

heels of this comes news that numerous 1½c envelopes, printed in violet color, have appeared in Colorado and Massachusetts.

I have received numerous letters from you readers, and will be glad to have more. Will be glad to answer any of your questions on any market phase of philately; either specialized markets, or comparative mar-

ket value of any issue or of any country. I cannot undertake to give a definite market value on single, lower-priced items. In computing the market value in this column, I disregard any catalogue value, and base my opinion on the well known law of supply and demand, as well as the present market selling-price in the case of high priced items. Write me in care of HOBBIES.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

By

A. SCHAEFFER, JR.

A COLLECTOR'S item, a decoration for holiday packages and letters, and ammunition in the fight against tuberculosis are the varied roles filled by the bright little holiday stickers known as Christmas Seals.

Each year they make their appearance between Thanksgiving and Christmas, when they are sold for a penny each by the 2,000 affiliated tuberculosis associations throughout the United States to finance their work for another year.

The inventor of the Christmas Seal idea was the late Einar Holboell, a clerk in the post office at Copenhagen, Denmark. While watching the huge flood of Christmas mail pass through his hands and wondering how money might be raised for a sanatorium for children, which Copenhagen, sorely needed, he conceived the idea of a special stamp that could be sold for a small sum to decorate Christmas letters, cards and gifts. The money raised in this way was to be used for the construction of the hospital. The approval of the Danish royal family for his plan was secured and it success was assured.

Holboell, who died in February, 1927, was decorated twice by the King of Denmark for his contribution to the health of his country, and also was decorated by the Kings of Sweden and Italy. He lived to see the Christmas Seal idea adopted by the health agencies or governments of twenty-six different countries.

The idea came to the United States in 1907, when Miss Emily Bissell, of Wilmington, Delaware, read a description of the Danish seal and the anti-tuberculosis work it financed in a magazine article written by Jacob Riis, one of the famous pioneers in the field of social service, following receipt of a letter bearing a seal, from Denmark. Miss Bissell, also, had been casting about for means to raise money for a tuberculosis institution in her state, and the adoption of Holboell's idea solved her problem.

With the passing of the years the value of Christmas Seals has increased with their scarcity, until today nearly all are worth many times their original cost of one cent each. Curiously, the most valuable seal is not the original one put out by Miss Bissell in 1907, but the 1911 issue that was made up in coils for use in automatic vending machines. A seal

from this printing is listed in stamp catalogues at \$25.

Another valuable seal is the red and green seal of 1913, with poinsettia flowers, and green circles around red crosses at either side. Seals of this design are listed as worth \$15 each, while a variation of the same design issued the same year is worth only half as much. The first seals sold by Miss Bissell in 1907 are worth fifty cents each if inscribed "Merry Christmas," but if inscribed "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" they are worth only twenty-five cents each. Certain designs of the years 1908 and 1918 are worth \$5 each, a design of 1910 is worth \$3 each, and a design of 1912 is worth \$1 each.

All genuine anti-tuberculosis Christmas Seals sold in the United States today bear prominently in their design a double-barred cross in red. They have been responsible for the saving of untold thousands of lives through the program of tuberculosis prevention they support—education, nursing service, tuberculin testing, X-rays, clinics, open air schools and summer camps, rehabilitation, and research work.

The fight against tuberculosis is not yet won, however. It still kills more persons between 15 and 45 than any other disease, and today more than ever, money is needed to combat it.

Buy Christmas Seals



Help Fight Tuberculosis



Some of the Earlier Christmas Seals