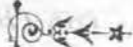




THE



Philatelic Observer.

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VOL. I.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1888.

NO. 1.

THE PHILATELIC OBSERVER.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
WILBUR W. THOMAS,
114 NASSAU STREET,
NEW YORK.

Subscription Price, 12 cents per year
for postage, in advance.

OBSERVATIONS.

We have now one of the finest offices in New York City, fitted up for the reception of customers, and would be pleased to see any of our friends who reside or may be temporarily in the city. Few dealers can excel our stock and none can undersell us.

Our specialties are—first, United States entire envelopes, of which we have a splendid assortment; second, Confederate Locals, in which line we often have rarities; and third, U. S. Locals, usually on original letters.

Collectors in any of these lines will seldom fail to reap advantages by corresponding with us.

The *Philatelic Record* has just discovered that the first issue of Mexican stamps has been reprinted. Rather queer that it didn't also find out that the 1864 engraved set, the 1866 engra-

ved and lithographed, the 1868 and the 1872 issues have also been reprinted, the plate of all those issues being under the control of a firm of dealers, and that the reprints are usually found in a canceled condition—strange, to be sure! And then that the *Record* didn't discover that most of the rare Gothic surcharged, the 1/2 on 1 real of 1864 and most of the Guadalupe stamps are worthless frauds—very funny, indeed! Truly the study of Mexican stamps offers many inducements to the philatelic student.

Guatemala stamps of 1875 issue are now offered by dealers with forged cancelations, the used stamps being more salable than unused. Mr. Wm. Brown, the English dealer has been offering them. We do not believe that he is the guilty party, but we would like an explanation from him. It is easy to surmise where they originated, as it is well known who holds the bulk of the stamps of that issue—a man who would not hesitate to resort to such a mean trick to make his stamps sell more quickly. We advise our readers to have nothing to do with this sort of trash.

The National Philatelic Society offers copies of its Color Charts to members of Philatelic societies for 55c. each. We can do better than that. We have a number of copies and shall offer them at 42c. each post-free to anyone. They are really a de-

sirable work, and the copies we offer are entirely new.

Specimens of early Prussian stamps are often found in uncatologued colors, and very often collectors are puzzled to account for them. All such are reprints. It is singular that they were not reprinted in the proper colors, but collectors are all the better off that such is the case.

Anyone purchasing stamps advertised in this number to the amount of one dollar or more will receive free a copy of our complete price catalogue, and also this paper for one year.

Please bear in mind that we do not sell any but genuine stamps, and that whatever stamps we offer are originals unless they are stated to be reprints. We don't sell such trash, canceled to order, as stamps of Bolivar, Guatemala 1875 (mentioned elsewhere) Guadalajara humbugs or Mexican canceled reprints, and collectors wanting them will have to look elsewhere.

All letters sent to us are answered on the day of receipt, if possible, and when money is sent us for stamps not at the time in stock we never substitute others for the ones ordered.

We have many rare entire U. S. Envelopes now in stock, and offer below a partial list of them. All are in good condition and not crumpled or soiled. We have numbered them by Dr. Horner's excellent list:

H. NO.	DESCRIPTION.	PRICE.
	1853.	
1.	3c. die 2a, note size, white	60
2.	3c. die 2d, " "	25
4.	3c. die 1, f. letter, white	10 00

5.	3c. die 1, f, letter, buff	12 00
6.	3c. die 2a, f. letter, white	35
7.	3c. " " buff	25
9.	3c. die 2b, (k die) buff	2 50
10.	3c. die 2c, white,	1 50
11.	3c. " " buff	1 00
12.	3c. die 2d, white	8
13.	3c. " buff	5
15.	3c. shape c, pat. lines, buff	2 50
16.	3c. shape d, " white	3 00
17.	3c. " " buff	1 15
18.	3c. die 2e, white	35
19.	3c. " buff	25
21.	6c. green, perfect flap,	10 00
23.	10c. green, die 1, buff	3 00
25.	10c. green, die 2, buff	2 50

	1857.	
35.	3c. shape n, p. lines, white	1 50
35 1/2.	same on buff,	85
38.	3c. f. letter, shape a, white	40
39.	same on buff,	25

The above envelopes comprise only a small portion of our stock. As can be readily seen by comparing these prices with any catalogue, we charge less for entire envelopes than dealers usually ask for cut specimens, with the exception, of course, of the rare "patent lines" shapes.

We have in stock a splendid assortment of Confederate States locals and regular issue stamps, and offer the following specimens, all in fine condition, used, and on original envelope unless otherwise stated, this month:

Charleston, 5c., not on env.	\$ 6 00
Memphis, 2 or 5c. unused, probably reprints, each,	75
" 5c. red,	4 00
Mobile, 5c. blue	4 50
New Orleans, 5c. brown on blue	1 50
" " brown,	1 40
1861, 5c. green or dark green,	30
" " unsev'd. pair	1 00
" 10c. light blue	40
" 10c. dark blue, fine print	100
" " unsev'd. pair	2 50

1862, 2c. green, unused	2.00
" 5c. light or dark blue	30
" " unsev'd. pair	1.00
" 10c. rose	1.50
" 5c. slate gray	75
1863, 2c. rose, unused	20
" " used, not on env.	1.00
" 5c. blue, for'n. print, pair,	50
" " native print, pair,	15
" " lithographed, pair	20
" TEN cents, blue,	1.50
" 10c. blue,	5
" " unsevered pair,	75
" " with line around,	1.60
" 20c. green,	75
" " unused,	5

AN EXPLANATION.

The assertions made by Gustav Aue, an 18 year old boy, that I am guilty of counterfeiting a Guy's City dispatch local, the Union Square locals, &c. are utterly false from beginning to end. That I sold such counterfeits as genuine stamps I acknowledge, but it was with the most sincere faith in their genuineness. Last summer I purchased the entire(?) stock of locals of Smith & Handford, under guarantee of genuineness by that firm, and not until quantities had been sold did I suspect how I had been defrauded. In every case when I could do so I refunded the money for such counterfeits, where I had received payment for them.

The Grafflin locals, of which I purchased what purported to be genuine originals, were accompanied by an affidavit signed by Mr. Grafflin himself and bearing a notary's seal and signature. I had no means at the time of knowing that it was a perjury. The stamps have since proved to be frauds of the worst kind; but am I to blame?

When I purchased these locals, I knew little or nothing about them, and I am sorry to say, relied implicitly upon the word of Mr. Handford as to their character. I have since learned more about them from the hard experience of finding that nearly all were counterfeits.

Regarding this affair I have to say that Aue's charges are malicious lies, and when my time permits I shall compel him to account for every word in court. He has made an attempt to extort money from me—good evidence that blackmail is at the bottom of his attack. His whole charges are based entirely upon statements of the person who swindled me with the trash, a man whose reputation is too well known to need any discription from me.

The 10c. rose, 1863, same type as the common 5c., is nothing but a print from an altered plate of the 5c., made long after the war closed. It is of course a miserable humbug. We have an entire sheet of them in our possession, and would be glad to show it to anyone in support of our statement that they are an alteration.

The perforated Confederate stamps have been the subject of no little discussion, and with little result. It is positive however that they owed their origin to individuals, and were not so issued by the Confederate government. Whether they were perforated during the war as a convenience or since that time as an imposition upon philatelists has never been made clear. At any rate they are very good things to steer clear of, as numerous undoubtedly bogus ones are offered by some dealers.

The common 5 c. Confederate stamp has undoubtedly been reprinted, as the plate is in existence and the stamps usually met with bear a very white gum and are in a very light color, but not very finely printed, as were the original light color European print. Originals bear an uneven distributed brownish gum.

WILBUR W. THOMAS,

114 Nassau Street, New York.

These stamps are all in fine condition, and warranted genuine. Prices are all *net*. Orders of less than 50 cents must contain return postage.

SPECIAL OFFERS :

		UNUSED	USED			
Angola 25 reis rose			3	Hawaiian Isl. 1864, 2c. vermilion	8	5
“ 50 “ blue			5	“ “ 1871, 1c. violet	3	
Antigua 1-2p.	3			“ “ 1881, 1c. blue	4	
Antioquia 1887 1c. green	8			“ “ “ 1c. green	2	
Argentine Republic 24c.		6		“ “ “ 10c. brown		8
“ “ 90c.		40		Hayti, 1c. vermilion	3	3
“ “ Official 1c.	7			“ 3c. bistre	6	3
Austria. 5kr. 1869		4		“ 5c. green	5	1
Baden. 1862, 30kr. orange	12			“ 7c. blue	12	8
Bahamas, 1sh. green		6		“ 20c. brown	30	10
Belgium, Envelope 10c.		4		Holkar, 1886, 1-2 anna	8	
Bolivar, 1863, 1 peso	40			Hong Kong, '86 prov. 20 on 30c		15
Bolivia, 1871, 5c. black	3			“ “ “ “ 50 on 48c		35
“ 1887, 1c. rose	3			“ “ “ “ 1.00 on 96c		50
“ “ 2c. violet	5			India, 1883, 1-2 anna envelope		2
Chili, 1867, 20c. green		5		“ “ 4a. & 6p. “		10
Confed. Sta e 1863 5c. on original env.	10			Japan, 1876, 5 rins	2	
“ “ “ 10c. on “	5			Liberia, 1c. 1886	3	
Congo 5c.		3		“ 2c.	6	
“ 10c.		5		“ 3c.	9	
Corea, 5 mons.		8		Malta, 1885, 1-2 p. green	3	
“ 10 “	8			“ “ 1p. rose	5	5
“ 25 “	8			“ “ 1 shilling violet		13
“ 50 “	8			Mexico Official red		3
“ 100 “	10			Montserrat, 1-5p.	3	3
Costa Rica, 1c. prov.		10		Montenegro, 2s. yellow	3	
Cyprus, 1-2pi. green		2		“ 3s. green	5	
“ 1 “ rose		3		New Foundland, 3p. tria.	12	
“ 2 “ blue		2		Persia, 1s. green 1885,		3
“ 1-2 “ wrapper		3		“ 2s. red		2
C. Good Hope, “Half Penny” surch.	5			“ 5s. slate	4	
“ “ “ “Four Pence” “	5			“ 1885, 10 sh. brown		4
“ “ “ “Three Pence” “	5			Peru, 1860, 1 dinero blue		20
“ “ “ “3”	3			“ “ 1peseta red		30
Deccan, 1-2 anna		3		Queensland 6p. green	3	
Ecuador 1881, 1c.	3			“ 1sh. violet	6	
Fiji Islands, 1 or 2p.		4		San Marino, 2c.		1
Gambia, 1-2 p.	3			“ “ 10c.	6	
Gibraltar, 1887, 1-2 p.	3			Sierra Leone, 1-2. green	3	3
Grenada, 2 1-2 p. blue		5		Sirmoor, 3 pies.	4	
Greece unpaid 5 lepta	3			“ 6 pies.	6	
Guanacaste 1c.	4			“ “ 1p. rose		3
“ 2c.	7			t. Christopher, 1-2p.		2
Guatemala, 1875, 1-4 r.	6	10		“ “ 1p.		2
“ “ 1-2 r.	5	10		Straits Settlements, 2c. brown		2
“ “ 1 r.	5	10		“ “ 4c. rose		2
“ “ 2 r.	5	7		“ “ 54c. green		3
“ 1878, 1-2 real	5	4		Siam, 1882, 1-2a. blue	4	
“ “ 2 reals	7	10		Tonga, 1d.	8	20
“ 1887, prov. 1 on 2c	15	25		Providence 5c. black	3.00	

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Philatelic Observer.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1888.

NO. 2.

THE PHILATELIC OBSERVER,

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
WILBUR W. THOMAS,

114 NASSAU STREET,
NEW YORK.

Subscription Price, 12 cents per year for postage, in advance.

Since our last issue we have secured one of the finest stamp collections to be found anywhere in the east. Its former owner is a well known Philatelist, who prefers to remain unnamed, as he is still a collector. This number of the OBSERVER is largely devoted to describing the many gems of this collection. All are guaranteed to be genuine and exactly as represented as regards condition.

Remember that but one of each stamp is contained in the collection and that your chance of securing any specimens depends entirely upon your promptness in sending for them.

UNITED STATES STAMPS.

New York, 1843, 3c. blue, glazed paper, lightly canceled, a fine stamp, \$ 5.00

—1845, 5c. black, top clipped, still a very desirable stamp, unused, and with initials in red ink, 3.00



St. Louis, 5c. die a, magnificent lightly canceled specimen on bluish paper, perfect margins; undoubtedly the finest specimen of this great rarity in existence, 75.00

— 10 c. die B, a fit companion for last in every respect, a perfect specimen, and in the highest degree valuable.

Price, 50.00.

Providence, 5 c. black. Fine unused specimen, five dots, 3.00

Baltimore, horseman carrier, 1c. black, unused and very fine, 2.50

New York, 1 c. circular, U. S. Mail buff unused, very fine; instead of being trimmed as most specimens are it has full margins; 4.00

— Same in rose, unusually fine, on original postmarked entire letter, 12.50

1851, Eagle carrier, used, rare, fine, 60

1851, 12 c. black, unperforated, fine, 60

1856, 5 c. brown, ornaments, unused and with original gum, perforated, rare and a perfect stamp, 4.50

Used specimen of the same, 3.00

1857, 5 c. brown, used and fine, 75

1857, 90 c. blue, unused, perfect, 2.75

1861, 90 c. blue, canceled, very fine, 1.00

1862, 3 c. scarlet, immaculate unused stamp, original gum, a perfect beauty, very rare, 9.50

— 5 c. yellow, used, good 1.75

1868, 3 c. grilled all over, unused, the best specimen that I ever saw; this one came from the margin of the sheer and has attached a piece of same. Clear sharp grill, perfect. 10.00

—5c. grilled, unused, perfect,	75	Interior, complete; the 1, 2, 3, and	
—10c. grilled, used, very fine,	8	90c. are used, others unused;	1.50
—24c. grilled, used, very fine,	75	Treasury, complete, unused and per-	
—30c. grilled, used, fine,	1.00	fect,	3.50
—90c. grilled, used, perfect,	3.00	War, complete, used, all fine,	75
1869, 90 c., uncanceled original, very		U. S. Revenue, 1.00 Passage ticket,	
fine,	4.75	nicked, mended so that it is invisible.	1.50
1870, grilled, 7 c. perfect specimen,	2.00	10.00 Conveyance, fine and scarce,	90
—grilled, 90c., fine and rare,	1.00	10.00 Mortgage, fine and scarce,	40
1865, Newspaper Stamps, 5c. blue bor-		10.00 Charter party, or P. of will, fine,	
der,	4.50	each,	20
— the set, original, 5 c. white border,		15.00 Mortgage, perfect beauty,	1.60
10 c. green and 25c. carmine,	5.00	20.00 Conveyance, scarce, good,	75
1875, Periodicals, 1c. to 60.00, unused		25.00 Mortgage, very fine, and rare,	1.75
and with original gum, "specimen"		50.00 green, very fine, rare,	1.75
hardly noticeable; rare and desirable;		200.00 green and red, rare, perforated,	10.00
the complete set,	50.00	2nd. issue, 50 00 blue and black, per-	
1853, envelopes, 3c. Die 2a. on white,		fect,	7.50
cut square	30	3rd. issue, 20.00, orange and black, a	
3c. die 2c. on buff, K die, cut square,	250	beauty,	6.50
10c. green, die 2, white, cut to shape,	1.00	Confederate, 1861, 5c, green, exceed-	
1857, 4c, blue and red, unused, cut		ingly fine, clear impression, scarce.	30
square, beautiful pair of this rarity.	8.50	10c. blue, very good, rare,	35
—4c. blue and red on buff, unused,		1862, 2c. green, fine, unused, rare,	2.00
same condition as last, rare,	7.50	Angola, 1870, 100 reis, lilac,	20
1863, 2c. "Postage" on manila, unused,		Argentine, 1861, 5c large figure, used,	1.00
exceptionally good, large margins,	3.50	Bahamas, 1861, set of four, 1 unused,	25
I have also many scarce cut envelopes		—1884, £1, beauty, lightly used.	1.25
of later issues, but for lack of space do		1883, Four on 6p., used, slight tear.	1.25
not list them. I will be glad to quote		Bermuda, 1865, set, 1 unused,	30
prices on almost any of the rare en-		Barbados, 1873, 5 shillings, rare and	
velopes on application.		fine,	1.75
Justice Department, complete;	2	Bavaria, 1867, 12 kr. rare and fine,	35
unused; beautiful set.	5.50	Bolivia, 1867, 50c. orange, unused,	35
State Department, 1c. to 90c, un-		—1867, 100c. blue, unused, rare,	1.00
used,	6.00	—1869, 9 stars, 50c. blue, unused,	50
—2.00, 5.00, 10.00, 20.00, beau-		—100c. orange, india proof, rare,	50
tiful unused stamps, no specimen; with		—500c. black, india proof, rare,	4.00
original gum;	35.00	—1871, 50c. blue, unused, scarce,	75
Navy Department, complete, one un-		—100c. orange, unused, rare,	1.00
used	5.50	Brazil, 1843, 30, 60, 90c., used, fine.	3.75
Agriculture, complete; the 2c. unused;			
fine,	4.00		
Post Office, complete; the 1, 3, 6, 10,			
and 30c. are unused: others slightly			
used; fine,	1.75		
Officially Sealed, Post Obitum, unused,			
rare.	5.00		
Registered Seal, green, used, fine,	08		

—1854, 280 reis, unused, rare, 2.00	fine used set, 3.00
—1866, 500 reis, unused, scarce, 40	Chili, envelopes, 5c. on white quad-
—1876, 500 reis rouletted, rare, used 25	rille, buff, and cream, last unused; cut
British Honduras, 1865 complete, un-	square, 35
used, and 1885 1p.; (6 varieties.) 85	10c., cut to shape; 15c. rose, 20c. olive,
British Guiana, 1860, 1, 2, 4, 8, 12 and	large margins; all unused and rare,
24 cents, 2 unused, the set, 75c.	1.75
1863, 6, 24 and 48c.; used, fine, 65c.	Costa Rica, 1863, complete, all used,
1882. Provisional, 2c. yellow, unused	50
pair showing the two varieties, ship	1881, 1, 2, 5, and 10c. surcharged, all
and bark, used; rare and interesting,	unused, 1.80
3.00	1883, complete set, unused, fine, 1.00
1c. rose, ship and bark, used, un-	Curacoa, 2g. 50c., used, very fine, 1.00
usually fine, the pair, 1.50	Dominican Republic, 1862, 1 real,
British Columbia, 1861, 5c. unused,	green, very rare, not very fine, used,
65	5.00
1865, 3 pence, blue, unused fine, 25	1880, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 75 and 100c., all very
1868, 2 cents, brown, unused, fine, 20	fine and used; scarce lot, 1.00
5 cents, rose, unused, scarce, 70	Dominica, 1874, 1, 6p., 1879, 1/2, 2 1/2,
25 cents, yellow, unused, rare, 1.00	4p. and half on 6p., 3 unused, all fine
50 cents, violet, unused, rare, 2.50	30
Van Couver Islands, 1865, 5 cents rose,	Half penny on half of 1p., used, rare,
unused, 75	1.25
10c. blue, unused and rare, 1.00	unused unserved pair of same, rare,
Buenos Ayres, 1858, In ps., b ue, fine,	2.50
1.50	small block surcharge, strip of 3 on
Dos ps., blue, fine, and rare, 2.00	part of original letter rare, 2.50
1859. 1 peso, blue, native print, scarce,	large red surcharge, unused, 35
25	Dutch Indies, 1874, unperf., 10c. un-
Brunswick, 1865, sgr., rose, perforated,	used, 35
fine, 1.50	Egypt, 1867, 1pi., unperforated, wide
Canada, 1851, half penny, used, 75	margins, on piece of original envelopes
6p., violet, used, fine and rare, 1.50	rare, and fine, 50
7 1/2 p., green, used, very fine and rare,	Ecuador, 1865, 4 reals, fine, scarce
4.50	1.00
10p., blue, used, very fine and rare,	1872, complete set, fine, 40
2.25	1881, Complete set except surcharge,
1858, half penny, perforated, a beauty,	fine, 60
rare, 2.25	Finland, 1856, 10k., cut to shape; fine
3p., red, perforated, very fine, 1.50	and rare, 40
Registered, complete, unused, scarce,	Gold Coast, 1875, 1, 4, 6p., 1880, 1/2,
50	2p., 1884, 1-2, 1, 2p., 3 unused; com-
envelopes, 5c. red, 10c. brown, cut to	plete set, fine, 40
shape but still very fine, last one un-	Great Britain, 1847, 6p., 1sh., cut
used, rare, 2.00	square, and 10p., cut to shape; fine
Official seal, brown, unused, rare, 2.75	60
Cape of Good Hope, triangular, very	1878, 10sh, and 1 pound latter slightly
	damaged, 2.00