

## Preface.

An almanac of all collectors and dealers of the whole civilised world is in every respect both useful and much instructive. It clears the way of the collectors of the same sport to one-another, it mediates the relations for exchanging ideas, it gives a view of the activity of the collectors in those cities and countries that have become gradually the centre of amateurs and protectors such as: Berlin, Cassel, Cologne, Dresden, Munich, Nurnberg, while in many other countries the best treasures are in possession of private persons like the castles of the nobility of the Mark, or the lords-seats of the great proprietors of East Prussia. Moreover the dealers will find in an almanac new instructions and incitations. There are specialists of every kind, but the special-collectors only arise from the general-collectors who had begun with a common interest. Appetite comes with eating. He who has begun to gather will soon and willingly transplant his earnest and zeal to other sciences and only the means more or less bordered and exhausted oblige him to a wise restriction and a more profound penetration of the matter. The mind of the collector is in spite of any passion that of interior calm, joy and contentment.

Respecting the text we remark, that the division of the almanac into cities and countries appeared to us most practical, as in the foundation of branch-registers every collector would be mentioned too often.

In finding the name of a collector of a special-branch reading over the text and pointing them out by any token will be sufficient. The work is made not to be only an almanac of names but also in its real meaning a guide throughout the whole sport of collecting. The value of the work will only be acknowledged by frequent reading.

We have endeavoured to collect a complete and good number of adresses, but we did not always find the desired support. On this account we cannot be by any means quite complete, at the first edition of a work so universal for all the countries of the world it is quite impossible, but we shall find the ways and means to enlarge the second edition by far. Every collector and dealer must acknowledge the necessity of an international almanac for collecting.

May our work find the protection and interest of the whole world that is fond the sport of collecting. Every information and correction will be accepted with gratitude, we shall make use of every new adress of collectors of all countries in our second edition. All our fellow-labourers are most heartily thanked for their aid and support.

Berlin, February, 1903.

Edition and publishing.