

110312

8.

VOL. I.

JANUARY, 1890.

NO. 3.

— The —
**PHILATELIC
NONPAREIL**

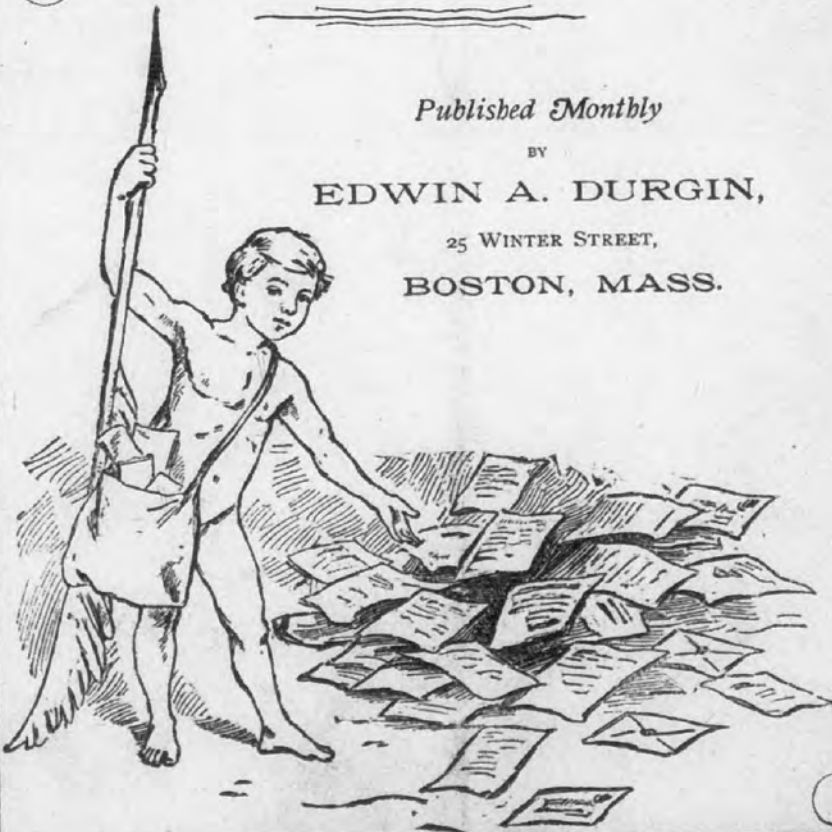
Published Monthly

BY

EDWIN A. DURGIN,

25 WINTER STREET,

BOSTON, MASS.



POSTAGE STAMPS,

BOUGHT, SOLD, EXCHANGED.

BARGAINS FOR COLLECTORS.

Belgium Postal Paket Stamps	10 cents	var.	only \$.20
Austria 1850 complete				.10
Bosnia complete				.20
Cape of Good Hope $\frac{1}{2}$ —5 shil.		9		.15
Cuba 1889 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 res black		5		.10
Great Britain 1886 complete including 9d.		10		.14
India including II rm. & Service.		10		.10
“ On H. M. S. $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4 & 8 anna.		5		.30
Mexico 1885, 1, 2, 5, 10, 10.		5		.25
Natal $\frac{1}{2}$ —1 sh.		5		.15
Salvador 1879 complete		5		.20
Switzerland 1884 <i>unpaid</i> .		5		.20
“ 5—100.		6		.30
“ 5—500.		6		.30

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

PRICE LIST OF OVER 250 DIFFERENT SETS FREE.

TO DEALERS:

1,000 Mexico 25 var. good ass. only	\$ 4.00
10,000 “ “ “	32.00
1,000 Central & South America, 50 var	7.50

Wholesale and Retail Selections on approval on receipt of good Reference.

GOOD AGENTS WANTED.

EXCHANGE:

For Hawaiian Islands, Fiji Islands and all Australian Postage Stamps and Revenues used for Postage, I will give good exchange.

Used Hawaiian Square Cut Envelopes Wanted,

will give face value for used ones in exchange of my price list. Consignments of all Foreign Dealers wanted. Cash or exchange by return Mail.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 NASSAU STREET,

NEW YORK, U. S. A.

Members of A. P. A., C. Ph. S., Stamp Dealers Ass., &c., &c.

110312

VOL. I.

JANUARY, 1890.

NO. 3.

— The —

PHILATELIC NONPAREIL

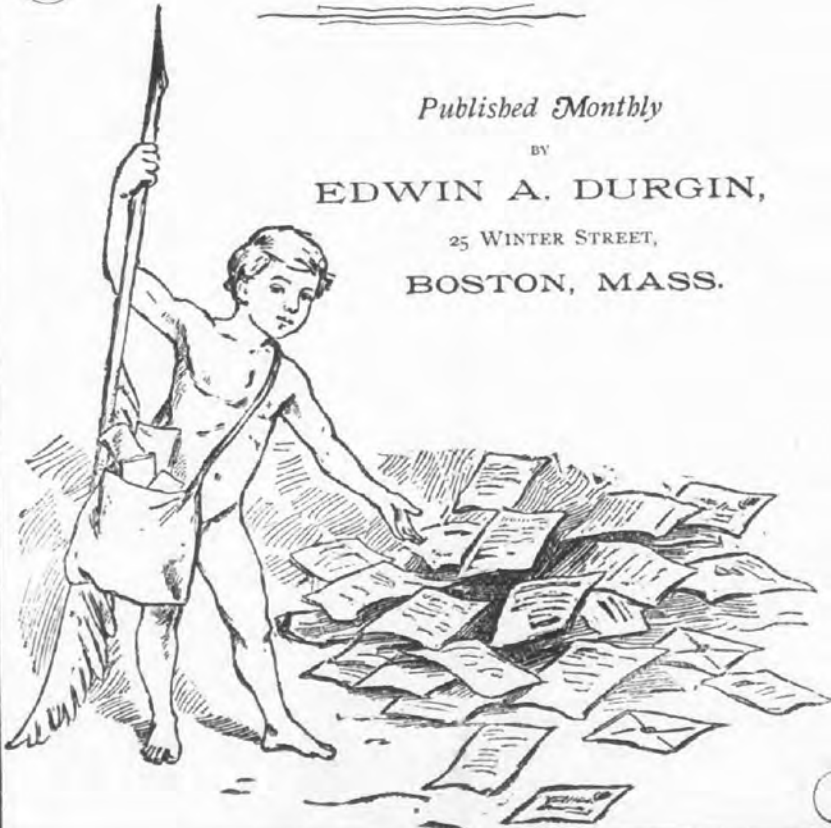
Published Monthly

BY

EDWIN A. DURGIN,

25 WINTER STREET,

BOSTON, MASS.





THE

Philatelic Nonpareil.

Vol. I.

BOSTON, MASS., NOVEMBER 15, 1889.

No. 1.

A CHAT WITH YOUNG COLLECTORS.

The fact cannot be too strongly urged upon the young—and even upon the old—collector, that a torn stamp in an album produces exactly the same effect as a blot on a page. It will be the first thing seen, owing to its irregular shape, and it will mar the beauty of any page upon which it is placed.

If the torn stamp is a "rarity," there may be an excuse for putting it in your collection; and by a "rarity" I mean a stamp worth a dollar or over; but if the specimen is one of the common kind, let me beg of you not to admit it. Leave the space until you can get a perfect stamp, as this is a case where its absence is better than its company.

In getting stamps for your collection, you should endeavor to obtain the best ones possible as regards perforation, cancellation, etc. If at first you find it necessary to put in a badly cancelled specimen, remove it as soon as a better one comes along.

At one time, a collection of stamps meant a number of specimens mounted or pasted in a blank book or album; but the meaning as now accepted, is a number—not necessarily large—of nice stamps, nicely mounted in a neat album.

Let every stamp be put in neatly. If ruled spaces are provided, see that each stamp is squarely in the centre; if the page is a blank, have every stamp on a line.

If these hints are regarded, even the smallest collection will have something about it worthy of commendation.

It of course is unnecessary to tell you to use hinges in mounting; you already know that.

If you are first beginning your collection—as thousands are—buy your stamps in packets; you will find it much cheaper until you have about one thousand varieties; after that you can buy the stamps singly or in sets, or obtain them by swapping, the duplicates in the packets giving you a goodly number to trade with.

If you start to collect the stamps of all countries, and are not blessed with an abundance of pocket money, take my advice and—don't.

Choose rather some portion of the world, such as America, Europe or Asia, or even the United States alone, and devote your energies to getting the stamps of that country; after you have them complete, you can then turn to other places if you wish.

Study your catalogue well, in order to get an idea of the prices of the different stamps.

In trading, don't give a stamp worth twenty cents for ten others worth two cents each; the last named being common, you are likely to get at any time, and you should keep good stamps to trade for others of a like quality; otherwise, when good stamps come along, you may not have anything worth giving for them.

For your duplicates you should have a small book that can be easily carried in the pocket. Mount one of each kind in this, so that when about to swap you can readily show what you have.

Pay attention to these few points, and for the rest—experience will teach you.

Alvah Davison.

A. J. Craig, of Pictou, N. S., the new C. P. A. President, is a rusher, and the association will no doubt benefit greatly by electing him as their chief.

EUROPEAN VS. AMERICAN.

There is one thing that is impressed upon the memory of the philatelist of today, and that is the difference in price of certain stamps as catalogued by different dealers. There appears to be a marked discrepancy in many of the catalogues, and not only does this refer to United States dealers, but more particularly to foreign competition. To be sure it is not all one-sided, and where a certain stamp is worth nearly double as much by one dealer's catalogue, the balance will be found turning the scales in another instance. I have before me two catalogues of 1889 from two of the most prominent dealers in the world. One is European and the other American. On comparing the prices I find that, taking it all around, the stamps are considerably cheaper on this side of the water. But why should certain U. S. and B. N. A. stamps be catalogued at a much cheaper price than the dealers on the spot ask for them? I herewith quote a few prices as asked by these two dealers, showing the value of certain stamps in Europe and the U. S.; all are used, except where noted:

UNITED STATES.		
	U. S.	Foreign.
1860, 24c., lilac,	\$.75	\$.62
" 30c., orange,	1.00	.76
1861, 5c., yellow,	3.50	1.52
" 30c., orange,	.35	.15
" 90c., blue,	1.00	.57
1869, 12c., green,	.25	.19
<i>Navy Department.</i>		
2c.,	.25	.18
6c.,	.15	.07
10c., (unused),	.40	.28
12c.,	.35	.15
15c., (unused),	.50	.38
24c.,	.75	.57
<i>Post Office Department.</i>		
90c.,	.25	.15
CANADA.		
10d., blue,	2.50	1.90
17c., blue,	.25	.19
1868, 1c., br'n red, (un'sd.),	.25	.10

NOVA SCOTIA.

8 1-2c., green,	1.00	.57
12 1-2c., black,	.25	.15

NEW BRUNSWICK.

1c., brown, (unused),	.40	.28
-----------------------	-----	-----

VANCOUVER.

10c., blue,	1.00	.76
-------------	------	-----

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

3d., blue,	.25	.15
2c., unused,	.30	.18
25c., unused,	1.00	.90
50c., unused,	2.00	1.52

Next month I shall show that the tables are turned on the foreigners and that the U. S. dealer can out-sell them, as at low prices he can "down them all," showing that there really is something in the device "Small profits and quick returns."

CANADENSIS.

THE POST OFFICE MUSEUM.

When Benjamin Franklin was appointed Postmaster-General of the Colonies in 1775, he went down to the office in Philadelphia, hung his coat on a peg behind the only door of the one room which constituted the department and went to work. He procured a small book of fifty-three pages, in which he opened an account with each Postmaster for the forty odd Post Offices in the thirteen colonies, and kept it himself. Unlike the present Postmaster General the old Pennsylvanian was not bothered to appoint assistants, and as for clerks, he did not have any. At odd times, and when he was feeling lonesome because some of the neighbors did not come in to bore him to appoint John Smith Postmaster at Juniperville, Franklin would go down to the city Post Office and assist to make up the mail which left by stage coach every week. In a glass case in the Post Office department the curiosity seeker can see the very old leather-bound book in which Franklin kept the accounts of the government. The transactions for three years—from 1776 to 1778, inclusive—are included in its fifty-three pages, and the mail transactions seem to have cut but a very in-

significant figure. You can also see the record of the uncalled or or misdirected letters that were returned from 1777 to 1788. The book covers forty-four pages, and during that time 365 letters were received. The number of letters returned to the Dead Letter office daily now averages 18,000.

The museum of the Dead Letter office is one of the most interesting resorts for visitors in Washington. Many of the more curious articles that have been sent through the mails and failed to reach their destination have found an abiding place in the three large glass cases that are devoted to their exhibition, while a local auctioneer yearly disposes of thousands of the more commonplace articles that come to that office. The museum contains some very interesting relics, but one's interest is mainly claimed by seeing how some people have endeavored to use the mails for the transportation of articles that no express company would receive, knowing what they were. A stick of cordwood and a loaded revolver occupy positions of honor in close proximity to an alligator and some snakes, which were alive when the attempt was made to send them. Bread must have been very scarce at one time, for the sender had a friend, for somebody mailed a loaf of bread, which is now one of the relics of the museum.

Some rural swain, who evidently lived in a section of the country where paper was a luxury, indited a loving epistle to his best girl on a shingle. Whether the girl still looks for "The letter that never came" is a question. At all events the Post Office officials never found her in order to make the delivery. An Indian scalp, a bottled centipede and a hitching post form a trinity of curios, while a skull that never found an owner makes the background for the most miscellaneous collection of old combs that was ever gotten together. An old mail bag stained with blood tells the story of the faithful devotion to duty—which he sealed with his life—of an Arizona mail carrier, familiarly known

as the "Pony Express Rider," who was killed by the Apache Indians in 1885.

An envelope bearing the inscription, "This contains my hair, Charles G. Guiteau," recalls the assassination of President Garfield, July 2d, 1881. There are any number of other curious mementoes that never reached the parties for whom they were intended. One room in the Post Office department is seldom frequented by strangers. It contains samples of all the locks ever used by the department for letter boxes and mail pouches. The first lock ever used was in 1812, and so far as outward appearances go, differs but little from the present style of lock. In the mechanism is where the improvement has been made, and the vigilant Cerebus who has charge of the exhibit will not allow you to examine the workings of the lock.

There are also three cases fitted with rejected locks, some of them very ingenious, and of all shapes and sizes. Probably the most ingenious lock ever made was offered the department by a Texas negro. It is a flat piece of wood with a staple on one side, with a crank somewhat similar to that used on a fishing reel on the other. The crank is the key, and you could turn all day without opening the lock, unless you knew the combination.

There are also on exhibition the different varieties of mail pouches. The department uses twenty-five different styles, some leather, some are bagging and some are canvas. There are two old leathern pouches, "gopher bags" they are called, that were used in 1835. At that time the mail was carried on the boot of a stage coach, and one of these pouches carried all the mail that went from New York to the South. To-day the Southern mail requires thousands of pouches.

The C. P. A. exchange department is running out some fine stamps. Recently a Mauritius "Post-Paid" was taken from one of Mr. Corwin's sheets for \$3.75. It is catalogued at \$7.00 by Scott.

The Philatelic Nonpareil

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

EDWIN A. DURGIN, - Editor.

NOTICE.

Subscription, per year, \$.25
Six months, .15

ADVERTISING RATES.

One line, nonpareil measure, one month, .05
On inch, one month, .50

No advertisement published for less than 25 cents.

Rates for large or continued advertisements furnished on application.

No objectionable matter published at any price.

HOW TO REMIT. The safest way to remit is by postal order, registered letter, or by express money order. Money carefully placed inside of envelopes, securely sealed and correctly addressed, seldom goes astray, but is at the sender's risk.

Address all communications, nothing more, nothing less.

EDWIN A. DURGIN,
25 Winter St., Boston, Mass.

GREETING.

With this issue we present to the stamp collecting world the first number of the PHILATELIC NONPAREIL, which we hope will meet with the kind approval and support of all interested in the collection of postage stamps. It will be our aim to make the NONPAREIL second to none of its kind, and to accomplish this we would respectfully request philatelic writers to favor us with their MSS. Originality is greatly to be desired and will be adhered to so far as the material placed at our disposal will allow, while meritorious articles from other publications will not be neglected. Through this paper all are at liberty to express their views free of charge, provided it is on a sensible subject which will interest the majority of our readers.

As special features of our journal we propose to have a corner for correspondents, in which we will answer to the best of our ability any questions of general interest, on the subject of Philately on which any of our readers may desire information; an exchange column, in

which our subscribers are allowed to advertise their wants and exchanges, free of charge; items of interest and descriptions of new issues and recent discoveries will also occupy a prominent part of our journal. Swindlers and frauds will be handled without gloves; we shall make no charges without undisputable proof and then shall endeavor to render impartial justice.

We have come to stay and shall endeavor to issue the NONPAREIL on the fifteenth of the month for one year under any circumstances.

Our object is to interest and instruct our readers and in order to do this we must have first-class articles—no others wanted—if you have anything good let us know; we have no pet scheme to advance, the general interest of all is our aim, and we earnestly solicit the co-operation of our readers to further this object.

Negotiations are in progress with many well-known Philatelic writers in America and Europe for their best efforts, and we propose to give our readers the best articles that it is possible to obtain; we intend to lead, others may follow. It is our intention to make this little journal in every sense of the word a NONPAREIL.

Hoping this will meet with your kind approval and support we humbly sign
ourselves as the EDITOR.

Stamp Papers Wanted!

I will give from four to twelve fine Philatelic Magazines for *each one* of the following sent me at once: *Philatelic Journal of America*, No's 1, 4, 6, 9, 15, 18, 21, 22, 50, 51, 52. *American Journal of Philately*, (new series) Vol. I, No's 4, 6, 7, 8. *Stamp and Coin Gazette*, Vol. 2, No's 1 and 40. *Collectors' Ledger*, Vol. 4, No. 12. *Keystone Phil. Gazette*, Vol. 3, No. 32. *Stamp Collector* (Ottawa, Ill.), Vol. I, No. 5. *Hoosier Philatelist*, Vol. I, No. 1. *Plain Talk*, Vol. I, No. 1, Vol. VI, No. 3.

I will also send a rare stamp FREE, as well as from four to twelve papers, for every paper sent me if sent at once.

JNO. R. HOOPER,

559 Kings St., Ottawa, Can.

C. P. A. No. 1.

N. B. Rare stamps exchanged.

Philatelic Nonpareil.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, MASS., DECEMBER 15, 1889.

No. 2.

The Little Stamp Collector.

Three months ago, he did not know
 His lessons in geography,
 Though he could spell and read quite well,
 And cipher too, he could not tell
 The least thing in topography.
 But what a change! How passing strange!
 This stamp collecting passion
 Has roused his zeal, for woe or weal,
 And lists of names he now can reel
 Off, in amusing fashion.
 I hear him speak of Mozambique,
 Heligoland, Bavaria,
 Cashmere, Japan, Thibet, Soudan,
 Sumatra, Spain, Waldeck, Kokan,
 Khaloomb, Siam, Bulgaria.
 Schleswig-Holstein (oh, boy of mine,
 Genius without a teacher!)
 Wales, Panama, Scinde, Bolivar,
 Jelalabad and Candabar,
 Cabul, Deccan, Helvetia.
 And now he longs for more Hong-Kongs,
 A Rampour, a Mauritius,
 Greece, Borneo, Fernando Po,
 And how much else no one can know—
 But be, kind fates, propitious!

ANON.

Philatelic Societies and Young Collectors.

That the collecting of postage stamps is a fascinating pursuit, none who have ever come under its influence will deny. We may have practised it for a year or longer, either in an amateur or scientific way. Other pursuits, want of time, and various causes may have led us to throw it up, and yet we can always look back to that period as a time when life seems to have many joys.

Taking it then for granted that there is so much pleasure in Philately, the question occurs to me, "Why is it we have so few societies?" It appears to be a general thing in this country, that

whenever a number of people are thrown together, who have thoughts and ideas in common on any particular subject, that a society is the natural outcome; and why is it not so among stamp collectors?

Is it because there is not sufficient material regarding stamps from which to cull the matter for an evening's entertainment, or can it be that the fair Goddess must be wooed in secret in order to gain her favor?

To whatever may be ascribed the cause, it is evident to anyone that Philately in itself, be it ever so fascinating to individuals, does not possess enough interest to the younger element to enable them to maintain societies for any length of time. It has been tried over and over again, and always with the same result—failure.

The local societies now existing are few in number, and these with a few exceptions are composed of men. They have large memberships and are thus able to keep the interest up, although at times it would seem that they suffer from the non-attendance of members.

Where collectors have an opportunity of meeting each other daily, there is not the same need of a society as where the opposite is the case; and yet for the spreading of the pursuit the society is the best means.

Collectors are not expected to carry their collections with them, so that casual meetings in the streets—though good enough as presenting an opportunity to swap—are far from being as beneficial as a society meeting, at which the col-

lections are exhibited, and enabling the members to study the perfections of one, and the imperfections of the other.

At these meetings a member can learn many of the points regarding certain stamps, by seeing and examining them, and he has the knowledge of all the others at his disposal; but after awhile, when the novelty of the thing has worn off, then comes the difficulty in having the interest kept up; and how shall it be done?

Various methods have been suggested, such as reading essays, etc., but these things, unless prepared by those well acquainted with the subject, are to say the least, very dry.

The primary object of the meetings is for the exchange of stamps, and incidentally to learn anything new regarding them; and if these matters do not occupy the whole evening, I would introduce foreign subjects of any kind, the only requisite being that they should interest the meeting.

A reading of a serial from the Youth's Companion; a recital of Stanley's trip into Africa; or an account in a newspaper of something in relation to a stamp-issuing country; any of these would serve to interest the boys, and would without doubt prove of more benefit to them than an essay on "The Stamps of British North America" written by one who knew very little about them.

The old method of holding meetings has been tried and proved unsuccessful, as the long list of defunct philatelic societies will attest: and is it not about time to change about and introduce some new features? *Alvah Davison.*

AMERICAN VS. EUROPEAN DEALERS.

In my last article I contrived to show where there was instances of flagrant discrepancies in the market value of certain stamps. Why there should be such a difference in price is a thing one can-

not exactly understand, for the prices quoted appear to be fixtures and the fair market value in Europe and America. There is no doubt that the Canada 1858 perforated 6 pence is a *rarity* and one very hard to get, so it need not surprise anyone when the price asked in Paris is an even \$15.00. I quote herewith the noted differences of a few stamps, using the two leading 1889 catalogues:

UNITED STATES.		
	U. S.	Foreign-
1847, 5c.,	\$.25	\$.40
" 10c.,	1.25	1.50
<i>Unpaid.</i>		
50c., red brown,	.15	.40
<i>Officially Sealed.</i>		
1877, br'n (Post Obittum,) 5.00		9.50
CANADA.		
1857, 1-2d, unperf.,	.75	1.25
" " " unused,	1.00	2.00
1858, 1-2d, perf.,	5.00	7.50
" 6d., "	7.50	15.00
<i>Registered.</i>		
8c., blue,	.40	.60
<i>Officially Sealed.</i>		
1879, brown,	2.50	3.50
NEW BRUNSWICK.		
3d.,	1.00	1.75
6d.,	2.50	3.50
10c., unused,	.20	.40
12 1-2c.,	.15	.30
NOVA SCOTIA.		
1d.,	1.50	2.25
3d.,	.65	1.00
6d.,	2.00	3.50

No doubt many will be agreeably surprised to see some of their stamps quoted at a much higher value, at any rate it will show that the value is not so fictitious as many would have us believe. The prices above are for used specimens, except where noted. Nearly all the obsolete Canada and U. S. stamps are quoted in the foreign market at an advance of 10 per cent. to 50 per cent. on our dealers' prices. *Canadensis.*

The Philatelic Nonpareil

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

EDWIN A. DURGIN, - Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION.

To any country in the Postal Union, 25 cents per year; Australian Colonies, 36 cents. All other countries, 75 cents.

ADVERTISING RATES.

One line, nonpareil measure, one month, 5 cts.; three months, 13-2 cents; six months, 4 cents; one year, 31-2 cents. Seven words to a line. 12 lines to an inch. Copy should reach us not later than the 5th inst.

No objectionable matter published at any price.

HOW TO REMIT. The safest way to remit is by postal order, registered letter, or by express money order. Money carefully placed inside of envelopes, securely sealed and correctly addressed, seldom goes astray, but is at the sender's risk.

Address all communications, nothing more, nothing less.

EDWIN A. DURGIN,

25 Winter St., Boston, Mass.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The first number of the NONPAREIL met with a hearty reception, far beyond our most sanguine expectations, and the favors shown our little journal has induced us to add four more pages, consequently beginning with the new year the NONPAREIL will appear as an eight-page journal, replete with interesting articles, bits of gossip and general information, including a faithful chronicle of the topics of the day, descriptions of new issues and discoveries, correspondence from leading philatelic writers, exposures of counterfeits and frauds, and any new ideas that it is possible to obtain.

TO ADVERTISERS.

We offer a good reliable medium for bringing your wares before the Philatelic public. The NONPAREIL is sent to "hustling" collectors, dealers, and members of philatelic societies throughout the world; the editor being a member of half a dozen societies, and a col-

lector since 1876, has obtained the address of thousands of reliable parties in nearly every stamp-issuing country, and we guarantee a circulation in the following named countries and colonies: United States, Canada, South and Central American States, Great Britain, France, German States, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Turkey in Europe and Asia, Egypt, India, Cyprus, Japan, China, Australian Colonies, Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, Sandwich Islands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and the West Indies. Besides these countries, sample copies are sent monthly to the more remote postal districts, thus guaranteeing our advertisers a world-wide circulation.

Our rates will be found very reasonable, considering the manner our journal is circulated. A trial ad. is respectfully solicited, and we are confident that you will be satisfied with the result.

NOTES.

The topic of Mr. Davison's article "Philatelic Societies and Young Collectors" is of importance to a large majority of collectors. We would like to have the ideas of some of our philatelic friends on the subject.

The new stamps of Brazil bear a blue globe encircled by the words "Republic of the United States of Brazil." This is probably surcharged on the stamps now on hand, as the new Republic has hardly had time to have new dies engraved.

The new postal card works at Shelton, Conn., are turning out 4,000 cards per minute, or 2,400,000 in a day of ten hours. Seventeen years ago the postal card was unknown in this country, and now the annual consumption is estimated at 100,000,000.

Samuel C. Dawson of San Salvador, in a letter to the *Philatelic Journal of America*, says that the 3c., brown, and 10c., orange, of '87, and the 5c., blue, of

'88, surcharged "Contra sello," are frauds, as no such surcharge has been made by the government.

The postage stamp contractors have agreed to furnish 20,000,000,000,000 stamps in a year. But if the new stamps are like the old ones as to the quality of paper used every one of 19,999,999,999,999 of them will rip somewhere else than at the punched line when you try to tear it off the sheet.—*N. Y. Press.*

No more "Letter Sheets" will be issued when the present supply has been disposed of. It is probably not generally known that the Letter Sheet was not a regular government issue, but a private enterprise, controlled by the American Bank Note Company, the government only making returns for the number of sheets sold.

The color of the coming new two-cent postage stamp isn't likely to escape criticism any more than that of those now in use. Bright carmine is a rather light hue for a stamp in general use, though, as the new design is to be much smaller than the present one, this fault will be in a measure offset. It is doubtful if the new stamp will be any great improvement on the brown one that antedated the sickly green thing.—*Boston Herald.*

PHILATELIC GOSSIP.

For big talk and still bigger mistakes the *Rhode Island Philatelist* takes the currant bun. Bro. Percival Parrish, it is now my innings and I rise to a question of privilege? What is the matter with you and the C. P. A.? Answer in our next.

Wolfsieffer, of Chicago, and J. R. Hooper are at it in philatelic waltz style. As long as P. M. with his limburger keeps at the present distance I shall never grumble.

What's the matter with the Chalmers Society and *Figaro* Voute? Whisper softly—"Sailing on the Stygian waters!"

CANADENSIS.

I WANT TO BUY

Collections of

U. S. ^{AND} Foreign Postage Stamps.

1,000 to 7,000 varieties. Best net cash prices paid for good collections.

JOHN C. SCHAYER,
147 Devonshire St., - Boston.

WANTED,

In every stamp-issuing country, agents and correspondents for the NONPAREIL. Liberal terms. For particulars address,
EDWIN A. DURGIN,
25 Winter St., Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

STANDARD STAMP CO.,

H. FLACHSKAMM, Man'g'r.

1115 So. 9th St., St. Louis, Mo.

One of the largest and best assorted stocks of U. S. and foreign postage stamps in the world! Send for our 20 pp. price-list. FINE APPROVAL SHEETS sent to collectors furnishing reference or deposit. Prices the lowest. Variety upwards of 8000. AGENTS WANTED at 33 1/3 per cent. commission. One trial solicited (Mention paper.)

Stamp Papers Wanted!

I will give from four to twelve fine Philatelic Magazines for each one of the following sent me at once: *Philatelic Journal of America*, No's 1, 4, 6, 9, 15, 18, 21, 22, 50, 51, 52. *American Journal of Philately*, (new series) Vol. I. No's 4, 6, 7, 8. *Stamp and Coin Gazette*, Vol. 2, No's 1 and 40. *Collectors' Ledger*, Vol. 4, No. 12. *Keystone Phil. Gazette*, Vol. 3, No. 32. *Stamp Collector* (Ottawa, Ill.), Vol. I, No. 7. *Hoosier Philatelist*, Vol. I, No. 1. *Plain Talk*, Vol. I, No. 1, Vol. VI, No. 3.

I will also send a rare stamp FREE, as well as from four to twelve papers, for every paper sent me if sent at once.

JNO. R. HOOPER,

559 Kings St., Ottawa, Can.

C. P. A. No. 1.

N. B. Rare stamps exchanged.

Philatelic Printing.

Of every description neatly, promptly and correctly executed. Magazines and papers a specialty. Prices as low as good work can be done for. Write for estimates, enclosing stamp for reply.

This paper is a specimen of my work.

F. H. PINKHAM, Newmarket, N. H.

THE

Philatelic Nonpareil.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, MASS., JANUARY 15, 1890.

No. 3.

PHILATELIC RAMBLES.

THE POST OFFICE AT MONACO.

The methods and manners of the post office at Monaco are decidedly unique, and altogether different from any place we have ever seen. Monaco, capital of the independent principality of the same name, is situated on a neck of land projecting into the Mediterranean, distant about twenty minutes' ride from Mentone, the well known winter resort on the Riviera, and is not far from the Franco-Italian frontier.

A stranger on entering the post office for the first time is usually paralyzed and struck dumb for an instant, and feels decidedly uncertain as to his whereabouts, being in doubt as to the identity of the place in which he finds himself, fancying himself either in part of the foyer of the Eden Theatre at Paris, or else in a part of the gambling establishment. On first entering one finds oneself in a room about twenty feet by thirty, across one end of which runs a counter not unlike the kind seen in French brasseries, and English bars. Behind this is seated the presiding genius of the place, a battle-scared veteran of the demi-monde, dressed in a bewitching gown cut décolleté, rather after the fashion of those worn at the bars of certain Paris theatres. We were told by a tall fine looking gentleman, an ex-croupier, that she was imported from Paris especially for philatelists, as he said these were about the only people who cared to take the trouble to hunt up the local post office, most people posting their letters at Mentone. This charm-

ing (?) creature, on perceiving our entrance, smilingly beckoned us to approach and assuming her most winning air asked us what we required. By this time we had sufficiently recovered to be able to approach the counter and in our best French said that we desired to obtain some philatelic mementoes of our visit to Monaco. With a slight smile she took up a large book resembling a merchant's ledger, and taking some sheets of Monaco stamps from between the pages asked us if these were what we were in search of. Having secured specimens of all the varieties she had, which amounted to a trifle less than 5 fr., one of our party handed her a 5 fr. piece in payment, and noticing the longing glances she cast at the few centimes change which she placed on the counter, begged her to accept it from him as a slight mark of his regard and admiration for her gentle attention to us. Much to our surprise, for we expected to see him annihilated on the spot, she fairly beamed on him as she replied "*tu es bien gentil mon petit coco,*" and offered him her hand to kiss!

The only indications of the postal character of the place were a couple of small signs "*Bureau de la poste,*" and a number of small letterboxes on the sides of the room. We think all the philatelists who may chance to go to Europe would do well to visit the post office at Monaco, as it is well worth the visit.

Nebraska is coming right to the front in philatelic matters. In fact, she has had a general awakening.

BLOOD'S PENNY POST.

In looking over an old number of the *Philadelphia Herald* I came across the following account of an interesting interview held between a correspondent of that paper and Mr. Elbert Kochersperger of the Philadelphia National Bank, who entered the office of Blood's Penny Post soon after it started, in 1846, and continued with it as clerk and then as proprietor, until it was closed by act of Congress. The readers of the *Nonpareil* may find much of interest in regard to this most remarkable enterprise in this review of the later years of its existence, so I will furnish it verbatim as it appeared in the columns above referred to.

Mr. Kochersperger, in speaking to the *Herald's* correspondent of the Post's life after the death of Mr. Blood, says: "The business was purchased from the heirs on October 31, 1855, by my brother, Charles Kochersperger. He advertised boldly, and this business grew to great proportions—for those days. We handled 6,000 to 8,000 letters daily, as many as the government handled in the old city proper at that time. Long before this we had hired men, instead of boys, as carriers. There were five daily collections and deliveries, with special hourly collections and deliveries in the busiest business sections. The druggists in whose stores our boxes were placed sold our stamps on commission and made quite handsome profits. We had no uniforms for our carriers, but neither had the government. There was a book in which every complaint was noted with the final result. Sometimes the dissatisfied persons never called again and we were justified in believing that their complaints were unfounded. Others returned to apologize for having complained through mistakes. When complaint was speedily made the carrier might remember the delivery of the letter, and prove it to the satisfaction of the customer by describing the recipient.

"I had carte-blanche about advertising, and very soon after I entered the business wrote every advertisement, continuing this for years. There was not so much variety then in advertising, and I tried to make ours original. I remember a local paper once had an editorial on advertising, and copied verbatim several of mine as samples of a new departure. At that time, too, as always afterward, every letter was stamped with the hour of reception and delivery, and a weekly list of the undelivered was advertised, a charge of one cent being made when letters advertised were claimed. We did not advertise pamphlets or circulars.

"A large business was done in the delivery of papers and magazines coming by express from points outside the city, and in this case we were furnished with a list of subscribers. Soon after we began this branch of the business the office was removed to the old Shakespeare building at Sixth and Chestnut streets, and remained there until it was destroyed by fire. Then the office was opened in the "Arcade" on Chestnut street between Sixth and Seventh, and remained there four years. From that location we moved to 28 South Fifth street, where thirty-two carriers were employed and where we remained from 1856 to 1862, when we were closed out by the government. At the last office a large case of assorting boxes, all numbered, faced the window part, and about 500 of these boxes were rented at \$1 per year. Most of the answers to advertisements were directed care of Blood's. While we were in the old Shakespeare building it was occupied by Dr. J. W. Schenck, the 'penny post' having the Carpenter street (now Jayne street) end.

"There were many improvements used in the 'Blood' service which have since been adopted by the Postal Department, but were not employed by the United States for years after we discarded them.

We had wagons to take the carriers to distant points long before the government had, each wagon holding five carriers and a driver. We employed a corps of carriers for special delivery and had enough to be always ready to send a special messenger, at a charge of five or ten cents, according to distance. We sent anywhere by wagon at special rates. This department was very popular and in constant use. Its usefulness can be better understood now, when it is remembered that in those days there was no 'telephone,' 'local telegraph' or 'district messenger system.'

But the success of Blood's Penny Post, and other services like it in great cities all over the country, at last aroused the jealousy of the government, and in 1860 Postmaster General Hall determined to wipe out all private parties engaged in carrying letters. A suit was begun against the companies by the government, but failed. Then Congress was asked to pass a law declaring the streets of all towns and cities post roads, which would make our business illegal. Congress quickly passed the bill. Then, in the winter of 1862, the government began a test case against Blood's Penny Post. I had bought out my brother's interest some time before, but was sick when the case came to trial. Henry M. Phillips was our counsel, and the case went against us. Blood's Penny Post made its last delivery on the morning of January 11, 1862. My loss was heavy, as I had but recently become proprietor of the business. *Henry S. Harte.*

With but a single exception the right hand of good fellowship has been extended to the NONPAREIL by the philatelic press of America, and the editor takes this opportunity to return his sincere thanks to the several editors for the many kind words in his behalf, and as Rip Van Winkle says, "May you all live long and prosper."

The Philatelic Nonpareil

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

EDWIN A. DURGIN, - Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION.

To any country in the Postal Union, 25 cents per year; Australian Colonies, 36 cents. All other countries, 75 cents.

ADVERTISING RATES.

One line, nonpareil measure, one month, 5 cts.; three months, 4 1-2 cents; six months, 4 cents; one year, 3 1-2 cents. Seven words to a line. 12 lines to an inch. Copy should reach us not later than the 5th inst.

No objectionable matter published at any price.

HOW TO REMIT. The safest way to remit is by postal order, registered letter, or by express money order. Money carefully placed inside of envelopes, securely sealed and correctly addressed, seldom goes astray, but is at the sender's risk.

Address all communications, nothing more, nothing less.

EDWIN A. DURGIN.

25 Winter St., Boston, Mass.

Entered at the Post Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, Dec. 10, 1889.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

A novelty in scarf pins is a miniature mail sack made from gold.

The *American Journal of Philately* is publishing a catalogue for advanced collectors, edited by Messrs. Henry Collin and Henry L. Calman. The work contains the unit of money of the various countries, with its equivalent in United States currency, and notes for the detection of counterfeits.

Mr. J. K. Tiffany, president of the A. P. A., although a resident of St. Louis for some years, is not a native of the soil. He is a native of Worcester, Mass., and a graduate of Harvard college, and was the first to successfully introduce philately into St. Louis, all former attempts having resulted disastrously; the philatelic missionaries having been driven out of the city by the howling aboriginals.

Another philatelic journal will shortly be issued from Boston. Let the good work go on.

We have received the catalogue of Mr. H. Gremmel's first auction sale, and notice many very fine lots on the list.

Before placing your subscriptions for philatelic reading for the coming year, your attention is respectfully called to the NONPAREIL; give it a trial, and we guarantee you will not regret it.

Farmer Begosh had been standing on the corner studying the new style letter box some minutes. Finally he remarked to the policeman who was passing:

"Great invention."

"Yes."

"But I can't make it out."

"It's very simple."

"I s'pose so, but how much must you drop into the slot, and what is the blamed thing supposed to do?"—*Merchant Traveler*.

The "McGinty" vulgarity, after having become a very stale chestnut in the United States, finally turns up in New Jersey where a Philadelphia Jerseyman, thinking it funny, winds up in his advertisements in the style peculiar to his race and region. A year or two ago the saying was, "Let her go, Gallagher," and now after McGinty what next? The sublime and superb science of philately needs no vulgarity of this kind to boom it, and Jerseymen should shun the McGinty slang, else shall the intellect (if they have any) fall to careless ruin and dim the lustre of the "grand old science."

A recent dispatch from Washington to the *Boston Herald* says. "First Assistant Postmaster-General Clarkson, in the absence of Postmaster-General Wanamaker last summer awarded the postal card contract to ex-Sheriff "Al" Daggett, the well known Brooklyn politician, in spite of protests based on the fact that

he was not a card manufacturer, and that his bid was too low to be honestly profitable. But for some reason Daggett is not getting the orders for postal cards from the department. For a few days after Oct. 1, when his contract began to run, he was crowded with orders, apparently given to see whether he could do the work. He kept up with the orders, and has been manufacturing postal cards ever since at a mill in Derby, Ct. But he has had no orders for 40 days, so that he has millions of cards on hand. Meanwhile, the contractors of last year have received orders for the 20,000,000 cards they had on hand Oct. 1, and for 30,000,000 more. These latter, being paid for at the old contract rate, will cost \$3800 more than if the cards which Daggett says he has ready had been taken."

As country after country joins the Universal Postal Union, so the tendency necessarily grows also to have the postal system modelled after a common pattern; so likewise the demand for a common stamp grows. It is expressly annoying when a person is desirous of receiving information from some person in a foreign country not to be able to enclose (as courtesy demands) stamps for return postage. A universal stamp would obviate this. Again, the adoption of such a stamp would simplify the means of making exchange and payment of small amounts.—*Alabama Philatelist*.

ESTABLISHED IN 1866.

F. TRIFET, A. P. A.,

Importer & Dealer in Foreign Stamps, &c.

408 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

Being the oldest established dealer, without any exception, in America, I solicit a share of your patronage, and would be pleased to have you call when in Boston. **Catalogue, 220pp., with 1900 illustrations, 25 cents.**

YOUNG'S

PHILATELIC HANDBOOK

Will appear April 1, 1890. Advertising rates, 60¢ per inch, 2 inches, \$1. Rates for larger space upon application. Price of book, 15 cents. It will contain contributions by the oldest and best informed philatelists in the U. S. Parties sending price of book in advance will have name inserted in directory free. Address all communications to G. H. YOUNG, 18 Richards Ave., Portsmouth, N.H.

110312

Foreign
Correspondence
Solicited.

OFFICE OF

Wanted all kinds of
Rare and Obsolete
Stamps.

EDWIN A. DURGIN,

25 WINTER STREET.

Importer of and Dealer in FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS,
POSTCARDS, STAMPED ENVELOPES, ALBUMS &c.
Wholesale and Retail. Also Publisher of the

PHILATELIC NONPAREIL.

↔ A First Class Journal for all grades of Philatelists. ↔

Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

Apr 16

1895

Mr. John K. Tiffany-

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 10th,
received in due time.

Three numbers were all
that appeared of the Nonpareil,
I had excellent support for my
little venture, but as I did
not have the time to run a
first class journal, I concluded
not to have any.

I started in a small
way but the change in my
employment completely upset
my calculations. I did
intend to issue a 24pp. paper
this fall and was in an excellent

way to accomplish that result
when the change occurred.

Thanking you for
kind favors I remain

Yours respectfully,
Edwin A. Durgin



I WANT YOU

To consider the quotations given below, and

TRY ME ONCE.

Money refunded for stamps not proving satisfactory.

FEBRUARY LIST OF SETS.

	Price per Set.
Bosnia, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15 n.,	\$.15
Bulgaria, 1881 3, 5, 10, 15 s.,	.12
Bulgaria, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, 50 s.,	.40
Cochin China, 5 on 25,	.15
Constantinople, 5, 20, 40 pa.,	.03
Cyprus, 1-2 on 1-2, 1-2, 1, 2 pl., 1-2 pl. wrapper,	.15
Eastern Roumelia, 5, 5, 10, 10, 20 pa., 1 pl.,	.25
Egypt, 1, 1, 2, 2, 5, 10,	.04
Egypt, 1867, 5 pa., unused, 10, 10, 20, 20 pa., 1, 2 pl.,	.75
Egypt, 1872, unused, 5, c, 10, 10, 20, 20 pa., 1, 2, 2 1-2, 5 pl., 5 pa. on 21-2 pl., 10 pa. on 2 1-2 pl.,	1.50
French Colonies, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20,	.05
Malta, 1-2, 1-2, and 2 1-2 d.,	.10
Mexico, 1864, unused, 1, 2, 4 rl., 1 pe.,	.25
Mexico, 1879, unused, thick paper, 25, 50, 85, and 100 cent,	2.75
Mexico, 1882, unused, thin paper, 5, 6, 10, 12, 18, 24 cent,	.90
Mexico Envelopes, unused, 4, 10, 25 cent,	.35
Persia, Lion and Sun, small, 1, 2, 5,	.06
Persia, set of seven, including official,	.25
Reunion, 5 on 30, 5 on 40, the pair,	.25
Russia Levant, 1, 1, 2, 2, 5, 7, 7,	.15
Sarawak, 2 and 3 cent, unused, the pair,	.12
Servia, 1881, 5, 10, 20, 25,	.05
Turkey, 1865, set of 5, including 5 pl.,	.25
Turkey, 1869-'75, 5 pl., large and small perforation,	.10
Turkey, 1869, set of 7,	.15
Turkey, 1871, set of 6, large perforation	.15
Turkey, 1876, 10, 20 pa., 2 pl.,	.05
Turkey, 1876, surcharged, 1 4, 1-2, 2,	.06
Turkey, 1876, Empire, 10, 20 pa., 2 pl.,	.05
Turkey, 1884, 5, 10, 20 pa., 2, 4, 5 pl.,	.12
Turkey, 1886, 2 and 5 pl., the pair,	.16
Turkey, 1887, 5, 10, 20 pa., 1 pl.,	.06
Turkey, 1888, 5 pa., 2 and 5 pl.,	.18

FEBRUARY PACKETS.

No. 1. Contains 25 varieties of used and unused foreign stamps, including Holka, 1889, unused, (worth 10c.), Nowanuggar, Cashmere, Iceland and San Domingo, price, post-free, 27 cents.

No. 2. Contains 25 varieties of used and unused foreign stamps, including Deccan, Sardinia, Vandemansland, 1866, Hayti and Sarawak, price, post-free, 27 cents.

No. 3. Contains 25 varieties of used and unused foreign stamps, including Gold Coast, Paraguay, Sierra Leon, Guatemala and Sandwich Islands, price, post-free, 27 cents.

Try me once and you will come again.

EDWIN A. DURGIN,

25 Winter St., Boston, Mass.

I WANT TO BUY

Collections of

U. S. Foreign Postage Stamps.

1,000 to 7,000 varieties. Best net cash prices paid for good collections.

JOHN C. SCHAYER,

147 Devonshire St., - Boston.

WANTED,

In every stamp-issuing country, agents and correspondents for the NONPAREIL. Liberal terms. For particulars address, EDWIN A. DURGIN, 25 Winter St., Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

STANDARD STAMP CO.,

H. FLACHSKAMM, Man'g'r.

1115 So. 9th St., St. Louis, Mo.

One of the largest and best assorted stocks of U. S. and foreign postage stamps in the world! Send for our 20 pp. price-list. FINE APPROVAL SHEETS sent to collectors furnishing reference or deposit. Prices the lowest. Variety upwards of \$600. AGENTS WANTED at 33 1-3 per cent. commission. One trial solicited. (Mention paper.)

Stamp Papers Wanted!

I will give from four to twelve fine Philatelic Magazines for each one of the following sent me at once: *Philatelic Journal of America*, No's 1, 4, 6, 9, 15, 18, 21, 22, 50, 51, 52. *American Journal of Philately*. (new series) Vol. I, No's 4, 6, 7, 8. *Stamp and Coin Gazette*, Vol. 2, No's 1 and 40. *Collectors' Ledger*, Vol. 4, No. 12. *Keystone Phil. Gazette*, Vol. 3, No. 32. *Stamp Collector* (Ottawa, Ill.), Vol. I, No. 5. *Hoosier Philatelist*, Vol. I, No. 1. *Plain Talk*, Vol. I, No. 1, Vol. VI, No. 3.

I will also send a rare stamp FREE, as well as from four to twelve papers, for every paper sent me if sent at once.

JNO. R. HOOPER,

559 Kings St., Ottawa, Can.

C. P. A. No. 1.

N. B. Rare stamps exchanged.

Philatelic Printing.

Of every description neatly, promptly and correctly executed. Magazines and papers a specialty. Prices as low as good work can be done for. Write for estimates, enclosing stamp for reply.

This paper is a specimen of my work.

F. H. PINKHAM, Newmarket, N. H.