his expense, and not through his fault.

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Just as we go to press the startling announcement reaches us from a reliable source that the United States Post Office Department have decided to sell the remainders of the newspaper (periodical) stamps from 1 cent to \$100.

**Governments as Stamp Dealers.** Remainders have been sold by Governments on many occasions, and we see no harm in that, provided these remainders are sold *en bloc* to a dealer or to one individual, leaving it to him to retail them at his leisure, just as the Leeward Islands, the Fiji, St. Helena, and others were disposed of; but our reason for using the word "startling" is that they are to be placed on sale in some of the large cities, and at *five dollars per set*. A certain number of sets are to be on sale, of which the public will be advised, after which the plates will be destroyed, so that it appears there is even a possibility of reprinting.

The Attorney-General of the Department has decided that it is lawful for the Postmaster-General to sell these stamps for less than face value, in fact he can sell them for any price he likes, as they are obsolete.

Those who have purchased these sets at face value (about £35), and even those who have purchased at the more modern prices of from £10 to £20, must feel much annoyed at such a procedure, as the price can do no good to the U.S. Post Office, or to the stamp dealers, or to any collectors except the limited number who will purchase a set because it is cheap. The dealers are *not* likely to buy many, as it is known at what price they can be bought. We have to thank the *Weekly Philatelic Era* for much of this information.

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Our readers may have noticed that we have not chronicled many of the provisionals for the various ex-Spanish Colonies. The reason is that we find and hear of so many varieties from all quarters that the matter has got a little bit confused, so we are making up a complete list, that is to say as far as we can make it so, and we want our readers to help us by sending us specimens or information of everything philatelic pertaining to the Hispano-American War. We want United States with surcharges for Cuba, &c., Cuban stamps with U.S. surcharges, Cuban, Porto Rico, and Philippines, with "Habilitado," or other surcharges; in fact anything provisional of these Colonies of recent date, and we shall return any stamps and our thanks to those who kindly help us.

**U.S. and Spanish Colonies.**