

The Spindle City Philatelist.

VOL. 1.

LOWELL, MASS., MARCH, 1885.

NO. 1.

SALUTATORY.

The initial number of THE SPINDLE CITY PHILATELIST is before you.

Knowing that the interest in Philately is fast on the increase, and believing much valuable information may be obtained through the columns of a reliable paper devoted to that subject, we trust this sheet may prove an acceptable addition to our readers, interested in stamp collecting, and propose to make it one of the leading journals on the subject of Philately.

In January, we published the first number of a paper, under the name of SPINDLE CITY AMATEUR. We were unable to present a number of that paper in February, and wishing to improve it as early as possible, we have enlarged the paper, and given it a new name.

We wish to exchange with all editors of Philatelic or Amateur Journals.

Address all communications to

L. G. HALL,

No. 3 Wiggin St.,

Lowell, Mass.

At a sale in New York, recently, a cent of 1793, wreath variety, sold for \$200. An 1804 cent, in the same condition, would probably bring about the same price.

MICA MINES.

In a town, situated in the White Mountain region of New Hampshire, are located, several valuable Mica Mines. It was my privilege to spend a part of the summer vacation of 1884, in this place, and to enjoy all the facilities, a mountainous region affords; not the least of these enjoyments, was a visit to the mines; mining, being the only kind of business, giving employment to the people, living in that vicinity, aside from farming.

The mine we are about to describe, is situated on the side of a mountain, about two miles, or a little more, from the principal part of the town.

Several temporary buildings have been erected, near by, to accommodate the works. This mine, is claimed to be quite valuable, and is worked by a company from New York City, employing, in the busiest season, thirty, or more, men.

A ride, over the rough hilly road, leading to the mine, would convince the most skeptical, that the owners of this property, were exempt from highway taxation.

The mine proper, was a large hole in a ledge, with a depth of, perhaps, thirty five, or forty feet, in which, the miners were at work; some, drilling holes in the ledge, for blasting, while others, were carrying off the products of the blast.

(CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.)

Brief History of Postage Stamps.

ALSACE and LORRAINE.

War was declared between France and Germany, July 15, 1870. In the month of August of [that year,] the Germans took possession of Alsace and Lorraine, and the stamps issued primarily for the service of those provinces form the earliest Philatelic souvenirs of the great contest.

The stamps were issued the latter part of August, when five values made their appearance: 1 centime, 2 c., 4 c., 10 c., 20 c. In January, of the following year, the 5 and 25 c. were issued, which completed the series. For most collectors, one copy of each value will be sufficient: but those who care for a variety will be careful to obtain specimens of an "erreur d' impression," which consists in the ground pattern being upside down. This occurs in nearly all the values.

In color some vary considerably: thus, 2 c. with ordinary ground, is a dark chocolate brown, while those with reversed ground are a light red brown. The 10 c. also exists in at least two distinct shades, and minor variations may be noticed in other values.

ANGOLA.

A colony of Portugal, is situated on the Western coast of Africa a few degrees South of the Equator, and has for its chief town, San Paulo de Loanda. Stamps were issued in January, 1870, as follows: 5 reis, black; 10 r., yellow; 20 r., straw; 25 r., rose; 50 r., green; 100 r., lilac; and in 1876, 40 r., blue; 200 r., orange; 300 r., chocolate.

These stamps are neatly printed on white paper, water-marked and perforated. The design consists of a crown on solid ground, within a circular border, of Greek design, with Angola above, and value below.

ANTIGUA.

This British Colony is located in the West Indies. There is little of interest connected with the issuing of its stamps. In the year of 1862, two values, 1 penny, pink; 6 p., green; were issued, and in 1867, a 1 penny, red, appeared. The design of these three denominations consists of a shaded ground with a head in the centre, Antigua above, and value below. In 1882, three more stamps made their appearance, the denominations being 1-2 penny, green; 2 1-2 p., claret; and 4 pence.

In the issues of this date we find that the design differs from the former one, only in the ground. These six stamps form a neat set.

The system of prepaying postage by means of stamps, was first advocated by Rowland Hill in 1837, and was adopted by the British post office in 1840, the stamps being first used on May 6 of that year. They were introduced into the United States in 1837. More varieties have been issued by the United States than any other country, and 127 varieties of its stamps were in use at one time.

Advertisers will confer a favor on us by sending in their "ads" as soon as possible.

Spindle City Philatelist.

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L. G. HALL, }
F. B. WESTWOOD, } EDITORS.

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No. 3 WIGGIN STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

VOL. 1. MARCH, 1885. No. 1.

We are pleased to learn that several new Philatelic societies have recently been organized, and if such societies will send names of officers, we will gladly insert them in this paper.

The Collector's Companion has been accepted as the Official Organ of the Chicago Stamp Collectors' Union.

As we go to press we hear that a new paper is conducted by the Teachers' Association, of this city. It is called the "Teachers' Symposium."

We think this is merely a written paper and not intended for distribution.

New Issues and Changes.

BELGIUM.

25 centimes, blue on pink, has been issued, also a change of color for the 5 centimes, from amber to green.

FINLAND.

A number of changes have been made for this Country, as follows:

5 pennia, green. 10 pennia, red.
20 " yellow. 25 " blue.

1 mark, gray and red. 5 marks, green and red. 10 marks, brown and red. The variety of colors in these, make them an ornamental addition to an album.

PERAK.

The Straits Settlements, 8 cents, yellow, has been surcharged Perak, in black.

SWEDEN.

A new set of stamps, for this country, have been issued, with head of Oscar II to left in oval, "Sverige" above and value below.

TURK'S ISLAND.

The 4 pence has been changed in color, to pearl gray.

ANTONIO D. VANNINI,

KENREPUK, PICTON, NEW ZEALAND

Solicits correspondence in all parts of the world for exchange of Foreign Stamps, etc.

All letters answered by return mail.

[Stamp papers copy, and send specimen number with account.]

FOR SALE — A Learner's Telegraph Outfit, including Key, Souder, and Battery, with about fifty feet of office wire. Price, \$2.75, at this office.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

A single blast, often throws to the surface, Mica, to the value of several hundred dollars; intermingled with specimens of Quartz, Feldspar, Beryl, Tourmaline, Apatite, etc.

The Mica, after being taken from the mine, is assorted and cut to certain sizes in an adjacent building; then it is split and packed by girls.

This town, contains the only known Mica Mines of any value, in the Northern states.

II.

Amateur Journalism in Lowell.

The interest in amateur journalism in this city, is fast increasing. Five new papers were published this year; Youth, (successor to The Index,) The Evening High School Journal, of which three numbers were issued, and suspended at the close of the Evening Schools, Vox Ludi, and Vox Sapientiae.

There are now six amateur papers published here, with a prospect of another, The Boy's Guide, in April.

In our next issue, we shall give space to a correspondents' column, in which, any of our readers can insert a question, in regard to Philately or curiosities, which they do not understand.

D. A. Sullivan, of YOUTH, is about to prepare a history of amateur journalism.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DANIEL KIDDER,
Mechanical Engineer,
and dealer in
New and Second Hand
MACHINERY.
North Groton, N. H.

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For collectors to send for cheap sheet of stamps on approval, at commission of 33 1-3 per cent. A cash deposit, or good reference required.

Address, E. S. A. McLEOD,
75 Seneca Street, BUFFALO, N. Y.

[Editors insert above, three months and send bill, and copy of paper.]

KIDDER'S IMPROVED
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LOWELL, MASS., APRIL, 1885.

NO. 2.

Stamp Collecting and its advantages.

Twenty years ago the votaries of the interesting and instructive amusement of Postage stamp collecting were "few and far between," but at the present time, in America alone, they may be counted by thousands. When stamp collecting was first commenced, England appears to have been the foremost country in furthering the pursuit. It was subsequently taken up by the Parisians with great vigor, and soon extended into Belgium and Germany, when it was at first carried on amongst the schools and "pensions," and from thence to every country on the habitable globe.

The circle of collectors is widening not diminishing and it is satisfactory to know that the pursuit now finds its followers, not only among the youthful portion of the community, but also among mature minds—clergymen, doctors, lawyers, merchants, beside numbers of private gentlemen, devote their leisure to the acquirement of a collection of stamps.

What benefit is derived from the collection of stamps?

We will tell you.

Postage stamps are signs of progress in the civilization of a country, though it is a remarkable fact that the most highly civilized countries have not all the most beauti-

fully designed or executed stamps, as will be seen by comparing those contained in an ordinary sized collection. Take for instance, the later issues of the Hawaiian Islands, those of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, etc., and compare them with the current issues of Germany, the older Italian, and some of the English, and the superior skill displayed in the design and execution of the semi-civilized countries will be apparent.

Again, postage stamps are historical landmarks of the changes which occur, or have occurred, in the political and social life of a country, showing by alterations in their designs, the succession of monarchs and revolutions, the influence of dominant countries over the one from which they emanate, the transfer of mere nominal into actual power, and changes in monetary values. These are shown by an examination of the stamps of Prussia, Saxony, Roumania, etc., for the first; those of France, Modena, Tuscany, Schleswig-Holstein, etc., for the second; the last issue of Saxony, Oldenburg, Lubeck, for the third; those of Servia for the fourth and those of Finland and Canada, for the last. Postage stamps illustrate heraldic art by the numerous shields of arms so well known; legendary art, by the eagle, serpent, and cactus, found on Mexican stamps; religious prejudices by those of

(CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.)

New Issues and Changes.

ST. DOMINGO.

A 2 cent, black on pink, and 5 cent, black on green, small "Timbre" revenues, used for general postage.

MALTA.

A new set have appeared, bearing the Queen's head and numerous crosses.

TRINIDAD.

An unpaid letter stamp, 1 penny, black on white, watermarked C. A. and a crown, is in use.

PERU.

Several new Provincial issues have appeared.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Two new surcharges are in use, consisting of the 5 cents, blue, surcharged "two cents" in black, and the 12 cents, claret, surcharged "eight cents" also in black, with a large figure "8" over that in red.

ANTIOQUIA.

The 1 centavo has been changed in color and is now violet.

We have received the names of officers of the "Fitchburg Philatelic Society," which are as follows: Pres., W. L. Emory, Sec'y., W. K. Jewett, Treas., W. A. Brown, Librarian, L. H. Sherwin.

Amateur Notes.

Youth, for April, has been received and is full of good articles foremost of which are: "Customs of Olden Times," "Peace and Joy," and the editorial entitled "Poorly Printed Papers" furnishes some good advice to amateurs.

We are indebted to E. M. Phillips, of Milwaukee, for a bundle of amateur papers among which was Will-O'-The-Wisp, for Jan.-Feb., which is a very fine publication and an ornament to the 'dom. "Trixy," entered for Sketch Laureateship, is very good as are all the other articles.

The Messenger is a very handsome publication and the poem by Joseph Dana Miller, entered for the Title-Laureate, is a good subject skilfully handled.

Stars and Stripes, is very fine, and Heath's article, "History of Amateur Journalism," is very interesting and does him great credit.

Excelsior is full of good articles foremost of these, being: "Read the News" by Carrie M' Ayeal.

The March number of Progress came to hand; many thanks for such a fine publication. The article on "Instinct" furnishes a pretty hard nut to crack.

The Amateur Critique is very good, but we do not admire its motto as it is apt to reflect on the editors.

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No. 3 WIGGIN STREET. LOWELL, MASS.

VOL. 1. APRIL, 1885. No. 2.

In looking over a bundle of papers sent to us we find that deplorable habit, that is to be found more or less among amateurs, that of quarreling. We do not wish to pose as an example, but our opinion is that there would be less of it if editors would be a little more kind in their criticisms. Here is an extract as an example: "That long 3 column piece of Hebraical nonsense, that appeared in the Bay State Pearl, of November, entitled: An Episode of Our Portland Voyage, is simply ludicrous. We advise the editors to leave out such trash if they wish their paper to be recognized." Now is that a criticism calculated to inspire any friendly feeling in the editors of the "Pearl?" At the same time some other party may have read that same article and appreciated it as much as the writer of that criticism

does not. We all cannot have the same opinion and it is extremely foolish to lampoon an editor because he happens to publish an article that does not coincide with your opinion, and if you criticise at all do it in a friendly way. The same idea could have been expressed in the above criticism in a way that would not give offence, something like this perhaps:—We think that the 3 column article entitled: An Episode of Our Portland Voyage, is not quite as suitable as might be and we hope to see an improvement in the selection of such.— Now we think that there is nothing that any sensible editor could or would take offence at. It is very silly that an editor should call the articles he does not like, "trash" or some such offensive name. Also, we saw a paper whose editor picked up an ordinary typographical error, an a for an r, and very sarcastically commented on it in a way not calculated to create friendship for the critic, and the same kind of error occurred in his own paper. Now why cannot our brother editors be more thoughtful in their criticisms and call attention in a friendly manner with perhaps a suggestion of what would remedy it and no sane editor would take offence while it would create for the critic, a feeling of respect that you can never gain by bluster and unkind remarks.

Lowell is fast becoming an amateur journalistic centre, and there is a rumor of forming a press association which would be an important addition to the amateurs of the Spindle City, and we hope to see the rumor verified at no late date.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

Egypt and Turkey, as the Mohammedan religion vetoes the representation of figures of men and animals; the protection of countries by the codfish and seal on the stamps of Newfoundland; and lastly, it enables us to form a portrait gallery, by giving us the portraits of many sovereigns and eminent men.

Postage stamps also serve in leading scholars to study with greater zeal inasmuch as they act as a kind of "aide memoire" to the remembrance of certain particulars concerning countries to which their exercises refer, more especially if the countries happen to be those which issue stamps. We wonder how many people (before stamp collecting commenced) knew where Corrientes, Sarawak, or Montenegro or many other places, of which the names are now as "familiar as household words," are situated.

Stamp collecting also tends to induce a habit of observation of minutiae and order, the many differences in detail requiring to be carefully noted, and a systematic arrangement being necessary, in order to exhibit the beauty and uses of stamps. So widely spread is collecting, that inquiries concerning the stamps of almost any given country find ready answers from collectors resident on the spot, and contributions to stamp lore are thus received from all parts of the world. Notwithstanding many adverse prophesies, stamp collecting has held its ground thus far, and there is no reason to suppose that it will not continue to do so till stamps "shall be no more."

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NO. 3.

Popular Fallacies.

Collectors, young, as well as old, have been taught much about stamps by papers and Journals, devoted wholly or in part to philately. But with all that has been said, there are some fallacies old enough to be stale and dead long ago, that still obtain credence with many.

A boy recently said to a dealer, producing an Un [one] Real St. Domingo. "Does un real mean that this is not a good one." What a ridiculous question that was to be sure, nevertheless the boy had been told it by some one, and he is not the only one who does or did believe it. But few believe this, however, compared to the number who think that the round holes seen in so many Western Australian stamps mean that they have been used by the convicts.

Young and old believed this once, and many still are not aware that they were used by the government officials. But perhaps the funniest of all queries about stamps, was that of the boy who wanted to know if those holes didn't mean that the person whose letter it came on was sick!

A vast number of young collectors believe that counterfeit stamps are never cancelled, and look with suspicion upon those which are unused. They believe the presence of the cancelling mark is conclusive that the stamp bearing it is genuine.

It is easy to obliterate a stamp, and ninety-nine times out of a hundred counterfeits are so. The presence or absence of a cancelling mark is no evidence at all that a stamp is genuine or counterfeit. If one is not familiar with engraving, and other details necessary to detect counterfeits, the only way to avoid getting them is to buy only of reliable dealers. Besides the above, we could mention a great many fallacies about stamps if space permitted.

"Hamburg Locals."

At present, there is considerable said in stamp papers about "Hamburg Locals," or as some very fitly call them, "Humburg Locals." It is not certain as to how many different kinds were at first issued, but probably, not more than three or four. These were in use only about a month, and then abolished by the government. Some dealers now advertise 150 varieties at a low price, and space is provided for these infamous forgeries in several of the leading albums, whereby a great many young philatelists are misled, thinking that these worthless pieces of paper are as good as any stamp, and add a large number to their collections.

New Issues and Changes.

Any information under this head will be thankfully received, and appreciated.

CEYLON.

The "Collector's Companion" states that the following surcharges have recently appeared: "Postage and Revenue, Five Cents" on the 8, 16, 32, 36, 48, 64, and 96 c; 10c. on 24 and 64c; 15c. on 16c; 20c. on 32c; 30c. on 36c; 28c. on 48c; and 56c. on 96c.

ECUADOR.

The "Monthly" states that all values of the current set are surcharged "Official."

GUINEA.

Three new post cards have been issued from this place: 10 reis blue; 20 reis carmine; 30 reis green.

NATAL.

The 1d. has been surcharged "Half Penny," and 1-2d. brown and 2d. carmine wrappers been issued.

PORTUGAL

The 20r. has been changed in color, to carmine.

PERSIA.

An entirely new set of stamps has been issued.

ST. DOMINGO.

The "New England Philatelist" announces a new set of five values for this country: 1 cent., green; 2 cents., red; 10 cents., orange; 5 " blue; 20 " brown.

Amateur Notes.

The New Century is one of the best edited amateur papers that we have received.

The Tack was placed in our sanctum, but we did not sit on it. The editorials are all sharp and to the point.

Bric a Brac is a large and well edited paper from Montreal.

We welcome the Pacific Courant to our sanctum. It is the best all editorial paper we have seen, and is a credit to its editors.

Fact & Fancy is another excellent paper from California, also enthusiastic for 'Frisco in '86.

The Belvidere Herald, is a new one from this city.

Milwaukee is steadily gaining popularity as an amateur centre. We have received eight papers from there all of which are fine specimens of amateur journalism.

Exchanges are not coming in very fast at present, but we hope that they will soon increase in number.

We see by a Western paper, that the Boston convention is to be held on Wednesday, July 15.

For president of the National Amateur Press Association, Dennie A. Sullivan, of Lowell.

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VOL. I. MAY, 1885. No. 3.

In Chili, in 1875, every town large enough to have a regular post-office, also had a number of agencies where stamps could be bought in quantity. From these the post-office supplied itself. Sometimes it happened that all the agencies, within the radius of a mile or so, had not a single 5c. stamp on hand. Under these circumstances, the only way to get out of the difficulty, was to cut a 10c. stamp into two triangles, and value them at 5c. each. They are worthy of being collected.

In 1790, there were only twenty-five post offices in the whole country, and up to 1837, the rates of postage were 25 cents for a letter over 400 miles.

A Curious Fossil.

A fossil, which appears to be remarkable, but which has not yet been satisfactorily described, has been turned up in a quarry at Wishaw, Scotland. "The stone figure," as it is called, is said to be about eight feet long and the local print, with some little confusion, describes it as at once resembling a seal or walrus, the human form, the winged bulls of ancient Ninevah; and as being, in addition, "somewhat different from any member of the Saurian tribe hitherto discovered in the same section of rocks." As the object was sent to the British Museum, its real character and appearance may doubtless be ascertained.

Albumenized Paper.

At Dresden, albumenized paper is now being made in very large quantities, and is considered the best, by reason of the excellent and regular manner in which it is produced. Although but a few years ago the trade was unknown here, the city is now manufacturing at the rate of upwards of 6,000 reams per annum, a quantity that would suffice to print more than 120,000,000 photographs of the size known as the "carte de visite." The albumen is extracted from the whites of new-laid eggs of fowls, and nearly 2,000,000 eggs are consumed, the yolks of which are used by tanners for preparing the finer kinds of leather. After preparing, the paper is carefully assorted, and from 10 to 15 per cent is thrown out, but is made available by the Dresden printers for color printing.

Philatelic Exchanges.

We desire to exchange with all Philatelic papers. The following have been received since our last issue. Publishers will please accept thanks:

The "Collector's Companion" is an excellent philatelic paper, consisting of 16 pages, and is the official organ of the "Chicago Stamp Collectors Union."

The "Empire State Philatelist" for April and May, is at hand. It contains some interesting matter.

The "New England Philatelist," official organ of the "Fitchburg Philatelic Society," is a 16 page illustrated paper, containing articles of interest to philatelists.

In a late issue of a Philatelic journal there was an article stating that the first stamp paper published in the United States, was the "Stamp Collector's Mercury," issued by F. Trifet, of Boston, in 1836. As a matter of fact, however, the "Stamp Collector's Record" was the first. This was started at Albany, N. Y., in 1864 by Mr. S. Allan Taylor after he came from Montreal. When in 1865 he removed to Boston, the "Record" was continued for some three years, but was finally discontinued for want of support.

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Adv. rates on application. Sample copy free.
W. L. EMORY, 360 Main Street,
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Will sell STAMPS for the next 30 days at greatly reduced rates:

C. Good Hope, triangular,	4	\$.35
Fiji,	6	.30
Gautemala, 1875,	4	.25
Iceland, 1873,	6	.20
St. Vincent,	5	.15
Egypt, 1872,	7	.20
Complete lot,		1.20

Stamps warranted strictly genuine.
D. W. BRADY, 399 Merrimack Street,
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