The History of the St. Louis Postage Stamps

1845-1847.

By C. H. Mekeel.

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THE HISTORY

OF THE

POSTAGE STAMPS

OF THE

ST. LOUIS POSTMASTER

1845-1847

By CHAS. HAVILAND MEKEEL

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Saint Louis, Mo.

The St. Louis Stamps.

By CHARLES HAVILAND MEKEEL.

Historical. The forerunner of the postage stamp in the United States was the hand-stamp marks of various descriptions placed upon the letters to show the amount of the postage together with the word "Paid," "Due" or "Collect" to indicate whether the postage had been prepaid or was to be collected upon delivery. The hand-stamp dated postmark was of much earlier origin than that of the adhesive stamp, and prior to all hand-stamps we find the endorsements in ink upon letters, of the place, date of mailing, amount of postage and a word to indicate whether the postage had been prepaid or was to be collected.[1] The introduction of the use of the adhesive postage stamp in Great Britain in 1840 was followed by agitation in the United States Congress looking toward the introduction of cheap postage and the issuing of postage stamps in this country.

The proposed reform met with opposition, as all reforms do, and it was some years before much was acomplished.

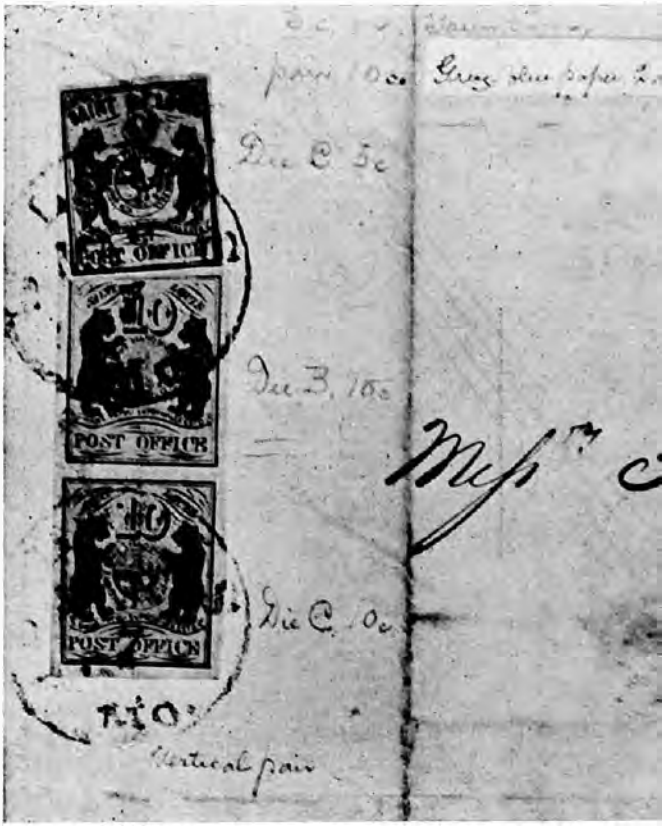
The local express and messenger companies first introduced the use of adhesive postage stamps in the prepayment of mail matter in the United States.

In 1842 Mr. A. M. Greig who had conducted a local carrier system in New York City, in competition with the Government service, was appointed by John

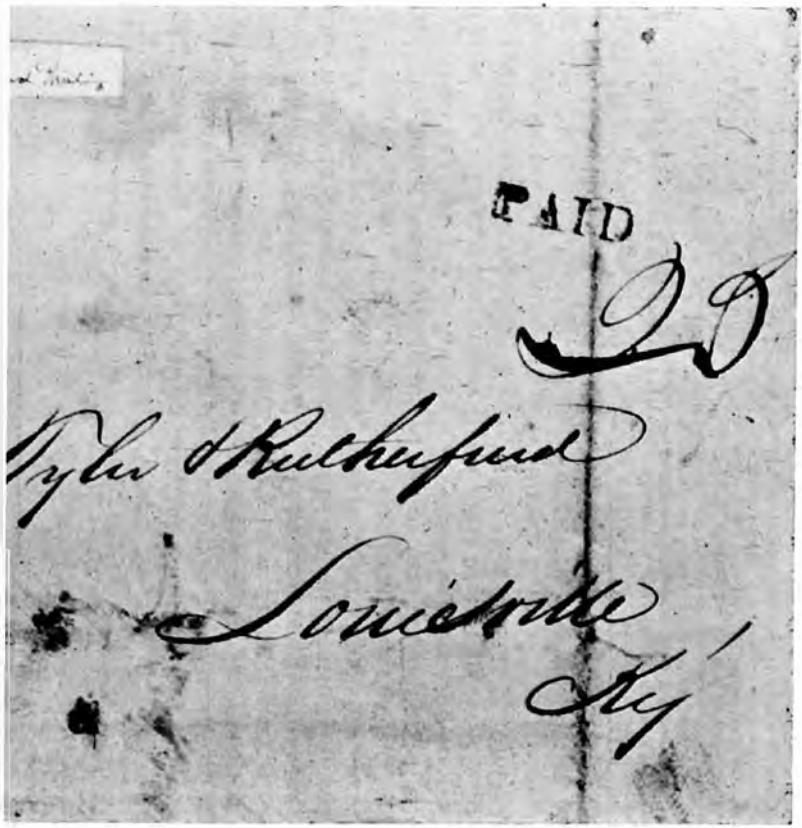
1. The History of the Postage Stamps of the United States, by John K. Tiffany, published 1887. Page 14:

They are penmarked with the name of the mailing office, the date occasionally, the amount of the postage paid or due, generally in simple figures, sometimes with the word "cents," in full or abbreviated, added. Gradually, hand-stamps were introduced. At first the name of the mailing office in a simple frame, generally circular, the month and day being still written in with a pen, and the amount of postage written as before. A further improvement appears later on in the introduction of the month and day as part of the hand-stamp. The word "paid" or "due," the amount of postage in figures or with "cents," either written or hand stamped, always added. And finally all the marks are included in one hand-stamp.

There was evidently no uniformity of practice, except the general requirement that the name of the mailing office, the month and day, and the amount of postage should in some form be marked on the letter. Improvements seem generally to have originated in the larger offices, but smaller offices sometimes took the lead in enterprise. An improvement once adopted does not seem always to have been adhered to: letters mailed at the same office on the same day and differently marked may be frequently found in old files. The hand-stamps seem to have been obtained by the several offices for themselves, as there is no uniformity of style. *** Louisville, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Boston and New York letters of the same years have the same hand-stamp with a numeral or numerals indicative of the amount of postage added at the bottom within the frame. When prepaid the word "PAID" was hand-stamped below the other.



A VERY FINE POSTMARKED LOT. 5 c. Die 1 (old Die C,) on first paper. 7th, 1846.



A vertical pair of 10c., Dies 2 and 3 (old B and C,) on second paper. Letter dated March

Lorimer Graham, the Postmaster of New York, to establish a carrier service to be known as the "United States City Dispatch Post." The authority for this appointment was conferred by a letter[2] from the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

The stamps issued and used by this post were the earliest having any semblance of official character.

The failure of Congress in recognizing the value of the English postal system and enacting laws to provide for the issuance of postage stamps, was not shared by the public, the press or the Postmaster-General who were all in favor of the stamp arrangement. It finally resulted that various postmasters issued stamps upon their own authority for the convenience of their patrons.

These stamps were only recognized between the purchaser and the postmaster and had no value or significance outside of the post-office in which they were issued.

It will be observed that all the illustrations of the stamps of the St. Louis postmaster upon the original covers in this article bear the numerals to signify the rate of postage, and the word "Paid," the same as letters did that bore no stamps, and it was these marks the receiving postmaster noticed and not the stamps in governing him in the delivery of the mail.

The stamp was simply a receipt between the party paying the postage and the postmaster, and was recognized no further.

This was the character of the early postmasters' stamps of New York, Brattleboro, St. Louis and others.

The first of the postmasters' stamps was issued by the New York postmaster on July 14th, 1845; the stamp of the Brattleboro, Vt. postmaster was probably issued later the same year, and the stamps of the St. Louis, Mo., postmaster were issued in November, 1845, and first announced in the daily press of that city upon the fifth of that month.[3]

The city of St. Louis at that time contained a population of about 50,000. Mr. John M. Wimer was the postmaster appointed in 1845 and succeeded Mr. S. B. Churchill, with headquarters at 87 Chestnut Street.

He had engaged Mr. J. M. Kershaw, proprietor of the Western Card and Seal Engraving Establishment, of 34 North Second Street, the leading engravers in the city to engrave two stamps—a 5c. and a 10c. denomination.

These were engraved on an ordinary copper visiting-card plate, the design of each denomination being repeated three times upon the plate. Modern duplicating methods were unknown to St. Louis engravers at that time, so that each of the six stamps were engraved separately and each has its individual characteristics.

The first installment of stamps printed from this plate consisted of 500 sheets and was on a greenish wove paper.

Very soon after the issuance of these stamps the postmaster realized the need of a stamp of higher denomination.

The double rate at that time for any letter destined to a point over 300 miles from St. Louis was 20 cents.

From the evidence of the stamps before us to-day the plate was altered, the

2. The following letter was first printed in the *American Journal of Philately*.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Contract Office, August 1st, 1842.

SIR:—

By an order made on Saturday, but journalized to-day, the Postmaster-General has established a letter-carrier arrangement for the City of New York, to be called the "United States City Despatch Post" for the conveyance of letters from one part of the city to another, subject to a charge on each letter of three cents, under the 20th section of the Act of 1836, and authorizes you to employ Alex M Greig, nominated by you as letter carrier; other carriers are to be appointed from time to time as may be required, and you are requested to nominate for that purpose. And you are also authorized to obtain the necessary fixtures, pouches, boxes, labels, stamps, etc., at not exceeding $1,200.00 for the whole and to appoint a clerk to superintend said establishment at not exceeding $1,000 per annum. You will be pleased to report the date of commencement of this arrangement.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
S. R. HOBBIE,
First Ass't Postmaster-General.

JOHN LORIMER GRAHAM,
Postmaster, New York.

3. The *Missouri Republican* November 5th, 1845, contained the following notice:

LETTER STAMPS. Mr. Wimer, the postmaster, has prepared a set of letter stamps, or rather marks, to be put upon letters, indicating that the postage has been paid. In this he has copied after the plan adopted by the postmaster of New York and other cities. These stamps are engraved to represent the Missouri Coat of Arms, and are five and ten cents. They are so prepared that they may be stuck upon a letter like a wafer and will prove a great convenience to merchants and all those having many letters to send post paid, as it saves all trouble of paying at the post-office. They will be sold as they are sold in the East, viz.: Sixteen five-cent stamps and eight ten-cent stamps for a dollar. We would recommend merchants and others to give them a trial.

And a few days later in the same paper of November 13th, 1845, we again read:

POST-OFFICE STAMPS. Mr. Wimer, the postmaster, requests us to say that he will furnish nine ten-cent stamps and eighteen five-cent stamps for one dollar, the difference being required to pay for the printing of the stamps.

two 5c. stamps in the upper left hand corner of the plate were altered to 20 cents stamps.

Before altering, the plate was probably laid flat upon a hard surface, face downwards, the back hammered at the point the alteration was desired until the surface was flush, after which the new numerals were engraved, and the surrounding points affected by the hammering were retouched.

Mr. Kershaw some twenty five years after denied having altered this plate to the 20 cents values, but it may have been done by some other engraver or by an assistant in his shop.

The work of the numerals 20 do not resemble the work on the other numerals.[4]

From this altered plate 500 sheets were also printed, some of them on the same greenish paper as the first lot, but mostly on a grey-bluish paper similar in character but of a harder and thinner character, and one on which the ink did not set as well.

After this second installment of stamps that were probably issued early in 1846, the use of stamps probably became more popular and the postmaster found that he was short of the 5 cents value—the first printing had given him 1,500 5 cents stamps and the second only 500.

As a result the plate was again manipulated and the 20 cents values re-altered to 5 cents stamps.

The supply of 20 cents stamps had probably proved poor stock and remained largely unsold.

The work on the plate in the third condition was clearly the work of the same engraver who originally made the stamps, although there is a marked difference in the formation in minor points.

This last printing probably consisted of 500 sheets[5] and was on a very thin transparent, almost *pelure*, paper, that was otherwise very much of the same character and appearance to the paper common to the second printing.

As each printing of St. Louis stamps was practically on a different paper, very few of the second impressions, it is believed, having been on the first paper, the scarcity of all specimens may now be understood by those who are endeavoring to plate the stamps, and there is reason enough if there were no more than 500 printed of any variety, varieties of paper considered.

It is very probable that but very few of the 20 cents stamps were ever used, and that most of the 5 cents and 10 cents stamps of the last printing on the thin paper were on hand when their use was discontinued.

What became of these remainders and the plate is problematical.

If they were most likely destroyed at the time, if not they were possibly lost with the effects of the Wimer family that were sunk in a Mississippi steamboat disaster during the war. If not lost at this time and if among the private papers of Mr. Wimer, they would have been seized by the Government, as he was a "suspected Confederate" in 1863 and arrested, his private papers confiscated and himself imprisoned at Alton, Ill., from which place he escaped two weeks later.

The use of these stamps of the St. Louis postmaster was entirely optional, and they never became very popular with the exception of a few large firms.

The writer has examined a number of files of letters written from St. Louis in 1845, 1846 and 1847 without finding a single stamp thereon.

It is a remarkable fact that most of the stamps that have been discovered were attached to letters from two firms, or were letters from individuals employed, or members of the families of people that were connected in some way with these two business houses, Wm. Nisbet

4. A ST. LOUIS SYMPOSIUM, by John K. Tiffany, published in 1894, page 10:
Compared with the other values the numerals of the twenty cents are very different from the others, not only in being of a very different type but also in their execution. To repeat Mr. Kershaw's statement that he never engraved them is to express my own opinion, and while he is positive that the plates never left his possession until the use of these stamps had long ceased, it is quite possible that his recollection is faulty in this particular also. The directory of the period shows that there was another plate engraver in St. Louis at the time. It would seem possible, shall I say probable, that Mr. Wimer being responsible for the value of all stamps printed from this plate would naturally have taken it into his own custody, and that the second printing was made by another. But even if the work was done in Mr. Kershaw's establishment it is not impossible that an assistant made the alteration of the plate.

5. THE HISTORY OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES, by John K. Tiffany, published in 1887, page 39:
The engraver thinks he printed about 500 sheets, at three different times, upon such paper as he happened to have at hand, and that as the plate deteriorated easily, he probably retouched it slightly each time in parts, before printing.

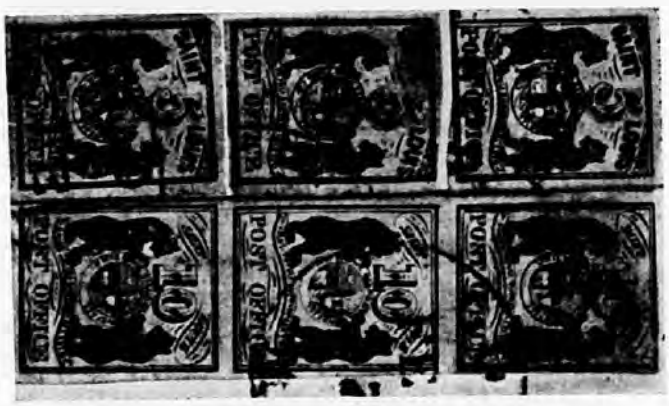


Plate I.

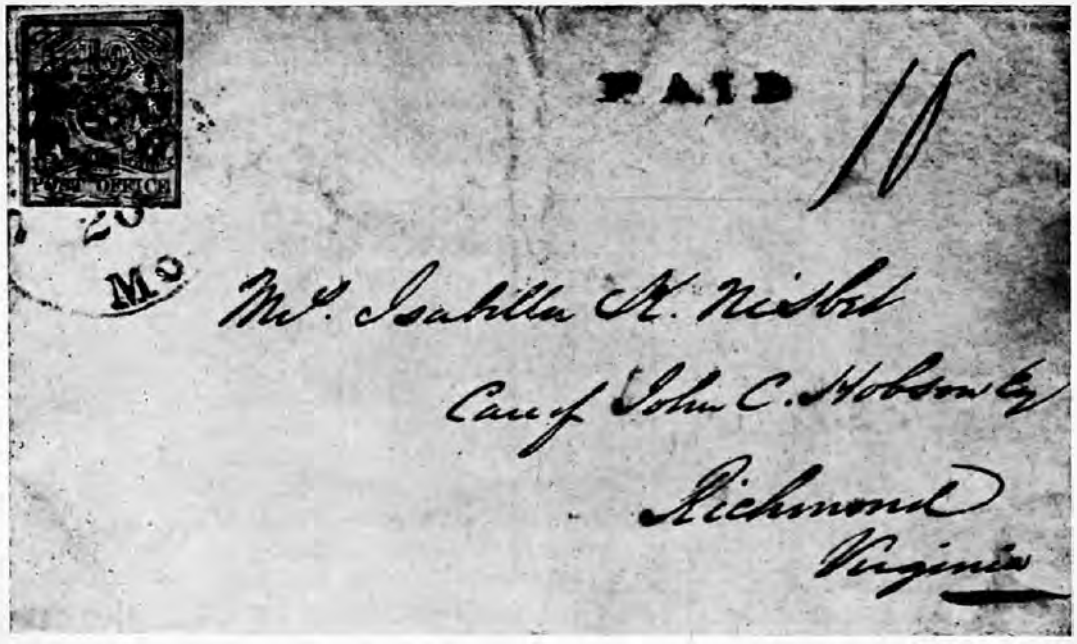
Plate II.

Plate III.

& Co., Private Bankers and Crow & McCreery, later Crow, McCreery & Barksdale, Wholesale Dry Goods Merchants. The stamps that were discovered in the famous Louisville find of last summer were on the correspondence of the banking firm above mentioned.

Mr. Deats has in his collection a 10c. stamp on the original cover from the Sanford collection, that is used in the illustration of this article. This is a personal letter from Mr. Wm. Nisbet, of the above banking firm, addressed to his mother, and is particularly interesting on account of the early date, that of mailed from St. Louis during the years that these stamps were in use.

These facts go to show that the stamps were used by some people quite extensively, while others ignored them altogether, preferring to adhere to the old custom of prepaying the letters in the old way at the Post-office. Of course, the use of these stamps being optional, and simply as a matter of convenience for those who had adopted the new idea, their actual use was very much more limited than would be supposed from the size of St. Louis at that time and the volume of its mail business.



Postmarked November 20 (1845). From the collection of Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J.

November 20th, 1845 while the first announcement of the issue of the stamps was made November 5th. This stamp is, of course, on the first green paper, characteristic in every way of the first printing and of the early condition of the plate.

The writer has personally examined many letter files containing correspondence from St. Louis during the years of 1845-6-7, and has always been disappointed with regard to stamps In fact I have never found a single specimen of the St. Louis stamps by individual research, while I have probably examined no less than a thousand letters

In another part of this article I will mention more particularly, the "find" of St. Louis stamps that was made in Louisville, Kentucky, during the past summer. This correspondence was most all addressed to Messrs. Tyler & Rutherford, from the the firm of Wm. Nisbet & Co. of St. Louis, an Exchange and Banking House. A number of these letters bore extraordinary rates of postage, some as high as 50 cents. Many of the letters were exceedingly brief, considering the large size of the covers. One of them may be given as follows:

"ST. LOUIS, Jan. 29, 1847.

"MESSRS. TYLER & RUTHERFORD,

"*Gentlemen*—Please to forward by safest and quickest opportunity, the enclosed letter to A. Hamilton, N. O.

"Yours truly,

"WM. NISBET & Co."

Other letters contained drafts and checks for collection, and some as many as three and four letters to be forwarded to parties in New Orleans and other important points in the South. Considering the geographical location of St. Louis, Louisville and New Orleans, this now appears strange to us, and without advancing any theory on the subject, I took an opportunity of interviewing a gentleman who was one of the active business men of St. Louis in the years of 1845-6-7, Mr. Francis Lepere. Mr. Lepere belongs to one of the oldest families of this city, and was at that time engaged in the wholesale grocery business. In later years he became interested in philately, and today his son, Mr. Wm. H. Lepere, is one of the most enthusiastic and active philatelists in this city.

Mr. Francis Lepere states that the time the stamps were in use, was of course long before he had taken any interest in philately, in fact, his firm was not one of those who adopted their use, they preferring to adhere to the old way of paying postage at the post-office at the time the letters were deposited, and having same marked "Paid," and forwarded in the old way; so that with regard to the stamps themselves he could give me no new information regarding their early history. His account, however, of the commercial relations of St. Louis with other American cities at that time was most valuable and interesting to me.

St. Louis at that time was secondary commercially to Cincinnati, and Louisville was a very important commercial city, being on the highway between New York and New Orleans, practically the gateway to the Southwest. Much of the trade went through that city to and from New Orleans by way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. A very fast line of steamers was then being run between Louisville and St. Louis; the more important lines of steamers between New Orleans and the North came up the Mississippi to the junction of the Ohio and then on to Louisville, so that it would be a very natural course for a merchant in St. Louis having business relations with New Orleans to send his remittances, collections and important matters of business through his Louisville correspondent, who would be in much closer and quicker relations with New Orleans than the St. Louis merchant by direct river communication.

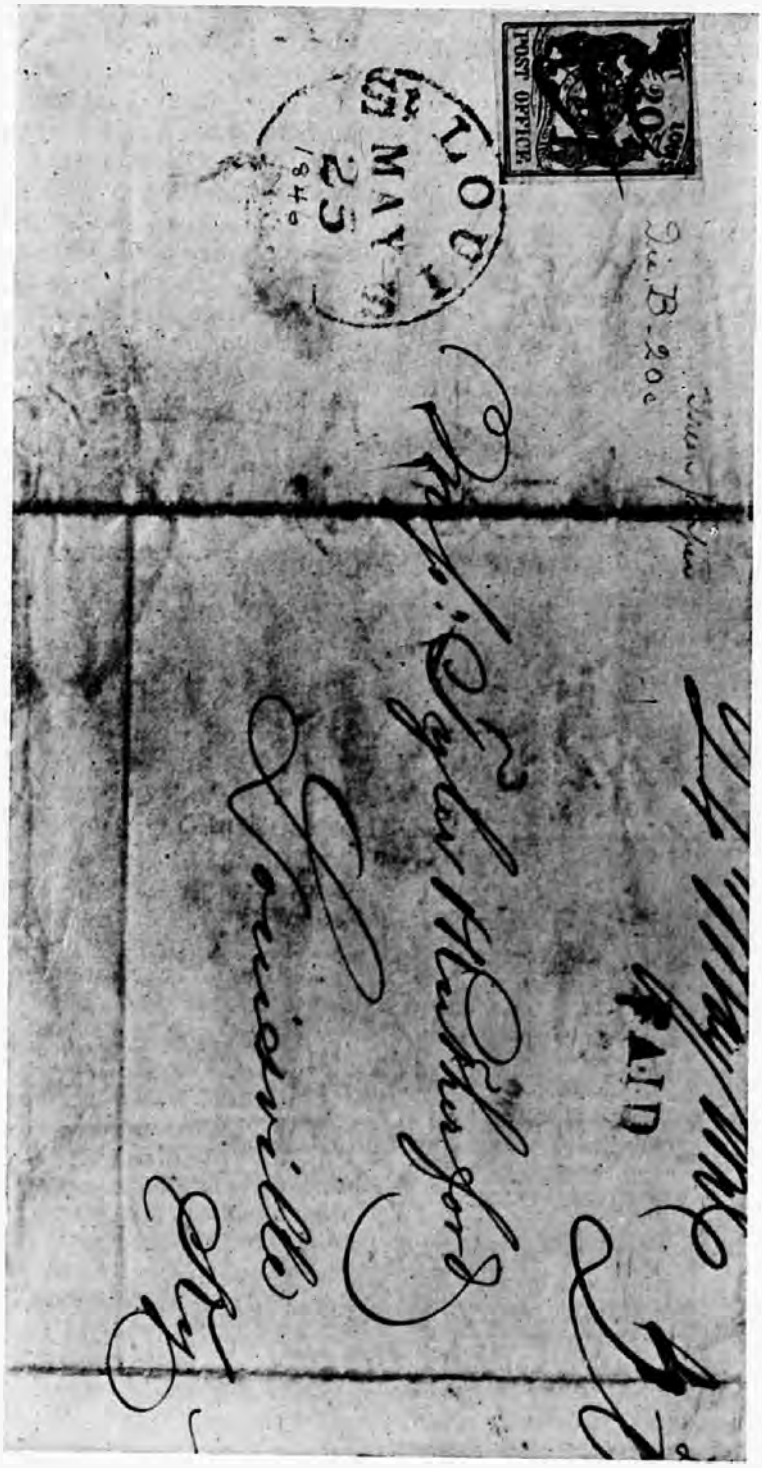
This was in the days before the railroads had come into this Western country, and most all of the trade and business was conducted by the steamers on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, so that the character of this correspondence between St. Louis and Louisville becomes plain to us when explained by a citizen of those early days. It was particularly gratifying to me to find a gentleman who was so eminently fitted to inform me with regard to the early commercial relations of these cities, and one who is a philatelist.

Mr. Francis Lepere was a correspondent of Mr. Wm. P. Brown, the New York dealer, at the time of the first discovery of the stamps by philatelists in 1863, and Mr. Brown wrote to him at about that time for information, and he remembers of interviewing Mr. Kershaw, the engraver, and others, with regard to the stamps on behalf of Mr. Brown.

Philatelical. Although statements conflicting with the following facts have recently been published,[6] the earliest philatelic mention of the St. Louis stamps was made in November, and again in December, 1863, in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, the 10 cents stamp being briefly described[7] in a list of U.

6. The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, Sept. 1895, Vol. VI, p. 79: "The St. Louis stamps were first described in *Le Timbrophile* and more fully noted September, 1863, in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*."
In as much as the first number of *Le Timbrophile* was published November, 1864, the inaccuracy is apparent.

7. The *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Nov. 1, 1863, Vol. I, p. 152:
In a list of U. S. local stamps by C. W. Viner, A. M., Ph. D. and also in the same paper, Dec. 1, 1863, Vol. I., p. 171, in a list of U. S. local postage stamps the following is repeated:
"*St. Louis Post-office* [Device supported by bears]. Black imp. Rect. 10 cents."



20 c. Die 2 (old Die B.) on the *first* paper, the only specimen known. Postmarked May 25 (1846).

20c. Die 1 (old Die C,) on second paper, the only 20c. other than the one on opposite page, known on original cover. Postmarked July 25 (1846).

5c. Dies 4 and 5 (Re-engraved B and C,) on *thin* paper, dated 1847. Above is an exceedingly rare envelope and would sell readily at over $5,000.

5c. Dies 5 and 6 (Re-engraved B, and Retouched A,) an unsevered pair, on *thin* paper. Dated February 4th, 1847. Equally as rare and valuable as the above.

S. local stamps. The 5 cents stamp was not known in Europe, however, until June, 1864,[8] when Mr. Fred. A. Philbrick secured the 5 cents from Mount Brown for 6 shillings. Mr. Philbrick had previously secured the 10 cents from the collection of Rev. F. J. Stainforth, who had acquired it from an American collection rich in early U. S., the stamp being priced to him at 5 shillings 6 pence. A second die of the 10 cents came to Mr. Philbrick's collection from Mr. de Saulcy. As late as April, 1867 the 10 cents was the only value mentioned in a list of the postage stamps of the United States in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*. In March the following year the two values were illustrated in that periodical.

Mr. L. W. Durbin was a resident of St. Louis in 1869 and wrote an interesting account of the early history of the stamps for the *American Journal of Philately*.[9] This contained an error in the name of the postmaster that was only partially corrected in a later number.[10] The character of these stamps had been assailed by certain papers, especially the French.[11]

8. Above date is given in error June, 1862, in a letter published in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Nov. 1, 1869, p. 175. It is correctly given in a letter published in the same paper February 1, 1870, p 29.

9. From the *American Journal of Philately*, April 20, 1869, Vol. II, p. 48.

To the Editor.

SIR:—Through the columns of your valuable "Journal," I beg leave to advance a few arguments in defense of the two stamps, which, next to my Reunions (and a few others of the same class), I prize most for their rarity. The St. Louis P. O. stamps, viz.: 5 and 10 cents were engraved and used during the administration of Mr. John H. Hymer, but the exact date of their emission cannot be determined, as Mr. Hymer and his successor in office are dead, and the books of the engraver were destroyed during the late war.

The engraver, J. W. Kershaw, recognized the stamps the moment he laid his eyes on them, and remarked: "I have not seen one before in twenty years." He told me he had engraved them by order of Mr. Hymer for the use of the St. Louis Post-office. The gentleman who officiated at the stamp window during Hymer's administration and who still holds the same position, remembered distinctly of seeing the stamps, and seeing them on letters sent from this office. It is now difficult to get much information in regard to them but the above evidence is sufficient to establish the one and important fact that the stamps were sold to the public, and used by them for the purpose of prepaying letters, and as such are as justly entitled to a place in our albums, as many others whose official origin is not less obscure than the St. Louis stamps, but nevertheless are counted among the choice specimens of a good collection. Would any collector dare to refuse a wood-block Mauritius, because the order for its emission has not emanated from the British Home Office, but only from the Colonial Postmaster? The large provisional 6 annas India, converted from a revenue to a postal label by order of the Local Postmaster during a temporary scarcity of the regular emissions, is accepted by all; and yet, I think, if the full history of St Louis stamps could be collected, it would show that they were issued under the same circumstances, *i. e.*, that the supply of the U. S. 5 and 10 cent stamps had become exhausted, or was not sufficient to meet the demand. The St. Louis Historical Society desiring to place among the mementoes of the past history of St. Louis the plate of St. Louis stamps, made an effort a short time since to procure it, but without success. They, however, know that the stamps had once been in use at this Post-office. The engraver has made several efforts to find the plate: so far without success. All trace of it is lost after it left his hands, and it must either have been destroyed by the Postmaster, or, when the building, which was then occupied by the Post-office Department, was torn down. There is then no probable chance for a reprint, and might it not be from this cause that some collector in St. Louis has seen fit to throw doubts upon these stamps, because he could not procure a set to adorn his own album? I only know of perhaps a dozen sets in existence. I have examined six of each denomination and could discover no difference between any of the 5 cents, but found two varieties of the 10 cents. They are printed from a copper plate on thin, bluish paper, and canceled with pen strokes. All of them were taken from letters that had passed through the St. Louis Post-office.

Mons. Moens, in the last edition of his beautiful album, has acknowledged them, and under the heading of United States inserted an engraving of each value. A description is therefore unnecessary, as anyone can (if they have not the genuine) inspect the fac-similes in the above work. I have become very much interested in these two "bits of paper," and if I can gain any more authentic information in regard to them, will give it to your readers, but I think enough evidence has been produced to show that they have without doubt performed the duty of a *postage stamp*. And though they may not have been authorized by special act of Congress, we are in duty bound (as postage stamp collectors) to give them a place in our collections.

Yours very respectfully,

LEON W. DURBIN.

"We differ from our correspondent in regard to the occasion of their use, as they were certainly used one year before any general issue for the United States ever appeared, and consider it more likely that the postmasters of the large cities of New York and St. Louis finding it nearly impossible to transact their business without stamps, caused them to be prepared for use in their cities, and they were recognized by all other postmasters as a receipt for payment.

"The difference in the 10c. stamp consists in the flourishes surrounding the design. It is more noticeable under the name Saint Louis, there being six dashes in one and only three in the variety."

10. From the *American Journal of Philately*, Vol. II., May 20, 1869, p. 64:

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR:—Please correct in your next the name of the P. M. mentioned in my article on the St. Louis stamps. It is Wymer, not Hymer. Yours truly, L. W. DURBIN.

Editor's Note.—The correct name was "*Wimer*."

11. The first mention of the St. Louis stamps in *Le Timbrophile* was in January, 1868, and is given below in French and English. This paper published in April 1868 an article by "Albis" seeking to discredit the stamps principally upon the strength of a letter from Judge Holmes, called "Judge H.," which shows how little the stamps were really known even in St. Louis, as Judge Holmes an old and prominent citizen and a member of the Missouri Historical Society.

Le Timbrophile, January, 1868. Vol. IV., p. 311.

LE VIEUX NEUF.

SAINT LOUIS. L'excellent catalogue que nous devons à M. Berger-Levrault a mis en lumière deux timbres très-peu connus et que, pour ce motif, nous nous empressons de mettre sous les yeux de nos lecteurs.

Ces deux timbres ont été émis par l'Etat de Saint Louis officiellement et doivent être considérés comme des plus authentiques. Inutile de dire qu'ils sont de la plus grand rareté et que très-peu d'amateurs sans doute arriveront à les posséder. Les originaux qui nous ont servi appartiennent à M. Ph. Ils sont imprimés en noir sur couleur.

5 cents, vert gris.
10 —— blanc.

NEWLY-DISCOVERED OLD ISSUES.

ST. LOUIS. The excellent catalogue which we owe to M. Berger-Levrault has brought to light two stamps very little known, and which for that reason we illustrate for our readers.

These two stamps were issued by the State (sic) of St. Louis officially, and must be considered as quite authentic. It is unnecessary to say that they are of the greatest rarity, and that very few amateurs will succeed in possessing them. The originals we have used for illustrations belong to Mr. Ph. They are printed in black on color. Five cents, greyish-green: 10 cents, white.

Mr. Durbin discovered a second type of the 10c. stamp and Mr. E. L. Pemberton a second type of the 5c.[12]

Up to 1869 these stamps were all very scarce; in that year a lot turned up in New York consisting of one hundred 10 cents, fifty 5 cents and three 20 cents stamps. This lot was purchased by Mr. J. W. Scott, and the result of his study of the rarities was published in the *American Journal of Philately*.[13] He there

12. From *The Philatelist*, September 1, 1869:

THE LOCAL STAMPS OF ST. LOUIS. BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON. When we know but little concerning any rarity, a paper which can add to our knowledge should be acceptable; so we, knowing so little of the stamps of St. Louis, feel somewhat indebted to the writer of a letter, signed Leon W. Durbin, which appeared in *The American Journal of Philately* for April last. He gives some very good evidence in their favor, the best of which, however, is that he has identified two dies for the 10c.; he had opportunities for examining six specimens of each value (5c. and 10c.), but found all the 5c. alike. On comparing three copies of the 10c., we identified the two dies which Mr. Durbin points out, but on examining four of 5c., we were much pleased to find that there were specimens from two different dies also amongst them, and these dies for each value we will examine in detail. The 5c. and 10c. are from different dies, and of each value two varieties have now been identified. This circumstance is perhaps the best evidence we could have for their genuineness—no forger would make so many dies when a single one would answer every purpose of swindling. They are engraved on copper plate, and as they were apparently only a temporary issue, it may be that there were only a pair of each engraved. From the number examined by Mr. Durbin and myself, it does not seem probable that more dies exist than two for each value. The following are the salient points of difference between the double dies:

FIVE CENTS.

DIE A.	DIE B.
1. The buckle (to garter in centre) turns down, to the right side.	1. Points up, to the left side.
2. Strokes over ST. LOUIS: Eleven over SAINT, and ten over LOUIS, one of which extends beyond (cuts through) the outer line of frame.	2. Nine over SAINT, and eight over LOUIS. (The nine are not clearly defined, and might be taken to be two less.)
3. Ball to lower half of figure 5, has a round black mark of shading.	3. Ball of the 5 without black mark, and the ball and curve of the figure are bolder.
4. Outline of garter unsteady.	4. Outline clear and sharp.
5. Motto in garter, UNITE (sic) WE STAND, DIVIDE WE FALL, first W very bad.	5. V of DIVIDE is V. LL of FALL have double upright strokes and are miserably shaped.
6. Motto in scroll, SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX ESTO, reads LEX E STO.	6. Reads LEXE STO.
7. The upper right end of the scroll goes through frame. &c., &c.	7. This end does not touch the frame. &c., &c.

TEN CENTS.

DIE A.	DIE B.
1. Outline of garter unsteady.	1. Outline clear and sharp.
2. No buckle to garter, so that it appears simply a double circle.	2. No buckle either.
3. WE (WE FALL) reads NE FALL.	3. Reverse.
4. UNITE.—UNI touch upper outline of garter.	4. Reverse.
5. POPULI,—PULI, U short, LI long.	5. Reverse
6. Three single flourishes under POST-OFFICE.	6. Three double flourishes under POST-OFFICE.

The above is *literatim*, punctuation, spelling, capitals, etc., etc

13. *From American Journal of Philately*, Vol. III., January 20, 1870, p 10:

ST. LOUIS. These stamps have probably attained more notoriety than any of the series. They were first noticed by the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* in 1863, and again in 1867, but the editor remarks that "unfortunately he has never been able to get even a glance at one." About a year after, the same paper gives engravings of two varieties, the 5 and 10 cent stamps, which were taken from another paper, but still without being able to see one himself, which will give some idea of their scarcity. They were first noticed in *Le Timbrophile* in the same year (1868), and a few months afterwards appeared a letter in the same paper denying their authenticity, but the writer after filling up a page or so with his opinions and experience, proves but one thing, and that is, that he is totally unacquainted with geography and English, as he supposes that they were used as a "trade mark or advertisement."

In the September number of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* we find it stated that a member of the New York Philatelic Society had sent the editor a specimen of the 10-cent stamp for his inspection, and also a letter from a gentleman in St. Louis, which gives some valuable information, which, strange to say, has been entirely overlooked. He states the engraver "prepared two plates each, containing six stamps," from which we should infer that there were six varieties of each, but after years of labor and search, we have been unable to discover more than three varieties of each stamp, and so conclude that the second plate was merely a transfer of the first, which contained three 5-cent and three 10-cent stamps each engraved separately.

To Mr. L. W. Durbin belongs the honor of discovering the second die of 10-cent, while Mr. Pemberton first noticed the variety of the 5-cent, and after careful study and examining a number of specimens, we have discovered another die of each.

For the benefit of our younger readers we will give a description of the design, which consists of the arms of Missouri, surmounted with the numeral of value, ST. LOUIS above, POST-OFFICE below. The variety in the 5-cent consists of the following differences, which are quite sufficient to distinguish them by, although in comparison many minor variations can easily be discerned.

DIE A.	DIE B.	DIE C.
1. The buckle (to garter in centre) turns down to the left side.	1. The buckle points down to the right side.	1. Same as Die B.
2. Corner ornament over LOUIS formed of eight strokes.	2. Ten strokes over LOUIS.	2. Seventeen strokes over LOUIS.
3. Bear in shield, on ground of vertical lines.	3. Same as Die A.	3. Bear standing on ground of horizontal lines with vertical lines above.

The distinguishing marks of the three dies of the 10-cent may be set down as follows:

DIE A.	DIE B.	DIE C.
Three dashes under POST-OFFICE.	Six dashes under POST-OFFICE.	Eighteen dashes and dots under POST-OFFICE.

But the greatest discovery we have to lay before our readers consists in the finding another value, namely, a 20-cent stamp. The first time we saw it, we had but a slight look at it and thought it was a counterfeit; afterwards on closer examination we came to the conclusion that it had been altered from a 5-cent stamp, the 5 having been scratched out and a 20 put in by hand, it being formed so badly, but after soaking it off the paper, and holding it up to the light, we could find no difference in the thickness of the

described the three varieties of each, 5 cents and 10 cents, and correctly explained the existence of the two types of the 20 cents stamps as having been altered from two types of the 5 cents. The discovery of this lot of 5 cents and 10 cents as well as the 20 cents value was treated by Mons. Moens in his usual conservative style.[14]

Later that able philatelist, Mr. E. L. Pemberton, having specimens of all known varieties before him, prepared an elaborate article upon the subject that was published in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.[15] His work was indeed a great credit to him as a philatelist.

Mr. Pemberton had every variety before him except the re-altered 5 cents die C., and in light of later study it is

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paper. We, however, would not have pronounced it genuine on that specimen, but the same party having two more specimens, we compared them carefully, and find that two of them are exactly alike, and have evidently been altered from the original plate (DIE C). On the other the figure 20 is slightly different and is altered from (DIE B). From slight marks found on them, we are of opinion that the original dies of the 5-cent stamp was altered to 20, or at least two of them.

14. *Le Timbre Poste*, February, 1870, Vol. VIII., No. 86, p. 12.

SAINT LOUIS. On a fait tant de bruit autour de ces timbres qu'il vient enfin d'en arriver quelques-uns en Angleterre. (Une vingtaine de séries, dit-on. Mettons cinquante pour ne pas être en dessous du chiffre.) Ce qu'il y a de plus drôle, c'est qu'on nous signale un 20 cent! On a nié l'éxistence des 5 et 10 cents; croira-t-on au 20 cent? Nous en doutons fortement.

ST. LOUIS. Such a fuss has been made about these stamps that a few (twenty sets, they say: let us put it at fifty so as not to be under the mark) have just arrived in England. The very funny part of the matter is, that a 20 cents is mentioned. The existence of the 5 and 10 cents has been denied. Shall we put faith in the 20 cents? We have great doubts about them.

15. From the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Vol. IX., January, 1871, p. 11:

THE THREE STAMPS OF ST. LOUIS. AN INVESTIGATION BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON. "We have had a lull in the storm brought about by these stamps. Mr. Philbrick's letter, in February last, appears to have silenced disbelievers, if it has not convinced them. Since then I have had the only known specimens of the resuscitated 20c., three in number, handed to me for examination. The discovery of this value was quite unlooked for by anyone, and to me was pregnant with suspicion, which, convinced as I was of the authenticity of those 5 and 10c. on thin paper, which I had known for years, tended to the inference that the recently offered 5 and 10c. on thicker bluish and greenish paper, had some mystery in their origin, and so indeed it did appear. Of course I regarded these three 20c. with great doubt. On a cursory examination I found they had been printed from two altered dies of the 5c.; and I further found that in two specimens of 5c. from one of these dies there were discrepancies in the numeral and the trifling strokes, etc., around it, and also in the head of one of the bears. This did not ease my perplexity, but I could do nothing until I had more specimens to examine, for one 5c. was on the thin paper, the other on the thicker greenish, the 20c. from this 5c. resembling both in certain points. I therefore borrowed all the specimens I could, and on a careful comparison proved the 20c. stamp, as well as the other 5 and 10c. on the thicker paper, to be genuine, entirely to my satisfaction. I began as a sceptic, but ended a believer, having convinced myself against my own prior judgment."

After what has been written, it is a useless waste of time to go all through the history and causes of issue of the St. Louis stamps. At foot are references to all the principal mention made of them in this magazine. The first notice of them is at page 152, Vol. I. (Nov., 1863), where the 10c. is given. On page 171 (of the same volume) the 10c. is quoted in Mr. Lesley's famous paper. Although the next notice appears so long after as April, 1867 (p. 50), only the 10c. is given, and it was not till March, 1868 (page 34), that the two values were chronicled together. This is curious, as showing their excessive rarity in Europe, and, but for the enterprise of Mr. J. W. Scott and Mr. Durbin, they might have remained almost unknown. They were beyond doubt, in use in 1845, and were engraved at the instance of the postmaster, Mr. John H. Hymer (not Wymer), by Mr. Kershaw of St. Louis. He, speaking from memory, says this happened in 1848, and that he then engraved six of each value. The date has been shown to be 1845 (the New York 5c. "post-office" was in use then, *if not before*). As to the six types of each, these have not been disproved, though I may state I can only identify three of each. I see that in February last I mentioned having found a fourth of the 10c., but I can not verify this now, and fear it must be an error made by me in comparing the descriptions I published in *The Philatelist* (for September, 1869), with specimens obtained afterwards; for I now write with all the specimens I ever had before me.

In this examination I have examined thirteen 5c., and twelve 10c.; ten of these twenty-five came across the Atlantic, lent by the kindness of Dr. Petrie: altogether I had a number of specimens never seen together in England. I will take the 5c. value first, giving the differences between the three distinct types, and, afterwards, the differences between the first and last states of each of those types, as far as I have found them.

A good magnifier is necessary in the following examinations: The dies of 5c., with which I am acquainted, are three; two of these, after being worked for a time are altered to 20c., but this value being evidently little wanted, the altered twenties were turned back again into fives; whether the third die was ever altered to 20c. I have not been able to determine, neither have I found traces of more than three out of the *six* dies of 5c., stated to have been made by the engraver. I have not seen enough of them, however, to be sure that no other exists.

FIVE CENTS.

I.—Eleven strokes over SAINT; ten over LOUIS, one of which cuts through the frame. Eagle very deeply shaded, lettering thin and very uneven. Scroll at base has a double outline to the right ends, and, in addition, these ends touch the frame.

II.—Twelve strokes over SAINT, sixteen over LOUIS. Eagle slightly shaded. Lettering in garter thick and more even. Lettering in scroll, P of SUPREMA very small, X very low down, E after it seems very unfinished; second P of POPULI has a line down it and might be anything. Scroll not as in I.

III.—Six strokes over SAINT; eight over LOUIS, the top and bottom ones being long strokes. Eagle leans to the right. Lettering thin and queer. D of STAND, and first D of DIVIDE very rough, V of ditto is a Y, LL of FALL double lines.

The above points do not touch upon the figures, because the numeral of value is the great differing point between the 5-c. as first engraved, and the same stamp after alteration, and then re-engraving as 5c. To assist comparison, and identification of varieties from this paper, I have grouped the great points of difference which exist between the first and last 5c. and the intermediate 20c., as thus:—

a. The numeral. There are always large open marks of shading in top and back of the *5*, sometimes in the ball; these I call *marks*, the other shadings I call *dots* in distinction

b. The strokes under SAINT.

c. The strokes under LOUIS.

d. The head of the bear to the right side of the stamp.

e. The two lines of frame above numeral.

These will be found to embrace all the points which differ.

DIE I.

First state of die, 5c.

a. Marks thus: a triangle in top, a diamond in back, with four dots above, and nine below it, ball blank.

b. Four strokes, one long, two shorter, with one speck below, and just over the bear's paw is a vertical mark.

c. One very long, three short; of these two come above and two below point of bear's ear.

d. Bear's ears pointed and shaded, the paw on garter is also shaded. Forehead projecting and rounded, leaving a depression above snout. Snout rounded at end, and it and the whole head is heavily shaded.

Second state of die, 20c.

b. Four strokes, but bolder and closer than above, the vertical stroke over (left) bear's paw nearly erased.

c. Strokes deeper and more regular, the third stroke (downwards) on a level with the bear's ear. L of LOUIS has been re-engraved.

a wonder that his theory did not have greater weight with philatelists.

The manner in which the stamps were handled and the way their sponsor was regarded may have had something to do with the reception of the 20 cents.

d. Ears obtuse, straighter, and the left one unshaded. Snout square, it, and the whole head, less shaded. Bear's paw on garter is erased.

e. Inner line of frame half erased between SAINT and LOUIS.

Third state of die, 5c.

a. Mark thus: In top a diamond, in back a long diamond with four dots above and four below, in ball a black mark. Shading around figure much coarser than in first, and by the back is one vertical curved line, the outline of the right side of the O of the 20, which was not cleverly erased.

b. Lines and marks four, graduating, the second sinuous, and touches the bear's ear.

c. Three, one long, two short, the last level with bear's ear. L of LOUIS a trifle longer and more slanting than in the others.

d. Head, ears, etc., as last; the paw on the garter is only outlined.

e. Bulges a little, showing where re-engraved.

DIE II.

First state, 5c.

N. B.—Not having the third state, I can only describe the first as it stands with reference to the second state, *i. e.*, the 20-cent.

a. Marks are these: A diamond in top, an upright diamond in back with eleven dots below, thus above are hidden by the postmark in this, the only specimen I have seen. It is a very fine early copy, with the curious feather-like strokes over SAINT and LOUIS very clear under a magnifier—sharp as can be. I am convinced that the figure 5 on this was originally engraved 1, whether by accident or design I cannot say, but the straight or down stroke of the 5 shows a thin line to its right, and at top, in the top of the 5, are three minute dots in a curve, to the right of the diamond mark; whilst to the left are two, equally small, one over the other.

b. Four—one long, three short.

c. Four—one long, two short, and one speck on a level between the ear and the eye of the bear on that side.

Second state of die, 20c.

b. One long and one short.

c. Two top ones half gone, third quite gone, but the speck is there.

e. Inner line gone from T to L, and a smaller piece of the outer frame.

Third state of die, 5c.

I have never found; doubtless it exists.

DIE III.

Of this die all I have seen (six in number) are alike, save that some have a clear mark in ball of figure, whilst others have the ball blank. The last are the earliest, those with mark are later, and possibly were so altered when the two 5c. above were engraved in their last states. I have never found any other differences, or anything pointing to the existence of a 20c. from this die.

First state of die, 5c.

a. Marks are these: a long diamond in top, a misshapen one in back with four dots, and nine below it, ball with a slight speck. Later this was engraved deeply, becoming a transverse pear-shaped mark.

b. Four, one long, two short and one speck.

c. Four, one long and deep, three shorter, of which the middle one is smallest.

This finishes the 5 and 20c. specimens at my disposal. The existence of the third state 5c., Die I. on one of the well-known old copies, is an argument which clinches the genuineness of the 20c., and consequently of the later-found specimens of dies I., II. and III., on thickish paper, of the first states.

TEN CENTS.

Of this value I have identified three dies. As they have never been altered (to my knowledge), the simple differences as given below, will suffice to distinguish one die from the other.

Die I.—Three curved lines at foot: at *b*, five; at *c*, four strokes.

Die II.—Three curved lines with a smaller stroke over each, at foot: at *b*, four: at *c*, four strokes.

Die III.—Three curved lines, with a smaller stroke over each, and with dots added between the two strokes at each and, at foot; at *b*, five (two last are specks); at *c*, five (the last a speck).

An effort to realize upon some of these stamps at auction was referred to in one of the British magazines[16] in 1872.

From this time to 1894 the 20 cents stamp was regarded as a "fake" by such philatelists as Moens, Evans and Tiffany. A solitary specimen had remained in the hands of Mr. Scott the original purchaser of the lot of 1869. In the last year this stamp was sold to a prominent American collector, who had adopted the Pemberton theory. The stamp was loaned by the new owner to Mr. Tiffany for examination and study. In the fall of 1894 the writer of this article picked up from a dealer in New York City a specimen of the re-altered 5 cents, Die C, the very specimen missing to complete the chain in the Pemberton theory.

This stamp had been sold by the dealer as a regular Die C, but was returned to him by the purchaser who had regarded the stamp with suspicion upon the discovery of the points of difference existing in and about the numeral.

This stamp was referred to Mr. Tiffany about the time of the receipt of the above mentioned 20 cents stamp, and several prominent collectors loaned their specimens of St. Louis stamps until twenty-six specimens were accumulated. This was the first time Mr. Tiffany had had an opportunity of examining enough

In conclusion, the earliest specimens of 5 and 10c. were printed on an opaque paper of a delicate greenish-grey tint: later, of a dull grey-blue, getting thinner; and lastly, on a very thin, dull grey paper, more or less transparent. Some copies are shown upon white, but these are copies from which the color has been discharged by chemicals. The three 20c. are in the second-mentioned paper.

16. *Grant's Philatelical Journal*, Vol. I., April, 1872: On March 18th Messrs. Sotheby & Co., at 13 Wellington St., Strand, held "an auction sale in London," which "could only have paid anyone, who, like Mr. Scott, possessed so much which was undeniably required by a few people, or so many specimens of which no one knew anything but himself, and for the goodness of which he alone was answerable." * * * Had the proprietor refrained from bidding for his own property (which it struck us was not a right proceeding), many things would have realized more. * * * This led to a feeling of distrust very early in the sale, and few ventured to bid on for any lot when it was seen that the owner was in opposition to them, for the inevitable consequence appeared, that possession could only be obtained by payment considerably in excess of value. * * * The proper course to adopt is to put reserved prices in the auctioneer's hand. The catalogue appeared to us rather too plentifully sprinkled with eulogies. We observed some pages absolutely bristling with "very scarce," "almost unique," and so often misapplied that the auctioneers reading of the observation frequently created downright laughter.

Lot 15—All three varieties St. Louis, 5c. bought in for.....£2. 13. 0.
Lot 16—All three varieties St. Louis, 10c. bought in for.....£2. 7. 0.
Lot 17—20c., St. Louis, unique, bought in for.....£6. 00. 0.
Lot 18—20c., St. Louis, not unique, bought in for...£8. 12. 0

specimens to prove Mr. Pemberton's theory. The result was a thorough conversion[17] and the able work, "A St. Louis Symposium," was the result.

So much for the published philatelic history of these interesting stamps.

After the great purchase made by Mr. Scott in 1869 referred to above, he mentions[18] a second find of about twenty made in Washington, and a third lot of about twenty-five discovered in a rag-shop in New York in 1889. The letter addressed to Stuart & Co., illustration on page 14, being one of this lot.

The above with the few straggling stamps discovered from time to time included all the St. Louis stamps known until the last famous "find" in Louisville, Ky., consisting of one hundred and thirty-seven specimens—seventy-five 5 cents, forty-six 10 cents, and sixteen 20 cents stamps.

The story of this "find" is published in another part of this number.

These stamps have nearly all been in my possession for study, and about thirty additional specimens from other collections—a total of one hundred and sixty specimens, each of which has been arefully examined for the purposes of his article.

I have also had the privilege of study and consultation with such able and earnest philatelists as Mr. Fred W. Ayer, Mr. Hiram E. Deats and Mr. John K. Tiffany. The magnificent library of the latter gentleman has been at my disposition. By the aid of his Philatelical Index[19] I have been able to read the early printed philatelical history.

17. A ST. LOUIS SYMPOSIUM. By John K. Tiffany, 1894. page:

"My own opinions and information about these stamps, of which I have examined many separately heretofore, as well as my disinclination to indulge in theoretical reasoning, so often substituted when facts cannot be ascertained, have so often appeared in print, that it is hardly necesssary to say that I undertook the investigation with some pretty deeply-rooted ideas about the authenticity of someof these varieties, have reached my present conclusions and hazard some theory now, only after the most thorough and extended examination, and the trial of every test that my long experience, both as a stamp collector and a student of all manner of other counterfeits and forgeries, could suggest as applicable under the circumstances."

18. *The Metropolitan Philatelist*, Vol. VI., No. 6, September, 1895:

"The second considerable find of these stamps consisted of about twenty specimens which were discovered in the banking house of Messrs. Riggs, of Washington: in this lot was a pair of 5c. which remained unique for nearly twenty-five years, when another pair was discovered in New Orleans, we believe. A third lot, consisting we believe, of about twenty specimens, was purchased by Mr. Calman, about 1880.

19. Philatelical Index, compiled by John K. Tiffany, 1880, MSS.

The following reference list is taken:

ST. LOUIS.

2 cents bogus:
Tim., VI., 66, 530, April, 1870.
S. C. M., VIII., 90, 59, 99, July, 1870.

5 cents:
D. P. M., III., 1, 5, January, 1877.
A. J. P., XII., 156, 143, December, 1878.

10 cents:
S. C. M., I., 10, 152, November, 1863.
S. C. M., I., 11, 171, December, 1865.
S. C. R., I., 19, 3, July, 1866.
S. C. M., V., 51, 50, April, 1867.

20 cents:
A. J. P., III., 11, January, 1870.
T. P., VIII., 12, February, 1870.
Phil., IV., 40, 41, March, 1870.
Timb., VI., 67, 536, May, 1870.
A. J. P., III., 29, 61, May, 1870.
P. H. R., I., 3, 39, November, 1874.
P. H. R., I., 3, 33, November, 1874.

5 cents and 10 cents:
C. P. M., I., 2, 12, March, 1867.
A. J. P., II., 16, 48, April, 1867.
A. J. P., II., 17, 64, May, 1867.
Phil., III., 34, 100, September, 1867.
S. C. M., VII., 70, 75, November, 1867.
Timb., VI., 61, 489, November, 1867.
Timb., IV., 39, 311x, January, 1868.
T. P., VI., 61, 5x, January, 1868.
Phil., II., 15, 27x, February, 1868.
Timb., IV., 42, 335, April, 1868.
M. S. C. M., II., 39, July, 1868.
M. S. C. M., II., 6, 61, September, 1868.
Timb., IV., 47, 377, September, 1868.
S. C. M., VI., 68, 141, September, 1868.
S. C. M., VI., 62, 34x, March, 1868.
S. C. M., VI., 65, 86, June, 1868.
T. P., VI., 69, 67, September, 1868.
L. T., I., 7, 2, ——, 1870.
A. J. P., III., 26, 20, February, 1870.
A. J. P. III., 26, 25, February, 1870.
S. C. M., VII., 85, 29, February, 1870.
A. J. P., III., 27, 42, March, 1870.
A. J. P., III., 27, 51, March, 1870.
S. C. M., VIII., 87, 63, April, 1870.
S. C. M., VIII., 89 94, June, 1870.
S. C. M., VIII., 90, 97, July, 1870.
H. H. P. C., I., 3, 22, April, 1882.
T. B. S. J., I., 8, 3, June, 1882.

5 cents, 10 cents and 20 cents.
A. J. P., III., 25, 10, January, 1870.
C. D. T., —— 39, 378, January, 1870.
T. P., VIII., 86, 12, February, 1870.
F. B., I., 8, 61, February, 1870.
Timb., VI., 64, 511, February, 1870.
S. C. M., VIII., 85, 25, February, 1870.
S. C. M., VIII., 85, 31, 1870.
M. S. C. M., IV., 4, 61, April, 1870.
S. C. M., IX., 96, 11, July, 1871.
A. J. P., IV., 46, 113, October, 1871.
L. P. O., I., 2, 15, April, 1872.
Phil., I., 4, 61, April, 1872.
S. C. M., XIII., April, 1872.
T. P., XI., 124, 39, May, 1873
T. P., XI., 125, 44, June, 1875.
Phil., VIII., 79, 72, *June*, 1873.
W. S., I., 1, 4, July, *1873*.
S. C. M., XI., 131, 165, November, 1873.
A. C. H., II., 3, 37, March, 1874.
A. T. P. X., 125, 76, May, 1876.
A. T. P., XI., 133, 3, January, 1877.
S. F. T., II., 3, 10, March, 1877.
S. J., III., IX., 70, September, 1877.
P. Q., II., 5, 18, January, 1878.
Union I., II., 10, February, 1877.
B. C. C., III., 3, 3, September, 1879.
B. C. N., I., 3, 1, August, 1880.

2 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents and 20 cents:
S. C. M., XI., 127, 104, July, 1873.
A. J. P., VIII., 87, 88, 133, August, 1873.
P. C., I., 8, 3, August, 1873.
Phil., VII., VII., 82, 118, September, 1873.
Phil., VII., 83, 122, October, 1873
S. C. M., XII., 139, 111, July, 1874.
P. H. R. I., 2, 22, July, 1874.

Technical. From specimens in the last "find" of St. Louis stamps the position of the various dies upon the plate was definitely established by vertical unsevered strips of three 5 cents and three 10 cents. Also the fact that only two 5 cents dies were altered to 20 cents by a vertical unsevered strip containing the two 20 cents dies and a 5 cents unaltered at the bottom of the strip.

The positions were further established by a connecting link in the shape of an unsevered horizontal pair consist-

ing of a 20 cents and 10 cents from the top of the sheet.

All three plates are illustrated on page 9.

Plate I. represents the original condition of the plate, three 5 cents and three 10 cents, each type different.

This was printed upon a greenish wove paper.

Plate II. represents the second condition of the plate with the two upper 5 cents stamps changed to 20 cents, the other 5 cents and the three 10 cents remaining unchanged.

This plate was printed on two kinds of paper. Evidently the first prints were upon the same paper as was used in printing Plate I, but as only a single copy of each die of the 20 cents stamps are known, we must conclude that there was very little of this first paper used in printing Plate II.

The paper characteristic of this second printing, and on which all of the 20 cents stamps exist, except the two specimens noted above, is a blue-grey wove of a thinner and tougher texture than that of the first printing. Owing to the wear of the soft copper, the 5 cents stamp that was not altered to a 20 cents became very much worn, and was finally retouched, making a distinct variety.

Plate III. represents the third and last condition of the plate with the two 20 cents stamps re-altered to 5 cents, and with the third 5 cents stamp that was not altered, again retouched. The 10 cents, except from slight retouching, remain practically the same.

The plate in this condition was printed on very thin, hard paper, almost *pelure*, the color is very much the same as the last paper described.

Stamps on this paper are much the rarest of the three, with the exception of 20 cents stamps printed on *first* paper noted above under Plate II.

Hereafter the varieties of St. Louis stamps will be known by new numbers, for the purpose of identification; enlarged illustrations of each type have been made, and the old letter of the die is given with the new number.

The two first papers upon which these stamps were printed are quite distinct in color when in their normal condition. They are both, however, more or less subject to change, according to the atmospheric or other conditions to which they may have been subjected.

Heat, light, dampness and gases all have an effect on this paper. Mucilage of different kinds have various effects, while paste produces an altogether different effect.

Thus we have a great variety of shades from a multitude of possible natural causes. The microscopic test that is the most reliable in distinguishing these two

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S. C. M., XII., 138, 95, January, 1874.
A. T. P., VIII., 104, 121, August, 1874.
A. T. P., VIII., 104, 132, August, 1874.
Counterfeit 5 cents.
A. T. P., XIV., 1, 2, January, 1880.

Timb.....Timbrophilist.
S. C. M.....Stamp Collector's Magazine.
D. P. M.....Durbin's Philatelic Monthly.
A. J. P.....American Journal of Philately.
S. C. R.....Taylor's Stamp Collectors' Record.
Phil.....Stafford Smith's Philatelist.
P. H. R.....Wood's Philatelic Herald and Review.
T. P.....Timbre-Poste.
M. S. C. M..Mason's Coin and Stamp Journal.
C. P. M....Van Rinsum Continental Philatelic Magazine.
L. T. .....Lyford's Timbrophilist.
H. H. P. C.Heckler's Philatelic Courier.
T. B. S. J...Townsend's Buckeye Stamp Journal.
C. D. T.....Maury's Le Collectionneur.
F. B.....Faber's Der Bazar for Briefmarken Sammler.
L. P. O....Light and Jackson's Stamp Collectors' Journal and Philatelical Opinion.
W. S.....Wendall's the Stamp.
A. C. H...Andrus' the Curiosity Hunter.
S. F. T.....Jensen's Nordisk Frimaerkevesende.
S. J.....Casey's Coin and Stamp Journal.
P. Q. .....Smith's Philatelists' Quarterly.
Union ...Nieskes.
B. C. C....Browne's Curiosity Cabinet.
B. C. N....Becker's Collectors' News.
P. C.....Grant's Philatelic Circular.

PLATE I.

5 CENTS, DIE 1 (OLD DIE C).

(Pemberton's II.)

10 CENTS, DIE 1 (OLD DIE A).

5 CENTS, DIE 2 (OLD DIE B).

(Pemberton's I.)

10 CENTS, DIE 2 (OLD DIE B).

5 CENTS, DIE 3 (OLD DIE A).

(Pemberton's III.)

10 CENTS, DIE 3 (OLD DIE C).

PLATE II.

This plate only differs from Plate I. in the introduction of the two 20 cents and the retouching of the 5 cents stamp.

20 CENTS, DIE 1 (OLD DIE C).

20 CENTS, DIE 2 (OLD DIE B).

5 CENTS, DIE 3, WORN PLATE VARIETY (OLD DIE A 1ST RETOUCH).

The down stroke of the 5 is very much thinner, the ball is smaller, the inner line of the circle touches the diamond ornament.

PLATE III.

5 CENTS, DIE 1 RE-ALTERED (OLD DIE C RE-ALTERED).

This is a poor illustration, having been enlarged from a photograph. This is the rarest of St. Louis stamps, only two copies known.

5 CENTS, DIE 2 RE-ALTERED (OLD DIE B RE-ALTERED).

5 CENTS, DIE 3 RE-ALTERED (OLD DIE A, 2ND RETOUCH).

The ball of 5 cents contains a more pronounced dot than the common Die 3.

papers, when there is any reason for doubt, exists in the blue coloring matter in the second paper. There was an indigo used that was wholly absent in the first paper.

Tiny indigo spots may be found deposited upon the surface of the paper that become quite plain under the microscope, and are always to be found, no matter what change of shade has taken place in the general appearance of the stamps.

The following comparative illustrations may be interesting:

Dies 1, showing the same die in its three conditions. The upper left hand corner always serves for my cue to this die.

The ornament consists of a greater number of lines than the other two.

Dies 2, showing the same die in its three conditions.

The ornaments in the upper left-hand corner consist of fewer strokes, and one penetrates the outer line, thus furnishing an easy cue to remember.

Dies 3, showing the retouching that took place during the three printings.

This is the commonest die and is easily recognized by the long dash at top.

THE TEN CENTS DIES.

The 10 cents dies are very easily identified by the strokes below the words "Post-Office."

Die 1. A series of single strokes.

Die 2. A series of double strokes.

Die 3. A series of double strokes with dots between.

There are many other ways of distinguishing the dies as they differ in almost every respect. I have simply given the cues that I always use, and think that they are the easiest to remember.

Commercial. The comparative value of the various St. Louis stamps will be at once suggested in a commercial consideration of them.

No stamps in the world have commanded the price that certain of the stamps of St. Louis have realized, and the demand is far in excess of the supply.

Even the commonest varieties are much rarer than I had been led to believe, until an actual investigation and endeavor to purchase proved same to be true.

I shall quote few figures in this article, but will indulge in some logical reasoning and state a few facts:

I. Five cents, Die 3, and 10 cents, Dies 1, 2 and 3 must be of equal scarcity whether on first or second paper, as exactly the same number of each were printed, and they were probably all used.

II. Five cents Dies 1 and 2 which come only on first paper are much scarcer than the last mentioned varieties, because the dies of these two stamps were altered to 20 cents before the first paper was exhausted. At the time Mr. Tiffany wrote "A St. Louis Symposium" he could not find a single Die B for comparison, and only knew of one copy in the country at that time.

III. Many more of the 20 cents stamps must have been printed than were ever used, and the accumulation of these stamps remaining in the hands of the Postmaster evidently caused the plate to be re-altered again to 5 cents. As the second paper was only used in the printing of plate II. there must have been the same number of 20 cents printed on that paper as there were of the other dies. There are only two 20 cents, one of each type known, on first paper.

IV. The stamps on third paper, plate III., are all of about equal rarity, most of these were likely on hand when the use of St. Louis stamps were discontinued, and comparatively few were ever used.

The plating and study of these stamps has greatly reduced the number of varieties, and even the commonest are extremely rare.

The 5 cents Die 3 in point of numbers is the commonest known, it is commoner than either of the 10 cents dies.

It is priced at $250.00 used[20], the 10 cents are each worth as much, if not more.

These values apply to the first paper only, which is much commoner than the second, owing to the second printing having been on both first and second papers.

The following is a list of the known varieties of St. Louis stamps, showing the five degrees of rarity.

1845-46—*On green paper*—

5c., Die 1, RRR.
5c., " 2, RRR.
5c., " 3, R.
10c., " 1, R.
10c., " 2, R.
10c., " 3, R.
20c., " 1, RRRRR.
20c., " 2, RRRRR.

1846—*On grey-blue paper*—

5c., Die 3, RR.
5c., " 3, worn plate variety, RRRR.
10c., " 1, RR.
10c., " 2, RR.
10c., " 3, RR.
20c., " 1, RRRR.
20c., " 2, RRRR.

1847—*On bluish pelure paper*—

5c., Die 1, re-altered, RRRR.
5c., " 2, " RRRR.
5c., " 3, " RRRR.
10c., " 1, RRRR.
10c., " 2, RRRR.
10c., " 3, RRRR.

The values of pairs and strips are, of course, greatly in advance of the single specimens of which they are composed.

Condition also enters into the value of these stamps. They may be classified

20. Scott's 56th Edition Catalogue.

as follows, commencing at the commonest :

I. Penmarked.
II. Penmarked and postmarked.
III. Postmarked.
IV. Uncanceled.

All unused copies that I have seen have been taken from letters having missed the cancellation.

Plate I. reconstructed, has sold from $2,500 up to $4,000, according to condition.

Plate II. reconstructed, has sold from $7,500 up to $10,000.

Plate III. reconstructed, is complete in only one collection, and is valued very highly.

The fact that they cannot have St. Louis *complete* will not likely deter collectors who can afford the luxuries of philately from possessing such specimens as they can obtain of these most interesting stamps.