

The COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

VOL 1.

JULY, 1887.

N^o 1.

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THE COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

VOL. I.

AUGUST, 1887.

NO. 1.

THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

JAMES CHALMERS, the inventor of the adhesive stamp, whose honest countenance is depicted on the opposite page, was a native of Dundee, Scotland. As early as 1822 he brought himself into prominence by his energy in advocating post office reforms,

General Postage,

NOT
EXCEEDING
HALF
AN OUNCE.

One Penny

CHALMER'S ESSAY.

which, when carried into effect through his efforts, greatly improved the mail service. He worked unceasingly, day and night, to accelerate the delivery of mail and the reduction of the exorbitant rates of postage. By means of his labors, a saving of two days was effected in the service between Dundee and London.

The adhesive postage stamp owes its origin to the practical brain of James Chalmers. It was in 1834 that he first devised the idea which Sir Rowland Hill independently appropriated as his own invention three years later; the idea which has since worked miracles throughout the civilized world. A few type-set labels were prepared by Mr. Chalmers to demonstrate the practical utility of the scheme. These labels were printed in strips of five, four representing the value of one penny, and the

other the value of two pence, or one ounce.

In his work on his own life, Sir Rowland Hill says "adhesive stamps were as yet undreamt of," referring to the year 1837. These words, from his own pen, are positive evidence that he was not the inventor or even the proposer of the adhesive stamp, although he claimed both distinctions, as it has been abundantly proven that James Chalmers produced experimental essays in 1834.

Although the Government never recognised the claims of Chalmers as inventor of the adhesive stamp, the people of his own city were not slow to appreciate the benefits which his untiring efforts had secured for them. In 1846, he was tendered a testimonial banquet, at which he was presented with a handsome silver jug and salver, "for his exertions in procuring an acceleration of the mail and promoting other improvements in connection with the post office."

The general public has been more tardy in awarding the credit of the invention of the postage stamp to its proper source; but the time is fast approaching when the whole world will acknowledge that to James Chalmers, and to him alone, is due the recognition as the man who rendered possible the penny postage scheme.

THE SWISS CANTONAL STAMPS.

AMONG the treasures of my stamp collection, which to me is priceless, containing as it does many rarities, none are more precious to me or afford more genuine satisfaction to contemplate than my series of the old Swiss stamps. They are my special pride, and have always been a source of pleasure and study to me. And what stamps can be found that can be studied with more profit to the true philatelist? There has always been more or less of mystery surrounding their origin and it takes an ever watchful eye to guard against the countless forgeries, many of them exquisitely executed and almost perfect copies of the originals, which are occasionally offered by dishonest or ignorant dealers.

The earliest of the Swiss stamps were those issued in the canton of Zurich in the year 1843. They were lithographed in black upon paper which had been previously impressed with a pale rose tint, composed of parallel lines, sometimes horizontal, sometimes vertical.

Specimens of Zurich stamps are sometimes found with one figure of the date (1843) in each of the four corners. These were merely essays; canceled specimens are of course humbugs. So many counterfeits, some almost defying detection, have been made that I will not tire the reader by attempting a description of them. Suffice it to say that Zurich stamps are a very doubtful investment for a collector who is not posted regarding the spurious.

Five varieties of each value, representing the number of stamps on each sheet, may be found.

In the early part of 1844, the canton of Geneva issued its famous double stamp.



Letters addressed to persons in the town were charged but 5 centimes, and for these one half of the roc. stamp was used; while those intended for out of town delivery

were prepaid by a whole stamp. This odd stamp enjoyed a comparatively short life, eighteen months having been the period of its existence. In October, 1845, in consequence of a change in postal rates, the double stamp was withdrawn and the single 5 centimes stamps substituted in its place. This change in the stamps did not render the old issue invalid, however, for specimens of the first stamp have been found postmarked as late as 1846.



Varieties in type of this single stamp are numerous, owing to the fact that it was lithographed and several stones were required, in consequence of the wearing out of the first dies. These varieties may be found in the figure of value, which in the first type is well formed and upright and in later issues long and thin; in the eagle's wing, which varies in size considerably; and in the sun rays above the shield, which sometimes spread out and again show but little. The colors also identify the period of issue, the first being apple green, and the later ones dark green. The stamps were officially superseded in December, 1849, by the Federal issues.

In November, 1849, the stamps sometimes described as having been emitted for Vaud made their appearance. That they were in reality a Federal issue has been abundantly proven. Specimens have been found which did duty in Geneva and Zurich, and it is probable they were used generally throughout the entire country.

The stamp usually credited to Neuchâtel appeared in August, 1851, but, like the Vaud stamps, was properly issued for the Federal administration. It had a short lived circulation, as it dis-



appeared in the latter part of the same year. Space does not permit me to give a synopsis of the history of the Swiss Cantonal stamps issued for Fâsle and Winterthur,

in this number. In the September number I will give some information regarding them as well as the Federal issues.

J. Floyd Mattheson.

(To be continued.)

THE NORTHERN MUTUAL TELEGRAPH.

THE collecting of the adhesive "paid" and "collect" stamps issued by the various American Telegraph Companies, for the convenience of their patrons, seems to be meeting with greater favor than it formerly enjoyed. This is partially due to the heroic effort of a certain individual who holds the bulk of the American Rapid Company's stamps—tens of thousands of them—and who has been desperately working to make them popular.



Telegraph Stamps are worthy of more than a passing glance. Aside from any artistic beauty they may possess, they are attractive to the true philatelist in more ways than one. Should our

government finally absorb the telegraph companies, these corporation telegraph stamps will bear the same relation to the government telegraphs that U. S. Locals bear to the regular postage stamps of the United States.

It is not at all unlikely that the fate of Telegraph Companies will be precisely similar to that of letter delivery companies, now memories of the past. Indeed, it was with the expectation of selling out to the government at an enormous profit, that the Postal Telegraph Company was established but they missed their aim and now operate their lines as any other company.

If the government does purchase the lines of the various telegraph concerns (and this is only a question of time when it will), most of telegraph stamps will, of necessity, be among government stamps. Natur-

ally there will be a call for the company telegraph stamps of the present day, they being the fore-runners of government enterprise, the same as there is now for U. S. Locals. Where will the supply be, unless collectors take hold while they have the chance to get the stamps?

A very interesting set of telegraph stamps was recently unearthed by Mr. Wm. P. Brown, of New York. By a mere accident he discovered that a company had been in active operation in the northern part of the state in 1883, and following up the clue, he obtained all the remainders of the stamps. The particulars of the find are plainly shown by the following letter:

Oswego, June 25th, 1887.

W. P. BROWN, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—Your favor regarding the Northern Mutual Telegraph Co. rec'd.

I was the president of the company, and they did business a few years and then sold its lines to another company and went out of business. The stamps you referred to were only used a very few days, and very few indeed were actually used—not probably 50 in all.

I have the unsold stamps on hand now. I had an idea some day, more remote, they would be of value, should the company resume active business.

Would be glad to treat with you for the stamps on hand—several hundred. I send a set of them as a sample.

Truly yours,

JOSEPH OWENS.

The stamps were printed in sheets of thirty-five, ten each of the values of 5, 10 and 25c., and five of the 20c. Therefore the 20c. is doubly rarer than the others. The different values are of course of one color—bistre.

NEW YORK LOCAL POSTS.

THE Collecting of United States Local stamps, which has many enthusiastic followers who can boast of a nearly complete collection, does not receive the attention it deserves at the hands of philatelists in general. While the postal adhesives of the government are in such demand that they have tripled in value in four years, these locals are utterly ignored by many collectors. A reason is easily surmised; perhaps it is because a good collection of locals cannot be obtained at a price anywhere within the reach of most collectors. Be that as it may, the locals issued by individuals and express companies are productive of far more interest than Uncle Sam's labels can ever offer. The former are surrounded for the greater number in a maze of delightful mystery, which a true philatelist always loves to unravel; the abundant harvest of information which generally follows earnest and well-directed efforts to obtain it, being a rich and satisfactory reward for his time and labor.

Certainly one cannot complain of lack of variety. In all the several hundred different stamps, hardly two are alike in design. Neither can their lack of historical interest be brought forward, for they are certainly more interesting to a student from this standpoint than any other stamps in existence. They were the first practical experiments to determine the value of the postage stamp used in this country. Their presence in an album recalls the systems in vogue half a century ago, when the regular Government mails were far excelled in promptness and reliability by these private posts. Reader, do you think that United States locals should be excluded from your albums?

It is probable that New York was the first city in the Union where local stamps were made use of, although local posts existed in this and other cities much earlier. The first local stamps of which we have any record is, to this day, a mystery,

the only proof of its existence being a reference made to it in a business circular issued in 1842, by the City Despatch Post. This reference merely speaks of the existence of a previous Penny Post. The first local despatch company of which we have well authenticated information is the City Despatch Post, which opened an office at 46 William street, in the middle of the year 1842. This post was conducted in an admirably methodical manner. Letter boxes were placed all over the city, and three times each day letters were promptly delivered to addresses below 21st street, which was the northern limit of the delivery routes. Three cents was the charge made for such delivery, the stamps being sold at 36c. per doz. \$2.50 per 100. A registration system (undoubtedly the first in existence) was in active operation, a charge of three cents extra being made for this special attention.

A special message delivery, somewhat similar to the District Messenger service of to-day, was arranged for the benefit of persons who were in too much of a hurry to await the departure of the regular mail. The charge made for letters or small packages was twelve and one-half cents per mile of distance. A man by the name of A. M. Greig was the manager, and in all probability the proprietor of the Despatch, until 1848, when it passed into other hands and was removed to 492 Broadway.

The stamps with the initials C. C. on either side of the portrait of Washington were issued by Greig's successor, Charles Cole.

The next establishment of which we have mention is that of John T. Boyd, who, in June, 1844, opened an office for the delivery of letters. I shall refrain from making further mention of his post other than to state that it is still in existence under different management. The stamps of Boyd's Express furnish material sufficient for an article by themselves which I shall endeavor

to give in a later paper.

The year 1845 ushered in the existence of one of the most flourishing local letter posts ever operated in this country. The



Chatham Square Post Office was located on Chatham Sq., near the junction of East Broadway. Mr. Swarts first employed the well-known "Rough and Ready" design.

Contrary to the usual opinion, the stamp is not from a metal plate, but is a lithograph.

The second type, with portrait of Geo. Washington, was issued about the year 1847, and like its predecessor was a lithograph. It was the work of Mr. T. Wood, then located on Fulton st. It is a singular fact that Mr. Wood says that he afterward made a duplicate of this plate for Mr. Swarts, the first stone having worn out. While of this second type the features agree, minor differences can be found. The strange part of it is that used specimens are never met with of the second stone specimens. It is therefore probable that the stamp was used for only a very short time.

The third and last style of stamp issued by this post was the square one cent label here illustrated. It was executed by Mr. Wood, the color being blue. He has no recollection of ever furnishing Mr. Swarts with any red stamps, although such a color exists; it is a rarity however.



All of these stamps have been reprinted, and the counterfeiter has not been idle, either. The safest way to collect locals then, is on the original letter.

A post which was started shortly after Swarts made his debut, was that of John Bouton. Although several posts were established before Bouton's was, I mention his first on account of the similarity between his stamps and those of Swarts. He opened about the year 1846, under the name of Manhattan Express. He issued one type-set transverse oval label, the die of which is said to be still in existence.



The "Rough and Ready" stamps were first used, probably, in 1848; and were fine lithographs or plate engravings, I am unable to positively state which. The variety without dots in the corners is quite rare and has not been reprinted to my knowledge. Reprints of the other type are commonly met with.

The Broadway Post Office was established early in 1849, by one James C. Harriot, the office being at 422½ Broadway, in the rear of a stationery store. The office was fitted out with a large number of letter boxes, which were regularly rented to merchants and others.



Wilbur W. Thomas.

(To be continued.)

OBITUARY.

It is with genuine sorrow and regret that we receive the tidings of the death of one of the most most respected officers of the American Philatelic Association, a stamp dealer whom all admired for his honesty and upright dealings—LEON W. DURBIN. His sickness was a long and painful one,

although he expressed himself as confident of his recovery, his system could not withstand the continued attacks of that fatal enemy of human life, consumption. To the bereaved wife and family we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

THE MONETARY SYSTEM OF ANTIQUITY

PART I.



IN viewing the life of the human race, through the powerful lens of historic truth, we find that association with his fellows has ever been man's most imperative need. Exchange, whether of articles of common use, bullion, or coined money, has been the principal means of this association.

Whether we cast our eyes toward the vast solitudes and barren plains of antiquity, or quietly view the fertile hills and luxuriant valleys of the present age, we see displayed in the life and habits of man, the same intense desire to traffic.

At the early dawn of the world's history, the only available system of exchange was barter, but now, in our own brighter and happier day, as the star of progress has almost reached the zenith of prosperity, we find a myriad systems of exchange, spreading themselves over every habitable portion of this extensive globe.

The early inhabitants of this planet in their uncivilized state, failed to appreciate the idea of property, and although they made it a point of honor to defend their own possessions, they considered theft a virtue.

Subsisting on fruits, nuts and roots, on fish or flesh, according to his opportunities and necessities, prehistoric man made his abode in the rocky caves of the forest, and accepted as his companions the Giant Mammoth and Mastodon.

Gradually emerging from the cavern of darkest savagery, the eyes of primitive man were greeted by the effulgent sun of civilization, as it slowly mounted the expansive arch of the heavens, and quietly shed its pellucid light upon a world steeped in the sink of ignorance and superstition, and unreservedly swept by the tides of war.

Hunting the wild beasts of the forest, and the crude attempts at tilling the earth

were the earliest industries. Robbery and rapine were the first forms of speculative enterprise, and devastating war the prelude to commerce and civilization.

In the primitive state of society in all countries various commodities have been used as money. For instance, if a man wanted to buy a coat, he perhaps exchanged a bear skin for it. If he wished articles of personal ornament, he might purchase them with cocoanuts or fish.

Those nations which subsisted by the chase, such as the ancient Russians and the greater part of the North American Indians, used the skins of the animals killed in hunting as money. In Russia, twenty skins of the Martin were considered as equivalent to a grivna, the value of which was a real pound of gold or silver, of nine and a-quarter ounces in Kiev and thirteen in Novgorod.

In a pastoral state of society cattle are chiefly used as money. Thus, according to Homer, the armor of Diomedes cost nine oxen, and that of Glaucus one hundred. There is also sufficient evidence afforded us, that cattle were the first money of the Romans.

In agricultural countries corn would be used in remote ages as money, and even at the present day it is not unusual to stipulate for corn rents and wages.

A species of cypraea, called the cowry, gathered on the shores of the Maldivian Islands, and of which 6,400 constitute a rupee a silver coin which is the standard measure of value throughout India, and was equal to two shillings in English money) was found to be a very convenient article of exchange. Being imperishable and easily handled these cowries soon became a popular form of property, and in course of time were used in the payment of all dues. At the present time they are the only money of certain

districts in Africa.

Man, in no matter what position or in what condition in life, used those articles as money which were most desirable and most convenient to trade.

Step by step, this divinely organized material form called man, ascended the steep declivity of civilization, gradually passing the storm beaten mile posts of barbarism and ignorance, there groping his way among the tangled brush and briars of superstition, here plodding untrammelled over the grassy meadows of knowledge, or pacing briskly over the sloping plains of enlightenment. The hand, that was once so coarse and tawny, has become more cunning. The eye that was once bedimmed by the blinding mists of the past has become more discerning. The mind that was so insensitive and dull to the petty quibbles of every day life, has begun to grapple with the more defiant problems of nature. Turning his attention to those mighty sentinels, the everlasting mountains, whose lofty heads had become white while keeping guard over the wondrous train of nature's vast resources, through the long and dreary watch of centuries; man, earnestly and zealously worked his way, into their seemingly impenetrable hearts, found the treasure which he had so eagerly sought, and dragged from the secluded bed in which it had reclined for ages, the unseemly but precious ore, that heralded the dawn of a brighter and more resplendent era.

It was not until after a period of long and painful experimenting, and after re-

peated trial and failure, that men acquired the art of working ores and extracting the metals.

Considerable time must have intervened between the first introduction of metals into commerce and their becoming gradually used as money.

When the smelting of ores and the separation of the metals began, is unknown; however, various discoveries that have been made in Egypt, would indicate that metals were used as articles of common manufacture there, about 2,500 years before the Christian era.

The Patriarch Moses relates that Tubal Cain, the son of Lamech, (the first Smith of whom there is any record and who lived 1407 years Before Christ), was a forger of every instrument of iron.

From the earliest times we meet with manufactures in iron of the utmost variety. Thus iron was used as chisels, or something of the kind; for axes, for harrows and saws; for weapons of war and for war chariots. The ancients reckoned it among their treasures, and made offerings of it in various forms unto their Gods.

Is there not, therefore, a strong probability, yea, we may say, almost a certainty that in those far off days, when the fires of genius were choked by the ashes of superstition, that this most abundant of metals was formed into flat circular pieces, similar to those of which we, of the nineteenth century, are so well acquainted, and which we recognize under the familiar name of coins.

T. A. McNicholl.

(To be continued.)



BARON GOERTZ AND HIS COPPER DALERS.

NO SERIES of coins is more interesting than the Swedish Necessity Pieces, issued during the reign of Charles XII. Sweden had been engaged in a disastrous war with Russia, which left her treasury virtually empty, and so injured her commercial interests that trade was suspended.

Upon the return of the Swedish King from Turkey, where he had been driven by fear of the Russians, he found his affairs in a condition so far beyond his control that he deemed it necessary to entrust the financial management of the state in the hands of Baron Goertz, a shrewd and capable, but unscrupulous nobleman.

When the Baron entered upon his arduous official duties, the people were upon the verge of rebellion, and it was only by the most skillful piloting that civil war was averted. His tactics, however, while they relieved the straightened circumstances of the Royal Government, did not please the populace.

One of his first moves was the issuing of Dalers, of the usual size, but struck in copper instead of silver. These coins were made by law to pass at the silver value of a daler, and punishments were provided for those who refused to accept them. The result was that the coins went into general circulation; and the Royal treasury was once more in a healthy condition. Of course, the profit to the Government on these dalers was enormous. The actual

value of a daler in silver is 100 ore, while these copper coins could not have cost more than three or four ore each.

Quite a number of types were issued from 1715 to 1719. The first piece bore on the obverse a representation of a crown, the reverse containing the value, expressed



similarly to the later coins. Then followed the other pieces, as named:

- 1716. Pallas (Public Faith).
- 1717. Wett och wapen (Warrior).
- 1718. Saturnus, Mars, Jupiter, Phœbus, Mercurius, and Warrior (Flink och fardig).
- 1719. Hoppet (Hope).

Dies were prepared for another variety which was to have borne the Baron's own effigy but the coin was never issued. Baron Goertz was, on this account, accused of treason, and after a trial was executed.

These coins are rarely found in fine condition, but fair specimens can be obtained at a reasonable price and are a very desirable addition to any cabinet. The entire set is worth from two and a half to ten dollars according to condition.

THE ANTWERP EXHIBITION.

THE Philatelic Exhibition opened in Antwerp at the Industrial Palace has proved a great success. It is to be regretted that American collectors had no representation, the time which elapsed between the announcement of the exhibition and the closing of entries being but one month—too short a time to admit of America's sending her quota of rarities.

On entering, the visitor beheld on every

hand a bewildering array of Sydney Views, early Phillipines, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia shillings, embossed Natalis, Reunions, U. S. Periodicals and others of equal rarity.

The gold medal was awarded to M. Van der Rest of Brussels, for the best collection. Several silver and bronze medals were awarded for collections of post cards, envelopes, specialties, and for publications.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

INTRODUCTORY.

In presenting this, our first, number, we have but few remarks to make, other than to state that the COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL will be published for a full year at least, even if we receive not one subscriber. We are backed by a cash capital of Five Hundred Dollars, and can double that capital if necessary. It is our aim to furnish our readers with a standard magazine, replete with readable articles and *liberally illustrated*, at a price merely nominal. How far we have succeeded, the present number will show.

A special feature of each issue will be a frontispiece portrait of a King, Queen or a prominent collector, with a short biographical sketch. Our illustrations are all engraved especially for us and can be relied upon as accurate. With this brief introduction we embark, trusting that collectors will support us in our enterprise.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

Our readers may be curious to know what support the JOURNAL is likely to receive in a literary way. The publishers have arranged with some of America's best writers to supply them with freshly written essays and sketches. The quality of these articles will not be questioned when we state that Messrs. J. K. Tiffany and Joseph J. Casey are among our contributors.

THE CHALMERS CASE.

Mr. Patrick Chalmers has pretty clearly proved his claims regarding the priority of his father's invention of the adhesive stamp. In a recent letter he says: "Having now the only clearly proved my own case, but also obtained from the other side the admission that Sir Rowland Hill never invented the adhesive postage stamp, I may now fairly look upon my task as accomplished."

A SUCCESSFUL SALE.

With the sale of June 27th, Mr. J. J. Casey closed his series of Stamp Auctions for the season. Among the stamps sold was a beautiful specimen of the Nova Sco-

tia 1 shilling which brought \$25.00. Many other stamps brought nearly their full value. The sale was well attended, over twenty persons being present.

▲ NEW SOCIETY.

On June 22nd, a number of stamp collectors residing in New York and vicinity met for the purpose of organizing a new Philatelic Society. J. J. Casey was chosen President, and G. Aue, Secretary.

CUI BONO ?

S. Allan Taylor, the notorious Boston stamp forger, was arrested some time ago charged with counterfeiting postage stamps. After being examined he was released on bail of \$500.00 to appear for trial later on. He immediately packed up and emigrated to — where, remains to be seen. It is pretty clear that the old scoundrel had not much faith in the strength of his plea, that his business was as legitimate as dealing in picture cards, and it was worth just \$500 to him to get away.

THOSE SARDINIA ENVELOPES.

It is a trifle queer how these stamps have been coming out of late. A few words concerning them may not be out of place.

They are said to have been issued in 1819 and 1820. Therefore it seems strange that Philatelists never heard of the things until a few years ago.

Envelopes were not invented until 1837. Doesn't it appear a little inconsistent for a full fledged envelope to be ascribed to a time eighteen years earlier ?

It is also singular that if Italy did discover the utility of the stamp as applied to the postal service, no one seemed to find it out when the novel Mulready affair created such a furor in 1840. That was left for philatelists to unearth forty years afterward.

We might say much more against these self-convicting impostors, but we will leave our readers to ponder over the above facts and draw their own conclusions.

TOPICS OF THE A. P. A.

"OTHELLO'S OCCUPATION GONE."

Now that the *American Philatelist* has been abolished by ballot, Mr. Fraser, the ex-official editor, very naturally feels sore over the loss of his salary of ten dollars per month. In a letter to the editor of the *S. C. Figaro*, published in the June issue of that journal, he gives expression to his ideas with a vigor which would be commendable had he confined himself to facts. But his idea of truth is, unfortunately for himself, a trifle limited in its scope. Messrs Bradt, Kline and others are alluded to as liars, and he winds up with a general denunciation of the whole Association from A to Z—because it had sense enough to bounce an incompetent editor from his easy chair.

There is no reason why the *American Philatelist* should not have been a success. Although the funds at the disposal of the Association were necessarily limited, still a very creditable paper might have been arranged in eight-page form had Fraser known his business better. The true stumbling block was Fraser, not lack of means; but with characteristic selfishness, he endeavors to blame everyone but himself.

If Fraser, instead making a fool of himself editorially, had acted the part of a gentleman, the whole affair might have been amicably settled ere now.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Tiffany of the A. P. A. has issued, under date of June 24th, a circular letter to members of the organization, appealing to them for a rectification of the present unharmonious condition of the official board. The action of the President has been that of a careful officer who has the best wishes of the Association at heart; his movements have been in accordance with the wishes of a considerable plurality of the members—what more can be desired in an executive officer?

We wish it to be understood that we are unprejudiced; our vote was cast for

Mr. Bradt's publication for official organ. But it is evident that the will of the majority which should be the ruling power in a matter like this, is NOT for the *Western Philatelist*. Therefore the board has but one authorized course of action—to vote for the P. J. of A.

The true cause of the trouble is the fact that the Board had anything to do with the case at all, other than as members whose vote counted as but a unit.

SECRETARY BRADT'S LETTER.

The Secretary has issued an open letter to members in which he says that the first issue of the defunct official journal was a bitter disappointment to him, showing plainly as it certainly did the utter incapacity of its editor. In conclusion, Mr. Bradt emphasizes the fact that whatever the outcome of the present disturbance, the Association will live through it, the predictions of a few croakers notwithstanding.

THE CONVENTION.

The time for the second annual convention to be held in Chicago is fast approaching. It is not probable that many Eastern members will attend, although a good general attendance is expected. We would strongly urge every member who can to be there, as the occasion promises to be of considerable importance.

Members who are unable to go on should vote by proxy at Chicago; our editor expects to be there and will be pleased to represent anyone whose ideas coincide with his own.

August 8th is the date set for the meeting, which will be held at either the Tremont House or the Commercial Hotel.

Philadelphia should be selected for the 1888 convention. So far as our personal preferences are concerned, New York would suit us better, but in deference to our Western friends, we favor this choice. A larger attendance can be secured if an Eastern city is selected.

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contains 25 stamps, such as Turkey, Cuba, etc.	25
contains 20 stamps, such as Ceylon, Chili, Bermuda, etc.	25
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The above packets cont. 200 stamps different; sent post paid for \$1.25

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6	contains 25 stamps, such as Turkey, Cuba, etc.	25
7	contains 20 stamps, such as Ceylon, Chili, Bermuda, etc.	25
8	contains 15 stamps, such as West Australia, French Colonies, British Guiana, etc.	25
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4	contains 10 rare stamps, including Egypt, Grenada, Hong Kong, etc.	25
5	contains 12 South American stamps, including Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, U. S. Columbia, etc.	25
6	contains 10 unused stamps including Azores, Maderia, Mauritius, etc.	25
7	contains 30 unused stamps, such as Servia, Greece, Turkey, etc.	25
8	contains 12 British Provis'nals from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, New Foundland, and obsolete Canada,	25
9	contains 15 Official stamps, incl'dng Sweden, Denmark, Germany, etc.	25

Stamps sent on approval if a deposit of \$1 or more is sent, or if a written reference from Post Master is obtained. Address,

No.	Description	Price
10	contains 12 Official stamps, incl'dg Egypt, Iceland, India, etc.	25
11	contains 150 var. Foreign stamps	50
12	contains 75 scarcer ones, including Luxemburg, N. Zeland, Portugal, etc.	50
13	contains 25 stamps, such as Chili, Baden, West Australia, etc.	50
14	contains 30 British Colonials, incl. Mauritius, Lagos, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Gold Cost, etc.	50
15	contains 1500 well asrtd European	50
16	contains 500 extra assorted stamps	50
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19	contains 125 scarce stamps, including Heligoland, Servia, Jamaica, India, Canada Registration, etc.	1.00
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"	8	1.00
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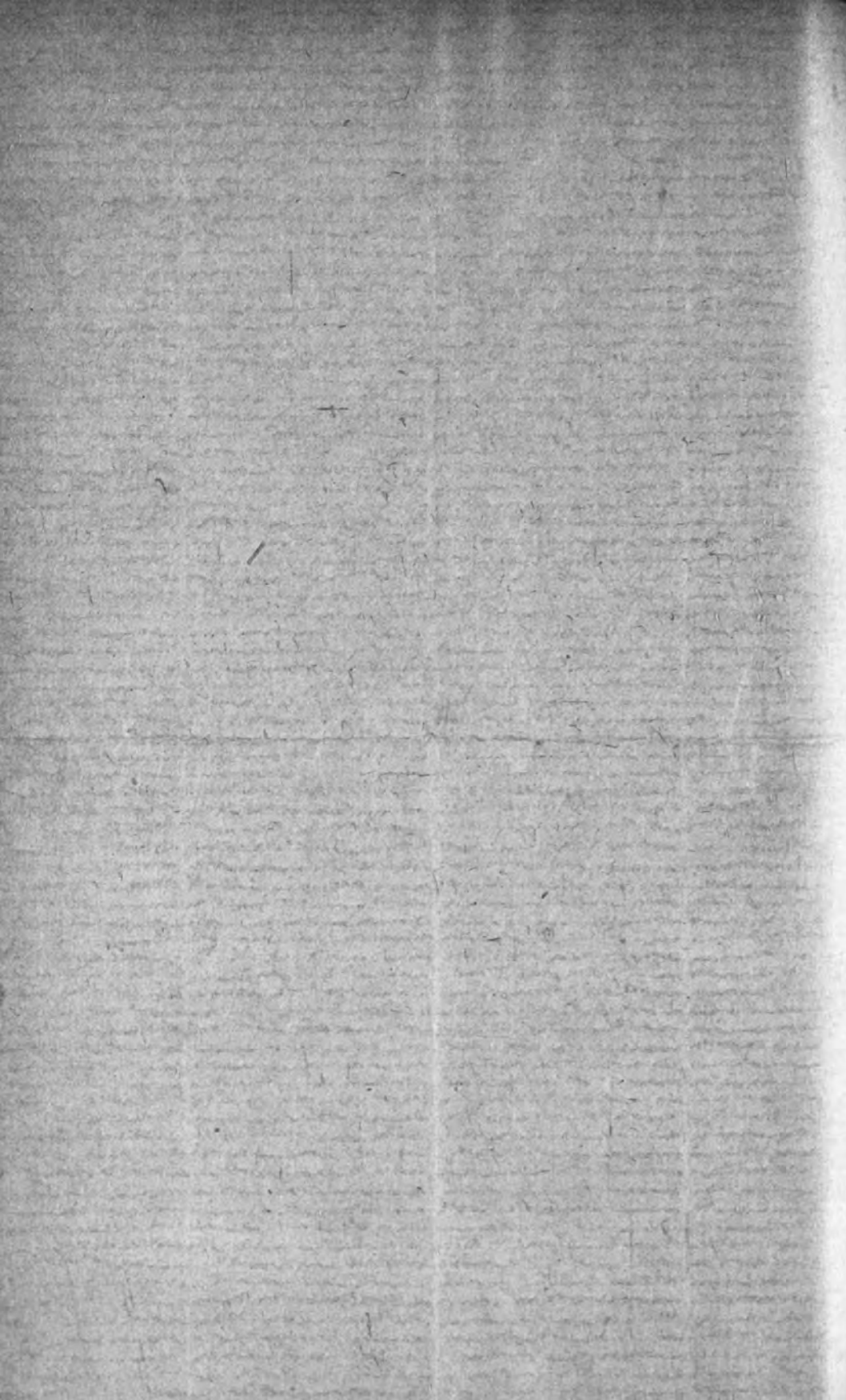
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The Collector's Journal.

VOL. I.

FEBRUARY, 1888.

NO. 2.

A GLIMPSE OF HELIGOLAND.

Perhaps no country on the Globe has been the subject of more disputes and discussions than the seemingly insignificant little island of Heligoland, in the North Sea. It seems ridiculous to think that a rocky island with an area of only one-third of a square mile and a population of but 1950 souls, could be the cause of international disputes, but Heligoland is a more important place than its size and population would lead one to suppose. It is in a position to command the entire German commerce in the North Sea, and in the event



THE LANDING PLACE, SANDY ISLAND.

of a war with Great Britain, Germany would find her largest cities practically blockaded, so far as intercourse with the outside world is concerned. It is, like Gibraltar, a natural fortress, impregnable when guarded by a few determined men.

Under these circumstances it was with the greatest reluctance that Denmark relinquished her hold upon the island in 1814, after eight years of bitter strife with England.

The island consists of two portions, known as the Oberland, or the summit of the rocky cliffs, and Sandy Island, a narrow strip of beach on the southern part of the island. It is here that people must land to gain access to the island, the cliffs being inaccessible.

Entering the quiet waters on the south, the visitor finds the little steamer which carried him from Hamburg approaching a wharf, some hundred feet long, surrounded by fishing boats of all sizes and every imaginable description. The majority of the inhabitants are fishermen, and their boats lie along the shore for a considerable distance from the landing place, while beyond these are seen a number of bathing houses, arranged for the use of summer visitors, of whom there are quite a number.

It is but a short distance from the wharf to the lower town, and but a minute's walk to the stairs which lead to the cliff above. The houses in the

lower town are principally those of fishermen.

At the summit of the cliff, reached by ascending a winding stairway, begins the main street of the town. Here are located the few shops the town can boast of, two hotels, and, most important of all to our readers, the post office. This latter structure is a comfortable frame building, in the upper portion of which reside the postmaster and his family. It is not an imposing-looking building, but it is nevertheless a very important place to stamp collectors.

Journeying on still further, the visitor will come upon a number of handsome cottages, among them the house of the Governor, who is appointed by the British crown. This is the élité portion of the island.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE ISLAND.

There is a lighthouse on the cliff which may be seen in the engraving. There are about 425 houses on the island, of which nearly 350 are in the Oberland.

The island has an annual income of some \$40,000 from its fisheries which consist principally of lobsters, oysters and haddock, and the inhabitants manage to support themselves and

pay the annual interest on a national debt of \$20,000 out of this small sum.

Near the middle of the island the town ends, and one will here find a few small patches of "garden truck," from whence the islanders obtain a considerable portion of their food-supply. Still further on toward the northern extremity, the land is wholly given to pasturage, some fifty cows and four or five hundred sheep finding their food there. Not a horse, however, can be found on the whole island.



THE UNDER-TOWN



STREET IN HELIGOLAND, THE POST OFFICE IN THE DISTANCE.



THE MARION, VA. STAMPS.

No series of stamps is more difficult to complete, because of the rarity of every specimen in the series, than the fifty or more Confederate provisionals, issued by many Confederate postmasters immediately after the secession of the South in 1861, and before the appearance of the regular issue. In fact, we doubt if a complete collection of genuine specimens of all the known Confederate locals exists.

In all this series, unequalled for rarity by any other set of stamps in existence, none are more rare than the stamps issued at Marion, Va., simultaneously with those of the other cities. The stamp was first discovered in 1872 by Mr. William P. Brown, a New York dealer, who at that time advertised extensively in Southern papers for old stamps. The advertisement brought Mr. Brown a rich reward in the shape of Confederate stamps, including a number of rare locals, among them two specimens of the 5c. Marion stamps, on different colored papers both on original letters.

These were the first known specimens of the Marion locals. Mr. Brown was highly delighted by his discovery, and in order to learn more

of the history of the stamps he traced up the former postmaster, after much trouble and fruitless inquiry. Corresponding with this individual, he was informed that a set of *four* stamps—5, 10, 15 and 20 cent being the respective values,—was issued in 1861, giving place a few months afterwards to the regular issue of the "Confederacy." The ex-postmaster further said that he had none of the stamps left, all having been either sold or destroyed.

Subsequently two other values viz.; a two and three cent, were catalogued for sale by certain dealers and Mr. Brown once more addressed the ex-postmaster to learn if they were really issued by him when in charge of the post office. His answer clearly demonstrated that the two and three cent stamps attributed to him were worthless humbugs, prepared by someone for the sole purpose of fleecing collectors. He said that these two values were never authorized by himself. As they are still catalogued by some dealers, through ignorance, perhaps, it is well to have their true character known.

Our illustration is copied from a specimen now in this city.

A DAY IN THE INQUIRY OFFICE.

BY SANDY YULE.

It was this time last year the postmaister sent for me. When I got up intae his room, he gripped me by the haund in a friendly way, tell't me to tak' a chair and remarked that he was glad to see me "looking so well."

"Think ye," says I, trying no to look pleased wi' his compliment; "think ye," says I, "it's a habit o' mine; I've been addicted tae it frae ma earliest infancy."

"There is nothing like acquiring a good habit when you are young," he said, laughing. "I sent for you," he continued, "to ask your assistance during our busy season. At Christmas time every available man must be sent down stairs to the sorting department; I propose, therefore, to put you in charge of the Inquiry Office."

"I didna think," says I, "ye wad tak' an outsider like masel'; is't no against the rules?"

"Well, it is not the practice, but Christmas pressure is exceptional, and we must make exceptional arrangements to meet it. You will not, however, be the only outsider. I shall be compelled to call in the aid of twenty or thirty commisionaires, like yourself. Whenever you sign a 'declaration' before a J. P. you are at once one of us."

"A declaration," says I, "what kind o' document is that, na?"

"Not one you need be afraid of," he answered, smiling. "It simply binds you over to keep the peace."

"Jist that," says I, "am glad its nae waur. Wull I hae muckle to dae in the Inquiry Office?"

"No; merely answer public inquiries and complaints. It is one of the few sinecure appointments of the Post-office."

"But," says I, "hoo on earth can I answer 'complaints and inquiries' when I ken naething about it ava?"

"Oh, its quite easy. There's the rule books," he said, throwing down half a dozen. "You have only to make yourself acquainted with these, and you will know everything inside of five minutes."

"Guidness keep us," says I, turning them ower, "five thousand eight hunner and fifty three rules, and twa hunner and fifty pages o' miscellaneous remarks on them! It'll take me five years instead of five minutes."

"Of course," said he, assuringly, "if you find yourself in any difficulty you can apply to me."

"That's better. Noo about the pay? I never like to leave arrangements hauf-finished—what's the figure?"

"As you know, Mr. Yule, we Post-office officials are not too well paid, and I would be rather ashamed to offer you the small allowance set apart for that duty. But I shall represent the case to Her Majesty's Privy Council, and you may be knighted."

"That wad be grand—Sir Sandy Yule, K. C. P. O., Knight Commander of the Post Office—it soonds weel. In that case, maister postmaister, I'm yet man."

"I'm glad you will undertake the duty," he said, "it is quite a relief to me. If I may be permitted, I should like to add one rule to the few I have shown you, and it is this—you must be most courteous and civil to the public in your dealings with them as a Post-office assistant."

"That's richt," says I, "ceevility is a thing I'm clean daft about. Man, there's no ceeviler man than Sandy Yule between Parkhead and Whiteinch."