

THE COLLECTORS' ADVOCATE.

119259
DEVOTED TO ALL BRANCHES OF COLLECTING.

VOL. 1.

CINCINNATI, O., JANUARY, 1888.

NO. 1.

Stamps and Stamp Collecting.

Sir Rowland Hill was the man who originated the idea of putting the postage stamp to the service which it is doing at present. He encountered many difficulties before the Parliament consented to take his plan into consideration; and met with much opposition before it was finally adopted.

May 6th, 1840, Mr. Hill first saw his postal reform, which after-wards proved such an invaluable aid to commerce, put into operation. The design for the first adhesive stamp, which was chosen in preference to a number of others, was made by Heath, of London. The color of the stamp was black; but as this did not sufficiently show the ink which was used in obliterating them, the color was soon after-wards changed to red. The design for the first stamped envelope was made by W. Mulready who designed the curious picture which adorns the famous "Mulreadys," by which name they have since been known. As the public, however, preferred the adhesive stamps, a complete series of these was issued, and the currency of the Mulready envelope ceased.

The example set by Great Britain in adopting the new Postal Reform was soon followed by the other countries, among the first being the United States, who issued their first stamps in 1842. With the many different issues that appeared at short intervals, in the various countries, a great variety of stamps was soon produced.

The attractive display made by the different colors and designs of the stamps, es-

pecially when arrayed together, probably first led to collecting them; or it may have been the desire to preserve them as specimens of historic interest. Whatever may have been the cause, it is sufficient to say that the interest displayed in Philately, as it was afterward called, increased with wonderful rapidity, so that now fifteen or twenty years after its first appearance, its enthusiastic followers can be numbered by thousands. They are spread all over the globe, in every far off country, be it ever so small and having but little intercourse with the outer civilization, there are stamp collectors who take as much delight in their hobby, as their brother collectors, who have so much better chances for enlarging their collections.

As an instructive pastime, stamp collecting stands without a peer, and that many benefits can be derived from it, is universally acknowledged. There are countries which the average mortal has never heard of; but which are familiar to the collector. Such names as Sarawak, Selangor, Montserrat, Macao, Nowanuggur, Rajpeepla, Fernando Po, Corrientes and Antiequia, are among those with which he wrestles daily. When looking over his collection, you may ask him about a certain stamp, and he will inform you that it is the 1853 issue of the Hawaiian Islands, and that the portrait is that of Kamehameha, III. He can give you the same information about any of his stamps, and generally delights in doing so. The number of stamps that can now be collected amount to about seven thousand varieties.

(Continued in next number.)

Birds of Central Kentucky.

BY C. P. T.

The following notes on the nesting of birds in Campbell and Kenton, counties, Kentucky, taken from my note-book of the season of 1887; may prove of some interest to those interested in Oology.

The first set taken by me in that season, was that of a Robin, taken April 19, and contained four eggs, perfectly fresh. The nest was situated on a limb of an apple tree, but a few feet from the ground.

April 22—I taken two sets, one of the Blue Jay, situated in an evergreen shade tree, and containing five fresh eggs; and one of the Mourning Dove, situated between two limbs of a peach tree, and containing two fresh eggs.

April 26—A nest of the Downy Woodpecker situated in a hole in a dead apple tree, and containing four eggs in which incubation had just begun; also same date a nest of the Field Sparrow, containing five fresh eggs.

April 27—Meadow Lark's nest situated on the ground between the roots of an old stump, in a clover meadow and containing four eggs, slightly incubated.

April 28—Screech Owl, a nest situated in a hole in a decayed oak stump, in an orchard and containing a handsome set of five pure white eggs, perfectly fresh. The nest of this bird is rarely found here, this being the second set of their eggs that I ever taken, although the Owl is often seen and heard in this region.

April 30—Yellow Breasted Chat, five fresh eggs. The nest was situated in a patch of blackberry bushes in a fence corner, which is a favorite nesting place of this species; also same date, a nest of the Pewee, situated in a hole in a fence rail and containing four eggs, slightly incubated.

May 3—Catbird, four fresh eggs. Barn Swallow, five eggs. Chimney Swift, three fresh eggs. Scarlet Tanager, four fresh

eggs. The nest was situated in an apple tree and was the only set I ever taken, as the bird is rarely found here during the breeding season.

May 4—Crow, four fresh eggs. Black Capped Chickadee, two nests, one containing five, the other six eggs, slightly incubated. Black-billed Cuckoo, two fresh eggs. The nest was situated in a small bush and was but a short distance from the ground.

May 11—A nest of the American Long-eared Owl, containing three eggs, although the number of eggs laid by this Owl, is said by some authors, to be five, and as this is the only instance of observation that I have ever been favored with, I will not dispute their authority. The nest was situated in a beach tree, and was a great height from the ground. The nest was composed of coarse materials, and was platform-shaped and similar in appearance, to one found by the well known naturalist, Mr. Thomas H. Jackson, of West Chester, Pa., and described by him, in Vol. 11, No. 12, of *The Ornithologist and Oologist*.

The other birds frequenting this region, and of which I have this far, been unable to obtain eggs of, are: Red-tailed, Pigeon, and Sparrow Hawks, Barred Owls, Whip-poor-wills, Spotted Sandpipers and Ruby-throat Humming-birds.

Geological Discovery.

The President of the Scientific Association of Newport, Ky., is said to have in his possession one of the most wonderful geological specimens that has ever been discovered. It is a block of igneous or primary rock, containing the organic remains of the zoophytes and algae, the lowest form of vegetable and animal life. In the center of the rock and plainly outlined, is a reptile or lizard form with bird-wing attachments. This is the first organic remains ever found in the primary rock.

THE COLLECTORS' ADVOCATE.

The Collectors' Advocate.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED

—BY—

CHAS. TARVIN, - - - CIN., O.

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Editorial.

—With this issue we present to the Collecting Public, THE COLLECTORS' ADVOCATE, hoping that it will meet with success, and that they will assist us in making it a first class collectors journal.

—On account of our regular business, we are behind with this issue; neither did we have a chance to obtain the number of advertisements, we wished to, but we hope to have our next issue out by the 20th. of the month, and also to have the ads. of a great many of the prominent dealers.

—In order that we may never run short of MSS. and consequently, have all advertisements read and no reading matter, as a great

many papers have; we make the following offer; to collectors who will contribute to this paper, and send in the first MS. and their name and address, before or by the first of March; will receive this paper, free of charge. This offer will be good only until we secure a sufficient number of contributors to keep us supplied with MSS.

—We wish to exchange with every publication devoted to collecting. Editors, send two copies, and we return the compliment with the same number.

—We would call the attention to Mr. R. W. Mercer's "ad", to be found elsewhere in this paper. Mr. Mercer has the largest stock of Indian Relics, Autographs, Coins, Minerals and general Curiosities, of any dealer in our city, and one of largest in the West, and collectors desiring anything in his line, would do well by writing to him for he can supply your wants, if any dealer can.

—As we are desiring to purchase a complete stock of Foreign and U. S. postage stamps, we are enabled to make the following offer; dealers who will send us an advertisement of at least one inch, to be inserted at least three times, at our regular advertising rates, and send us one half the amount in cash, and their Wholesale Price List, we will select the remaining half from their stock.

—Our next issue will have a cover, and it will be a great improvement over this issue. We shall add the cover in order to have sufficient room for advertisements without crowding out any of our reading matter. Dealers who send in their "ads", early, can secure space on the outside pages.

—We especially solicit contributions for our next issue, on the following subjects; Philately, Oology, Geology, Archæology and Numismatics. "Collectors, wake up," and send in an article on some of the above subjects, it will not hurt you, while it will help others.

—We would be glad to receive the circulars of the Ohio Philatelic Association.

Review of COLLECTORS' JOURNALS.

The Buckeye State Collector is a thriving and interesting collectors journal, ably edited by Mr. E. J. Smith of Portsmouth, Ohio. Its December number contained some very interesting articles by some of the leading collectors.

Common Sense edited and published by F. A. Thomas, Mexico, N. Y. is an enterprising monthly, devoted to all branches of collecting. To its December number was added a cover which makes it one of the largest and best general collectors papers published.

The Curiosity World published by John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H. is the best curiosity paper in existence. It is devoted to all branches, and each number contains interesting articles by prominent collectors.

The Oologist ably edited and published by Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y. and devoted to bird egg collecting, is a model collectors journal and contains, each month valuable information to those interested in Oology. No Oologist should be without it.

The Hoosier Naturalist is an enterprising journal devoted to all branches of Natural History and especially to Ornithology, Oology and Taxidermy. It is published bi-monthly by Charles H. Lamson of Valparaiso, Ind.

The Philatelic Fortnightly published by J. R. Adrich, Benson, Minn. is the only semi-monthly Philatelic paper published. It is a journal that should be in the hands of every stamp collector.

The North Star Philatelist has again appeared with Geo. A. Achard, secretary of the Minneapolis society, as manager.

The Wisconsin State Philatelist has made its appearance from Wisconsin, under the management of N. E. Carter. We wish it success.

Exchanges and Wants.

Under this heading, notices of less than 50 words will be inserted each month, free of charge to subscribers. We reserve the right to refuse any objectionable notice.

An improved Wheeler and Wilson sewing machine with all the attachments, cost \$80 and is as new, will exchange for the best offer of job or body type, printing material, Oologists' books or large collection of foreign and U. S. stamps. Charles P. Tarvin, 165 Plum Street, Cin., O.

A fine collection of about 1000 varieties tobacco tags, consisting of about 750 tin and 250 paper tags; also a collection of about 600 varieties postmarks, for the best offer of match or medicine stamps, foreign postal cards, Oologists' instruments, or pair of climbing irons. Charles Tarvin, 165 Plum Street Cincinnati, O.

An artist's sketching easel, with palette and set of camel's hair brushes and two boxes of French water colors, for the best offer of egg drills, blow-pipes, embryo hooks, etc. Chas. Tarvin, 165 Plum Street, Cincinnati, O.

A breech loading shot gun, Remington action, with brass shells and set of reloading tools, cost \$45 and is in fine condition. Will exchange it for Ridgway's Manual of North American Birds, and the third edition of Coue's Key to North American Birds. The Sportsman's Editions of the above books, preferred. Chas. Tarvin 165 Plum St., Cin., O.

Last half of Vol. VII *Golden Days*, Vol. II of the *United States Monthly Magazine*, and Vol. III of *The American Exchange and Mart*. The last mentioned volume contains some interesting articles for collectors, including a serial article by C. F. Maynard, entitled "Six months in the Bahamas", and one by F. G. Bates, on insect collecting. Will exchange the lot for late edition Davie's check list. Chas. Tarvin 165 Plum St., Cin., O.

A Burrowing Bird.

The auk resembles the eider-duck in shape, except that their bills are sharp and not flat, like those of the latter. There are three species of them which are distinguished from one another by the length of the bill and its curvature. All three species live and brood in the same places. I was told of a mountain where a million of them had built their nests. I am sure of one thing—that no man has ever seen a million birds, even though he has traveled over half the earth. Doubting the accounts, I visited the described mountain. On a bright summer day my companion and myself took a boat and rowed toward it, over the smooth transparent water, between beautiful islands, followed by the screeching of startled gulls. High above us on a towering ridge we saw the watchful ospreys; below us, on right and left, along the sheer cliffs, the sitting eider-ducks. Finally we came to the populous part of the mountain, which is from three hundred and twenty to three hundred and thirty feet high and six really immense numbers of birds sitting on the ridges. The higher parts of the cone were covered with a brown soot, and as we approached the shore the birds drew back thither, and suddenly disappeared from view, as if by concerted agreement. When we had reached the shore and landed, and were wondering what had become of the host of birds, we found the ground harrowed all over with holes that looked like common rabbit holes. We soon learned that they were the entrances to the nest chambers of the auk. The holes were large enough to permit the birds to pass through, and then widened on the inside so as to give room for the nest of the two birds. As we climbed toward the height, the tenants first carefully and cautiously peered at us; then slipped out and flew themselves screaming into the air, as we were seen, as if as the eye

could reach, with birds whose cry resembled the noise of a gigantic surf or a raging storm.—*Dr. Alfred E. Bacon, in Popular Science.*

A Wonderful Beetle.

The light of the fire-flies of tropical America seems to be dependant upon the will, as when feeding or asleep it is not seen, attaining its greatest brilliancy during activity and flight. The color of the light is a rich green, but the eggs emit a bluish tint, according to Dubois. This naturalist has made some extremely interesting experiments with the *Pyrophorus*. The eggs which he dried retained their luminosity for a week, the light reappearing when they were placed in water. He ground the luminous organs in a mortar after having dried them *vacuum*, and then mixed them in boiled water, the latter immediately becoming luminous. Dr. Dubois concludes that the light of the *Pyrophorus* is intended as illumination for itself alone. To prove this he covered one of the upper lights with wax and the animal moved in a curve; when both spots were covered the beetle soon stopped and then moved in an uncertain manner, carefully feeling the ground with his antennae. The spectrum of the light was extremely beautiful, being continuous, without dark or brilliant rays. *Christian-at-Work.*

An Electric Rock.

A very peculiar property has recently been discovered in the rock of a mountain seven miles from the town of Santa Cruz, Florida. This rock is heavily charged with electricity, and when applied to a battery was found to produce strong electric currents. A small handful of this rock applied to a battery generated sufficient force to operate it for three weeks.

THE COLLECTORS' ADVOCATE.

Stamp Issuing Countries and their First Stamps.

BY CHAS. WARVIN.

Great Britain has the honor of being the first country to issue postage stamps, the design of first adhesive stamp was as follows: Profile of a woman, facing to the left, in square, "Postage" above and value below, in straight lines, ornaments in upper and letters in lower corners, ornamented frame and unperforated. The colors and values were: 1p. black, and 2p. blue.

The United States was the first country to follow, and in 1842, issued the rare New York stamp, the stamp was a 3c. black, on buff paper, and was of the following design: Bust of Washington in oval, "United States City Dispatch Post", above, and "Three Cents", below, in curved lines; ornamented frame, and unperforated. The above described stamp was the only one issued by the U. S. in that year.

Brazil, issued stamps in 1843, the stamp was an oval, with large figures of value, in center, on engine turned disk; unperforated. The color was black, and values were 30, 60 and 90 reis.

Mauritius, in 1847, issued stamps with the following design: Profile of a woman, facing left, in square, "Postage" above and value below in straight lines, on the left of the stamp, is "Mauritius" and on the right "Post Office", ornamented corners, and unperforated. The colors and values were: 1p. orange and 2p. blue.

In 1849, several countries issued stamps they were; Bavaria, Belgium and France; Bavaria's design was a square stamp with large figure of value, on engraved background, in center, "Bayern" above, and "Franco" below, value on sides and in corners. The colors and values, were: 4kr. black, 3kr. blue, and 6kr. brown, all unperforated.

Belgium, the design was as follows; Head of man, on engine turned back ground, "Postes", above, in curved line, and value

below in straight line, also figures of value in upper corners enclosed in small circles, unperforated. The colors and values were 10c. brown, and 20c. blue.

France issued the following design: Profile of a woman, facing the left, on solid disk, with "Repub. Franc", above, and value below, in straight lines, ornamented frame, unperforated. The colors and values were: 20c. black, 40c. orange, 1fr. lake, and 1fr. vermilion.

In 1850, stamps were issued by Austria, British Guinia, Prussia, Saxony and Spain. Austria's design was a stamp with the Coat of Arms, in center, in ornamented frame, with "Kkpost Stempel", in small type, above, and value below; ornamented frame, and unperforated. The colors and values were: 1kr. yellow, 2kr. orange, 3kr. red, 6kr. brown and 9kr. blue.

British Guinia, issued a stamp with the following design, on different colors of paper: Irregular circle, with "British Guinia" around its outer edge in rough type, and value in straight line in center. The values and colors of paper were: 4c. on yellow, 8c. on green and 12c. on blue.

Prussia, the design was: Profile of a man, facing the right, in square, with "Freimarke" above and value below, ornaments in upper corners, ornamented frame and unperforated. The colors and values were: 1/2sg. red, 4pf. green. There were also black stamps, of the same design issued on different colors of paper.

Saxony, a single stamp with the design as follows: Large figure three in center, in a square, "Sachsen" above, "Franco" below, "Drei" on the left and "Piennige" on the right, ornamented corners and unperforated.

Spain, issued stamps with the following design: Profile of a woman, facing left, in square, value, above, "1850" below, on the left "Correos" and on the right "Franco", unperforated. The colors and values were 6c. black, 12c. lilac, 5r. red, 6r. blue and 10r. green.

THE COLLECTORS' ADVOCATE.

CLIPPINGS.

A new Philatelic society has been organized in Chicago, called The Chalmers Philatelic Society, and the following officers were elected; Geo. S. Wilson, president; T. J. Mitchell, vice president; J. S. Eaton, secretary. Mr. Pat. Chalmers of Wimbledon, Eng., is a honorary member.

Archaeologists are talking of forming a society. This should be done, as it would bring together a large and fine collection of Indian and Mound Relics and would also make the hobby, far more interesting.

Dr. Phil. Edward A. Baldamus, of Coburg, Germany, is said to have the largest collection of birds eggs, in the world. He has been since 1834, obtaining them, and his collection now numbers 18,741 eggs, representing 1,667 varieties.

Philatelists, in Canada, have succeeded in forming a Dominion Society with members in all the provinces.

Among the issues of foreign postage stamps, there is none more curious within recent years, than those of Madagascar, which were issued in England for letters mailed at the British consulate in Antananarivo, and gummed only in the corner. The letters are sent to Mauritius, where the Malagassy stamp is removed and kept for a voucher and the Mauritius stamp substituted.

The stamps of the Executive Department were used only by the President and Vice-President.

European stamps are less in demand than any other continent's

Mount Brown, of London, is said to have been the first collector of postage stamps.

Baron Rothschild is one of the notable collectors of Europe.

A parcel post has been established between New York and Jamaica.

In 1887 the New York Philatelic Society saw its thirteenth birth-day.

When writing to our Advertisers please mention "THE COLLECTORS' ADVOCATE."

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12 assorted flint arrow points..... 50c.
 Ungrooved stone axes..... each 25 to 50c.
 Arrow points (white quartz) " 15 " 25c.
 " " (rotary, rare) " 25 " 50c.
 " " (serrated, rare) " 25 " 50c.
 " " (rotary with serrated edge, very rare)..... 50 " 1.00

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Business Cards, 2½ X ¼,	.75	1.00	1.50
Business Cards, 3 X 5½,	1.00	1.25	2.00
Statements,	.75	1.25	2.00
Bill Heads, 5-line,	.50	1.00	1.50
Bill Heads, 14-line,	.75	1.25	2.00
Bill Heads, full size,	1.25	2.00	3.50
Shipping Tags, 1½ X 3½,	.40	.75	1.00
Shipping Tags, 2¼ X 4¼,	.50	.85	1.40
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Circulars, 5 X 8,	.75	1.00	1.50
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