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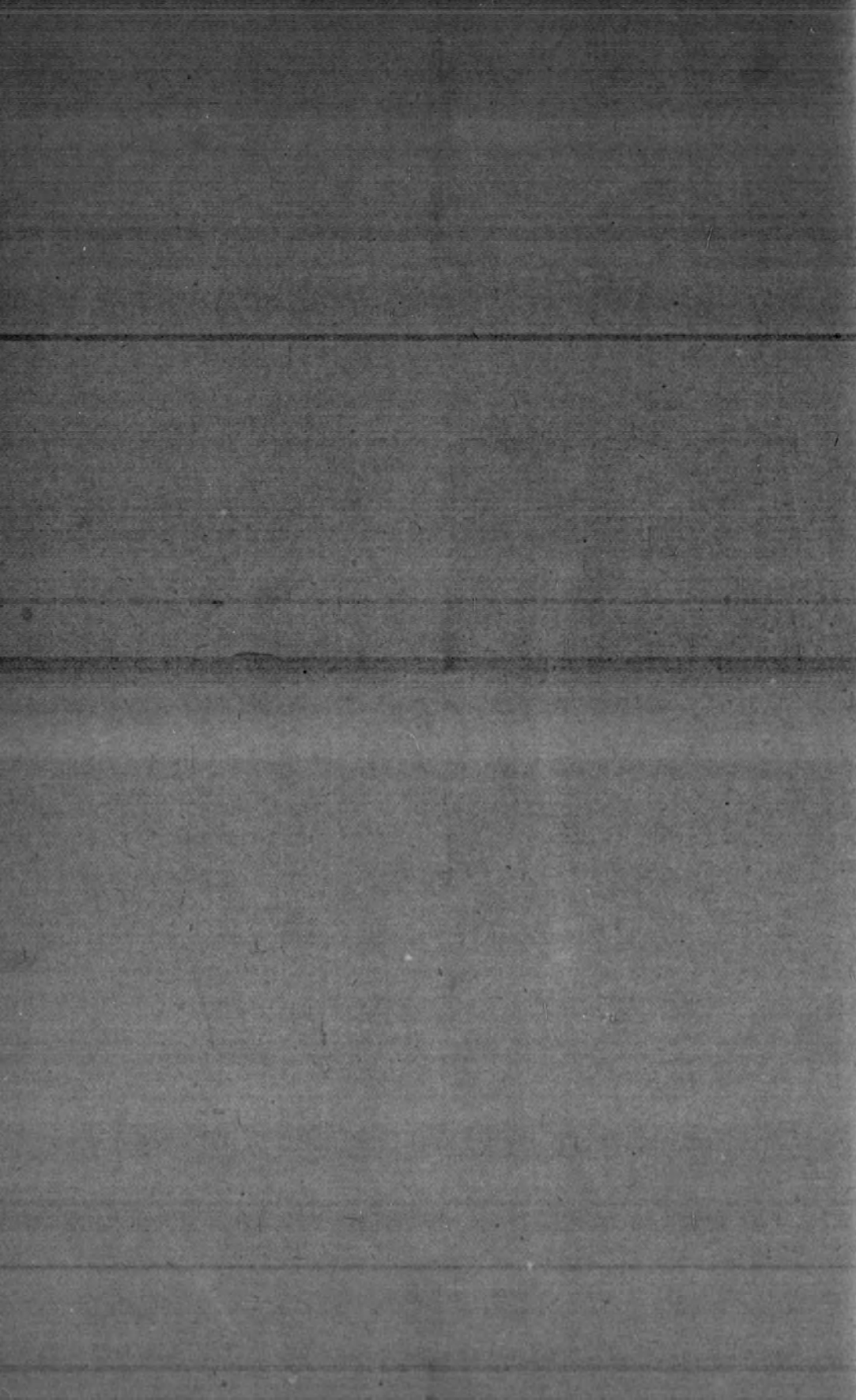
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VOL. IV.

MARCH, 1896.

No. 1.

WHOLE No. 37.



• THE •  
AMERICAN  
PHILATELIST



A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.



25 CENTS PER YEAR

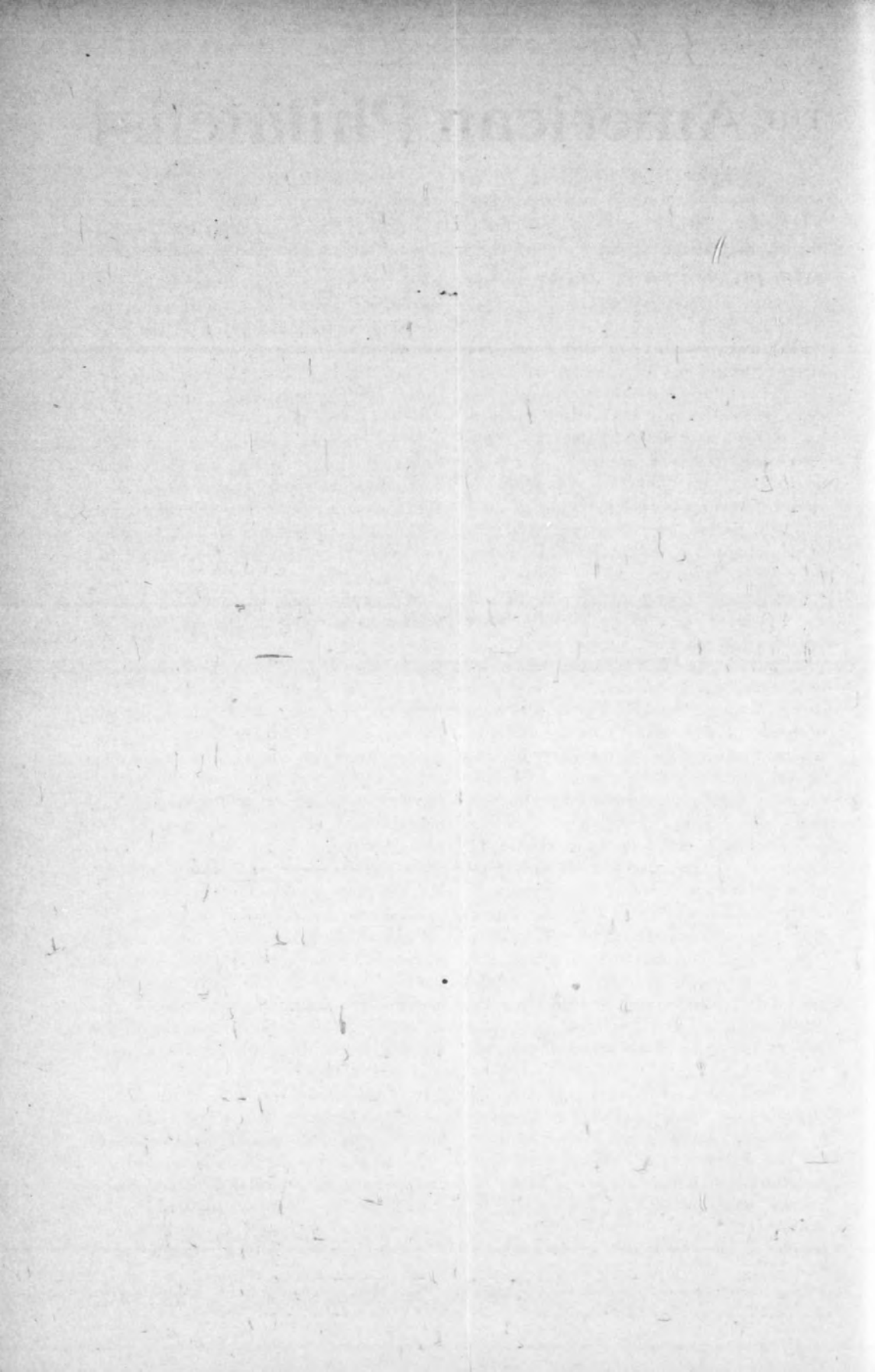


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# THE American Philatelist

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. IV., No. 1.

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## THE POSTOFFICE—PAST AND PRESENT.

Private posts have existed ever since kings or kingdoms have been known. In the ancient kingdoms of Persia and Assyria, the rulers saw that a means whereby the different parts of their kingdom were connected, was essential to the welfare of the realm. Therefore private posts were established for the carrying of government orders and messages, and the dissemination of public laws to every part of their vast territory.

Rome was the first country to perfect a system of postoffices. Roads were built to every important city in the empire; post-houses where horses and vehicles were stationed were established a day's distance apart. The people were obliged by the emperor to furnish and maintain the equipages necessary for the postal business. Public as well as government matter was carried by this Roman post. The postmen were strong and enduring, and have been known to cross the continent of Europe on horseback at the rate of 160 miles per day.

The postoffice in early England was a slow, imperfect, and unreliable institution. Posts were established which carried mail weekly to every part of the kingdom. The mail bags were carried on horse-back, and the postmen who rode day and night averaged about five miles an hour.

In 1680, during the reign of Charles II, a penny post was established in London by William Dockwra and Robert Morris, for the delivery of letters and packages weighing less than one pound. These deliveries were made from four to eight times every day. The far seeing (?) people of the time declared it to be a "senseless and insidious contrivance."

Nevertheless the postal business kept on increasing with such rapidity that the government took charge of all the postal affairs.

This postal service, like the laws, language and customs, was transported to America by the colonists. Our first post-offices were a box or basket in a coffee-house where the letters from the mother country were received and despatched. When a countryman came to the city to make his purchases, he would take along the letters for all his neighbors and deliver them on his way.

In Virginia every planter was obliged by law to have the mail taken from his plantation to the next, under penalty of the payment of a hogshead of tobacco.

In 1672 a regular post was established between New York and Boston. When the Continental Congress obtained control of American affairs, a post was established between Falmouth, Maine and Savannah, Georgia. Benjamin Franklin became our first postmaster-general and proved a very diligent official. In those days letters were paid for on delivery, and the postage depended on the length of the route the letter had traversed.

The postal card was first used in Germany. The first card used in the United States was issued in 1873 and was hailed with delight by the people, and its sales increased enormously, until now about one-fourth of all the mail matter is postal cards.

In 1794 the entire mail of the whole country was 2,688,000 pieces, while now one city's mail far exceeds that amount.

Every possible device is now used for the hastening of postal delivery, and our mails from Europe now come over in as many days as it took weeks in 1794.

C. E. BOSTWICK.

L. of A. P. 252.

### PHILATELIC ODDITIES.

The collection of oddities and minor varieties is rapidly becoming popular among the more advanced philatelists and it would appear from the ever increasing branches which this pursuit affords, that the study of philately offers an endless chain of knowledge and attractiveness.

This pursuit, however prominent and interesting it may be to some, has its drawbacks and likewise its influence whether good or bad on the rising and untutored army of philatelic recruits. The subjects of watermarks, perforations, paper, plate numbers and the like have become so interwoven with the mere pursuit of collecting postage stamps that it is scarcely possible to find a stamp journal or philatelic publication of any description that does not dwell largely on these minor details and the various catalogues are filled with these perplexing terms making wide distinctions in prices on these varieties.

This is the important objection to this practice. These terms and distinctions are perplexing and puzzling to the young collector and often tend to discouragement rather than to attract the interest of this class. And right here is a point to be considered. That the young are as important as the old to the advancement of philately has been plainly demonstrated; with out them there would be no stamp traffic and dealers would go out of business.

These distinctions are not easily detected by them and often lead to mistakes and crooked dealings. We note with interest however, the new catalogue for young collectors that has just been issued by J. W. Scott & Co. abolishing all such differences and pricing only a single specimen of each stamp and would advise all collectors who are not overly skilled in the detection of minor

varieties and moreover, do not care to be, to purchase one of these catalogues exclusive to the regular edition.

There are however, some good things to be considered in the collection of watermarks and to all those who delight to see a large collection of stamps made up many specimens bearing no apparent contrast, we offer no suggestions. We believe the majority of young collectors however, would prefer to exclude these similarities from their albums and not boast of varieties which they practically do not possess.

W. C. MOULTON.

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### ALBUMS.

I noticed some time ago an article advising owners of small collections to place them in a blank book and not use an album until you are well advanced, and as an argument said you would not be bothered with those blank spaces.

My advice would be the reverse of the above. I have known collectors who tried that plan and the result was a total failure. Why? Simply because they would arrange their stamps today in an attractive position and a month from now having procured several new varieties and seeing where they can better the arrangement, their stamps are removed and rearranged.

After this process has taken place a few times the stamps become soiled and torn and useless.

Now if a good illustrated and complete album had been used there would have been but one place for a stamp and after being placed it would have remained on that spot.

If a young collector places his stamps in a blank book until he has seven hundred or a thousand varieties, the task of removing and rearranging them will be so appalling that it will be neglected from day to day, week to week,

until it numbers thousands, or he has given up collecting without the transfer taking place.

There are many young collectors who would buy their stamps and arrange artistically without a thought of the location of the country represented or its history. If they were obliged to locate every stamp in a particular place they would become interested to know about the country, etc.

To sum up, I would say that in my opinion an album is more necessary for a beginner than an advanced collector.

TED.

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### NEWS AND NOTELETS.

Philatelic buttons are being advertised by some of the dealers. Every stamp collector who wants to make the acquaintance of brother philatelists would do well to wear one.

††

*The Connecticut Philatelist* is advertised to appear this month from Meriden. Another stamp paper for New England.

††

It is reported that Stowell, the Maryland printer who has gotten out so many little stamp papers, has been burned out. Mr. Kissinger's *Pennsylvania Philatelist* suffers in consequence. I extend my sympathy to all concerned.

††

Enthusiastic collectors are looking forward to the time when the stamps of the Cuban Republic will be forthcoming. The struggling insurgents have the sympathy of all Americans and when the U. S. Senate recognizes them as belligerents, it won't take long for the Cubans to obtain their inde-

pendence. Then look out for a big demand for the stamps of this little island.

††

Plate numbers and plate number collectors are attracting a good deal of attention at present. Some advanced collectors—who to my mind should know better—are very enthusiastic in their researches. But, unlike stamp collecting itself, this branch of the pursuit is merely a fad, and will soon be gone and forgotten.

††

The *Rocky Mountain Stamp* for March contains the usual number of good things, and in addition to the usual cut of some interesting bit of Colorado scenery on the cover, presents what I should judge to be an excellent half-tone portrait of the editor, Mr. J. E. Zahn. He is without question the best-looking (please don't blush, Mr. Z.) philatelist I have ever had the pleasure of gazing upon. He is almost a perfect counterpart of a personal friend of mine, but the latter is not a stamp collector.

††

The foreign mail service, for which Uncle Sam uses none but the fastest steamers, costs the government over one million dollars a year.

††

It is reported that Corea and the Orange Free State will soon be admitted to the Postal Union. The Cape of Good Hope Colony has but recently been admitted. It means a saving in postage to many, not the least of whom are those engaged in the stamp trade.

EDDIE.

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SEND 25 cents now and get the complete volume of the A. P.

—THE—  
**American Philatelist,**  
 Marlboro, Mass.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

◁ 25 CENTS PER ANNUM. ▷

ADVERTISING RATES:

	1 mo.	3 mos.	6 mos.	1 yr.
½ inch,	\$ 15	\$ 40	\$ 75	\$ 1 25
1 inch,	25	65	1 25	2 25
2 inches,	45	1 20	2 25	4 00
3 inches,	65	1 75	3 25	6 00
¼ page,	75	2 00	3 75	6 50
½ page,	1 40	3 75	7 00	12 00
1 page,	2 50	6 75	12 00	20 00

TERMS, CASH WITH COPY.

All communications relative to advertising should be addressed to

F. B. ESTABROOK,  
 MARLBORO, - MASS.

An X opposite this paragraph signifies that your subscription has expired. Unless renewed at once the paper will be discontinued.

Original philatelic MSS. always in demand. Cash paid for first-class articles.

We would be pleased to exchange with all philatelic publications.

Volume IV! We are surely getting old, for but few philatelic publication arrive at half our age. But we are here to stay, when you send us 25 cents for a year's subscription you can count on getting twelve numbers of the paper. That's one reason why *your* name should be on our subscription books. Is it?

We have delayed the publication of this paper over a week awaiting the arrival of some MSS. from two well-known and able philatelic writers. We know it will arrive some time in the near future but we cannot delay the paper any more, so this month we go to press with considerable less reading matter than we intended.

Next month we shall publish it and since this number is something of a disappointment to us we shall issue

1500 copies next month. We print 2000 this month, 1500 next month. And when we say 1500, it *is* 1500, and we are ready to prove it. It you have doubts write us for proofs.

This is the time to subscribe for the AMERICAN PHILATELIST, at the beginning of the new volume.

Our advertising columns are beginning to look a trifle more heathful; we knew they would. There's no mistaking that our rates are very popular and advertisers get their money's worth.

One brother publisher writes and says that we won't—in fact, implies we don't—circulate as many copies as we advertise and charge but 25 cents an inch for space. He says that neither we nor any one else can do it. We think—we know—we can and are doing it. The secret is simply—*cash with copy!*

We have no bad bills, we don't have to waste time and postage stamps in sending out bills and statements of advertising accounts, and we don't have to do a lot of book-keeping. We must have the cash before the ad. goes in, and we give good value for the money.

Try a small advertisement for one month and see for yourself. Its a very small investment.

The *Daily Stamp Item* is without question a fixture. We had some doubts at first that even the large publishing house of Mekeel could handle such a stupendous undertaking. But the *Item* appears every day and reaches us—we were about to say regularly—but there we shall have to draw the line.

It does not reach us regularly, although for this we attach no blame to the publishers. We have no doubt but



what the publishers mail it on time every day, but there is something remarkable about the way we get two or three issues in one mail and then receive no more for a day or two, or perhaps, as has been quite frequently the case, receive No. 46 a day or two previous to getting No. 43 or 44!

There must be considerable negligence or carelessness on the part of the postoffice department in handing second class mail matter. We have realized this for some time, but it does seem that mail matter from the West, and St. Louis in particular can never be depended upon.

Now what's the remedy for all this? Must we grin and bear it as we always have or will the postal authorities ever use a little more care in the carriage and delivery of newspapers? If we don't pay enough, we think most publishers would gladly pay more if we could only get better service. That's what we should like to see.

••

Three more advertisements received this month with requests to send marked copy and bill. Very sorry, gentlemen, but we can't break our rule. We don't doubt your reliability in the least but we must have cash with copy.

Quite a few dealers have been willing to comply with our rule—and it saves them money—for our advertising columns are perceptibly gaining.

Everyone concedes that our rates are very low and but one objection is made—paying cash in advance. But the saving is considerable and if you have any doubts as to our reliability we should be pleased to have you look up our commercial standing. We have been publishing this paper for four years and are likely to publish it for many more and our present advertisers are finding out that it pays to send *cash with copy*.

—Merrill's System of Protection against Philatelic Frauds has always sold for 25c but its originator—A. B. Merrill, Everett, Mass.—is now preparing a special edition for free distribution among the first 2000 who are willing to send him three 2-cent stamps and a request for a copy. Mr. Merrill will alternate the pages with those of approved advertisements and as soon as a sufficient number of the latter are received, to pay for producing this edition, the work of printing and mailing will be commenced. The book will be 3 x 5 inches in size and contain from 80 to 100 pages, and being so constantly in use, will prove an excellent medium for advertisers. Collectors and dealers who desire instruction in this much talked about and highly praised system, which has saved users many dollars in the purchase, sale and exchange of stamps, are strongly advised to file requests for copies, as above, without delay, as it is expected that this edition will be exhausted before our next issue.

••

First class MSS. always in demand. Cash paid for bright interesting articles. Always enclose stamp for return of MSS. if not satisfactory.

••

The advertisements of H. C. Corey, John J. Baker, and Minges Stamp Co., arrived after the advertising pages were made up for this issue. The ads. will appear in the April number. All matter for that number should be received not later than March 25th.

••

Just as we go to press, we receive a priced catalogue of the Walter S. Scott Stamp Co.'s second auction sale. A hasty glance assures us that very good prices were realized.

## SPECIAL

# March Bargain List!

Offers good until supply is exhausted.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.**—Terms cash with order. Remit sums under 50c in unused 1c. stamps; over that amount by money order or bills. Everything in good order and free from paper unless otherwise stated. All orders filled day of receipt. Postage extra on all orders of less than \$1.00. COMMON foreign not soaked.

## WHOLESALE OFFERS IN U. S.

	Per 10	Per 100	Per 500
1851 3c red	\$ 08	\$ 75	
1857 "	06	50	
1861 3c rose	04	35	1 50
1868 " 11x13	10	1 00	
" " 9x13	08	75	
1869 3c blue	10	95	
1875 2c vermilion	03	20	
1882 5c brown	06	50	
" 10c brown	04	35	
1883 2c claret		08	
" 4c green	10		
1887 2c green		06	28
" 1c blue		15	
1888 4c carmine	20		
" 5c indigo blue	08	75	
1890 1c ultra marine		05	
" 2c lake		15	
" 2c carmine		04	15
" 3c purple	10		
" 4c, 5c, 10c ass't'd		16	
" 8c Sherman	28	2 50	
1893 1c blue		25	
" 2c violet		06	25
" 4c ultra marine	20		
" 5c chocolate	18		
" 8c magenta	40		
" 10c black brown	20		
1894 1c, 2c pale color	10		
1894.5 1c dark blue		05	
" 2c carmine		04	15
" 3c purple	08		
" 4c, 10c ass't'd	04	35	
" 5c chocolate		18	
" 6c dark red-brown	22		

## UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

1889 1c red-brown	10		
" 2c red-brown	10		
1891-3 1c bright claret	08		
" 2c bright claret	06	50	
1894 1c deep claret	05		
" 2c deep claret	04	28	
Envs □ 15 var ass't'd		12	50
Revenues assorted		15	
" 5 var evenly ass't'd		18	75
Post cards 15 var ass't'd		12	
A lot of 230 of last		25	

Dont forget the address,

N. E. P. A. 33.  
P. S. of A. 1210.

## W. SANFORD,

### PORTSMOUTH, R. I.

S. of P. 1481.  
L. of A. P. 246.

	Per 500	Per 1000
U S ass't'd good value	12	22
U S DAMAGED ass't'd	10	16
Foreign ass't'd good value	10	18
Same as last per 5000		80
Fine For. to sell at 1c each, per 100		20
Natal 1p rose 1884, per 100		18
Venezuela *1883 25c br'n & yellow per 10		12
Packets 100 var. foreign, each		07
Same as last, per 10		55

## CHURCH STAMPS.

Have a few church stamps in bunches of 100 collected by churches here.

Never been opened.

Church stamps U. S.	15	28
" " U S & Canada	15	28
" " Canada 3c 1869-82	16	30

None of above ever looked over.

## BLOCKS, PAIRS AND STRIPS.

All unused unless otherwise stated.

Block 12 8c 1894 unw'm'k'd with imprint and plate no. (58) at bottom. Very fine & scarce only		2 25
Block 4 orange special O G fine		75
" 18 2c bright claret dues O G fine	1 00	
" 10 2c Interior impr't at t'p O G fine	60	
" 10 2c "on hand" playing c'rd O G fine	50	
" 4 2c rose 63 Confederate O G fine	1 00	
" 20 New Brunswick 5c green no gum, otherwise fine		60
Strip 4 2c '63 Confed. O G good		80
Block 4 1c bright claret dues O G fine		15
Strip 3 2c R B dues O G fine		30
Pair same O G fine		20
Strip 4 2c deep claret dues O G fine		15

## SETS AND SINGLE STAMPS.

	Cat.	My price
*Barbadoes reg. env. 1p rose	75	18
1890 1-30c inclusive 11 var. used		25
1893 1-10c inclusive 8 var. used		20
1c lot envs. entire unused, per 25		50
*Swiss 1881 9 var. cat. .36, only		10

Above are very cheap and supply is very limited. Order at once, don't wait until tomorrow.

Money refunded if not satisfactory

**CANADA**—3d beaver perforated \$1.90  
 3c 1868, laid paper 2.70  
 10 varieties Bill Stamps including \$1. .11  
**NOVA SCOTIA**—1c or 2c, 40c each; 5c in several shades 15c each; 10c or 12½c 1.05 each.

Large variety B N A and U S about half catalogue; write wants; exchange relations desired.

**WM. P. ANDERSON,**  
 64 Cooper St., Ottawa, Canada.

Excellent stamps for beginners on sheets @ 50 per cent. Reference required. Write for some.

**HARRY SMITH, CANAAN, N. H.**

Approval sheets at 50 per cent com. Reference required.

**MUMFORD STAMP CO.**

Mention this paper. North Uxbridge, Mass.

**AWAY OVER IN HAWAII**

Things are rather quiet just now.

**Just to Live them up**

I have prepared a special packet as follows:

5 varieties Hawaiian stamps catalogued at 21c. post free for 7c. Mention this paper.

**J. W. MILLER SCHMITT,**  
 Springfield, Ill.

**YOU WANT THESE!**

8 U S 1893 Col. issue 20c.	90c U S unused,	1.00
8 " " " unused 75c.	4 var. W. Australia,	.10
10 " 1890,	40c. 25 var. Brazil,	.50
9 " War Dept.	1.25. 15 var. Belgium,	.10

Wm. Leckie & Co., 4819 Prairie Ave., Chicago.

**Approval sheets** of postage stamps at 50 per cent commission sent anywhere upon receipt of reference. **Our new list of bargains free.** We quote a few: Argentine, '88, 50c.—13c.; Curacao, '89 60c.—75c.; Chili '92, 1 Peso, 28c.; all used and cash with order. **Hinges**, extra fine, 1000—06c., 5m. 25c. rom. 45c. **Stamps Bought.** Big prices paid. Look up your old letters.

*The Gunders Stamp Co. 369 Degraw St. Brooklyn, N.Y.*

**WE WANT AGENTS**

Who are hustlers to handle our sheets. Our line of stamps cannot be beat. Big commission. Try them.

200 fine mixed Foreign 6c, post paid.

**T. J. MANNING & CO.,**  
 NORWICH, N. Y.

**A CHANCE FOR COLLECTORS.**

I have a lot of duplicates of good stamps I will sell at 50 per cent. Also will send sheets in the new 2c envelope which will be rare before long. I only want bona-fide collectors to answer this with references. U. S. wanted in exchange.

**CARL HERRING, London, Canada.**

**OUR PRIDE**

packet of 30 varieties foreign stamps all different 27 cents. Our Fine approval sheets commission 50 per cent; reference must be given. All We ask is a trial.

**EXCELSIOR STAMP CO.**

247 So. 5th Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

**YOU WANT THE BEST?**

THEN TAKE THE

**Michigan Philatelist**

Coldwater, Mich.

BREEZY,  
 NEWSY,  
 LIVELY,  
 INTERESTING.

25 Cents a year.

One sample copy free. Send postal.

**R.I.P.A.N.S**

ONE GIVES RELIEF.

**UNUSED CUBA.**

1855 ½R blue,	-	\$ .45
" 1R green,	-	.35
1856 ½R blue,	-	.08
1857 ½R blue,	-	.03
" 1R green,	-	.03
1862 ½R black,	-	.07
1864 ½R green,	-	.03
1866 10c blue,	-	.05
" 20c green,	-	.05
1871 25c blue,	-	.10
" 50c green,	-	.08
1873 12½c green,	-	.10
" 50c brown,	-	.08
1874 12½c brown,	-	.08
" 25c blue,	-	.04
1875 1 Peso brown,	-	.15
1876 50 blue,	-	.05
" 1 Peso black,	-	.15
1877 12½c lilac,	-	.05
" 25c green,	-	.05
" 1 Peso brown,	-	.10
1878 12½c carmine,	-	.05
1879 50c gray,	-	.05
" 1 Peso brown,	-	.15
1880 12½c lilac,	-	.05
" 1 Peso bistre,	-	.10
1883 5c blue,	-	.05
" 10c bistre,	-	.10
" 20c brown,	-	.15
1884 2½c brown,	-	.04
" 2½c lilac,	-	.04

**RICHARD R. BROWN,**  
 \*39] KEYPORT, N. J.

**50** 50 varieties U. S., no locals, revs. or tel'gr'ph **25c**

1857 3c outer line. .15  
 6 var. U. S. Dept. .10  
 15 var. Turkish. .20  
 Send for 1896 lists free. [\*89

**ENTERPRISE STAMP CO.,**  
 147 W. 12th St., New York.

## U. S. DUE STAMPS.

1879	5c deep yellow		\$	50
"	10c "			80
"	30c y b 1 00	Same used		80
"	50c y b 2 00	"		1 00
1889	3c r b 3 00	"		1 50
"	5c r b 20c	10c r b		30
"	30c 1 00	Used		70
"	50c used and fine			1 50
1891	30c 1 00	Used		50
"	50c 1 10	"		75
1894	30c very light shade no w k			1 50
"	30c dark shade	"		1 00
"	50c dark shade used			1 00

### WHOLESALE BARGAINS.

1879	30c y b		per 10	9 00
1882	1c r b		"	1 00
"	2c "		"	80
"	30c r b		"	7 50
"	" used		"	5 00
1891	30c claret used		"	5 00
"	50c "		"	7 00
1894	50c no w k used		"	7 50

Remit by bills or M. O. Send me your want list in U. S. Why not write me?

**F. E. SMITH,**

56 Fairmount Ave., NEWTON, MASS.

Boston Philatelic Society No. 172.

**AFTER GOING ELSEWHERE  
EVERYONE GOES BACK TO**

*Estabrook*  
THE PRINTER

**MARLBORO, MASS.  
FOR FIRST CLASS WORK.**

**50 % ON FOREIGN.**

I want agents to sell from my approval sheets and will give them 50 per cent commission, when sales are 25 cents or over. My sheets are good sellers and cannot be beaten, seldom equalled. Address

**G J Luhn, 39 Broad St, Charleston, S. C.**

Sample copy of SOUTHERN PHILATELIST free.

From the Sunny South.

**THE DIXIE PHILATELIST.**

25 cts per year. Ads. 50 cts per inch. Free Exchange column. Sample free.

Address:

**RUSSELL & CHAPPELL,** Pub's.  
Box F. Macon, Miss.

Your  
advertisement  
in  
this  
space  
would  
cost  
just  
65 cents.

Cash with Copy!

## The Boston Stamp Book.

Is published on the 20th of each month, No. 8 being issued Dec. 20. It has never asked for an expression of opinion regarding its merits or defects, but among the first five hundred and seventy-four subscribers, not one has offered a criticism, and four hundred and eighteen out of the five hundred and seventy-four have written us in highest praise of the magazine. This became so monotonous that we gave up keeping a record. Our largest advertisers have not missed a number since the first, and report more sales of GOOD STAMPS than through any other medium.

If you are a first-class collector, don't you need a first-class magazine? 50c. a year. Sample free.

**A. L. CASSINO & Co.,**

51 PORTLAND STREET,

**BOSTON,**

**MASS.**

