
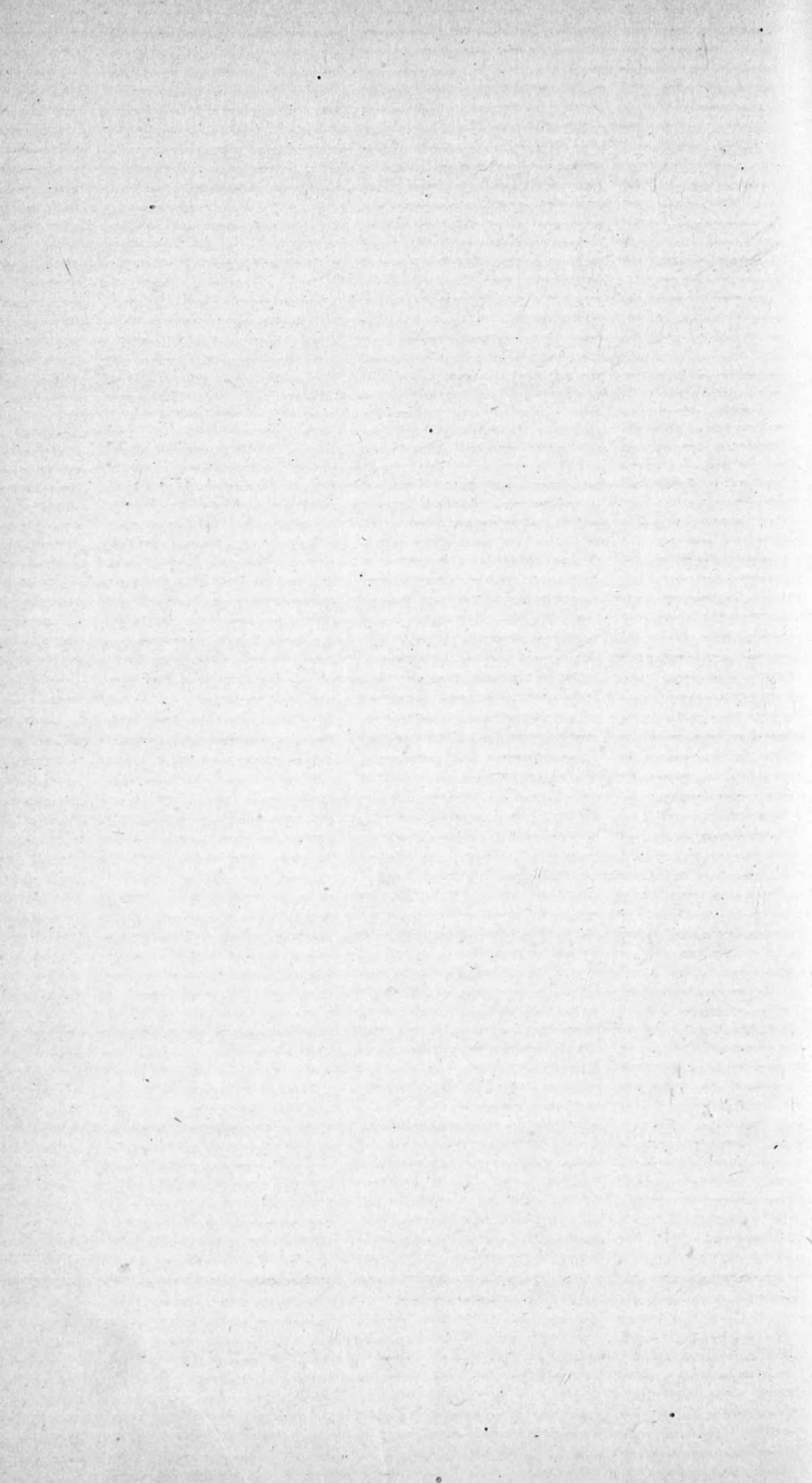


McLEAN'S  
STAMP COLLECTORS'  
\* GUIDE. \*

PRICE, 30 CENTS.

BOSTON:  
W. S. McLEAN.  
1889.





McLEAN'S

STAMP COLLECTORS' GUIDE,

CONTAINING

ARTICLES ON LEADING PHILATELIC SUBJECTS; ALSO  
LISTS OF PHILATELIC SOCIETIES, AND OF  
PERIODICALS DEVOTED TO THE SCIENCE;

ALSO,

A DIRECTORY

OF OVER TWO THOUSAND UNITED STATES AND  
CANADIAN COLLECTORS, CAREFULLY ARRANGED  
IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, ACCORDING TO  
STATES, TERRITORIES AND PROVINCES.

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1889.

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BOSTON:

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F. H. PINKHAM,  
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NEWMARKET, N. H.



## PREFACE.

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Every reasonable effort has been used to make the *STAMP COLLECTORS' GUIDE* all that its name implies. The articles contained herein are from the pens of leading writers on philatelic subjects, and will prove of interest and value to collectors.

I furnish, also, lists of societies and papers, which include all that had come to my notice at the time of this writing.

The Directory of Collectors contains over two thousand names and addresses. As far as my knowledge goes this is the largest list of stamp collectors ever issued on this side of the Atlantic. Regarding the arrangement, I believe the geographical plan, as given here, to be the best. I have endeavored to have the addresses correct, and to insert none but those of *bona fide* collectors of stamps.

I do not claim that my book is beyond criticism: should I meet with the approval I have tried to merit, I will continue its publication annually, and hope to come one step nearer perfection each succeeding year. With this end in view, corrections and suggestions are solicited and will be gratefully received.

I wish to acknowledge my obligations to the many collectors who have given me valuable assistance in the compilation of this work, either by information or encouragement.

WILLIAM SEWARD McLEAN.

*Boston, Mass., April, 1889.*

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# THE STAMP COLLECTORS' GUIDE.

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## PHILATELY'S PROGRESS.

BY HENRY S. HARTE.

The collecting of postage and revenue stamps, or what to the initiated is known as the science of philately, has within the short while that it has existed made more rapid strides on the onward path than any other pursuit of a like nature. Throughout the length and breadth of the land, in the new as well as in the old world, in the scattered hamlet as well as in the more populous city, among princes, poets, statesmen, among the clerical, medical and other professions, among mechanics and artisans, this pursuit forms not merely an idle pastime but an interesting study.

It is scarcely a half-century ago that the first adhesive postage stamp was issued in England, only forty-one years since the first one was issued on this Continent, and but little over thirty years since the first collection of stamps was made. But these little bits of paper, of ever varying color and shape, had been in existence but for a little over a decade when they were found to be fast becoming objects of increasing interest to many, until we find the active collecting of them taken up, at first with secrecy, for fear of being ridiculed for indulging in a childish pastime; afterwards more openly, when it was found that their varying colors, their artistic beauty, had engrossed the attention of many prominent men and women throughout the whole world.

It was not until January 1st, 1862, twenty-two years after the first stamp had been issued, that *The Stamp Collector's Review*, the first paper published in the interests of philately, was issued in Liverpool, England. A few months later the first number of *Le Timbre Poste*, a journal which has survived the storms of twenty-six years, and is now a welcome visitor in our midst, was issued in Brussels, and two years later—in 1864—*The Stamp Collector's Record*, the first advocate of Philatelia's cause on this Continent, was published in Montreal, Canada. These were the pioneers of our philatelic literature, and from this time onward the progress of philatelic journalism has been a mighty power in extending the cause of our much-loved hobby, and it has done much in many ways in demanding a place for philately in the world of science and arts, and a hearing from the princes and magnates of that intellectual circle. And when we to-day scan the literature of our hobby, is there not much to be proud of in it? Does it not still bid fair to be a strong weapon if only wielded by competent hands, in making philately's progress through the world to resemble that "shining light which shineth more and more unto the perfect day"?

Philately's progress is observable too in the vast difference that there is in our literature of to-day, and that of fifteen and twenty years ago. How different are the handsome and well-edited numbers of *The American Philatelist*, *The Philatelic Journal of America*, and our other monthly periodicals, to those small four and eight page sheets that were published between 1862 and 1870. Our catalogues, giving accurate descriptions of so many and diverse kinds of stamps, how greatly superior are they to those of even ten years ago. And further, the great difference in the prices of stamps to what they were a very few years back; how that stamps which were once plentiful are now fast becoming scarce, and stamps which were but once worth a few cents now command prices up in the dollars; the extent and number of those engaged in the buying and selling of stamps; all these things are standing witnesses of the onward progress of philately.

The public press, which but a few years ago scorned and scoffed at the collector of stamps, is now fast becoming the philatelist's friend, by opening up to him its columns and by permitting him to air his views and advocate Philatelia's cause in a larger world than what he would be otherwise able to do. All this betokens good for our's and our cause, for when we are not only recognized but given a hearing by those whose favor means much, we shall be better able to extend our borders from North to South, from the ocean-washed Isles of the Pacific to the storm-beaten shores of the Atlantic.

Further, we may judge of the extent of philately's progress by the number of our philatelic societies, and the influence which they have exerted in drawing recruits into our ranks. The collecting of stamps had not long been commenced, before collectors began to feel the necessity and the benefit to be derived from some kind of a union or society, in which they could compare notes, exchange duplicates and air their views on different subjects pertaining to philately. *The Philatelic Society of London*, England, was probably the first regular society that had an existence; then followed *La Societie de Timbrologie*, in France; and the *Dresden Society*, in Germany; and on this Continent, *The National Philatelic Society*, of New York. All four of these societies are now in existence, and have done and are doing much in their several ways to extend the cause of philately. It was, however, not until the Autumn and Winter of 1883-84, and on this Continent, that Philatelic Societies began to exert their greatest influence, and from this date onward they have sprung up with almost phenomenal rapidity in every corner of the United States and Canada, where they were two or three lovers of our hobby. Our two great sister societies, *The American Philatelic Association* and *The Canadian Philatelic Association*, especially, stand forth to-day as living monuments of philately's progress, and the influence which they have and do exert in removing obstacles from the way of the would-be philatelist, of encouraging others to join the ranks, and of disseminating correct views in regard to the science of philately in the world at large, cannot be over-estimated and are proofs that our hobby has kept pace with the times.

When we review the progress of philately, from the beginning to the present moment, are we not constrained to wonder at the rapid growth of the acorn of thirty-one years ago? And as we sit under the shadow of the giant oak and look out into the future, how glorious is the prospect that lies before us. And though we may still see many obstacles and stumbling-blocks in our way, yet does not the past progress, the present success of the cause of philately encourage us to go on and prosper, filled with the assurance that the banners of Philatelia shall, ere her cause be a century old, be found waving in every breeze?

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## THE PHILATELIC DICTIONARY.

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*Advanced Collector*.—One whose collection is numbered by the thousands, and with whom our hobby is a *science*, not a mania.

*Albino*.—A stamp which was impressed without color and which is merely the impression of the plate upon the paper.

*Arbesque*.—A delicate kind of tracery or ornaments, consisting of intricate lines—flowers, birds, fruit, etc. See 1885 issue of Persia.



*Batonne paper.*—This is also called foreign note paper, and resembles laid, but the parallel lines are further apart and when the paper is used as stationery they serve as a guide in writing.

*Blocks.*—Four stamps of the original sheet, unsevered and in the form of a square.

*Bogus stamps.*—Stamps of which there are no originals, and which are concocted by swindlers, merely to sell.

*Canceled.*—Obliterated so as to be useless for postal purposes. Cancellation is effected by a hand-stamp, pen and ink and sometimes by punching a hole in the stamp.

*Colonials.*—Stamps issued by a Government for use in its colonies. The stamps of Tobago, Turk's Island, etc., may be termed British Colonials.

*Colored paper.*—This means that the paper is green, blue or some other color, although it may be either laid, wove, or any other variety of paper.

*Copper engraving.*—These are made in the same way as steel, but are little employed, for the reason that copper is very soft and soon wears out. The 1850-52 and '53 issues of Mauritius and the 1854 issue of the Phillipine Islands, and a number of U. S. locals, are from copper engravings.

*Continents.*—The common stamps of Europe, which are sold at from 18 to 50 cents per thousand.

*Counterfeits.*—Imitations of genuine stamps manufactured for fraudulent purposes.

*Cut envelopes.*—Stamped envelopes, from which the stamp, alone, is collected.

*Dentated perforation.*—(Perce en pointe.) Perforated in triangular points similar to serpentine.

*Dies.*—Impressions of stamps (to the number of 200 in U. S. stamps) which are sunk on an annealed steel roller, which is revolved under immense pressure on a soft steel plate. The plate receives the impression from the dies, and when hardened, is used to print the stamps from.

*Double impression.*—A stamp which has been printed in color on both sides, by mistake. See some of 1877 issue of Persia.

*Double perforation.*—Stamps which were perforated with two rows of holes on one side. See some of the present issue of U. S. stamps.

*Error.*—A stamp on which some mistake is made, either in the engraving of the plate, the color of ink used, the printing of a surcharge, or the perforation.

*Embossed.*—Stamps on which the design is in relief, or raised above the ground-work, which are printed from a sunken die. See stamps of Portugal, and late issues of her colonies and U. S. envelopes.

*Essay.*—The design for a stamp which is executed by the engravers and submitted to a Government for its approval or rejection.

*Fac-similes.*—Imitations of stamps and the same as counterfeits, with the exception that they are not intended to deceive, and are simply copies of rare stamps.

*Forgeries.*—See Counterfeits.

*Gold beater's skin.*—A paper resembling parchment, which is transparent and very tough. It was used in the 1866 issue of Prussia.

*Government counterfeits.*—This term is applied to stamps which are obsolete and the plates destroyed, and which are re-issued by a Government in imitation of the original emission, from new plates. The Alsace-Lorraine inverted net work set is of this class.

*Government reprints.*—Stamps reprinted by a Government from the original plates after the issue is obsolete, and sold at face value.

*Grill.*—This is a square on the backs of some old issues of U. S., and on nearly all of those of Peru, composed of a number of minute indentations, which are formed by a steel die divided into very fine points. The object was to break the surface of the paper so that the cancellation ink might sink deeper, and thus render the cleaning of stamps impossible.

*Ground work.*—The body engraving or back-ground of a stamp.

*Imperforate*.—Used by some authorities in preference to imperforated.

*Irregular perforation*.—Stamps perforated with different sized holes.

*Laid paper*.—This variety has parallel lines, which are close together, running through it. See U. S. envelopes.

*Lathe work*.—(Engine turned ground.) Circular or oval lines crossing each other, and radiating from a common center. See Mexico 1874, 25c, blue.

*Lithographed*.—This is the only mode of engraving in which there is no cutting. Stone will not take up ordinary printing ink, and the design for the stamp is drawn or printed on it, with a peculiar kind of ink. Thus, when an inked roller is passed over the stone, the design only takes the ink, and the stamps are printed as though from type. See first issue of Argentine, and emissions of Hayti, etc.

*Local*.—A term applied to all stamps, for the prepayment of mail matter, which are not of Government origin.

*Manilla paper*.—This is a very coarse, buff paper, and is made from Manilla grass. See the Oct. 1, 1886, issue of U. S. envelopes.

*Mince paper*.—A very light, thin paper. See 1862 issue of Turkey.

*Native paper*.—This term is applied to any kind of paper, which is made by hand, in semi-civilized countries. See stamps of Indian States.

*Oddity*.—Stamps which have some characteristic which is out of the common. So may be a stamp printed in a wrong color, a mistake in perforation, an inverted design, or anything which would make it a curiosity, beyond the fact of its being a postage stamp.

*Obsolete*.—Stamps which are out of use, and not receivable for postage.

*Old paper*.—A variety which was used in the first issue of our match and medicine stamps. The term is applied to a paper having an old appearance, even though just from the press.

*Originals*.—Genuine stamps.

*Papier moiré*.—A variety of paper having undulating lines in it, which gives it the appearance of being watered, like moiré antique silk. See Mexico 1872, and Spain 1875 issues.

*Part perforation*.—Denotes stamps which are not perforated on all sides. U. S. document stamps are often found thus, and command higher prices when in this condition.

*Pearls*.—The bead-like ornaments, which generally line the inner sides of circles.

*Pelure paper*.—A very thin and tough variety of wove.

*Perforate*.—See perforated.

*Perforated*.—The spaces between stamps on a sheet, punched with a row of holes, to facilitate separation.

*Perforation*.—The method of separating stamps, by means of holes punched between them.

*Philatelic*.—Pertaining to Philately.

*Philatetical*.—Same as the above, but given the preference by a few writers.

*Philatelist*.—An intelligent stamp collector.

*Philately*.—The collecting of stamps of different countries, and the study and systematic arrangement of them. The small boy who buys Continentals for the mere "fun of it," or from a motive of rivalry, and pastes them in an old copy-book, is not a philatelist. The name was coined by M. Herjain, a celebrated French collector, in 1862.

*Pin perforation*.—Stamps which are perforated with holes *pricked* between them, instead of being punched out. See 1868-71 issue of Mexico.

*Plates*.—Plates of different metal, on which the number of stamps desired in a sheet are engraved, and which is used to print the stamps from.

*Proof*.—The first impression of a *selected design*, which is submitted to the Government, printed in different colors, to show what the stamp will be. They are generally taken on India paper, or thin card-board, and great care is of course taken, that they shall be perfect copies.

*Provincials.*—Stamps for use in a certain province, or state only. The stamps of Bolivar are provincials.

*Provisionals.*—Stamps only used temporarily—in cases of emergency, or pending the arrival of a new issue. They may be stamps surcharged with the name of the city or province in which they are to be used, or fiscals authorized for use as postage stamps by surcharging.

*Re-engraved.*—This term signifies that the same design has been re-engraved, and new plates made therefrom.

*Remainders.*—The old stamps remaining on hand, on the emission of new varieties by a Government. They are sometimes sold to dealers at par value, and even below. One of the most notable cases being the remainders of the U. S. Department stamps.

*Reprints.*—Stamps re-printed from the original plates, after the issue is obsolete. Many U. S. locals, and scores of foreign stamps are reprints.

*Re-touched.*—Used in reference to plates, which have become worn through long use, and which are repaired by the engraver, to produce a clearer impression. See the 5c, 1847, of the U. S.

*Rice paper.*—This paper is manufactured from rice straw, and presents a fine, silky appearance, and is soft to the touch. See 1871-2 issue of Japan.

*Rouletted.*—A method of separating stamps by means of little slits, cut in the paper at regular intervals, between the stamps.

*Scalloped perforation.*—(Peree en arc.) Similar to Serpentine, but the line is more scalloped.

*Serpentine perforation.*—An undulating line cut between the stamps, so that the projections of one stamp fit into the recesses of the adjoining.

*Serrated perforation.*—(Peree en scie.) Perforations resembling the teeth of a saw, and sometimes called saw-teeth perforation. See some issues of Bremen.

*Silk thread.*—This can be most readily seen by examining any U. S. bank note, or some of our match and medicine stamps. The stamps of the 1850 to '57 issues of Bavaria, and the 1854 issue of Switzerland, are also instances. Fine red or blue silk thread is mixed with the paper, while in the pulp.

*Solid ground.*—When the ground work of a stamp is one solid color, and not lined.

*Spandrels.*—The triangular spaces in the corners, formed by an oval as a central design of a stamp, and inside of the frame.

*Specimen.*—This word is surcharged on some of the U. S. Department stamps, which were then sold to collectors at face value.

*Straw paper.*—This is a rare paper, and is made from the straw of different kinds of grain. See 1882 Canada wrappers.

*Surcharge.*—A new value, or the name of a state or province, printed on faces of stamps, in type.

*Taille douce.*—Engraved *taille douce*, means that stamps are engraved upon steel plates.

*Telegraph stamps.*—Stamps issued by Telegraph Companies for the prepayment of telegrams.

*Tete beche.*—Printed *tete beche* means that some portion of the design of a stamp has been printed upside down, or that it has an inverted surcharge. It is also applied to stamps which are printed in sheets with each alternate row upside down.

*Type set.*—Stamps "set up," and printed with ordinary printers' type. The early issues of Hawaii and British Guiana are of this class.

*Tyro.*—A young collector; a beginner.

*Unperforated.*—Stamps with smooth edges and which are separated by cutting.

*Vergé paper.*—A laid paper, in which the lines run in an oblique direction. See envelopes of Holland, 1885, and St. Domingo, 1883.

*Watermark.*—A device woven into the fabric of the paper, when manufactured, for protection against counterfeiting. It is something difficult to discover, but may

be found by holding the stamp to the light, or by wetting and laying face down on white paper.

*Watermarked paper.*—A paper containing devices in the fabric, such as letters, crowns, etc. They are produced by elevated wires of the form desired, on the *dandy roll*, which revolves on top the pulp, and reduces it to the proper thickness. See stamps of Egypt, 1864 issue, and many others.

*Wood block.*—The design for a stamp engraved on Turkish box-wood, generally. A notable case is the Cape of Good Hope triangulars of 1861.

*Wove paper.*—The kind commonly used for books and newspapers, and has a perfectly even texture.

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## ADVICE TO YOUNG COLLECTORS.

BY WANDERER.

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Probably the wisest course for a young collector to take, when he is starting his collection, is to buy a few packets from some well-known dealer; and a package (1000) of continentals is very often a good investment, as he will be able to get many common stamps from the latter which would cost him a cent each at least, and even the pennies count up and are of some value to a youngster. After getting a few hundred stamps together, it would be as well to buy the complete sets of stamps which are low priced. Of course you will get more or less reprints and some counterfeits, but no collections are entirely free from both. It is hard to draw the line at reprints, and sometimes hard to draw the line between counterfeits and reprints, as we are now informed that some stamps which we have accepted as reprints turn out to be counterfeits. The young collector must not get discouraged on this account, as we are nearly all in the same boat. It is impossible to lay down any iron-clad rules in making a collection. Your own taste and mind must govern you; while it is well to take advice, it is not necessary to absolutely follow it.

In the matter of albums, a collector must be governed entirely by his pocket book. My first collection was made in a common blank-book, and I really derived more pleasure from it than any other I have ever had. However, if you want a printed album, Scott's International is probably the best one you can buy. They give far more satisfaction in the end than any of the cheap ones that I have seen, and if the publishers would only leave the pages blank that they have devoted to locals, thereby giving the collector a chance to collect revenues or locals at will, I would say that the International should be encouraged above any of the foreign albums now flooding our markets. I would advise collectors not to buy locals until they have a collection of at least 1500. By that time they will be better able to judge the character of the stamps.

You should at the first start have a catalogue. Here again I must recommend Scott's, which, although not perfect, is the best for the price in the market. But remember one thing, that because you do not find a stamp catalogued by Scott or others it is not necessarily a counterfeit or reprint, as there are many stamps which are not catalogued by any of the cheap catalogues. Ask the advice of any advanced collector or dealer, and do not be hasty in accepting even their decision. Do not deal with irresponsible dealers, because the cheapest is sometimes the dearest in the end. Take some dealer who has an established reputation, but of course this advice will not be followed, for we all want to get some of the wonderful bargains offered, and you will have to learn by experience.

And now one last word. When you get tired of your collection, do not throw it away or sell it for a trifle; lay it away. You will find a use for it some day, perhaps you will want to collect again. You have then something to start upon, perhaps after laying away for years. You may have boys of your own who will collect stamps and your collection will be valuable to them.

## PROOFS AND ESSAYS.

BY E. R. ALDRICH.

## I.—WHAT THEY ARE.

While we frequently meet with the terms "Proofs and Essays" in our various philatelic journals, yet it is probable that a large majority of collectors are extremely ignorant on these subjects, and little or totally unacquainted with these little "beauties." The reason of this may be accounted for, firstly, by the paucity of specimens; secondly, the neglect of dealers, or those capable of so doing, of cataloguing them, for although Moens and a few other foreign dealers present a list, yet a very incomplete and unsatisfactory list it is; and thirdly, with few exceptions only advanced collectors give this branch any attention, and even then each works independently, and one seldom knows what the other possesses.

An essay is a design prepared and submitted to the Government by its designer, and of which may be classed two styles, the original designs in ink, pencil or crayon, which are exceedingly rare and seldom obtained, and those printed from plates prepared from the drawing.

A proof is a specimen taken from the plates on paper different from that used in the regular issue. While the term proof should properly be only applied to specimens printed before the plates are put in general use, yet usage has applied it to specimens struck at other times. Of both essays and proofs two kinds are usually classified, hub or die, and plate impressions. Hub or die impressions are those taken from the die when first made and before the plates are made. They are distinguished by their wide margins. Plate impressions are those taken from the plates and have no more margins than the stamps have. The essays and the first impressions are usually taken on India paper, although many proofs and a few essays are found on card and bristol board. Colored papers are occasionally used. Proofs of stamps in other colors than adopted are by some considered as proofs, and by others as essays, and may, I think, be safely classed as a separate class, and be termed "Trial colors."

## II. ARTISTIC VALUE.

The most important factor in causing their collection is undoubtedly their beauty, for beautiful they are, for "verily, Solomon in all his glory was not clothed" like a page containing a trial set of colors of from sixty to a hundred tints. An arrangement of proofs showing a complete set of United States adhesives, is a thing which moves even the most sceptical cynic to acknowledge that a philatelic collection has at least artistic features.

While the proofs show off in much better manner the finer lines and spandrels than the stamps do, so do the essays show off, in many cases, superior workmanship and finer engraving, and it often causes surprise to see what the postal departments, not only of this country but of nearly every country in the world, have passed over and endeavored to consign to oblivion's vast and yawning cavern, but which, thanks to the collector's art, have been resurrected and brought again to light.

The essays of the United States are particularly fine and show, probably, more artistic merit than those of any other country, although the "Mercury" essays of Denmark may well compete with them. The "Prince Consort" essay of Great Britain is also of fine execution, and was early held in "goodly" repute, it being in 1866 one of the highest priced stamps in dealers' lists. It is very similar to the first issue penny stamp, the sole difference being Prince Albert's head is substituted for that of his queen-consort. Probably the most admired part of the Boston Exhibit of 1888 were the essays displayed by Messrs. Deats and Van Derlip. A correspondent says of this: "The gorgeous display of proofs would make one sensible of how Napoleon felt at St. Helena pining for his former grandeur, for less than a score of years ago many of these elegant specimens, which now shine forth in Elk Hall as stars of first magnitude, could have been procured for less than a set of used Germans or a thousand Continentals."

## III.—MONETARY VALUE.

We now come to the last, but in no ways the least, consideration—the cash value. Nothing shows plainer how highly prized these interesting specimens are than the prices paid. Everybody remembers how Mr. Seagrave went from Michigan to New York especially to procure a set of hub proofs of the United States adhesives, and everybody remembers how high he paid, but this same set would bring at least twenty-five per cent. more to-day. In Casey's twelfth sale, ninety-five India proofs of proprietary stamps brought \$122.00. In this same sale, nine specimens of "due" proofs brought a trifle less than \$10.00. The Sterling collection, which consisted largely of United States proofs, brought over \$7000. Essays command from a dime or so up to five and ten dollars, and some few particularly rare essays command much higher prices. United States essays in this country command much higher prices than those of other countries, while on the other hand in foreign countries the reverse is true. Prices, however, are tending upward, for the collection of these specimens is on the increase and of course the demand makes the price.

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## WATERMARKS.

BY WILLIAM C. STONE.

What are they? Webster says "a letter, device, etc., wrought into paper during the process of manufacture." In the process of manufacture after being washed and ground and filtered and mixed, etc., etc., the embryo paper pours forth a skim-milk colored fluid upon the endless wire belt of the paper machine. Slowly drying as it is moved along, it begins to acquire shape, although it is still soft and pulpy. At this stage it passes under a wire roller, on which are formed by raised wires the designs forming the watermark. This roller is called the "dandy roll." Such is the process of making the watermark.

What is it for? Collectors of the early English colonials think it must have been to multiply varieties, but the majority of authorities agree in the opinion that they were introduced as a safeguard against forgery. In these days of fine engraving, however, most nations trust to the excellence of the engraving for security. Except in its envelopes and first post cards, our own country has never used a watermark for its postage stamps, although they may be found on the match, medicine and other revenue stamps. On some stamps the watermark is repeated, so that every stamp on the sheet bears one. In other cases, there is but one design for the entire sheet, and thus a few lines are the most that can be found on any one stamp. One of the best examples of this class may be seen in the early Indian stamps, which have the English arms in an oval lettered "Stamp Office" above, the whole being enclosed in a wavy framework. Some of the Queensland stamps bear the watermark "Queensland Postage Stamps" in written capitals, while others have "Queensland" in large open capitals repeated through the sheet.

Crossed and wavy lines, monograms, numerals of value, wreaths, post horns, garters, pineapples, flowers, swans, anchors (with and without cables), doves, pyramids, stars and crowns. All these and many more. Of the stars and crowns there are many varieties. The following resume gives the various watermarks used on postage stamps since their invention by James Chalmers and their introduction by Sir Rowland Hill.

Antigua. Star, 1862; crown over C. C., 1873; crown over C. A., 1882.

\*Argentine. R. A., 1864 issue.

\*Austria. Franco Marken in the sheet, 1867 issue.

Bahamas. Crown C. C., 1862; crown C. A., 1882.

Barbados. Large and small stars, 1871-2; crown C. C., 1875.

Bavaria. Crossed lines, 1870; wavy lines, 1875.

\*Belgium. L. L. interlaced, 1849, (with and without line around).

Bermuda. Crown C. C., 1865; crown C. A., 1884.

British Bechuanaland. Crown C. C., crown C. A., anchor and cable, 1886; orb, V. R., 1887.

- British Columbia, etc. Crown C. C., 1864.  
 British Guiana. Crown C. C., 1876; crown C. A., 1882.  
 British Honduras. Crown C. C., 1872; crown C. A., 1882.  
 \*Brunswick. Post horn, 1853.  
 Bulgaria. Wavy lines, 1879.  
 \*Canada. Some of the 1867 issue are said to be found on watermarked paper, but I am not able to state what it is.  
 Cape of Good Hope. Anchor, 1853; crown C. C., 1864; crown C. A., 1882; anchor and cable, 1885.  
 Ceylon. Star, 1854; crown C. C., 1864; crown C. A., 1882.  
 \*Chili. Small numeral of value, 1852; large numeral, 1862.  
 China. A shell (?), 1885.  
 \*Cuba. Loops, 1855; crossed lines, 1856.  
 Cyprus. "Halfpenny," crown, orb, garter, rose, 1880; crown C. C., 1881; crown C. A., 1882.  
 Danish West Indies. Crown, 1855.  
 Denmark. Crown, 1851.  
 Dominica. Crown C. C., 1874; crown C. A., 1886.  
 Egypt. Pyramid, 1866; star and crescent, 1867.  
 Falkland Islands. Crown C. A., 1884.  
 Fiji Islands. "Fiji postage" in the sheet, 1871.  
 Gambia. Crown C. C., 1874; crown C. A., 1886.  
 Great Britain. Small crown, 1840; V. R., 1854; garter (3 sizes), 1855-6-7; large crown, 1856; heraldic flowers, 1856; rose, 1867; maltese cross, 1867; "Halfpenny," 1870; anchor, 1875; orb, 1876; crown (closed at top), 1880.  
 Gold Coast. Crown C. C., 1875; crown C. A., 1884.  
 Grenada. Star, 1864; large star, 1865; crown C. A., 1883.  
 Griqualand. Crown C. C., 1874; crown C. A., 1883.  
 \*Hamburg. Wavy lines, 1859.  
 \*Hanover. Rectangular frame, 1850; laurel branches, 1851.  
 Hong Kong. Crown C. C., 1863; crown C. A., 1882.  
 Hungary. "K. P." in interlaced circles, 1881.  
 Iceland. Crown, 1873.  
 India. Arms, etc., in center of sheet, 1854; elephant's head, 1865; star, 1882; (Prov. service stamps), crown, 1867. Native States, surcharged issues: Elephant's head, star; Chamba, 1886; Faridkote, 1886; Gwalior, 1885; Jhind, 1885; Nabha, 1885; Puttiala, 1884.  
 Ionian Isles. "1" and "2," 1859.  
 Italy. Crown, 1863.  
 Jamaica. Pineapple, 1858; crown C. C., 1871; crown C. A., 1883.  
 Labuan. Crown C. A., sideways, 1879; crown C. C., 1880; crown C. A., 1883.  
 Lagos. Crown C. C., 1874; crown C. A., 1882.  
 \*Lubeck. Small flowers, 1859 issue.  
 \*Luxemburg. "W," 1852 issue.  
 Malta. Crown C. C., 1863; crown C. A., 1881.  
 Mauritius. Crown C. C., 1863; crown C. A., 1882.  
 Modena. "A," one lira, 1852; cross of Savoy, 1859.  
 Montserrat. Crown C. C., 1876; crown C. A., 1884.  
 Naples. Fleur-de-lis, 1858.  
 Natal. Star, 1860; crown C. C., 1864; crown C. A., 1882.  
 Nevis. Crown C. C., 1879; crown C. A., 1882.  
 New South Wales. Large numerals, 1854; 5/s, 1860, (on five shilling stamp); small numerals, 1863; italic numeral, 1867; crown, N. S. W., 1871.  
 New Zealand. Star, 1862; "N. Z.," 1864; crossed lines, 2 p., 1873; star, N. Z., 1874.  
 Norway. Arms in each corner of sheet, 1854; post horn, 1872.  
 \*Philippine Islands. Loops, 1 and 2 reals, 1859.  
 \*Prussia. Laurel branches, 1850-7.  
 Queensland. Star, 1861; "Queensland Postage Stamps" in script capitals across the sheet, 1866; six-rayed truncated stars with "Queensland" across the sheet, 1868; Q over crown, 1869.  
 Russia. "1," "2" or "3," 1857-8; wavy lines, 1868.

- St. Christopher. Crown C. C., 1870; crown C. A., 1882.  
 St. Helena. Star, 1856; crown C. C., 1863; crown C. A., 1884.  
 St. Lucia. Star, 1859; crown C. C., 1863; crown C. A., 1883.  
 St. Vincent. Star, 1871; crown C. A., 1883.  
 San Marino. Crown, 1877.  
 Sierra Leone. Crown C. C., 1872; crown C. A., 1883.  
 South Australia. Star, 1855; crown S. A., 1868; crown V., 1871 (2 and 4 pence only).  
 \*Spain. Loops, 1850; crossed lines, 1856; castle, 1876.  
 Straits Settlements. Elephant's head, 1867; crown C. C., 1868; crown C. A., 1882.  
 Bangkok, crown C. C., 1882; crown C. A., 1883. Johore, crown C. A., 1884.  
 Perak, crown C. C., 1879; crown C. A., 1884. Selanger, crown C. C., 1879 (?); crown C. A., 1883. Sungei Ujong, elephant's head, 1879 (?); crown C. C., 1879 (?); crown C. A., 1884.  
 Switzerland. Geneva cross, 1862.  
 Tasmania. Star, 1855; large numerals, 1860; small italic numerals, 1870; "TAS.," 1871.  
 Tobago. Crown C. C., 1879; crown C. A., 1882.  
 Tonga. Star N. Z., 1886.  
 Trinidad. Crown C. C., 1864; crown C. A., 1883.  
 Turk's Island. Star, 1873; crown C. C., 1881; crown C. A., 1882.  
 Tuscany. Twelve large crowns with horizontal lines on each sheet of 240 stamps. 1851; vertical wavy lines, I. I. E. R. POSTE TOSCANE across sheet, 1853.  
 Vancouver Island. Crown C. C., 1865.  
 Victoria. Star, 1856; value in letters, 1861; large and small numerals of value, 1862-3; crown V., 1867.  
 Virgin Islands. Crown C. C., 1879; crown C. A., 1883.  
 West Australia. Swan, 1855; crown C. C., 1865; crown C. A., 1882.

The dates given are when the watermark was adopted, the last mentioned being now current except in states now extinct. Those states which have abandoned the use of watermarks are indicated by a \* in the above list.

While the English colonies for the most part now use the crown C. C. or C. A. watermark, still there are certain ones which cling to a distinctive mark. The Australian colonies, as will be seen by the above, have some of them adopted the initials of the colony for their trade-mark. The mother country has been the most fickle, no less than 13 watermarks having been used since 1840. Three watermarks have been replaced by a number of the colonies. The crown C. C., watermark seems to have replaced the star about 1862, while the C. A. watermark has in its turn replaced the C. C. about 1881, although the Labuan stamps used it in 1879 for a short time. Some colonies, however, were much slower than others in the above changes.

In all there are between fifty and sixty different designs, not counting the varieties of crowns, stars, etc.

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## CANADIAN REVENUES.

BY CANADENSIS.

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A marked increase of interest is manifest in connection with the collecting of Canada fiscal stamps, and collectors are beginning to realize that to obtain some of the rarer varieties, particularly the first and second issue of bill stamps, that they must look sharp. The "boom" has already set in, and the 1864 and 1865 issues of Canada are getting scarcer. This is from the fact that foreign collectors have been seeking them for several years and large lots have been sent abroad, while our American and Canadian collectors have only during the past year or two interested themselves about getting sets of these remarkably beautiful stamps. The high values of the first issues, \$1, \$2 and \$3, were, indeed, counted the prettiest of all fiscal stamps, the bust of Her Majesty being true to life. Unused sets of the 1864 or 1865 issue are decidedly rare and worth a nice figure, but the third is quite common used



or unused. A complete used set of the latter is worth about 40 cents, while unused they are worth 75 cents without the three high values; with them the set is worth \$2.00. The rarest of Canada's fiscals is the \$3.00 bill stamp surcharged "N. S." It is worth \$25 unused and \$20 used. Next in point of rarity comes the \$2 surcharged "N. S.," and the \$3 unperforated, third issue bill, as well as the higher values of the Supreme Court stamps. Now is the time to start if you intend to make a splendid investment in the stamp line.

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## FORGERIES OF OLDENBURG.

BY HENRY HECHLER, PRESIDENT C. P. A.

This little Grand Duchy, area 2431 square miles and population somewhat over 310,000, is situated south of the North sea and nearly divides Hanover in two. It was independent until the Austro-Prussia war of 1866, the result of which was, as is well-known, the absorption of the South German and other independent states into the Germanic confederation. Its titular sovereign is Grand Duke Nicholas Frederick Peter. Its small population and area, as well as its interior position, naturally operated to curtail its importance, business and correspondence with the outside world, so that, of course, the demand for its stamps for business purposes was comparatively small. This has created enquiry for them of late years, and given forgers an opportunity to imitate them.

Its first stamps were issued in 1852. The forgeries of which I write are those of the issues of 1859 and 1861. These were both of the same design, the difference being that the former were on colored and the latter on white paper. The forgeries, are, some of them, remarkably well executed, while others are more coarsely and carelessly done. To an expert the forgeries will be evident at first sight. The distinctive differences are as follows: In the genuine the scroll or ribbon across the top bearing the legend Oldenburg is wider and not so much curved at the ends and the lettering of the word thereon is even and larger than in the forgeries. In the latter the band is narrower and the legend very irregular and uneven. Besides this, the drooping ends of this band are shorter and not so gracefully arranged in the forgeries as they are in the genuine. The centre of the stamp is occupied by the arms of Oldenburg enclosed in an oval, on either side of which is a small oval having the figure of value, and beneath is a band similar to that above, containing the value in letters. This arrangement leaves a space at each corner between the ends of the bands and the numeral ovals. These spaces are occupied by small ornaments. These ornaments appear at the first glance to be much alike in the genuine and in the forgeries, but examination with a microscope will show marked differences and irregularities therein.

The ovals carrying the figures of value are more elongated and not so regularly formed in the forgeries as in the genuine. The numerals therein are smaller in the former than in the originals. The letters in the lower scroll giving the denomination in words are similarly irregular and smaller in the forgeries to those in the genuine, as has been noted regarding those in the upper scroll. In the genuine stamps there are below the lower scroll and filling the space between it and the double lines on the outer edge of the stamp, eight small balls, the two centre ones being mere dots and progressively being proportionately larger as they extend outwards. In the forgeries in some instances there are but seven of these balls, which appear to the naked eye to be of uniform size, though a powerful microscope will show a very slight difference between them.

The difference in the central oval, which contains the Oldenburg coat of arms surmounted by the Ducal crown, is most easily detected. The oval in the forgeries is proportionately longer and narrower than in the genuine. The coat of arms and the crown are, in consequence, more condensed and misshapen in the former than in the latter. While the cross that graces the top of the crown is in the genuine erect and well-proportioned, it is longer, narrower and inclined to the left in the forgeries enough to touch the inner line of the oval, which it does not do in the orig-

inals. The difference in the shape of the crowns in the two is very marked, that of the true stamp being more elegant and better proportioned than in the imitations.

The coat of arms consists of five quarterings on a shield. The upper left quartering is crossed horizontally by two double bars, each being connected with perpendicular lines, and the rest of the space is occupied by small dots, which are much more numerous in the genuine than in the spurious stamps. The quartering to the upper right has a maltese cross with fine horizontal lines as a ground work. In the forgeries the cross is not properly shaped and the ground work is coarse and irregular. The same remark applies also to the lower left quartering, with the addition that the cross therein is represented as suspended from a ribbon, which also bears a cross in the originals. This is entirely omitted in the forgeries. The lower right quartering is a checkered field. The number of these checkers is less in the forgeries than in the genuine. The last quartering is diamond-shaped at the bottom of the shield, and should bear a lion rampant, but it is impossible to make out what animal is pictured on the imitation stamps. The ground work of the genuine stamps consists of very fine and regular perpendicular and horizontal lines crossing each other at right angles. These are very coarsely and irregularly imitated in the forgeries. The colors in the forgeries are in some cases dull and hazy-looking, and at others very bright, but never corresponding with those of the true stamps. In the one groschen, blue, forgery the legend in the upper scroll reads Oldenburg.

My readers will be able by carefully noting the above points of difference, to distinguish the genuine Oldenburg stamps, and thus avoid being led into investing in any that are not so.

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## SIR ROWLAND HILL.

BY CANADENSIS.

Sir Rowland Hill, K. C. B., the great reformer of the postal system, was born at Kidderminster, Dec. 3, 1795. His father, Thomas Wright Hill, opened a school near Birmingham, and it was under his careful tuition that Rowland was brought up. This school was afterwards removed to Bruce Castle Tottenham, and in it the future reformer held the office of teacher till 1833. In 1835 he was appointed secretary to the commissioners for the colonization of South Australia. Two years later he published a pamphlet, recommending the adoption of a low and uniform rate of postage throughout the Kingdom. The scheme was approved by a committee of the House of Commons, which examined its details in 1838, and reported that the evidence proved that from the old state of things, injurious effects resulted to the commerce and industry of the country, and to the social habits and moral condition of the people. Early in 1840, the penny postage system was carried into effect, with the assistance of Mr. Hill, who for this purpose, received an appointment in the Treasury. He had to contend against great official opposition, but he succeeded in his task. Sir Robert Peel's government, which followed that of Lord Melbourne, 1842, unable to stop the working of the new system, meanly dismissed its author without reward or employment. The public, however, justly considered him ill-used, and he was presented in 1846 with a public testimonial of the value of upwards £13,000 (\$65,000). On the return of the Whigs to power in 1846, Mr. Hill was made secretary to the Postmaster General, and in 1854, Chief Secretary to Post Office. Sir Rowland, on whom the rank of K. C. B., was conferred in 1860, retired from the Post Office four years later, with a pension of £2,000 (\$10,000), besides a grant of £20,000 (\$100,000), voted by Parliament. He died on the 27th of August, 1879, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. While the great benefactor's name has been attacked, still we think all will recognize, that for his untiring efforts and official energy, is due our present system.

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The following stamps of Prince Edward Island are found unperforated: 2 and 3d of 1860, 1, 6 and 9d of 1867, and 1c of 1872. The 3d of 1860 exists unperforated horizontally. There are five errors or varieties on the sheet of the 3c of 1872, a period being found between "Prince" and "Edward" on the seventh stamp of the 1st, 3d, 5th, 7th and 9th line of each sheet.

## THE EMBOSSED STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY ALVAH DAVISON.

These stamps have a peculiar charm for me, and I have spent many pleasant hours in looking over the whole series, picking out the different sizes and varieties, and wondering why many collectors pay so little attention to them.

Many are of the opinion that there is no need of collecting the different sizes of embossing, but with all due respect to their opinion, I beg most emphatically to disagree with them. If the one and three cent of the 1857 issue with outer line, and the five cent 1857 with ornaments, are collectable, then I think the various sizes of embossing most assuredly are, as the first named are but slightly different from the more common stamps of the same values, and if these slight variations make them worthy of collecting, why shouldn't the difference in the size of the embossing do the same?

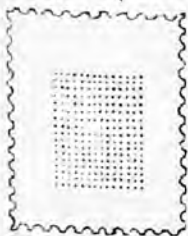
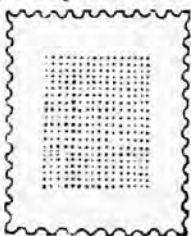
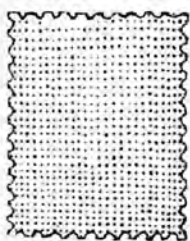
If a collector desires to have the stamps of the United States *complete*, he cannot do so unless he obtains the embossed series, from the specimen embossed all over down to the stamp which is embossed only 9 x 9 mm. in size. The embossing, or as it is called in French *grille*, was given the stamps in the expectation that it would prevent them from having the cancellation washed off, in order to use again, this being something from which the Post Office department suffered a heavy loss. The stamps were first printed, and then embossed with a number of small square points, this process breaking the fibres in the paper, so that when cancelled the ink would sink into the stamps and become part of them, and when attempting to remove the marks the stamps would be rubbed to shreds before they could be erased. Another advantage claimed by the inventor, was that the embossing would add to the adhesiveness of the stamp, probably on the ground that the pointed surface would take hold much better than a flat one.

The first variety issued was in May, 1867, this being a three cent of the same design as the 1861, with the embossing covering the entire back of the stamp. In the majority of specimens of this variety, the small squares appear to be raised on the front, and depressed on the back, but I have a specimen which is the reverse of this, the squares being depressed on the face of the stamp. This is the only denomination which was embossed all over, it being the rarest, and the highest priced of the whole series of embossed stamps. It is catalogued at five dollars, and at auction sales will readily sell for three dol-

lars and a half.

This stamp was only in use until August, 1867, at which time the embossing was reduced to a rectangular size, measuring 13 x 16 mm. this being composed of 16 rows of 20 squares each, although there are several minor varieties of one-half or one whole row less. Of this variety I have several specimens, which show the embossing to have been given from the back, thus the squares are raised on the face of the stamps. The three cent is the only value found with this size of embossing, this one being priced by Sterling at three dollars, but it would be difficult to realize that on one, as specimens are not infrequently met with.

In January, 1868, the size of the embossing was still further reduced, in this issue it being a rectangle measuring 11 x 14 mm., and composed of 14 rows of 17 squares. The denominations of this variety are the one cent, blue; two cents, black; three cents, rose; ten cents green; twelve cents, black; and fifteen cents, black. The embossing of this issue seems to have been done on the face of the stamps, as upon examination the squares are all found depressed on the face, instead of raised as in the three cents of August, 1867. This series also presents a number of minor varieties, some of the rectangles be-



ing a little smaller, and some a little larger, than the size given, varying from one-half to one-and-a-half rows either way.

Near the end of 1868, the exact date cannot be ascertained, the embossing of this series experienced another and its last change, this time it appearing as 9 x 14 mm., this being the size most commonly met with. The whole issue then in use, from the one cent to the 90 cents value, was included at this time, this variety, like the one preceding it, appearing to have been embossed on the face.

In May, 1869, an entirely new set of stamps was issued, these having a small square embossing, measuring 9 x 9 mm. All of the denominations were issued with the embossing on the back, the same stamps also appearing with plain backs, or without embossing, but the latter are very scarce, and few collectors ever come across a specimen, unless it be one of the low values. Such a hue and cry was raised by the public, and more especially the newspapers, over the designs on the 1869 issue, that in May, 1870, the Department was led to issue another series, more in conformity with the previous ones. These were first issued embossed 10 x 12 mm., and from this size it appears that the embossing was gradually reduced until it remained only about 8 x 10 mm. In this, the last issue of embossed stamps, the points used in making the squares evidently got much worn, as the rows on the stamps are not at all perfect like the former issues. Occasionally fine specimens are met with, on which the rows and squares can be counted, but this is the exception instead of the rule, and although I collect all sizes of embossing in the other issues, in this one I only attempt to get the complete set, irrespective of size, and when different sizes of embossing on the same denominations come into my hands I keep them as varieties, without arranging in sets.

In 1872, or the early part of 1873, the process of embossing was discontinued by the Government, and they have never since restored it.

The embossed series of 1870 were in use something less than two years, and in the past ten years they have increased enormously in value, many times even that of the 1869 issue, which was in use only one year, and as an instance of this, I will give the prices at which the 1870 series were quoted by Scott in 1878, and the same issue as priced by Sterling in 1888, Scott, in their 49th edition, only giving prices for the one, two and three cent values. These prices are taken from Scott's thirty-third edition and Sterling's sixth.

	1878.	1888.
1 cent, blue.	\$.01.	\$.25.
2 cents, brown.	.01.	.25.
3 cents, green.	.01.	.15.
6 cents, pink.	.01.	.50.
7 cents, vermilion.	.03.	.50.
10 cents, brown.	.01.	1.00.
12 cents, purple.	.01.	2.00.
15 cents, orange.	.03.	.50.
24 cents, purple.	.05.	3.50.
30 cents, black.	.03.	1.50.
90 cents, carmine.	.05.	2.00.

From these figures it will be seen that the set increased from being worth 25 cents in 1878, to \$12.15 in 1888, an increase of *four thousand eight hundred and sixty per cent. in ten years!* Many of these stamps cannot be purchased at the last named prices, as I have tried to obtain some. The 24 cents is the rarest of the issue, and this was priced by Scott in his 48th edition at five dollars, although one recently went through my hands on an A. P. A. sheet, marked at twelve dollars; but taking it as being worth only five, and it has increased in ten years one hundred times its original value, this being an increase of *ten thousand per cent.* over its value ten years ago!

The twelve cents, valued at one cent in 1878, now priced at two dollars, an increase of two hundred times its original value, or *twenty thousand per cent.!* Would that I had bought a thousand ten years ago!

These are astonishing figures, but like the laws of the Medes and Persians, they cannot be changed. They serve to show how this issue is advancing in price, and there is no doubt whatever in my mind, that in ten years more this set will be worth more than double its present price, and there is good reason to believe that it will increase as much, if not more, than during the past years, as there are less of them being brought to light each year, and an ever-increasing body of stamp collectors striving for them, and as the law of supply and demand regulates the price, so these stamps will continue to rise, until they are far beyond the reach of the average collector. We are thus admonished to "make hay while the sun shines," and in the light of past experience, let us obtain these stamps while we can, as it is better to pay twelve dollars for them at present, if necessary, rather than to wait and see them slipping from our grasp, by the long strides which they are taking "onward and upward" toward fabulous prices.

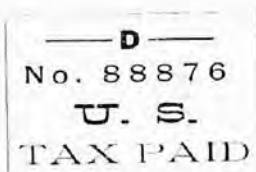
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## U. S. COTTON TAX STAMPS.

BY H. E. DEATS.

A very interesting class of stamps are those issued some years ago by our government, and known as "cotton stamps." I have been unable to obtain any definite information as to the exact date of issue, or the particular need which brought about their use. They were patented on April 28th, Sept. 13th and 29th, 1863, and May 24th, 1864, and we infer from this that they were used during those two years at least.

Manufactured from sheet brass (evidently entirely by machinery), and terminating at one end in a double barb, they are hard to preserve in any manner by which they may readily be exhibited. The lettering is always embossed upon the left end. There are two sizes. The measurements of the smaller one are as follows: Size of stamp proper, 50 x 30 mm.; whole length to point, 255 mm. Of the larger: Stamp proper, 70 x 36 mm.; whole length to point, 280 mm. The length of some specimens varies as much as 5 mm. either way. Of the smaller variety I have but one letter, D, which is illustrated by the diagram below.



In the larger size, I have all the letters of the alphabet with the exception of W, but there is no doubt that it exists. The general style is shown in the following diagram.



The letters are not all the same size. From A to G inclusive, they are heavy block capitals. H to Q inclusive are tall slim capitals. In addition, on stamps H, K, L, M, N, and Q the word PAID is placed perpendicularly at the left of the letter. From R to V, and X to Z inclusive, the letters are the same as at first. On stamps A to V the figures of the number are quite large, measuring 12 1-2 mm. in height, while on X to Z they measure but 6 mm.

The scope of this article is necessarily limited, it being a description of what is contained in my own collection, as I know of no other varieties. I trust these few notes will be the means of bringing many more of these interesting stamps to light.

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## THE CONFEDERATE HAND-STAMPS OF 1861.

BY "STREBOR."

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Among the various issues of the postage stamps of our country the Confederates, both on account of their extrinsic and intrinsic interest, have commanded a large degree of attention on the part of philatelic students and collectors. And to any one awake to the drift of matters philatelic it is very evident that especially of late this attention has been on the increase. A cursory glance over the current and recent stamp literature of our country will show this, I think, beyond question. The various issues of the Confederacy are and have been the objects of special research on the part of some of our ablest and best known students; and not a little additional light has been recently thrown on points connected with the history and other attributes of these very interesting souvenirs.

But there is one class of these stamps, it appears to me, that has hitherto failed to receive the notice among philatelists that their interest and importance should rightly entitle them to—I refer to the Confederate hand-stamps of 1861. It is well known to collectors that there was a period in the commencement of the war, after the use of U. S. stamps had been abandoned in the seceded States, consequent on the cessation of the federal control of the Southern mails, and before the newly organized government had provided its own issues of stamps—this intervening period embracing much of the latter part of the year 1861—during which the Southern postmasters were left to their own resources for such facilities in the line of stamps as were required by the exigencies of the Southern mail service. In this contingency the method generally adopted among these officials was the use of hand-stamps, similar to those that had been employed throughout the whole country in the forties, or for a number of years previous to the first introduction of stamps in this country. The general character of these hand-stamps as I have said, was similar to those of the early day, though owing to the fact that in the former period prepayment of postage was not compulsory, nor usually made, and that the public had since become habituated through long use of postage stamps, and the requirement of law to such prepayment, the peculiar style or form of these hand-stamps was necessarily changed; whereas the earlier stamps, by the impression of the figures "10," or "5," or "3," denoted that postage to that amount was due on the missive, the later Confederate hand-stamps by a variety of forms or devices indicated the prepayment of the postage; the legend, "Paid 5 cts.," or "Paid 10" appearing in a great variety of shapes or styles of impress, according to the fancy of the individual postmaster.

This was the case as to the year 1861, and before the weight of the war had come to be seriously felt throughout the South. But in the subsequent years of the Confederacy this prepayment of postage, though probably still required by law, does not seem to have been rigidly enforced, especially on letters mailed to or from soldiers in the Southern armies. On the envelopes of such it is not uncommon to find

a handstruck stamp indicating postage due; and, if from the soldier, generally authenticated by his name, with his company and regiment in the service, indorsed on the envelope. In fact, owing to the exigencies of the tremendous contest that was being waged, the mail service throughout the South became necessarily irregular and disorganized in all its branches, and increasingly so, as the South grew more and more crippled and embarrassed by the progress of the federal arms. And looking over a collection of these old Confederate letters or envelopes, the curious student of history can discover with interest, through the signs by which they are revealed, the shifts to which the people of the South had become reduced through the grinding and inexorable pressure of the war. The make-up or appearance often of the envelope itself, or its material; perhaps home-fashioned, with the postage unpaid or half paid; hand-stamped or pen marked from the lack of the usual postage stamp; in these or other ways the story is told of the fearful struggle and its accompanying privations.

But to return to the handstamps of 1861, which are more particularly the subject of the present paper,—growing out of the use of these, and likewise perhaps owing to some reminiscence of the early "postmaster's stamps" that had preceded the first regular postal issues of the United States in 1847, a series of local or provisional stamps—since so well known to the philatelic world—were provided on their own responsibility by the postmasters of about 40 of the southern cities, which issues had but a short existence before they were superseded by the regular stamps of the Confederate government. With the exception of these short lived provisionals, thus used in a limited number of the Southern cities, the hand-stamps of which I speak were the sole form of, or substitute for, the regular postage stamp that was in use throughout the seceded States during a considerable part of the first year of the war,—a large portion relatively of the lifetime of the Confederacy. Recognizing this fact, it will be seen that they have a strong claim on the notice of the philatelic world; but when we take into view the momentous importance—and the romantic interest as well—of the period to which they belong, and of the historic events they are so intimately connected with—destined to be always memorable in the annals of our country—they present a still stronger claim on our attention.

I have alluded to the romantic phase in the historic interest of this period, for now that the contemporary passions and animosities which marked our late civil conflict are gradually passing away with the generation by which it was waged, the fact is coming to be recognized that in coming years this epoch is certain to be looked back on as one of the most romantic and picturesque episodes—especially in its results—of our whole national history. This element of interest, I need not say, has been lacking in our past history, which on the contrary had been characterized by a commonplace course of uneventful prosperity.

Like the Scottish rebellion of 1745, when the Highland clans attempted to seat the Stuart Pretender on the throne of his ancestors in England, the failure of which attempt resulted in the extinction of the ancient patriarchal life subsisting among the Scottish clans under the rule of their chieftans, so—though on an immensely larger scale—the downfall of our late rebellion involved the destruction of the more modern patriarchal system of society in the South, which was perhaps the most conspicuous anachronism of the nineteenth century. It involved the blotting out of the old time plantation life—a social system marked by such lights and shades of picturesque contrast; in which the lordly and patrician Southerner stood at one end of the scale, and the mean white at the other; and where the slave-holding planter, owner of his fellow-beings, stood contrasted with his serfs or human chattels.

But aside from the historic associations connected with this family of Confederate hand-stamps, they are possessed of no slight interest of a distinctly philatelic character. Consisting as they do of a great variety of patterns, differing in form, size and device, according to the fancy or convenience of the postmasters by whom they were provided and used, (no two that I have ever seen being alike), and having been furthermore struck in a variety of colors, they thus constitute a large and individualized family. And now I am coming to a point to which I wish particularly to call the attention of students of Confederate Philatelies. In taking into view this feature of the distinct individuality of these hand-struck franks, the question naturally arises, why are they not justly entitled to rank as Confederate locals or provisionals? This claim has already been made for them by some advanced collectors, though generally, as I understand it, they have held hitherto an unclassified

and anomalous position among Confederate stamps. Let me be understood here as alluding only to the prepaid hand-stamps of 1861, of the period and localities where they were the only form of postage stamps in use.

There are a few varieties, by the way, of our recognized Confederate locals that were handstamped. These were envelopes, prepared and furnished by the Southern postmasters for the convenience of their patrons, and thus coming within the accepted line of distinction between the "local" and the hand-stamp *per se*. Usually besides the figure of value they have the name of the post office, or postmaster, to which they belong. But this line of distinction here referred to, is, I submit, a purely arbitrary one, and not founded—at least in the case of the Confederates—on any ground of reason or analogy. For the purpose of illustration let us look, say, at the Okolona, Miss., hand-stamp. This consists of a rather heavy circular line, 18 mms. in diameter, within which is the legend "Paid 5," of a pattern peculiar to this variety or post office. Now, should it appear that envelopes stamped with this frank had been prepared and sold by the Okolona postmaster for the accommodation of his public, they would be accepted as "locals," having a recognized philatelic value. But on the other hand, were the envelopes only stamped as paid after having been brought in and mailed, they would rank, according to this rule, simply as "hand-stamps," having no definite philatelic value or rank. I see no good reason for such a distinction. To me they are as interesting in the one case as in the other. For in either event when the stamp, peculiar to this office, is the only form of the postage stamp at the time used, it becomes in the full and legitimate meaning of the term "provisional," *i. e.*, a substitute provided to meet an emergency in the absence of the regular government stamp; and of course a "local" as well.

I think, however, that in the case of some of these varieties of hand-stamps if we were better informed in regard to their manner of use, they would be acknowledged as coming legitimately under the class of locals by general consent; this theory is, that in some instances business men or others making large use of the mails may have brought in their own envelopes to the post office and had them stamped by the quantity, in order to avoid the trouble of paying postage separately on each letter posted. For instance, it is rather a singular fact that the city of Richmond, the capital of the "Old Dominion" State, and for quite a period of the Confederacy as well, alone of all the larger cities of the seceded states issued no local stamps of her own in 1861, but during the whole of that year until the regular government issue was provided, all letters mailed at the Richmond post office were franked by the use of hand-stamps (two varieties of which I have seen of the 5 cent value.) This fact will seem the stranger, as it might naturally be supposed that at the period in question the utmost facilities of the post office would be needed and demanded by the public, owing to the exciting and eventful character of the time. Under the pressing demands of the situation at Richmond in the opening months of the war we should scarcely imagine that the public would be content to be deprived of the larger facilities in mailing that the long use of postage stamps had made them familiar with, and especially as postmasters at other places had provided stamps at their own instance to meet the emergency. Such being the state of affairs at this eventful period, we would naturally expect the adoption of some means to obviate the necessity of paying postage on each letter mailed, and the consequent obligation of posting mail-matter only during business hours. This, perhaps, may have been done by furnishing to the public envelopes franked by the use of the local hand-stamps of the office, or perhaps by stamping therewith in quantity such envelopes of their own as might be brought in for that purpose by business men and others making large use of the mails. Indeed I have seen used envelopes with the Richmond postmark and hand-stamp that bore evidence in their appearance of having been used in this way; as where there was a difference in the ink used in the stamp and the postmark.

In the matter of historic interest—so large an element in the value of the Confederate issues, whether local or general—these hand-stamps have of course as large a share as any of the other stamps of the Confederacy; and the foregoing remarks are respectfully submitted to the judgment of philatelic students, that the question may be considered, whether they have not a philatelic interest and value of their own, as being in the true meaning of the terms local or provisional stamps of the Confederacy.



## POSTAL ODDITIES.

BY LIEUT. J. M. T. PARTELO, U. S. ARMY.

In the development of half a century of postal service, we have also developed, especially in highly civilized countries, some of the most remarkable and nonsensical ideas and notions that it is possible to conceive of. Of course the comity of nations has had a great deal to do with the many oddities civilized people are guilty of, as for instance the curious postal rates which now prevail in different parts of the world. Why should sensible people arrange such a system as is now in vogue between the U. S. and Fiji Islands? It costs only 5 cents for a letter to reach Levuka, and 12 cents to carry the same missive to Sydney, selecting in both instances the United States as an initial point, yet all letters for Fiji, according to the present arrangement, must go via Sydney. As the former is more difficult to reach than the latter, the rate should, in consequence, be higher, but common (non)sense has for the present ordained otherwise.

Another case in point is the curious system of old Mexico, which country will probably always, as long as the world stands, remain a decade or two behind time. Under the latest U. P. U. ruling, a letter can be sent from the northernmost corner of Maine to the southernmost limit of old Mexico, for the trifle of a 2-cent stamp; but vice-versa from the land of the Aztecs, the rate is 5 cents or thereabouts. A resident of the latter sunburnt clime cannot communicate with his nearest neighbor in his own country without paying more than twice as much as to write to New England. The local rate is 5 cents, beyond the border into the U. S. it is 5 cents, and back again only 2 cents. What an absurdity! Even fools would soon find a way out of the difficulty, and those Mexicans who can, though by no means members of this class, are taking advantage of their geographical situation to nullify the unjust postal laws of their own country. Among the border-lying cities of the Rio Grande, on the south side, are many prosperous merchants who have heavy business transactions with inner and remote Mexico. Postage correspondence foots up a good round sum by the end of a twelvemonth, and where one can save a hundred and fifty per cent., more or less, by a little ingenuity and common sense, I think he is decidedly wise in doing so.

Business men of Paso-del-Norte, Piedro Negras, Neuvo Laredo, Matamoras, and other towns, each morning when their mail bags are full of unposted letters and packages, either for the U. S. or Mexico, step across the river to El Paso, Eagle Pass, Laredo, Brownsville and other adjacent American cities, patronize our post offices quite heavily, and send their own mail back into their own country, or abroad into ours, ornamented with profiles of Washington, Jefferson and other popular ex-citizens of this great and glorious Republic. This matter, however, is bound to regulate itself sooner or later.

There are many other oddities of the postal service too numerous to describe. As to odd names, what would George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and other notable Americans long since defunct think, could they gaze upon the following array of outlandish names to which some people are forced to address letters now and then: Bad Axe, Jug Town, Pop Corn, Jump, Bald Hornet, Peeled Chestnut, Shoe Heel, Blizzard, Gilt Edge, Manmy, Mouse Tail, Rip Shin, Gimlet, Rabbit Hash, Jamboree, Marrowbone, Back Bone, Bumble Bee, Big Bug, Cut Skin, Ball Ground, Jug Tavern, Gin, Mud, Sammy, Left Hand, Pump, Glory, Umpire, Honesty, Viper, Potato, Hog Back Valley, Funny Louis, Hard Times, Whynot, Stop, Cyclone, Wideawake, Enigma, Worms, Jingo, Jumbo, Keno, Gum and Greenback. Think of sending a letter to Pop Corn, Peeled Chestnut, Shoe Heel, Rip Shin, Glory, Jug Town, Gin, Mud, or to the Umpire! It is, however, just as bad to address a delicate pink-tinted missive to a lady at Troublesome, Tombstone, Total Wreck, Dismal, Possible, Overalls, Peanut, Rat, Pig Horse Gall, Slip Up, Tub, Shinbone, Sober, Walkchalk, Green Horn, Tin Cup, Hump Back, Cigarville, etc. It would sound a good deal better if she lived in Good Luck, Angel's Camp, Poetry, Fairy Land, Yum Yum, Bonnet, Adieu, Sweet Lips, Sweet Home, Regret, Alone, Keep Tryst, Embarrass, Faith, Last Chance, Scissors, or Matrimony, while it would certainly be rather awkward to find her either at Bachelor's Hall or Bachelor's Retreat. She might address Husband in Pennsylvania. What's the use of naming a post office A. B. C. or B. or O. Z. or P. K., T. B., Y. Z., O. K., etc. How lovely and appropriate

to name a post office Delay! Are names so scarce, or are the people crazy? Number One letters may go either to Maine or Tennessee, number Four will ultimately reach Lewis county, New York while Thirty-nine belongs to Alabama. The Czar's mail goes to Florida. You must Pay Up in Georgia and Pay Down in Missouri. A few other euphonious names run as follows: Shoo Fly, Philanthropy, Sodom, Old Hundred, Pancake, Alligator, Pumpkin, Chuckaluck, Muck Yuncck, All Healing, Black Jack, Snap Finger, Soonover, Ty Ty, Hat, Panic, J. Bob, Jim Wood, Sopp-choppy, Highup, Well Water, Hardware, Rag Town, Peculiar, Braggadocio, Hy, Recklesstown and many others. There is even a post office in Calhoun county, Michigan, which, remarkable to relate, bears my own name. Dry Town, California, should have been located near Jug Town, N. C., or Jug Tavern, Georgia. I once had a letter addressed to me at Froze-to-death, Montana. Next to post office names, the most curious things about this business are the post offices themselves.

In far away Montana, while scouting over the boundless snow-covered prairie, in a hostile land and many miles distant from civilized humans, I have seen a mere black speck on the horizon outlined against the spotless snow which proved to be, — a prairie post office. The post office was for everybody and the postmaster was nobody. This unique and lonesome thing, mounted on a pole and beyond the reach of wild animals, was the receptacle for communications deposited by travellers who trusted more to luck than to the isolated box for the missive to reach its ultimate destination. Strange as it may seem, as a rule, these prairie post offices were a great deal more reliable than some regularly commissioned offices I could name. A scout or hunter or half breed crossing the plains, and desiring to send some word to a party or friends, hundreds of miles distant and probably at right angles to the course he was pursuing, or perhaps back in the states, would simply address a note and drop it into the box; and if no ill-luck befel or no unforeseen event happened, the news, or whatever the communication was, might be in the hands of the parties addressed at least six months or a year later, if not longer. You could not count on speed, but you might surely expect accuracy and good faith. On the same principle, the traveller would look into the box, and if there were any letters he could expedite, these he would take charge of and carry them as far as he could, entrusting them finally to some other box or person going the right way.

One of the queerest post offices on earth, was that around Fort Benton, Montana, in the early days. This frontier fort, located close to the British boundary line, was the resort of Indians, half-breeds, buffalo hunters, scalp hunters, trappers, in short by the roughest, dirtiest, most uncivilized and yet most hospitable conglomeration of humanity it is possible to realize. The postmaster was a white man; his wife an Indian squaw, and of course all his progeny were half breeds of a copperish-whitish hue. I rode up one day with a scouting party to see if there were any dispatches, and was told the mail had not been in for three weeks, but was expected that day. The postmaster was sitting in his only room with his feet on a stove, spitting sheets of tobacco juice at that useful and unoffending article of furniture, discussing the fur trade with some of his neighbors, who were likewise deluging the poor stove. A seven-year-old boy was swearing in Canadian French at his five-year-old sister, while a greasy baby of two years was rolling in a bread-trough on the floor and sucking her chubby fists. The postmistress was outside, chopping wood in the snow. Just then the courier arrived on cayuse back, saddle bags on each side loaded, and these he flung on the ground outside the door. The postmaster picked up the sacks, carried them inside, and dumped their contents on an old greasy table covered with dirty dishes, frying pans in need of a bath, pieces of loud-smelling rusty bacon, black dish cloths, and the Lord knows what else. The half breeds, Indians, hunters, etc., crowded into the room, whereupon the P. M. exclaimed: "Step up, boys, an' help yourselves; the mails arriv' an' no snakes." The pile was hauled and mauled a dozen times over by each individual, who selected what he wanted, and this thing was kept up for perhaps a week by new and old comers, until all the batch was exhausted. Of all the post offices I ever saw or heard of, this one was entitled, by a large majority, to all the pudding, including the dish and the spoon.

Probably the smallest and most unique mail station on earth, however, is the Magellan office, which adorns the outermost rock of those famous straits, and directly opposite the Land of Fire. If the report of this be true, the Magellan station tops the world. It is described as a barrel which swings from the rock, and every passing ship opens it either to place letters in or take them out, and each ves-

sel that patronizes the office also undertakes to forward and expedite all letters, etc., taken out. The barrel hangs by an iron chain, beaten and battered by the winds, has been in service many years, and is perhaps decidedly more secure and safe than many high-salaried stations in the northern hemisphere. It is a sort of nondescript like the prairie post office of which nobody is postmaster, and it sort of runs itself, too, keeping straight without the aid of spotters or inspectors. I cannot vouch for this yarn, as it sounds decidedly "fishy" to me; still it may be true.

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## STAMP COLLECTING IN THE SIXTIES.

BY GEO. F. HEATH.

I often wonder if the collector of stamps of to-day, in this age of Philatelic literature, conventions, societies, dealers, and the thousand and one other aids the philatelist has, if he ever looks back or thinks of the time when the collector had none of these aids, when all of these agencies that go to make up the Philatelic world of to-day were unknown and seemingly not within the range of possibilities to the most of us. Of course I am aware that there were some collectors more advantageously situated and with better facilities for obtaining stamps than myself, yet from the nature of the times and condition of things, my experience must have been that of the many of the pioneers, and believing so shall give a few personal reminiscences of that period.

I often wonder again if the collector of to-day, with all these advantages, (for money will buy anything he may want in the stamp line), if he has the real enjoyment in his collecting we of the Sixties had, when we gathered our stamps one by one, often through toil and labor; when each stamp had a history of its own, that brought it into closer sympathy with us. If it is true, as is often asserted, that the pleasures of the world are in the seeking and obtaining, rather than in the possession, it is very much to be doubted.

To begin with, I am not a grandfather in Philately, as one of our enterprising journalists would have you believe, neither did I take to the collecting of stamps in the spare hours when the nursing bottle was not in use, as it would seem some of my brethren must have done if their published biographies are reliable, however I began the collecting of stamps in the winter of 1863-64.

Why I began, I do not know, for I had never seen or heard of a collection up to that time. The first foreign stamp I ever saw was a five-cent Confederate that occupied a conspicuous place in a friend's collection of colored pictures taken from the war envelopes so common at that period. This was the only stamp in the collection, and must have been the means of lighting up the flame lying dormant within me. My first collection was mounted on a sheet of foolscap. It consisted of a variety of the current U. S. postage and revenue, and was framed. I shall not weary the reader with a detail of the evolution and development of my album from this sheet, from book to book, until the wonderful Lalier, seemingly from the hand of the magician, burst in a blaze of glory upon my astonished vision. Several school comrades took up the work, the neighboring book and drug stores were raided, old letters hunted up, stamps to us unknown and unheard of before came rapidly to light and competition began in earnest. One of the boys had a sister in Nova Scotia, another had relatives in Germany and Saxony, another had an uncle in Brazil who was a U. S. Consul there. I was in great danger in getting left in the race, not having friends in foreign lands, but I remembered a small colony of Welch people about three miles distant; these I visited and was rewarded in obtaining some "Welch" stamps. I was good authority on Welch stamps for some time or until Pat. Moriarty gave one of my friends some stamps that looked very much like mine, in fact were just like my Welch stamps; they had not been removed from the envelopes and Pat. swore they were Irish, for didn't they come direct from Donegal? My prestige was gone. My friends began to get the large beautiful stamps of Nova Scotia, the Canada "beavers" and "Prince Alberts," the New Brunswicks with their beautiful designs and bright colors. Our nephew of the Consul in Brazil got returns in due time, but it was very unsatisfactory, contained nothing but some "spool-label" looking things, and square "do-funnys" which we would have nothing to do with, and the Consul in Brazil was dropped like a hot potato by his

chagrined nephew. Brazil did much to redeem herself in our estimation in 1866, but it was a long time afterwards before we began to respect her first issues. Our German confrere had better luck, he was soon in possession of a good lot of Saxon and Thurn and Taxis stamps, and he proved true to his Jewish instincts, he was always willing to turn his stamps into money; they went from this time on to the highest bidder, and Saxon and German stamps sold higher in 1864 with us than I have ever seen them catalogued since. The pence issues of Prince Edward Island came next, and then it did seem as if we had got to the end of our tether; but like Alexander we still sighed for more worlds to conquer.

I invested in a twenty-four cent stamp and wrote to England for some English stamps, but whether to the Queen or her Prime Minister, I do not now remember, but it matters not, the boat that was to bring my stamps back never came and I was in despair. But my resources were not yet exhausted. I had noticed in the *N. Y. Commercial Advertiser* the advertisements of many importers. Now importers, it seemed to me, must of necessity get letters from foreign countries, and to them I laid siege. I wrote many letters to leading importing firms in New York and Boston, the one theme, stamps, stamps, stamps, and for awhile I had a correspondence that I remember opened the eyes of our postmaster and made me the envy of our coterie of embryo philatelists. The mists of near a quarter of a century have obliterated the names of most of these firms from my mind, but the stamps I gained are as vividly impressed on my memory as if it had happened yesterday. There were the Bavarian blocks, the large square Baden, Thurn and Taxis and Wurtemburgs; the solid ground Holland, and the beautiful French and Italian. If words of mine could repay these merchants for the pleasure they gave me, they were fully paid, though the small amounts usually enclosed were in most cases returned. A few instances I cannot forbear mentioning. The Gunthers were then, as I believe they are now, importing fur merchants in N. Y. City. My request was complied with, and I remember well the Bavarian and Hanover stamps they sent me in good number and variety. My letter was kept on file by them, and for some time I continued to get stamps from them. Another, A. T. Stewart, the prince of merchants (peace to his ashes wherever he may lie), returned my remittance with a kind personal note enclosing me a goodly number of English and French stamps on the envelopes. These stamps served to clear up two mysteries, and aroused myself and companions to the fact that our albums were in a demoralized condition. It had been gradually dawning on our minds that the stamps used in Wales, Scotland and Ireland were all alike English, and this fact was now settled. Again, we had ascribed all stamps with "franco" on, like the Bavarians and Hollands (usually postmarked "franco" at that time), to France; and now here came the beautiful bright colored stamps of France with Napoleon on, himself. We were in a dilemma.

I had noticed from a careful perusal of Ayer's almanacs that they contained many letters from patients in foreign lands who had been miraculously restored to health. Of course persons so greatly benefited would prepay their postage and write often to Mr. Ayer to tell him how they were getting along, so of course Mr. Ayer must have any quantity of old foreign letters lying around loose; so to J. C. Ayer & Co. I wrote. It was some days later that I heard from Lowell. For one dollar he would send me such foreign stamps as he had on hand, and would send more as they came in. The "he" in this case was Mr. Abraham Isaacs. Now I may be mistaken, but I have always suspected, for reasons unnecessary to state, that Mr. Isaacs was of Jewish extraction, and since then I have also surmised that he knew a thing or two about stamps and stamp dealers that I had never even dreamed of; any how, he got his dollar, and I waited anxiously to hear from Lowell. In the two dozen stamps enclosed I only remember now the stamps from India and Turkey. I have never since experienced the thrill of delight over a rare local or other rare and unique specimen, that I did over the Indian "pies" and "annas," and the Turkish hieroglyphics. I failed to hear from Abraham more. If he has been gathered to the fathers, I hope it is well with him.

I do not know as 1867 was an unusual year in philatelic matters, but it was a year of great importance in our colony, for we first learned that there were other collectors abroad; that there were dealers; that there were albums especially made for us and that there were a few publications issued in our interests. Up to this time we had been groping along in the dark, now our field of vision was extended and the world opened up fully to us. It was in this year I heard of the first stamp deal-

er from an advertisement in *Harper's Weekly*. It was Mr. C. M. Seltz of Boston, and until his death in 1868, or thereabouts, I was a steady patron of his. He certainly was one of the pioneers in stamp dealing and I wish I knew more about him.

About this time S. Allan Taylor shot athwart my horizon like a brilliant meteor, and he sold stamps so cheap as to secure a monopoly of my trade and that of the colony. Lacking as we did in that day the illustrations of the rarer stamps, these stamps served a useful purpose, but they gradually gave way for their betters as the years passed by. The devil is not so black as painted, neither is Taylor worse than some who have been throwing stones at him. F. Trifet of Boston and J. W. Scott and W. P. Brown of New York City are the only dealers now in business whose names I recognize as in business in the sixties, and of these Scott is probably the only one in continual business in that line since then.

There is something peculiarly fascinating in these bright bits of paper that come to us from nearly every land and clime. Just where the charm lies it would be difficult to say. It may be the influences they bring acting upon our imaginative faculties. We feel the cold invigorating breath of the snow of Scandinavia, the languor and enchantment of the Orient, and the warmth of the sunny Italian clime. We see the Nile and the mute ruins along its banks, and beyond historic Greece; and we see in our albums the steppes of Russia, the dense forests of South America, the jungle of India, the iron-clad hills of France and Germany, and the emblems of the free in our own bright and blest native land. But wherever the subtle charm may lie, this we know, when once we are under its sway, no lotus of North Africa's land ever held its victims in more binding and lasting servitude than does our goddess Philatelia exert over her willing subjects.

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## JAPANESE POSTAL SYSTEM.

BY CANADENSIS.

Japan is making rapid strides, not only in commerce but in her postal system. In ten years hence her mail system will be greatly modified and improved. As soon as the railroads now under construction are completed, the P. O. service will be greatly enhanced. There are at present six or seven different railroads, altogether nearly four hundred miles. Where no railroad exists the mail is carried by a man, travelling day and night in relays, the man being changed at every station. These carriers travel very fast under the circumstances, generally five days to go a distance of 260 miles.

All post offices in Japan, however small the town may be, deliver mail to the persons addressed by a carrier, as they do not keep boxes similar to those rented to parties in the post offices in the U. S. or Canada. The system now in vogue was established in 1871, before which time there was no such thing as a post office. The system previously adopted was by making use of carriers, hardy men making from 40 to 60 miles a day, who were employed by the rich. They were known as "hikiyaku," or "flying legs." Japan's territory is about as large as California, but they have a population equalling the United States.

The Government have lately sent several of their officers to foreign countries to look into the different postal systems, and we may look in the near future for something from this neighbor of the "land of the Celestials."

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Apart from the fact that the mail has been carried on horseback for years in the North-West Territories, the first pony express in Ontario, is believed to be the weekly mail from Montreal to Little York (now Toronto). It was carried through part by boat and partly on horseback. From 1820 to 1826 it was carried on horseback from the "carrying place" (Trenton) when brought up the Bay of Quinte from Kingston, by Mr. Jonathan Ogden, who took it to York. In 1827 he established a mail stage and courier express. In various portions of the Territories the mail is carried by stage and sometimes on horseback, the most northern place reached being Churchill and York Factory on the Hudson Bay, these two places receiving letters, etc., by dog trains from the North Saskatchewan and Lake Winnipeg twice a year.

## NOTES FOR U. S. PHILATELISTS.

BY ROBERT S. HATCHER.

That geography is closely allied with philately has always been obvious, but we seldom consider the local geographical relations connected with certain of our fiscal stamps, used by the government in particular sections of its domain. While almost the entire series of U. S. revenue stamps is in use throughout the length and breadth of the republic, a few perform their duty only in specified districts, and in some instances are limited to a certain city, as for instance, our Imported Opium stamps, used only at the Custom House of the San Francisco port of entry. The customs "Free Stamps" are in use only in New York City; a certain denomination of beer stamps, only in portions of Nevada and California, which two states are consolidated into the Revenue District of California. Chicago consumes nearly the entire issue of Export Oleomargarine stamps, and the state of Virginia disposes of almost the entire out-put of three-ounce snuff stamps.

Complete collections of this class contain varieties, which by their cancellations, show them to have been used during and just after the war, only in Key West; others again in Baltimore only; still others but in New York, and so on, in various limited sections of the country.

The most practical method of cancelling documentary revenue stamps, when in use in the U. S., was frequently discussed by the contemporaneous press. Bearing upon the subject is this editorial, rescued from a torn and musty copy of the *New York Business Mirror* of March 11th, 1865.

"STAMP CANCELLATION.—In this there is very little uniformity or regard for the act of Congress. The act requires that the maker of an instrument shall write on each stamp the initials of his name and the date upon which the same shall be used. Many persons suppose it is enough to disfigure the stamps by a cross or by initials only, or if several stamps are used, by a single initial on each. If this were allowable, the same stamps might be used over and over, and even by different individuals, in many cases. The act declares the object of cancellation, viz.: 'That the same may not again be used.' Whether a willful disregard of this law would make parties liable to the penalty prescribed, we cannot positively state, but it is obvious that the mode pointed out by the act is the only proper one."

Mention has already been made of the introduction of the three-cent stamp in 1853 being the direct cause for the appearance of the three-cent silver piece, afterwards struck in nickel, but it has been completely overlooked that numismatists are likewise indebted to the same stamp for the existence of a gold coin, the three-dollar piece, which is soon to be retired by congressional action. In his last annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. James P. Kimball, Director of the Mint, speaking of this coin in connection with its relation to former rates of postage, says:

"It is supposed that the three-dollar piece was designed to be a multiple of the three-cent piece, for the convenience of postal transactions, when the three-cent unit for letter postage prevailed. As a consequence of the change in postal rates, and there existing no present reason for the continuance of a duodecimal coinage, the coinage of the three-dollar piece, as well as the three-cent piece, should, in my opinion, be discontinued."

This item is from a newspaper of 1851:

"GREAT CALL FOR POST OFFICE STAMPS.—Seventeen hundred dollars' worth of postage stamps were sold during business hours in Boston on Friday last—this, too, under the rule that no individual can purchase more than three dollars' worth at a time. The reduction of postage has, even at this early period, given ample evidence that correspondence has been and will be materially increased."

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Many young collectors make a great mistake in discarding United States Stamps and collecting only foreign. To-day nearly a complete set of U. S. Stamps can be bought at comparatively reasonable prices. Five years hence they will cost three times as much. Our advice is: collect the stamps of our own country, while you can get them.

## PHILATELIC FRAUDS.

Never were the approval sheet frauds as numerous as they are at the time of this writing, and as a very considerable portion of the stamp business of to-day is transacted through the medium of approval sheets, these cheats find before them a wide field in which to prey upon the stamp-dealing fraternity.

Every dealer should send regularly each month to one or more philatelic papers for publication a list of dishonest collectors, with particulars as to value of stamps sent each, date of sending, how many times written, and nature of replies, or promises, if any. Then, if these papers publish the names sent, it will serve to warn other dealers from being swindled and will in many cases cause the dishonest party to pay up. Although it is next to impossible to completely put a stop to this petty swindling, yet a systematic and continued effort on the part of each and every dealer will be the means of driving out of existence the great majority of these miserable cheats.

One Western philatelic paper publishes a large list of frauds each month, and proposes to do so regularly. Let other papers desirous of furnishing interesting and valuable information do likewise.

Although I have written quite a number of dealers, for names of frauds, very few have sent any. The following lists of approval sheet frauds have been sent us for publication by the dealers whose names are attached.

L. C. Richardson of Lawrence, Mass., sends the following:

*Will McIntosh*, 131 West St., Duluth, Minn.

*H. L. Froehlich*, 154 E. 82d St., N. Y.  
*R. Van Syckel*, Bridgeton, N. J. (Reference, Samuel Trenchard, 77 S. Pearl St., or Box 604 or 614.)

*Geo. A. Van Brunt*, Care W. H. Fordham, 162 Sixth Ave., New York. (Reference, B. A. Carr, 41 So. 6th Ave., N. Y. Letters sent to these two references were returned.

Chas. Drew, of New York City, sends:  
*James R. Coate*, Chatham, Ont.

*John S. McIntyre*, 128 Mansfield St., Montreal, P. Q.

W. S. Kinzer, of Wooster, Ohio, sends:  
*F. M. Lymburner*, Fonthill, Ont.

*C. A. Bass*, New York City.

*Herman Froehlich*, New York City.

*R. P. Dewell*, New Haven, Conn.

*Bert Fouts*, Westerville, O.

*Remie Van Syckel*, Bridgeton, N. J.

*J. P. Babbitt*, Hodges Ave., Taunton, Mass.

*F. R. Hulbert*, Newark, N. J.

*Richard Koehler*, New Haven, Conn.

*John A. Paul*, Glen Este, Ohio.

*Wm. Erding*, Milwaukee, Wis.

F. N. Massoth, Jr., of Hanover Centre, Ind., sends those names:

*Marquis Davis*, Martin's Ferry, Ohio.

*C. T. Burroughs*, 71 Penn Ave., Brooklyn, Y. Y.

*J. Davidson*, 213 East 78th St., New York City.

*Fred Adams*, Elmore, Ill.

*Louis Huart*, St. Hyacinthe, Que.

*Thos. Fryer*, Duluth, Minn.

*A. Brady*, Mt. Farnham, Que.

*E. L. Roy*, 344 N. Prince St., Lancaster, Pa.

*W. Deems*, Albion, Ill.

*Arthur M. Farwell*, Franklinville, N. Y.

*F. Brown*, Denver, Col.

*F. M. Lymburner*, Fonthill, Ont.

*Hamilton Martin*, 130 Third St., Duluth, Minn.

*W. T. Westbrook*, 527 State St., Trenton, N. J.

*Wm. Arthur Lec*, New Vineyard, Me.

*G. Roeber*, 800 Oak St., Terre Haute, Ind.

*J. K. Carson*, Crete, Nebraska.

H. S. Pickett & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y., sends two names of parties who do not pay their advertising bills:

*Frank H. Rice*, Flint, Mich.

*Ontario Corresponding Club*, J. H. Hicks, Secretary, Toronto, Ont.

Wm. B. Hale, of Williamsville, Mass., sends:

*Chas. E. Stewart*, Barrie, Ont.

*D. W. Olney*, Shonnard St., Syracuse, N. Y.

The Garfield Stamp Co., of Detroit, Mich., sends these:

*Alex. Bacon*, Superior City, Wis.

*Tom Deacon*, Box 289, Halifax, N. S.

W. H. Bruce, of Hartford, Conn., sends:

*Chas. E. Petford*, 570 Warren Ave., Chicago, Ill.

*Augustus C. Bass*, 335 Hudson St., New York.

H. C. Moody, of Maplewood, Malden, Mass., writes, complaining of one Harry Schlingloff, 54 Philip St., Albany, N. Y. Mr. Moody says: "He is a fraud; he sent to me for some sheets of stamps; after having returned several lots, he kept \$4.50 worth, and when after tiring of writing him, I wrote the postmaster, the young rascal signed the bill. 'Stamps received O. K.', but would not write me or settle. I sent to the Chief of Police and P. M., but they would do nothing about it."

J. H. Hicks, Secretary of the Ontario Corresponding Club, Toronto, Can., is swindling publishers out of advertising space. Pass him round!

A leaf from my own experience:

Harold R. Miller, formerly of Lima, Peru, now of London, England, does not pay his advertising bills. I would advise publishers to insert no advertisements for him without cash in advance.

Ben. L. Darrow, of 515 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, Ind., has owed me a small sum for advertising for nearly two years. After billing him more than half-a-dozen times, without receiving any response whatever, I sent him a postal threatening to expose him. This evidently stirred him up, for he replied, saying he did not wish to have me write him any more such postals, and if I did, I would be sorry for it; that he did not owe me anything, etc., etc. I wrote again; this time he returned my letter; he posted it in a plain envelope without a stamp; I forwarded the necessary postage to the Indianapolis post-office and received the letter. I have his order for advertising, and the amount is justly due me; if not, why did he not reply to any of my first communications. From my experience with him, I think I am fully justified in saying that Ben. L. Darrow is a "dead-beat." Look out for him.

C. Emery, formerly of Holyoke, Mass., later of Lincoln, Neb., and now a resident of parts unknown, is another advertising fraud. He is not advertising any at present, but if he should crop up again in the future as a stamp dealer, the philatelic public will do well to let him severely alone.

A mean little fraud, hardly worth noticing is "Prof." Geo. W. Coleman, of Gratz, Pa. After some correspondence with him, I sent him several months ago some papers which he wanted, desiring others in exchange. I have writ-

ten him many times since, but have failed to hear from the "Professor" as yet.

W. W. Adams of Mapleton, N. Y., dealer in Indian relics, sends the names of two parties who have swindled him, with particulars:

G. Henry Stratton, Cortland, N. Y., and I had quite a lengthy correspondence last winter in regard to the sale of my collection. We finally agreed on a price, but when it came to the terms of payment, he could pay out only \$100 or \$150 for a collection worth \$800 or \$900. The consequence was, I did not let him have it, but I did sell him two flint-lock horse-pistols at \$5, which he has not paid for yet. I have written him several times, but cannot get a settlement. I think, without doubt, he is what might be called a "dead-beat."

In regard to David Pell, Secor, of Bridgeport, Conn.: He came here about Sept. 1887, bringing a letter of introduction from a friend of mine. He stayed several days and I took my horse and carriage, and drove him around and showed him the sites of the ancient Indian villages and other places of interest. He represented to me that he made a business of selling relics and curios on commission. I finally consented to let him sell mine at 10 per cent. commission. I boxed up about a half-ton of stone relics and sent by freight, and also sent a box of fine relics by express. Those sent by freight (amounting in value to \$97.97) he would not receive, so I paid the freight and had them returned to me. The box by express (value \$101.50) he has kept and refuses to account for it, but I think he offered to return it if I would send him \$60, which I, of course, would not do. He claims that he paid \$60 for the use of some show-cases in which to exhibit the relics, and as I did not send all the relics as agreed, he would keep what he had got. It looks very unlikely that he would pay \$60 for the use of a show-case when his commission on the whole lot would come to about \$80, only. He was very anxious to secure my best pipe, also a clay vase, but I thought it best to try him first on the relics. I also sent him a meteoric stone, for which he still owes; the value of it would be \$5.00. I understand Secor has been trading quite extensively throughout the west; during the summer I heard of him in San Francisco, Cal. If some of our Western collectors have



not been swindled by him it is a wonder. I have done what I could to give them warning, and have doubtless put some of them on their guard. Yours truly.

WM. W. ADAMS.

On request of Mr. Dworak, I publish the following:

A FRAUD PRINTER.

*To whom it may concern:*—I especially wish to call attention of those who were in any way interested in *The Collector's Handbook*, to have been published by me. I received money from some for copies of the book, and from a few I received money for advertisements. After obtaining all the advertisements and subscriptions I could get, I sent the MSS., together with the money for the payment of the printing of the book, to one R. G. Strother of Fairmont, Neb., who turned out to be a fraud of the deepest dye. He then would neither print the book nor return the MSS. and money, nor could I in any way obtain an answer to the innumerable letters and duns I sent to him. These, gentlemen, are the reasons my hand-book was not published,

and you can readily see that they are good ones. I advise all persons to beware of *Strother*, as he will not live up to his agreements. If any one has any claim against me in regard to said book, send it in and I will settle it.

ANTON V. DWORAK,  
Milligan, Fillmore Co., Neb.

Several charges of dishonesty against A. P. A. members have lately been published. Those should be investigated. Two gentlemen (?) particularly have been black-listed in several of the current philatelic papers.

The "*Substituter*," who takes valuable stamps from sheets sent him, and replaces them by means of cheaper specimens, is a meaner thief even than the fellow who "pockets" the sheet and makes no returns therefor. Both are deserving of no mercy, and every effort should be made to annihilate them.

There are also some dealers who make a practice of "beating" their advertising; others send out counterfeit stamps. Swindlers of both these classes should be exposed without mercy.

## THE FIRST PERFORATED STAMPS.

BY REV. ROBERT B. EAREE.

In the present day, perforated stamps are a matter of course, it seems difficult to conceive how the public could have for so long submitted to the necessity of using the scissors every time they wanted a stamp; yet even I can remember the time when a pair of scissors was a portion of the outfit of every post office clerk, just as a two-foot rule is a portion of that of a carpenter. And, when there was any particular press of business, the clerks, in the hurry of serving their customers, often cut the stamps in the strangest way. I do not know how it may have been in America, but looking over a mass of unperforated English stamps, I have often come across stamps mutilated in every conceivable manner: some with the top cut off, some with the bottom, some almost in the shape of a diamond, all evidently done in a hurry. Then again, with regard to the public, a man wishing to use a stamp off a sheet or part of a sheet in his possession, and not having a pair of scissors handy (as is the wont of men), would try to tear the stamp off. The result can be imagined.

However, from 1840 to 1847, there were none but unperforated stamps used, and the public put up with the inconvenience simply because they could not do otherwise. But, in the year last named, a Mr. Henry Archer, an Irishman, who had invented a machine for separating stamps from each other, or rather, machine to pierce the stamps so that they could be torn asunder, brought the machine under the notice of the postmaster-general of that time—the Marquis of Clanricarde. As a rule the English government is uniformly averse to listen to the projects of inventors, but, fortunately for the public, it was not so in this case, and the matter was referred to Mr. Bokenham, who was at that time controller of the circulation department of the post office. Mr. Bokenham and some of the other officials concerned, having examined and tested Mr. Archer's machine, made a report to the commissioners of stamps and taxes, which was very favorable to the adoption of the machine. Among other things they said that stamps separated by the machine, having jagged edges, would be likely to stick to the letters far better than those cut with a straight edge in the old style. This, by the way, is no doubt true. My

readers will be familiar with the practice of cutting a jagged or wavy edge to sticking plaster in order to make it adhere better, when they have had the misfortune to wound themselves. Mr. Archer's machine was on what we call the "roulette" system; it did not remove any portion of the paper but made straight cuts in it. The recommendatory report of the commissioners to the lords of the treasury describes the machine as being "for piercing the portions of the paper intervening between the labels by a series of cuts, in such a manner as to admit of their being detached singly without the use of knife or scissors." The first report was made on the 14th of October, 1847, and on the 7th of January, 1848, the lords of the treasury authorized the circulation of stamps perforated by the machine. So there was not very much time lost, considering the fact that it was a government office which was concerned. The machine was placed on the premises of Messrs. Bacon & Petch, the printers of the stamps, under the care of Mr. Edwin Hill, who was a controller of the stamping department at Somerset House. Archer's first invention consisted of two machines, one to be used after the other; the one bore a roller with thirteen small "spur wheels," placed at a distance apart equal to the width of a stamp. Thus one machine perforated the sheet horizontally, and it was then passed under the other machine to be perforated vertically. But, though acting well for a short time, it was found that the little blades on the spur wheels very soon cut to pieces the table of the machine, and only very few sheets were done. It does not appear that Archer was anything of a practical mechanic; he therefore called in a machinist to his assistance, and they modified the apparatus by introducing lancet-shaped blades. This, however, was of no avail, for the knives still cut the table a good deal, and they speedily became blunted against it. A very few sheets of the stamps so rouletted passed into the hands of the public, and they are reckoned amongst the rarities in our first rate collections in England, so that probably they may be hardly known in America. I have been a collector for a good many years, but I have never seen more than two of these stamps—an unsevered pair, by the way, showing the rouletting to perfection. The pair was uncancelled, so I fancy they were probably obtained from some obliging official. It will be understood that the modification of the machine, described above, caused an alteration in the roulette, and, as a matter of fact, the two roulettes can be easily distinguished from each other. As the machine was first constituted, the cuts in the paper varied in length, the distances between the cuts were unequal, and the cuts themselves were irregular and jagged. The angles of the stamp, also, were not often left truly square. In the second roulette, after the machine was altered and the shape of the knives changed, the cuts were much better, being straight and cleanly pierced, wider at the extremities than in the center, and the interval between them much closer and more regular. From what I have already said it will be seen that the relinquishment of this machine was not due to any idea of the inferiority of rouletting as a means of perforation. I know this is the general idea, but I have always thought that a good rouletting is really preferable to the almost universal system of hole-cutting; and, introducing rouletting, it would seem that I am not alone in my opinion. [I suppose it is hardly necessary to instance Brazil, New Foundland, Chili, etc., as examples of this.]

Mr. Archer's first idea having thus been tried and found wanting, the next year (1849), he brought out another machine, having for its principle the perforation of holes in the paper, punched clean out. At first this machine seems to have worked somewhat irregularly, sometimes punching *two sets of holes* so close together as to run into each other. This produced an irregular, jagged edge down two sides of the stamps, and oval holes down the other two. Some few sheets badly perforated in this manner were sold to the public, and are extremely scarce. About 5,000 sheets were experimented upon during the trials of the various modifications of the machine. Archer says that those which were not spoiled were partly distributed by him and partly sent to the country post offices.

As finally improved and adopted, the machine perforated small holes, gauging 16 to the 2 centimeters. Leaving out, therefore, the rouletted stamps and those with the irregular perforation, we may take this latter perforation as being the normal one for the time, the stamps so perforated being the one penny and two-pence with a *small crown* in the water mark. Archer obtained the sum of £4,000 for his invention and patent. This seems to be pretty good pay, but he was no mechanic and had to go from one machinist to another, getting them to carry out his ideas, on the chance of participating in the reward, supposing the government adopted

his invention; so that, as he himself says, when he received his money a full half of it went to pay the various mechanics who had so aided him.

As soon as the invention finally passed into the hands of the government it was considerably improved and modified, but still perforated 16 holes to the 2 centimeters. But the holes being so very close together the steel bed plates of the machines were found to be too weak and the stamps also tore *too* easily, so that the mere act of counting the sheets often spoiled them before they could be distributed to the public. Therefore, instead of the 16 needles, 14 were introduced into the same space formerly occupied by the larger number, and thus both machines and sheets were less liable to damage. This gauge of 14 holes to the 2 centimeters has been continued ever since for all the stamps of the normal size. The machines perforate about 5,500 sheets per hour. There is one set of perforating needles as long as the horizontal row of 12 stamps, and there are 13 short rows of needles at right angles to these capable of being adjusted so as to perforate the stamps when close together or when they are in separate sets or "panes," as in most of the higher values. Thus the needles perforate a whole horizontal row at once and each side of all the row vertically. The normal water mark of the stamps perforated with 14 holes to the 2 centimeters is the *large crown* (it will be understood that I am only speaking of the penny and two-pence values) and, as I have before said, the normal water mark of the stamps bearing 16 holes to the 2 centimeters is the *small crown*. But the change of water mark and the change of perforation gauge being almost coincident, we find both the one-penny and two-pence with abnormal water marks. Thus both are found with small crown and 16 holes (normal), with large crown and 14 holes (normal), and also with small crown and 14 holes (abnormal), and large crown and 16 holes (abnormal). These abnormal stamps with small crown and 14 holes and with large crown and 16 holes, though not particularly rare, are not particularly common either—especially unused. Of course it will be understood that they are only to be found on the stamps which have no letters in the top corners, and anyone having a number of these stamps in his possession will find it worth his while to take the backs off them and look at the water marks. My own experience is that about 4 or 5 per 1,000 can be found with the abnormal water mark of large crown with the 16 holes, and hardly 1 per 1,000 of the abnormal water mark of small crown with the 14 holes, the latter being considerably scarcer in my opinion. I have said nothing about the two dies of the stamps, because this paper is only intended to bring the varieties of perforation before my American readers, but those interested in the subject cannot do better than read the fine work on the postage and telegraph stamps of Great Britain, by Messrs. Philbrick and Westoby, from which I have culled largely for the purposes of this article.

The following is a list of the various perforations for the penny and two-penny stamps, from the commencement until their final settlement:

Die I, paper water marked with a small crown:

1847—One penny, red-brown; irregular roulette; Archer's first machine.

1848—One penny, red-brown, regular roulette; Archer's second machine.

1849—One penny, red-brown; irregularly perforated (15 holes to the two centimeters); Archer's third machine.

1854-5—One penny, red-brown; shades of brick-red; perforated 16 (normal).

1855—One penny, shades of red-brown; perforated 14 (abnormal).

Die II, paper water marked with a large crown:

1856—One penny, shades of red-brown and brick-red; perforated 16 (abnormal).

1856-64—One penny, red-brown, brick-red, rose, rose-red; many shades; perforated 14 (abnormal).

The issue of the two-pence blue since the introduction of perforation until the gauge was finally settled are not so numerous, as all the experimental perforations were made only on the one-penny value. They are as follows:

Die I, water marked with a small crown:

1854-5—Two pence, shades of blue; perforated 16 holes to the 2 centimeters (normal).

1855—Two pence, shades of blue; perforated 14 (abnormal)—same die water marked with a large crown.

1856—Two pence, shades of blue; perforated 14 (normal).

1856—Two pence, shades of blue; perforated 16 (abnormal).

Same die, but with the white lines across the stamp below the upper inscription, and above the lower inscription, sensibly thinner, water marked with a large crown: 1857—Two pence, deep blue; perforated 14 (normal).

1857—Two pence, deep blue; perforated 16 (abnormal).

I believe the 16 perforation has been found on stamps as late as 1857; since then, however, all the English stamps except those large-sized ones, the 5 and 10 shillings, and the £1, have all been perforated 14.

I am afraid my readers will find this a fragmentary article, but I wanted to explain the introduction of perforations, the history of which is not much known even in England, and the list given above is merely a portion of the catalogue of Messrs. Philbrick and Westoby, to show the various changes and experiments which took place from the time when perforation was first invented until the gauge was finally settled.—*Reprinted from the Philatelic Journal of America.*

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## HOW TO MOUNT ENVELOPES.

BY W. S. KAYE.

There are many apparently little things that flit across the ductile mind of the collector when at work on his or her collection that would be of untold importance if placed in the hands of others, and, as we are banded together in one fast increasing brotherhood, why not exchange ideas and benefit as well as be benefited? We all have our individual peculiarities and our odd little notions as to the best way of doing this or that, and as I am endowed with eccentricities that may be of utility to others, I will state them in my own eccentric way, and you may make the best use you can of the *expose*.

I am a collector of cut specimens and intend to give my ideas in reference to mounting the same, so those of you who are "stationers" need not read any further; it will be a waste of time, and you will gain nothing thereby. I imagine that I hear some one laughing as he says to himself, "Well, who don't know how to stick stamps in a book!" and that is about as far as some collectors go; just so the specimen gets to its allotted space, that is all that is necessary. There is a right and a wrong way of doing everything, so why not mount envelopes properly? This is the way I propose to do it: I first cut a piece of cardboard the same size as one of my envelope spaces, except in length, that I made one-eighth of an inch longer. Take a piece of any hard, close-grained wood and lay your envelope on it, take a piece of glass and lay it over the stamp squarely, allowing the margin, or space below the die, one eighth of an inch more than the space above, place the fingers on the glass firmly and cut around the glass with a sharp-bladed knife, not tearing but cutting as you go. By this method you not only get your specimens all of the same size, but you also get them with the die squarely in the center. I cut and entered the top row first, having the *upper* edge of the specimen come exactly even with the *upper* line; this allowed it to extend one-eighth of an inch over the *lower* line. In the second row I placed the hinge so as not to come to the top by a little over an eighth of an inch, so that I could let the *upper* ends of the specimens in the *second* row extend an eighth of an inch over the *lower* ends of the ones above.

*How to mount "cut-to-shape" specimens.*—There are envelopes that are almost unobtainable in any other condition, and when a person is the possessor of one of these he must make the best of it, and put an appearance on it that will vie with one cut square. How is this to be done? I will tell you. If not cut too close, trim it nice and smooth close up to the *outside* edge of the die with scissors, get a piece of paper to correspond with the color of the original envelope as near as possible, and also in texture, cut a piece a little larger than what you want, gum well the back and *edge* of your *specimen* and place it in the center of the piece of paper selected, press it down well, and see that it sticks nicely all over. Now we have arrived at the "suap." Turn the specimen and paper over on some smooth, hard surface, and take the edge of a flat, pointed, hard material (I use a flat ivory paper-cutter, and find that it works admirably), and crease around the specimen, pressing

the paper well up to its edges and flat to the surface of that on which you are working; this brings the new paper well around and even with the surface of the "cut-to-shape." After this has been done nicely—you can turn the specimen over from time to time and see where it needs jogging up—you can paste another piece of paper over the back and hide, to a great extent, the bulge caused by the creasing. With unused "cut-to-shapes," I have fixed them in this way so neat as to bring in-to requisition the aid of a microscope to detect them from cut-squares. The majority simply cut a piece of paper to match the original and stick the specimen on its surface, leaving it to stand above; some, again, pare down the edges and try to bring it down in this way, but unless you are very careful you will spoil the specimen entirely. I think, however, that nothing will be found to equal the advice given above, and, with a little practice and care, a remarkably fine specimen can be produced from what would otherwise prove an "eye-sore" to a collection.—*American Philatelist*.

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## HOW POSTAGE STAMPS ARE MADE.

Some things are so common that but few think of the ingenuity and labor required to make them. Postage stamps, for instance, are in everybody's mouth except the wise ones, who use a wet sponge, but scarcely any one knows how they are manufactured.

In printing them steel plates are used, on which two hundred stamps are engraved. Two men are kept hard at work covering them with the colored inks and passing them to a man and girl, who are equally busy at printing with large rolling hand presses. After the sheets of paper, upon which the two hundred stamps have been printed, have dried enough, they are sent into another room and gummied. The gum used is a peculiar composition, made of the powder of dried vegetables mixed with water, which is better than anything else, for instance gum arabic, which cracks the paper badly. After having been again dried, this time on little racks, which are fanned by steam-power, they are put between pasteboard and pressed in hydraulic presses, capable of applying a weight of two thousand pounds. The next thing is to cut the sheets in half; each sheet, of course, when cut, contains a hundred stamps. This is done by a girl with a large pair of shears, cutting by hand being preferred to that of machinery, which method would destroy too many stamps. They are then passed to two other squads, who, in as many operations, perforate the sheets between the stamps. Next they are pressed once more, and then packed and labelled, and stowed away in another room, preparatory to being put in mail bags for despatching to fulfil orders. If a single stamp is torn or in any way mutilated, the whole sheet of one hundred is burned. Several hundred thousands are burned each week from this cause. During the progress of manufacture the sheets are counted eleven times.—*Selected*.

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## PECULIAR MAIL MATTER.

The United States government has vainly endeavored for years to educate the people up to a proper knowledge of what should not be sent through the mails. It seems to be impossible to fix permanently in the minds of certain American citizens that nitro-glycerine packages make great confusion when they are stamped, and glassware cannot be kept in shape. Papier-mache clocks when sent by mail lose their proper shape, and horse-collars, millstones and bath-tubs put the department to a great deal of trouble. There is absolutely nothing that an American will not send by mail when you take your eye off him. Every year the authorities will call attention to the fact that hewn lumber, fire-proof safes and patent coffins are inadmissible. Every single year, poodles, pet snakes and terrapins get loose in the mail bags, and every year there is a strong suspicion that many Bostonians, about the 1st of May, are trying to move all their household effects through the post office.

## AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

ALABAMA PHILATELIC SOCIETY, of Mobile, Ala.—President, W. C. Peters; Secretary, R. A. Sheldon, Box 878.

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 Pine and Palmetto, Vol. I., No. 2.  
 California Philatelist, No's 24, 27.  
 Bayonne Philatelist, Vol. I., No's 6, 8.  
 Philatelic Courier, Vol. I., No. 4, 1882.  
 The Hermes, Vol. I., No. 3.  
 National Philatelist, Vol. I., No's 3, 4, 5, 1883.  
 Canadian Philatelist, Vol. I., No. 1, 1884.  
 Canadian Philatelic and Curio Advertiser, Vol. I., No. 2.  
 Iowa Moon, Vol. I., No. 1, 1884.  
 Philatelic World, Vol. II., No. 19.  
 Philatelic News, Philadelphia, Vol. I., No. 3.  
 Mineralogist and Antiquarian, (Wise), No. 1, '81.  
 Philatelic Referee, Vol. I., No. 2, 1883.  
 Old Curiosity Shop, Vol. II., No. 11; Vol. III., No's 3, 5, 1883, 1884.  
 Coin and Stamp, Greenslade, Toronto, Vol. I., No. 1, 1882.  
 Stamp News, London, Eng., No. 7, 1882.  
 Coin and Stamp Journal, Kansas City, Vol. II., No. 5, 1876.  
 Postage Stamp Reporter, Montpelier, Vt., No. 1, 1877.  
 Green Mountain Boys, Vol. II., No. 1.  
 The Gossip, Vol. II., No. 2.  
 Granite State Philatelist, Vol. I., No's 2, 5, 7.  
 Queen City Philatelist, Buffalo, Vol. I., No. 1.  
 Stamp Collector's Review, Davenport, Iowa, Vol. II., No. 4, 1880.  
 Foreign Stamp Collector's News, Hull, Eng., Vol. I., No. 10; Vol. II., No's 14, 22; Vol. III., No. 25.  
 Foreign Stamp Collector's Journal, Bury St. Edmunds, No's 41, 43, 44, 49, 136.  
 Philatelic Times, Margate, Eng., Vol. I., No. 2, 1881.  
 The Monthly Echo, Englishtown, N. S., Vol. I., No's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Vol. II., No's 1, 2, 1883, 1884.  
 Monthly Chronicle, Chicago, No. 9, 1876.  
 Philatelist's Journal, Plymouth, Wis., No. 2, 1883.  
 Collectors' Companion, Vol. I., No. 10.  
 Curiosity Collector, Vol. I., No. 1, 1883.  
 Union Exchange List, Vol. I., No's 6, 8, 9, 10.  
 The Pearl, Toronto, Ont., Vol. I., No. 8, 1876.  
 New Jersey Philatelist, Vol. I., No's 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; Vol. II., No's 14 and 24.

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## AUCTION SALE CATALOGUES.

R. R. Bogert & Co., Dec. 9, 1887.  
 R. R. Bogert & Co., May 21, 1888.  
 R. R. Bogert & Co., March 18, 1889.  
 American Philatelic Co., Dec. 1, 1888.  
 J. Krebs, Oct. 9, 1888.  
 Suffolk Collection, Jan. 19 and 20, 1888.  
 Mauritius Collection, May 3 and 4, 1888.  
 Edwin Collection, Nov. 23 and 24, 1888.  
 Hawley Collection, Apr. 13, 1889.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

American Philatelic Press Directory, 1887.  
 American Philatelic Press Directory, 1888.  
 Philatelic Annual, 1887.  
 Stanton's Philatelic Directory.  
 Handy Book for Collectors, (Moorehead.)  
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