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The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

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No. 1.

The Veterans of Philately.

According to the best of authorities philately has hardly been in existence forty years. Forty years: what a brief space of time for the accomplishment of so much! How short a period has sufficed for the building up of the pursuit to its present dimensions! What a wonderful piece of work is the present philatelic structure and how greatly we who live in these days of philatelic advancement and luxury should honor those who laid the foundations for Philately's present prosperity, and who have watched over its progress step by step.

There are still with us a few who can date the beginning of their collecting careers way back to the sixties. We call them our veterans and they accept the titles. Perhaps the term veteran is always an honored one, no matter where applied. The veteran soldier is proud of his title, so is the veteran statesman, or the veteran author, or the veteran actor. The word veteran implies age: age implies wisdom. Who, then, would not be proud of the name?

To us of the younger generation, the philatelic veteran seem well nigh infallible. We are accustomed to turn to them for guidance. In the many years during which they have followed the fortunes of the science, they have naturally absorbed no inconsiderable share of the philatelic eruditions; and most of them consider it a privilege to impart their knowledge to younger students.

Hardly one of us but will acknowledge our indebtedness to some older philatelist, who stretched out a hand to help us when we were first floundering aimlessly amid the intricacies of philately. Who of us cannot remember the kindly way in which some philatelic mentor smoothed the difficulties in our pathway, and, when we had well nigh yielded to the discouragement, heartened us for another and a successful trial? Every one of us owes much to the philatelic veteran; for without the aid and counsel of older and more experienced collectors, few of us would have persevered in our philatelic studies.

The philatelic veterans, too, have made science what it is. Many of the pioneers in the field of philatelic discovery have long since lost their whole interest in the science which they have helped to found; and the very names of most of them have been for-

gotten. But the glory of those few, amid all the changes of the last three or four decades, have retained an unshaken interest in philately, will shine with undiminished luster for many years to come.

The philatelic veterans are but a handful; yet nearly every one of them is famous. They naturally occupy a commanding position in the philatelic world. Scan the list of names and notice what a familiar sound they have. There are Scott and Tiffany who have been collecting so long that their craniums are filled almost to bursting with philatelic love: Bogart, and Brown, and Holton, and Trifit, and Taylor, each of whom overflows with reminiscences of the early days. Sterling, and Bradt, and Gregory, and a host of others besides.

Each succeeding year only seems to add to the prestige and reputation of such men as these. We younger devotees of the pursuit delight to do them honor; yet there is a certain longing for the time when we shall occupy their places. In another forty years, if we remain constant in our devotion to philately and our lives are spared for so long, the philatelic veterans of to-day will live only in the pages of philatelic history, and we who are now but tyros in comparison will be looked up to by another generation as leaders in philatelic eruditions.

It is one of the curious facts of life that the young are always wishing to grow older; while the aged are forever longing for a return of their youth, even if but for an instant. Now, we look forward to the time when we shall be philatelic veterans, not only with equanimity, but actually with eagerness. We are impatient with old Father Time for loitering in his course, as it seems to us that he must be, since we acquire age so slowly. But the march of time is relentless; and before we know it our youth will be gone, and we will find ourselves in the sloughs of old age.

Our present veterans would none of them be called old men, however, and far be it for me even to imply such a meaning. They are, almost without exception, in the meridian of life, and have never been more zealous in their philatelic studies than they are today. Their activity is evidenced by the frequency

with which they pen notes or articles for our leading magazines, announcing some important philatelic discovery, or connecting some current philatelic fallacy.

The philatelic veterans are, indeed, an honor to the cause. They are the flower of the philatelic army. The very fact that they have so long been weighed in the balance without being found wanting proves they are possessed of the true philatelic spirit, the spirit of painstaking investigation and accurate scholarship, without which no one can become philatelically great.

And our veterans are certainly to be numbered among the great men of philately. Their names deserve to be written in indelible letters on the scroll of philatelic fame. Who have a better right there? Who have done more to advance the cause? The young blood of philately are doing splendid work at present; but the achievements of those who have proven their steadfastness by years of devotion to the science should not for a moment be lost sight of. It is steady, conscientious labor that counts in philately as elsewhere, and while the philatelic meteors who occasionally shoot to the front rank by some brilliant achievement hardly fail to dazzle our eyes for a time, they seldom secure as large a measure of our esteem as the philatelic veterans have won.

May it be long ere the present philatelic veterans shall be mustered out. May their names be permanently honored among the founders of the pursuit. And may we who in the fullness of time must take their places, make a conscientious study of the science, that when we have succeeded to the honored title of philatelic veteran, we shall not prove wholly unworthy of it.

The Hobby.

John Wanamaker's hobby, so a contemporary declares is business. The great results that have been brought about by his strict adherence to his hobby is conspicuously mirrored into the world's notice by his mammoth mercantile establishment and widespread business. Not-with-standing this wonderful instance that business is a profitable and influential hobby in every particular, we would hardly prescribe it if it would be possible as the most suitable hobby for all. It involves too much worry, too much risk, too much attention, all of which are too apt to be prematurely reflected into our faces. Business is an excellent hobby, but while it may yield us great pleasure and enjoyment, it usually involves the importance of our financial welfare, thus causing us to over work ourselves in the desire for success, and thus much pleasure is lost which the hobby should afford.

We must follow the hobby which affords us not only pleasure, but healthy results in many other particulars. A prominent scribe in discussing the relative merits of different hobbies decided that study is the most perfect hobby. He does not touch upon stamp collecting in particular but makes a discrimination between the collecting mania and

study.

He states that possessions becomes almost a part of one's self; that the woman who has collected China is continually fearing the consequences of her maid's clumsiness; that the collector of laces and tender fabrics worries over her washerwoman; that fire and thieves enter in the calculations of every collector but that he who stores his mind rather than his album or cabinet is not increasing the anxieties of life. It is true that study is the best hobby in many respects. Study is open to every one. Expense does not stand in the way. It yields most profitable results, but every one does not like to study. Study is adapted only to a very few. Study does not strike the chord or popular interest, therefore its adherents are apt to be restricted to the few persons whose inclinations are thus directed. Now we come down to stamp collecting and philately. Stamp collecting and philately are twins and yet not exactly alike. The former embraces the methodical collection of the stamps, without consideration for dies, perforations and watermarks. The latter embraces that excellent hobby study. While combined with what is necessary in order to be termed a philatelist is the important characteristics perseverance, neatness and perceptiveness, carefulness and numberless requisites of the calling of the learned and refined. Philately of course necessarily embraces stamp collecting. We now come down to the fact that philately is a fine hobby and especially adaptable to persons in every station of life. In defense of the collecting mania I can say that fire and thieves do not enter in the calculations of the collector any more than would the insignificant items of personal adornment.

Philately is the superior of stamp collecting. It embodies the strength of many hobbies combined. It demands universal attention. It shall command universal attention.

"Philately! Thou art a jewel that shalt shine forth as the brightest consistency of race and clan. Philately! Thou art the fuel which shalt yield eternal warmth and pleasure to child, youth and man.

H. S. S.

Publishers Essay.

Daintily tripping across the threshold of philatelic journalism comes "The Philatelic Newsletter." Its debut is characterized by fearlessness and boldness which is accentuated by the fact that the office of editor, manager and office boy are filled by one person. But there is that satisfaction that this one person is ruled by himself in each case.

The past is a most excellent teacher. It discloses the errors of others who have failed in their undertakings. These errors we have noted and shall rule our course accordingly. The would be philatelic publisher must cherish the ideas of deep reflection and meditation ere he concludes to brave the darts of public opinion. With this reflection and meditation is co-operated a thousand and one things which pertain to the requisites of true success. We have "entertained and banqueted" reflection for

some time past. Yet we realize that our scales might not be evenly balanced, but crooked lines can be straightened and brought to more perfect symmetry as time discloses our shortcomings. The intelligence of a magazine's appearance and the strength of its fibers are decided and tested by the public and not by the publishers. A keen eye hath the philatelist and the slightest flaw in the construction of a journal will cause him to withhold a part, if not all acknowledgement of its merits. We shall try to prevent flaws from entering into the construction of the Newsletter." One of the most dangerous or rather despicable flaws is egotism. We shall give it utmost relegation. The slightest deviation on our part from this resolve should be pointed out to us by some philanthropical person. Admitting that to a certain degree it is human to be vain, it becomes exceedingly obnoxious, when this self adulation is exaggerated as it is in so many of our philatelic magazines of to-day.

The philatelic publisher, in order to be successful, must be endowed with a very liberal amount of tact, diligence, energy and patience, while money, influence, and flatteries are most welcome. The philatelic publisher has much to contend with. When his journal is just before the public, he is especially handicapped as past failures have a bad influence on present attempts.

The statements "We guarantee a year's subscription or refund the money, and we guarantee 5,000 circulation," are often quoted by the philatelic publisher, and as often doubted so that in view of the fact that we don't want to be doubted, we will not follow the rest of the herd, but we can assure the public that we have too much respect for an honorable position in the philatelic world as to not act "fair and square." For business reference, we refer you to Washington bank of this city.

Some persons at the first interview are very entertaining, but at second and following meetings are dry and debilitating. They seem to have run all out. The pleasant talkings seem to have given way to monotonous lisping. So it is with the philatelic journal (especially philatelic). The first number might please as it is new, but on reading succeeding numbers, we find them characterized by the strain which entered into the first issue. Then the dull monotony of its true rendering becomes apparent to us and we style the papers as "rank." We have especially noted this fact and in publishing the Newsletter our aim will be to make every issue new, spicy and pleasure to all.

The philatelic magazine to meet the demands of the educated stamp collector, whose tastes in different individuals are so varying, must needs be comprehensive and simple to the minutest details. Articles which require no conscientious scrutiny on the part of its readers, do not draw upon its author for very much study or thought. "Those words are most valuable which set our thinking faculties to fullest operation." The reading matter of this issue is not the standard which we respect and future issues will show this.

There is a hardihood of effrontery which is particularly effulgent in some of our more presuming journals. Some consider this as another name for courage as impudence is often passed off as wit. We shall try to restrict our utterances to reasonable limits. Idle vaporings of personal significance are altogether too prolific. These "personal" writers should be simply ignored by the editors. We number among our hobbies stamp collecting, but we hold another hobby dear to heart and that is "chasing after the almighty dollar." You may if you wish construe that "The Newsletter" is one of the means we take in securing these "roots of all evils." Although we are partly bargaining for the future we are paying the bills of the present. Sordid affronts and malicious attestations, as evidenced in so many of our stamp journals of to-day we shall try to subdue. The freest scope possible will be given to discussions and opinions. Impartially we make a law. If we have any criticisms or remarks to make which may savor of something not exactly compatible to the complete easiness of the target at which they are aimed, mark ye well, ye philatelic leviathans, wielder of loud "shallalehs," they will be of a pure and unadulterated character. Papers which have illimitable sway in their scurvy utterances, will feel justice. Untiring will be our efforts in the maintainance of a benign course, but if the "bone of contention" must be sucked we will suck our end of the bone.

Meritorious literature is plentiful. We think we will have no trouble in satiating the desires of the most fastidious in this respect. It is an easy matter to consign trash to the waste basket. We shall do so invariably. Scientific articles not of that hard indigestible species but those interesting, spicy and amusing, as well as instructive are especially wanted. This kind of literature is scarce, but we will endeavor to secure it.

The philatelic story when unusually unique and new will be accepted sometimes. Such departments will be conducted as best meets the desires of the general public. We don't care about making any glaring promises, for even if promises are most sincere and intentions truthful, certain hindrances are often apt to prevent maturity or realization. To those who have kindly proffered their aid in our new venture, we wish to extend our thanks, and trust that the "Newsletter" will fulfill their greatest expectations. And now to you who have been so patient as to wade through this enucleation we ask of you to watch this new light and to try to keep it above the horizon.—HARRY S. SWENSEN.

Arrested.

Mr. Davis and his partner, Jacobs, agents for the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. in St. Paul have been placed under arrest for handling green goods. Jacobs, who was bailed out by his friends, immediately jumped his bonds and skipped to the Continent. Davis has been running a cigar store on East

Seventh Street, while Jacobs has been working his illegitimate business under the guise of a land office agent. He and Davis have been circulating the "queer" for some time. They have been subject to police supervision the past year, but they have been so covert and watchful in their questionable proceedings that the authorities have heretofore been unable to find anything positively against them. Jacobs is well known in the northwest and many stamp collectors are mourning over the fact that they know him too well. That he will be apprehended is to be doubted as his preparations for escape were deliberate and careful. Davis will be brought to trial very soon and no doubt will be convicted.

Our New Local Society.

Careful preparations are being instituted for the organization of a local society. That the society will immediately come to the front as one of the most influential and scientific of its kind, is certain as its charter members will be made up of persons mostly mature in years and learned in stamp lore. Among the charter members are S. E. Stebbins who is a prominent architect; the medical profession will be represented by Drs. Bendeke, Norton and Wilkinson; the law profession by D. R. Kitchell, F. A. Carleton. While W. S. Wingate, G. Achard, Chas. Whitly, Eugene Mitchell, E. S. Martin, Chas. Tyren, E. F. Van Gorder and W. H. Barnes are engaged in miscellaneous pursuits. Last, but not least, are Mr. Adolph Edsten and Mr. McMurchy, who are representatives of the indispensable press. These last mentioned will proclaim to the denizens of Minneapolis through their respective mediums the important doings of the M. P. S. A suite of rooms will be engaged at one of our first class hostleries thus making it especially convenient for those who desire to make use of the hotel conveniences, such as billiards etc. and in case we wish to feast our collaborators a mere touch of the push button will immediately bring the glossy face of the alert porter to our presence who will attend to our wants. The first meeting will take place early this month. All local collectors are invited.

Bishop-Quigly Heard From.

The much wanted Lewis Bishop who has figured so prominently and notoriously as the slickest stamp fraud living, has been heard from. Mekeel Stamp News has received a letter from him, which is full of repentance for his many sinful deeds and he now seeks reparation on condition that no action be taken against him. His plaintive tone coming as it does causes the stamp collecting fraternity to doubt his sincerity and actions in pursuance to his intentions must be put into play ere he can be fully trusted. But he has been hunted and haunted and now since he has found out that the way of the transgressor is truly hard perhaps his present intentions are indeed sincere but like many others, he will find

that to turn his inclinations from the old rut, requires great strength on his part.

The 55 Edition Catalogue.

The latest edition of Scotts Stamp and Coin Company's catalogue is out. It excels all other editions in point of typography and neatness. It consists of 625 pages and is well bound in strong flexible covers. In view of the fact that multitudinous inflow of new issues, newly discovered varieties etc. would necessitate the publication of a book altogether too bulky for convenience if published in the old form it has been issued in a handy pocket size. New type and new cuts reduced in size have been used. It is printed on good thin paper, and, taking everything into consideration is a most creditable work. Some persons think the prices asked for the catalogue are too much. Should these never satisfied persons, attempt to publish such a work they would be most willing to admit that the price is reasonable. A vast amount of labor is spent in such a compilation and it should be appreciated.

The 55th strengthens specialism. Minor varieties are almost forced to be recognized. The catalogue is comprehensive and we have noticed but few errors. Some stamps which bear but little distinction from each other are catalogued while on the other hand some more important are left out entirely. But a perfect stamp catalogue is next to impossible and we are certain the publishers of the catalogue are equipped with the necessary requisites in compiling a good catalogue, and realize that they have done it. The catalogue is necessary. The collector cannot do without it as the prices therein, while not always certain as to the correct value of a stamp, are held as standard. In proportion to the increase in price of foreign stamps, the domestic stamps do not hold up their end taking into consideration the great demand for them. The increase in British Colonials is general and in some countries great jumps are evidenced. Most all rare stamps are worth more according to the new catalogue. It has been the custom in former editions to leave many stamps uncatalogued, the value of which being not unknown. Because of this, many collectors and dealers have been left at a disadvantage with those who are posted in regard to auction prices. Last year the compilers of "Our Catalogue" in order to obviate this disadvantage, listed these stamps where ever it was possible, being governed principally by auction prices. In the 55th the same scheme has been adopted and rare stamps, with but few exceptions, are catalogued. It is pleasing to note that many reprints heretofore uncatalogued are now listed. The importance of catalogueing all reprints is at once evident as many of the ignorant and unwary are apt to be worked upon by the unscrupulous and and deceived through the fact that they consider the catalogue comprehensive thus deeming the reprints originals.

It has been a matter of wonderment to many collectors, how it was that certain stamps considered

good "stuff", such as Bahamas etc., could be obtained at prices 50 per cent below the catalogue. The 55th explains why this could be done. Stamps pen cancelled are much commoner than those obliterated with regular post mark, and they are catalogued at their true value. The pen cancelled are as a rule all fine specimens and make a much prettier display than the others. The 95 catalogue is more specific in watermark distinctions. Explanations are indulged in to greater degree than in the past. Varieties of paper are taken into greater consideration thus making it necessary for every one to study paper distinctions. Seebecks and other speculative stamps have not been fondled in respect to prices. The prices of these stamps are stagnant and will remain so for many years to come. Inverted centres are catalogued to greater degree and in all cases are listed very high. These inverted varieties the outcome of some printer's carelessness, are mere oddities and should be classed as such. That they deserve to be placed in our album just as much as the watermark varieties is to be unquestioned as the differences are easily distinguishable which is more than can be said of the watermarked and the perforate varieties. Many new surcharge "beauties" (?) made their debut the past year and cancelled to order stamps etc, have sought recognition. To say the least of it, the year 1894 has proven a fertile one for the production of new stamp emissions.

The sudden jump in the price of a stamp is not always a sign of its especial desirability. While the one cent broken circle, U. S. stamps, is listed at \$7.50 we consider that but few buyers for the stamp at that price can be found and predict that the stamp will not be so hurried in its hops skips and jumps in the future. We have noticed that dealers, the philatelic press and even collectors wield considerable potency in making a stamp desirable for a short time. Take for instance, the high value postage due stamps, in this case a western dealer set the ball a rolling. His octopus like endeavors in order to secure these stamps were noticed by his emulators and quickly the feeling of lookout for these stamps spread through the land. Collectors and dealers alike sought these dirty colored stamps and held on to all they could put their hands on until the advanced sheets of the 55th catalogue made their appearance and made known the listed prices of these stamps. Considering these prices the holders of these stamps hurl them on the market but with such a force that their prices rebound. The relapse is felt, the dealer and collector who a short time ago were so anxious to obtain these stamps, are now just as ready to dispose of them and before long they will be more than eager to get rid of them. The market is now flooded with them. Nobody wants to buy. Every one wants to sell. The result is that some dealers are offering them for sale as low as seventy cents each. And yet some of them are catalogued at \$2.00. And so it is that a stamp becomes momentarily desirable but its desirability does not last long. The three cent vermilion unused 1888 issue is another example of the above

case. Listed at twelve cents, it can be bought for five. It is a noticeable fact that this stamp has failed to increase in value during the past year. The stamps of the 1870-1 grille issue also maintain the same catalogue values in the 55th edition as in the 54th. This is due undoubtedly to the fact that counterfeit grilles have made their appearance and are barely distinguishable from the true grille. On account of this many have lost confidence in the stamp. The 1875 reprints have gone up in prices, and are going up. Facts about the Columbian issue are too well known for any particular mention. The 5 cent value unused has made the greatest proportionate increase. There is no doubt but what the stamp is fairly catalogued when we take certain things into consideration. More of these were used than any other stamp of the issue, with the exception of the one and two cents. Such a great number being used, but a few were left unused while during the speculative term but small holdings were made of this stamp as it was considered poor for speculative purposes. The U. S. departmental stamps are the best stamps a person can get hold of, because they always command the readiest sale. The 12 cent agriculture unused was subject to no increase but the stamp is worth more than the used specimen although both are listed at the same price.

The 2 cent error navy department is again catalogued as it has been for some years. We question the genuineness of this stamp as do many stamp experts. The 15 cent justice, catalogued at \$3.00, is worth \$5.00. Justices are as good as gold dust. U. S. Revenues made slight advances although the increases in prices are restricted to those perforated. The partly perforated and imperforate remain at almost a stand still. These stamps are coming into favor however, and future editions will herald great jumps.

Many varieties of revenues are left out entirely. It would be well to obtain these varieties, for they will be catalogued ultimately, and will command high prices. A great number of local stamps are catalogued which heretofore have been overlooked. Among Confederate stamps many new provisional discoveries are listed, some of which are catalogued at \$1000.00 each. The 5 cent Knoxville (circle) is left out, its authenticity being questioned. While the increase in the price of U. S. stamps taken as a whole are not phenomenal, they are marked enough to be forceable and suggestive as to their future desirability. When we consider that these stamps are perhaps in greater demand than those of any other country, we need not wonder if the average stamp in the next few years rises a trifle in value.—H. S. S.

(to be continued)

The ribbed paper varieties are being discussed and expatiated upon a great deal lately. The question is do we want to take the trouble to examine stamps so critically in order to discover their distinction. Let the catalogue once recognize these paper distinctions and all question is settled.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

HARRY S. SWENSEN, Editor.

Subscription 50 cents a year to all countries.

Advertising rates \$1 per inch, subject to the following discounts, one page (18 inches) 25 per cent, 1/2 page 20 per cent, 1/4 page 15 per cent, 3 inches 10 per cent, 2 inches 5 per cent, 20 per cent discount from regular rate allowed on standing advertisements of three inches or more.

Terms cash with copy unless the advertiser is well known to us, when money is payable on receipt of marked copy.

We would be pleased to exchange two copies with all Philatelic Journals, miss paid for only on being published. Address all communications to

H. S. SWENSEN, Publisher,
1605 Stevens Ave.
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Although the stamps of China are not legitimate postage stamps yet space is allotted them in our albums.

The catalogueing of the three cent pink United States is considered by some persons as an unwarranted action on the part of the catalogue compilers. But it is true that but a few can say that they have a three cent pink of the right hue in their possession.

Nine months ago the five dollar Columbian sold at auction for \$6.50. The four dollar value at \$5.00. At present these stamps can be obtained for but little over their face value. Not with standing this the successful bidders at the auction sale will not lose anything if they hang onto the stamps for a little while.

We have seen a three cent Canadian stamp 1870 issue of chocolate brown color. We are aware of the fact that stamps of reddish color are especially susceptible to changes. But we have also seen the one cent value of the same issue, its color being exactly like the three cent red. This fact converts us to think that the stamps are distinct varieties, yet it seems hardly possible. We would be pleased to correspond with anyone who know anything in regard to these stamps,

An editor of one of our presuming philatelic magazines has queer business principles. On being requested to pay for an article published in his journal, he writes in reply, "Send us bill receipted and we will pay you." He perhaps took us for one of the scroccorial genus,

A St Louis firm send a representative to Europe almost every year for the purpose of buying stamps in order to replenish stock. Why don't Moens Brown et, al, send agents to America for a similar purpose?

The latest catalogues again uphold the fact that those persons who buy rare stamps in preference to those of a cheaper grade are in this respect the wisest.

Mr. E. Marshall seems to labor under the impression that the ultramarine variety of U. S. Revenues have not been catalogued. "Our Catalogue" lists them.

We have in our possession a most peculiar oddity in respect to perforation. It is only an ordinary three cent 1861 issue of U. S. which is doubly perforated in the lower left hand corner. The second perforation extends only half the length of the stamp. It is an eccentricity of perforation that is very rare.

We have received "Davison's Philatelic Concordance and Address book and deem it a very creditable work. It consists of a concordance giving the different inscriptions which are to be found on many stamps on which the name of the country is absent, with the name of the country issuing the stamp. The address list is quite extensive but we find that many names are those of frauds.

The list of Minneapolis collectors is very deficient and we wish to advise Mr. Davidson to seek elsewhere for his names than in stamp journals and society lists the next time he compiles such a work.

Other matter of philatelic intent and value make up a very fair work, It can be obtained through "The Newsletter" or direct from the publishers. Price paper, 50 cts., cloth \$1 00.

The 20 ct. lilac stamp of Brazil made perhaps the greatest proportional increase of a stamp listed in the 55th edition. The 54th edition catalogues it at eight cents, while the 55th quotes it at one dollar.

The Sons of Philatelic convulsion has subsided somewhat. The usurpers have been over thrown. "Handled Hard" Zobel has been handled hard. The authenticity of his materialization into this "mundane sphere" is questioned. That he was on earth twenty-one years ago is doubted and it is said will be proved to the satisfaction of all concerned. "The American Philatelic Magazine" has no doubt become reconciled to the fact that it cannot serve as official organ. It can't serve in such a capacity any way, as the resurrection of "The Collector" has taken place and its publishers proclaim its dynasty. The true Sons of Philatelia will stick to the royal standard. The S. of P. is yet alive, although it has suffered much from the effects of civil discord. But it will again regain its wonted equilibrium. The flag of disruption which has hovered over the society is being torn to shreds. The emblem of justice, peace and harmony will be replaced.

The officers of the true S. of P. (not the Zobellic contingent,) (Zobellic, by the way, is derived from the Roumanian word zo, which is an auxiliary, meaning like, and bellum, the latin word for war, thus, zobellic means warlike.) are good men and efficient officers. They will act honestly, without any ulterior object in view. Some members of the S. of P. are dishonest. They must be rooted out. The sensible idea of re organization has been suggested by some who fear future disruptions.

It is a good idea and should be resorted to, and then the S. of P. will regain its former prestige and power and will stand preminent as the ideal philatelic society.

In the harangue over the five cent 1890 issue "error" the post office says, "we still hold to our original belief that the small number offered in New York originally is all or nearly all of these stamps in existence, and that these were chemically changed.

We have seen some of the changelings to which the Weekly refers, and we agree with it that they are of darker shade than the stamp sent us by Mr. Ammann. That is not, however, decisive, for the change in them has been done in a crude way. Now, in order to settle the question of the possibility of the duplication of the stamps they hold, we suggest that the Mekeel Company deposit their one hundred dollars, and a block of four of their "errors" with some New York parties in whose judgment and fairness they have confidence. We have here a chemist who is waiting for that deposit, and when it is made he will duplicate the four stamps precisely, leaving gum and paper intact, in a block of eight, four of which stamps shall be of the original color of the five cent and four of the color of the so-called error and equally fresh in appearance. Here is a chance for the Mekeel Company to back up all they have said. If all that has been said is but talk and bluster, we do not expect this offer to be noticed."

Mr. Capen still holds to the opinion that the "errors" are indeed changelings, while Pres. Van Derlip of the Boston philatelic society pronounces them genuine errors.

Both of these persons are learned philatelists and being opposed in their opinions in regard to this stamp we naturally await with interest the solution of this enigmatical problem.

A prominent dealer is sending out stamps on approval unsolicited. The question of unsolicited approval sheets has long been a topic for discussion. Especially did the recent Brown vs. Gremmel controversy arouse public attention as to the legitimacy of such business methods. Our attorney informs us that the recipient of unsolicited sheets cannot be held responsible for them. Yet we think that the law of etiquette should prove sufficiently forcible to compel persons to return sheets received in this way.

Kissingers, stamp collectors handbook just received as we go to press. It seems to be a very useful booklet.

Why is it that some stamp dealers solicit approval sheets from their competitors?

There are 3600 varieties of the stamps of New South Wales. Here is a chance for making a specialty within a specialty.

In a thousand mixed packet, which retails at twenty-five cents we recently found a 2 gld. bistre and violet Curacao stamp worth \$1.50. For once we got our money's worth.

Poor old Mexico is at last shrugging her shoulders, and some of her stamps are slightly higher in the 55th catalogue.

B. S. Ross is selling stamps by the pound, (see ad.) and L. H. Benton says a pound is equivalent to fifteen thousand stamps.

The Michigan Philatelist is one of the newest philatelic papers afloat. It likes to be terse but concise.

It is said that a French philatelist has a stamp of which the date of issue antecedes the English stamp of 1840 by two centuries. The stamp was used to prepay the carriage of a letter to any portion of the city of Paris.

The American Philatelic magazine for January is improved typographically and contains much readable matter. This paper is inclined to be very "newspapery" in style and is thoroughly up to date.

Don't collect speculative stamps. When placed in your album, they look as bad as counterfeits and are really worse for you are aware of their character while the counterfeit is apt to slip in unobserved.

When buying stamps of a person, who is ignorant of current prices, don't purchase them in accordance to the prices of an 1879 catalogue but bring out your 1895 catalogue and be honest. It pays in the long run.

The "Philatelic Era" has apologized, and the Mekeels in good sense accepted the apology. "I told you so" are now in order.

Now that Germany has discontinued her stamped envelopes, we may naturally expect other countries like "chumps" to follow suit.

The unperforated and partly perforated U. S. Revenues are held in ill favor by the majority of collectors and are almost universally shunned. They are stamps of distinct issue however and are just as collectable as the stamps of the perforate series. The two cents U. S. Internal Revenue orange is not priced in imperforate condition although the stamps are quite common. We have several in our possession which have not been clipped.

Many of the partly perforated varieties are poor sellers, but the two cents bank check blue is a notable exception. About a year ago it sold at auction for thirty-five cents and the compilers of the 1895 catalogue deemed it of sufficient desirability as to increase its price 20 per cent.

Philatelic writers are undoubtedly a learned genus but the numerous expressions of their ideas by means of foreign phrases, must almost force a person to think that they are truly men of learning, but the fact that the wrong construction is often placed upon the true meaning makes it too often evident that these men of letters secure their high flown foreign synonyms (?) not through the acquaintance of the different languages, but from the ever convenient dictionary.

The part perforated varieties were perforated perpendicularly and horizontally in the sheet. Some persons claim they have stamps of this variety unperforated on the sides. The third side has been undoubtedly cut by some one who thought that it would enhance the value of the stamp.

We trust that our contemporaries will take enough interest in the NEWSLETTER as to place it on their exchange lists, and we will reciprocate.

Up to recently we have held to the opinion that we had at least two rare stamps. The 55th catalogue however has changed this opinion. The one cent green on greenish and the four cents green on greenish type II French Colonies are listed by Scotts 54th edition and Mekeels latest catalogue at \$10 apiece. In Scotts 55th there is no record of the four cents value, while the two cent stamps, much to our chagrin is listed at six cents. Why the compilers left out the four cents value is a conundrum to us, but we do know that we have got one in our possession.

Some persons are said to have been born stingy. We do not know if this is true, but we have perceived that some persons are at least selfish when they take to stamp collecting. It is a fact that many persons, otherwise unselfish and liberal are stingy when it comes to stamp collecting. They will hoard a worthless continental, yet with contrasting liberality expend dollars for the purpose of one night at the theatre. This is an incomprehensible trait of many stamp collectors. We would say to these persons, don't be selfish, don't be afraid to show your album of rarities or continentals as the case may be to your friends or acquaintances. Don't show hesitation in lending your stamps, papers, etc. We had occasion to ask an acquaintance for one of his stamp papers one time, and he refused us the favor on the ground that we might soil the paper, and that he wanted to keep them in good condition. Shades of "O'Connell," what selfishness! what stinginess! If collectors are so afraid of lending their philatelic possessions what hope is there for spreading that filial feeling which ought to arise amongst those following the same hobby. What must we do? Why be frank and genial and liberal. If you are blessed with a philatelic library, don't be afraid of having your papers thumb marked but throw it open to all. You can afford to be liberal, for your liberality is an aid to philately and thus you yourself are indirectly reaping the benefits superinduced by your own liberality. You hold philately dear to your heart and you can't afford to jeopardize its welfare or power by being too chary of your philatelic possessions. Give away your duplicates which you know you can't sell or trade to advantage. Be philanthropical. You can afford to be. Try and be liberal at least in the circle of your pastimes and you will surely realize much greater pleasure from your hobby.

Good articles on philatelic subjects, especially on the stamps themselves wanted. Always enclose stamp for reply.

Stamp Notes.

Is Edna Brown married? is the question fitting through the minds of many of our ambitious collectors.

A well known St. Paul stamp dealer recently sent to a Minneapolis collector, a letter prepaid with only a one cent stamp. The letter was not sealed and to all appearances was carrying 3rd class matter, but on examination our Minneapolis friend discovered a neatly penned epistle folded on the inside of the printed circular.

I consider a person who will part with a \$1 Columbian for less than five dollars, as temporarily afflicted with a bad form of mental aberration. Hang onto the dollar ones.

That man from Edina Mills who stole my collection will please return it. Pardon me, that person who by accident took my stamp album instead of his scrap book, would be conferring a great favor upon both owners by promptly returning same.

I would like to know how many times Dr. Mitchell of St. Paul has sold out his collection or collections. I have seen no less than a dozen items in regard to its sale.

I would advise every one to shun a person giving his name and address, as H. C. Stone, The Yale, Chicago, Ill. He deducted \$3.17 from my worldly goods.

I recently received in payment for value received, from C. W. Kissinger, a lot of 5 cent Columbian, taken at face. Friend Kissinger must have a post office full of these stamps or he would hardly pay in stamps, which are easily worth 10 cents each at wholesale.

I recently looked through a collection containing no less than thirty specimens of S. Allen Taylor's counterfeits. The aggregate value of these stamps if genuine, would amount to at least three hundred dollars.

Doute impressions are coming into favor again. Fabulous prices are asked for some of these oddities.

There are over fifteen shades of the three cent 1861 U. S. but the shades of the 2 cent carmine almost reach infinity. Yet we are bound to recognize the stamps as varieties.

Heat has a most debilitating effect upon our current stamps. They twist and roll up as if in great pain.

The dark vermilion shade is the rarest of the shades of the Interior department stamps. Deep purple of the Justice department, and rich green of the state department. Water is very apt to fade the war and navy stamps.

Some time ago I was greatly deceived by a 2 cent green confederate stamp. I bought it at auction for \$1.50. To all appearances it was genuine, but when! etc.

Little Puck, the able contributor for the A. P. M., discloses his identity when he says "Mr. Barnes and I have resigned from the S. of P. trusteeship." Sign your right name Chas. The times demand it. Sorry to learn that Mr. Tyren and Mr. Barnes have resigned, as the true S. of P. lose very able men.

Albert Perrin, the well known New York stamp dealer, who was recently arrested for a crime charged against him, has been acquitted. He clearly proved his innocence and showed that he had no connection with the crime whatever.

The American Philatelic magazine has resigned as official journal of the Sons of philately. A wise move without question.

I was recently informed that a gentleman of this city had a very fine collection of stamps which he desired to sell for cash. I immediately sought him out and introducing myself as a representative of a stamp company, I stated that I would be willing to purchase his collection should prices prove suitable. He placed his collection before me and I quickly saw that the entire lot was not worth over fifty dollars. "How much do you want for it?" I asked, "Well," he says in reply, "taking into consideration the amount of labor, time, etc., I expended in obtaining the stamps, I would say that I was being poorly repaid if I didn't receive at least \$500.00" "Well," said I, "I will see about it," and quickly passed out the office door, H. S. S.

In an Old Trunk.

The writer has so frequently read tales of the wonderful finds in old hair trunks and how the mortgage was lifted and all that "ad nauseam," and presumes that your readers have been come disgusted with the seemingly incredible accounts and therefore in introducing his article desires to state that fact not fiction, enter entirely into its woof.

There were two of us, both ardent philatelists and always with our weather eyes wide open for finds, snaps, etc. We were sitting in the store of my friend's father one evening in the fall, discussing the relative merits and demerits of that much abused article, the seebeck. As is natural when two stampies meet to talk, everything that can be thought of is brought up in rapid succession. Finally we found ourselves talking about some of the hair-trunks escapades, when my friend said: "There is an old trunk down in the cellar which was here when father bought the store. I've tried to pick the lock a dozen times but without avail. I'll bet it has some beauties in it." With that, my latent curiosity became aroused and an onslaught upon the old trunk was immediately determined upon.

We groped down stairs by the light of a smoky lamp and soon arrived at the seat of war. Now came the opening of the lock. My friend had told me that he could not pick the lock. I didn't consider myself a safe breaker but laughed at him when I gave the

old thing a kick. A cloud of dust, probably a relic of days long passed, flew into the air and our eyes and nostrils as well. But the lid flew back as though operated by a spring. We speedily got down on our knees to examine the precious contents.

If ever a trunk was packed full that one was, Wearing apparel long since out of date, greeted our eyes first, but not to any length of time. We weren't looking for Queen Anne stockings or Elizabethian garters and so delved down with both hands. Next came a lot of dirty shirts and worn-out shoes. These, too, were speedily disposed of. Then came a lot of samples for the trunk had evidently been owned by a traveling man. Some of these were quite interesting but we wanted stamps and stamps we must have.

So after a time we came upon the object of our search. Here before us lay several hundred letters all nicely tied up in bunches of one hundred each. Visions of Brattleboro's, New Haven's, Millbury's and U. S. floated vividly in our imaginations and we stopped for a few moments to congratulate one another on our good luck. That being over we went into a bundle and having carefully untied the string binding the precious bits our search began. We soon concluded that this bundle must have been a late one, for it contained nothing but common 3ct. 1872's with a sprinkling of one's and two's. So we began on bundle No. 3. but luck seemed to be against us, and not until we had reached the last letter of the last bundle did we realize that our search was entirely in vain. The trunk seemed long on dirty linen and short on rare stamps and ever since these tales of remarkable finds in old hair trunks have found at least one mind that was disgusted with such twaddle. Since then I've found that if I want rare stamps, I must buy them and that I can find something more profitable than hunting through moth and dust to obtain a 3ct. 1872 as the ultimatum for my time and labor. One thing I shall never forget though, and that was the woe-begone look of disgust depicted on the countenance of my friend.—Chic.

A Retrospect.

Twenty five years ago the life of the stamp collector was a pleasant one, and the road which he traveled was comparatively easy. The price of stamps was inconsiderable, and the tax on the pocket-book small. Shades received little attention; the collector usually selected the one which was most pleasing to his eye, and let the others go. The difference between imperforate, perforated and rouletted was always observed, but the differences in roulettings and perforations, unless so plain as to strike the eye at once, were passed by. Thick and thin paper were almost unknown, and but few collectors cared to distinguish between "laid," "wove," "quadrille," "battone," and the other varieties. If anyone looked for the watermarks and collected accordingly, his fellows regarded him as the possessor of more cents than sense; now and then he was charged with

the desire of increasing the size of his collection without really making actual additions to it.

Making a collection by disregarding all the differences above enumerated was a matter of no very great difficulty. Many philatelists regarded themselves as the happy owners of a large number of completed countries.

But, and may I say alas! for the good old days are forever gone, the good old days of simple and easy collection, all this is changed. It is no easy matter to complete any country no matter how small it may be or how few apparently its issues. Let me illustrate. Once I fancied that I had all of Bosnia and Herzegovina; a recent catalogue told me that there were five varieties of perforation; in my search for these I discovered that there were others not catalogued.

Today when a collector sees a stamp, no matter how familiar it may seem to be, no matter how many apparently similar ones he may have, he makes it the subject of a most careful study and scrutiny. He compares it for shade with those in his own collection. But this is the very least of his work, this is the very beginning. The perforations are carefully counted, or the rouletting, if it be a rouletted stamp, and this not on the top or side only, but on both sides and top. All variations from the ordinary are noted, for in them may be a treasure. Then he examines the character of the perforations, for there are not only the ordinary or machine-perforations, but there are "pin" perforations. *Perce en arc*, *perce en scie*, *perce en serpentine*, *perce en point*, as well as compound perforations and double perforations. Of rouletting there are the plain, and that done in colored lines.

And now he comes to the watermark. Sometimes these are very distinct and read at a glance; at others they are obscure, and many an artifice of light and shade, twisting, turning and wetting is resorted to in order to bring out the watermark if it has one, or prove its absence. Watermarks differentiate stamps to a remarkable degree. In many cases the presence of a certain watermark makes a stamp a great rarity, while a precisely similar stamp with another watermark has little value.

And not only is the legitimate watermark carefully sought for, but the reversed watermark, and the inverted one, both the result of carelessness on the part of printer, receive special attention—these are always regarded as prizes.

When the absence or pretence of the watermark* and its character has been decided upon and that part of the work completed the examiner turns his attention to the paper upon which the stamp is printed.

The first thing to be determined is its color; and this means not simply that it is white, red, blue or gray as the case may be, but any variations in shade of any of these colors. And then the next point to be decided is whether the paper be wove, laid, close ribbed, quadrille, batone, or pelure. And yet once more, is it thin, thick or medium? And still another test; the stamp is held between the thumb and fore-

finger of the left hand, while it is snapped or struck with a finger of the right hand in order to ascertain whether it possesses a certain crispness which determines, especially in certain United States stamps whether the specimen in question belongs to one issue or another.

Now comes the examination of the gum. It is much to be regretted that most dealers wash the gum off the stamps which they have for sale. In many instances the color, character or thickness of the gum decides the issue.

Then comes the examination of the face of the stamp. Its color and shades of color are noted, the process of its manufacture is examined to show whether it is an engraved stamp, and if so what sort of engraving, or whether it is a lithograph, a wood cut or type-set specimen.

The microscope is brought into use to determine the presence or absence of certain minute lines and touches, for upon so small a thing very frequently depends the rarity and value of the stamp.

Again the face of the stamp is carefully scanned to discover the mistakes of the engraver. A wrongly placed comma or period, a defective letter, or wrongly placed letter, a hyphen where it does not belong or absence when it ought to have been used, with twenty other similar inaccuracies, are eagerly sought for and when found hailed with delight.

It's an easy matter to see whether the stamp is in its normal state as it came from the hand of the manufacturer, or whether it is a so called "surcharge" which means that something has been printed on its face either altering its value or use. But just then the trouble begins: in what sort of letters is it surcharged? What is the length and height of the surcharge? On what value of stamp has the surcharge been printed? Has the original value been obliterated by a bar or not? And if it has how long is the bar? All these and still more questions come up before the collector for answer.

Here you would think the work of the collector was completed and he had nothing to do but sit down, and, in quiet satisfaction enjoy his finished collection of one or two countries, for no man in the present day attempts more than this. But just at this point he learns that his favorite is lacking in one or two specimens which may cost him a long search and many dollars. While the stamps of his special country have been issued as perforated, he learns that a few have found their way in an unperforated condition.

Or, he hears of a specimen perforated at top and bottom and unperforated vertically, or the reverse. If the collector's purse be long and his perseverance great, he may secure these coveted prices, but if these conditions be lacking he must content himself as best he may.

Such is the work very briefly sketched, of the philatelist of to day. It is beset with difficulties and sometimes with impossibilities. His labor is ten fold of that of the collector of twenty-five or thirty years ago. He knows more, infinitely more, and works harder, infinitely harder than his predecessor. Whether his enjoyment is greater is an open question.

REV. J. K. MENDENHALL, in Stamp News.

Random Notes.

—Veda—

Among the good prices realized recently on West India stamps was \$3220 for Tobago, 6d. ochre, C. A. watermark realized at the Cheverly (London) sale of Oct. 2, and \$25.00 for St. Vincent 5s. star watermark at the Hadlow (London) sale of Oct. 19.

Speaking of the West Indies, reminds me that probably the rarest Tobago is the d. pen surcharge on the ½d on 6d. orange, a copy of which was purchased at the De Coppet sale by Rev. W. H. Holman of South Hampton, Conn. for \$70.

The Canada 10 cent carmine has been found on laid paper and ranks among the rarities across the line.

It is stated on the authority of a prominent English philatelist that the sum of £400,000 was paid by the Russian government to the Princes of Thurn and Taxis when the former absorbed the latter's post system in 1870.

Wm. Mulready, the designer of the celebrated envelope which is usually designated by his name, was born in Ennis, County Clair, Ireland April 1st. 1786 and died at Bayswater, Eng. July 7, 1863.

The first stamps of the Park City Match Co. are said to have been used on the 28th of February 1865. The Clark Match Co. issued theirs on Feb. 7, 1876.

The stamps of the Corrientes were prepared from wood blocks ordered by the governor, Justo J. Uguiza, in the early part of 1856. Eight different blocks were engraved.

The stamp dealer is not infallible. We recently entertained the thought that it would be wise to part with one of our rare stamps and as a result with the idea of a sale in view we submitted the stamp to the inspection of a stamp dealer, whose advertisement can be seen in almost any stamp magazine, and who is considered a deep student of philately. The dealer returned the stamp in a few days and stated that the stamp in question was bogus. With prodigious facundity and apparently evident knowledge upon the subject, he pointed out the defects of the stamp as not corresponding with the original, which made it evident to a "blind man," to use his own words, that the stamp was a counterfeit. Thoroughly alarmed, more from the fact that we could be taken in so easily, than from the thought of a loss, in order to set aright all question of doubt as to its genuineness we sent it to a New York stamp dealer and expert who immediately pronounced it genuine, who bought the stamp out right and paid a good round price for it.

Even stamp dealers makes mistakes sometimes.

Dealers who wish to deal with us must send cash with copy unless well known to us.

It is said that the mail trains are delayed in Chicago, in order to accomodate the Chicago Newspapers, and as a result the people of Minneapolis and even the whole Northwest are greatly incommoded.

Advertisers !!!

Bear in mind that cash and nothing else will be taken in payment for advertising space in the "NEWSLETTER."

THE Century Publishing Co.,

OF MINNEAPOLIS,

422-4 Century Building.

We respectfully invite you to call and see us if you want satisfactory work and prices in all kinds of Printing. Satisfaction guaranteed in every case.

FREE To each stamp collector who sees this add and sends 2 cent stamp for postage, I will send a set of 8 Japanese stamps, I also sell 3 Corean stamps for 10c, 100 all different for 9 cents.

JOHN A. WILSON, Dept. M. M.

2 3m

1129 Olive st., Philadelphia, Pa

STAMP DEALERS DIRECTORY.

Terms for a three line advertisement in this column, \$1.50 12 insertions, 75 cents 6 insertions, payable semi-annually in advance.

BURLEIGH, JAS. B. Govanstown, Balto. Co. Md., dealer in rare postage stamps. Send for price list.

CLEAVER, GEO. E. 1132 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa. Finest stamp hinges in the world, send for sample.

COLCLEUGH, W. J. 165 Congress East, Detroit, Michigan Good stamps sent to responsible persons.

FITZGERALD J. E. Ellsworth, Wis. Send for my unexcelled approval sheets. Reference required.

HOYT, F. T. 909 W. Polk st., Chicago, Ill. Send me your want list. Rare stamps a specialty.

INDIANA STAMP CO., Fort Wayne Indiana. Approval sheets @ 10 per cent to 50 per cent com.

ROSS, B. S. 509 Wieland st. Chicago, Ill. U. S. stamps by the pound. Send for sample 50 cents.

TOPPELL, THEODORE, 91 Nassau st. New York. Rare stamps wanted for cash.

EXCHANGE COLUMN.

Advertisements under this head one cent a word each insertion, cash in advance.

I need a few high denominatins U. S. Rev. for my collection, want only the finest specimens and will exchange stamps or Phil. literature for those I need. Send on approval with want list. Geo. E. Cleaver, P. S. of A. 434. 1132 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa.

Security Stamp Company.

(Newly Organized.)

Dealers in all kinds of postage stamps. Rare U. S. always on hand. Send your want list.

No. 6 CHAMBER COMMERCE,

E. MITCHELL, Manager.

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

F. M. Thomas,

4117 Prytania st. New Orleans, La.

Fair exchange of Stamps with Dealers and Collectors. Foreign Correspondence desired. I have a large stock of old U. S. stamps, envelopes and postal cards, Confederate stamps and U. S. Revenues.

I will give same in exchange for good Foreign Stamps.

BARGAINS.

QUEENSLAND.

1882, 2sh 6d unused @ \$1.00

TASMANIA.

1864' 1d unused (No. 32) @ 50c
" same not well centered 20c
" 1sh unused (No. 40) 75c
" same, not well centered 30c
Gold Coast 2sh unused 65c

BARBADOS.

1882 85, 3d unused 20c

BAHAMAS.

1882, 1d unused (No. 24) 20c

Wholesale prices on application. Cash with order.

JOS. B. BURLEIGH Jr.

Govanstown,

Balto Co., Md.

EXCHANGE.

I have several fine specimens of triangular Cape of Good Hope to exchange for 5c unused Columbian Envelopes. All kinds of unused entire U. S. envelopes wanted in exchange for good adhesive stamps. Make an offer. Philatelic papers to exchange for stamps.

T. E. FITZGERALD,

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To know what it contains

SEND 5 CENTS FOR
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One sample free to those who have
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Full of live information on each and every branch of Philately

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(Established 1892.)
A FIRST-CLASS STAMP MONTHLY.

The American Philatelic Magazine, stamps from cover to cover. It pays its subscribers, its advertisers and its publishers. Subscription 25 cents a year. Advertisements. \$1.00 an inch; contract rates furnished on application.

PUBLISHED BY

PARMELEE & BROWN.

Box 880, Omaha, Neb.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE CURIO

Send your want list.

Good exchange accepted.

E. R. ALDRICH,

Benson, Minn.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. 1.

MARCH, 1895.

No. 2.

Philatelic Journalism in Minnesota.

F. R. ALDRICH.
First Paper—1876—1887.

"Happy they whose written pages
Perish with their lives,
If amid the crumbling ages
Still their survives!"

How well the words of Longfellow express the fate which at the best, a philatelic publisher can expect. How much accurate knowledge has been preserved of the early philatelic journals except what they themselves attest, and even then none can boast of a higher antiquity than two score years.

Perhaps nowhere in the broad land of ours can the vicissitudes of the ups and downs of philatelic journal publishing be better illustrated than in the "North Star State." In the last twenty years no less than fourteen different attempts have met with different (or rather indifferent) success but have all one by one save the last three new ventures, succumbed to their inevitable fates.

"Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

The first of these is a little $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ sheet issued by one T. C. Lawrence of St. Paul in 1874, consisting of four pages and rejoicing in the name "Stamp Collector Review". Evidently either the financial backing was light or the novelty of the enterprise was too much for the publisher as one member only appeared. Of Lawrence no particulars are obtainable and although several of the same family name resided in the Sainly City early in the eighties when I first began to obtain a copy of this rare little sheet, none knew anything of Frank C.

Ten years have elapsed ere another attempt to amuse and instruct the philatelic public occurred and then in January, 1884 the initial number of The North Star Philatelist of Minneapolis came forth. Of its origin and early history much probably still remains untold and always will for he, whom we usually alone think of in connection with the North Star does not recollect much of its early history. The first number gives the credit of its parentage to North Star Philatelist Co., 108, 7th St., and among the few advertisements most prominently displayed is the one of Achard and Richardson, which shows that George W. Achard at least was connected with Richardson in the stamp business even, if as he collects Richardson was alone responsible for the earlier numbers. In No. 3 an advertisement of G. W. Achard Box 303 is found while on the last page an advertisement of the paper refers the inquiries to box 303, which would seem to indicate that Richardson had retired from the firm. It is reported

that the bulk of the remaining numbers of this volume up to number 10 were destroyed by a fire but No. 10 comes forth with Geo. W. Achard, who will always be listed as the father of Minnesota's philatelic journalism as editor and publisher.

None of Vol. II of the paper are known to exist and that well known authority John K. Tiffany opines that Vol. II of this paper will be found under another name and published as an amateur, (it has been suggested that "The Cadet," published about this time might be the missing link, when Achard's well known proclivities toward the militia are recollected.)

The first volume is slightly smaller in size of page than the usual "standard" (9x6 seems to be the standard size) and four pages make a number. With Vol. III No. 1 (Jan'y 1877) the paper appeared standard size, 6 pages.

I have never met with Nos. 2 or 3 and from the editorial remark "We have been lying dormant since January" which appeared in No. 4 doubt that any ever were issued. This number was issued in Dec. 1887 and A. V. Chamberlain acted as assistant to Archard in the editorial sanctum. The next number (Jan'y 1888) appeared as Vol. IV No. 1 and consisted of 8 pages and an engraved cover. This was the last number that appeared, but consolidated with the Philatelic Fortnightly under the name of Minnesota Philatelist (second of that name) a few further numbers were issued.

In January 1886 the initial number of the Minnesota Philatelist (the first paper published under this caption) was launched by Fred C. Stahl and Co. of St. Paul. The paper was an eight page paper, standard size. It was to appear quarterly and the second and last number appeared in April.

The principal of this firm Fred B Stahl is now remembered by little but has complicity with the "Horace C Jones" affair.

In the February 1886 number of the philatelic Journal of America appeared an advertisement, offering various great bargains (such as set 1865 newspaper for \$1.50. Justice unused complete \$4.00. used \$3.25 etc.) the address given being Horace C Jones Box 376 Minneapolis Minn. Various parties answered the ad and receiving no or unsatisfactory replies, complaint was lodged with Geo. B. Kidder the post office inspector which resulted in the arrest and indictment of Stahl and he was tried in the United States court at St. Paul before Judge Shiras on Oct. 23 United States Attorney Baxter appeared for the prosecution while "Chris O'Erien" at that time the most prominent criminal lawyer in the state represented the de

fense. Various postal officers from Minneapolis identified Stahl as the person receiving mail addressed to Jones, while C. H. Mekeel, W. H. Lightstone of Evansville Ind. appeared as witness against him. To the casual observer the state made a clear case which the evidence for the defense failed to shake yet jury after an eight hour session returned a verdict of not guilty, the defendant's youth and previous good character being well played upon by his attorney.

The junior member of the firm was one Frank Reid, who at that time was secretary of the Saint Paul society.

What Are We Coming to?

Or to use the immortal words of illustrious Cicero "Ubinam gentium sumus."—Where in the world are we?

If proud old Cæsar stood at the gates of the philatelic domicile and could gaze at the interior he would no doubt remark. Oh immortal Gods! What a wonderful sight!

Poor old James Chalmers would hiccough with glee, while the ancient departed patrician of philately would gasp and tremble with mingled wonder and surprise, could they be enabled to rise from the dead and see the result brought about by the postage stamp. When the inventor of the postage stamp said something like this "Go ahead little stamp and do thy work" little did he think that the creation of so great a sphere as philately would result.

To explore the Mammoth Cave or Catacombs of Rome, it has been said that spools of thread and guides are necessary equipments of the explorer. It has been said that constant residence in some cities necessary in order to become familiar with the tangled streets and even then one cannot tread the narrow avenues with full assurance as to his whereabouts. But these labyrinthian places are dwarfed into insignificance when we come to the entrance which opens the way to scattered points of philatelicdom. All the intricacies that can be wove into garments which clothe and muffle comprehension enter in great part into the underlying principles of philately of to-day.

To the uninitiated, Philately is one jumble of confusion. Men become children. Knowledge becomes obscure. Truly, the man, no matter how learned and enlightened he may be in respect to other things is thoroughly at sea when he seeks to enter the narrow portals which lead to the broad field of philately. But the bewildering obstacles will cause the new comer if he is a man of at least ordinary intelligence, to realize the desire to know something about the pursuit. The more he learns the more he wants to know. When his interest before was but a fanciful one, now it is studied and earnest. Many times the thought "Down you beast

you rattle me" will pass through his mind, but the idea of being puzzled arouses the other thought "I can and will master you." In mastering one thing a dozen more confront him. The confronting intricacies involve so many branches of study that the philatelist is at once a student. But the many things that philately embodies is apt to prevent many from taking an interest in the pursuit.

Stamp collecting is the mere methodical collecting of stamps. Philately is the science and study of postage stamps, and of course in order to study stamps it is necessary to collect them.

We are in the midst of a science. The prediction was not absurd when it was said that the science, now designated by the same "crankism" would be respected sometime universally. The men who say that they collect without any regard to minor distinctions are indeed few in number. The collector holds the stamp catalogue as a guide as to what he intends to collect. He is puzzled as to these distinctions. But he gets down on his hands and knees and digs away at the problem. Sometimes he needs outside aid. He gets explanatory treatises and often asks a fellow collector to show him what the difference between this stamp and that stamp is. The present condition demands more than ever before that the machinery of thought be put into fullest operation. The general opinion of the outside world in regard to philately, is that it is the mere accumulation of postage stamps and in accumulating these stamps no other requisite is necessary except the faculty of distinguishing the different colors and the different values. In their idea philately ends here. That it is evident that they are mistaken the merest tyro knows. Why a philatelist knows as much about colors and shades as the artist. The fact that the study of the minor shades are necessary usually draws upon the curiosity of the student and he will as a rule want to know what these colors are made from and how manufactured. If he has never studied physics before, he will out of pure curiosity investigate the causes and results of colors. He will study the color spectrum. He will know what these seven colors are. He will know that white is a compound of all colors. He will know that black is not a color at all. He will know what the binary and tertiary colors are. He accrues knowledge not because he is anxious for this or that particular kind of knowledge, but because of his curiosity brought about by his interest in stamp collecting or rather philately. He is brought to know things of importance. Whether a person becomes learned through desire or curiosity, it makes no difference as long as he is equipped with learning. After he has learned something about the important colors. He will want to analyze the colors. He will be able to tell the difference between a rose, carmine, scarlet, vermilion etc. He will also delve still deeper and through the aid of chemistry will know how blues are changed to greens, red to brown, and through the effects of sunlight how violets become green etc.

As the stamps of United States are very valua-

ble, it is almost necessary that there should be some knowledge of colors and shades, as some stamps which vary only in the difference between brown and dark brown, differ in value to the extent of several dollars. When I was at the Worlds Fair I took a deep interest in the exhibitions of the processes of lithographing, engravings, re-engraving retouching, electrotyping etc. This interest would never have been realized if it had not been for the postage stamp. The student of philately is acquainted with the different kinds and qualities of paper, and in knowing this he must in some cases know how the paper is made. In every direction the perceptive powers are trained as are also the seven senses and their supplementaries. The practical use of philately can be plainly seen. The person who can detect a good counterfeit stamp can with ease detect the counterfeit silver dollar or counterfeit five dollar bill. The students of philately would make good bank tellers, and to be logical, good bank tellers would make good philatelists.

To the question "where in the world are we?" The answer would be, we are in the midst of a new science. Philately deserves to be called a science. Some of the foregoing utterances of this article may be deemed as very strong and perhaps maniacal but if philately is not a science, it is indeed a symposium of sciences.

H. S.

OUR BANQUET MENU

Blue Points

Salted Nuts Cream of Tomato Queen Olives

Whitefish escaloped in Shells

Fillet of Beef A L'Empereur

Potatoes Bernaise Green Peas

Claret Punch

Roast Mallard Duck, with Jelly

Sweet Potato chips

Lettuce Mayonnaise

Nesselrode Pudding

Fancy Cake Rouquefort Fruit
Coffee

The Ninth Annual Banquet of the Chicago Philatelic Society was held Thursday Evening, March 7th, at the Pacific Hotel.

For the season, the evening was warm and comfortable, and the only possible objection was the sloppy condition of the streets caused by the rain and melting snow. The following members were present: Messrs. Washington Hesing, Julius H. Huber, Geo. Hoyer, S. B. Hopkins, W. H. McDonald, S. B. Bradt, Geo. Gregory, W. J. Lawrence, B. A. Cottlow, Samuel Leland, F. N. Massoth, Jr., J. A. Pierce, P. M.

Wolseiffer, W. F. Miller, B. S. Bingham, Fred. Micheal, F. Z. Lefever, C. E. Severn, A. E. Fritz, Edward Rosenthal and Paget.

A very good supper was served and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Next on the programme speech making.

Our President, Mr. Julius H. Huber spoke briefly on the past, present and future of our society, and of its advances made in the last few months.

Mr. P. M. Wolseiffer, Chicago's prominent Philatelist, delivered an excellent oration on the law abiding qualities of Philatelists, philately in general, and was very much interested in a flag stamp, and urged the two cent stamp as the proper one for that cause. Mr. Wolseiffer has a majority, if not all Philatelists with him in his efforts to secure a flag stamp. The numerous applauses he received only go to show Mr. Wolseiffer's standing in Chicago Philatelic circles.

Mr. S. B. Bradt, who is in number ONE. of the Society, spoke briefly on the progress made so far by the society and of our chances in the bright future. Mr. Samuel Leland delivered an excellent plea for scientific collecting and thinks the 213 advanced, and over ten thousand other Chicago collectors should be more systematic.

Dr. B. A. Cottlow delivered a star address upon the auction kicker. This individual—rather rare, as they must have been raised in the South Sea Islands—was accurately portrayed by the doctor, and he was heartily applauded. Notwithstanding adverse criticism, the Chicago Philatelic Society is quite fortunate to have such a gentleman as Dr. Cottlow in charge of its auction and exchange departments.

The popular President of The P. S. of A.—Mr C. E. Severn, delivered an oration on the young collectors, and received a hearty encore.

Mr. J. A. Pierce brought out much stamp history of Chicago, when both Philately and Chicago were blushing maids in their teens, and his speech was highly appreciated—especially by the younger collectors.

Our gentle and esteemed Post Master, Editor and politician, Mr. Washington Hesing, closed the evening with a very interesting thirty minute speech on his stampic career and other subjects of much interest

Among other things, Mr. Hesing spoke of the vast increase of European mail. Thirty years ago, he said, 125 sacks of European mail a year was a good average, while a steamer last week brought Chicago alone 127 sacks of European mail.

As a matter of interest, Mr. Hesing informed us that there is an electric machine in the Chicago Post Office which cancels 60,000 letters per hour. One thousand per minute! Think of it!

Mr. Hesing cleared away all doubts as to genuinity of that 5 cent United States error of the color of the 5 cent stamp which originated at Cape Gerardo, Mo. He also made known much inside history of this error since its discovery. He says under the new contract stamps are often printed in the wrong

color, and in some unaccountable way get into circulation. Mr. Hesing does not collect errors or watermarks. He proved conclusively that he is the first collector in Chicago and has ample grounds to believe the first in the United States. All the collectors were unanimous in declaring this to be the best banquet ever held by any Society, and Mr. Lawrence who travelled 280 miles to attend, in his speech left us under the impression he will come twice that far to attend the next banquet.

Besides representatives of the Press, the following Reporter-Members were present: Mr. Washington Hesing, Editor Illinois Staat Zeitung, ex officio; Messrs. C. E. Severn, W. F. Miller and Every Paget ("E. Quere Philman")

E. QUERE PHILMAN.

Another Chain Letter.

Three women of South Beach, Ct. are trying the Edna Brown scheme of securing postage stamps to be accumulated for the purpose of building a home.

Here is a copy of the letter that they have sent to their immediate friends:

A number of ladies are trying to establish a Summer home for destitute city children at South Beach, Ct. Will you assist them? If so, please make two copies of this letter, as we have done, changing the date, of course; put the next higher number at the top (numbering both alike), and sign your name. Then address and send them to two of your friends.

Send this letter, inclosing one or more two-cent stamps to Mrs. Edwin Binney, South Beach, Ct. Contributors receiving letter No. 50, will please return it to South Beach without making any copies. If you are not willing to aid charity, please return this letter to South Beach, so that we may know that the chain is broken. Although this may seem a small matter to you, any one breaking the chain will involve serious losses to the undertaking.

Any one can see that an enormous amount of money could be raised in a short time, if the chain continued unbroken, even with small contribution. But many receiving the copies neglect or refuse to carry the chain along, and the links break. The success of the scheme seems to be threatened by the disaffection caused by the "Kaneville" chain letter, now in circulation, asking for cancelled stamps, a million of which, it is stated, would pay for hospital treatment for a lifelong cripple. This appealed strongly to kindly disposed people, who responded generously. They were very much disgusted on learning that no benefit was to accrue to any one, save amusement and an enormous collection of paper stock. If the South Beach letter meets with success, however, a home will be built near the shore of the Sound, where relays of destitute children will be received every two weeks, to secure the benefit and happiness of a real country outing. If sufficient money is not raised to build the home, the funds in hand will be turned over to the Free Kindergarten

Committee of the normal College Alumnae of New York. It will use the money to send poor children into the country.

Some Curiosities that I have seen.

The first is a letter written to Mr. Pratts, April 20th 1847, from Camp Beuna Vista, Mexico. The letter was not enclosed in an envelope but folded and sealed as was the universal custom in those days. On the face of the letter is the address, and in the upper corner the number 10—the postage fee—and in the upper left hand corner the Post Mark, Bazos, May 15, 1847, the time it left that place.

The second is a letter which followed its owner all around Europe. It was mailed in Germany, and was sent to Paris being three days enroute arriving on August 17th 1887, it then went to London arriving on August 18th 1887; from there it went back to Germany, then back again to Paris, then once more to London where it arrived September 5th 1887; it left again for Germany and from there to Lucerne, Switzerland where it reached the owners hands on September 28th 1887. It traveled for 45 days, and stopped at no less than twelve different places and has in all 24 post marks upon it.—ROBERT STAEBLE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

H. S. Swensen.

DEAR SIR;

Noticing in a recent paper your remarks about a variety of the 1890 2c carmine (shade) I enclose you a few defects I have noticed in those issues. No 1 is in the Columbus 2c. in label just before "postage" and after "cents" you will note two white horns and again on either side of and between the legs of Columbus you will note white spots in background. I found only 3 in 3000. No 2 same stamp, absence of man walking just to right of man kneeling down beneath flag in hand of Columbus. (2 of them in 3000.) No. 3 Current 2c. carmine, space in triangular ornament in corners nearly white. No. 4 very dark shade of 2c. Env. with "S" in States, damaged 3 of these in my possession and all exactly alike. If you care to mention this in your paper you are at liberty to do so that other collectors may look for them if they wish.

Yours Truly,

L. K. Anderson.

Editor of the Newsletter,

DEAR SIR;—

Will you kindly give the needed explanation to wove, laid, ribbed, quadrille, battonne and pelure. And how are we to be certain as to the three cent pink, rose and scarlet of the 1861-62 issue.

Respectfully Yours,

Brodhead, Wis.,

Mrs. C. W. M.

Editor. Wove is a paper of even texture, the stamps of the 1851 issue being an example.

Laid paper shows parallel lines when held to the

light, linen writing paper is an example. Ribbed paper is wove paper that has been so made that raised parallel lines appear upon its surface. Quadrille is paper that shows laid lines crossing each other at right angles, such as some of the French and Chilian stamps are printed upon. Batonne is a thin highly finished paper, which has in its texture parallel lines, which are however somewhat wider apart than the parallel lines in other varieties of paper. Pelure is a specie of the wove. It is very thin and tenacious. There are many other varieties of paper which must come under the consideration of the philatelic student, among which we mention, without defining them, the following barelage, moire, a wove variety, enamelled, india, manilla, glazed mince, rice, ruled, silk thread, etc.

Pink is a shade of red as is also rose. The three cent pink is almost indefinable as to its shade. Some persons doubt the authenticity of the stamp, and deem it a mere red which has been changed to pink by atmospheric and solar action. Some say that the three cent pink corresponds to the six cents pink envelope as to shade. Others claim that it is characterized by its peculiar purplish pinkish shade.

The three cent scarlet is such a rich beautiful shade that it can be easily distinguished from the other varieties. Authorities consider that this stamp is a government proof.

Doings of Philatelic Societies.

The New England Philatelic Society has been formed with the Eastern Philatelist as official organ. The officers elected are Mr. E. Gowing, of Medford, Mass. President Mr. Chas. E. Shaw, Clinton, Mass. exchange manager and Secretary. Mr. Newell, W. Wood, of Whitsonville, Mass., Treas., and Messrs. Horace S. Bacon, Geo. M. Frame, and Wm. Stuart, Trustees.

At the second regular meeting of Chicago Branch one of American Philatelic Association, Mr. E. Paget, who contributes to this issue a well written account of the banquet of the C. P. S. was elected to the office of Secretary and Treasurer.

The Rhode Island Philatelic Society held its tenth annual banquet on the evening of Feb. 12th Messrs. F. E. Newbury, Chas. W. Bower, J. B. Calder and A. B. Slater, Jr., were respectively elected to the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian.

The Minnesota Philatelic Society has been organized.

Stolen.

The following circular has been sent out by the Rhode Island Philatelic Society. It relates to a collection of stamps stolen from Geo. H. Wood of Providence R. I.

Collection of stamps in book about 12x15, dark brown cloth, red leather back, pages of gray cardboard with black line in India ink around edge, pages laced in from front to back, frames or out-

lines for stamps also in black ink done by hand. Collection consisted of United States adhesive and envelope stamps with full set of Department and Periodicals. Among the prominent specimens were a full sheet of Providence stamps; a 3 cent U. S. City Despatch Post 1846, blue glazed paper on original envelope addressed to Mrs. Stewart, Chambers St. New York City; U. S. Mail one cent, postpaid, 1849, on rose and yellow paper; 1851 Government City Despatch Horseman, 1 cent black and one cent red, 1847, 5 and 10 cent, 1845, 5 cent black, cancelled; also the same on original envelope addressed to Earl P. Mason; 1851 to 1856, unperforated, 1 cent to 24 cent inclusive, 24 cent being a particularly fine specimen, showing the top of stamp beneath; fine specimen of 1861, 5 cent, yellow, Jefferson; 1862 to 1866, 3 cent scarlet, unused; 1868, 3 cent embossing covering entire stamp, unused, 1851 pair of unsevered 12 cent on original envelope; \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 State; \$2 cancelled in regular way, \$5, \$10 and \$20 with red pen stroke; Periodical Stamps of high value cancelled with pen stroke. Also very complete collection of Canada, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edwards Island, Cuba, Mexico, Hawaiian Islands and British Columbia.

Collection contained about 1,500 stamps and valued at from \$1,200 to \$1,500.

If the said collection or any of the stamps mentioned above are presented for sale, please hold or telegraph.

PERSONALS.

Mr. L. V. Lindsey is going out of the stamp business.

W. H. Bruce was married recently to Miss Cora Andrews.

Mr. Einer Johnson made the Newsletter a pleasant call last month.

Mr. Geo. W. Achard assumes editorial control of the Collector this month.

Mr. F. S. George the well known collector is at present in Warren, Minn.

Mr. Chas. Sutter, promising philatelist of Fort Blakely, Washington, is dead.

Mr. Era Aldrich has been elected president of the Minnesota Philatelic society.

Mr. Pinkham, editor and publisher of the Eastern Philatelist, claims to have a bona fide list of 2500 subscribers.

The American Philatelic Magazine is the authority for saying that Karl C. Minor of Hoosick Falls, New York, has gone wrong.

Mr. E. M. Mitchell, is contemplating a trip through Mexico. Chas. Whitely will attend to the business of the firm while he is gone.

Mr. W. F. Barden who has purchased the entire stock of the Bay State company and the stocks of other stamp dealers, representing the accumulation of twelve years, will soon sell them at auction. A catalogue will be issued.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

HARRY S. SWENSEN, Editor.

Subscription 50 cents a year to all countries

Advertising rates \$1 per inch, subject to the following discounts, one page (18 inches) 25 per cent, 1/2 page 20 per cent, 3/4 page 15 per cent, 3 inches 10 per cent, 2 inches 5 per cent, 20 per cent discount from regular rate allowed on standing advertisements of three inches or more.

Terms cash with copy unless the advertiser is well known to us, when money is payable on receipt of marked copy. We would be pleased to exchange two copies with all Philatelic Journals, m's's paid for only on being published. Address all communications to

H. S. SWENSEN, Publisher,

1005 Stevens Ave.

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

EDITORIAL.

If our readers could peruse the many letters that have come to the office during the past month they certainly would be convinced that the "Newsletter" is blessed with many friends. We appreciate all indications of friendship and we feel that we are under great obligations to many. But if you are desirous of extending your aid and wish to show your friendship, the best way is to subscribe to the "Newsletter" and if you are already a subscriber, seek the subscriptions and patronage of your friends. We will allow you a commission. If your opinion is a good one, spread it among your acquaintances, who will be pleased to listen to you and who are always anxious to take advantage of a good thing especially if the something be of a superlative nature.

One of the letters that we have received reads thus in the abstract, "Enclosed find 50 cents, I hope you will never die." Our correspondents desire for our longevity might have been a selfish one, but nevertheless he has trusted his fifty cents with us and prefers to take the chances of losing his money than take the chances of losing a single number of the Newsletter, or he might have considered that his fifty cents were safe whether future numbers of "Our Magazine" be published or not, which latter thought would be and is true. If you want the Newsletter don't be afraid of sending along your fifty cents pieces for you will then insure the receipt of the Magazine if it is published and we wish to state that we shall strive against the ignominy of suspension. Should such a termination of our venture occur, the value due subscribers will be returned in cash.

We are not receiving the advertising patronage that we ought to receive. Perhaps the \$1.00 per inch stands in the way. Taking everything into consideration, we think that we are justified in asking the sum named. We are satisfied that where one copy of a philatelic magazine of ordinary size is read by five persons, one copy of the Newsletter is read by twenty-five persons. You may ask what our reasons are for such a deduction? First our Magazine is strictly a magazine, therefore meriting and attracting the attention of almost every person who chances to see the paper, on the other hand the standard size is so common that the person is more

apt to pass it by as unworthy of his attention, thinking that it is a medical paper. Second we publish more copies than the ordinary publishers. Third we obtain our names and addresses from other sources than are generally resorted to. There are other reasons why \$1.00 per inch is perfectly reasonable and which are no doubt apparent to the unprejudiced and sensible person. We ask of you, advertisers, to give the columns of the Newsletter a trial.

Probably the meanest thief ever caught is a man who recently while riding in a cab ripped open the cushion, tied the horse hair into a parcel, so'd it while the cab waited for him and with the money procured from selling the "plunder," paid the cabman his fare.

Probably the meanest thief that has not been caught is the person, who under the veil of apparent honesty, screens his real intentions and then keeps stamps sent him by the unprotected dealer. The approval sheet thief comes from the most nauseating part of the scum of humanity; he is one of the most despicable agents of Satan.

One of these putrid blooded vandals is a person giving his name as H. O. Stone, of Chicago, Ill., who has swindled so many stamp dealers.

When news is scarce some correspondents often resort to their imagination in order to fill the necessary amount of space.

A correspondent of "The Weekly Stamp News" contributed to that paper a very well written note, written very much in the style of "Baron Munchausen" as it savored considerably of the impossible. As a consequence one person who doubted its verity, investigated with the result that his suspicions were substantiated. The person who will stoop to pass off fiction for truth is, to be ephemic, not very particular as to his morals.

In our last issue we said something in regard to the proneness of some philatelic writers to the exaggerated use of foreign phrases, as synonymous to the English expressions. In writing the editorial we held no particular person in mind, for we have noticed for some years that many writers, and good writers are included, have yielded to the inclination to use foreign words and phrases, although the English equivalent would express their ideas more clearly and more concisely.

We did not think that our little note of such broad intent could be so construed as to be concentrated into a direct hint, but such seems to have occurred as one person is laboring under the burdensome delusion that the note was written for his especial benefit. While we hinted at no one in particular we are glad that our friend has heeded our rather preceptorial note; and we are glad to notice that he is leaving foreign phrases out of his compositions, although he says he knows what he is using, yet it seems he is afraid to use them this month. To be

short we would state that the world at large is more apt to think that the writer who is unduly addicted to foreign words, is trying to show off what he knows, and that his bump of self-esteem is of an unusually large size.

"I want to buy a twelve cents black" said a young man to a clerk in one of our local stamp emporiums. "Wove or laid paper?" inquired the affable clerk. I don't know! what's the difference? asked the youth. "Oh said the clerk, wearily, only two hundred dollars."

We have received the second edition of R. L. Albrechts' vest pocket catalogue of United States stamps. The compilers of this handy and reliable little book have been very conscientious in their quotations. Every stamp has been listed when ever possible. A feature of the work is the catalogueing of proofs which is certainly an important innovation.

Every collector should supply himself with the neat little catalogue.

We sent a copy of our Magazine to almost all philatelic publishers. But only a few responded with an exchange copy. After this number we shall discontinue all our exchanges with periodicals who refuse to reciprocate. We wish to thank the publishers of the following periodicals, copies of which we have received: The Eastern Philatelist, The Post Office, Philatelist and Collector, American Phil. Magazine, The Dixie, The Reporter, The Philatelic Tribune, The Evergreen State Philatelist, and Pipestone Philatelist.

Mr. C. H. Holden, who formerly held monthly auction sales at Muskegon, Mich., has removed to Durand, Mich., where he will conduct an approval sheet business.

My Philatelic Den.

W. LIONEL MOISE.

Discussions have often arisen among the learned philatelic authors, regarding the most acceptable method of displaying before the Argus-eyed public our vocation to the greatest possible advantage. Some have held that philatelic exhibitions are the most profitable method of attracting public attention, others, the philatelic library, but in my humble opinion the "pen", as it has been dubbed by numerous writers, is the first in importance. Brother Green, in a very interesting article published in The Philatelic Review for September '94, relates his observations while taking "A Peep into a philatelist's pen" fitted up as elaborately as he portrays in the afore mentioned article, still, I flatter myself, (which, by the way, seems to be quite characteristic among the "worshippers at the shrine of the Goddess Philatelia") that my pen is of sufficient beauty as to produce considerable comment of a complementary character, from any visitors who may be fortunate enough to be admitted to this apartment. Between two windows, that I may

obtain a sufficient quality of light with which to distinguish the multiplicity of minute shades, errors, watermarks perforations, grills, reprints, surcharges, re engravings, cancellations, et al which serve to establish philately as a science, stands my desk. As all who have seen what is called an "office desk" know, that the upper part is divided from the lower part entirely, and is divided into two or three dozen sections about 6 by 12 by 10 inches in dimensions. Each of these divisions is labeled with the name of some standard philatelic periodical of which I subscribe, and as I receive each month a new number I place it in its proper division. When a volume is completed I have it bound, or if it is not a very standard paper I bind it myself. The lower part of the desk is devoted to correspondence, approval sheet stock etc. Directly above my desk is a large frame containing engravings of leading philatelists; Corwin, Doebelin, Deats, Stone, Mons. J. B. Moens, Wharton Baker etc. etc. in all forty one engravings taken from various stamp papers and arranged tastefully in the frame. To the right is a small gilded frame containing the photo's of the "Mekeel trinity" surrounded by fifty two minute engravings of well known philatelists including Stanley Gibbons, J. C. Phillips etc., while on my left is hung another frame matching the one on the right, in which I have an engraving of the first annual convention of the Philatelic Sons of America, encircled by a set of columbians, and in the corner of which are engravings of R. H. Duke of Edinburg and Mons. Von Ferrary. Also around the wall are scattered, engravings of other philatelists and a frame containing an engraving of the officers of the Southern Philatelic Association. Also a small fancy frame from which looks out with earnest expression F. H. Pinkham Esquire editor of that interesting and instructive Journal The "Eastern Philatelist." Even this is not all there is of interest yet space for bids my going into details, and I will close by advising all who have our cause at heart to make their "Den" attractive, as it will do more towards converting non collectors to our ranks than all the exhibitions, public libraries etc. I know that were it not for the attractiveness of my "den" two or three collectors of this city would have remained in a dormant state as far as active collecting is concerned. The cost is small, the result vice versa, therefore make the attempt and it will be proved to you that added zest will be result. But shades of Caesar! do not desecrate it by mixing dime novels, and cigarette pictures with them as I have seen done. Nothing would be more despicable.

We have a 3 cent 1875 without embossing which has been used for postage. The stamp of the 1869 series, were reprinted in 1875 by the U. S. Government in order to meet the great demand for them at that time. They were purchasable at face, and were receivable for postage, therefore they are indeed stamps of a re-issue and deserved to be called legitimate postage stamps just as much as those of the grille issue.

NOTES,

The Costa Ricas are just teeming with counterfeit surcharges.

The ellipse in the unpaid letters stamp of Italy differ as to their periphery in some cases.

Some of the stamps of Netherlands like U. S. revenues are found with double perforations

Uncle Sam has a collection of 7000 varieties to which he is continually adding new specimens.

We have a copy of the outer line variety, the outer line of which is a half an inch remote from the edge of the imprint.

Sweden in the stamps of her 1890 issue seems to have copied after the design of our U. S. stamps issued in the same year.

The post office department stamps even boast of a variety. Some are black on white, while others appear to be black on light drab.

A local collector in examining the old correspondence of a college in the city unearthed some rare revenues, and other desirable stamps.

If auctions sales are any criterion as to the true value of the \$1 Columbian, we should say that it was worth \$4 and no more.

The Golden Days recently published an interesting stamp story. All about a rare Brattleboro and how it helped a poor boy to college.

We recently came across a stamp the centre of which containing the medallion was lacking. The stamp was genuine and had been used.

"Talk about changelings and oddities," he said "Why I have a one cent blue in my collection that has been changed to a two cent carmine."

The Ever Green Philatelist comes out in much improved form. It begins its third volume with best wishes of the Newsletter for its success.

Why don't the cataloguers note the different varieties of perforations of U. S. stamps? The reason is perhaps that they would have too much of a task.

There are in existence two shades of the one pence red Turks Islands, but they are not listed in the catalogues yet. In the 1873 issue a variety is noted.

We have found a variety which we think is a discovery of no little importance. It is a variety of the 18 cent Hawaii. The variety is characterized by yellow paper. The number of perforations differ in number from those in the other. The color is richer, the shading deeper.

Some of the water marked stamps of British Colonies lose their watermark distinctions because either of the watermarked letters A and C is lacking.

Wm. Brown the veteran stamp dealer was once so over-burdened with Peruvian surcharges that he sold scores of them from his sheets at one tenth their market value.

Mr. R. Staehle of New York recently presented us with with a copy of the three cent Canadian, the color of which had been changed to brown by placing it over a lighted lamp.

Other persons have noticed the different shades of some of the stamps of Hawaii, and it is likely that there are many other distinct varieties but we have failed to find any with exception of the one noted in this issue.

Scotts and Albrecht's catalogue of U. S. differ on some points. The former catalogues the five cent 1862 66 issue as having a chocolate color, the latter red brown, the former calls the 1 cent 1869 buff, the latter ochre, etc.

We have thirteen specimens of the one shilling (large) New South Wales and strange to say not a single specimen is a rare shilling. On the other hand we have a copy of the eight pence yellow and it is the scarce variety.

The 10 F Persia is one the of most exquisite stamp engravings ever produced. The stamps of the new issue of Persia are strikingly handsome and without doubt they will find lodgement in many thousand stamp albums.

Is it possible that some common stamps are rare. We have kept our eyes open for a three cent '82 Switzerland for three years and have failed in that time to catch a glimpse of one that we could buy, and it is only catalogued at two cents.

Can the small dealer cope with the larger stamp concerns. He can sometimes for he can purchase collections at just as great an advantage as the latter but on the whole the big dealers have greater facilities and hold their smaller competitors at great disadvantage.

One of our prominent collectors who always did have a weakness for publishing stamp journals and who has already made about eleven attempts, is making a canvass of the different printing offices in search of quotations which come within the limits of his pocketbook, on the printing of a new journal.

One of the obliteration marks used in the first issue of Ireland consists of five concentric circles. North Germany, Hawaii and other countries have some of their stamps cancelled in the form of four concentric rings. But one kind of obliteration mark has been used by Hawaii.

We have seen a very peculiar oddity. It consists of two different halves of U. S. revenue stamps which were used and answered the purpose of a single perfect stamp. It is still attached to the document and the cancellation shows that it was used by James W. Sheldon of Albion, Mich., on the 9th day of July 1866.

The color shades and tint craze is at its height. It is a pity that there are not shades of black and white. But improbabilities are being made possible and impossibilities are being made probable, and it is likely that in the year 1950 we will have stamps which are characterized as having a dark white and white black shades.

If we should make a specialty of certain countries, we think we would select Greece as one of the favored countries. This country offers the philatelic student great chances for research as well as pleasure. We would be pleased to publish a good article relating to the stamps of this country. We will pay cash for the article too, that is if it is what we want.

Another oddity we have seen is a common two cent revenue which is creased and which shows a white line about an eighth of an inch in width clear across the stamp. Lovewell in his treatise on U. S. oddities in the February number of the "Eastern Philatelist" speaks of the creased oddity, but says that the oddities like this that he had seen were stamps of the 1890 issue.

The stamps of Turkey are the buffoons of philately. They are funny as to design and are hard to understand. It is necessary to study the value in order to identify the stamps. The Turkish numerals must be learned in order to classify the stamps properly. Some collectors merely note the difference in color and thus do the stamps present the idea of the funny and the ludicrous.

Surcharges are continually confronting us. They block every avenue sought by the specialist. The surcharge in many instances has gained control of the collector on account of the fact that he hates to see big blank spaces staring him in the face. Under all circumstances the surcharge should be hissed and hooted at. Any good printer can duplicate them, if he so desires and we should not tolerate them.

We have received the neat initial number of the Rocky Mountain stamp. It has made a very appropriate bow and we trust that its introduction into the world of philately will lead to an agreeable acquaintanceship. Upon its cover is a beautiful halftone of that grand piece of scenery generally known as the loop. The writer had the pleasure of taking a trip around the loop, and the picture brings back most pleasant recollections of our Colorado trip, some three years ago.

A stamp should not be placed in water unless it is absolutely necessary even if the color is firm, for in many instances the postmark is apt to be spoiled and many collectors attach greater value to a stamp that bears a clear and well defined postmark which tells when and where the stamp was issued.

We have twelve shades of the two cent carmine 1890 issue, all in mint conditions. But that any significance should be placed upon these minor differences is absurd as they may have all come from the same sheet but being subjected to different conditions varying changes have been wrought. We have seen distinct shades of this two cent carmine and some day there might (but we doubt it) be such a thing as a rare two cent 1890.

A collector of this city has invented a stamp album for his own use which surpasses many of the so called unexcelled blank stamp albums. It is not as large as the standard size, but not too small as to be inadequate for its purpose. Each page is beautified by a printed frame. At the bottom of each page is the name of the owner. The book is bound in elegant covers and in every respect is the finest of its kind that we have seen.

The 55th Edition Catalogue.

(Continued from February.)

The stamps of Afghanistan are unique, homely and expensive. But they are interesting and are sufficient in number and kind as to exert some influence upon the specialist of this country toward confining his speciality to still narrower limits.

One magazine is the authority for saying that a collection of these stamps are held for sale at \$40,000. This fact expresses the idea that more of the stamps of Afghanistan are uncatalogued than catalogued. The authenticity of the first stamp supposed to have been issued by this country is or at least has been doubted, but this doubt did not prevent the compilers of the latest edition from listing the stamp at \$80.00 an excess of \$20.00 over its former quotation. The uncertainty in the prices of the stamps of this country is so great that but little can be foretold of what the prices of these stamps will be in the future. Some of the stamps of this country have increased in value. Some have only maintained 54th prices, while one or two have lost ground. Of the latter the one Sa black is an example having dropped five dollars. The one shilling 1872 issue is recorded also in brown violet, while the one rup, 1881 issue is catalogued as having black brown color.

The one rup vermilion a new discovery is listed. The colored paper varieties seemed to have been entirely reconstructed as to their catalogueing, while many varieties which have been discovered during the past year are ignored.

The pedigree of Antiqua is A 1. Every stamp issued by this country is sought by all collectors,

excepting, perhaps, a few cut and dried specialists, and I will wager that even they stow away the Antigua's which come their way. The 2½ d. brown has advanced in prices most wonderfully, while other values have kept the pace admirably. A couple of years ago the 2½ d. could be purchased for what is asked for a year's subscription to the NEW-LETTER, a mere trifle! Today the price quoted by the catalogue is without exception adhered to by the stamp dealer when offering copies for sale.

The advance in the prices of some of the British Colonial stamps and especially those of the Leeward Islands, has been so rapid that many persons doubt the sincerity of the quotations and deem the prices fictitious. It is true that some stamps are prone to be subjected to abnormal prices but in the case of the afore mentioned stamps, I can say with absolute certainty that there need be no fear that the lofty ascent in the price of these stamps is an icarian one. It is evident that the prices are stable at present and the writer predicts that the condition of the prices in the future will not be anomalous. Time is passing, and as this time is passing the demand for these stamps is steadily increasing. The number of stamps are at the same time diminishing and there is not much danger that a car load of these stamps will be unearthed if the past is any criterion in regard to what is going to happen in the future, British stamps are scarce. In America but two dealers can boast of the fact that they have even a fair stock of these stamps.

The advance in the price of the stamps of the earlier issues of Argentine Republic has been steady and in the 55th catalogue some very respectable advances are illustrated. But of the later and late issues the contrary can be said. The stamps of the Jubilee issue very fittingly fell 33½ per cent in price. At the time these stamps were just before the public so much was advertised (by dealer) about their scarcity, brought about because of being in use for only one day, that the minds of the collectors became phantom fed, and their pulses were quickened by the influence of the thought of speculation. The story told by our catalogues shows up the delusion, that some of our dear collectors have been subjected to. The idea at the present date seems to cling to some collectors that these stamps are scarcer in used condition. The fact is that the used and unused specimen are worth exactly the same because the used specimen is treated with the cancellation mark at the will of the doctors.

The latest issues of Argentine are poor for investment, as the persons in that country have gathered together such enormous quantities of the late stamps.

The stamps of Austria are moving right along. In some cases they doubled, yea tripled, in value, and yet the demand for these stamps has never been great, but the stamps have been getting scarcer little by little and therefore a corresponding rise was necessary. The 2 gld. 1890 issue is noted as having a dark blue hue as well as carmine. The newspaper tax

stamps of this country have been listed at prices very much above their true value.

The 55th however has some tendency towards correct quotations. Azores Islands stamps are "up to snuff." Like Maderia Islands they are proving worthy of the collector's confidence and money. It is noticed that most of the stamps of Bahamas Islands made good increases in prices with the conspicuous exceptions of the 6 d. values. As before stated the pen cancelled stamps are given correct quotations, which idea is certainly a very important innovation.

The reduction in the price of the three cent mauve Barbadoes, was not unexpected. This stamp has served as the speculative stamp, but it has come to grief. Barbadoes in regard to its other stamps is pushing along in good order.

In general the German states are moving steadily in respect to prices while at the same time the advances are firm and will remain unbroken.

Of the stamps of Bolivia the 500 c seems to be the will o the wisp of the Bolivia group. It scored almost a 100 per cent advance.

Brazil is one of the most firm of South American countries, and any dealer will tell you that Brazilian stamps are good sellers.

The stamps of Bremen have always been desirable and present prices uphold the statement. The used specimens are the best.

United State stamps are o'er shadowed when we come to compare its advances with those of British Columbia. The 10 cent blue first issue tripled in value. I must say that I was somewhat taken aback when I learned that the 10 cent rose pink went down the inclined plane to the tune of ten dollars, and the 25 cent orange, four dollars and a half. These latter failures about counter balance the former's prosperity. These stamps are good however and will be in great demand in the near future.

The pricing of rare stamps was certainly a good idea on the part of the catalogue compilers although the quotations may not be correct. The information imparted while not particularly valuable to the ordinary collector does on the other hand cause the devotee to realize the grand comprehensibility of stamp collecting, that stamp collecting includes with its circle money which is a certain pledge as to the stability and longevity of the pursuit. The stranger is certainly awed by the bewildering row of figures which represent the value of some of our stamps, and very naturally he has cause for reflection, and wonder and even amazement, when he considers the significant power of an insignificant postage stamp. It's even so, and now when the uninitiated looks over a stamp catalogue and see for example the two cents Hawaii and the rare Mauritius listed respectively at \$1200, \$1500, \$2000, he respects the importance of the stamp, when before he deemed it unworthy of his notice.

The British Guiana stamps in one sense adhere to the motto inscribed upon them, *Damus peti mus que vicissem*, which translated means "We give and demand in return." They certainly give

the collector trouble in order to secure them, and when they can be obtained a great demand is made upon the pocketbook. The 48 cent rose perf. 15, which heretofore has not been noticed, is now listed. The writer recently secured a specimen which is distinctively perforated 15. Every stamp of the 1886 issue increased in value with one exception. The 4 ct. ultramarine is a scarcer stamp than generally supposed. The 1889 provisional issue is the black sheep issue of British Guiana. They have been listed above their real value in former editions and their commonness necessitates a reduction in price in some cases.

The surcharges of British Honduras are not very desirable stamps as some dealers have such large quantities on hand especially those in unused condition. The stamps of N. Borneo do not seem contented with a modest rise but some stamps score 300 per cent increase. The speculative issue of Br. North Borneo is apt to reflect considerable disparagement upon the future advancement in the prices of the stamps of this country.

In respect to the prices of Canadian stamps there was an expectation that great advances would occur. But nothing phenomenal happened. True there is a healthy increase in prices all along the line but the increase does not fulfill the general expectation. The 12½ cents green is quite common but the 2 cent pink is worth much more than seventy five cents. The 8 cent register is a stamp that is good in all kinds of weather and seasons. This stamp is certainly endowed with the traits and actions of a future rarity. That it will soon reach the five dollar mark is not impossible. Five years ago this stamp could be bought for twenty five cents. But it seems that the stamps have been bought since then and at that time, and that the demand has been greater than the supply. The 3 pence perf. 12 ribbed paper is noticed. The stamp is without doubt a rarity. Accordingly the stamps have forged to the front. The 55th Catalogue is very deficient in the cataloguing of many stamps which have been discussed for years. Especially is this true in the shade varieties.

The uniqueness in the design and shape of the triangular stamps Cape of Good Hope should prove to be sufficient attraction for a good demand for these stamps, but in comparing the prices of the 54th with the 55th edition it is evident that the demand is not what should be expected. This is probably due to the fact that these stamps have been imitated quite freely. The wood blocks were counterfeited recently but that crudely that the veriest tyro can perceive the fraud. To act the role of adviser the writer presents that keen perception be at least aimed at if it cannot be fostered by all persons who profess to be collectors.

It is of extreme importance that is, if the identification, or detection be made known. In contrast to the triangular stamps of Cape of Good Hope, the stamps of the regular issue have skipped along most briskly, which makes it evident that there is some deep cause for the apparent neglect of the former stamps. The six pence lilac jumps from three

cents to twenty cents. If such advances are any criterion as to the condition of stamp collecting, the condition is certainly prosperous.

It is particularly noticeable that while Real Estate and mining stock have proven to be poor for investment during the recent financial embarrassment, the postage stamp has held its own.

Ceylon presents a good field for the specialist. The rare stamps of this country takes the lead. The two pence emerald green, rises from \$2.50 to \$6.00. The surcharges have hesitated a little.

The Revenue stamps of Chili have decreased in value with the exception of the 20 cents orange which remains at one dollar. The Telegraph stamps used for postage are listed at the same prices in each case. An explanatory sentence is inserted which throw light upon the fact that these stamps obliterated with the telegraph cancellation are valueless.

The Chinese labels seem to be in demand especially among the younger enthusiasts of the pursuit.

Chung King, Africa: seeks recognition for the first time. But one stamp of the country is listed. It would be an easy matter for a person to complete this country.

Columbian Republic has progressed fairly well,

The Corean pictures of course made no advance in price. Of Costa Rica, the 4r and 1 p orange made good jumps. The fact that there has been such a demand for some of the speculative stamps of this country has caused the compilers to keep them listed at the same prices.

The scarce stamps of Denmark are the only stamps of that country that have made any noticeable advance. The stamps of Dominica are "good things." The one shilling lake takes lead having increased \$3.50. All of Victoria's colonies are characterized by the same upward movement in prices. The Betalen unpaid letter stamps of Dutch Indies are not in as much favor as they were a few years ago. This is caused by the minute differences which cataloguers now class as varieties. Ecuador and other Seebeck countries are losing their grip on the pocketbooks of the advanced collector, but they shine forth as the star stamps of the younger element.

French colonies deserve their isolation.

In the case of German stamps it is noticed that where there was one figure one year ago there are two figures now.

The ¼ black and flesh in used condition seems to be the desirable stamp of the north German officials.

And now we come to Great Britain which has sprung into almost general favor during the short time which intervenes between the issuance of the two latest editions of the catalogue. In former years the stamps of Great Britain held a second place, year a third place in the estimation of the collectors of the United States. But now a metamorphosis has taken place, while this fact is evident in the general increase of English stamps there is but little doubt that the future will herald still greater advances. Plate numbers are being collected by many collectors and we naturally look for a corresponding scarcity of these stamps.

H. S.

(To be continued.)

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The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

APRIL, 1895.

No. 3.

SCRIBLETS.

BY MARCUS P. STEWART.

In a little town, marked down on the maps by the name of Long Lake and situated in the very midst of the beautiful lake regions of the North Star State is a quaint old man, who serves as the postmaster of the aforementioned town. I call my reader's attention to this little old man, not because he is characterized by anything that is freakish, but because he is the direct key to the door that opens up the way to a lot of rare postage stamps which belong to the government. But the key is very rusty and correspondingly crusty and even the lubricating influence of the wary stamp fiend seems to exert no power towards turning this key in the lock. Many persons, the writer included, have sought to purchase the stamps from the old postmaster, but without avail. The nearest we can get to the forbidden fruit is to simply feast our eyes on them for a minute or two. The stamps are there now and will remain there undoubtedly until the old fogey is forced to relinquish his claim on the office because of the change of administration of affairs at Washington. The old postmaster must have reasons for not selling the stamps, you may say. Yes; but what these reasons are can only be rudely surmised. Some think that the old man is laboring under the delusion that the government will not permit him to dispose of stamps other than those of current issue; and that his fancied enemies are trying to purchase the stamps from him so that they can have some reason for ousting him from office. Others presume that the old man realizes that the stamps are increasing in value, and that he is holding them for speculative purposes. Other theories have been advanced, but no one except the postmaster himself knows why the stamps are not for sale. Among the stamps in his possession are many sets of departmentals, stamps of the 1888 issue, and many of the rare unused of 1870 issue, but no columbians with the exception of the the four cent value which can be obtained from the postmaster at face value. Here is a regular bonanza for the person who can prevail upon this tenacious man to loosen his grasp, that is if the stamps can be obtained any where near face value.

Once, while journeying to Fargo N. D. a delay of several hours was caused by poor train connections and I was thrown upon my own resources as to how wile away my time in the slow going village, where fate had so unceremoniously thrust me.

Now I am alive and awake to opportunities and my brain very opportunely managed to generate the idea that this little village must boast of a postoffice. To canvas that postoffice for old United States stamps

was my intention, and visions really fairy like in their incredibleness were mirrored into my mind. Inquiring my way to the postoffice, I learned that it could be found in the old weather beaten and concave structure but a short distance away. Asking one of the bystanders, who always lounge about a country store or postoffice, for Uncle Sam's representative, a young man sitting on a barrel, improvised as a seat was pointed out to me. Approaching this individual, I addressed him with the question "you are the postmaster are you not?" "Yes sir" replied that astute personage. "What can I do for you." I informed him of my desires, and with a peculiar smile he said "Yes I believe we have some 90c 69s. and inverted medallions but—at this the young man gave vent to a loud guffaw and your humble servant very neatly "tumbled" to the fact that there were coffee grounds in the teapot or in other words "I smelled a rat." After the young man had exhausted his laughter I said "you yourself are a stamp collector, are you not?" "Well I guess so" he replied, "and I think that you will find that almost every Tom, Dick and Harry in this town has got a collection." Continuing he said "you wont find any stamps of value in this office. They were gobbled up years ago, long before I began to collect, I tell you what you might do, though, you might try the postoffices of Alexandria and Evansville and you might find"—but at this I walked out of the building very much chagrined at my poor success at canvassing country postoffices, but as I wearily dropped into the seat in the railroad car, I thought to myself that if stamp collecting has penetrated this forlorn corner of the earth, surely philately is progressing.

Recently I had occasion to call on a friend, a young attorney who lives in one of our large western cities. At the time I called there were several other persons in the offices, all of whom were more or less acquainted with the writer. After a little free talking about one another, and after our story telling and phantom tales had panned out, one of the persons addressed the writer with the remark, "I hear Marcus that you are a stamp fiend". "Now at one time, way back in the seventies I think it was, I used to collect. I have my collection yet and some day come up to the house and perhaps we can make a trade". To come to the point, I called on my friend with the result that the collection changed hands, as did also a five dollar bill. I did not think that I had made much of a bargain at the time of the purchase, but was aware that I had got my moneys worth. A great many of the stamps were strange to me but I did not set any idea of increased value to the collection on that account. On looking over the convenient cata-

logue, I was much surprised to learn that I had secured some rarities. There were about four hundred stamps in the collection, the catalogue value of which amounted to nearly one hundred dollars. But this was not the end of my good luck. My friend the attorney had heard of the sale and had fished up some old stamps from somewhere, and called my attention by letter to the fact that he desired to dispose of them. I called at his office the next day and luckily found him in, and for one dollar I secured a ten cent 1857 on cover, the finest specimen I have ever seen: two entire ten cent greens on buff, die two, 1853 issue of envelopes, and one ten cent green on white entire die two, same issue, a superb specimen, and several cheaper stamps, such as the centennial envelope. In purchasing the lot I assured him that there would be a big margin of profit for me. "On that's all right" he replied "I expected you to make something out of the deal. I have given away over a hundred of those ten cent stamps, (value \$1000.00 ed.) and received nothing in payment for them except the very welcome thanks, and allow me to say, that your one dollar is easily on par with thanks these days".

But these little lucky purchases and finds are nothing when compared with those which some of our eastern friends are subject to. Burger and company recently secured two large cases of U. S. stamps for \$160.00. An English dealer offered them \$600.00 for the lot, but the offer was refused. Fifteen cent 1869s were as plentiful as mosquitos around one of our picturesque western lakes on a summers eve, while good departmentals could be picked out by the thousands.

Henry Gremmel not long ago, purchased a barrel full of old correspondence from a Cuban firm for a mere trifle. Taking into consideration the fact that such bonanzas are actually thrown in the way of these large dealers, you can hardly blame them for making such small bids on collections. They buy their stamps cheap and they make good money too. While these dealers often unearth large nuggets, we, often hear of other individuals discovering "gold deposits." Miss Grace Myatt, of Brookwood Ala. last month discovered in an old trunk a rare Uniontown Ala. stamp valued at \$1000.00 and others which are quoted as being valuable.

The well known collector and dealer W. G. Whilden Jr. now of Newark N. J. recently discovered a stamp which promises to be a new U. S. provisional. If the stamp proves to be as it is considered, it will rank even with the far famed New Haven as a rarity.

Mr. Severn of Chicago, speaks of a rarity supposed to have been discovered by a person in a little village in Illinois.

Mr. J. Aiton of this city (Minneapolis) wrote to relatives in Scotland for some old stamps and obtained some rare Br. colonials, worth at his estimate not less than five hundred dollars.

In the writers opinion the top notch of rare discoveries will be reached during the next few years. The people are on the alert for such opportunities

and no matter how much the stories of "up in the attic trunk" discoveries may be deprecated yet the occurrences transpiring at the present time, fore tell to some extent what will occur in the immediate future.

It was with great interest that I read an article by Mr. Quackenbush in a recent number of the Eastern Philatelist. The article dealt with the old school of philatelic writers who used to entertain the collector before and during the early eighties. Mr. Quackenbush perhaps found great trouble in tracing the history of these ancient scribes after they threw up the philatelic pen. In regard to Will M. Clemens, one of the foremost writers of the old school, Mr. Quackenbush wonders whether he is still woeing the god of literature. Mr. Clemens is still in the field of literature. He contributes daily New York letters to the Minneapolis Journal. His writings have lost none of the lustre and power that characterized his philatelic penings. In his letters he dwells upon current events transpiring in Gotham. Mr. Clemens is very potent as a reminiscent writer and if he could be prevailed upon to take up the philatelic pen once more we would certainly be entertained and enlightened with some glowing accounts of thus far unrecorded but important events of the past.

Mrs. Faude who has so charitably taken up the work of aiding a local hospital by means of postage stamps, has thus far met with poor success in selling the stamps which were so easily accumulated. For a lot of 173,000 stamps she received an offer of \$20.00 from a local dealer. Mrs. Faude refused the offer at first but later accepted it. The sale however was never consummated, as the dealer withdrew his offer giving the excuse that he had quit the stamp business. Mrs. Faude then solicited bids from other dealers with the result that Messrs. L. H. and P. S. Palmer of Chicago, offered \$25.00 for the lot. The consignment was sent these persons, but up to date no money has been received in payment for the stamps.

Philatelic Journalism in Minnesota.

E. R. ALDRICH.

Paper Second—1887-8

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And the days of auld lang syne?"

Early in 1887 a little pamphlet of fourteen "standard size" pages and cover appeared from Benson, the county seat of Swift county, 133 miles northwest from St Paul. It was compiled by the writer and as Wolseiffer in the Western Philatelist broadly intimates showed a more intimate acquaintance with the shears and paste pot than with originality. It bears the imprint of "The Swift County Monitor and while that firm contracted for the printing, yet the actual work was done at the plant of The Delano Eagle at Delano which at that time was probably the best equipped office outside of the large

cities and which fact accounted for the fine typographical appearance of the pamphlet.

A couple of months later the writer was also responsible for the appearance of the first semi-monthly paper issued and since the attempt early in the seventies of the Scott Co. to publish a weekly, the first attempt to publish a paper devoted to stamps oftener than monthly. The first volume consists of six numbers uniform in size (7x5) and for the first four issues the writer was entirely responsible but difficulty in securing second class rates would have probably caused its suspension if the printer had not come "to the rescue" and assumed proprietorship with No. 5 while the editorship still remained with the writer. Delor Y. Smith the new publisher was not a philatelist but a practical printer, and the success attained by the first numbers caused him to believe that the paper could be run profitably had not the promise of a more lucrative position else where caused his removal, I doubt not that the Fortnightly would still be with us, and if the plans laid by him just before removal could have been carried out the journal would certainly been well nigh an ideal one. His proprietorship consequently closed with the first number of Vol. II (Aug 5 1887) and even this number was prepared by a different plant (Benson Times.)

Not long after leaving Benson the germs of that direst of dire diseases—consumption—developed and last year my friend passed away in the sunny clime of New Mexico where he had gone in vain hope of checking the disease's progress.

With issue of Aug. 20 the paper appeared from Bellville, O. with A. B. Burkholder as publisher and mailer although the ownership virtually remained with the writer who purchased Smith's interest at the time of his removal. The change while an enlargement was made in size (10x6) and a specially designed heading, which first appeared in the issue of Oct. 1, added, did not seem to counteract the typographical poorness and its downward career was rapid and after the issue of its fifteenth number (in January 1888) its subscription list was consolidated with that of the North Star Philatelist and the Minnesota Philatelist (second of that name) arose from the ashes of the two old papers.

Among the Minnesota collectors who were contributors to the Fortnightly were H. H. McNamara of Tower, who is now best remembered as the originator of the once flourishing society The Philatelic Society of America, and John D. Lyons Jr. of Benson at that time secretary of the State Branch of the American Philatelic Association. Both I believe have long since forsworn the gentle goddess.

The first number of the "Consolidation" appeared in Feb. 1888 and is Vol. IV. No. 2, the numbering of the North Star being followed. In size it was eight pages of the same dimensions as that journal. The next number was a consolidated number 3 and 4 representing March and April. With the next issue the size of the page was enlarged to the "standard" size and the number appears as 4-5 representing May and

June although copies seem to have been sent out with the date line covered and Sept.-Oct. written above. If my memory serves me right this issue was not mailed until early in the fall. The last issue (a four page number) appeared in November and from the "leading editorial" we learn that the printers were changed and this number was edited, I believe in Cincinnati by one Carr, Chamberlain appears as business manager, prior to which G. W. Archard acted as such, as well as editor-in-chief, while Chamberlain was editor of the curiosity department and the writer of the philatelic. The paper acted as official journal of the Minneapolis Philatelic Society of which Chamberlain was president. He is now a resident of Wisconsin and is not I believe a collector now.

The only other paper issued this year (1888) was also sent forth from Benson and was an advertising sheet "published in Trade interest of Ernest R. Aldrich" as the head line announced it. The first number appeared on Sept. 15 and the third number a double 3 4 dated November-December in the latter part of November. Although merely an advertising sheet each number contained at least some notes or information and the fill is now difficult to bring together.

A GIGANTIC SWINDLE.

Millions of Current Two Cent Pink Counterfeited.

The City of Chicago the Seat of Principal Action.

Will wonders never end? Or rather will rascality never cease? Our beautiful two cent pink has been counterfeited by the millions and circulated through the country by a organized gang. The following startling news is furnished by correspondents to the Minneapolis Journal:—

"United States secret service operatives in Chicago and Washington have unearthed probably the most unique, and at the same time important swindle ever perpetrated upon any government. Its magnitude after two days investigation can only be guessed at, but it is believed that thousands upon thousands of dollars have been secured by a gang of skilled counterfeiters, who have reproduced with skill and accuracy the pink 2-cent stamp of commerce.

It is thought that the country is flooded from New York to San Francisco with these spurious stamps, and the United States has been carrying millions of letters from which not 1 cent of revenue was received. Chicago, apparently, has been the head-quarters of the gang, and its products have been shipped to distributing agents through the express companies.

Just exactly how the information reached the government officials is not known, but they evident-

ly got a straight tip, for last evening Capt. Stuart, of the postal inspectors' department, and Capt. Porter, of the United States secret service bureau, called at the Wells Fargo office. They were taken to the storeroom and there found an oblong package, looking like a big roll of music. It contain 10,000 of the counterfeit stamps.

Chief Inspector Wheeler, of the postoffice department refuses to say anything about the stamp counterfeiting in Chicago, though he has received several telegrams concerning the affair. It was learned from other officials however, that the extent of the counterfeiting has been over estimated. Third Assistant Postmaster General Craig says that counterfeit stamps have carried letters through the mails and have been canceled, but says that stamp counterfeiting cannot be carried on to any great extent, as the cost of making stamps and the difficulty in disposing of them is so great as to render the counterfeiting of little profit. Large purchases of stamps are usually made from responsible and well known men. Unknown persons having stamps to sell, he added, are under suspicion of having stolen them, and large purchases, therefore, are not likely to be made from them. Chief Hazen, of the secret service division of the treasury department, received a telegram today from one of his agents at Chicago stating that he has seized \$700 worth of counterfeit 2-cent postage stamps. They had been shipped from Buffalo and were discovered in the Wells-Fargo express office. The officials have been on the alert for something of this kind since last July, when they learned of a man making inquiries, under suspicious circumstances, as to the process of printing stamps.

Third Assistant Postmaster General Craig says that the counterfeit stamps are so poor an imitation that they can be readily detected. He believes that no inconsiderate number have been used. The chief of the secret service is inclined to think that these plates were made in Buffalo, but afterwards moved to Canada, where the bulk of the stamps now in this country were printed. Mr. Craig says that he has no doubt considerable quantities of these stamps have been sent to Minneapolis, but has not yet been notified of any being sold in this city.

Two men offering stamps and stamped envelopes for sale at greatly reduced rates the first part of the week aroused the suspicions of some of the persons asked to purchase, and they reported the facts to the police, but on looking for the men it was found that they had left the city. It is now supposed they were trying to sell some of the counterfeit stamps, the manufacture of which has just been unearthed at Chicago."

Postmaster Hesing speaks of the spurious stamps as follows:

"They are extraordinary counterfeits. One million counterfeit stamps such as these could pass through this office every day and not be detected. Where we handle 1,200,000 letters daily, canceling them on machines which have a capacity of 40,000 per hour you see how it is next to impossible to

examine the stamps. This makes it all the more dangerous in the line of counterfeiting.

"When one puts this counterfeit by the side of a good stamp the difference can readily be detected. The bad stamp is large and the printing is not so good, yet good enough and near enough in size to escape suspicion. What the effect of this discovery will be, I cannot tell. The present 2 cent issue undoubtedly will be recalled, but I have no authority for that statement further than my judgement of what the Government must do to protect itself. It may not be necessary to make a new design. A new color might be used."

The stamps have been described as follows by a Chicago newspaper:

"The stamps are cleverly executed, but when compared with the genuine ones the counterfeit character is revealed in the lighter shade of ink, the absence of a bold design on the features of Washington and a concave on the nose. Placed on an envelope the counterfeit would escape detection."

"Further developments show that the seized were addressed to Nathan Herzog a cigar dealer in the Chamber of Commerce building. Yesterday morning the express messenger brought the package to Mr. Herzog. He examined it, found the stamps were counterfeits, refused to pay the charges, and telephoned John Donnelley, chief deputy to the United States Marshall. Mr. Donnelley apprised Capt. Porter of the message; and about the same time telephoned Capt. Stuart.

Mr. Herzog relates his connection as follows: "I sell about \$100 worth of postage stamps a day. Nearly all of the people in the building are my customers. I purchase a good many stamps from wholesale dealers and firms who do a mail business. They receive more stamps than they can dispose of, and sell them to me at a few cents discount on the dollar. A week ago Sunday I saw the following advertisement in a Chicago paper:

"We have \$115 United States 2-cent stamps which we can not use here. Will send by express, C. O. D., privilege of examination, for \$100. Canadian Novelty and Supply Company, Hamilton, Ont."

"I answered the advertisement, and said I would take all the stamps that they could furnish me at that discount, and requested them to send me the number advertised. I received in answer a letter, saying that they could not furnish me more than \$300 worth a month. They said they would make the first shipment on Friday from Buffalo in order to avoid the expense of sending them across the line. Yesterday the express messenger brought in the package. I examined the stamps. The color and the general appearance led me to suppose that they were counterfeit. I said so to the messenger. He replied that I need have no fear; that he had delivered four similar packages within an hour and the people had paid for them.

"My suspicions were confirmed, because the firm had said that they could not furnish more than \$300 worth a month. I called up the officers. At first

Capt. Stuart wanted me to receive the stamps, and turn them over to him. I told him that I was not going to throw my money away on them. Whether he paid for them or not I do not know. They got possession of them and found that they were as I supposed—counterfeits. The letter I received from the people I turned over to Capt. Stuart."

Review.

The Pennsylvania Philatelist because of its bright and neat looking cover always looks so crisp and new that even the non-collector is forced to think that something lucious and enticing is inside.

We have before us the April number of that magazine. Its matter while not particularly edifying, is very readable.

Mr. Severn lectures on philatelic advertising. He certainly gives good advice, but as Franklin said "we may give advice, but we can not give good conduct." But be as it is, advice well given may be and certainly can be well taken.

In the course of his article Mr. Severn states, "Ordinarily the paper with the largest circulation is the best advertising medium, but exception may often be taken to this rule. A stamp journal with limited, but gilt edged subscription list and a sample copy list of live names oftentimes proves as remunerative a medium as a paper which circulates many more copies, which however do not go to the right sort of philatelist; those who are accustomed to buy liberally."

These statements as quoted are very true, but Mr. Severn in acting the role of an adviser in other parts of his paper fails to advise us how we are to know which paper has the gilt edged subscription list and sample copy list of live names. We think that the paper with the large circulation can almost invariably boast of these merits. We think that the advertiser that chooses the widely circulated paper as a medium for advertising his wares will receive the most remunerative results.

Mr. L. G. Quackenbush is perhaps the most prolific philatelic writer of the day. A year or so ago it was chronicled in the philatelic press that Mr. Quackenbush was traversing the broader field of literature. But it is evident, judging from his numerous productions that he finds the philatelic field more lucrative than elsewhere. To the "Pennsy" this month Mr. Quackenbush contributes an article entitled "Philately behind the footlights." We would now be enjoyed to read an article from his pen entitled "Philately behinds the scenes." As Mr. Quackenbush says, philately would furnish excellent groundwork for dramatic action. But the fact that realism is essential to the success of the present day play might stand in the way of a philatelic drama.

It would at least if New Haven envelopes must constitute a part of the stage accountments.

Your stamps or your life drama of a philatelic nature could be easily staged. Purple and white

have been selected as the colors of the P. S. of A.

The Philatelic Journal of America contains its usual quota of digestible philatelic matter. In relation to periodical stamps it holds that unused periodical stamps in the hands of any individual are not liable to confiscation. Mr. Mekeel states that thousands of these stamps were sold to the public at face value for several years by the government.

Other magazines received: The American Philatelic Magazine, The Canadian Philatelic Magazine, The Collector, The Eastern Philatelist, The Dixie Philatelist, The Pipestone Philatelist, Weekly Philatelic Era, Philatelic Monthly, Rocky Mountain Stamp and the Reporter.

Correspondence.

H. S. SWENSEN.

DEAR SIR:

I notice by No. 1 of your Philatelic Newsletter that you speak as though a double perf. stamp with the second perf only running half through the stamp as very rare.

Now I have the following stamps that are all part double perf. 2c bank check, orange, part double perf. and on each side i e, the inner perf. extends half through the stamp. 1857 3c part double perf. on left hand side. 1887 2c with 8 holes in upper centre. 25c power of att'y with 5 holes in lower left hand side. \$1.00 conveyance with double perf. running $\frac{3}{4}$ way through at top. i have in my coll. some 15c double perf. stamps (U. S.) but all the rest run clear through I have a 10c 1872 with perf. running right through the centre. Very Resp.,

NELSON NEWELL.

Mr. Chas. Phillips in "Stanley Gibbon's Monthly" speaks rather warmly of his trip to the "land of the free and the home of brave." He writes of his trip in a reminiscent mood and contrives to make known some very interesting news. While Mr. Phillips speaks highly of his American brothers he considers our philatelists somewhat below the par of their English confreres. To use his own words he says, "During my visit I had an opportunity of seeing several of the finest collections in the states and of forming some idea of the style of collecting adopted in that great country." "I may say at once, that I met with but few keen philatelists, by that I mean, men who study and read up their hobby." Perhaps Mr. Phillips is right and the writer opines somewhat candidly that the true philatelist is in greater numbers on British shores than on American soil. Nor is there so much cant permeating the English journal as in its American contemporary. The English are of a more set, earnest nature. The American is noted for his haphazard and happy-go-lucky style. But the latter is just approaching the superfine in philately, and while an evolution is perhaps occurring in our midst, to cope with our English brothers will not require such a stupendous effort on our part.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

HARRY S. SWENSEN, Editor.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

Subscription 50 cents a year to all countries

Advertising rates \$1 per inch. subject to the following discounts, one page (18 inches) 25 per cent, $\frac{1}{2}$ page 20 per cent, $\frac{1}{4}$ page 15 per cent, 3 inches 10 per cent, 2 inches 5 per cent, 20 per cent discount from regular rate allowed on standing advertisements of three inches or more.

Terms cash with copy unless the advertiser is well known to us, when money is payable on receipt of marked copy. We would be pleased to exchange two copies with all Philatelic Journals, m's's paid for only on being published. Address all communications to

H. S. SWENSEN, Publisher,
1605 Stevens Ave.

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Entered at the post office at Minneapolis, Minn., as second-class mail matter.

Editorial, Etc.

There is some doubt whether Mulready envelopes would be as rare as they are today were it not for the fact that in 1862 sixty thousand of these envelopes were destroyed by the crown officers.

Austria by no means remarkable because of her postage stamps yet bears the honor of having first introduced the post card. England carried off second honors in this respect, while North German Confederation, Hungary, Belgium, Holland and others follow in quick succession.

The early emissions of Romagna, Parma, Modena, Moldavia, Mauritius, Hawaiian Islands and Brunswick are of very primitive designs and were the work of native artists. The American Bank note company held contracts for the production of many of the stamps of Brazil, Bolivia, Chili, Costa Rica, Peru, Nicaragua, Salvador, Canada, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Scott's catalogue credits to Abyssinia a series of stamps ranging in value from $\frac{1}{4}$ g. to 16 g. date of issue of which is assigned to the year 1894. They are listed in unused condition and their authenticity is largely doubted by authorities. Some authorities claim that these stamps are mere productions of Parisian artists; that they are sold by Parisian speculators; that the person in Abyssinia who seeks these stamps must obtain them from France as they are not on sale in Abyssinia. It is said that their are no post-offices in that country. Mons. Maury the defender of these stamps declares that the stamps were sent to Emperor Menelik and that the French government has received full compensation for them. Yet there is a question whether the stamps have been placed into native circulation or not and Mons. Maury gives as an excuse if they have not been yet thus circulated that it is due to trouble wrought by Italian residents. It is a fact that the stamps have been placed into circulation for collectors and for this reason the writer deems these emissions mere "speculatives" and that they are no more collectable than pretty picture cards.

U.S. Periodical stamps are at once interesting and yet are shunned by the majority of collectors. The first issue of these unique stamps are especially interesting because of their large size. They were furnished by the National Bank Note Company and were surface printed from steel plates, thus differing from the regular postage stamps even in this particular. The three values, five ten and twenty-five cents, bear respectively the portraits of Washington, Franklin and Lincoln. They were issued October first, 1865. and withdrawn in 1869, having been issued only from Chicago, Ill., and Milwaukee, Wis.

The first regular issue of three values, two, five and ten cents of Confederate States were prepared by Hayer and Ludwig, lithographers, whose place of business was in Richmond, Va. These remained current until 1863, when it was deemed advisable to replace them by the five cent stamp which was prepared in England, whose affinity with the Southerners was openly exhibited at that time. Subsequently two, five and ten cent stamps were issued. These were prepared by Archer and Daly of Richmond who however failed in their contract. The new contract was entered upon with Messrs. Keating and Ball of Columbia, S. C.

The surcharge process seems to be especially essential to the production of the stamps of Oil Rivers and Panama. In these countries the surcharge variety flourishes in all its glory or rather iniquity and as time passes the number of ingenious varieties increases. These monstrosities are purposely manufactured for the benefit of the manufacturers. They are the parasitic stamp of philately and are more deadly in their disgusting influence than the better known seebecks. The honorable dealer will not handle them unless he is ignorant of their character and the man who does not know their character has no right to deal in stamps.

Chungking is said to have a population of fifty souls. Yet the decree of somebody has it that these fifty souls must be supplied with postage stamps. The decree stands as good and the stamp is indeed. We so often hear of iniquitous postal proceedings involving such places and now we begin to wonder if heathenism is the direct cause of the ruthless display of stamp eruptions. It is noticeable that the glory of illegitimate postal progeny rests mostly with heathenish countries or to be less sweeping with heathenish countries and countries whose standard of patriotism is very low. On the other hand the right royal spirit of the higher civilized will not or have not thus far maligned their own honor by stooping so low as to increase the public revenue and private individuals through stamps emissions. United States stands preeminent as the true and honest stamp issuing country and if the dissolution to this present stability ever brightens, the stalwart corps of philatelic patriots will act as a mighty host in overthrowing the causes influencing such a dissolution.

"Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News" has been designated as the "ideal house organ". Out of 3072 lines of advertising in one issue of that paper 2298 were devoted to the interests of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company.

The writer gleaned this information from "The Philatelic Era" which in turn quotes figures made by "The Trade Press."

In a recent number of the Michigan Philatelist a correspondent to that paper mentions a British Guiana stamp having the first word of the inscription read "Retimus" instead of "Petimus." The stamp without doubt is a counterfeit, as the writer having a similar stamp with the corresponding peculiarity, submitted it to Messrs. Albrecht & Co., who immediately pronounced it counterfeit. The writer learns that it is not a new counterfeit, but is indeed an old production which is well known to the philatelic elite.

Now that varieties of the 12 and 15 cent values of the type of 1870 have been discovered, considerable speculation is rife as to the likelihood that there may be varieties of the other values of this issue. The writer has seen two copies of the 24 cent stamp, which differ very much from each other in that the shading in one is less distinct than in the other, and the lower part of the bust in one touches the line of the ellipse less lightly than the bust in the other. But this may be merely due to some defect to which the stamp may have been subjected after it passed into circulation, and is not common to a distinct set of stamps.

Like Mr. Tiffany the writer prefers to await the discovery of similar "varieties," before the stamp in question is credited with having a variety.

The stamps of the 1869 issue of United States were held in great prejudice by the people. This was due to the small size of the stamps or perhaps their unusual and peculiar size. Forthwith the National Bank Company were authorized to produce a new set of stamps more suitable to the tastes of the fastidious people.

The stamps of 1870 are of following denomination and description.

	Profile of bust	Color
1. Franklin	Rubric	Imperial Blue
2. Jackson	Powers	Velvet Brown
3. Washington	Houdon	Milori Green
4. Lincoln	Volk	Cochineal Red
10. Jefferson	Powers Statue	Chocolate
12. Clay	Hart	Purple
15. Webster	Clevenger	Orange
25. Scott	Coffee	Pure Purple
30. Hamilton	Corrachi	Black
90. Perry	Wolcotts Madallion	Carmine
7. Stanton	Photographed from life	Vermillion

The last named stamp was issued principally for German Postal Service.

About a year ago there was a faint rumor relative to the publication of a daily stamp paper, but as such a publication never materialized the writer presumes that the rumor originated with the rhapsodic school-boy or from a mythical source.

The fact that it is so hard to keep a monthly magazine on earth certainly goes to show to what greater obstacles the philatelic daily would be subject. While such a paper would be very entertaining at least for a time, there is not a growing demand for such a publication, nor is such a paper necessary. The fact is, our daily press is largely taking the place of a daily philatelic paper. For instance Minneapolis readers of the daily papers were informed of the results of the auction sale of the Leving's Collection, the day following the auction. We were informed of the principal prices realized and up to date would not be thus informed if we had to depend upon the weekly and monthly periodicals devoted to interests of philately. So we see that in one sense the daily press takes the place of the philatelic daily and indeed the weekly and monthly publications but in such an indistinct and unreliable manner that no certainty for such information is assured, but it surely shows what can be expected in the future. The respect that is being accorded philately by the daily press of today will have great power towards transplanting philatelic happenings to the columns of the daily newspapers now and moreso in the future.

But few of the stamps of the regular issue of Switzerland are scarce excepting those of the Swiss cantons, and Federal administration, and but a small outlay would be necessary to complete the regular issues of this country.

But taking into consideration these earlier stamps, money is not the only requisite but time also plays an important part when attempting to secure these stamps. The stamps are rare and but few if any dealers have them for sale at the prices quoted in the catalogue. While it was nothing extremely remarkable that England should take the initiative in introducing the postage stamp, it does seem a little out of usual that the Swiss Canton should be the first to follow in her footsteps. It was in the years of 1843 and 1844 that the Swiss Cantons of Zurich, Basle and Geneva issued stamps. They were replaced by the stamps of the federal administration in 1850. Stamps with corresponding inscriptions were issued also by the administration for both French and German Cantons.

These remained in use until 1854 when they were superseded in turn by a uniform type for all Switzerland. These were in use for eight years when they were replaced by the "Helvetia" series.

In February 1871 the Swiss Government issued stamps for the benefit of Bourbakis army which was in Switzerland which secured transportation of the soldiers' letters. They were crude in design and simple in appearance being printed in black on colored paper with the inscription, "Militaries francais internes la Suisse. Gratis."

The Nyassa Company thus far triumphant in its illegitimate postal productions, will find that all paths are not strewn with roses. Their Mozambique labels have been denounced and now Brown of England very honorably refuses to dapple with them until their reclamation takes place which in the minds of those who ought to know, will never happen.

Col. Seebeck continues to produce his Central American rubbish. A complete new series of adhesives, officials, envelopes, wrappers and post cards make their appearance this year. Seebecks are stayers for some time to come.

When putting the question to a philatelist as to why he collected these labels he stated, first because they are so handsome; second, that when a non-collector scans his album, that person would be more apt to be influenced in favor of the pursuit through these stamps than from any other cause.

This may all be very true, but after our convert discovers the real character of the Seebeck, in most cases he throws up the pleasure of collecting in disgust.

While the exhibition of postage stamps at the World's fair proved to be an interesting example of the thrift and enthusiasm of a few collectors, the result of their trouble did not show up in the light that was expectantly hoped for. But the display clearly shows what might be done in this direction if co-operation and hearty liberality be accorded such a moment.

The idea has recently moved the writer that a exhibition or postage stamp fair [at which competitions would be in order] should be held in the near future. Such a glorious exhibition is possible, and the writer thinks that the proposition, or rather suggestion is strictly in accordance to the idea of the majority of collectors. If a grand philatelic exhibition could be brought about what a mighty lift would philately receive. What a tower of strength would be infused in those who are now somewhat shaky in their philatelic extremities.

The creators of the stamps of earlier issues of Nevis happily ignored the accustomed practice of using the likeness of the youthful Victoria for principal device, and preferred an emblematical device representing the Goddess of Health "Hygeia" administering water of a mineral spring in the island to a sick person. But in 1878, the flatulent sentimentality of the Queen's Subjects enjoined fancied respect for her majesty and the delineation of her well known features was introduced upon the stamps of the new issue (1879). Heaton, England's great postal reformer is endeavoring to replace the picture of the Queen, with something less in accordance to monotony, but the sentiment of the people is largely against him. And the opposition to the proposed change is not likely to be removed until the Queen's death, which by the way is apt to happen very soon, as she is reported as being very ill.

A certain western collector is trying to get a corner on the five cent stamps of the 1847 issue. He will perhaps be pleased to know that a vast number of these stamps are held by wealthy New York and other eastern dealers.

We have received the catalogue of stamps to be sold at R. F. Albrechts and Co.'s 28th auction sale, to occur April 24th and 25th. Property of Mr. M. H. Newark of Los Angeles, Cal., and of various other parties will be sold without reserve.

Word is now going the rounds of the Philatelic press that Prince James and his principality Trinidad, together with his stamps are all of legitimate existence. The writer has some doubts as to that part of the information which relates to the series of stamps. The writer will hold to such an opinion until future developments remove all doubts.

The four five cent 1890 stamps catalogued by the Chicago Philatelic society as errors, are said to not coincide with the errors promulgated by the Mekeel company. One of the so called Chicago errors, was purchased by Mr. H. Schluckebier of Petaluma, Cal., Mr. Schluckebier submitted the stamp to Mr. Tiffany who decided that the stamp is not the error nor is the color the same as that of the error.

The opinion of Mr. Jno. K. Tiffany relative to the U. S. 1890 5c error seems to have wielded considerable potency in changing the former doubters into confirmed believers in favor of the error. Mr. Tiffany's opinion has been indeed accepted by some as a verdict. While Mr. Tiffany bases his opinion on apparently good evidence yet this evidence is purely circumstantial or rather theoretical. In the closing part of his letter to the Philatelic Journal of America he states "I shall feel bound to accept the five cent stamp in question as an error until it is proved the postmaster did receive these errors in the state they are now in or that they were purchased from him." Nothing then has been shown to prove conclusively that the stamps in question are errors. Mr. Tiffany has advanced ideas, opinions and theories that are sensible and logical. Mr. Tiffany is an authority, but no matter what he is he has not shown that these supposed errors are errors. On the other hand we can show nothing positive that bears up the opinion that the stamps are not errors. Mr. William Brown in his book on the stamps of Strait Settlements, admits some doubtful surcharges, taking the stand "I know nothing against this stamp therefore I admit it." So in the case of the so called five cent error we might accept it because we know nothing conclusive against it, or we might take the stand that is taken in the cases of man indicted for murder. He is innocent until proved guilty. The question as to the genuineness of this error is at present a matter of individual opinion.

Philatelic Items.

We are glad to learn that Roy Greene is again using his philatelic pen quite freely. We need you Roy.

The Philatelic Advertiser a four page journal published at Tuscaloosa Ala., made its first appearance last month.

The Southern Philatelist, it seems has gone under. 'Tis indeed sad to relate that no more will we be entertained with "Gus Luhnlets."

Lewis Bishop has at last been dropped from the Sons of Philatelia for non-payment of dues. Truly great bodies move slowly.

The Drown Stamp and Publishing Company of Mattapan, Mass., announces the "Bay State Philatelist," to appear on or about May first.

Almost every book dealer in this city are agents for stamp companies, but we have no store solely devoted to the sale of philatelic merchandise.

The editor would like to purchase at a reasonable price complete files of the Philatelic Journal of America, Stanley Gibbons monthly and others.

A Minneapolis paper recently published a four column sketch about Edna Brown-Garman and the notorious chain-letter with illustrations of the principals.

There is but little doubt but that some of the Western Unions are excessively priced in our catalogues. Half catalogues quotations would be about right.

The NEWSLETTER is pleased to acknowledge the receipt of the March number of "The Washington Philatelist." We flush under your out spoken praise Bro. Egan.

"From little acorns, big oaks grow," but it is equally true that noxious weeds can from innocuous seeds arise. This is evident especially in the world of philately.

"The Dixie Philatelist" shows up well and from the reports of the different officers of the Southern Philatelic association we should judge that the society is prospering.

It is too bad that the honor of detecting the two cent pink counterfeit did not fall to the lot of our stamp experts and authorities. Is our knowledge indeed so inanimate?

In buying two rare Hawaiian stamps for spot cash recently, Mr. Crocker strengthens faith in the stamps of that country. A repetition of the recent boom in Hawaii can be looked for.

Hon. Washington Hesing, the prominent stamp collector and postmaster of Chicago, was to be in Minneapolis April 13th to attend a banquet given in honor of Thomas Jefferson, but we are advised that Mr. Hesing could not be present.

Mr. Stewart who contributes "Scribbles" to this issue speaks of Mr. Clemens, once a prominent philatelic scribe. Judging from some of the comments Mr. Clemens passes up on stamp collecting, we are constrained to believe that he no longer entertains feelings of love or interest for the pursuit.

Every one should read Mr. Aldrich's article on philatelic journalism in Minnesota to be found in current numbers of the "NEWSLETTER." Mr. Aldrich is the best known authority on philatelic history of this part of the world and his work must be accepted as the most reliable one for reference.

Now it seems that after all, the late Czar of Russia was not a stamp collector. We can infer also that the story about the Wisconsin boy and his presentation of a set of stamps to the Czar is all a well conceived myth. We have got our dukes yet and in case of emergency we can fall back on the renown Count Ferrari.

If certain persons fail to receive sample copies of the "NEWSLETTER" month after month and if by chance they receive this number, perhaps they will be pleased to learn that "THE NEWSLETTER" is *not* an organ of trade, and to receive it regularly throughout the year requires an expenditure of fifty cents on the part of the persons who expect to receive it.

Although Mr. Wm. Brown dedicates his work on the surcharges of St. Settlements to Edward B. Evans the latter shows that his opinion has not been biased as he holds to opinions that do not coincide with those of Mr. Browns' in regard to his work. We wonder how it would be in America under similar circumstances with of course different individuals involved.

Although the stamps of Native India are unique and expensive they should not receive worthy attention. It is very evident that the natives do not correspond to such an extent as to require a separate series of stamps for each state. It is also very evident that the stamp collector is the principal cause of their production.

While Scott catalogues some reprints and not all perhaps it would be better to leave out the reprints entirely if they can't be catalogued as a whole. The inexperienced collector is apt to think that their are no other reprints than those catalogued. He is thus led astray. Some of the stamps of Portugal and her colonies have been reprinted, and while we do not come across them very often, yet they are in existence and stamps which you think are original may be but reprints.

Through ill health and burdensome cares (matrimonial by no mean) your editor has been forced to transfer some of his work to another, and this month we take pleasure in informing our readers that Miss Amy B. Carruthers will be our assistant for a short time at least. We are aware of Miss Carruthers abilities in the philatelic line and know that her work will be appreciated.

The editor of "The Rocky Mountain Stamp" thinks that Lewis Bishop's connection with Denver has thrown a halo of evil over that fair city, philatelically i. e. in the opinion of the outside world. Our western brothers are laboring under hallucinations. By the way a man answering to the name of Quigley, was arrested in Minneapolis the other day. We wonder if he is any relation to our Tascott like Bishop-Quigley.

The demands for a flag stamp or other emblematic device for our postage stamps is thoroughly in course with the patriotic element of Americans. The bust likenesses have grown monotonous, and now we want a change. True the stamps of the Columbian issue were consistent with such a change, but the enormous size dwelt not well or easily in the minds of the people. The stars and stripes while very appropriate, would not need to constitute the device of all values, but the two cent stamp should be selected as the flag bearer. The one cent stamp could consist of a medallion portrait of the capitol at Washington. The three cent stamp could be made presentable by having for its central device some picturesque American scene, such as the beautiful falls of Minnehaha immortalized by Longfellow's Hiawatha. The statue of Liberty would be very appropriate for one of the values. Some home industry of prodigious significance should constitute the principal device of the five center. The latter stamp would advertise the American industry and would arouse the respect of industry loving Europeans, et cetera et cetera. The portraits on our current stamp as well as those on the obsolete, tell of happenings of the past. Now we want our stamp to show present progress and in part show the metallic foundation and pure patriotism of liberty loving Americans.

The 55th Edition Catalogue.

(Continued from March number)

Since beginning work on this commentary the writer has found that to give full justice to the comprehensiveness of the catalogue would require space beyond the limits of the NEWSLETTER. Therefore in the closing paper of this exposition I am compelled to make but cursory comments on those parts of the catalogue, which I deem most worthy of my attention. To give full sway to my appreciation of such a work would perhaps require many, many volumes. I will however do what I can towards utilizing what space is allotted me.

After leaving Great Britain, Hamburg is the next country in alphabetical order that merits our

attention on account of good advances in the prices of stamps. Almost every stamp of this country receives a higher quotation in the 55th catalogue. This is somewhat remarkable in that we find that there is nothing particularly attractive about the stamps of this country, but it has followed in the footsteps of other German countries, on account of its near connection with these countries or states. Numerous reprints are uncatalogued. As these reprints may be strictly unofficial, the compilers can perhaps be forgiven for the apparent neglect tendered these reprinted stamps.

The stamps of Hanover are seldom seen on approval sheets, and while not in very great demand deserve the quotations accredited them.

The great boom accorded the stamps of Hawaii has relapsed into a stagnant lull but this lull is only a harbinger of a future but still greater boom. The 50 cent and 1 dollar stamps on account of their apparent plenteousness a few years ago have suffered considerably at the hands of the collector. But their present scarcity has wholly removed this aversion. These stamps are cheap when purchasable at current catalogued prices. It is to be regretted that the surcharge fiend managed to get his clutches on Hawaii and to this can be attributed the cause of the relegation of many of these stamps have been subjected during the past year. The stamps of the first and earlier issues of Hawaii are in greater demand than ever before, which fact a certain California collector will vouch for.

The stamps of Hayti are slow to act as to prices. At this I am very much surprised as I have always thought that stamps of this country have been held in deep esteem by the majority of collectors.

It is a fact that the stamps of Japan are coming into favor. While there are certain things which should in the writers opinion tend to lessen any interest felt for the stamp of Japan, yet the prominent positions that this country is now taking in the world and its evident superiority over its neighboring nations, has not only aroused the natural respect of independent America, but has at the same time influenced the collector to esteem the stamp labels of that country. The good stamps (i. e. the rare) were well noticed in the 55thth edition, yet I think that some of the earlier issued stamps in unused state have been given too generous quotations. I am compelled to think thus because I have seen specimens on sheets of prominent dealers marked 50c below catalogue prices. The $\frac{1}{2}$ sen heretofore known as having a bistre color, is now listed as having brown. Millions of the later issued stamps of Japan have been accumulated by the natives and are now a drug on the market as any honest dealer will testify. In close proximity to the stamp eruptive countries we must naturally expect that Japan must also be corrupted. Japan however having shown such superiority in other matters may in the future repel the advances of the speculative scoundrel.

Liberia and Labuan having fallen prey to the speculative and surcharge rogue, and have fallen

into disfavor with the advanced collector.

Mexico so long under the "corner influence" has been progressing wonderfully well in its captivity which is undoubted due to the specialists who have generously made Mexico their object.

Mozambique and Morocco have fallen by the wayside, due to the questionable source of some of their labels.

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, are countries which are leading the vanguards. Since the issuance of the latest catalogue, some of their stamp representatives have increased in value. Auction sales tell the tale of their desirability. One stamp of Newfoundland received double its catalogue price at a recent auction. The cheaper stamps of these countries are under direct influence of their more desirable brothers, and make jumps worthy of their class. The moment any of the rarer stamps are heralded as obtainable at auction sale, the stamps are gobbled up by the eager collector with out regard for money value. The stamps of these countries are in greater demand taking into consideration the universal sentiment, than the stamps of any other country. Numerous new discoveries of the stamps of New South Wales are listed in the 55th notably those of the Sidney Views. When we consider that there are some 3600 varieties of New South Wales, we can conclude that the catalogue is very deficient, but to say the least of it, we are not grieved that the cataloguers have left out a great many varieties. For those who are indeed desirous of seeking a work on N. S. W. varieties I advise you to seek back files of English and Australian stamp papers which will enlighten you upon the subject.

The stamps of Norway have increased in value fairly well in proportion to their scarcity. This country can be completed for the nominal sum of \$15.00.

Peru has been so generously supplied with surcharged stamps that the writer has only feelings of utter contempt for this country. It is to be hoped from a philatelic standpoint that Caeres has been overthrown, as it was his intention to surcharge the remainder with his likeness.

If the stamps of Queensland are collected it is necessary to study the many intricate distinctions with care. Some of the common stamps of that country have increased in value to a great extent while the more valuable stamps have upheld the character of British Colonials in this respect.

The stamps of Roman States have indeed in some cases dropped as to their values, but it is to be expected.

Romania on the other hand has increased financially. The 27 pa. black on rose paper, first issue moves from \$100.00 to \$175.00 in a years time. Even the cheaper stamps hold their own with ease.

The stamps of Russia notwithstanding the fact that they have been harangued against by some, have received splendid attention as to their quotations in the 55th edition.

The 3 pfennige red Saxony seems to be a very de-

sirable stamp. It is catalogued at \$38.00 in the 55th against \$25.00 in the 54th edition. At a recent auction sale a used specimen sold for \$38.00. At Ventom, Bull & Coopers sale in the latter part of January an unsevered pair sold for \$95.00.

Although rather indiscriminate in my neglect of many countries it is absolutely necessary as space is confined to very narrow limits.

The demand for the rarities of Spain is so great that to obtain them at any price seems to be the cry of many. The 2 reales, 1851 and 2 reales 1852 are quoted by Scott respectively at \$150.00 and \$75.00, yet at an auction in the early part of the present year copies sold at \$60.00 and \$200.00. It is noticeable that Scott quotes stamps that are not in his possession and practically unobtainable by him at prices below their real value. The reason is at once apparent.

The stamps of Strait Settlements is the title of a beautiful book compiled by Wm. Brown of Salisbury, England. The surcharge distinctions are lucidly explained.

The 20 Ore (Tretio) error of Sweden is a very desirable stamp and is very scarce. It will be almost unobtainable in a few years.

The stamps of the Cantonal administrations of Switzerland are in great demand and very hard to get, and some of the prices acceded them in the catalogue are below their real value.

The stamps of Turkey so indefinite as to their identity to the young collector, are almost ignored by the majority of collectors, but the deep student of philately finds them very interesting.

Some one has said that to fill your blank spaces now for a small amount of money will obviate the necessity of expending dollars in the near future for the same purpose. I think however that this is a little sweeping and that Turkey is one of the countries least idealized by the stamp collecting fraternity.

Uruguay, I think is a very interesting country and deem it the worthiest of South American countries, perhaps excepting Brazil.

Venezuela has lost a great deal of its prestige and power on account of the obnoxious remainders which now flood the stamp market.

Victoria is the country that has been the subject of many, many writers, and to fully understand the stamps of this country as to their distinctions, is quite a studious task.

I haven't touched upon the countries of Africa to any extent because I deemed most of them unworthy even of passing notice.

A casual resume shows that British colonials take the very lead as to their desirability, while German countries come next.

In our own country, United States naturally comes first. It is evident that many stamps are incorrectly quoted by the catalogues, but to be absolutely correct in a work like this is impossible. I have skipped over the latter part of the catalogue very rapidly as it is my intention to conclude with this paper. The catalogue is an interesting manual and indispensable to the collector and should be in the hands of every collector.

H. S. S.

(Concluded.)

STAMP DEALERS DIRECTORY.

Terms for a three line advertisement in this column, \$150 12 insertions, 75 cents 6 insertions, payable semi-annually in advance.

BURLEIGH, JAS. B. Govanstown, Balto, Co. Md., dealer in rare postage stamps. Send for stamps on approval.

CLEAVER, GEO. E. 1132 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa. Finest stamp hinges in the world

HOLDEN C. H. Durand, Mich. Unexcelled approval sheets at 50 per cent commission. Good references required. Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of Packets sets etc.

HOYT, F. T. 909 W. Polk st., Chicago, Ill. Send me your want list. Rare stamps a specialty.

INDIANA STAMP CO., Fort Wayne Indiana. Approval sheets @ 10 per cent to £0 per cent, com.

ROSS, B. S. 509 Wieland st. Chicago, Ill. U. S. stamps by the pound. Send for sample 50 cents.

TOPPELL, THEODORE, 91 Nassau st New York. Rare stamps wanted for cash.

EXCHANGE COLUMN.

Advertisements under this head one cent a word each insertion, cash in advance.

I need a few high denominations U. S. Rev. for my collection, want only the finest specimens and will exchange stamps or Phil. literature for those I need. Send on approval with want list. Geo. E. Cleaver, P. S. of A. 434, 1132 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa.

For every 4 U. S. Special Delivery, 8c Sherman, 6c Red, 6c Columbian sent me, I will send in exchange 3 Newfoundland unused 1887, ½c Red, 1c Green, 2c Orange. Albert Durkee, 139 Adams st. Chicago.

6 var. good stamps for every covered phil. paper sent me. Chas. G. Hart, Pipestone, Minnesota.

U. S. Revenues all kinds to exchange for unused U. S. Postage, H. N. McKusick, Stillwater, Minn.

WHAT SNAPS.

	CAT. PRICE	MY PRICE
U. S. 1888, 90 cent purple unused.....	\$2.00	\$1.55
" " 30 " puce brown unused.....	75	50
" 1885, special del. unused.....	25	15
6 varieties Hawaii.....	35	20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over.....	1.00	25
6 " Ecuador.....		10
8 " Nicaragua 1869-78.....	85	55
2 " Corea, 5 m's 10 m's.....	35	20

105 good foreign from Natal Cape Good Hope, India, Egypt, Australia, etc., for 20 cents. Approval sheets a specialty but I must have A 1 references.

Lock Box 40. 2 6m **C. H. WILSON** MELVERN KAN.

THE WAVERLY PACKET

1000 CONTINENTALS. 150 VARIETIES.

Stamps from Europe, Asia, Africa, North South and Central America and Australia are all combined in one fine mixture in **THE WAVERLY PACKET** including a separate **PACKET OF 150 VARIETIES**, at the extreme low **PRICE 25cts.**

We have sold up to date over **900** of these Packets and for every two we sell, we sell three and four more. Let us receive your order.

A subscription to the "Dixie Philatelist" at 25c for one year to every 4th order.

THE DIXIE STAMP & NOVELTY CO.

Box 53 Nashville Tenn.

50 PER CENT COMMISSION.

My approval sheets are unexcelled. Large stock constantly on hand, good chance for collectors wishing to complete their sets, 5 different Columbians to each applicant. Good references required. Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of packets sets etc.

C. H. HOLDEN,

Durand, Mich.

3 6m

FREE To each stamp collector who sees this add and sends 2 cent stamp for postage, I will send a set of 8 Japanese stamps, I also sell 3 Corean stamps for 10c, 100 all different for 9 cents.

JOHN A. WILSON, Dept. M. M.

2 3m

1129 Olive st., Philadelphia, Pa.

Complete file (very rare) of the Minnesota Philatelist, for 45 cents post paid. Address

J. E. MAPLES,

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

ADVANCED COLLECTORS

SEND FOR MY CLASS B APPROVAL SHEETS AT 33½ per cent discount

REFERENCES REQUIRED.

They contain the finest grade of stamps on the market today, old European Colonials and Rarities etc. All marked at catalogue prices.

FOR THE

average collector I have the greatest packet on the market—my famous **WORLD RENOWNED**

DIXIE

Containing 399 different stamps from all parts of the globe. Post paid **ONE DOLLAR.**

A. M. RARESHIDE,

HOUSTON,

2612 Milan St.

TEXAS.

PACKETS.

Buy your stamps in packets. We have just put up a large number of packets made up principally from old collections which we sell at following prices

50 varieties.....	\$ 15c
100 ".....	25c
200 ".....	1 00
400 ".....	2 00
500 ".....	4 00
1000 ".....	8 00

No better packets have ever been put up on the market for the money—approval sheets at from 10 to 50 per cent commission.

Indiana Stamp Co.

FORT WAYNE,

2 1y

Indiana.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

MAY AND JUNE, 1895.

No. 4.

The Journalistic Side of Philately.

BY LEWIS G. QUACKENBUSH.

I often wonder what comments a professional newspaper man would make in regard to some of the more conspicuous idiosyncrasies of philatelic journalists. It is a fact which has often been called attention to, by the more discerning of the philatelic critics, that comparatively few of those who are connected with the philatelic press in the capacity of editors and writers, seem to be posted in regard to journalistic ethics. Most philatelic pencil pushers seem to be a law unto themselves, and as a consequence, small wonder is it that the philatelic press is regarded as a standing joke in professional newspaper circles.

Personally, I think that much of the criticism lavished upon us by outsiders who do not understand the peculiar disadvantages under which every philatelic editor and contributor labors, is exceedingly unjust. Still, it would be useless for us to shut our eyes to the fact that philatelic journalism, notwithstanding the great strides for the better which it has taken in the last decade or so, is still woefully imperfect in many ways, and that the room for improvement in many of the smaller stamp journals is (to use the words of a brother of the pen) "a sort of small Sahara."

The motives of one who takes it upon himself to criticize his brother pencil pushers are nearly always misunderstood. Either jealous or "swelled head" are commonly ascribed to one who attempts to correct his fellow craftsman, even in the most good-natured way. I hope that none of my journalistic friends of the philatelic press will so far misjudge me as to believe that I would attempt to point out their mistakes in a carping and fault-finding spirit. Kindly criticism is always beneficial, whether it be flattering or the reverse, and it is in the hope of inciting my brother philatelic journalists to marked improvement that the present article is written.

The worst fault of philatelic journalists (in America, at least) is a wrong notion of the dignity of their work which leads to that worst of all slovenliness in composition. A great deal of the matter appearing in current philatelic literature shows plainly, on even casual inspection, that it was hurriedly written and rushed into print with almost no revision. There are several philatelic writers of my acquaintance who take absolutely no pains to verify the accuracy of their statements, even when treating of subjects on which their knowledge is exceedingly fragmentary and imperfect. Such neglect on the part of a writer for the press would prove fatal to his hopes for ad-

vancement in almost any other field; but in philatelic literature, it seems not only to be tolerated, but condoned. It is a favorite dictum with many writers on philatelic subjects that, the pay being small, they cannot be expected to devote any great amount of time to insuring the grammatical and philatelic accuracy of their articles. This specious plea will not stand close investigation, for it seems to imply that the one and only thing thought of by a philatelic writer in composing an article is, "How much money is this going to bring me?"

I cannot believe that the majority of philatelic writers are induced to take up that branch of literary work by mercenary considerations. Philatelic authorship is not exceptionally remunerative, to say the least, and there are few of our best authors who could not sell their talents to far greater advantage in some other field. There are, I am sure, some juvenile scribblers whose only thought on taking up the pen to compose a philatelic article is to fill enough space to earn the pittance paid for such productions; but such space writers should not be classed as representative philatelic authors. Most of those whose contributions to philatelic literature are most valuable and widely known, write with the laudable object of elevating the literary standard of our journals, of lifting them up out of the hands of the boy contributors whose silly screeds disgust all competent critics. True these writers consider it no more than just that they should accept the sums which the editors feel able to pay for their productions, as partial remuneration for the time and labor expended in the writing; but that does not go to prove that the remuneration furnishes the sole incentive for their efforts.

Now, we all know that whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well, and it seems to me that all contributors to the philatelic press owe it not only to themselves but to their public as well, to take pains that all inaccurate statements, and also all grammatical or rhetorical blemishes are, as far as possible, removed before the manuscript is placed in the printer's hands. This can only be done by the most careful and painstaking revision. It means increased labor for the author, but it also means increased reputation for his writings. Rome was not built in a day and it is folly for a writer to attempt to place a first-class article before the public without a great deal of hard work. The writer who dislikes hard work and who rushes his manuscript through with the greatest possible speed, will find ere long his editors grown cold, and his readers grown indifferent.

It is a well known maxim in the literary world that easy writing makes hard reading and *vice*

versa. This rule does not always hold good, as there are many brilliant and talented journalists who write with great rapidity, yet whose style is eminently readable and interesting. But even these are mostly veterans who have gained their facility of thought and diction by long years of hard labor and study of the best literary models. Our philatelic writers, most of them after all, but literary amateurs, cannot hope to rival the workers of the professional press in fluency of expression. But they can, at least if sufficiently trained by constant reading of classic literature to be able to detect glaring imperfections in style, cut out all such imperfections with remorseless hand.

Philatelic editors are greatly to blame in admitting to their columns articles which could not stand the test of a careful inspection by a competent critic. It may be as some philatelic editors claim in justification of their acceptance of screeds of small literary worth, that there is no such thing as a recognized standard of literary merit in philatelic journalism. Unfortunately, this is partially true, but there are a number of stamp journals of the better class which do have a standard, albeit it is not as high as might be desired. Philatelic editors might, it seems to me, with profit to themselves insist that contributions bearing the evident marks of haste in composition should suffer a thorough revision before being allowed to receive editorial consideration. Authors should be made to understand that their work cannot be slighted with impunity. The teaching of this lesson has been too long deferred; and the frequent publication of hastily written, and consequently ungrammatical and illogical articles from the pens of those whom we know to be capable of much better work is the result. Both authors and editors are content with too low a grade of work. I cannot but think that our philatelic pressmen are capable of better things than an outsider, casually glancing through the pages of our journals, would be inclined to believe. They are simply sacrificing quality to quantity; and such a sacrifice on the part of a writer is always to be deplored.

I realize that the demand for philatelic manuscript made on a writer thoroughly successful is far greater than the supply and that he is constantly tempted to spend less time on his articles, and thus be able to write more of them. The same temptation assails every successful writer in any field of literary effort; many succumb to it, and they usually have cause to regret the fact in after years. The writer of really first-class matter can seldom or never increase his output, without a corresponding deterioration in quality. Over production has killed many and many a promising young author in a literary sense, of course. It will be found that the greatest names in the literary world today are those of men and women who have written little compared with the prolific and superficial writers who turn out their two or three volumes per annum, and whose reputation scarcely survive a half dozen seasons. Look at the greatest names in American literature: Emerson,

Holmes, Longfellow, Bryant, Whittier, Lowell and Curtis; and then turn to their publisher's catalogue and note how few their works are, after all. These men wrote but few books; but every volume that did come from their pens was an exquisitely finished masterpiece. It is the quality and not the quantity of their works which gives them an enduring place in American letters.

Taking a modern and familiar example to prove that quality and not quantity should be the author's aim, the experience of Mrs. Humphrey Ward might be cited. The phenomenal success of Mrs. Ward's first novel, "Robert Elsmere," brought a great number of very flattering offers from publishers who believed in striking while the iron was hot, and therefore wished her to write other novels for them at once, for which they offered fabulous prices. Mrs. Ward, however, resisting the temptation to glut the market with trashily written romances, composed her second and third novels with as much care and elaboration as she had used in the writing of her maiden effort. As a result, "David Grieve" and "Marcella" have not only repeated the success of her first work, but have so firmly established her reputation that she is already being hailed by the critics as a second George Eliot.

On the other hand, note the fate of that brace of literary meteors, Rider Haggard and Rudyard Kipling. Every reader can recollect the time when these two men were the literary lions of the world. Their absolute originality caused their earliest works to be widely read and commented upon, and both hastened to take advantage of that fact to make a market for all sorts of nondescript performances, rudely and hastily constructed. Volume after volume flowed from their facile pens, until at length the public appetite was satisfied, and the two quondam stars found other idols superseding them in the popular regard. True, they made enormous sums of money while their popularity lasted, and their writings are still in fair demand; but they can never regain the prestige which they lost by foolishly flooding the market with too many of their books.

The philatelic author can learn a valuable lesson from this. Over production does not pay, even from a financial standpoint. "Write little but write well" is a motto which every philatelic pencil pusher would do well to keep steadily in view. Quality, not quantity is the literary desideratum.

Philatelic Journalism in Minnesota.

PAPER III, 1889-1893.

"Once Past, they are forever gone,
But deep impressions still remain;
For good or bad, for right or wrong,
And influence strong and unrestrained."

Whatever influence the earlier paper issued in the "Gopher state" may have had, the publication of the Flour City Philatelist must mark the era of the advent of the "news" journal in stamp literature. For the first time personal notes was the predominating feature of a stamp paper. The first number of this

paper consisted of 16 pages and cover and appeared in January, 1889 and was published by the Bell Publishing Co., who were also the publishers of the Minneapolis Evening Bell. Their offices were situated at rooms 24-25 of the Rochester Block. W. C. Bickley appears by Ayer's Newspaper Directory as manager of the Bell company, but it is questionable if he had any great amount of interest in the Flour City, as his brother George R. was the philatelist of the firm. George R. acted as editor of the Flour City, and was at this time the owner of the largest collection in the state, which numbered nearly 8,500 specimens. He is at present a resident of New York, and is not now, I believe, an active collector although he has not so far as I know, disposed of his collection.

No. 2 appeared in March and No. 3 (the last number) in May. Each consisted of 32 pages and cover. With the last number it appeared as the official organ of the Philatelic Association of Iowa.

The illustrations were unique and no other journal except Ferris' Chicago Philatelist can be arranged in the same class as a humorous philatelic journal. Another of the original features, much appreciated by dealers, was the black list of frauds published.

Among the advertisers were eight Minnesota firms. The Shaw Stamp Co., of St. Paul, Flour City Stamp Co., (under which name Bickley conducted a stamp business), F. H. Brown, Alfred Owre, and the Great Western Stamp Co., of Minneapolis, Minnesota Stamp Co., of Duluth and Aldrich and The Curio Co., of Benson.

In February of the same year the first number of The Curio was published. The Curio Co., the publishers consisted of John D. Lyons jr., and the writer originally but Lyons withdrew after the first year. The first thirteen numbers were from the press of L. S. Ellis of Logansville, O. The next three were printed by W. R. Mackey of Pawnee City, Neb., and the subsequent numbers by W. W. Jewett. The first five volumes each consisted of three numbers. The sixth of eight, besides an extra sixteen page Christmas number which was not numbered, the seventh of twelve and the eighth of seven numbers. In all forty-three numbers appeared, the last in August 1892.

Among the Minnesota writers who contributed to this venture were J. L. Craigie of Jackson, and F. L. Stone of Benson, (an American Philatelic Association member), and in the September 1890 numbers, Messrs. Hawley of Lake Park, Althew, Bourne, (one of the publishers of the Keystone Exchange published in 1876), Norton and Williams of St. Paul, all members of the American Philatelic Association. With the May 1891 issue The Curio became the official organ of the Philatelic Society of America, an organization of which a Minnesota collector (H. H. MacNamara of Tower), was responsible and which in its day, ranked second only to the A. P. A., and so continued until January 1892, when the Stamp Collector became its successor.

In December 1892, the first number of the Philate-

lic Fortnightly—Second Series—appeared, W. H. Barnes acting as business manager and G. W. Achard as editor. Prior to its appearance the rights etc. of the Curio had been absorbed. In January the second and last number appeared. The paper consisted of eight pages, 12x9 inches, three columns to the page. Among the Minnesota advertisers appears J. F. Jacobs of St. Paul (who acted as agent for the Scott Co.,) N. E. Carter, The Nor. Consol Stamp Co., and the Achard Stamp Co., of Minneapolis.

In July 1893 the first of the "New Series" of the Northwest was sent forth by F. S. George from Minneapolis. The number consisted of eight pages and cover, size 8x6.

The publisher, Frank S. George, several years before was a proprietor of a curiosity store in Minneapolis, but about 1891 moved to Fargo, N. D., where he became interested in amateur journalism and commenced the publication of The Northwest as an amateur journal and of which two volumes were published ere it was changed into a philatelic journal. He was in 1892 elected president of the National Amateur Press Association. Just prior to the issue of the new series he removed again to Minneapolis. The first two numbers were printed by Dukenfield Bros., of Minneapolis, while subsequent numbers owed their appearance to the Raymer Printing Company.

With No. 3 a change of ownership occurred where by a stock company took charge of the publication and George W. Achard became managing editor, while W. C. Whittall became business manager. The Northwest with its first number, absorbed the Philatelic Fortnightly. Eight numbers appeared ere it gave up the ghost. It also acted as official organ of the Northwestern Philatelic Association, of which Frank Brown of Omaha, was president.

The Campaign is on.

BY MARCUS P. STEWART.

The political campaign of 1895 has been started. Already the philatelic journals are sounding their trumpets and candidates are pulling wires. It is not our intention to enter into any rabid political discussion or to exhibit actions of political emulation, but we fully realize that our philatelic society must be governed by persons who are competent and fully able to carry out the duties of the offices which are tendered them. We are necessarily called to task for we hold the philatelic society dear to heart and we intend to contribute to the society's welfare by promulgating the interests of those persons whom we think most fit for the offices they are seeking. It has been found that learned men are not always the best office holders. It has been proven that men with poor mental abilities are often endowed with great executive power, therefore in selecting our man we must see that the office must be assigned to that person whose adaptability for that particular office is most apparent.

Clifford W. Kissinger whose prominence in phi-

latelic society circles has no peer, is fortunately endowed with great executive ability. He is smart. He is bright while by no means learned. He is a good office holder. If he is not already a great politician he surely will be one some day if his inclinations are given plenty of rope. A great politician is not usually overburdened with reserve or modesty. So in Kissinger's case. If Clifford W. Kissinger can bear up under the compliments (we will not say flattery) ingredients of which are "soft soap" and "hug me closer" Cliffie which fairly saturate the June number of his journal the "Pennsy" without suffering from an over dose of conceit and pomposity, he is deserving of any office that can be placed at his feet. Mr. Kissinger is being lauded beyond the unlimited boundaries of infinity. His merits are being so conspicuously chiseled into the bold slab of publicity that Trilby and the new woman are rustled mostly precipitously into obscurity. Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Kissinger is receiving such a large amount of praise proffered by sincere and insincere persons, we are not going to say that he is undeserving of all this praise. But such praise is some times carried into ludicrousness and the older and more able and less impetuous mind is apt to construe that our campaigns are farcical nonsense, carried on for the mere pleasure of certain interested auditors. We think that Mr. Kissinger shows poor policy in accepting articles which are indeed eulogies of himself. We are aware of the fact that Mr. Kissinger is a young man full of ambition and striving for philatelic prominence. We ought to bow to his desires in this respect, although he may say that it is the pleasure of his friends that make him a candidate. Mr. Kissinger will be elected, for it seems that Chas. Esterly Severn dares not to lock arms with the former because a breach might occur which is strictly inconsistent with his, Severn's desires.

We would like to see Kissinger and Severn as opposing candidates. We would like to see a fight which would be even more interesting than the illustrious one of 1893, although animosity would not take such a prominent part in the coming "fun." Mr. Severn is the deeper thinker but does not equal Mr. Kissinger in executive ability. Mr. Kissinger in a strictly considering sense is most deserving of the office. He has made the P. S. of A. what it is. He is the nucleus around which are clustered the many members. We should not object to Mr. Kissinger's candidacy, although we have in our former remarks brought forth rather crudely certain things which might have been left out in his campaign, but which is not going to hurt any one, and which is going to make Mr. Kissinger still better known.

We bow to Mr. Kissinger and entreat most humbly that when he visits Minneapolis that he will not deem us inconsiderate of the honor of his acquaintance. Meet us this summer and let us grasp each others hands in fraternal greeting.

Minneapolis seeks the P. S. of A. convention of 1896.

Minneapolis fair as natures pure bequests could

make! beautiful as man's handiwork can contrive! Attractive as Niobe's ideal form! lissome as the fairy wood nymph. Minneapolis! the embodiment of splendid grace; refinement to which is attached the train of cultivation, art, music, and literature, aside of which we find the wonderful lines of commerce, the active buzz of business; the prodigious castles of the largest manufactories in the world.

A climate so deliciously nourishing, so tenderly caressing to the weary traveler. The cooling and elevating influence of a summers eve. inducing the realization of some thing to live for. The ideal city for conventions, the home of wonderful attractions historical and otherwise. A city surrounded by beautiful and sandy shored lakes, around which circle drives, parkways and boulevards. A city near the immortalized Minnehaha, the historical falls of St. Anthony, that interesting spot Fort Snelling. In close proximity to St. Paul which is connected to Minneapolis by a network of steam and electric railroads, the latter being the largest in the world. A city not far from Minnetonka a summer resort, of world wide renown, where thousands of people find blissful content and happiness. The natural attractions of Minneapolis alone should be enough to secure the convention. We have the State university the largest flouring mills in the world, the finest hotels in the west, this side of Chicago. Elegant public buildings, the Court House alone costing \$5,000,000, and occupying a square in the depths of the business portion of the city, the largest and most beautiful estate within the limits of any city in the United States and called Villa Rosa, comprising forty acres and situated in the very heart of the city. A city of magnificent churches and imposing edifices. The site of the republican convention, OH! P. S. of A. consider well your choice for the next convention, Consider how important is pleasure and enjoyment at these conventions and your first and last consideration will be Minneapolis.

For the office secretary of the P. S. of A. we think that Mr. Oney K. Carstarphen of Denver should be elected, and we do not doubt but that his election is assured. Mr. Carstarphen is an affable, genial, wholesouled and intelligent person. Through correspondence with him we find that he is a gentleman true and unadulterated. He is a leader in the philatelic community of Denver, and even those who are most dumb to worthiness are proud to accept it personified in the person of Mr. Carstarphen.

A Most Satisfactory Method of Collecting.

BY RAYMOND S. BAKER.

There are several ways of adding to our collections, and we all have our chosen methods. Those most in vogue are all by means of the packet, the set and the approval sheet.

Of these three, more pleasure and enjoyment can be obtained from buying packets than from any other, for it is a sort of speculation, the collector not knowing what he is going to get, whereas, in the set.

and especially in the approval sheet, there is none of this, for in the first case, he knows pretty well what he has bought, and in the second, he sees and examines the stamps before buying. We all remember with what joy and delight we looked over our first packet, whether it was a ten cent one or a ten dollar one. But packets can only be bought for a short time, as duplicates begin to accumulate, and then the collector has resource to sets, which is a very satisfactory method of collecting; but sometimes the stamps are not in very good condition, being torn or heavily cancelled. The approval sheet is next in order, and this is, no doubt, one of the best means of amassing specimens, for the simple reason that the collector sees and knows what he is buying.

But there is another method of collecting, which, although comparatively rare, affords more pleasure than any of the three ways before mentioned. This is no other than finding stamps, by earnestly and diligently looking for them and drawing them from their hoary hiding places. In stamp collecting, we are at all times liable to come upon one of these "finds;" it may be in some old box stowed away in some lonely garret or dingy cellar, or it may be in some musty drawer, or even in one of those redoubtable hair trunks. These "finds" may be all around us every day, and we may, at the same time, be wholly unconscious of their presence, and go on, either paying out our hard earned money for rarities, or doing without them altogether, whereas, if we would keep our eyes open and seek out these hidden treasures, we would thus be able to add many desirable specimens to our collections.

The possibilities of obtaining these rarities are not so far out of our reach as we may suppose, for there are thousands of old and valuable stamps in this country, which might be obtained at the expense of only a little trouble. Not long ago one of our Canadian collectors, during a vacation in the country, came across two collections, each one containing an original perforated Connell, which he at once purchased, and the price paid was not more than the value of the two rarities. An ardent young collector, the other day, looking over an old gentleman's correspondence, found stamps which he disposed of for the neat little sum of \$175. The writer himself has come across several little finds in the city of Halifax and elsewhere, where one would have naturally supposed that Hart, DeWolf and others had managed to capture all the best ones; although the stamps found were not very valuable, yet they are such as are seldom seen in an ordinary collection, consisting as they did of used pence and cents issues of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Thus we might go on multiplying instances of this kind, which go to show that we all have a chance of increasing our collections in this particular way, to a more or less degree.

It surely needs no argument to prove the superiority of this method of collecting over all others, for, from a financial standpoint, it has no equal, as the stamps found can, as a general rule, be obtained for little or nothing, and these finds that are finds, are

in most cases made up of stamps, which being seldom in the market are quite valuable, so the collector can place in his album many specimens which he would otherwise be compelled to leave out. As many duplicates of the same stamps often appear, these can be easily disposed of and the proceeds invested in other specimens. It should also be remembered that this is the oldest form of collecting in existence, for during the twenty or twenty five years after the postage stamp first appeared, there were no dealers, no packets or approval sheets and collectors were practically unknown to each other. Thus there was only this one avenue left open by which collections might be formed, and though it was a rather slow and tedious process compared to that of today, yet there can be no doubt but the collector of 1855 obtained as much pleasure and satisfaction from his stamps, as does the philatelist of the present time.

Several other advantages of this manner of collecting, including the benefits arriving from having the stamps on the original envelope, and knowing for sure, that they are genuine etc. might be mentioned, which still further go to show that this is without doubt the most enjoyable method of collecting.

Excepting British Guiana, Brazil is the most popular country in S. America, as far as philately is concerned. At one time there was a craze for Brazilian stamps, and this craze has not died out entirely. We would remark that this country so remote from Europe yet was second to follow the example of England in the adoption of the postage stamp. A decree of Nov. 29th 1842, signed by the Minister C. J. d Aroujo Viano orders the creation of postage stamps in Brazil. The idea was to produce as in England the features of the sovereign; but the director of the mint fearing the respect due to his Emperor would be wounded were the sacred effigy obliterated, made representations to that effect in a letter dated February, 13, 1843. The minister yielded to this reasoning and had introduced for the values, 30, 60, and 90 reis. A large figure on the oval is an intricate engraving. They were engraved by Carlos d' Azevedo and Jose de Farid the mint engravers, and printed at the National Treasury. There have been several series of Brazilian stamps manufactured by native Artists all bearing the simple numeral of value. But in 1865 the contract for the manufacture of postage stamps was transferred to the American Bank Note Co. of New York City which produced a very elaborate and artistic series.

The portrait of Dom Pedro II, is remarkable for its excellence and beautifulness, and reflects great credit upon the manufacturers. The 300 reis appeared first in 1871 and produced by the Continental Bank Note Co. The later issued stamps of this country are splendid products of the engravers art, and mainly through this fact have found favor among the majority of philatelists.

U. S. stamps cancelled with pen mark seem to be rarer with that form of obliteration.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

HARRY S. SWENSEN, Editor.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

Subscription 50 cents a year to all countries

Advertising rates \$1 per inch, subject to the following discounts, one page (18 inches) 25 per cent, 1/2 page 20 per cent, 1/4 page 15 per cent, 3 inches 10 per cent, 2 inches 5 per cent, 20 per cent discount from regular rate allowed on standing advertisements of three inches or more.

Terms cash with copy unless the advertiser is well known to us, when money is payable on receipt of marked copy. We would be pleased to exchange two copies with all Philatelic Journals, m's paid for only on being published. Address all communications to

H. S. SWENSEN, Publisher,

1605 Stevens Ave.

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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EDITORIAL ETC.

The one and two cents adhesives are water-marked 'tis said.'

Ye editor has been ill, which accounts for the delay in publishing this issue.

We are informed that Gus. Luhn will continue the publication of the Southern Philatelist in the near future.

The engravers of our current due stamp no doubt got the idea of the lozenge from the American Rapid telegraph stamps.

There is no doubt but that the \$1 columbians are going up, up, up. We were offered \$45 for 10 copies by a large concern.

"Wandering comments" in the Eastern Philatelist is an excellent article, abounding in sensible statements of philatelic value.

We have received a letter from a person whose handwriting resembles very much that of Warren who is supposed to have been Quigley.

Chas. J. Tyren, that versatile individual is now an enthusiastic wheelman. We see by the newspapers that he has been admitted to the three minute gang.

We learn from various good sources, that W. J. Colcleugh, 165 Woodward avenue, Detroit, Mich., a former patron of "The Newsletter," is an irresponsible and dishonest person. He is of the kind that make promises but never keep them. This genius should be left severely alone.

We wish to call attention to a mistake occurring in the advertisement of the Dixie Stamp and Publishing company in our last issue. In the \$5.00 reward offer the line reading "including a separate packet of 150 varieties" should read "including a separate packet of 45 varieties." See advertisement in this number.

Russian locals are receiving considerable notice in that a certain prominent collector has stated that some of these stamps are scarcer than the rare Mauritius.

The people of the island of Formosa have declared their independence. Space in our next album no doubt, will be allotted a new series of postage stamps emanating from that remote island.

Now a person claims that there are eight dies of the 1853 envelopes. Our ambitious friend should turn to India and there his voluptuous appetite for philatelic renown will be appeased by *eight pies*.

The rumor that the color of the current \$1.00 stamp will be changed is based only upon probability. It is possible that the rumor originated with the post office department and to purchase a \$1 stamp now would not be a mistaken move.

Mr. Chas. G. Hart requests the Newsletter to announce that he is a candidate for the office of Librarian of the League of American Philatelists. Mr. Hart is publisher and editor of the Pipestone Philatelist and he will undoubtedly make a most efficient officer.

By closely scrutinizing our postage due stamps, you will perhaps be rewarded by finding many varieties. Of the second issue we note several varieties, and if a larger number were at our disposal we would be rewarded without doubt by finding many others.

Complaints are rolling in in great numbers against T. E. Fitzgerald of Ellsworth, Wis. This man owes us for advertising space. We also learn from a collector, that he is not only an advertising deadbeat but a stamp fraud of the first water. The way to kill him philatelically is to ignore him.

Crawford Capen has a collection of war department stamps made up of 210 var., the distinctions being made as to shade etc. 50 per ct. of Mr. Capen's varieties are caused by influences wrought by light. Atmosphere etc. While such a collection may be interesting it is not altogether conducive to the up-building of philately by making such minute distinctions.

Some points about the head of Washington on some of our stamps would indicate that he who was first in the hearts of the countrymen was possessed of qualities not altogether complimentary. The Phrenologist's analysis of Washington's features as reproduced on some of our stamps would bring forth facts that Washington was a keen art connoisseur. Those of such a tendency are usually partial to stamp collecting. We might conclude with a theory somewhat preposterous that Washington was a hobbyist of the collecting genus.

The stamps of Hawaii are being picked up by a few wary dealers. The uncertain condition of affairs in Hawaii at the present time causes its value as a philatelic country to rise considerably in the estimation of many collectors. It is noticeable that countries which received a great deal of newspaper comment are strictly "in it" philatelically speaking.

It is rumored that Mason, Merrill and Bruederly, a St. Paul Philatelic trio are contemplating the publication of a stamp journal of a pretentious proportions. An endless purse and an illimitable amount of pluck will make your stamp journal a success. Otherwise leave your intentions to be fulfilled by others who are supplied with the requisites.

While the majority of our patrons have been prompt in paying their advertising dues, yet some are delinquent. You know that we must pay the printer, and we advise that further delinquency be postponed indefinitely. We started out on a basis of cash, payable on receipt of marked copy. This of course was necessary, as patronage could be obtained in no other way as lack of confidence stood in the way. But now it is different. We think that we have clearly proven that we are worthy of any and all confidence. Therefore to guarantee our own welfare we must hereafter adhere to "cash with copy please."

A collection, consisting wholly of stamp forgeries has been started by an enterprising gentleman in England. This person solicits donations in behalf of his good intentions, for he promises to herald to the public any new discoveries in the forgery line. Already our English enthusiast has accumulated several hundred specimens. It is certain that as the collection assumes respectable proportions, that abundant opportunity will be offered our counterfeit collector for the compilation of a catalogue of forgeries. Although such a catalogue would at first be sorely incomplete, it would be a most commendable addition to the Philatelist's Library.

Newfoundland is in great debt and must resort to outside aid in order to get out of the hole. Her neighbor, Canada, comes to the rescue and presents the proposition of assuming the debt on certain conditions. Newfoundland will be allowed all the liberties of mail communication and Canada promises to supply all facilities necessary to mail accommodations. One of these facilities is the postage stamp. If this proposition is accepted by Newfoundland and it is altogether probable, under present circumstances, the stamps of Canada will be used in the former country. It is not likely that Canada would go to the apparently unnecessary trouble of supplying a separate series of stamps. This change will have a decided effect in the obsolete stamps of Newfoundland and will add to their desirability.

The change in "The Eastern Philatelist" is certainly for the better. There is a saying "To the victor belong the spoils." To Brother Pinkham's case however, we would apply "To the meritorious belong the spoils."

AN OFFER:—We will send twelve consecutive numbers, (to begin with No. 1 or current number as desired) of the PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER to any address for twenty-five cents, on the condition that the remitter sends also the names and addresses of at least five of his collector acquaintances.

1950 copies of the paper will be sent to 1950 collectors this month. During the summer season we will publish 2000 copies monthly. In the fall of the year this number will be increased to 3000. Therefore for the stated time of three months, our advertising rates will be 60 cents per inch regardless of space.

The latest publication received by us is the "Bay State Philatelist" published in Boston, Mass. It is very neat and for an initial number is most deserving. The benign countenance of Willard C. Van Derlip esq., graces the first page. Mr. Van Derlip is an able lawyer and is the most prominent of Boston philatelists.

Ho now! What have we here? A circular setting forth the grandiloquent intentions of Herbert C. Beardsley, of St. Joseph, Mo. In the course of his announcement, he presents the statements that on or about June 5th, (put the emphasis on the latter date) he will publish No. 1 of the International Philatelist, circulation only 20,000. Mr. Beardsley don't mention whether the 20,000 is designated as the number of copies circulated in 30 days or in one year, but we can conclude that he wants the public to think that the circulation of each issue is 20,000. If the paper proves to be as Mr. Beardsley promises, a treat indeed will be tendered us all. Mr. Beardsley published the Western Philatelist which saw life and death in years 1889 a.d. 1890.

The progress of philatelic press of late has been steady and upward.

Mekeel's weekly stamp news has been enlarged and bettered. The best philatelic writers in America contribute to this paper and as a natural consequence the contents are correspondingly good. In this respect at least we surpass England.

The Eastern Philatelist has also turned another leaf in the right direction. The number of new papers is very great, but they are of the right fibre and of a staying quality.

The Philatelic Reviews of Reviews is still on earth contrary to all opposing reports. The Ever-green State Philatelist has enlarged. The Rocky mountain stamp is getting better and better each day and other papers are showing qualities of an edifying character. Truly this part of philately, and it is an essential part, is thriving and progressing.

Philatelic Items.

The different varieties of the rural issue of Baden apparently alike with the exception of the numeral are indeed separate engravings.

The period after the "L" the first letter of the initials on some of the stamps of Shanghai was omitted through some oversight of the engravers.

In some cases super abundance of ink has caused the period and the letter to run together.

A correspondent whose ignorance indicates a youthful mind, recently submitted to us a two cent carmine with the statement that the paper of said stamp was of bluish texture. The stamp had been saturated in blue ink.

A variety of a three ore Norway was discovered a couple of years ago and chronicled in the Philatelic Journal of America. Now a correspondent writes to us that he has found another variety, differing both in shade and execution to those known to the public.

The genuine stamp of Heligoland is in great demand on the continent. Some of the reprints of these stamps so closely resemble the originals that the expert is often in a quandary as to identify them. The change of time adds to the difficulty in detection and therefore much care must be taken in buying these stamps.

De la Rue and Co. so wonderfully exact in their stamp productions yet woefully neglect the rules set down in the very rudiments of English composition. It will be found that these engravers, as well as other firms equally careless in managing details have shunned all ideas of punctuation.

The periods in some of the two cent envelope stamps of the 1854 issue U. S. seem to be lacking. Close scrutiny, however will reveal the fact that the periods, through some freak of the never to be trusted printing machine, have been covered up by the ink, eager in its endeavors to cover as much area as possible.

Mexico's latest issue of postal cards are very beautiful and artistic. On the right hand upper corner (or as the new philatelist a tribe closely related to that of the new woman would say, "in the northeast corner") is a cut of corresponding value of the adhesive. The inscriptions etc. are printed in two colors, red and green, those in red to be used for universal postal union service, the green for Service interior. This also applies to the wrappers which are quite artistic. The envelopes surpass however. The cut of the adhesive is used in: the upper right hand corner while the coat of arms in red graces the left hand corner. Such headings as "return in fine days" must be dispensed with when such envelopes are used.

Many of the one and two r stamps of Servia which are offered as genuine originals by many of our leading dealers, are in fact but poorly executed counterfeits.

The picture of Lincoln on the 15 cent U. S. stamp is an excellent likeness of the martyr in every particular excepting the mouth which is a most unsatisfactory deterioration of the sensitive and expressive mouth of the original.

The 4 cent stamps portrait is taken from Lincoln's best likeness.

The movement against speculative and unnecessary issues has been inaugurated. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of London, England have taken the initiative with a view to the suppression of such issues, while to this action, such leading firms as Messrs. Whitefield, King and company, Senf Brothers and Mon. J. B. Moens, acknowledge their adherence.

In our own country The Philatelic Journal of America, at least, has announced itself in favor of the movement as far as local issues, such as those emanating from the Chinese ports are concerned, but further than this refuses to agree to the policy set forth by the Stanley Gibbons firm, unless four or five of the leading firms unite on one certain policy. As the four leading firms of Europe have signified that they are satisfied with the formulary plan, our St. Louis brethren will no doubt join hands in pursuance and in compliance to their own statements.

The power to prevent the production of the illegitimate stamp in the future, lies not with one person as the complaint is not local, but involves the whole philatelic system. But to get at the roots of the trouble, the most powerful remedy must be used. This leading remedy rests with the larger firms who handle the greatest number of the pestilential emissions.

The Stanley Gibbons firm and others are fully aware of the fact that their business must suffer greatly if the pest is permitted to go on without restraint. They realize that the power to coerce and discourage illegitimate issues rests with them in part, who act as a sort of a port for such issues.

The progress of the illegitimate issue is plainly shown statistically. Of the 856 issues 466 are of evil import. These figures show how needful is prevention in this case. There is no way to compromise. The complete relegation of such stamps is necessary. Those who are mature in mind and sensible in perception realize that the movement is of great importance and significance. We know that this element will join their hands and hearts towards the prevention of the further upbuilding of an evil already powerful.

The idea of stopping the collection of Seebecks speculative stamps, etc., already before the public and within reach of all, is absolutely impossible. Our albums have spaces for such stamps. To leave

the pages allotted these stamps bare, is contrary to the desires of the majority of collectors and they *will* fill the blank spaces. The younger collector, who adds to his accumulation by means of packets etc., does not care to throw away the illegitimate stamp always to be found in the majority of packets, which are indeed the sewers of philatelic rubbish, and hence the idea of the anti-Seebeck society, although perfectly pure in purpose is but a drop in the bucket in preventing the illegitimate stamp from finding a place in philately.

How glorious are the possibilities of this patriotic movement. Well can we sing songs of triumph. Although the wound caused by the illegitimate stamp will never heal entirely, we can by this movement, make the wound less painful.

The columbian craze has no precedent in philatelic history. But the craze came and went like a fleecy cloud on a windy day in spring. Everyone collected columbians! Persons who had never collected before, collected now, merely however for the purpose of speculation. We have seen how the \$1.00 stamps was cornered and how they were excessively priced in the catalogue. Catalogued at \$8.00, single copies but four. This was last January. The sale of the remainders at Washington brought prices down, down even to face value. Those persons who had taken in a large stock of columbians cursed the reservoir at Washington. Others who were negligent now rejoiced. At the same time there is a class who seems to labor under the delusion that columbian will always remain a drug on the market. Some of them are already awakening from their lithargy. They find that dealers are willing to buy and hesitate to sell. They find that the reservoir at Washington is fast becoming dry. The dealers will yet reap a rich profit on their investments. With the reservoir no longer a reservoir but an empty tank, a change will occur.

The \$1.00 columbian is worth \$8.00 this minute. Dealers are offering as high as \$5.00 for single copies and willing to purchase any number at that figure.

Many persons who are biding their time will find that in the case of Columbians that time is not to be trifled with. We will find that unless we purchase our tickets at once the seats will be all taken and those who have already secured a seat will give it up only at an exorbitant figure.

The \$1.00 stamp is of course the most desirable, but the \$.200 stamp is a swift second. It is stated that a syndicate has purchased all the values up to and including the \$2.00 stamp that were on sale at Washington. So we see that a drouth is very apt to occur. The Columbians are gems, and well can we sing Oh, Columbian the gem of Philately.

The collection of plate-numbers, which was begun in England several years ago, was first ridiculed on our side of the Atlantic. Now it is pursued by quite a number of collectors in our country and ridicule has become silent. In the case of English

stamps, where the plate number appears on the face of every specimen, the collection of numbers is comparatively easy, but when we come to collecting plate numbers of U. S. stamps, where they appear on the marginal strip only which is generally detached before the stamps are sold to the public, we must encounter difficulties. Still there is something in it, and I venture to predict that ere long close students of U. S. stamps will as eagerly look for the plate numbers of our stamps as was ever done in England, and ridicule, though it may reawaken, will be conquered again. Plates have an individuality of their own, and when the study of stamps is carried into details and minor varieties, they, the plates can hardly be neglected. The more this study will be pursued, the clearer will the history of each issue be. Had the plates of the 1872 issue been so studied, the recent discoveries would in all probability have been old discoveries by this time, and what is more, we would be better able to locate the appearance of every variety as to time and succession more satisfactorily than now. The plate numbers of older issues are hardly obtainable, but a united effort might prove fruitful after all, and I would move that all who are interested in this line seek to get acquainted and to exchange notes. As to present issues, the united endeavors of four or five collectors in various parts of our country ought to result in complete series of all plate numbers, and a consequent pretty nearly complete history of the issue. With the knowledge of the plate number of any special variety research into the cause may be made with the printers, or the custodians of plates; whilst, without the plate number, it is asked rather much from the same persons to go over so many hundred plates, and find the reason for or the time of issue of a special minor variety.—L. G. Dorpat in Stamp News.

Sebek or Seebek.

In the museum of Egyptian antiquities at Boulak, there is a representation of Sebek the crocodile god, who was also known as Hapi, or the "Secret one." This god, Sebek, had the especial charge of the annual inundation of the Nile, and to him was attributed the crocodile form on account of that reptile's peculiar habit of depositing its eggs every year just at the limit to which the inundation would that year extend.

How singularly history repeats itself! Down through the vista of years, from the time when the Pharaohs reigned over a people worshipping, in their blind ignorance, a reptile god, we come to the enlightened nineteenth century and find a parallel in the curious worship which obtains amongst a sect or cult called Philatelists. This sect is not confined to one country, nation or language, but is found in every quarter of the habitable globe, and counts its votaries amongst the virile inhabitants, of cold climes, the effeminate races of the tropics, the black, white, yellow and red-skinned men and women of

all countries and all climes. These strange devotees have a peculiar deity, named Seebeck, who annually deposits the tokens of his fertility in certain countries, and receives therefor tribute from his worshippers. In one respect, however, the modern Seebeck differs from his earlier and more phonetically spelled prototype of the Egyptian river. He does not confine his annual deposit to the limit of inundation—it is absolutely without limit! It is this peculiarity and the consequent strain on the resources of his worshippers in providing the necessary tribute that is causing certain signs of rebellion in dissatisfied members of the cult. Possibly, ere long, this feeling will spread and affect all the members, when with a mighty effort, they will rise and throw off the chains of a worship so demoralizing and purse depleting in its tendency.—From the Australian Philatelist.

Mexican Stamps as a Specialty.

To that class of collectors who make a specialty of some one country, I would call their attention to the following paper, which I hope might be of some interest:

As the stamps of Mexico are very numerous and as they can be obtained at a very small outlay of the "necessary," it would be advisable to collect the stamps of that country.

Although the Mexican stamps were issued after the first appearance of those of the United States, they will exceed our stamps in number by one hundred, exclusive of revenues, envelopes, etc., but, in value the United States are by far, away head.

The issue of 1856 can be completed at a very small expense, the eight reales violet being the most expensive at \$4.00. The second issue, 1861, is a trifle more valuable as there are more stamps in this set, and the greater number of this series being catalogued at or above \$1.50 each. The set of 1864 consisting of four stamps, is the cheapest of all the issues, these being without the surcharge. But with the surcharge, they will cost you exactly \$155.00 by Scott's 55th. I think we all would rather have the unsurcharged stamps, as they will suit the size of our pocket-books a little better.

The stamps issued in 1867 for the state of Guadalupe are a very expensive set. But let us dwell more upon the stamps that we can afford to purchase for our collections. We will now pass to the issues of 1867. These stamps can be had by everyone as they are at a very nominal figure. They exist on four kinds of paper, namely—thick wove, thin wove, laid with close lines and laid with wide lines. We now come to the prettiest set issued in Mexico the 1879. It consists of eight stamps on thick wove and eight on laid paper, making sixteen different stamps for that issue.

The issue for 1882 has the same design with fifteen stamps on thin wove paper.

These two last mentioned issues are printed in colors, making a very pretty set when completed.

They are within the reach of all, as the highest is priced at \$3.00.

The issue of 1888 is the same as that of 1886, the only difference being that of pin-perforation. Also the 1891 issue, the difference in this being the watermarks, which consist of the words "CORREOS E. U. M.," watermarked in a sheet of ten stamps.

The new issue is of a very interesting and attractive design. The stamps having designs representing the different modes of transportation of mail in that country.

There are not as many envelopes issued in Mexico as in the United States, as the adhesives seem to be more popular in that country.

An album is published exclusively for the collection of Mexican stamps, and those who take this country as a specialty will find that he can make a collection from these stamps much easier and quicker than from those of any other country. Mexico has a very large and complete list of Revenues, of which I hope to give some information in the future to those who wish to collect these interesting and instructive stamps.

W. H. KESSLER, Jr.

Impressions of a Beginner.

BY H. MATHEW HIGDAY.

"What started you collecting? is a not infrequent question among collectors, and curious, indeed, are the incidents which cause many to take up "our hobby."

A book containing the early philatelic biographies of our prominent collectors, would, no doubt, command a large sale in philatelic circles.

Most collectors, however, began with a few continentals given them by some friend, or with the labels from their "uncle's" foreign correspondence.

Many answered some "stamp ad," intending to place the stamps in their curio cabinet alongside of their stone from Mt. Blanc and bamboo watch-chain, and were inspired to collecting on a larger scale.

We all remember the days when we gloried in our "for'n stamps" pasted down in the blank pages of a memoranda book, and then we would not have parted with a German pfennig for a dozen U. S. fifteens.

We remember how we used to wonder where that "Magyar Kir Pasta" stamps came from and study over the characters on our "7 cent Russian."

This reminds us of how we would in "September's mellow days, when the voice of the schoolmaster was heard in the land", take our collection to school and exhibit them to our envious mates.

We remember our first approval sheets and how we pulled weeds for a dime to buy that unused 25 cent stamp from Escuelas, and how we thought of the great bargain we had got in getting twenty-five cents for ten.

After all our philatelic childhood is about as pleasant compared with our after life as our actual childhood is, compared with our "grown up days"

"There's joy every where can you but find it."

My first foreign was a ten centime Swiss that I secured from a 'mail card' that W. Duke & Son put in their cigarette boxes.

Then I answered an "Mexican Stamps, free!" advertisement which brought me some very persuasive approval sheets and stamp papers.

I answered all the 'free to applicants for approval sheets' in my papers and soon was flooded with continentals; it was then that I conceived the scheme of increasing my collection by removing stamps I wanted from the sheets and substituting some of my duplicates, telling myself, the while, that they wouldn't see the difference. But from this fancied security I was rudely awakened.

Soon letters like this began to come.

Sir: We demand payment of \$2.15 the full value of stamps taken from our sheets and substituted by the worthless ones we return to you. If we do not receive the above remittance within 10 days we will put the case in the hands of a collector of bad debts and you will be punished to the full extent of the law.—Tiger Stamp Co.

In terror I opened my breast to my father, who invited me to the coal house where we held a very exciting interview, the memory of which was so keen that I could not persuade myself to sit down for several hours.

My father took charge of my philatelic correspondence and scowled at me every time I came near for a long time.

My stamps became mere bits of colored paper and lay untouched in my bureau drawer. Thus the first wave of philatelic enthusiasm came and went.

Historical Origin of the Postage Stamp.

In a pamphlet by Mr. Piron Sous,—director Des postes, published in Paris in 1838 and entitled "Du Service des Postes et de la Taxation des Lettres au moyen d'un Timbre" we find that the idea of post paid or stamped paper originated early in the reign of Louis XIV with M. De Velaye who in 1653 established a private penny post placing boxes at the corners of streets for the reception of letters wrapped up in envelopes, which were franked by bands or slips of paper tied around them with the inscription "Post paid the....day of....1653. These slips were sold for a sow tape and could be procured at the palace, at the turn tables at the convents and from the porters of colleges.

When Louis XIV used to quit his habitual residence, the personages of his suit were accustomed to procure these labels intended to be placed around the letters destined for Paris. M. de Velaye had also caused to be printed certain forms of billet or notes applicable to ordinary business among the inhabitants of great towns with blanks which were to be filled out in ink with what ever would suit the writers object. One of these billets filled up by Petisson and sent to Mademoiselle Scudery is still preserved in Paris, and is one of the oldest penny post

letters extant, and a curious example of a prepaying envelope. These primitive slips and forms were irregularly used and soon fell into disuse.

In 1758—however under Louis XV, one M. De Chamouset, a wealthy Parisian established a modest post for the Metropolis charging two sous for single letters under an ounce, which were prepaid by stamps similar to those now in use. The government perceiving the gains thus derived from the new enterprise took it from him compensating him by an annual pension of twenty thousand francs, but so meagre were the arrangements of the government that the stamps were seldom used and soon were entirely forgotten.

The next country to issue postal stamps was Spain, their issue having been authorized by a royal decree of the 7th, of December 1716 which stipulated that the secretaries of the Crown etc. will have the privilege of opposing on the letters addressed to other authorities, a seal impressed in ink, leaving the royal arms of Castile and Leon, which will pass them free. By the general regulations of the post, 8th of June 1794, notice was given that the stamp mentioned in the decree of 1716 should be used only for letters concerning public business. These official stamps remained in use until the beginning of the present century when their issue was entirely abandoned.

We have now to introduce to our readers a description of semi official stamped postal envelopes used in Sardinia, Italy from 1819, to 1836. On the 7th of November 1816, the emission of stamped postal paper was announced and the conditions on which it might be used. The paper was prepared under the immediate supervision of the Directeur de postes and could be procured at post offices and from vendors of tobacco, who received commission on their sales. There were three values 15, 25, and 50 centesimi each bearing the same device. An excellent article relating to these stamps can be found in recent numbers of Stanley Gibbon's Monthly. The covers were little used and were finally withdrawn.

The next attempt at issuing postage was made by one Treffenburg of Stockholm who proposed to the assembly of the Swedish Nobility to issue stamped paper to be made into envelopes for letters.

The proposition was warmly supported by Count de Schiverin on the ground that it would be both convenient to the public and to the Post Office, but the proposition was rejected by a large majority. We all know how Rowland Hill was instrumental in introducing the first legitimate stamps in England,—Extracts.

200 varieties of fine foreign stamps, price this month 75 cents. With every packet a U. S. stamp cat. a 50 cents is given away.

J. E. MAPLES,
424 Century Bld.

COLLECTORS!

Summer time is almost here, and before you lay away your album, INSERT your loose STAMPS WITH "ROULETTED HINGES."

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

Not? Well, it costs only 10c. to see them, and besides you have the privilege of using 1200. Send 10c. for 3 trial sheets and you'll be pleased with them. PRICES 10c. per 3 sheets (1200.) 25c. per 10 sheets (4000).

PHILATELIC PAPERS WANTED!

Send me your want, also duplicate lists. I Have a few to sell as follows: CURIO Christmas 1890, 5c. CURIO Vol. VIII. No. 2-3 or 7, 4c. each. Phil. Fortnightly Vol. I. No. 4, 4c.

GEO. E. CLEAVER,

1132 Perkenmen Ave.

P. S. of A. 434.

Reading, Pa.

SPECIAL BARGAINS.

U. S. STAMPS (Good Specimens.)	
1000 U. S. asst., including Columbians.....	\$0.22
100 " " " issues '51 to '69, embossed 1870, War. Interior. P. O. depts., Revs., 2c. brown, 1871, claret dues, etc.....	.25
500 of same mixture.....	1.00
100 different U. S. stamps (postage only and env., this packet catalogues over \$5.....	1.75
50 diff. U. S. stamps, including revenues.....	.20
40 " " incldg. depts. dues, etc.....	.25
100 8c. Cols.....	\$3.25
100 5c. 1890.....	.20
100 8c. Shermans.....	2.85
100 4c. 1894.....	.30
100 6c. 1890.....	2.50
100 5c. 1894.....	.30
100 4c. Cols.....	1.25
100 6c. 1894.....	3.00
100 4c. 1890.....	.20

BARGAINS IN PACKETS.

OUR LEADER, 1000 asst. Continentals, only.....	.20
100 var., incl. Mexico, Australia, etc.....	.08
150 " " good stamps.....	.20
200 " " " all over world.....	.40
500 " " " no cut cards or revenues.....	2.00
1000 var., the best and cheapest; no cut cards or revenues; this packet is same as other dealers advertise for \$8 and \$10; our price.....	6.75

Our stock of U. S. is almost complete. Selections sent on receipt of deposit or commercial references.
Price list of cheap sets and packets free.

F. N. MASSOTH & CO.,

838 MARQUETTE BLDG.,

CHICAGO, ILL.

THE SOUTHERN GEM.

200 VARIETIES.

1 MINOR VARIETY.

FOR 40C. ONLY.

200 nicely cleaned stamps from nearly every stamp issuing company on the Globe, including Cuba, Hayti, and Spain, North South and Central America, Australia and Africa, Europe & Asia, with 1 proper bound copy of minor varieties, for only 40c. 1-5 of a cent each for the stamp and the book for nothing. This Packet is best for the Pocket Book Collector, Album because it is cheap, guaranteed to please and all stamps are ready to go in the Album.

Send us your order and we will have a share of your future patronage secure, for it can't help but make friends.

THE DIXIE STAMP & NOVELTY CO:

Nashville, Tenn.

ADVERTISING
rates of
THE NEWSLETTER
for the next
THREE MONTHS
is

60 CENTS

per inch
regardless of
space.

AN OFFER!

We will send twelve consecutive numbers, (to begin with No. 1 or current number as desired) of the

Philatelic Newsletter

to any address for twenty-five cents, on the condition that the remitter sends also the names and addresses of at least five of his collector acquaintances.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

JULY, 1895.

No. 5.

On Philatelic Notoriety.

BY JOHN DEVEREAUX RIRKE.

To a non-philatelist, it must seem a very curious fact that philatelic notoriety can be so easily achieved. The term philatelic notoriety is not to be confused with philatelic fame or philatelic greatness. Neither of the latter are to be easily secured. Those who are philatelically great have fairly won their laurels by long years of service to the pursuit. The leader in the field of philatelic investigation and philatelic advancement have reached their present position only after a long novitiate. But there are many, who achieve a sort of transient notoriety, without seeming to have done anything sufficiently remarkable to justify the public attention which they receive.

There is no doubt that to ambitious young men who look on fame as the cultivation of human happiness, ease with which even the lowest grade of mediocrity can distinguish itself, if it fully understands the established methods of procedure, is one of the greatest attractions of the pursuit. To the embryo politician, the heated political campaigns annually indulged in by certain philatelic societies offer an unusually good opportunity, not only to achieve some degree of philatelic notoriety, but also to put into practice, to establish political methods of modern times. There are some who come into notoriety as office seekers, pure and simple, anxious to serve their fellow society members in some official position combining a maximum of glory with a minimum of labor and responsibility. There are at the present moment no small number of philatelic heroes whose sole claim to the plaudits of the philatelic public rests on the unstable and insufficient foundation that they have most actively interested themselves in the annual elections of their societies, in so far as seeing that they themselves were elected to the honorable positions to which they acquired was concerned. Such for example as—; but then, never mind: As Dogberry says: comparisons are odorous.

Society prominence is, indeed, one of the easiest means of securing philatelic notoriety. The organization of new societies for which Philately has no more use than a horse for a fifth leg is a favorite device with a talented young aspirant for fame. Fortunately for the good name of the pursuit, most of them die in infancy; but as long as they last they fill the one and only purpose for which they were intended, i. e., that of getting the name of the president, Secretary, Organizer frequently into print.

The way in which these one man societies

spring into being, is sufficiently familiar to most acute observers of matters, philatelic. Some ambitious youth, having become convinced that we are suffering from a dearth of philatelic societies, appoints himself as a committee on organizations, and proceeds to indite a wordy epistle, setting forth the multitudinous advantages accruing from membership in the proposed body. A copy of this screed is mailed to every stamp journal in the country. Most editors very sensibly pitch the communication into the waste basket, but a few, who are short of reading matter and likewise short of the needful cash which buys it, in quantities to suit, from professional pencil shovers, insert the notice in all the glory of its bad grammar and worse punctuation.

The organizer soon begins to hear from other aspiring youths who are willing to join the new body, and also to accept some one of the large and well assorted list of offices which are waiting to be filled. The organizer is induced to accept the office of President by "the unanimous request of himself" (As Bill Nye puts it) and some needy journal of the mushroom class having been appointed "official organ" (no cash, it is needless to say, changing hands on the transaction) the society is launched on the troubled seas where many similar crafts have found a watery grave. No need to picture its brief and fitful career. We all know what the end is: an ignominious exit from the field. Yet the officers gain considerable notoriety for the time being. They fairly revel in the opportunities which their offices give for making themselves conspicuous. The poor official organ groans under its burden; for well nigh every one of the officers sends in a column report which might as easily have been condensed into a paragraph. Poor egotistical notoriety seekers, how much valuable breath you squander for a little transient glory!

One of the most popular though a rather expensive method of securing philatelic notoriety is by the publication of a stamp journal. Dozens and dozens of journals have been born within the past few years simply because their editors and publishers were ambitious for philatelic distinction. They usually got what they were after; but good things come high, and it was only by sacrificing many of "the dollars of our daddies."

More than one philatelic editor gazing sadly upon the mangled remains of this journalistic venture has bitterly reflected that philatelic fame is but a hallow phantom, not really worth the price of admission. Yet the "boy editors" will go on to the end of time in their blind foolishness, paying for ph

latelic distinction double its market value.

How quickly a man does become known, though, when he takes to philatelic editing. Ere he has issued his third number, his fellow editors are referring to him as brother Blank, "friend Blank," and "Blank, the well known editor of the *Timbuc-too Philatelist*. He has made the subject of all kinds of good natural chaff by the other knights of the blue pencil, and his name gets into print so often in one way or another that he rushes up the heights of famed (philatelic) with what seems to him meteoric velocity. It is not infrequently the case that the fame of a philatelic editor goes up like a rocket, only to come down like a stick. We could easily recall a dozen pencil pushers, a year ago guiding the destinies of more or less influential collecting organs, who would search in vain in current philatelic literature for any proof that their very existence still hangs in philatelic memory.

A philatelic editor out of a job is a pitiable sight. I met such a one awhile since whose appearance will haunt me to the judgment day. He was one of those writers who always have some sort of an opinion to express on any topic which comes up for discussion, whether they have any knowledge of it or not; one of that class, in fact, which rushes in where angels fear to tread. He was a writer of the fearless and independent class, and loved to "roast" his fellow mortals with all the vigor of a rugged and caustic style, and a few trained by long experience, to utter bitter truths in a bitter way. But retribution had come at last. His paper had become forced to give up the ghost, and as he moodily thought of the spondulacs which had vanished in the course of his publishing experiences, he unnumbered the words of the Moor: "Othello's occupations gone." He was the possessor of a sufficiently large stock of notoriety to suffice for half a dozen ordinary men; but that fact did not seem to afford him much consolation. Notoriety even though he had an immense amount of it, added nothing to his assets; and he seemed to consider the seeking of notoriety a delusion and a snare.

Many of those who cannot raise cash enough to go into philatelic publishing, at least, think that they can, secure some small crumbs of fame by writing for the philatelic press. There are two ways in which notoriety as a philatelic writer can be secured. One is to contribute such remarkably meritorious articles to the press that philatelic reviewers will be compelled to acknowledge their transcendent merit and raise garlands of praise upon your modest head. The other is to write so execrably that every philatelic reviewer will in disgust criticise your effusions at length and thus compel the attention of the philatelic public. The latter method is obviously the easier of the two, and hence the more used by seekers after philatelic notoriety. Those whose writings are such eyesores to the average reader are many times but shrewd notoriety seekers, who have a method in their madness.

Of all the contemptuous ways of securing philat-

elic notoriety is that pursued by some petty scribblers, who occasionally get a contribution accepted in a minor stamp journal and who never fail to abuse the privilege. These scribblers seek to enhance their own feeble reputations by pulling down those of others who have gained a name by hard and conscientious work. Wholly lacking knowledge of the ethics of criticism they nevertheless take it upon themselves to criticise without mercy, the works of men as immeasurably their intellectual superiors as Shakespeare was the superior of Henry James Pye, or, to use an American example, Longfellow the superior of MacDonald Clarke.

It is a painful spectacle to witness the sweeping criticism on the subject matter and literary style of men who have had years of experience in philatelic authorship, written by nameless nonentities whose literary education is barely extensive enough to enable them to distinguish a sonnet from an epic. If the notoriety seekers must invade philatelic journalism let them eschew personalities; for the writer who descends to personalities invariably finds that they return home to roost with the persistency of a well trained boomerag.

The notoriety seeker is an inevitable evil in every occupation of life; but he seems to be unusually obtrusive in philatelic circles. Let him seek it in a less bombastic and injudicious manner or not at all. It is said that he who seeks for fame seldom finds it; but that those who are indifferent to the charms of a reputation are the ones whom the erratic Goddess of Fame chooses to honor with her favor. This is not strictly true; but there is at least one infallible method of securing fame and greatness. To slightly alter the wording of a time honored and familiar couplet: "Tis not in mortals to command success," but we'll do more, Sempronius we'll deserve it."

Some Imbonities of Philatelic Literature.

BY THE EDITOR.

A certain writer in a very shallow article, which required lots of printers ink, states that Philately is a very narrow subject. As far as that writer, in himself is concerned, he is perfectly truthful in his statements. Any subject, no matter how broad it may be, is narrow, exceedingly narrow, to the shallow brain. And we find that most of the writers who harp over the smallness of the number of philatelic subjects, are those who are endowed with inconsiderableness of mental ability. Some able writers try to belittle philately's scope for the purpose of adding value to their writings. If they can convert the the editor to the idea that articles on hitherto unborn subjects, are scarce and very valuable, they can demand good prices for their articles.

Philately, contrary to all adverse statements, is a broad subject, but it takes a broad mentor to traverse broad fields. He must be versatile. He must

be equipped with learning. He must be a student always.

Many persons liken philately to the philatelist as astronomy for instance is related to the astronomer. The great scope of astronomy may be realized by the astronomer, but the difficulty he finds in mastering the most insignificant primalities which come under the astronomical scope, causes him to realize that the subject is exceedingly narrow to him. We may realize that philately is a subject which is a very broad one, embracing a great amount of area, but in finding that we cannot strike out very far into philatelic space, we are very apt to consider and deal with philately as a narrow subject. The trouble is this,—we find that the subject is broad but too deep for us to comprehend and explain, and being vain we try to deceive the public by stating that philately is a narrow subject.

We have many persons who are mature in mind, who can master the many details of philately, but they, seeing that others find that it is so hard to explain some things, delude themselves and consider that the boundaries have been reached. As Mr. Quackenbush says, "Philatelic writers are undoubtedly hard up for subjects and this is the principal cause of that reiteration, which is the thief of space." This statement is true in great part, but who are our philatelic writers that must reiterate? Surely they are not of that class, who are learned and who are thinkers. As Mr. Quackenbush says later, many philatelic writers belong to the ignorant class of human beings. We have our good writers but they are greatly out-numbered by the illiterate class. If the philatelic literature should be examined and marked according to merit by some rhetorician, we are very much afraid that our examiner would give our literature a very poor mark. We would no doubt learn that we are wrong in our phraseology, in the choice of words, in smoothness, cleanliness, force, argumentation and in the exposition throughout. Most writers will be found lacking in many of the requisites of rhetorical perfection.

Facility of thought can sometimes perhaps be "coupled" with illiteracy, but what value is the thought without the power to express that thought.

But usually with illiteracy comes dullness of thought and the conclusion is that if the literature shows signs of illiteracy, a reform is needed at once. We have seen how some writers have been honored with favorable criticism and praise, who do not deserve it. And we find that many of our so called scientific writers come under that category.

A great number of articles of scientific import are written by persons who are not especially endowed with great mental ability, but who have the material to work upon. They are afforded opportunities and they, favored by circumstances, are tendered an abnormal amount of praise, not because of the construction of the article but because of the enlightenment which the article brings.

The scientific article shows that a great deal of research has been made by the author or rather com-

piler, and that may be all. We find much praise is bestowed upon persons who know little or nothing about journalistic and literary methods, but they rush into philatelic prominence without any trouble and receive great praise for their mere compilations with which opportune circumstances have favored them. If some of our literary meteors such as Quackenbush, and Chas. Esterly Severn who delve principally in abstract material should be afforded the opportunities with which some of our honored and learned (?) European brethren are supplied and equipped, there would be that happy and scarce combination of delightful rhetorical culture and the practical and preceptorial results of the opportunities which open the way for research.

One of the most wretchedly written articles that the writer has ever read, was a highly praised and much quoted discourse upon the stamps of Turkey.

The brain of the man who wrote the article must have been saturated with alcoholic liquid, so rhapsodic read the article. But the article was not praised on account of its rhetorical construction but on account of certain points which were heretofore hidden from the public.

The man deserved some of the praise without doubt but he merited a corresponding amount of deprecation and unfavorable criticism on account of the glaring imperfections of his work. If the article had been written by a person acquainted with literary methods, that happy combination of which we have spoken, would be present and then it would be an article of true merit.—*in toto*.

We have such articles but they are few, oh so few in number.

As for philatelic subjects they are in plenty, especially those of the abstract kind but some of these abstract articles are getting to be altogether too abstract and they meet with altogether too much approval. Why if the pace is held we will be reading discourses on the Saloon and philately, the mental equilibrium of philatelists, philatelic concentration, music and philately. A sarcastic example will no doubt be of interest. Let us taken music and philately. Quoted in imaginary excerpts from the "Know it all" philatelist.

—"It would take a fertile mind to master some of the intricacies of our subject, music and philately, but we shall try to enlighten our dear reader upon the subject as much as our poor brain will permit. You may say that music and philately has no affiliation for each other but the search-light of reason will no doubt show in the near future that music is quite closely related to the science of philately but how closely we do not choose to show, not however that we can not point out the relation must minutely and lucidly. I will first prove that music has a certain dependence on philately."

"Music and art are extremely conscious of each other which has been affirmed and proven."

"Art is closely related to philately for without art the postage stamp might as well be *nil* as far as

philately is concerned. For 'if art was not co operated with philately we would esteem postal labels no more than we would post marks.'

"If art and philately are conscious of each other and as art and music are closely related we might make use of the geometrical conclusion that things equal to the same thing are equal to each other—but as this axiom would hardly cover or apply to this relation in such a manner as to prove to my readers the relation between music and philately, although I myself can see the relation very plainly, we must prove the relation in some other manner. We speak of the harmony of colors. We also speak of harmony in music, Art being related to philately therefore there must be harmony in Philately. Any one can see this with half an eye."

"Finally we see that philately and music are indeed related to each other. We may state without taking statistical basis for our statement, that philatelists, as a rule have an ear for music. You may say "I don't care for music, I know nothing about it, and yet I am a philatelist." Notwithstanding your own ideas about the matter, you may still have a penchant for music, and should proper and favorable circumstances be offered to you, you would learn that you have an ear for music. Cases might be cited where the philatelist takes an interest in music the same time that he becomes enamored with the science of philately, showing that they are dependent upon one and another. And so we might go on and show that philately and music are dependent on each other and in some senses are synonymous."

The above is an example of what we must expect if we permit the abstract philatelic subject to become much more abstract.

Whether we will ever be so fortunate as to link some of the sciences and arts with philately in a strictly logical sense remains to be seen, but we are afraid that to be logical is not to be abstract. We are certainly suffering plenty of nonsense in our philatelic journals but not to be harsh, we might say that even fussy nonsense which most will naturally deem impracticable to the purpose of philately, is at least amusing, perhaps interesting and finally instructive. But some of the stuff which philatelic editors try to palm off on the public as legitimate literary food, is as nonsensical as the article on music and philately. But perhaps after all some of the absurd articles which we attribute to the future are no more absurd than some of the articles which we read at the present time. It may be true that the philatelist may belong to a certain distinct genus of people. It may be that all persons can not be philatelists and it may be that the philatelist may have some distinguishing bumps on his *ossa caputis* but we will let these things rest until the people of some advanced era can take up such questions and problems and solve them.

Subscription to Philatelic Newsletter 25c per year.

Philatelic Journalism in Minnesota.

ERNEST, R. Aldrich.

Part IV. 1893 5.

All hail to thee, journals bright and grand
Going forth from our own North Star Land,
Upward and onward thy aim shall be,
Aiding the march of Philately.

In December 1893, the initial number of the last Minnesota Philatelist was issued. It was standard size, eight pages and cover, and ranked fairly high as to the quality of its contents. The Minnesota Philatelic Co. with headquarters at 21 S. 7th St. Minneapolis, was responsible for its appearance. Under this firm name was, I am informed hidden the identity of J. A. Bruederly Jr, who was a practical printer and not, to any great extent at least, a philatelist. The first four numbers were issued under the editorial management of Harry S. Swensen, but this gentleman had no control or interest in the magazine other than superintending the literary department and drawing his salary. Ere the fifth number, (which was a combined April and May number) he severed his connection with the publication and the publisher himself acted as editor of this last number.

Among its contributors besides the editors, but one name was added to the list of Minnesota writers, that of E. T. Bemis of Duluth. This gentleman also is responsible for the only announced, and unpublished paper from the Gopher State, having in the latter part of 1893 promised the publication of the Zenith City Philatelist. Whatever arrangements he may have made for the venture, he transferred with the title and good will to West Superior parties early in 1894, who in turn seem to have given up the venture.

The magazine also published several articles from the pen of Alson Brubaker of Fargo, then president of the National Amateur Press Association, and it is to be regretted that since then he has ceased to write on subjects philatelic. for in the list of amateurs no readier or more graceful writer can be found.

In October 1894, Chas. G. Hart of Pipestone, Minn, sent forth the first of two numbers which constitute the first series of the Pipestone Philatelist. It consisted of eight pages and cover size four and a half and three inches. The December number, (which as it appears as Vol. I. No. I. must be described as series two) was enlarged to standard size and was a four page paper. With the March number a further enlargement to eight pages was made and a cover added. It also poses as official organ of the Minnesota Philatelic Society. The journal is I believe printed at the office of the Pipestone Star and is typographically the peer of all the smaller papers. With the energetic Hart at the helm may the "Pipestone" enjoy as it deserves long and merited success.

About the same time as the first appearance of the Pipestone, Carl Suderman, 610 Byron St. Mankato, Minn. commenced the publication of the Mankato

Philatelist. Its size is about the same as that of the small size Pipestone Philatelist and although it has appeared regularly, yet each number is dated Vol. I, No. I, which causes annoyance in filing. Mr. Suderman is an invalid and issues the publication more for amusement than profit yet he sends out quite a creditable little paper and one which really merits support.

Last on the list of Minnesota's publications comes its last and best.—The Newsletter published by Harry S. Swensen of 1605 Stevens Ave. Minneapolis. Each number consists of twelve pages and cover ten and half by eighth inches.

Never in the Northwest has a journal of such high merit been published and its peer can not be found and its equals are few.

Its publication is the outgrowth of a plan originated with its publisher and Geo. W. Achard, but the latter obtaining an interest in the collector dropped the "scheme" and Swensen pushed the Newsletter alone. It is printed on the press of the Century Publishing Co. one of the leading printing houses of Minneapolis. That its editorial page is one of its strongest features goes without saying when we recollect Swensen's ability to indite them and since number three he has had the aid of the first lady philatelic editress and as there has been no deminuation in the quality of the page we can only hope that other papers will "go and do likewise."

The Collector, after passing through many vicissitudes; is now published by a stock company of which G. W. Achard is a prominent member, but although much of the copy is supplied from his office, the paper appears from New Chester Pa. and can not be called a Minnesota Journal.

The state has from time to time supplied contributors to out-side papers, the most prominent being Chas. J. Tyren, whose notes under Lom-de-plume of Little Puck has been one of the most enjoyable departments in the American Philatelic Magazine.

About David Benjamin.

Mr. David Benjamin of Shanghai has been suspected by many persons as being the cause of the existence of many of the stamps known as "Chinese Locals."

On the ground of mere surmise some persons have even dared to charge Mr. Benjamin with the philatelic "Crime" of causing the production of some of the Chinese locals.

Mr. Benjamin is the purchasing agent for several stamp dealers and acts as a broker.

From the very fact that Mr. Benjamin is apparently afforded splendid opportunities for causing the prolific production of these "locals," thereby profiting greatly, many persons judge that he has made use of the opportunities. But advices come from good source that Mr. Benjamin is acting in good faith; that he is buying the stamps at face value; that he has nothing to do with their production and that he no longer handles stamps of a questionable character.

Philatelists Not Church Goers!

Mr. Irving E. Patterson a young writer of promise rather startlingly broaches a new subject under the caption of "Philately and the Church." We wish to say that we have often been cautious against entering into debates and discussions bordering or entering upon religious and political topics. Nor do we intend to ignore entirely this advice but merely desire to pass our own sweet opinion on certain statements that Mr. Patterson makes.

Mr. Patterson propounds that the philatelist as a rule is not a church going person. He bases his statement on the foundation that four or five of his philatelic acquaintances do not attend the church, and presents as a theory that if four or five persons are not church goers, so must all be of the same. Mr. Patterson declares that philatelists with few exceptions are Sabbath breakers who make Saturdays out of their Sundays. We do not believe that Mr. Patterson's collector friends were influenced from their church because of their stamp albums. We are thankful that we can disbelieve that philately's is influenced in the manner expatiated upon by Mr. Patterson.

The statement that much of the collector's Sunday hours are spent upon his stamp album is true in some cases, but we opine that the influence of the stamp album is not so far reaching as our esteemed friend would have us believe.

The A. P. A. Secretaryship.

Mr. Kissinger's candidacy for the office of secretary of the American Philatelic Association is being looked upon by many persons as a transcendent assumption. Be it assumption, audacity or otherwise, Mr. Kissinger's adaptability for the office remains unquestioned and his actions are warranted.

With the advent of Mr. Kissinger into the exalted chair of secretaryship, comes the vigorous army of youths, who are in philatelic society matters, Mr. Kissinger's wards and allies.

There also comes with this advent, power and strength to the weak and debilitated society of our elders.

The A. P. A. has a strong constitution but it is badly shattered. All it needs now is a stimulant like Mr. Kissinger and a nourishing food like his army of eager young backers who follow where their leader bids.

About Back Numbers.

Through the carelessness of those who had charge of the mailing of number four but ten copies were retained, therefore it will be impossible for us to supply copies of that number at any reasonable price until we succeed in purchasing some of the numbers which were sent out.

Copies of numbers one and two can be obtained for ten cents each. We have but a few copies of number three, which we will sell for twenty-five cents each.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

HARRY S. SWENSEN, Editor.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

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Editorial.

THE COMMEMORATIVE
STAMP.

The movement against Speculative Stamps and other reprehensible philatelic rubbish is assuming a new form and is acting or at least is being considered as a lever towards ostracising the commemorative or celebrative stamp.

Mr. Edward B. Evans thinks that all commemorative stamps should be blacklisted and that the Columbian issue of United States should head the list. He declares that "Columbians" are most censurable in that they were issued principally through mercenary motives, and he thinks that their guiltiness is aggravated by the fact that they are so beautifully executed.

It is true that Mr. Evans speaks wisely when he declares that some of the commemorative stamps are worthy of the blacklist, but we consider his statements somewhat sweeping when he includes our "Columbian issue."

A certain sense of pain is realized by us when we learn that our country is charged with the grave offense of issuing a series of stamps wholly corrupt and incompatible to the right spirit which should pervade philatelic atmosphere.

Is it possible that the persons who govern and rule the affairs of our nation and who are supposed to be solicitous for its welfare have so far deviated from the right path as to yield to the inclinations to fill the coffers of the National Treasury at the expense of the philatelist?

Has our Treasury become so emaciated and are our sources of public revenue so limited that we must resort to postage stamps in order to help us out? If the United States is so eager to make money out of its postal system, why don't she adopt the method used by England and other countries who reap a rich and legitimate revenue every year through their postal wares. United States loses money on its stamps and if she was so desirous of making money by that means she would copy after England and would ignore, as she does now, the philatelist as a means of revenue altogether.

Mr. Evans says that nothing could have been less necessary from every point of view than the Columbian issue and few less suitable methods of celebrating the occasion in question could possibly have been invented. And so we Americans have be-

come so dwarfed in mind as to take one of the most unsuitable methods of celebrating the day marking the date of the discovery of a country, so animate, so patriotic. We might say that the Columbian issue is a luxury and unnecessary. So is the Fourth of July as a national holiday unnecessary. We think that the Columbian stamp is wholesome and digestible philatelic food and consider it untainted.

Some persons have considered that the Columbian issue is a mere speculative issue asking rather sarcastically what the higher values were used for. As a matter of fact they were put to practical use and the government foresaw the necessity of their existence. If the Columbian issue deserves to be blacklisted on account of its high values, the current issue must necessarily come under the same heading.

Our Columbian is alright even if it is a mere commemorative stamp. There is however not the least danger that Columbians will ever become martyrs. Too many people consider them collectable.

We have received some deprecation because we made a double number of number four.

Some have no doubt considered this is a sign of decay and that the Newsletter is in financial trouble. A little explanation on our part will remove such a doubt.

In the earlier part of the month of May our health became sorely undermined and our physician recommended a change which meant, of course, the breezy and invigorating air of the country. Having no one to whom we could trust the Newsletter, we necessarily adopted the capital remedy of making a double number. It was kill or cure and we were forced through necessity to adopt the plan we did. Subscribers will not lose one cent by the action for they will receive the same number of issues for which they have contracted—that is twelve numbers.

When we started the Newsletter we did so after mature consideration and realized that the main obstacle to the successful outcome of the venture would be prolonged ill health. We realized still further that the Newsletter would not pay expenses at least for the first six months and possibly for the first year or two. Our experience in the newspaper line told us what we should expect. The Newsletter has not proven to be a paying venture up to the present day, but what journalistic venture has at the outset? When the professional newspaper man starts a daily or weekly newspaper under ordinary circumstances he does so with the settled understanding that no money is to be realized for some time, possibly years. He expects to lose money, and in the same thought we should include the Philatelic "would be" publisher. The reason we have so many short lived stamp publishers is mainly because the publishers and backers think that money is to be coined at the very out set. Finding that their theories are sadly spoiled by ruthless experience, they give up discouraged and disheartened sometimes on the very verge of success.

No matter if the publication is one of great

merit, its success is not to be expected in one bound. Success of the boom-like kind is always deceptive and shortlived. The true and unadulterated success mostly come by infinitesimal degrees, step by step. The idea of our publisher is to place the Newsletter on the very top notch of the philatelic ladder. We don't expect to get there without any exertion, but we do expect to get there. We have confidence in ourselves, and now what we want is the confidence of the public.

Many persons have informed us that the Newsletter merits the support of the public. This was when we charged fifty cents for a years subscription. Now that we have reduced our price from fifty cents to twenty five, we feel that if we merited support, and patronage before, we merit them all the more now.

Send in your 25 cent pieces, or money orders for that amount and swell our list of subscribers to 3,000 by January 1st 1896, thereby making the Newsletter the grandest philatelic publication that has ever existed.

We have reduced our advertising rates from \$1.00 per inch to 60 cents per inch regardless of space under 100 inches. We guarantee a circulation of 2,000.

One stamp paper says that the Seebeck is a postage stamp. Another of the press declares most emphatically that the Seebeck is not a Seebeck. Both of the papers fail to uphold their statements by proofs but make them as if their mere word was sufficiently ponderous as to remove all doubts.

As a matter of fact the Seebeck is not a postage stamp because it cannot be used as a postal commodity. The stamps manufactured by Mr. Seebeck and placed on sale at the different offices in the different states are postage stamps because they are used for postal purposes, therefore being purely legitimate.

One of the principal troubles of the question is a phase that has not been touched upon before. We may have a stamp that may be a Nicaraguan remainder or Seebeck or it may be a genuine unused Nicaraguan that has been purchased at the Nicaragua postoffice at face value. If we merely have the stamp and no other proofs as to its identity, all we know that it is either a Seebeck or a legitimate stamp, we don't know which. That the legitimate postage stamp must suffer in consequence of its exact similarity to stamps which are not legitimate postage stamps seems and is unjust.

You may say that the stamps of the Seebeckized countries that have been purchased at the regular postoffices and paid for according to their postal valuation, are no more valuable and no better than the genuine Seebeck after a certain time. Yet there is that fact which cannot be eradicated that the postage stamps of Seebeckized countries are labels which could be used for postage at one time, while the Seebeck could never have been used for postage. It is like sand from the same sand bank. One shovel full of sand may be used for one purpose.

Another shovel full exactly the counterpart of the first shovel full may be used for another purpose.

For a certain length of time the unused postage stamps of the Seebeck countries are legitimate postage stamps but after that time they become obsolete they become remainders and they become Seebecks. There being no way to mete out justice where it belongs and no way to obviate the injustice, we are forced class the legitimate with illegitimate and call "good" stamps of the countries named, also Seebecks, excepting genuine used specimens on the original envelope.

Some of our literature is not worth reading. Throw such literature away. Again there is literature which is valuable and worth preserving. Some of this literature comes in book form bound in stout durable covers. It is always easy to preserve literature which is bound, but literature which comes in pamphlet and magazine form is very likely to get lost and sometime in the future its loss is perhaps going to inconvenience us in some way. What we must do to preserve our files of literature is to have each volume bound. The true philatelist has all his philatelic literature bound. He places his philatelic volumes in a book case, and lines his walls with shelves upon which are numerous books relating to the pursuit. Of all things preserve your philatelic literature, if it is worth preserving.

The apparent animosity that certain dealers hold for certain issues of speculative and unnecessary stamps, and the society known as the S. S. S. S. being considered as blinds and aids to the intentions of these dealers in regard to certain other philatelic rubbish such as the profitable Seebeck et. al. Whether the object of the apparently patriotic society is pure is being questioned. We think that the promulgators, the dealers of this society, realize the importance of ultimately killing philatelic rubbish, but that having a large stock of a certain line of the filthy stuff on hand, they wish to bide their time until they have made good disposal of it, considering measures adopted as most satisfactory.

Like the Mekeel Company they should come out openly, stating as that firm has done that all stock on hand will be kept on sale until exhausted, at which time no further attention will be paid to the stamps in question.

A new series of surcharged stamps is about to be issued in Mozambique to celebrate the opening of the railway from Delagoa Bay to Pretoria. If these stamps are issued, don't touch them.

Persons under twenty-one years of age are ineligible to membership to that apparently worthy society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

An advertisement of a stamp dealer reads, "Plenty of scarce stamps for sale." Not until now did we know that scarce stamps are plentiful.

One of the principal reasons why the speculative stamp has found such a ready sale is because of the enticing beauty of the stamps. Now if countries that issue labels of fine intent should see that their stamps were as beautifully executed and as artistically colored as the speculative, is it not possible that the collector of the speculative would take less fancy to them, finding them no more beautiful than the stamps of any other country? We think that if it was possible for all countries to make use of our suggestion, the collector would pay more heed to the wise dictates of our philatelic preceptors and advisors.

Mr. Alson Brubaker, we are told is "picking away on the light guitar" of Cupid and judging by the multiplicity of sentimental strains of love's music which are wafted on Fargo Atmosphere, we are pleased to believe that our friend Alson is as Samantha says "about ter git marrit."

Another bold venturer in the matrimonial line is said to be that genial good soul William H. Barnes of our own city. Were it not for the fact that a tandem costs more than a bicycle ye editor would perhaps dare to anticipate cupid's darts.

A. Hollander, while traveling on the upper Congo in Africa, wormed himself in to the good graces of an Arab king who has independent control of a certain tract of territory, and who rules a fierce races of natives.

The Hollander, it seems, has purchased the right to manufacture postage labels of (not for) the African kingdom. Our scheming Dutchman has the necessary particulars for producing the stamps, and is willing to sell his concession for about \$500 00. This ingenious scheme however is not likely to bear fruit.

We have received the April number of the L'Arnonce Timbrologique a large and interesting journal published at Leige, Belgium. Mr. Armand Dethier, the editor, contributes some very edifying paragraphs to this number. Mr. Ed Mahy contributes a highly interesting copyrighted article on the stamps of Heligoland. Our Belgium contemporary is a most welcome visitor, and we trust that Mr. Dethier will exchange copies with us.

Mr. Jos. R. Bruederly publisher of the extinct "Minnesota Philatelist" has been tendered the position of editor of a weekly paper hailing from Elkton Minn. Mr. Bruederly will conduct a stamp department in his paper and will be pleased to send sample copies to those who are desirous of receiving them.

Iceland is about as clean a country philatelically as any other on the globe.

The varieties of the stamps of that country number very few and such a thing as the study of philately has not as yet been realized by the inhabitants.

According to the statements of a certain writer, the number of philatelic papers that have been published is 15,000. Of this number one-half is published in the English language, one fourth in German, one-eighth in French, and the remaining eighth in Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Swedish, Romanian and Greek.

Those notable philatelists, Mr. Charles Beamish of Philadelphia and Mr. C. W. Kissinger of Reading Pa. will soon start on an extended tour visiting the principal cities of the country. They will reach Minneapolis about October 3rd. All local collectors should turn out to meet them and entertain them when in our city.

To always think of the consequences before you speak is always wise, but who would think that the feelings of any person would be wounded because the stamps of that person's native land are frowned upon. But such seems to be the case, and we are more confirmed than ever that philately has a most potent influence on the affairs of this life.

The Boston Stamp Book is the best new magazine that we have seen for many a day. Being in pamphlet form, it is unique and convenient. The contents of number two is made up of a liberal allowance of able editorials, articles of real value, hints, notes etc. of importance all of which is worthy of preserving.

The Weekly Philatelic Era has so adjusted affairs that it keeps pace with time, and it now makes its appearance promptly. The Era is always interesting and Mr. Jewett should be gold medaled for championing the interests of philately so fearlessly and so ably.

We would like to see Mr. Jos. B. Burleigh of Govanstown Md. elected to the office of Exchange superintendent of the P. S. of A.

Mr. Burleigh is a well known stamp dealer and is most fittingly capacitated for the office designated.

The stamp dealer is greatly responsible for the issuance of commemorative and speculative stamps while the postage stamp album publisher should be held responsible for their collection, and the collector himself must shoulder both responsibilities.

A fire broke out in the Samoan post office, destroying almost all of the stamps, stamps of the shilling value being the only ones saved. These are being cut up in sizes to meet the purpose of the lower values.

The comprehensive check-list of Philatelic literature" is a useful book, which while indispensable to the collector of Philatelic literature, is interesting and instructive to all Philatelists and stamp collectors.

A Philatelic Catastrophe.

The destruction of the office and stock of the Dixie Stamp and Publishing Company.

Now my dear and devoted reader, don't be in a hurry, for I intend to deal in details and get as much for this article, in a pecuniary sense as possible, not pocketing cash and saying, "I do not write for money, but accept it as a just, but partial remuneration for time wasted" like some of our authors are doing to-day.

Scene, a busy little stamp office, in Waverly Place, Nashville, Tennessee, a beautiful little suburb on the Franklyn Turnpike, some distance from Nashville, proper, but having no Post Office of its own; Actors, Harold Brown, Myself and our clerk, Joe Beaumont by name, by relation a brother; occupation, filling orders that had been received the day previous and several left over from the day before.

"Hand me that box, with those packets, Joe" said I as I carefully finished directing a lot of envelopes, and taking the box, I was soon busily engaged in enclosing stamps in the envelopes, my pard, Harold, writing letters to go in each one on a new typewriter we had purchased about two weeks ago, getting it remarkably cheap, it is true, but it was a splendid machine, meeting our requirements exactly.

"Work, work, work, from morn to eve" was our motto for the time being, and we accomplished wonders, for we soon made an impression on the pile of orders, encouraging in one sense, discouraging in another, as they stared at us in blue, black, and red ink, respectively, while one in blue pencil looked amazement at us from under a heap of his fellows.

Our office was a frame structure, expressly erected by myself in the early fall, for the stamp business; situated on the top of a hill, surrounded by forest trees, some sixty, eighty and one 92 feet high completely shading it from the noonday glare, making it the most desirable lounging place in Waverly, and accordingly it was well patronized by all the young men and boys of our place.

As weather had been in evidence for about four weeks and sheltered as our office was, it was as dry as timber, needing only a slight flame to carry it away in smoke and blaze; though I had never thought of it before, and I do not know what first impelled me to do so, I was wondering what we would do if the tireless fiend, fire, should take hold, and I felt premonitions of evil, slight it may be, but strong enough to compel me to leave my work and place a water-barrel at the front corner, right side of our place, illustrating a favorite pastime of our boy-hood days immediately after, if not sooner, by enlisting the help of several boys reclining under the trees and we soon had the barrell full, standing opposite its relative in the same condition that stood on the left side, thus giving us something to fight fire with, though it would be worthless unless we could use it before the fire got good headway.

"Come on Henry and get down to work; what is the use of doing all that any how?" was the grace-

less complaint I received from Harold for my orders. "I believe you are trying to shirk, really and truly, for how is this going to catch on fire? Spontaneous combustion, eh! not much, come here and take a hand, "and" I forthwith did so, not before, however, I had dashed a bucket of water on the roof, for our palatial office was only 18 feet high at the utmost.

All this took time as you well know, and after an hour and half's hard work, for stamp dealing can be called hard work, though ironically, if at all, it was very near time for quitting shop for the six o'clock whistles were just blowing.

Joe put the office to rights, by a few skillful touches here and there, and in a few minutes, we took up a large basket and pushed all the parcels, letters etc., into it, setting it on the counter; It was to be sent to the post office early next morning, for it was our invariable rule to put up all orders day of receipt, if possible, and then to mail them on the morning of the following day, and it was one thing a rule, whatever you may call it, for I feel very much like insulting it by calling it the aforesaid thing, that we "lost out" for we had nearly fifty-five or sixty communications, destroyed on that night, at the same time losing everything else, for on the morning of June the fourth, the year of Our Lord, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, there wasn't enough ashes left to fill a three bushel barrel, of our entire office, but I am "putting the cart before the horse" as the saying goes, by letting you know about the fire before it occurred.

After closing the blinds to our single window, I ordered the others out and locked the door and after a short discussion about, "Philatelic Copy rights, Gumpaps, Seebecks or whatever may have come up at the time, for the words that passed were too important to remember, I broke up the heated triangular debate by escorting Mr. Harold Brown Esq. to our board or table, so to speak for supper.

After Harold had left us, we retired (for Joe is quite as good a companion, and I always say we, for he has promised to do the same, it being a case of David and Jonathan.) never thinking for an instant, what we would awake to behold.

About eleven o'clock that night I was awakened by the strong arm of my father shaking me roughly, and after a glance at the glare through the window, I hastily put my clothes on for I was a member of the "Amateur Fire Fighters," a band of men associated together for the purpose of defending homes and hearths from devastation, as we lived too far from the city to have any assistance from the engines therein.

Mind you, however I had no idea that it was my office on fire, as it proved to be, and couldn't realize it after I arrived at the scene, for I was completely dazed.

The crowd had tried to form a bucket brigade, but it was useless and in an hour everything was overwith, hopes and all.

We at first suspected that someone set it afire, but having no proof we had to let it drop; Our loss was about \$2,000.00 with no insurance, of course leaving us as poor as the proverbial "church mouse."

The Stamps of Greece.

BY JOSEPH S. DAVIS.

Perhaps the postal issues of no other country are so little understood by collectors, both amateur and advanced, as those coming from classical Greece. The stamps of the issues of this country abound in the most perplexing varieties in the way of printing and combinations of colors, that can be conceived by even our most studious devotees.

The fact is, few collectors ever undertake completing the stamps of Greece for the reason that if they make very much of a start, their progress becomes checked with many varieties and errors, which are not provided for in our catalogues, and without the data, their fascination is lost, and their collection amounts to but an accumulation. In presenting this article, the author lays no claim to entire originality, nor to completeness in varieties and errors &c. but has combined all available information from all efficacious sources and at this writing, is aware of no other article more fully embracing those qualities.

We have only taken up the regular postal issues, those being the most perplexing, and we trust that we may throw some light on these little understood stamps, and give encouragement to their collection.

August 24th, 1860, printed at Paris, on tinted paper, very fine and clear impressions, and without figures on the back. Unperforated.

- 1 Lepton, chestnut-brown, on creamish.
- 2 Lepta, bistre, on dark creamish.
- 5 " green, on greenish.
- 10 " orange, on bluish,
- 20 " blue, on "
- 40 " violet, on "
- 80 " rose, on pinkish.

1861, printed at Athens, very clear impression, the only issue, (save one) printed in Athens, that we can call good. Unperforated.

- 1 Lepton, maroon, on creamish.
- 2 Lepta, Bistre, on creamish.
- 20 " pale blue, on bluish.

The last stamp has the figure "20" on the back.

1862, printed at Athens, very poor and coarse impressions. Figures on back (except 1 and 2 L.) corresponding with face values. On tinted paper and unperforated.

- 1 Lepton, chocolate, on creamish.
- 2 Lepta, bistre, on dark creamish.
- 5 " green, on greenish, closed 5 on back.
- 10 " orange, on bluish.
- 20 " blue, on "
- 40 " violet, on "
- 80 " rose, on rose.

Errors in figures on the back of this issue.

- 10 Lepton, orange. ".01"
- 20 " blue, ".80"
- 20 " " ".0"
- 80 " rose "8"

1864, same poor print and otherwise as the last issue

- 1 Lepton, purple brown, on creamish.

2 Lepta, pale ochre, on creamish.
5 Lepta, green on greenish, open 5 on block.

- 10 " orange red on grayish blue.
- 10 " orange yellow on greenish.
- 20 " blue on grayish blue.
- 40 " wine color on greenish.
- 40 " gray on bluish.

Errors in figures on the back of this issue.

- 10 Lepta, orange red ".01"
- 10 " orange yellow ".0"

1868, same type and poor print.

- 40 Lepta, violet on blue.

1870, Printed at Athens. Of the same type as 1860, and nearly its equal in print.

- 1 Lepton, red brown on creamish.
- 20 Lepta, blue on greenish.
- 20 " very dark blue on pale blue.

Error in figure on back of list, "02"

1871, Athens print, poor impression. Unperforated.

- 40 Lepta, purple on blue.

1872, Paris print and fine impression. Unperforated.

- 10 Lepta, orange on blue.

1873.—1 Lepton, brown on creamish.

- 1874.—5 Lepta, green on green,
- 20 " dark blue on bluish.

Errors in figures on its backs of above.

- 10 Lepta, orange ".0"
- 5 " green ".55"

September 14th 1875, printed at Paris, fine impression, and without figures on back. Unperforated.

- 30 Lepta, dark brown on yellowish.
- 60 " green on greenish.

1876, printed at Athens and poor impression. Without figures on back, and unperforated.

- 1 Lepton, brown on yellowish,
- 5 Lepta, yellow on white,
- 5 Lepta, green on yellowish.
- 10 " orange red on "
- 10 " yellow red on white.
- 20 " Marine blue on white.
- 20 Lepta, blue on bluish.
- 30 " brown on buff,
- 30 " brown on white,
- 60 " green on greenish,
- 80 " rose on white,

Errors in figures on the backs of the above issue.

- 10 Lepta, orange red ".0"
- 10 " yellow red ".01"
- 20 " maune blue "20"
- 20 " maune blue "02"

1877.—1 Lepton, coffee on yellowish,

- 20 Lepta, blue on "
- 20 " dark blue on yellowish.

1878.—60 Lepta, green on yellowish.

1880, Athens print, no figures on back and unperforated.

- 10 Lepta, orange red on yellowish,
- 20 " maune blue on creamish.

1880, Errors in figures on back of 10L.

- 10 Lepta, orange red "00"
 10 " orange red "000"
 1881, Dec. 31st Same print.
 5 Lepta, green on bluish,
 1 Lepton, brown on yellowish,
 10 Lepta, orange on yellowish,
 20 " carmine on yellowish,
 30 " blue " "
 40 " violet " "
 1883, same print as last.
 1 Lepton, brown on yellowish,
 5 Lepta, green on yellowish,
 10 " yellow on "
 20 " rose on yellowish,
 40 " violet on "
 1883, Error in figure on back of 5 Lepta, "55."
 1884.—2 Lepta, yellow.
 In 1886, the Grecian stamps appeared with a new design, bearing the head of Mercury, with smaller profile to right.
 Belgian print, clear impression and unperforated
 25 Lepta, blue,
 50 " green,
 1 Drachma, grey,
 1888, Same design.
 1 Lepton, brown,
 2 Lepta bistre,
 5 " green,
 10 " orange,
 20 " rose,
 40 " violet.
 1889. Same design and perforated 13½.
 1 Lepton, brown,
 2 Lepta, bistre,
 5 " green,
 10 " orange,
 20 " rose,
 25 " blue
 40 " lilac.
 1891, Old design, Athens print, coarse impression and perforated 11½.
 1 Lepton brown on yellowish,
 2 Lepta bistre on yellowish,
 5 " green on yellowish,
 10 " yellow on "
 1891. New design, Belgian print clear impression and perforated 11½.
 1 Lepton brown,
 40 Lepta, violet,
 50 " bronze green,
 1 Drachma, gray.
 1889-92. Same design, Athens print, poor impression, and unperforated. Watermarked Greek Characters in the sheet, portions of which are found in each stamp.
 1 Lepton, brown,
 2 Lepta, ochre,
 5 " green,
 10 " orange,
 10 " yellow,
 20 " rose,
 20 " carmine,
 25 " blue,
 25 " light blue,
 25 " lilac
 40 " "
 40 " blue (shades)
 1891 2.—Same. Perforated 13½
 1 Lepton brown,
 2 Lepta ochre,
 20 " rose,
 20 " carmine,
 40 " lilac.
 1891-2. Same. Perforated 11½.
 1 Lepton, brown,
 2 Lepta, ochre,
 5 " green,

- 10 " orange,
 20 " rose,
 20 " carmine,
 25 " light blue,
 25 " lilac,
 40 " blue,
 40 " lilac.

The One Cent British Guiana.

In the book published, a few years back, by the London Philatelic Society, upon the Postage Stamps, &c., of the British Colonies in the West Indies, four varieties of type of this stamp are described, and in Mr. Bacon's "preliminary notes," a very interesting account is given of the manner in which the two stamps of this issue were produced, showing that the method of production employed must be held to account for the varieties that exist.

A few months ago our publishers obtained two strips of the One Cent stamp, one of which strips shows conclusively that the theory suggested to Mr. Bacon by the representative of the firm that printed the stamps will not hold good, as far as two of the varieties are concerned at all events. Both of the strips are instructive, and we give an illustration of each as the frontispiece to our present volume.

We must first, however, give a description of the varieties of type, and of their production; premising that they all consist in variations in the lower part of the stamp alone, the upper and principal portion of the design being the same in all. The type which the London Philatelic Society treated as the normal one has no white line, or space, above the square blocks in the lower corners, and the label containing the words "ONE CENT;" in this the Society was certainly right, because, although specimens showing this line, to a greater or less extent, are perhaps commoner than those which show no sign of it, the line is quite unintentional and accidental, as we shall presently show. The Society's normal type also has the words "ONE CENT" arranged so as nearly to fill the space between the two corner blocks, and not as shown in our illustrations, in both of which there are comparatively wide spaces before the "o" and after the "t." This arrangement of the words was, it seems probable, that of the first printing of the stamps. The Society's list then gives the following as varieties: "a. With white line above the value." This white line extends right across the stamp, in most cases, and in all cases as far as one side of it "b. With letter o of ONE further away from the left corner block." "c. With small letter o to ONE." But it should, we think, have been noted that variety a occupies a different position to the others, inasmuch as it exists in combination with all three of the varieties in the lettering; and there might in fact be made six types, formed by the three variations in the letters, each without and with the white line.

The stamps were lithographed, the stones being prepared by means of transferred impressions from engraved dies. There was one die only for the principal part of the design, with a separate slip for the

bottom part for each value, one of the slips containing "5. ONE CENT 3." and the other "5. FOUR CENTS 3.," or so we gather from the stamps, though it is not distinctly stated in the description that the corner blocks formed part of the separate slips. The plan adopted, as described to Mr. Bacon by Mr. Rapkin of Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, was as follows: Impressions from the principal die, and from the slips, were taken separately on transfer paper; these impressions were then carefully cut out, and pasted in regular rows upon a sheet of paper, each impression of the principal die having an impression from one of the slips, "ONE CENT" or "FOUR CENTS," as required, neatly affixed below it. This was done with care, but in not a few cases the impressions of the two dies that made up the complete stamps were not quite accurately joined, and this defect produced in the stamps a white space, or line, sometimes extending quite across, or more clearly at one side than at the other. This is intelligible enough, and the varieties thus produced are due simply to slightly defective transfers.

The varieties which differ in the letters of the value cannot be accounted for so easily: Mr. Rapkin plainly considered that they must be produced by different dies for the value labels, and he accounted for the existence of the various dies by supposing that these little slips got lost, or mislaid, and that therefore when fresh supplies of the stamps were required, fresh value dies had to be engraved; thus these varieties in the type were supposed to mark separate printings of the stamps. This, however, was only conjecture; Mr. Bacon obtained no statistics as to the quantities of stamps printed, or the number of printings that took place, nor any evidence in support of the theory mentioned above.

Now if we look at the illustrations of two strips of the One Cent stamps, alluded to above, we find that the four stamps in the horizontal strip are all of Variety *c* of the Society's book, the one with a small letter "o;" the left-hand stamp of the strip has a dot after the word "CENT," but that is no doubt merely an accidental flaw in the transfer, or perhaps in that one impression; all four are practically of the same type. But in the verticle strip this is not the case, the first and third stamps being of variety *b*, and the second and fourth of variety *c*. It may be noted that all eight stamps show the peculiarity of Variety *a*, to a greater or less extent. These two strips are apparently of the same printing; the colour is the same; the paper, as far as we could ascertain without removing them from the covers, is the same; and they were used, the verticle strip on the 27th March, and the horizontal on the 5th May, 1860. Taking the two together, we might suppose that the sheets of this printing consisted of alternate horizontal rows of varieties *b* and *c*. Supposing that this was the case, or even admitting that the two varieties were not evenly distributed throughout the sheet, how are we to account for the existence of two types upon the same sheet at all?

There is another curious circumstance connected

with these stamps. The whole of the bottom slip is evidently separate from the rest; there is a distinct white line above one, or both, of the lower corner blocks in each of the stamps illustrated, showing, that if there were two distinct value slips there should also have been two sets of corner blocks; but from careful examination of the numerals and of the pattern of the background of the squares containing them, we are convinced that corner blocks are identically the same in both types.

This fact complicates the question very considerably, and we have been unable to arrive at a satisfactory solution of it. One thing is certain, and that is that the theory suggested to Mr. Bacon is not correct, as far as these two varieties are concerned at all events, and we are inclined to think that the description given by Mr. Rapkin of the manner in which the stones were constructed is also not quite accurate. There are, of course various methods of producing stamps of different values by means of a single die; in the case of the British Guiana stamps of 1860 we are told that the whole design, including the bottom corner blocks, was engraved upon one die, the space between the blocks being left blank for the insertion of the value; the stones are described as having been made up in the same way as those for the 1853 stamps, but the value slips in the 1860 issue must have been inserted with marvellous neatness; there is never the slightest break in the ground of the label, or, as far as we are aware, any irregularity in the positions of the letters. Two value slips must have been made for each value (except the 4 c) of the 1860 issue, but they were never used together, and we should suppose from the appearance of the stamps that the slips may have been made to fit into the other part of the die—in this case—and that thus the whole impression, for each transfer to make up the sheet, was taken together.

In the case of the stamps of 1853, it is quite evident that if the bottom corner blocks formed part of the die on which was engraved the design of the stamps, the impression of those blocks must have been cut away from the impressions of the rest of the design, and rejoined to them with the impressions of the value slips; also, that in making up the stone, from which the strips we are dealing with were printed, impressions from two different value slips were employed. That the corner blocks did form part of the original die we have little doubt, from the fact that they appear to be identically the same in all the varieties of the 1 c. But we should be inclined to suggest that, if the value slips were originally engraved, they were not replaced when lost, but that, for a later printing, the value was drawn upon transfer paper, twice over for the sake of convenience, and that the value slips were made up by transfers from these two drawings. If these drawings were made in the spaces between impressions from the two bottom corner blocks, and the bottom slips then cut off, transferred to a stone, and impressions taken from this to produce the required number of value slips with the corner blocks complete, this would account for the varieties in the lettering of the value, whilst the figures at each side remained unchanged; and also for the fact that where the bottom slip has not been quite accurately joined to the upper part of the design, it is evidently all (both value and corner blocks) in one piece.—The Monthly Journal.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal For Stamp Collectors.

VOL. 1.

AUGUST, 1895.

NO. 6.

The Glorious Philatelic Sons of America.

The Result of the Election.

President.—C. W. KISSINGER, Reading, Pa., 368 votes. C. E. Severn, Chicago, Ill., 10.

Vice-President.—S. M. HAMILTON, Springfield, Ill., 176 votes. Every Paget, Kansas City, Mo., 115.

Vice-President.—Canada.—W. S. WEATHERSTON; Toronto. 115 votes. L. M. Staebler, London, Ont., 99.

Secretary.—W. H. BARNUM, Cleveland, O., 223 votes. O. K. Carstarphen, Denver, Col., 133.

Treasurer.—L. W. MOTT, Oswego, N. Y., 102 votes. B. J. Bishop, Wyandotte, Mich., 95.

International Secretary.—F. H. DROWN, Boston, Mass., 211 votes. E. C. Ebelin, Benecia, Cal., 40.

Exchange Supt.—LUTHER T. BRODSTONE. Superior, Neb., 192 votes. E. B. Power; Chicago, Ill., 67.

Exchange Supt.—Canada.—H. F. KETCHESON, Peterborough, Can., 132 votes.

Attorney.—JOHN R. KEECH, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 359 votes.

Purchasing Agent.—W. A. H. CONNOR, Los Angeles, Cal., 145 votes. Chas. Beamish, Philadelphia, Pa., 83.

Auction Manager.—L. J. KRAMER, Elkader, Ia., 162 votes. Cameron W. Lawton, Patterson's Mills, Pa., 96

N. Y. Purchasing Agent.—ALBERT PERRIN, 188 votes.

Chicago Purchasing Agent.—P. M. WOLSEIFFER, 321 votes.

Counterfeit Detector.—S. B. HOPKINS, Chicago, Ill., 247 votes.

Adv. and Sub. Agent.—J. EDWARDS, Quebec, Can., 187 votes.

Official Editor.—H. C. BEARDSLEY, St. Joe, Mo., 173 votes. R. W. Ashcroft, New York, 115.

Trustees.—Portland, Oregon, 122 to 115 votes.

The Convention.

Denver, Col., Aug. 28.—The Albany Hotel is the scene of an unique convention, that of the Stamp Collectors of America. The Philatelic Sons of America have been looking forward to this, their second grand meet, with much enthusiasm. The subject of Denver's convention has been elaborated upon in all the Philatelic journals for the past four months, and a large attendance has been urged.

Many have not yet registered at the hotel, and communications received by the Secretary, show that a large num-

ber from the surrounding towns in the state will not be able to be present until this afternoon or to-morrow, so that fully seventy-five delegates may be expected by the closing day of the meet.

At 11 o'clock yesterday morning the rap of the gavel called the members to order, and the retiring president, Charles E. Severn, announced that the second annual convention of the Philatelic Sons of America would begin its labors. Mr. Severn then made his address to the members, which was brief and well delivered. He reviewed the association's progress during the past few months and reported a gratifying increase on the membership roll. As the latter shows a total enrollment of over 1,500 active members, this association bids fair to eclipse any order of stamp collectors in the world. After the address of the president, the following committees were appointed:

Credentials, J. P. Beard, A. E. Fritz and Chas. Potter; Finance, E. H. Wilkinson, E. S. Engle and Clarence Thurston; Official Journal, C. W. Kissinger, E. W. Plummer and R. H. Rhone; Rules, J. S. Davis. E. C. Althen and L. T. Brodstone; Exchange and Purchasing, C. C. Harrington, Roy B. Bradley and J. Warren; Constitution and By-Laws, H. C. Beardsley, C. W. Kissinger, E. H. Pierce, E. C. Althen and Charles Potter; Arrangements, J. E. Zahn, O. K. Carstarphen and E. S. Engel; Library, A. E. Fritz, M. Metzler, E. W. Plummer, R. B. Bradley and T. M. Robinson.

The noon hour by this time being reached, adjournment was taken until two o'clock in the afternoon. Through the kindness of the Chamber of Commerce, a special tramway car was in readiness at the hotel in the afternoon to convey the members over the city and suburbs. The delegates and their lady friends soon monopolized the coach which was handsomely decorated with flags, while two streamers on the side were worded "Stamp Collectors of America." No stops were made and the Philatelic Sons expressed much pleasure from the trip, which included everything from Elich's Garden to the City Park.

About 6 o'clock the delegates reassembled at the hotel and deposited their ballots. The latter are many hundred in number and the result of the contest for offices can not be made known until this morning. Last evening the members held no session, quite a number visiting the park while others enjoyed the theatre.

Denver, Col., Aug. 29.—The stamp collectors convention was continued yesterday, very little business beyond that of election of officers being transacted. The entire delegation was photographed at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon from the steps of the capitol building.

That considerable interest is being manifested by members of the association who are unable for various reasons to attend the Denver meet, is exemplified by the following communication received by the secretary yesterday:

"Arkansas City, Kan.

"Honorable Philatelic Sons of America—

"We would both like to be with you, but haven't got the dough, so our only compensation is to send our photograph.

"RATHBUN & GOOCH."

Accompanying the message was a small photo of two young men with a broad grin. They are, however, members of the association, and active ones at that. The delegates visited the theatre at Elitch's last evening, occupying an entire row near the front.

The convention will conclude this evening, when the Queen City Philatelic Society will convene for a session. This organization, having a large membership throughout the state, will doubtless hold a very lively meet, even more largely attended than the one now in session. The members of the Philatelic Sons are delighted with the treatment accorded them by the local collectors, many expressing a desire that the 1896 convention could be held in Denver also. This will be impossible, as many eastern delegates are determined that Minneapolis or Cleveland shall capture next year's plum. The convention seat for next year will be decided upon at to-day's session.

Denver, Col., Aug. 30—The closing session of the Philatelic Sons of America was held yesterday at the Albany. Reports were read from the committees on library, finance, constitution and by-laws, sales and exchange and official organ. All of them were encouraging, especially that from the exchange committee.

The main business of the day was balloting for the 1896 convention seat, Detroit, Kansas City and Minneapolis were the leaders for the meet, the last named place securing the honor. The convention next year will not be held in Minneapolis proper, but in some resort in the vicinity. A vote of thanks was passed to the Denver collectors for their generous treatment and hospitality to the guests. The city's newspapers were also highly commented upon and a vote of thanks for their accounts of the convention was tendered with a rousing cheer.

The official organ will continue to be the Pennsylvania Philatelist, with the newly elected president, C. W. Kissinger, as managing editor. Last evening the convention room was transformed into a scene of beauty, the hall being profusely decorated with flags and flowers, while down the entire center was a heavily laden table, around which nearly a hundred members sat for over two hours. A banquet is a philatelist's delight, and the delegates entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion. The feast was presided over by ex-President C. E. Severn, who made a witty address, and cheer after cheer rang throughout the hotel.

The Banquet.

The banquet of the P. S. of A. opened up on Thursday 8 p. m. at the Albany Hotel, with about 40 people seated at the table, and presided over by the retiring president, Mr. C. E. Severn, as toast-master. A mysterious package for Mr. P. J. Gauff of Cheyenne, was received. The contents turned out to be a beautiful Stamp Souvenir presented to the Stamp Cranks, by the citizens of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The following persons responded to toasts, with subjects as designated:

P. S. of A.—Clifford W. Kissinger.
 A. P. A.—Charles Beamish.
 Queen City Philatelic Society—J. E. Zahn.
 Nebraska Philatelic Society—A. A. Abbott.
 Dealers—J. A. Beard.
 Collector—J. Harrington.
 Why Beer Stamps Should be Collected—Mr. Fritz.
 Philately—O. K. Carstarphen.
 Exchange Superintendent—L. T. Brodstone.
 Philatelic Press—Roy B. Bradley.
 Ladies—H. C. Beardsley.
 A Typical Member of the P. S. of A.—Mr. Bovier.
 The Younger Class—C. Thurston.
 Joys of Philatelic Authorship—E. H. Wilkinson.
 Rocky Mountain Stamp—Mr. Davis.
 Philately among Soldiers—Mr. Hobert.
 Small Philatelist's—Mr. Pierce.
 In behalf of Ladies—Mr. Althen.
 Philatelic Review—Mr. Hall.

A jolly good time was realized by all present.

The daily papers were all represented by reporters throughout the meet. Cuts of Carstarphen, Severn, Zahn, Hall and Kissinger were published.

The Denver convention proved to be a memorable one, and already many members are looking forth and extending suggestions to the one to be held one year in the future. We extend our hearty thanks to Mr. L. T. Brodstone for newspaper clippings and information.

Members Present at the Convention.

C. W. Kissinger, Reading, Pa. L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Neb.
 Chas. Steigarwalt Lancaster, Pa. E. H. Wilkinson, Lincoln, Neb.
 H. C. Beardsley, St. Joe, Mo. J. H. Reed, Denver, Col.
 Robt. Rhone, Kearney, Neb. L. A. Olsson, Denver, Col.
 Roy B. Bradley, Abeline, Clay W. Holmes, Elmira, Texas. N. Y.
 W. J. Stephens, Denver, Col. J. B. Roth, Omaha, Neb.
 C. L. Thurston, Omaha, Neb. H. D. Wilbur, Denver, Col.
 M. McAllister, Boulder, Col. A. J. Leddy, Manitou, Col.
 G. L. C. Lockhart, Colorado Springs, Col. C. C. Harrington, Denver, Col.
 F. W. Potter, Emporia, Kan. J. F. Beard, Muscatine, Ia.
 A. E. Fritz, Chicago, Ill. C. E. Severn, Chicago, Ill.

H. M. Kingwell, Denver, Col. M. Metzler, Denver, Col.
 E. C. Warden, Auburn, Neb. H. Davis, Denver, Col.
 M. D. Waltman, Colorado Springs. T. M. Robinson, Colorado Springs.
 F. A. Haywood, Denver, Col. J. L. Warren, Colorado Springs.
 H. E. Colburn, Green, Col. E. C. Althen, Elgin, Ill.
 P. Jacob Gauff, Cheyenne, Wyo. W. H. Dilbridge, Greeley, Neb.
 F. Hobert, Denver. J. S. McGinnis, Denver.
 H. N. Babb, Denver. E. H. Roice, Denver,
 F. B. Dorman, Denver. J. E. Zahn, Denver.
 J. W. Earnst, Denver. E. W. Plummer, Denver.
 C. M. Bayard, Highlands, Col. H. S. Rogers, Colorado Springs.
 O. A. Abbott, Grand Island, Neb. N. J. Leddy, Manitou, Col.
 D. V. Vose, Denver. J. M. Jordan, Denver.
 S. E. Smith, Denver. Ed. Leet, Denver.
 C. Beamish, Philadelphia. V. S. Vose, Portland, Me.
 W. D. Berham, Denver. M. Sullivan, Denver.
 T. Jespersen, Denver. E. S. Engel, Denver,
 J. Thorean, Denver. Elmer Burke, Denver.
 R. M. Gottesleben, Denver. James Fanning, Denver,
 Paul Fanning, Denver. R. J. Quick, Denver.
 C. G. Clement, Denver. Jas. P. Jordan, Jr. Denver.
 J. P. Jones, Galine, Mich. E. H. Hall, Ft. Collins, Col.
 W. A. Callahan, Manitou, Col.

There were also present a large number of ladies of Denver, Cheyenne and other places in Colorado. Several of them joined the P. S. of A. The above list may not be complete.

Hurrah for Minneapolis.

Minneapolis secures the next P. S. of A. convention! 198 ballots, of which L. T. Brodstone contributed 51, were cast for Minneapolis. The main opponents were Kansas City and Detroit. We understand that the '96 convention will not be held in the city proper, but at some resort in the vicinity, presumably Lake Minnetonka.

The League of American Philatelists have also chosen Minneapolis for their next convention seat. We now want the A. P. A., who up to this writing have not decided where their next meeting will be held, but favor points to Minneapolis.

Was Carstarphen turned down because of Spite-work?

That Mr. O. K. Carstarphen, candidate for Secretary of the P. S. of A. was defeated, was one of the surprises worked by the convention. Mr. Carstarphen's candidacy was endorsed on all sides. but it seems that some of his earliest supporters went back on him at the last minute. Messrs Pierce, Zahn, Harrington, Bovier and Hayward, all of Denver, were among those who used their

influence to overthrow Carstarphen. Zahn and Harrington, respectively are Editor and Manager of the "Rocky Mountain Stamp," which was at one time warm in its support of Mr. Carstarphen.

A Warning Which Caused a Sensation.

Mr. A. B. Sidney DeWolf, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Meekel's Weekly Stamp News, think that a person using the name of Eben S. Martin, and operating in Minneapolis, Minn., is no other than the irrepressible Lewis Bishop, alias Morgan, Quigley, Warren, etc.

The following account was published in Meekel's Weekly Stamp News, dated August 8th, 1895.

TAKE WARNING.

Two months have scarcely elapsed since Quigley was working under the alias of G. H. Wilson, of Toledo, O., and we are now convinced that he has commenced operations in Minneapolis, Minn., we therefore hasten to caution our readers against transactions with a party giving the name of Eben S. Martin until further information is received. We can do no more than raise the signal of warning, as nothing has been substantiated, though at present investigation is in progress. The following is a letter received from Halifax, Nova Scotia, from a correspondent

C. H. Meekel Stamp & Publishing Co.

Gentlemen:

"I am under the impression that this party is Wilson Warren, Quigley, etc. etc. I was stuck to the tune of \$100 by Warren last year, and only a short time ago he had the nerve to write under the name of Wilson. but this time I was on to him. I have no proof of this party being Wilson, but just send it as a warning. Kindly keep my name out of this, I remain

"Yours truly,

The letters enclosed by the above party were written by typewriter, on printed letter-heads as follows:

EBEN S. MARTIN, Pres. U. S. Stamp Co.
 Philatelist. Mail address, P. O. Box 493.
 Res. 2537 Colfax Ave. S. Minneapolis, Minn.

The contents of the letter in question were worded thus:

"DEAR SIR—Kindly favor me with a selection of stamps on approval. I enclose my want list which I hope you may be able to fill. I have sent the same list to a number of other dealers, and the one that sends the best copies at the best price will receive my order. Any stamps similar to the above will prove acceptable. I refer by permission to Mr. Geo. S. Canfield, Editor of the "Penny Press" of this city. Awaiting a reply at your earliest convenience, I remain,

EBEN S. MARTIN."

The whole get-up of the Martin correspondence appears to be a la Quigley style and his signature, etc., pronounced the same as that of Bishop, Warren, etc. Without conclusive proofs we can say nothing further, but those receiving correspondence similar to the above should delay operations until further information is obtained.

Now that the publishers of the Weekly News have enlightened the public as to their informant's and their own opinion, the NEWSLETTER will enlighten the public to

the facts and latest developments. We will also show that a great injustice has been done.

The Weekly's informer, who wished to avoid notoriety by having his name withheld, is Mr. A. B. Sidney DeWolf, the well known stamp dealer. Mr. DeWolf, smarting under the loss of \$100 through Warren, blinded to all good sense, and to the fact that Mr. Martin furnished reference, informed the Weekly News of his groundless suspicions. The publishers of the Weekly News, always eager to startle the public with sensational news, published the account as given. Both DeWolf and Mekeel seem to have overlooked the fact that Mr. Martin furnished reference, the same being Mr. Canfield, Editor of the Penny Press of this city. The gentleman referred to, received no communication from either Mekeel or DeWolf.

While a person has a perfect right to hold to a certain opinion or suspicion, he is not justified in scattering broadcast over the land his suspicions, while he has the means of discovering if they are correct or not. Mr. DeWolf, and Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News have done great injury to a young man of good character, and had they wished for truth alone, they could easily have found out that Mr. Martin is no more Lewis Bishop than he is Grover Cleveland. Mr. Martin thinks the article was published without any regard for him, and that the idea of the Editor of the Weekly News was to spring a sudden sensation on the gullible public. Editor Mekeel stated that investigation was under way, but Mr. Martin has proofs that no investigation has been made in the direction most suitable to such an intention.

There are certain laws in the United States which restrict a publisher from publishing certain matter, and Mr. Martin claims that the Mekeel Company having published such matter can be held liable. Mr. Martin at once wrote to the Mekeel Company, asking them to retract their unjust statements, but up to date they have failed to do so.

The name of Eben S. Martin has been before the philatelic public for some time, his advertisement appearing in philatelic magazines as far back as 1892. He is a member of four or five philatelic societies. His permanent residence is Minneapolis. He is a young man of the highest character, and he has felt keenly the injustice of unwarranted suspicions. He has been contemplating the publication of a stamp journal, and has solicited the advertising patronage of many dealers, some of whom may refuse to deal with him, because they learn through "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News" that he is the notorious Lewis Bishop.

The public will in time learn the truth, but in the meanwhile, Mr. Martin's name is being carried over the country as an alias of the notorious Lewis Bishop.

The A. P. A.

We have received word that the American Philatelic Association has virtually selected Minneapolis for its next convention seat.

The new officers of this society are as follows.

President.—J. K. Tiffany
Vice-President.—Alvah Davison,
Secretary.—C. W. Kissinger,
Treasurer.—N. W. Chandler.
International Sec.—W. C. Stone,

The American Philatelist will publish reports of officers. The Board of Trustees has been abolished, the three vice-presidents being vested to act as trustees, with the sanction of the board of directors.

Minneapolis Collectors Attention.

Now that the principal philatelic societies of the United States are to meet in conventions here next year the duty devolves upon us to elect ourselves into a body, for without union there is no strength, and thus he enabled to work in cooperation towards meeting and entertaining the delegates of the different societies. We should organize at once and let every one interested in the success of next year's convention, in Philately, and in Minneapolis, send in their names and addresses, signifying their intentions to H. S. Swensen 1605 Stevens Ave.

Every collector in Minnesota should belong to one or all of the societies who have elected Minneapolis their convention site. Those wishing to join can obtain application blanks from the Newsletter or from the secretaries of the respective societies.

Items.

The first journal published in the interests of stamp collecting appeared April fool day, 1893

On the day that postal cards came into use in England, 575,000 cards passed through the London Post office alone

The first systematic handbook representing philately was by Dr. J. E. Gray of the British Museum. The demand for this book illustrates what a great interest was felt for stamp collecting at that time.

The first edition of this little book of fifty four pages consisted of a thousand copies which were all sold within twenty days. The popularity of the book was so great that five subsequent editions appeared, the last editions being extended to two hundred and twenty-six pages.

Although the Mauritius pair hold the record price, they are by no means the rarest stamps in existence, some of our postmaster stamps being much rarer, as most of us know. Of the two cent rose of the first issue of British Guiana, there are only six known to be in existence three of which rest in the collection at the British Museum,

The two Mauritius stamps which were recently purchased by Stanley Gibbons & Co for an English collector at the record price of £ 680, were first acquired by a woman, a Madame Dubois, of Bordeaux she having found them in a merchants office there. This lady sold them in

1867, to M. E. Lalanne. Mr. Lalanne, recently disposed of his entire collection which included the two Mauritius, for 60000 francs, to a well known French collector, M. Pret Laludurei, from whom Stanley Gibbons & Co. secured them.

It is an interesting fact to note that the first auction sale of stamps took place March 18th 1872, Messrs. Solliely, Wilkinson and Hodge of 13 Wellington Street, Strand London Eng. disposed of Mr. J. W. Scotts celebrated collection.

It is equally interesting to note some of the best price realized,

20c St Louis, £6, a variety of this stamp supposed to be the only one in existence at the time, brought only £8 12S.

Jefferson Market Post Office stamp, pink, £5, Boyds city express, large oval, (this was struck over a Pomeroy local) £7 15S,

13 cent Hawaian Islands figure in fancy border fine specimen, £6, 10S.

5 cents Nashville, unused £5.

3 cents Marion, blood, written figure unused 5 guineas.

A 10 cent stamp brought 6 guineas

2 Memphis, light blue, unused, £5.

The whole consisting of 275 specimens produced exactly £252 17 S. 6d.

New Exchanges.

The "Sucker State Stamp" is a new comer to our table, It consists of four pages and published at Catlins, Ill. We don't like the name.

We were never greatly interested in natural science, but if we receive a few more numbers of the "Oregon Naturalist," published by D. M. Averell and Co. of Portland Oregon, we believe that we will take up the study of the science or at least some branch of it. "The Oregon Naturalist" is a very interesting and instructive magazine and we think that it is a better caterer to the demands of the Naturalists than is the average philatelic magazine to the philatelist. The "Naturalist" consists of twenty-four pages. Its publishers are publishers as well as dealers in Natdralists supplies. We can recomend their publication to all interested in Archaeology, Geology, Minerology, Ornithology Paleontology and the like.

Vol. 1 No. 1 "International Philatelist," published and edited by Mr. H. C. Beardsley, St Joseph, Mo. received. The contents of this number relates principally to philatelic Societies, and is therefore most interesting to society members. A history of the American Philatelic Association is the leading article, which is terse for so broad a subject, but nevertheless interesting. The numerous portraits of philatelists of prominence is the leading feature of the magazine. This number contains accounts and

likenesses of Georges Carion, W. S. Coe. Eugene Doebelin, N. E. Carter, Judson N. Burton, C. W. Kissinger president elect of the P. S. of A. and Secretary elect of the A. P. A.; Every Paget O. K. Carstarphen, and H. C. Beardsley.

The publisher indicates in a note that he intended that the greatest feature of his venture should be a young lady assistant editor. Unfortunately for Mr. Beardsely and the readers of the "International," the young lady he had in view got married.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER then still retains the honor of having the only philatelic editress in America and in the World excepting the review editress of the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britian."

Mr. Beardsley, announces that no August number will be issued but adds, (as an excuse we presume) that the September number will be the finest philatelic Journal ever issued both literary (we question the correctness of the use of this word) and typographically, and will be devoted entirely to the P. S. of A. If Mr Beardsley had used coordinately the sentence "it will be the finest P. S. of A. journal," we might accept his promises seriously, but as for being the finest *philatelic* Journal, we have our doubts. While there are some inconsistencies related to the initial number of the "International Philatelist," it is on the whole a very commendable effort. It consists of 16 pages of reading matter and as many of of advertislng, this is certainly a very good showing. The subscription price is placed at fifty cents per year.—H. C. Beardsley pulbisher, Box 316, St Joseph, Mo.

Lake Minnetonka a sa Convention Seat.

Some of the "wild men of the east" must be very selfish if what one eastern philatelist says, is a criterion. He seems to begrudge northwestern collectors the good fortune of securing the next A. P. A. convention.

He says that if the noathwest gets it, some outlandish place like Lake Minnetonka wilf be selected. Lake Minnetonka is a large sheet of water, about three hundred miles of shore line, and about 10 miles from Minneapolis. Thousands of people sojourn at the lake every summer. It is a very popular resort for southern people who like to come north to spend the summer. There over thirty hotels, ans hundresd of beactiful villas and cottages on the shores of this beautiful lake. Minnetonka is to the northwest, what the Hudson river and Conay Island are to the east. The Christian Endeavor convention convened at Minnetonka two years ago. Lake Minnetonka is, indeed, a suberb of Minneapolis, whose returns to its credit, 192,833 people. If the association decides that Minnetonka is the place for their next convention, the members need have no fear that they have selected a place 10 miles from nowhere. If the person who spoke so depreciatingly about a northwest site ever comes west, he may come in unpleasant contact with the wild and wooly man he dreams about.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

HARRY S. SWENSEN, EDITOR.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, ASST. EDITOR.

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Editorial.

The Minnesota Philatelic Association will hold its convention at St. Paul, Minn., on Friday Sept. 13th, 1895. All Minnesota collectors should try to be present.

Mr. Kitchell, a prominent local collector, has purchased the entire lot of one dollar stamps of current issue on hand at the Duluth post-office.

W. L. Moise and Major Egan have made up, apparently, judging from the fact that the latter now considers at least one of Mr. Moise's literary productions worthy enough to grace the pages of the dainty *Washington Philatelist*.

Messrs H. A. Bricker and R. M. Miller are preparing a Sons of Philatelia hand book, and solicit aid and support from collectors. If these persons would labor toward keeping up the official organ of the S. of P., instead of doing something which is unnecessary, they would more deservedly merit support.

Mr. Geo. Carion, a stamp dealer of wide reputation, has been charged with selling forged stamps, by a French Society.

At the session of the A. P. A. convention, he was or-

dered to be dropped from the association for one year, during which time it will be seen whether or not his actions will justify his suspension.

A pretty good indication that Scientific treatises on stamps from the pens of American Authors, is scarce, is the fact that the "Mekeels Weekly Stamp News" reprint almost all, if not all, the meritorious articles published in foreign philatelic journals. Nearly three pages of the matter published in the latest number of the "Weekly News" is culled from foreign contemporaries.

Mr. Harry S. Swensen, class of '98, is the founder and publisher of a monthly magazine devoted to the interest of stamp collecting and collectors. The magazine is entitled "The Philatelic Newsletter," and is a bright and ably written periodical.—*Ariel, University of Minnesota.*

We have received "The First annual Wholesale Postage Stamp Catalogue" from Mr. H. E. Morey, 31 Exchange St., Room 1, Boston, Mass.—Photograph from Oney K. Carstarphen, Denver, Colo.—Invitation to be present at Nebraska Philatelic Society's Convention, to be held at Omaha, Neb., Sept. 16th, 1895, from L. T. Brodstone.

The purpose of the S. S. S. S, is unquestionably a commendable one and will no doubt be efficacious but to be altogether practicable the manufactures of postage stamp albums should ignore the countries, whose stamps have been blacklisted. We hope that the society will prove to be as efficient as the symbolic initials of its name would signify for 'tis said that S. S. S. S. is good for the blood and no discrimination is made.

Mr. L. G. Dorpat, whose contributions to the *Weekly Stamp News* have received such favorable criticism, and which have aroused such comment, is contemplating the compilation of a work embracing "a list of stamp issuing countries, with their location, population, principal language, and number of stamps issued."

Mr. Dorpat is, we believe, a clergyman of the Lutheran denomination, residing at Sheboygan, Wis. Judging from his articles and notes on stamps, we think that he will be successful in the work.

We were showing some unused stamps of the latest issues of Mexico to a collector, who exclaimed, somewhat to our surprise: "Meekel does manufacture some fine stamps, doesn't he?" "What do you mean, we asked, perplexed." "Why," he says: "didn't you know that the Mekeel Co. holds the contract for manufacturing the stamps of Mexico?" Our answer was, No! And we questioned our collectors statement, who said that he had heard that such was the case.

How is this, Messrs Mekeel & Co?

S. Allan Taylor, whose name is best known to the older generation of Philatelists, is still interested in philately. We received a postal card from him recently, soliciting a sample copy of the NEWSLETTER. Mr. Taylor is in Boston, where it is said he is seen occasionally by the local collectors. While Mr. Taylor is noted for his connection with philately for many reasons, he is especially notable for having edited the first American Philatelic magazine, "The Stamp Collectors Record," published first in February, 1864, from Montreal, Canada. This paper survived for twelve years, which is a remarkably long life for a philatelic magazine.

The creditable movement of petitioning the Postmaster General to place Periodical and Postage-Due stamps on sale to the public at face value, should be accorded the affirmative, and aid of all collectors. If these stamps can be obtained at face value, the questionable action taken by many persons in securing the stamps now, will be unnecessary, and the unused stamps in the possession of collectors will not receive the depreciation that they do now, for at the present time the stamps must be obtained unlawfully by some one, and for this fact the stamps are considered as tainted, and often the owner is apt to be under suspicion.

Mr. G. B. Calman, now states in a letter to Mr. W. W. Jewett, in regard to his interview with the "Stamp collectors Fortnightly" that Mr. Bishop misconstrued some of his remarks. He states that he told Mr. Bishop that it would be worth £1000, sterling to him if the contract of Mr. Seebeck with the governments were terminated as it would be worth that amount to him in his business.

Mr. Calman denies said that he said that he would pay anything to have his present contract with Mr. Seebeck terminated, in that he has no contract with Mr. Seebeck whatsoever except on stamps which have already been issued.

Thus it seems that Mr. Calman has been misrepresented in the Fortnightly.

Germany is noted from the philatelic point of view, from the fact that it is the home of the counterfeits, and reprints of postage stamps. The Postal administration of Germany, however, is after the counterfeiter with a view to prosecute, and is seeking to discourage reprints, by destroying the dies and material necessary for producing them.

The Berlin Philatelic Society is aiding the administration in its work, since the society has purchased the original dies and other things necessary to the production of the three Groschen stamp of Saxony, and have presented the material to the Postal Museum of Germany. There are however, 50,000 reprints of the three Groschen stamps in the hands of dealers and others, but this number is small when compared with the number which might have been, were it not for the commendable action of the Berlin Philatelic Society. The society has certainly set a good example.

The "Stamp" charges Mr. Wanamaker with conceiving the reprehensible idea of making use of stamp collectors as one means of meeting the postal deficit. The "stamp" further states that in view of the admirable idea Mr. Wanamaker ordered the issuance of the higher values of the Columbian issue, which it states are almost wholly unnecessary. The "Era" backs the "Stamps" assertion by saying that the higher values are wholly unnecessary,

As to this statement the "Era" is correct but we can add that the higher values are more convenient than were the former values of postage stamps, and therefore more useful. Usefulness is a very important requisite. Perhaps Mr. Wanamaker is censured unjustly and that when he conceived the idea in question he did so taking into consideration also the important idea of facilitating the posting and stamping necessary. We are of the opinion that the 90 cent value was discarded because of its inconvenience both to the postal officials and the general public and that the one dollar was substituted and the higher values were issued principally because of their adaptability to postal needs.

Mr. E. S. Martin holds his auction sale of stamps in Minneapolis, September 14th, 1895, probably at the Y. M. C. A. building. As the auction takes place the day following that of the M. P. A. convention, a large number will no doubt be present. About two thousand lots will

be up at auction, among which will be some fine stamps: Such as the Novia Scotia shillings; Saxony three pence; rare Ceylon, and many scarce United States.

The Novia Scotia shilling is one of two similar stamps, owned by a gentleman in Minneapolis, who sold one of the specimens for \$20.00 being ignorant of the value of the stamp. Meeting Mr. Martin, he was informed by him as to the value of the stamps in question, and as a result the stamp which he had not sold, is being put up for sale at the auction.

The three pence Saxony is a stamp supposed to have been a counterfeit. It was obtained in a small collection by the writer. The stamp being submitted to expert examination, turned out to be genuine. It is a used specimen in fair condition. Some fine entire U. S. Envelopes and U. S. oddities will be in the sale.

The catalogue is ready, and can be obtained through the NEWSLETTER.

According to Edward B. Evans, the correct English pronunciation of the name of the native India state erroneously pronounced Bussahir, is *Pussy-her*.

The Editor of the "American Journal of Philately" has been unable to find this state in any atlas or gazetteer. Mons, Moens and Mr. Evans have been equally unsuccessful in tracing this state in books of a geographical description. Mr. Evans owes his ill success to the mis-spelling of the name,

Like others, we think that the new issue of this "cat inhabited" state is unnecessary and consider it unworthy of mention in the recording animal of the feline genus,—the cat—*alogue*.

The Stamp Craze.

W. Roberts in *Fortnightly Review* for May, 1893.

It would be as difficult to measure clouds as to satisfactorily explain the widespread passion for collecting postage stamps. To an outsider, the most curious thing in connection with it is that it increases as time goes on. There are at least two thousand stamp dealers in Europe and the number of people who make a living directly out of this eccentric calling runs well into five figures. In London last season (1893) no less than from £15,000 to £20,000 worth of stamps were sold under the hammer by two or three auctioneers. One dealer retired after having accumulated, it is said, the very respectable fortune of £50,000. The "trade in London is represented by near-

ly a dozen journals, and its literature could only be indicated by a portly volume of bibliography. The composition of the Philatelic Society of London is interesting, for among the members are many eminent and distinguished men (to say nothing of ladies,) whom the general public would little suspect of a weakness for such unconsidered trifles as stamps. The president and vice-president respectively are the Duke of Saxe-Coberg-Gotha and the Duke of York. Its list of ordinary members includes one prince, two earls, and a whole host of army and navy officers of various ranks, and the remainder is chiefly made up of "Esquires."

In the autumn of 1892, Mr. Castle, the editor of *The London Philatelist*, (the official organ of Society) issued to 116 members of the society, residing in Great Britain a series of queries concerning particular collections, and from the tabulated replies, we glean that the numbers of stamps in the possession of 109 who replied to the circular amounted to over 855,000. The value of one collection was placed at £10,000, a second at £6,000, two at £5,000, two at £4,000, eight at amounts varying from £1,200 to £3,000 each and ten at £1000 each.

The estimated value of the collections of members of the society resident out of Great Britain is placed at £100,000, a total which cannot include the enormous collection of Herr Philip Von Ferrary, of Paris, which in itself is certainly not worth less than £100,000. These figures do not take any account of the stocks of dealers, for only private collectors are admitted members of the Philatelic Society.

Can stamps be regarded trifles light as air after such appalling figures? It will be at once seen that to be a stamp collector on a dignified scale, a man must be rich.

Herr Von Ferrary's collection above mentioned is absolutely unique, and by the side of it every other fades into insignificance. This gentleman purchases, at any price, examples of what he has no specimens, and has had for years two specialists devoted to the custodianship of his collection, at salaries of £400 a year.

Another Parisian collector is said to possess over a million stamps preserved in a hundred and thirty richly bound volumes. The Topling collection, valued at £60,000 and now in the British Museum, is supposed to rank second to that of Herr Von Ferrary. The Czar of Russia has a very fine collection, valued at about £30,000 and takes a very personal interest in his stamps, particularly those of Asiatic issue.

The Prince of Wales, as well as his brother and son already mentioned, has a good collection. Her Majesty also has a good collection; one of the greatest rarities of it is an example of the first Garfield issue of United States.

The Genises of stamp collecting is full of interesting facts. The mania (if its devotees will excuse the expression) is supposed to have originated in Belgium, and to have quickly spread to Germany and France, in the latter of which, not unnaturally, it developed almost into a public scandal.

The aufection appears to have soon found its way into England, and early in 1862 an informal kind of an Exchange had established itself in Birchin Lane, London, which became such an unmitigated nuisance—promising, at one time, to rival the historic tulip mania in Holland—that it was put down by the police. As a similar institution on the Boulevard Sebastopol had been suppressed by the Parisian authorities. Even by 1862 there was plenty of scope for collector's study and attention. Belview 1840 when stamps were first issued and 1860, two thousand and four hundred examples of various kinds had been published; by 1870 that number was increased to six thousand four hundred. The first systematic "hand book" of the subjects was by Dr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum.

The day for forming a complete collection of stamps is over, for it is no longer possible. Nearly every collector is now primarily a specialist, but the majority keep a more or less wary eye open to completing their collections so far as it is now possible.

Most collectors make a specialty of the stamps of the country they happen to be a native; in England the demand is greater for English stamps; in America, the United States stamps are most in request, and realize consequently, better prices there than elsewhere.

Beyond this general rule, fashions in stamps vary as often and as rapidly as fashions in other things. The other day the rage was for the stamps of British India and Ceylon; now old and scarce European, especially unused, and old Colonials, particularly those of the West India Islands; the Cape of Good Hope, and Mauritius, are all the rage.

One or two eminent collectors take up a particular line and all the others follow like a flock of sheep.

Then again, many collectors, finding that a complete collection is impossible, devote their energies (and their money) to the grouping together of the various shades of particular issues; the gradations, for instance, from light red to dark red: whether the slight differences have been caused by exposure or in the composition of the ink, no one knows, but there are the variations, and they have to be taken into account. When stamp collecting narrows itself down to this species of hair splitting, it unquestionably becomes a mania; as it does when it comes to meas-

uring the margins and counting the perforations. A couple of perforations or the fraction of an inch of more margin may make a great difference in the value of a stamp.

One can sympathize with the very natural desire for a complete and perfect stamp, just as one prefers a perfect to an imperfect book; but when it becomes necessary to provide oneself with a "stamp measure" which splits an inch up into twenty-five sections, or with a "perforation gauge" the sublimity of the philatelic craze seems to verge upon the ridiculous.

With all these bewildering contingencies and side issues, the innocent hobby of the school boy receives a fatal blow. It is an unnatural appetite, which can only find satisfaction in these infinitesimal trifles. The man who pays £50 or £100 for a stamp may have the satisfaction of possessing something for which he has been looking for many years, or of something no one else can show; but what is his real unalloyed pleasure, compared to that of the school boy who adds a dozen Medical stamps to his modest album?

There are already a dozen stamps whose rarity has achieved for them a fame which would certainly be denied on any other score. That this number should be actually worth, in the open market, £2000, is a fact which almost takes one's breath away.

Curiously enough, not one of these items is a thing of beauty. On the contrary, they are almost as ugly and unartistic as it is possible for such things to be, and that is saying a good deal. The nominal value of these at the time of issue, would be about a half a crown. A poor book collector may be pardoned for fancying what magnificent addition he could make to his shelves with this money—to say nothing of having his library in a garden like the late Prof. Sally.

As regards the stamps of this country, (England) the red black, with the initials V. R. in the upper corner, maintains its position, both on the score of rarity and price.

Many collectors refuse to admit it into their collections, on the theory that it was never actually issued, and is consequently only an "essay" and not a legitimate stamp. They also argue that the few used examples were simply appropriated by officials for their private letters, and escaped detection in going through the post. The best Philatelic authorities, however, are of the opinion that the V. R. is a genuine stamp, at all events its 1873 value of £2 has now increased to five times that amount.

This is our only valuable stamp, but the Mulready envelope has increased from 3s, 6d to £1; the 1s stamp of 1847 however, which unused, sold at its facial value, twenty years ago, is now worth nearly £2: whilst the 6d violet of

1864 is now priced at about £1. In January 1893, "a magnificent strip of three" examples of the 8d, brown, with gum intact, realized £16; an unused block of six of the 2s, salmon, realized £18, at Messrs Chevely's auction; in each case an uncommonly good investment for the original purchasers.

Buyers of unused English stamps at par value, can always console themselves with the reflection that they are never likely to lose over the transaction, for the stamps of England are never demonetized.

If the United States stamps are not, as a rule, beautiful, they are at all events, very numerous. A complete collection of the United States issues would involve the expenditure of much time and money. To begin with the provisional issue of the 5 cents Brattleboro, 1846, would cost the mere trifle of £250, and perhaps all but impossible to obtain, even at that price, for there are only three or four known. Next to this perhaps, comes the only known example of the 5 cent blue stamps, issued by the Alabama government during the Confederacy, which recently sold at auction in New York for \$780. The stamps issued by the Confederate states are now of the greatest rarity; recently one of these (2 cent green, of Baton Rouge, La.) went for \$99, to a man who said his name was "Philipp," as the *New York Reporter* quaintly put it.

Another, the 5 cents of the same place, realized \$98.

The two St. Louis, 5 and 10 cents stamps are among the rarest, or at all events, the most costly of the local issues. In 1872 the former realized just over 17s each, and the latter about 12s; fine examples of these now realize from six guineas to £8 10s respectively.

But the most curious of all the various developments of stamp collecting may here be alluded to, and that is the high price set upon errors, and upon this phase alone quite a long article may be written.

A few examples of the United States 15 cents and 24 cents, 1869 issue, with inverted centres, got into circulation and are now appraised at £17 and £18 10s respectively.

In the Mauritius, 1848, 2d blue, the early impressions read "penoe" instead of "pence." The examples with the error is valued at £10, but the one without, at about five guineas.

But perhaps the most famous of all errors in this direction is the "Cormenell" stamp of New Brunswick, in which the postmaster at that time, thinking that his own portrait would be as acceptable to the natives as that of his sovereign, had 6 cent stamps so ornamented in 1891. Not many, however, got into circulation. In 1873 it was selling at 7s 6d, each, unused; a good specimen now sells readily at £20.

Even the apparently innocent pastime of stamp collect-

ing is not without its speculative phase. Philately has often been the arena of "bulls" and "bears;" and in dealing in stamps; it is as necessary for one to be wide awake, as in speculating in the shares of remotely situated silver and other mines, which a ubiquitous gang of swindlers periodically bring forward for the philanthropic purpose of filling their own pockets. An attempt at "corner" is said to have been made in regard to the United States Columbian issue, but it was unsuccessful. A similar move was made when the United States government was about to cease the issue of 10 cent stamped envelope. A certain dealer bought 10,000 examples, for which he paid \$1000,00, and was sufficiently "previous" to issue a circular to the effect that collectors would be able to buy examples after a certain date, at a fancy figure. The postal department was inundated with protests from those who had not taken time by the forelock. The department was furious at the trick, and the decision to suspend the issue was revoked, and 150,000 more were printed off. The dealer has learned by this time that it is possible to be too smart.

Another illustration may suffice "to point a moral" in this direction. A certain Don Juan Cardillas, Montevideo, S. A., collected over 100,000 examples of the Uruguay 5 cent blue, 1883, with the figure of Gen. Santos, but a very large number of this issue had been struck off, and the unfortunate speculator would not have realized a profit on his transaction until he had reached the age of Methusaleh, so, not content to wait, and finding it impossible to make this stamp rare by fair means, Don Cardillas set fire to the lot.

Much might at one time have been urged in favor of stamps as an investment, but only the very few recognize the extent to which the hobby has developed itself. They "held on" in anticipation of "a rise," and the rise has come. It is now too late for others to enter into the fray in the expectation of making a good thing out of it, for all the chief rarities have been swallowed up. Stamps are either very rare or very common, very expensive or very cheap.

Of Interest.

M. P. STEWART.

The S. of P. has taken sudden flight into the realm of non-existence, and unlike the immortal cat, will never come back.

It has been said that Luther T. Brodstone, of Superior, Neb., held 40 P. S. of A. proxies and failed to place the ballots directed by them at the recent P. S. of A. convention held at Denver, Col.

W. Lionel Moins, a philatelic writer, has been termed a plagiarist by one of the leading editors. It is asserted that Mr. Moins pilfered some of the sentences appearing in an article published in one of Mekeel's manuals, and palmed them off as his own.

Through the instrumentality of Hymen, St. Paul has lost one of its population during the past week. Mr. D. M. Merrill and a young lady, both of St. Paul, having been made one.

Notwithstanding that but 667 ballots were cast at the A. P. A. convention, Mr. J. K. Tiffany received 711 legitimate votes. Truly the American Philatelic Association has a grand and wonderful system of securing its rulers.

The editor of "Ink Drops" a bright amateur journal, thinks that Clifford W. Kissinger is endowed with a great deal of nerve, and that he makes too big a display of it. Well, it takes a man of nerve to hold offices in the leading philatelic societies, and I suppose that is the reason Mr. Kissinger was elected.

A Young man by the name of E. S. Martin, of Minneapolis, we are told, is going to publish a paper called "The Collector." Why Mr. Maatin calls his paper the "Collector" we do not know, unless it is because he is incapable of creating a better name, but we do know that the name chosen is a hoodoo or that it is bound to be hoodood. It may have been that the S. of P. killed its official organ, "The Collector," but it is equally likely that "The Collector" killed the S. of P. So Bro. Martin, while we do not like to discourage, we must, through duty, tell you that your paper under the name "The Collector" is fated to meet with unermountable obstacles, and it is apt to drag its owner into debt and disgust.

We ask thee, take heed,

"While not directly interested in our neighbors debts, we are indirectly: and general paralysis may come to our business on that account.—Coin's Financial School.

Publishers of stamp journals are especially aware of this fact that their ventura would receive fatal paralytic strokes if their patronizing stamp dealer is not interested in paying his debts. A man who refuses to pay his debt, especially if he is able to pay them, is in plain language, a robber in the first degree; but a legalized robber.

A man who contracts debts, knowing that he can never cancel them, is perhaps less guilty, in that people should make it a business to know if other people are financially capable of meeting the demands of the creditors.

The glorious P. S. of A. convention is over and defeated candidates must be consoled with the fact that some one

had to lose. There might be better consolation in the words "better luck next time." The able manner with which the committee on arrangements carried out their duties is to be commended, and the smooth way in which the convention was conducted, should be copied after by the society's executives in the future.

Clifford Kissinger got his second term, like Grover Cleveland. His election, being practically unanimous, should be noted by those who think that his popularity is on the wane. Mr. Kissinger is, as we have said in another article, the most successful of all philatelic politicians. He is the highest example nearest the ideal philatelic politician. His wonderful display of executive ability, and his excellent method, known only by himself, in making friends, has made him what he is, the president and secretary of two leading philatelic associations. Clifford Kissinger has certainly stimulated ambition for philatelic prominence on the part of a young person. While Mr. Kissinger is responsible for this, he is not at all censurable but this kind of ambition is apt to make our philatelic societies too much like political nonentities. This is illustrated by the campaign carried on by the young aspirants for the office of vice presidency of the P. S. of A. The campaign carried on by Mr. Paget, and the successful candidate from Illinois, Mr. Hamilton, severs very much of brainless egotism of both. Mr. Hamilton beautified his paper, the "Springfield Philatelist" with his very impressive countenance. Mr. Paget very modestly claims that his candidacy and election to the desired office was righteous in every respect. Each mans capability for the office was about equal, their merits being that of two grains of sand from the same sand bank. We are not measuring the capability, by no means. We can say that as the office of vice-president is comparatively important one, no harm has been done.

That Mr. Carstapphen should suffer defeat, is felt sorely by his adherents, since his election was almost assured. There are some ground for illegality in the election of Mr. Barnum, but Mr. Carstarphen will not claim them. It is known that many persons at the convention, who held proxies failed to ballot them. Mr. Barnum, however, is a good man and was the logical candidate, having carried out some of the duties of the office which were assigned to Mr. Fox. Mr. Carstarphen will surely be elected next year if he runs.

The selection of Minneapolis for the next convention was happily received by northwestern collectors and others. In regard to it we have not much to say, except that no mistake has been made.

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The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

SEPTEMBER,

NO. 7.

Minnesota Philatelic Association.

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The Minnesota Philatelic Association's First Annual Convention.

The first annual convention of the Minnesota Philatelic Association was called to order by the Vice President at 8.15 p. m. Sept. 13th. in St. Paul. The following members were present: Messrs. Achard, Dick, Howard, Gooding, Gardelin, Mitchell, Merrill, Tyren, Thayer, Thiessen, Swensen, Zimmerman, Bruederly and Martin. Mr. Achard at the request of the Vice President presided. On motion of Mr. Swensen the rules were suspended and Messrs. Martin and Bruederly of Minneapolis, and Waddell of Mankato were elected to membership. Messrs. Thayer, Dick and Howard were appointed a committee on credentials. While they were out a recess was taken. The committee reported proxy-holders as follows: Howard 4, Thayer 1, Dick 1. The election of officers then followed. The result of the election is as follows:

President; Aldrich 13, Howard 4, Merrill 2.
Vice President; Dick 12, Merrill 3, Waddell 1.
Secretary; Howard 14, Hart 5.
Treasurer; Thayer 14, Selvig 5.
Exch. Supt.; Achard 10, Waddell 5, Thiessen 3,
Lambert 1.
Librarian; Selvig, 16, Moore 3.
Counterfeit Detector; Thiessen 19.
Trustees; Swensen, Tyren and Mayer of Minneapolis, 11. Howard, Merrill and Thiessen of St. Paul 8.
Seat of next convention; Minneapolis 12, St. Paul 7.

The date of holding the next convention was left to the Board of Trustees. Three papers sent in bids for the official organship, but after delib-

eration the matter was referred to the Board of Trustees for action. The question being raised as to when the officers elected should commence to serve, it was ruled by the chair that their terms should begin with the date of election.

The business of the convention being ended Mr. N. E. Carter, the enterprising dealer of Delavan, Wis., who was present as a visitor, was called upon for a few remarks. He said "Honorable members of the M. P. A. and fellow philatelists, I consider it a great pleasure to be with you this evening, and I have listened to the tart speeches, and have watched the proceedings with great interest. The amount of enthusiasm, evinced by the members present, certainly, augurs well for the future prosperity of the society. I certainly regret that I am ineligible to membership in the M. P. A., as I believe that the constitution restricts membership to Minnesota residents.

In looking over the members here, and perceiving his corporeal majesty, the chairman, I recall an incident, which may strike you as it did me,—as amusing. In correspondence with one of my foreign friends, I was told that he in turn had corresponded with one Mr. G. W. Achard our bombastic friend in the chair, (a snicker from Tyren) Mr. Achard instructed him to address all letters to G. W. Achard, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, North America, and all letters would arrive safely. (Laughter.) It was certainly pleasing news to me to learn that my old friend Achard had become so renowned.

I wish to state for the benefit of you, and members of the fair sex that I have not united my heart and prospects with any fair one as yet, contrary to the reports circulated by Mr. Tyren, who by the way is seriously contemplating the advisability of suc-

cumbing to Cupid, and trusting to Hymen. Gentlemen, I thank you." Mr. Carter took his seat amid prolonged applause, and shouts of Tyren! Tyren! Speech! Speech! At which Tyren stretched his bicycle-adapted body, and in his usual unassuring manner begged to be excused, stating that the girl and the attenuated bloomers had no charms for him, and that Mr. Carter's statement about him being in such serious contemplation was entirely erroneous. (Laughter and Cheers) Earlier in the evening much amusement was afforded the members, from the fact that Mr. Carter was introduced to Mr. Tyren and others, as Mr. Mekeel.

Mr. Achard, whose candidacy for Exchange Superintendent had been announced, presented in a clear concise manner the best methods of conducting an exchange department. In the course of his witty speech, he said that promptness and quick returns were two of the requisites of a prosperous department. Co-operation of members was necessary in order to make the department a success. Mr. Achard's long connection with philately and his thorough knowledge of philately and its departments make him a most efficient office holder, in every respect.

Mr. Aldrich, the president, came down to St. Paul for the purpose of attending the meeting, but the tardiness of the convention prevented him from attending. Notwithstanding his absence, Mr. Aldrich was tendered a second term of office with little or no opposition.

In absence of the president, the vice president elect, Mr. Dick, was called upon to respond, which he did in a manner as follows:

"Gentlemen of the M. P. A. convention. In being called upon to answer to your kindly consideration of my humble personage, I feel that a task devolves upon me which I am hardly capable of fulfilling. But I must bow to the powers that be and will try to smother those uncomfortable feelings of unconventional embarrassment which always comes with presenting an impromptu speech. (Laughter) The official capacity of vice president is considered an unimportant one, and perhaps it is, when the president is around, but when he is not, as in this case, the vice president is president and is therefore as important a personage. I am from St. Peter the site of the State Crazy Asylum, but I trust that in fulfilling the duties of my office I will not perform antics characteristic of an insane asylum. (Laughter and Applause.) I thank you gentlemen for your kindness in honoring me, and will now make room for other speakers." (Applause.)

Mr. Howard and others followed with speeches which were all very interesting.

Mr. Thiessen invited all collectors to call on him and examine his fine collection of 8000 varieties or more.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Thayer for securing a place for the meet.

On motion meeting adjourned.

The meeting as shown by speeches, was a most

auspicious one, at which every man without exception enjoyed himself. At the close of the meeting a banquet was held. Some of the members were unable to participate in this, being compelled to leave.

Achard, Tyren, Bruederly and Swensen of Minneapolis, remained to take part in the festivities.

Some of the lady friends of the St. Paul boys contributed much towards making the banquet a success.

Mr. Dick made an excellent toast master. The toasts which were extemporaneous were presented by the following with the subjects as named.

Mr. Carter.—Circumstances to which philately lead us.

Mr. Achard.—I can hold my own when it comes to a philatelic banquet.

Mr. Howard.—The good influence of philately.

Mr. Tyren.—Never pay 25 cents for a stamp when you only need to pay a nickel.

Mr. Thayer.—It isn't often that we meet like this.

Mr. Bruederly.—One of the pleasures of stamp collecting.

Mr. Swensen.—Lend me a Kodak.

After the banquet dancing was indulged in and much is due Mr. Howard and Mr. Thayer as committee on arrangements and Miss Clifford for furnishing such excellent music, and such delicious viands. The party broke up at a late hour, every one loud in their statements in having had a good time.

Secretary's Report.

With this month a new year commences for the Association and with two exceptions, new officers take hold. Their names and the report of the convention will be found elsewhere. The members of the association will receive this month their first number of the new official organ. As the association is now sufficiently strong to warrant the issueing of membership cards, each member is requested to send to the secretary his idea of what they should be like.

NEW MEMBERS.

- No. 35. Eben S. Martin,
P. O. Box 493, Minneapolis.
- No. 36. J. A. Bruederly,
Minneapolis.
- No. 37. J. J. Waddell,
Mankato.
- No. 38. Ina J. McGregor,
Rushford.

APPLICATIONS.

- Oscar J. Harson,
Madison.
Reference: E. R. Aldrich.
C. E. N. Howard.
- C. M. Lovsted,
512 Logan Ave. N. Minneapolis.
Reference: E. S. Martin.
I. S. Martin.

H. G. C. Macredie, St. Paul.

Reference: E. S. Martin,
F. A. Hull,

E. S. Stebbins, Minneapolis.

Reference: E. S. Martin,
C. G. Hart.

W. R. Young, Minneapolis.

Reference: E. S. Martin,
C. E. Hart.

F. A. Hull, St. Paul.

Reference: E. S. Martin,
H. G. C. Macredie.

Harold L. Jones, Minneapolis.

Reference: E. S. Martin,
Chas. G. Hart,

H. F. Cooper, 2416 Harriet Ave. Minneapolis.

Reference: C. E. Thayer,
H. B. Brown.

Allyn K. Ford, 1217 1st Ave. So. Minneapolis.

Reference: C. E. N. Howard,
H. S. Swensen.

Adolph Edsten, 2432 9th Ave. So. Minneapolis.

Reference: H. S. Swensen,
G. W. Achard.

Above applicants will be admitted to membership on Oct. 1st provided no objection is filed before that date.

Trustees Report.

The newly elected Board of Trustees of the Minnesota Philatelic Association met for the transaction of official business at the West Hotel on Friday 20th ult.

Word was received that Messrs. Martin and Hart desired that their bids for official organship be withdrawn.

The Philatelic Newsletter was elected official organ.

The Secretary of the Association was instructed to solicit designs for an appropriate membership card.

Amendment to Constitution.

The following amendment to the constitution of the M. P. A. has been offered:

ART. III. SEC. 4.

Any stamp collector residing in the U. S. may become a corresponding member in a like manner as provided for active members in Section 1, of this article. Corresponding members shall be entitled to all privileges of this Association, except voting and holding office.

A mail vote upon the adoption or rejection of the proposed amendment is hereby ordered. The balloting shall close on October 30th, and only such ballots will be counted as shall come from paid up members. Address all ballots to

H. S. SWENSEN,
Chairman, Board of Trustees.

1605 Stevens ave. Minneapolis, Minn.

St. Paul Notes.

BY C. E. N. HOWARD.

Among those present at the M. P. A. convention, we noticed Mr. Carter. At the ball Mr. Carter danced as if he had been at it all his life.

Mr. Aldrich was in the city all the week but had to leave just before the convention was called to order. As few of us had never seen him, we enjoyed meeting him.

Mr. Merrill is the last one to leave the ranks for a married life. He looked in on the business session and left cigars.

It is reported that Tyren came to the convention on his wheel, when he left home he found that he would be late if he took a car, so rode down on his bicycle in sixteen minutes, (a record.)

Speaking of stamps has any one seen the two varieties of the 24c 1872.

During the military parade we saw Messrs. Achard and Lambert. They were widely separated, so it would seem as if the Colonel knew what he was about.

Phil Dick's friend, the banker, whose name has slipped our memory was a "corker." to use the language of one who is now immortal, "He seen his duty and done!"

De oder day while in St. Paul

I almost was a martyr,

I chanced along to make a call

And almost lost a quarter,

The boys were sad, the girls were gay

And by my side stood Carter,

And while the band began to play

My madness grew the tarter.

In a corner, and all alone

I sat at my sweet leisure,

I had just begun to atone

For five cents worth of pleasure.

Alas! Alack! And such is life,

In this great earthly whirl;

How can a man meet this hard strife,

With a nickel and a girl.

From the commemoration ode of Charles Joseph Tyren.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE STAMPS.

Just how to collect the postage on periodicals has been quite a problem for our government to solve and various methods have been suggested and experimented on. With the old rates of postage large bundles of periodicals which were sent to news agents and news dealers were transported much cheaper by express. and also the express companies were able to deliver much quicker than the department. To secure this business and successfully compete with the express companies, by act of congress in 1863 mail

agents were allowed to receive and deliver bundles of periodicals at the car door without the customary method of passing through the postoffice. The payment was made at first in money, and on account of dishonest route agents and other reasons, this method proved quite a loss to the department. In 1865 the Postmaster General reports that "new stamps have been adopted of the denominations of 5, 10, 25 cents for prepaying postage on packages of newspapers forwarded by publishers or news dealers under the authority of the law, whereby a revenue will be secured, hitherto lost to the department." The 5 cent value was dark blue and 20140 were issued by the department. The 10 cent value was green, and 215600 were issued. The 25 cent value was vermilion and 314880 were issued. In 1869, 354200 more of the 5 cent value were issued similar to the former except the border on the latter was white. The description of these large stamps is not necessary here, perhaps as nearly all collectors are familiar with their appearance. Used as postage they were pasted on the packages and cancelled in any manner handy for the route agent, usually by smearing with paint or ink. They were only used in a few large cities and were withdrawn in 1869. The government issued reprints in 1874 of the first three. In a used condition these stamps are very rare, and command a good price as unused. The 5 cent blue white border being of course, the cheapest. At the time these stamps were in use the postage could be paid at either end of the route and on account of the dishonesty and carelessness of the route agents, many packages were not inspected or collected for, or, if the postage was collected, the fact was not always reported. The attention of Congress was called to these facts and the Postmaster General suggested a plan of collecting the postage by weight in advance at the mailing office. In 1875 Congress passed a law requiring all publishers to pay postage in advance, on all periodicals published weekly or oftener 2 cents per pound, and those published less frequently than weekly 3 cents per pound. A new set of stamps were issued ranging in value from 2 cents to \$60. in all twentyfour stamps.

These were not intended for public purchase and were not placed on the packages to be mailed. The package was weighed at the mailing office and a receipt given to the publisher for the postage. The stamps for an equal amount were placed on the stub of the receipt book, cancelled and finally sent on to the Postmaster General. Postmasters are not allowed to sell these stamps to the public, and they are still in use except the nine cent value which consequently is very rare. A fictitious price was placed on the 3 cent value several years ago, but could not be sustained. The writer has so far been able to secure this value as easily as any other. The third assistant Postmaster General in 1879 however, called the attention of postmasters to the fact that as a uniform rate of 2 cents per pound had been passed, the 3 and 9 cent value would be discontinued. In 1885 all second class mail matter was entitled to transmission through the mails at one cent per pound, and

a one cent stamp was ordered. In a used condition the higher denominations of these stamps are very rare and unused they are too expensive for the average collector.

F. S. GEORGE.

Postmarks An Aid to Philatelists.

BY SYDNEY K. LE MOYNE.

The pursuit of philately has attained such a standing that today he is indeed an unlearned follower who cannot readily distinguish between the varieties of paper, watermarks, sizes of perforation, etc. There was a time, however, when such was not the case. Then collectors (they were not philatelists) were content with a single specimen without any of the attendant variations. Then they paid no attention to plate numbers, caps, broken dies, etc. But today all is changed and with these numerous varieties comes the bane of counterfeiting. In a certain sense, the postmarked stamp carries with it a badge of genuineness. It apparently, has been used for postal use, and not as a speculative issue. But, here too, the counterfeiter has gotten in his work. But, here too, he almost falls down, for, while he may have been very accurate in his manufacture of an imitation of the die, he seems to have lost sight of that essential point, viz., having the specimen correctly cancelled. The authenticity of certain stamps can always be determined by the postmark or cancellation. The date of issue is often to be determined by this same method, for the design for cancellation is changed with much more frequency than the stamps themselves.

Probably the most interesting of this class are the old German states, and it is also along the line of these varieties that the forger's art has been largely brought into play. Some time ago I ran across a catalogue of the cancellations of the old German stamps published in a small obscure sheet and I preserved it, thinking it might be of value in the future. It was translated from the German and is reproduced below.

BADEN.

1. Arabic numerals in five concentric circles.
2. Arabic numerals in four concentric circles, the fifth, ie, the outer circle, being replaced by a saw-toothed ring.
3. Post marks in circle or eight-cornered rectangle.

BAVARIA.

1. Up to 1870 the "paddle wheel" cancellation with arabic numerals in centre.
2. Postmarks, being the rule with later issues, are scarce before 1870. They are found in circle, half circle, and in two straight lines.

BERGEDORF.

See Hamburg first issue.

BRUNSWICK.

1. Post marks on first issue only.
2. Later issues show numerals surrounded by horizontal bars, the whole obliteration being dia-

mond shaped.

BREMEN.

1. Postmarks.
2. Less frequently the word "Franco."

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

1. German postmarks.
2. Regular French postmarks. These "war-stamps" were used not only in the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, but all over the French territory occupied by the Germans during the late war.

HAMBURG.

1. Up to 1863 "bar obliterations" consisting of four narrow horizontal bars.
2. Ring-cancellation, especially on the $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ values.
3. Numerals in three concentric circles.
4. Postmarks, being very scarce with first issues.

HANOVER.

Postmarks only; those of the Hanover postal agencies at Bremen and Hamburg being scarce.

LUBECK.

1. Up to 1863 the "Hamburg bar-cancellation."
2. Three concentric circles with the letter "L" in centre.
3. Postmarks being scarce.

MECKLENBURG SCHWERIN.

Postmarks, those of the Hamburg agency being very scarce.

MECKLENBURG STRELITZ

Postmarks only, most of the stamps show a blue pencil stroke besides.

NORTH GERMAN DISTRICT.

1. Postmarks.
2. A scarce variety with first issue shows the cross-line obliteration of Saxony.
3. The 10 and 30 groschen values show pen-cancellation; printed postmarks are very scarce.

OLDENBURG.

1. Postmarks.
2. The word "Franco" is scarcer.
3. Postmarks of the Bremen Agency are very scarce.

PRUSSIA.

1. Up to 1861 four concentric circles with numerals in centre.
2. Postmarks are more numerous, especially those of the Bremen and Hamburg agencies.

SAXONY.

1. Diamond filled circle or "broad ring."
2. Postmarks being scarce before 1863. The rare 3 pfennig red is always postmarked.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

1. Shaded circle, with first (eagle) issue.
2. Up to 1865 three concentric circles with numerals in centre.
3. Postmarks, being very scarce with the 1864 issue. The separate issues for the two territories show the same cancellations.

THURN AND TAXIS.

1. Four concentric circles, numerals within.
2. Three concentric circles, numerals within.
3. Postmarks, being scarce, especially those of

the Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck agencies.

WURTEMBERG.

Only postmark cancellations are found.

At some future date I may continue this list as it applies to the cancellations of British Colonials, and the other nations of Europe, but suffice it to state that a great amount of labor is involved and I trust your readers will be patient until time enough has been spent to make the list accurate in all respects.

THE MAJOR TALKS.

"Old King Cole was a merry old soul;
A merry old soul was he."

HOMER'S OBITUARIES

One cloudy night I borrowed a hat and umbrella and started out on the road to fame and fortune, (locally known as F St. Northwest) to interview the Major.

Knocking at the classic portals I timidly asked a presence within if Doctor Nage was receiving patients.

"Indeed I don't know" was the cordial reply. But if you will give me a card I will ask him."

I ventured the ace of spades, which brought an immediate response. Shoving the velvet portiers wide apart, a slave announced, "His Royal Highness Major Sir Charles W. Egan, O. K., Nage of the Free Lance, only original Philatelic Wag, Doctor of Philately, etc., etc., etc." and amid a blare of comets and bombardons the Major advanced.

The Major is a portly party of about sixty-six—, large blue eyes, grayish hair, acquiline features and a pleasant, smiling mouth. He has a ring, set with a portrait of Columbias cut from an unused \$5.00 State, which he is very rood of—the ring, not the \$5.00 Columbian. He therefore advanced to greet me with outstretched hand. There is a ring, in his voice, too, of which some other people are very proud; as it frequently rings in just criticism or worthy praise. It is therefore unlike a bell which sometimes rings for dinner.

But no sooner had we made comfortable arrangements with the furniture than the office-cat entered and announced the discovery of some back-number periodicals in another room. The Maj. with expectant glee shining in his eye, excused himself and assigned me to the tender mercies of his editorial associates. These gentlemen, Messrs. Fairmount and Jackson Parks, I believe they are called, are two of the most entertaining conversationalists of the present century. One of them is collecting only U. S. Newspaper stamps and the other is interested in cornering the market of 2 ct. '90s. They had a pleasant chat with me about Peruvian watermarks, which was cut short by an attempt of one of them to prove that I was Lewis Bishop. I resented the interruption and rose to go, leaving the three of clubs and my regards for the Major. I never heard whether he got them or not.

JULIUS CEASAR,

D. C. Dec. 25, 1895.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

GEO. W. ACHARD,
HARRY S. SWENSEN, } Editors.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

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Editorial.

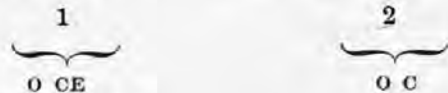
For some time past we have realized that the increasing amount of outside work has kept us from doing our duty in regard to this paper, and in order to keep up the good standard we have maintained from the start, we find it is absolutely necessary to secure some one to bear part of the great responsibility and work attached to the publication of the Philatelic Newsletter. Therefore during the past month we have entered into negotiations with Mr. Geo. W. Achard of Minneapolis, and as a result one half interest in the Philatelic Newsletter has been transferred to him. Mr. Achard is well known in philatelic circles having been associated with philately since 1877. The well known writer and philatelist, Mr. E. R. Aldrich styles Mr. Achard the father of philatelic journalism in the north west. Mr. Achard's ability as a writer is of the highest order, and our readers will be pleased to know that he will contribute regularly to the paper. The change will strengthen the financial standing of the Newsletter, and there is no doubt but that prestige and power will be added.

Our lady assistant will be retained. Her contributions thus far have proven to be of an A1 character. It is probable that a reproduction of her countenance will appear in some future issue of this paper. We intend to publish articles of highest merit from the pen of such able writers as Lewis Quackenbush, E. R. Aldrich, M. P. Stewart, Chic Lovewell and others. We also hope to secure contributions from prominent European writers, thus placing our paper on a plane equal to the best. The circulation of the paper is guaranteed to be 2000. In December we shall issue a souvenir number. Consisting of 28 pages including cover, 5000 copies to be issued. The advertising rates will not be raised. Contracts and bids for positions should be made now. First come, first served.

There is another point which we wish to call your attention to and that is, the Newsletter has been selected to serve as official organ of the Minnesota Philatelic Association. Thus a number of new subscribers have been added to our list which is growing large. No more copies of No. 4 can be secured as we have none to sell at any price. Other back numbers can be obtained at 10 cents each. To avoid paying 10 cents for each back number in the future

you should subscribe now, paying about two cents for each number. Through circumstances hinted at the paper has appeared a little dilatory some months. Hereafter it will appear promptly.

Mr. Wm. Thiessen, of St. Paul, Minn., has discovered a variety of the 2c orange envelope 1864. Scotts No. 51 die 2. Since this discovery we have found a great number of varieties, but we find that Mr. Thiessen variety is the most marked and note worthy. The difference is in the position of the letters c and e of the word cents, relative to a part of the projection of the lower part of the inside border of the frame. The illustrations given below will show the difference. The new variety is a much more poorly executed stamp than those catalogued and our conclusion in regard to it is that it is the first production of the series, and that the already known varieties are from the retouched dies. Be as it is the discovery is an important one and should be noticed.



1, known variety.

2, new discovery.

Mr. Thiessen also called our attention to an error or variety of the 20 Ore Norway. Above the horn there is something shaped very much like a horn, but much smaller than the first name horn.

The O of the 20 is shaded instead of being dark. There is also a network of poorly defined lines on the face of the stamp.

Now that the P. S. of A., convention is over, perhaps it would not be out of the way to predict who will rule over the P. S. of A. empire one year hence.]

It is not probable that C. W. Kissinger will ever run for president, nor will C. E. Severn, so we must look to some new man who shall serve us in the first office of the society. We watched the campaign carried on by the candidates for Secretary with great interest. We have also noted that the defeated candidate, Mr. Carstarphen was snowed under because of the infidelity of some of his own men. Some no doubt say that he ought to run for Secretary next year but we say that he ought to run for President. Elected to that office, he will be more fully recompensed for having been defeated as Secretary, than if he should be elected as Secretary. Carstarphen is the man for President next time, and Carstarphen will be the man. Although a little early in our forecasts, watch for the fulfillment of our prophecy that Oney K. Carstarphen of Denver, Col. will prove to be the next president of the Philatelic Sons of America. His opponent will be no doubt a Denver man, but who ever it proves to be he will be lost in the shadow cast by the avalanches of Carstarphen ballots.

Mr. Thiessen whom we have mentioned has one of the finest collections of stamps in the Northwest. Among the varieties in his album can be found 81 Pa blue on blue Moldavia listed at \$500.00. He has many of the rare stamps of Swiss Cantons, and has whole countries complete. His collections at present time numbers about 10,000 varieties, together with a half million duplicates. He collects every legitimate postage excepting revenues. His favorite countries at present are Greece and Romania which he has almost complete. He is much interested in the collection of plate numbers, and has a very fine collection in this newly favored branch of philately. Mr. Thiessen once purchased of an Englishman a lot of 300 50c on 5c blue Fernando Po. for 18 d. He sold most of them to a dealer realizing about \$300.00. The catalogue value of this lot is \$9,000.

Mr. Thiessen was recently elected Counterfeit Detector of the Minnesota Philatelic Association.

It is not clear that the letter carriers were regularly employed before 1753, when tradition tells us that Benjamin Franklyn the new Postmaster General, employed them in Philadelphia, and possibly in New York. The earliest evidence we have is of 1762, when the Philadelphia postmaster advertised that his "boy" had run away, and that patrons must call for their letters at the post office. The postal Journal of Hugh Finlay, a store house of sound information, tells us that Boston had no letter carriers in 1773. Of New York, he says that "soon after the arrival of a mail the letters are quickly delivered by a runner," which means messenger or letter carrier.

We have received a copy of the "Suburban Magazine" published by A. H. Shirk of San Leandro Cal. The magazine has been enlarged and its contents are very interesting to us principally because of the stamp department. Mr. Shirk suggests to us that "Newsletter" would look better if we made two words of it "News-Letter." Perhaps this is so but our regard for correctness excels our regard for beauty and have adopted our manner of spelling the word according to that principle.

The London correspondent to Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News thinks that a complete list of foreign currencies with equivalents in English or American currencies should be published. For the benefit of our English brother and others, we would say that such a list has been published by Stanley Gibbons Co., of London, England.

We have seen the 4 d green Cyprus surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ d in black. This surcharge without doubt is a forgery, as there was no such stamp issued officially.

Mr. C. E. N. Howard possesses a complete set of card board proofs of U. S. stamps. It was through the help of Postmaster Bissell that he secured it.

Mr. C. E. Thayer a St. Paulite, will shortly take an extended trip through the eastern states visiting the principal philatelists on the way of his journey. Mr. Thayer promises us with an account of his philatelic meetings, which no doubt will occur in some future issue of the Newsletter.

Capped varieties of the two cent carmine, (Cap on the left figure) are selling for as low as three cents each. The latest quotation for the violet carmine variety is thirty cents for the unused, and eight cents for the used specimen.

Every stamp dealer should be a philatelist, but, we do not uphold the notion that every philatelist should be a stamp dealer.

We recently secured a three cent executive on original cover. We believe that executives in this condition are very rare.

H. S. SWENSEN.

Upon assuming charge of a part of the duties of editor, we deem it our privilege as well as duty to say something as to our future course. As has been stated before we have been called "the father of philatelic journalism in the northwest." And while it is perhaps true that we have had as much if not more to do with our class journals than any philatelist in this section of the country, yet never before have we entered so heartily into a new field. There was a time not long since when we thought our labors in this line were ended, but you have all probably heard the old adage of the hands that have touched printers ink are continually itching for more. This appears to be our case and we cannot say we are sorry it is so.

And now, in assuming a joint editorship, let us state that we expect to devote our entire time to this paper and it alone. We feel that there is an abundance of work to be done and that while the standard has been of a high grade, still it can be raised and to this end we shall direct our efforts. However it is not without some feeling of trepidation that we undertake the task before us, for we are fearful lest more will be expected of us than we are capable of rendering, and therefore we crave, to a certain extent, the leniency of our critics, knowing that they will cheerfully grant it when they realize that we are doing the best we can. We shall give our readers "value received" every month and trust we shall not only merit but obtain the patronage of every collector loving an independent magazine.

In a recent number of *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*, the editor Mr. S. Louis, decrys the "foisting of telegraph stamps" upon collectors. He says and we think very correctly, that "a great step in advancement of philately will have been accomplished when these labels are no longer accorded a place in catalogue or album." The collecting public seem disposed to gather anything upon which cataloguers

place a value and if the present pace is kept up, we expect to see spool labels, advertising dodgers, and what not accorded a place in our albums. It takes enough of the coin of the realm to collect genuine postal emissions, without going into every brand of the printers art.

Amid all the noise and clatter made, about speculative stamps, is it not a trifle singular that some of our versatile philatelic graphite pushers have not commented upon the subject of plate varieties broken and retouched dies, etc. The collecting of some stamps merely because a grain of sand blew upon the plate thereby causing an indentation and a consequent light or dark spots upon all future impressions of that die, is about as senseless a pursuit as that of the man who daily went down to the lake and secured a little bottle of its water, preserving and labeling the date of each bottle. To our notion only such stamps are collectable by collectors as varieties upon which there appears some change recognized by governmental postal decrees. Any other specimens are nothing more or less than oddities and are deserving of no place in our albums as varieties.

We presume we shall be set down as a crank upon the subject of semi-technical articles, but nevertheless we are fearless to again say that our philatelic magazines are not filling the place which they should. A casual glance over the columns of our class journals will suffice to convince even the most skeptical when we say that of all the manuscript written and appearing in print, fully three-fourths have nothing what ever to do with the stamps themselves. The reason for such a state of affairs is not apparent. Can it be that we have no writers qualified to deal with anything but abstract generalities? This cannot be the case, for certain of our papers, notably both of the San Francisco magazines, never miss an issue without an article or two upon some minor varieties or the clearing up of a clouded issue. We need more of this style of articles and less of the balderdash and mud-slugging style in vogue. The beginner needs them as much as the advanced collector, for certainly he should be educated that he may with credit fill the places of Evans, Tiffanys, Scott's, and Egans when those gentlemen shall have passed to the great beyond.

Our English cousins are loud in their denunciations of speculative issues. in fact more so than we on of the big herring pond. Nor are they slow in their judgement of what constitutes an unnecessary issue, without the slightest hesitation they proceed to place under the ban the columbian issue in its entirety but more particularly the higher values. We wonder if it ever occurred to these self-established censors of philately to call to mind the fact that up to 1893 the highest denomination ever issued by the United States Postal authorities for use as postage was a 90 cent stamp, while their own beloved clime had her

1½ stamp for fifteen years. The \$5.00 columbian unnecessary! what would you say were we to show you a block of thirty 90 cent 1888 used for postage? As another illustration of the fact that Uncle Sam is not in the business of manufacturing stamps for revenue only, let us point to the case of a certain New York dealer who, when a certain 10c envelope was to be discontinued, ordered 1000 of this particular rarity.

The Postmaster General, upon hearing that it was simply a case of speculation, ordered 10,000 more of exactly the same style. No! When the U. S. government wish to celebrate a national, or as this issue might be termed an international event, they do it in style and will never consult the wishes of John Bull in regard to its necessity either. We think our British cousins can, with more propriety, turn their attention to certain of their own colonies' productions.

GEO. W. ACHARD.

The Latest Catalogue in the Market.

REVIEW BY H. S. SWENSEN.

Stanley Gibbon Co., limited of London, England have just issued their 10th edition descriptive postage stamp catalogue and list for 1895-6.

It is a much handier book upon the subject in many respects than most catalogues of the kind.

The chief improvements that have been introduced in this edition are as given in the introduction as follows:

I. A division in the catalogue into three parts dealing respectively with adhesive stamps, post-cards envelopes, wrappers, etc.

II. The introduction of the illustrations in the letter press, thus greatly facilitating reference.

III. The sub-division of issue under different classes of perforation, where such exist.

IV. The addition of some thousands of new illustrations, of which no less than 1200 are post cards.

V. Entirely new reference lists of some of the most important countries among which we may specially mention Great Britains in which shades, prominent varieties and plate numbers of the stamps, both postal and telegraph as well as sizes and other minutiae relating to envelopes, wrappers, post cards, registered envelopes, etc. have been given, and prices assigned in accordance with the correct market value. The same has been done in all the Australian Colonies, the celebrated "Castle collection" affording an opportunity of correct listing and pricing never before attained. The lists of the chief West Indian Islands have also been rewritten according to the best information up to date. The collections of the late Mr. Gilbert Harrison of the stamps of Afghaiston, and Cashmere, have likewise been the means of determining relative varieties and estimating correct prices, and in the case of Japan of compiling and pricing a list giving all the varieties of syllabic as plate numbers, both used and unused.

VI. All the lists of post cards, envelopes, and registered envelopes have been entirely rewritten.

and collectors of these will now see varieties described and prices which have never been given before.

The quarterly supplement to the catalogue has been discontinued and hereafter all addenda will appear in the Stanley Gibbons Co., monthly Journal.

A foreign money table, giving the value at par in British currency is included in the book as is also a long and complete list of Technical Terms.

Much valuable information is given in the catalogue which is not to be found in other publications of the kind, for example in regard to the registration stamp of the 1894 issue of Afghanistan, there is a note—"most used Afghan stamps have a piece cut or torn out of them," another example is in regard to the 1 d and 2 d of Great Britains—From 1841 to 1857 the 1 d and 2 d stamps have the paper more or less blued caused by chemical action between the coloring matter and the paper. The gum has nothing to do with it. Issue of 1847 54 rouletted by Archer.

Explanatory notes of this calibre are numerous, thus making the work not only a catalogue and price list but also a veritable hand book of value.

The catalogue of the stamps of Great Britain is very complete and valuable. An interesting feature which is almost necessary to the specialist in plate numbers, is the cataloguing of the different varieties of plate numbers.

For instance. $\frac{1}{2}$ d, red, rose, red.

Plate No.	Unused.		Used.	
	s	d	s	d
1.	2	6	1	0
2.	1	9	0	4
3.	1	0	0	6
4.	1	0	0	3

The plate numbers of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d are not very scarce, but many of those of the 1 d 1864-80 are by no means common, the rarest No. 132, being quoted at 40 shilling, about \$25.00.

The editor of this catalogue places a question mark after the date 1857 of the first issue of Buenos Ayres, and adds that it is doubtful whether these stamps were ever in circulation. Scott does not list this issue at all.

For some months past there has been a great harangue and almost general movement against Chinese locals and stamps of like ilk, such as Seebecks. Many writers have expatiated upon the subject and have presented various means for preventing collection of such stamps. One of these preventatives was to ignore such stamps in catalogues. This the Stanley Gibbons has not done which they should have done, although they did the next best thing that of inserting a notice warning all collectors against these philatelic parasites. This catalogue however, fails to insert a warning notice against the Seebecks.

In regard to the stamps of Cundinamarca we are informed by the catalogue that the used specimens are pen cancelled only, Danish locals are listed also the local stamps of Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland.

On the page allotted to the stamps of Japan

is a table, known as the Alphabet Kata-Kana or Syllabic. The table is copied from Dr. Legrand's book *Alphabets et Chiffres Orientaux*.

In regard to the stamps of Laban, the catalogue states they were made by Messrs. De LaRue & Co., to the order of the Borneo Co.

The whole stock was sold to a private speculator. As an excuse for catalogueing them, the compilers state that a number of the stamps may have been sent to the colony.

In the list of Modenas, the most important errors mentioned are some of which for cent are cent, ent, cnet, ccnt, cen1, cene, cest. Such a ruthless display of errors would almost compel a person to believe that they were intentional products of the printer. The stamps of the Nyassa Company are wisely ignored in the catalogue, although there is a note explaining that their legitimacy is questioned.

The catalogue of U. S. envelopes is made especially valuable because it is accompanied with illustrations of the different types of envelope stamps.

"Comparisons are odious," and they may be so especially in comparing the prices of this catalogue and the 55th edition of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co's. to those persons who lack certain stamps, which deserve higher quotations now than they did when the 55th catalogue was issued. But it may be of interest to make a few comparisons in the prices of certain stamps.

Scotts 55th Ed.	U. S.	Stanley Gibbons 10th Ed.
		About.
1c 1851 Broken Circle,	\$7.50	\$8.40
90c 1860 used,	5.00	24.30
90c 1869 unused,	17.50	24.30
1 d 1893 unused,	8.00	7.20
Same used,	6.00	6.00
2 d 1893 unused,	3.00	6.00
Same 1893 unused,	2.50	4.80
5 d 1894 unused,		6.00
Agriculture set unused,	19.15	27.60
Executive set unused,	30.00	43.20
Justice set unused,	49.68	67.14
Navy set unused,	21.65	36.14
State set unused,	21.70	31.32

Such are some of the comparative prices. It will be seen that the one dollar Columbians are not boosted any in the latest catalogue. The other stamps show good increase.

New Exchanges.

Reaching home one disagreeable day, we were surprised to find a copy of the long expected "Collector," published by Eben S. Martin of this city. In looking over the 18 pages of the Magazine our surprise was deepened in finding evidences of pure merit everywhere. Typographically and from the literary stand. To best express our opinion of the Magazine would be to say that it is decidedly pretty. We can imagine Mr. Martin burning the midnight oil and hustling in his endeavors to bring about such good results as pictured in the Collector, refined and

metamorphosed when compared with the decomposed official organ of the S. of P's., the hand book, of R. M. Miller et al. Mr. Martin's thoroughly masterful efforts and influence of money has produced a journal worthy enough typographically to be thumbed by such elevated moulds of humanity as Jno. Tiffany or the Mekeelite triumvirate. Its contents is nothing extraordinarily meritorious, but equal to the matter published in the average philatelic periodical.

The leading article is an unimportant one by Roy F. Greene under the caption of "When Patience ceases to be a virtue. In answer to which Mr. Greene gives a hackneyed account of how dilatory is the workings of an exchange departments of a national society, and how you are swindled by the philatelic fraud! how "the substitute has got in his work." The article is however written in the usual pleasing manner characteristic of the author.

The valuable contribution to the paper is some interesting "notes on varieties," by Era.

The result of the balloting at the different convention of the several philatelic societies, and a short account of the first annual convention proceedings of the Minnesota Philatelic Association fill a couple of pages. "Nautilus" offers a plea for better stamp journals. R. M. Miller reports the proceedings of the S. of P. doings. Our managing editor has again been elected to the office of attorney to this society. Gus Luhn was re-elected president.

The next interesting feature of the paper is a cut and account of a copy of the 2 cent blue 1851, of Hawaiian Islands, catalogued by Scott at \$1,500.00. The stamp is to be auctioned together with 265 other lots in the first auction sale of U. S. Stamp Co. Oct. 11th and 12th.

Mr. Martin has stated to several persons that he has bought out the old "Collector" and that his paper will act in the capacity of official organ. Mr. Martin hints at this state of affairs in one of his editorials.—H. S. S.

A Northwestern Sale.

Mr. Geo. W. Achard is arranging for the sale by auction of a part of the collection of a prominent local philatelist. He intends that the sale shall take place about Nov. 10th, and will publish a list of the various lots in the October and November numbers of this paper. A small book will also be gotten out of the same sale for circulation among those who may not receive numbers containing the catalogue. As this will be the first sale of any magnitude ever attempted in the northwest much interest is being manifested in its out-come. For if this sale is a success, the future will undoubtedly witness a number of others. There will be a strong list of U. S., and all of the specimens are choice.

Our Exchanges.

We were agreeably surprised upon opening our mail one fine morning to see a copy of Gus Luhn's Southern Philatelist. Gus is certainly a hustler, but

this fact is the more patent when one remembers that it isn't the easiest matter to start a stamp paper and get married too. Many thanks Gus, and congratulations on the other event. The August number is the latest we have seen up to this writing, but it is replete with good readable material. All in all it is the same old Southern.

The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser of Birmingham, Eng., is still making its usual rounds. It doesn't profess to be high grade literary sheet, but its advertising patronage is probably the best of any paper published in the interest of philately. Any of our American collectors who desire a copy may secure one by addressing a postal to it at Fentham Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, England.

1869 Issue.

Wanamaker's columbian stamps are not the only ones that have met with disfavor at first by a portion of our countrymen. The famous 1869 issue, which rank next in favor to The Columbians, were subject to much ridicule as the following verses, taken from papers printed in that year indicate.

CURIOUS LETTER ADDRESS.

"Go it, you smoke cart! hard up with the blues!
Carry the parson three cents worth of news;
In Enfield, Mo., his "secondly" brewing,
Please find whom we used to call
Ed. Corney Ewing.

TO THE NEW STAMP.

"You blasted, bawling, steaming critter,
Why take your place upon this letter?
Is it by high or low pressure you run,
That you take the place of Washington?
Was not his work well done enough
That you're employed to blow and puff?
Or is your credit so much better
That you propose to take this letter?"

"Now, by my soul, I'll try your pluck,
And see, if by chance or good luck,
You'll carry this safe without delay,
To the town of Haddonfield N. J.
And when you have safely laid it down,
Just ask the P. M. of said town
If he will not, on his word of truth,
Deliver the same to M. T. Ruth?"

Minneapolis Philatelic Society.

On October 5th at 8 p. m. in the office of Mr. Achard, a local society is to be organized. A number of the older heads got together and decided that something of the sort must be done that there might be some concerted action in regard to the entertainment of members attending the various conventions next summer. The society will start out with at least fifteen members and it is hoped that all philatelists, residing in the city, who may read this notice will avail themselves of the opportunity to get in on the ground floor.

Time Tried Titles.

The prince of Morocco upon opening the golden casket and finding only a parchment instead of a picture of the lovely Portia, expressed his surprise and disgust in the exclamation "Oh ——! What have we here?" It seems to me, I too, am justified in such an exclamation when, in looking through a newly received Magazine, my eye falls on "Philately as an Educator" or some other title which is equally familiar to philatelists the world over. Now when "Philately as an Educator" first appeared some time in the dim past, probably before most of us were born, it may have been, most likely did, appear taking. Writers have been taking advantage of this erst time attractiveness ever since, and when some second Macaulay, or perhaps some famous essayist, wishes to benefit the philatelic world, he displays his literary genius in "Philatelic as an Educator." We will even suppose the article to be of merit, though slightly tedious, but the title is, in itself sufficient to prevent many timid people from reading farther.

It may seem strange but the title goes a great way toward the success of a story and as much care and attention should be given to that as to the book itself, perhaps more. For upon the title depends in a great measure the success of a story in a financial way; an attractive title being a most essential part of a popular book. Take the three most popular books of '94 "Trilby," the "Mauxman" and "Marcella" Isn't there a freshness and an attraction about them And you may be sure their selection was the subject of some consideration. If so much of the success of a novel depends on title why should not the name of a magazine article count for something also? Or is the list of philatelic titles arbitrarily limited to the few we encounter again and again?

Originality in titles is well worth striving for; not only does it show the author's inventive genius, but it also gives a better idea of our literature to an outsider than if the same titles were continually staring him in the face. Although in truth the field of philatelic is not a broad one, it is of sufficient latitude to allow of new titles for all our articles, even if they deal with the same subject. Let our writers struggle for this; if we must have an article on "Philately as an Educator" why not change the title to "The Educational Advantages Obtained by Following the Fascinating Pursuit of Philately," for an example. This sounds more learned and pompous and is apt to impress the readers as to its literary ability. In the future then let us hope "Philately as an Educator" and other similar fossils will sink into oblivion, and when they are spoken of it will be with reverence for their age.

RICHARD GORHAM BADGER.

The reason for the late appearance of this number is due to our former printers. We have now engaged one of the best firms in the city, and our readers may look for our magazine to appear promptly and in its former artistic style.

Curious Letter Addresses.

"In care of Bridget Malone,
Number 207, 11th street east,
Two doors from the bake shop,
For Dinnis Malloy, carpenter,
2d floor in the rear, front room.

"This for Delia B—— is meant,
To J—— Ohio must be sent.
Hearing she had gone away,
Forward it without delay.
If the post should want a penny
I would smile to see him get any."

"Wood
John
Mass."

A translation of this is John Underwood, Andover, Mass.

"Letter to eternal depths of woe,
Fate declares thou shalt go;
See the good, the true, no more,
Bite the dust on Jersey shore.
Leave the state of good intent
Unallowed your wrath to vent;
Kerwhollop, sink among the clams,
And all to poor to give you alms.
Starving lawyers, crying babies,
Swearing preachers, bony ladies;
Chinchers preying—bloody bleeders
And, Hail Columbia! what mosquitoes!
Oh, who would not your fate deplore,
When you go to Jersey shore?
But go you must, and with a crack,
To J. P. C—— of Hachensack,
A youth who, with mustache invisible,
Is to the ladies extremely kissable."

Guy Green as a Postmaster.

The postoffice in the Nebraska town was at the back end of a general store, says M Quad and I was inquiring for mail when a middle-aged woman advanced to the window, slammed down a 2-cent piece and announced:

"Stamp—2 center."

The postmaster handed her one, but she waved it away and pitched a letter at his head and said:

"Lick her on!"

He promptly and humbly obeyed, and, as the woman walked away, I asked:

"Don't people out this way lick on their own postage stamps?"

"Yes, most of 'em, but that woman is particular and I don't want to take chances again."

"Chances on what?"

"Well, she came in here about six months ago for the first time and bought a stamp and commanded me to lick. I laid back on my dignity and refused, and she turned around and kicked the head out of a barrel of N. O. molasses and I lost about 'leven dollars by the operation. As my salary as postmaster is only \$23 a year, I can't take no more chances."

You Will Miss It

It you do not secure advertising space in our Christmas edition which will consist of 28 pages, finely printed. An edition of 5000 copies will be circulated. Our rates will remain at

60 cents per inch

At this rate, this is the cheapest advertising medium in the world. Write now and get on the ground floor.

An illustrated resume of the prominent dealers of the United States will be a prominent feature.

Address

The Philatelic Newsletter,

1605 Stevens Ave.

Minneapolis, Minn.

WHAT DO YOU NEED — IN — BRAZIL — OR — ARGENTINE.

These countries are our specialties and we can fill many of your wants. Discount on these stamps is $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

We also have other foreign at 40 per cent. and U. S. at 20 per cent but require first class reference before sending out sheets.

Flour City Stamp Co.

721 So. 7th St.

Minneapolis, Minn.

WANTED

high values of Columbians for spot cash

Also 30c, 90c unused Justice department.

Other U. S. Stamps wanted for my collection.

H. S. Swensen,

1605 Stevens Ave.

Minneapolis, Minn.

LOOK HERE.

1894 adhesives, U. S.. from 1c to \$5.00 inclusive, \$10 85.

Cut square envelopes. Can supply your "wants." Write for prices, mentioning what you want. I have no printed price-lists.

How are your Revenue "wants"? If you want them filled, try me.

I do not sell \$5.00 stamps for \$1.00 if I know it, but I give good value for the money.

Cash paid for good collections of U. S. adhesives.

JOE F. BEARD,

Muscatine, Iowa.

518 American Phil. Association.

499 Phil. Sons of America.

1413 Sons of Philately.

135 League of American Phil.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

OCTOBER, 1895

NO. 8.

Hints to Beginners.

C. S. N.

It is not my idea in this short article to state any new doctrine, but rather elaborate upon a few old-time sayings for the benefit of that class of collectors, we should all endeavor to aid the beginners. If Philately is to last, and there seems sufficient indications that it will, this class of her followers must be carefully guarded and nurtured that they may step into our places when we have gone to join the great majority.

Various causes result in starting persons on the road to philately. Some take it up because they have become interested in the doings of some stamp collecting friend, some on account of something they may have seen written on the subject, while others take it up because of an instinct that seems to have been born in them to collect something, and stamps chance to be the direction in which their choice is made. This latter class is the one most likely to graduate philatelists, and to which the original stamp collector must have belonged.

The boy or girl, man or woman, becomes interested in stamp collecting. He naturally seeks to obtain as many as possible at the start, in order to get past the beginner's point as quickly as possible. If he has plenty of money at his command perhaps he will buy freely and soon amass a large number. That is not collecting; that is acquiring stamps. Let the beginner "make haste slowly." Let him first pick up specimens from his friends and acquaintances, as far as he may be able, and familiarize himself with them as he goes along. To start right the beginner should provide himself with a standard catalogue and album—the latter being one with spaces provided for all issues and giving illustrations. A good stamp paper is also advisable, several if the collector can afford them.

Having the album and catalogue, let the collector first turn his attention to them and see what the field is he is about to enter. These will give him ideas and somewhat familiarize him with the specimens he is about to collect. A little industrious search among old papers, and inquiry among friends will result in his obtaining a few specimens. These will occupy some little time in classifying and arranging in the allotted place in the album. It may be some specimen will prove a puzzler to the novice and he will be unable to locate it. In that event put the specimen aside until you meet some friend who is acquainted with it, or develop a correspondence that will aid you in such cases.

There is no reason whatever why any intelligent person should not, unassisted, master the intricacies

of philately in a reasonably short time, with all the aids accessible to the present generation. Not that anyone can become an expert in a few months, not by a good deal. There are really surprisingly few who can justly be called experts in philately, just as the experts in any other pursuit are limited in number. But all can become amateurs and attain a greater or less degree of success.

The beginner having exhausted the resources of his friend and himself, now desires another means of adding to his possessions. On the start it is advisable to purchase packets and the cheaper sets of stamps. These will do for but a short time, however, as the variety of packet stamps is quite limited and the buyer soon finds that he is getting duplicates instead of additions to his collection. Yet the purchase of packets has its fascinations and aids greatly in instructing the beginner. For in accumulating duplicates he is led to a closer examination of the stamps, which often leads him to find varieties where he was in ignorance of their existence. Now is the time to begin buying from catalogue or from approval sheets.

And here arises a question that can best be settled by individual preferences, whether it is better to seek to complete sets or to obtain a smattering of all countries. Both plans have their advocates, but either can be followed with good results. Then, too, arises the question of minor variations and specialism. In regard to specialism I would say that a good general collection has by far a greater attraction for me, and is also likely to attract more general attention than the finest collection of oddities, minor variations and errors that ever gladdened the heart of a specialist. First give your attention to general issues, then if your inclinations incline toward specialism take it up.

But let every beginner remember that he should not take up specializing until he has mastered the general ideas of collecting. Should he begin as a specialist, the chances are ten to one that he will have dropped his collection in less than a year and have lost all interest in the pursuit. Don't begin to specialize too soon.

Looking for a Star.

BY ROY FARRELL GREENE.

We are all anxiously awaiting the appearance of a new star in the western firmament, and it can most truthfully be said that like that other star which of old was welcome by the shepherds of Bethlehem, the star which gives promise of appearing will be welcomed and revered and cherished.

The stamp collectors of the United States are a liberty loving class, not in the sense of personal, individual liberty, but of national liberty and a democratic form of government is near and dear to their hearts.

When Brazil threw off the yoke of monarchical power and inclined towards liberty and freedom a general thanksgiving leaped to the hearts and from the lips of each and every philatelist in this broad land of ours and the stamps of that South American republic leaped into universal popularity at once. No questions were asked as to whether the image of liberty upon the new issues was more pleasing to the eye than that of Dom Pedro, no discussion arose as to the appearance, good, bad or indifferent. Poor as may have been the first issue of a country which had been caught in the tide of progression and landed safely on the beach of republican government. Enthusiasm ran high because monarchical forms of government had lost its last vantage ground on South American soil.

So it is that now, while strife and devastating war is surging in the beautiful isle of Cuba, just off our Southeastern coast, the prayers, good wishes and hopes of philatelists are given to the liberty loving people who are seeking to throw off the Spanish yoke and carve their names on that scroll which history keeps for patriots and freemen to write their stories and record their deeds upon.

Whether the new republic, should they be happy enough to gain their freedom, will issue a set of stamps which may favorably compare with the recent issues, whether their emblem of liberty may in the matter of good taste and artistic workmanship in even a remote degree approach the beauty and the seeming glory of the little Spanish ruler whose effigy now appears on the stamps of Spain and her colonies, is a question which does not disturb the convictions in every philatelist's mind that another star should rise in the firmament of nations on this western sky and that another government whose cornerstone shall be liberty and freedom should be the proper outcome of the strife.

Cubans have been struggling for many weary years to extricate their necks from the Spanish halter, seeking to govern themselves after the manner of progressive, man-loving and God-fearing nations, and through wars implied or declared, guerilla strife or open rebellion, they have battled bravely and well. Each time they have been conquered by the stronger power which sought to rule their destinies and every time that Cuba bent their heads in subjection to the Spanish sword, during these years, liberty's light flickered and waned on the western hemisphere.

We must remember that Cuba is not the only possession that is controlled by foreign power in this western world. There are other colonies, controlled by the same or other European power, that all the while Cuba is struggling are looking on the breaking up of monarchies and the upbuilding of republics. Should Cuba win in this war now waging hope will spring triumphant in other hearts and hopeful hearts

accomplish wonderful things.

Let the star of freedom rise on Cuban soil and inspired men and women whose hearts longingly pulsate for liberty and republicanism will feel that to accomplish their ends is worth life and love and fortune. And in the years that follow monarchies and despotisms and colonial interference will disappear altogether from this western world and only the star of liberty shall penetrate the obscuring mists of the future that lies before us. And so we wait and long for that star which prophets tell us will rise in dazzling splendor ere many months have been folded away in the Portfolio of Time, and not only do we watch and wait but we hope and pray as well. The rising of republicanism's star over the pearl of the Antilles signify's to the world that liberty and freedom flourish well in this western hemisphere and that though thrones fall and dynasties perish the people go on and on forever, capable of making their own laws, dictating their own policies.

And when that Cuban republic shall have declared and their first issue of stamps shall have been placed on sale, will their not be a thrill of pride and joy mingled together dwell in our hearts for our own country which established freedom's school and acted as preceptor, instructor and disciplinarian for these other nations that have followed.

Our albums are lying open, ready to receive the initial gem from Cuban soil which shall bear the arms, the colors or the insignia of a people united, blest and free.

St. Paul Notes.

Mr. C. E. Thayer has returned from his stamp hunt in the southern part of the state.

An effort is being made to organize a local society here as there are any number of collectors here it will probably be a success.

Messrs. Kissinger and Beamish did not make any stay in St. Paul. Mr. Beamish came over from Minneapolis for his mail but Mr. Kissinger only passed through on the train.

Mr. J. J. Waddell of Mankato was in the city recently with a fine assortment of unperforated revenues in pair and in blocks. He also had a number of specimens of California State Revenues.

One of the stamps that has gone up lately is the unused 10c 1851. It is now held at \$15.00. This is a good advance for a stamp quoted at \$2.50.

Messrs. Thayer and Howard recently purchased three barrels of U. S. stamps from a minister. They will not the purchase price, nor whether they found anything of value.

It is said that a prominent collector here will soon start a paper. This is not surprising in itself but as it is to be published in three languages, we think it will surprise many.

Minnesota Philatelic Association.

President; E. R. Aldrich,
Benson, Minn.

Vice President: Philip Dick, Jr.
St. Peter, Minn

Secretary; C. E. N. Howard,
656 Summit Ave. St. Paul, Minn.

Treasurer; C. E. Thayer,
154 E 3rd St. St. Paul, Minn.

Exchange Supt. G. W. Achard,
242 Boston Block, Minneapolis.

Librarian; C. G. Selvig,
Rushford, Minn.

Counterfeit Detector; W. M. Thiesson,
595 Dale St., St. Paul, Minn

Trustees; H. S. Swensen, Chairman,
C. J. Tyren, A. L. Mayer, Minneapolis.

New Members.

- No. 39. Oscar J. Larson,
Madison.
- No. 40. C. M. Lovsted,
Minneapolis.
- No. 41. H. G. C. Macredie,
Minneapolis.
- No. 42. E. S. Stebbins,
Minneapolis.
- No. 43. W. R. Young,
Minneapolis.
- No. 44. F. A. Hull,
St. Paul.
- No. 45. Harold L. Jones,
Minneapolis.
- No. 46. H. F. Cooper,
Minneapolis.
- No. 47. Allyn K. Ford,
Minneapolis.
- No. 48. Adolph Edsten,
Minneapolis.

APPLICATIONS.

- Peter E. Kierland, Rushford.
Reference: Conrad G. Selvig,
Eben S. Martin.
- Carl Selvig, Rushford.
Reference: Conrad G. Selvig,
Eben S. Martin.
- Addison Miller, 533 Carrol St., St. Paul.
Reference: C. E. Thayer,
W. A. Miller.
- C. L. Annan, St. Paul.
City Engineer's Office.
Reference: C. E. Thayer,
W. Thiessen.
- Benjamin Sheldon, Minneapolis.
Reference: H. S. Swenson,
G. W. Achard.
- C. Whitely, 521 Guaranty Loan, Minneapolis.
Reference: G. W. Achard,
C. E. N. Howard.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership on Dec. 1st provided no objection is filed before that date.

Membership cards are now ready and will be sent to members upon receipt of dues.

C. E. N. Howard, Sec'y.

Report of Exchange Superintendent.

I desire to notify members that the exchange department is now in running order and that the blank books may be had at the rate of two for 15c or four for 25c. Four books have been started on circuits and more will be sent when they are received filled. I also call the attention of members to the following rules, which if lived up to by all, will make this department a success.

Blank books will be furnished by the Supt. at two for 15c or four for 25c. When filled they will be sent to the Supt. who will send them on circuits. Price of each stamp must be legibly marked in ink under specimen. Each stamp must be securely hinged.

The Supt. designates circuits which must be strictly adhered to. When forwarding books to the next member on the route the sender must notify the Supt. of the date of sending and remit to him the amount for stamps retained. All books of over \$5.00 must be registered.

The member removing a stamp from a sheet must mark his name plainly in the square from which the stamp was taken. He must foot up the total amount removed from a sheet or book and mark his name and the amount in the proper space in the end of the book. If a name or amount is missing it shall be the duty of the next member on the circuit to note such an error on the sheet and notify the previous one. Failure to do so will make the last party responsible for any lost.

Members having no duplicates in the exchange may receive books by applying to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will keep an account with each member participating in the exchange, receiving and disbursing all money received.

The Superintendent will settle with members for stamps taken from their books on retirement of same.

The Superintendent shall receive 10 percent as a remuneration for his work, and may refuse the use of the exchange to any member not settling his account promptly.

GEO. W. ACHARD, Exch. Supt.

242 Boston Block.

Minneapolis, Minn

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

GEO. W. ACHARD,
HARRY S. SWENSEN, } Editors.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

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Editorial.

In Stanley Gibbons Journal for September and also in the American Journal of Philately there appears a copy of a lengthy letter, written by Mr. N. F. Seebeck, in which that gentleman sets forth his actions and position in and towards philately in a very high minded manner. After reading the letter our thoughts leaned towards expressing ourselves a "vivat rex Seebeck," but other lines of thought intervened, and we now sometimes think that Mr. Seebeck is not as sincere as his letter would indicate. Mr. Seebeck perhaps perceived that the "Seebeck" is getting to be almost as unnecessary to him as it is to the general public. Finding that the shoe pinches, he now, we surmise, wishes to neutralize the harsh sentiment which he thinks is enlisted against him. And he uses the pen as the neutralizing agent. But we may be unduly suspicious and perhaps Mr. Seebeck is sincere. With all the harangue against "Seebeckian productions" there are a great number who would have been glad to step into Mr. Seebeck's shoes and reap the same benefits.

There is an item in "Mekeels Weekly Stamp News" to the effect that the fortunate holders of the one dollar unwatermarked stamps value their specimens at five dollars each. We were congratulating ourselves on our forethought in securing one of these valuable stamps when our bargain-peeled eye became focused upon an advertisement in the above named paper announcing that a set of three unwatermarked stamps \$1, \$2, \$5 values could be obtained for a ten dollar bill. The contrariety thus evidenced awakened into the ancient fact that "talk is cheap."

"The Philatelic Californian asserts that Mr. George Carion is always fair and square in his dealings. This assertion, however, does not carry sufficient weight so as to prove that Mr. Carion's business methods are above reproach. The American Philatelic Association hardly credits that certain actions of Mr. Carion commend that gentleman. And a French Society has denounced him as fraudulently and intentionally deceiving the collector. Mr. Carion has been sending out some imperforate unpaid letter stamps (French Colonies) surcharged "Cochin, Chine" diagonally, in block, which are believed to be counterfeits by Mons. Maury.

It is a significant fact that Mr. Carion patronizes the advertising columns of the "Philatelic Californian." Mr. Zobel designates Mr. Carion's actions by the name "a Yankee trick." A Yankee trick nowadays means anything from playing a joke on your worst enemy to swindling your best friend. In regard to Mr. Zobel it may not be out of the way to state that he and Clifford Kissinger have become reconciled and who knows that Mr. Zobel's name may appear as one of the editors of the Penny some time in the near future.

In the Philatelic Californian occurs an article which champions the interests of French Colonials. The writer very ably shows up the good points of the French labels and he thinks that they are just as collectable as any other series of postage stamps. The trouble with French Colonies is that their stamps are too much alike; they are too often besmirched with scrawny and unsymmetrical surcharges. These surcharges are the principal bane to the popularity of French Colonials. The French Colonials are not what the collector in general consider to be ideal postage stamps. They may be interesting to a few, but they will never become popular.

The phenomenal leaps in prices taken by the 30 cent and 90 cent Justices is a true sign of their desirability. There is a most urgent demand for these stamps everywhere as the prices realized at auction sales testify. At Bogert's sale of Oct. 16th copies of the 30 cent and 90 cent Justices brought \$21.00 and \$40.00 respectively. The demand for these stamps will surely influence a demand for other values of the Justice department. The 24 cent stamp is held at from 12 to 15 dollars by the leading dealers. There were but 3200 stamps of the 90 cent value issued, 8,600 of the 30 cent, 12,800 of the 24 and 15, 26,800 of the 12 cent, 26,900 of the 2 cent, 20,800 of the 10 cent, 25,000 of the 1c and 84,000 and 182,000 of the 6 and 3 cent stamps respectively. According to the number issued the 1, 2, 10, 12 values which are catalogued below the 12 cent agriculture should be worth a great deal more than that stamp. But the number issued cannot rule the valuation for in 1884 about 17 millions of officiate stamps on hand in this department were destroyed. How many of each value were destroyed is not definitely known.

If the new varieties as noted in the Postoffice are ever recognized in standard catalogues, the 90 cent Justice will become an exceedingly desirable stamp. It is very likely that if copies from the American Bank Company's plate are found they will be held at several hundred dollars or more. Those from the improved process are no doubt the commonest and would be worth at least \$100.00 each, while copies from the original plate may be held at slightly higher prices.

H. S. SWENSEN.

Whither bound? Such seems to be the most natural question with the philatelists of today. And with good grace does he bring forth his query, for with advancing prices and the multiplying of varieties through research he is almost bewildered. We are afraid these two conditions will have the effect of placing more than one collection upon the auction block and cause its owner to forever renounce philately. The dealer should be careful how he treats the fowl that lays the golden egg, or his field will become much smaller instead of increasing as it should. The advance in price of some stamps seems unwarranted and is bound to prove disastrous to trade along certain lines and a halt should be called. It is one thing for a stamp to increase by natural causes, but quite an other for it to be bolstered up by a fictitious assessment.

The local society should be kept alive. There is no place that a true searcher after knowledge may obtain as much as in the meeting of his fellow collectors and the interchange of ideas that is bound to take place. Even though your numbers may be few, there is nevertheless some information which we can impart to a brother philatelist, and on the other hand he may have just what we have been looking for a long time. The one feature in the local society should be the regular paper or discussion. It may seem rather tedious and dry at times, but in the long run it will prove to be the most beneficial part of the work. National societies are good enough in their way, but we should not forget the assembling of ourselves, and only in the local society can this be done. Be regular in your attendance and do your share of the work and you will be amply repaid for your time.

Few of the readers of philatelic papers ever stop to think of the amount of work the average editor does to make his journal readable. If they did a great many of our best papers would not be compelled to discontinue their visits. Take for instance papers like the Eastern, the old Philatelic Gazette and the Newsletter and figure how much reading matter there is in a year's numbers. You will be surprised when we tell you that there is one-third more than there is in a number of The Review of Reviews and yet such is the case and you go on buying this magazine for a quarter and never think to remit the same amount to the philatelic publisher. But you say the field of the professional magazine is much larger. Very true, but that is all the more reason why you should lend your support to the philatelic press. We do not wish to be understood as meaning that you should subscribe to every little thumb-nail sheet issued, but the better class of our journals should receive your patronage and support. Help out the philatelic publisher, for while the amount is small, every little counts.

The recent review of the French arising by the Czar's representatives may mean more to philatelists than a hasty thought would indicate. The review was intended to demonstrate the ability and fitness of Russia's chief ally and all indications point to a great European upheaval at no distant date. Such an occurrence would bring hard times to an immediate close in this country and the pocket book of the buying collector would loose its latch-string the more easily. But there is another line along which collectors would be interested. Numerous new issues would undoubtedly spring up and the provisional manufacturer could revel to his heart's content. What a vast amount of labor for the S. S. S. too! Poor fellows, they would be worked to death unearthing "genuine issued for use" specimens and black listing speculatives.

Cuba will undoubtedly gain her much-hoped for independence. This fact seems even apparent in the garbled accounts sent out by Gen. Campos of the Spanish army. While it is not within our province to comment or express an opinion as to the advisability of a republic for Cuba, still citizens of the United States should use all the means within their power to assist them. Cuba ought to be a part of the United States and the sooner the government at Washington recognize the country the better for American interests. At all events there will be a new set of stamps issued and collectors may look for something which will lay away over the old Cuban issues. We understand that the bank note companies of New York are already furnishing estimates.

We can see no valid reason why the Postal Department of our Government should not sell periodical stamps to whoever wishes to purchase them. There could be no attempt to defraud the Government and it would put a neat little sum into the receipts. As it is now, they can only be obtained from postmasters who are either unaware of the fact that these stamps are not to be sold to the public or from some official "on the inside." As the matter now stands it seems to put a premium upon dishonesty on the part of government employees when the opposite should be the case. Our societies should be vigorous in prosecuting their appeals for the sale of these beautiful specimens.

On the afternoon of October 19th occurred the marriage of Miss Alice, daughter of M. D. Kenyon, State Bank examiner and Edward F. Van Gorder. We were never more surprised than when we heard the above. The marriage was a quiet one and none of the stampites of either city knew of it until it was announced in the daily papers the following morning. The newly wedded couple have the Newsletter's most hearty congratulations and wishes for a long and prosperous journey through life.

GEO. W. ACHARD.

Our Editress Talks.

As far back as the changeable days in April when your humble servant threw off the dark robe of obscurity and appeared in the conspicuous garb of a philatelic editress, she has been backward in acknowledging her contributions to the Newsletter. And even now it is with the greatest sacrifice to our natural reserve that we have the temerity to our own writings. The sacrifice is due principally to Mr. Jewett of the Philatelic era. That gentleman on learning that the Newsletter had received an acquisition in the form of an associate editress, asserted that he would hesitate to review critically one paper at least thereafter, for fear of uttering something poignant to the feelings of one of the fairer sex. Mr. Jewett even made a highly graceful terpsichorean bow to us, although we did not see him. Hereafter we shall affix our name to our scribblings for the benefit of Mr. Jewett who will thus be enabled to hurl his missiles of criticism at the right person. Mr. Jewett need not be chary of making critical criticism of the Newsletter in so far as the editress is concerned, for she enjoys any criticism which corrects or tends to correct faults or erroneous opinions. Mr. Jewett! we bow to you and solicit your impartial criticism (we know that you are impartial). We remove all barriers and open up the way for your critical judgement in our case, without making the usual condition of the American girl—"if you are good." We would consider it a great pleasure if Mr. Jewett would send two copies of his paper instead of one in exchange with the Newsletter. In looking over a recent number of "The Era" we were pleased to find a list of new prices of United States stamps which was abstracted from the advance sheets of Scott's 56th edition. We recognize Mr. Jewett's commendable concern for the collecting public and we admire his happiness of thought and boldness in destroying the evil influence of those pernicious advance sheets. We believe that the advance sheets are held at five dollars by the publishers. It is a decided advantage for the stamp collector to have these advance sheets which, leaving the Philatelic Era out of the question, are no doubt worth the amount asked for them. But Mr. Jewett fortunately has destroyed the advantage and their value, in that a copy of the advance sheets can be obtained for price within this amount of the subscription to the "Era"

The power to form a complete collection of the official stamps of United States will be removed forever, from the majority of philatelists, if the minor variety discovered is permitted to continue his disgusting course of what we consider unnecessary enlightenment.

The "Postoffice" catalogues 153 new varieties of departmental stamps which are supposed to exist. It is very probable that the number of new varieties of some value is very limited and so limited that

only the favored wealthy few will be enabled to secure specimens of every variety. According to the "Postoffice" department stamps were printed from both Continental and National Bank Note Company plates. There is also evidence that goes to prove that from 1877 to 1879 official stamps of United States were printed by an improved process, the original process being used from 1873 to 1879. The contract with the American Bank Note Company began in 1879, continuing until 1884, when official stamps were discontinued. With these distinctions recognized, "departments" will become much scarcer in that the divisions will make the number of new varieties considerably less than that number assigned to the one variety which includes the three or more.

Scott's 56th edition will list the newly discovered variety of the ten cent green 1861 at \$10.00. The variety has been described as having the vertical lines heavier than those in the common 10 cent which shows the circle lines plainly. Doesn't it seem plausible to suppose that if there is a variety of the 10 cent stamps, 1861 there is a variety of the grilled 10 cent stamp of 1868.

It has been known for some time that certain stamps of the 1869 issue are to be found with guide lines. Tiffany in his history of U. S. postage stamps writes that he has found these lines (sometimes dots) in the 15, 24, 30 and 90 cent values. In looking over a lot of 3 cent stamps of the same issue, we found one specimen with the guide line, which is a horizontal blue line at the base of the stamp very close to the impression. It is very probable that these guide lines are common to a few stamps of all values of the 1869 issue. Mr. Tiffany speaks of them as being of little importance, but in our opinion they are as momentous as the better known outer line of the 3 cent 1861.

Report of the Committee for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

The Committee appointed by the National Philatelic Society and The Philatelic Society, New York, devise ways for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps have accepted the petition prepared by its sub-committee for presentation to the various South American Governments.

We annex the full text of the petition in English, the original being printed in Spanish and a copy forwarded to the president, cabinet, postal officials and leading statesmen in the various South and Central American countries which are under or likely to be influenced by speculative issues of postage stamps.

On behalf of a large constituency of stamp dealers and stamp collectors, the undersigned representatives of philatelists of all nations, respectfully present the following petition for a discontinuance of the prevailing practice of frequently and unnecessarily changing issues of postage stamps:

We are informed that the governments which have

adopted this practice, believe that it is justified by the money-saving which results, because they are able to arrange with the engraver or manufacturer of the issues to take their entire surplus or waste in full payment of his services as printer. We respectfully suggest that this belief is an error. On the contrary, the governments are certain to lose rather than to profit by a continuance of the practice and that mainly for two reasons:

(1) Because, if the government would themselves retain the entire control of their stamp issues, and monopolize the sale thereof, the philatelists would buy large quantities direct from them at face value, instead of going to the printer, and the aggregate returns from government sales to stamp dealers and stamp collectors would far exceed in amount any reasonable cash compensation which the printers would fairly charge.

(2) Because, the growth of this practice, which has converted the manufacturer into a stamp speculator, and has placed the governments in a false attitude as confederates and abettors in this speculation, has aroused world-wide discontent and indignation among philatelists; so that hundreds of philatelic societies have determined to refuse a market to these speculative stamps and have branded the issues as philatelic bastards. The result is, or soon will be, that the practice will defeat its own commercial purposes as a means of making the postage stamp a salable article of merchandise.

But, wholly irrespective of the financial side of the question, we appeal to the governments to discontinue the practice on higher grounds; on grounds of political morality, or, what the practical politician would prefer to call, political expediency. For there can be no doubt that the resort to this practice tends to weaken the credit of the governments which support it. The inference which is commonly drawn is, that governments resort to this practice only when they are too poor to pay in cash for the services of the manufacturers.

If, in reply to this, it is said that those who deal in and purchase stamps are too insignificant a class to affect public opinion, we respectfully warn against the fallacy of this estimate of the number, character and influence of the community of philatelists. The stamp dealers and collectors are numbered not by hundreds or thousands but by millions. The devotees of philately are not confined to any one country; they are to be found in large numbers in every civilized nation on the face of the globe. Nor are they insignificant in character or influence; they are naturally to be found in those ranks of society which represent education and enlightenment, because the uneducated cannot be intelligent collectors. And not only crowned heads and members of royal and princely houses are among the enthusiasts, but also the princes of finance—notably such bankers as the Rothschilds.

Is it a matter of indifference then to a government what this large and influential class of philatelists think of its financial standing? Can it be indifferent

to a nation to be regarded as so poverty-stricken that it cannot pay the ordinary expenses of its postal office?

The philatelic societies have declared war against what are now known as "speculative" issues. They have branded these issues as unworthy of a place in postage stamp collections. They have bound themselves to refuse a market to these issues and have thus rendered them practically unsalable except directly by the governments. They have denounced the practice of issuing them as irregular, illegitimate and immoral.

In the face of this widespread denunciation and of this open declaration of war, what is the statesman-like policy of the governments? Is it not to discontinue at once and thereafter the objectionable practice?

One of the most prominent manufacturers—we refer to Mr. N. F. Seebeck of the Hamilton Bank Note Co.—has already publicly proclaimed himself a convert to the now widespread prejudice against the speculative issue, although he will probably be the chief sufferer by its discontinuance. The tide of public opinion has set in too strongly against the practice to warrant his further resistance. And the philatelists have prevailed upon him to declare publicly that, if he could honorably cancel his engagements with the various governments and receive a binding assurance that no similar contracts would be entered into with any other manufacturer, he would gladly consent to annul any subsisting contracts which are objectionable on the grounds above stated. But, naturally, such cancellation on his part must be preceded by a request on the part of the governments who constitute the other parties to his agreements.

We therefore respectfully and earnestly petition your honorable government to give this matter immediate and serious attention, and not only to take the steps necessary to cancel subsisting contracts for the issue of the speculative stamps, i. e., stamps which are paid for by surrender of balances to the printer as compensation for the printing of the issue, but also to enact such laws or establish such postal regulations as will render impossible a repetition of the practice of printing stamps expressly for other than their ostensible and legitimate use.

In any event, we assure you, on behalf of the philatelic societies and of the large philatelic world which they represent, of our most sincere respect, and we trust that you will appreciate the friendly and cordial spirit which prompts this respectful petition.

Signed, WILLIAM HERRICK, Chairman.
 JOSEPH S. RICH, Secretary.
 J. M. ANDREINI.
 R. R. BOGERT.
 G. B. CALMAN.
 ALVAH DAVISON.
 H. E. DEATS.
 F. W. HUNTER.
 J. W. SCOTT.

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These countries are our specialties and we can fill many of your wants. Discount on these stamps is $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

We also have other foreign at 40 per cent. and U. S. at 20 per cent but require first class reference before sending out sheets.

Flour City Stamp Co.

610 Masonic Temple,

Minneapolis, Minn.

WANTED

high values of Columbians for spot cash

Also 30c, 90c unused Justice department.

Other U. S. Stamps wanted for my collection.

H. S. Swensen,

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Minneapolis, Minn.

LOOK HERE.

1894 adhesives, U. S.. from 1c to \$5.00 inclusive, \$10 85.

Cut square envelopes. Can supply your "wants." Write for prices, mentioning what you want. I have no printed price-lists.

How are your Revenue "wants"? If you want them filled, try me.

I do not sell \$5.00 stamps for \$1.00 if I know it, but I give good value for the money.

Cash paid for good collections of U. S. adhesives.

JOE F. BEARD,

Muscatine, Iowa.

518 American Phil. Association.

499 Phil. Sons of America.

1413 Sons of Philately.

135 League of American Phil.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

NOVEMBER,

NO. 8. 9

Notes on English Stamps.

By M. E. N.

A most interesting study would be that of the various hand stamps used subsequent to the invention of the adhesive. There are some of them which are quite collectable even under present conditions, viz.—those used after 1839. The postage stamp was only looked upon by the authorities then as of an experimental nature, and its use in the United Kingdom was quite optional up to 1851. During these twelve years stamps could be prepaid at the counter, and letters were then hand-stamped with a mark which had exactly the same carrying power as an adhesive stamp. Surely these hand-stamps are more worthy of recognition than much that goes to make up a collection nowadays.

Then there are the stamps used to prepay postage at the book rate. If books or circulars are taken to a head office they may be prepaid in a lump sum under certain conditions, and the authorities then impress a circular stamp containing the word paid, and this carries the circular or pamphlet to its destination. Surely these are as much postage stamps as the more elaborate articles embossed upon the stationery one buys at the post office counter. For the benefit of anyone interested in the hand-stamp used in the United Kingdom during the years 1840-1852, I would recommend Mr. W. T. Wilson's admirable article in the *Philatelic Chronicle* of Nov., 1894.

I never took a lot of interest in postmarks, but my curiosity was excited the other day by seeing a stamp obliterated with the usual oval composed of lines of varying length and containing the identifying mark, B67. From seeing the latter-day writings about English stamps used abroad I had come to an understanding that the postmarks with letter and number combined were only used abroad. Of course I found out at once how utterly wrong this idea was, but it made me look more closely at the obliterating marks on my daily correspondence. I have begun to think that there is a good deal more in postmarks than people suppose. I think they offer a good field of interest, are, for the most part inexpensive, and are capable of giving a great deal of information as a side study to philately. I do not mean to say that I would recommend anyone to commence a postmark collection, but still there is something in it, and, when stamps get absolutely unattainable to the average pocket, as they seem likely to do at the present rate of increase in price, postmark collecting may become a popular pursuit. Among the few I have saved from the waste-paper basket during the last week or two are B67 (Winsford), B60 (Bournemouth), G72 and

G73 (Angmering), and 28B (Streatham). Why, if my B60 had only been B62, I could have asked a fabulous price for it as having been used in Hong-Kong!

I know some of my kind friends will be saying that so far all mention of English stamps in these "Notes" is only conspicuous by its absence. They are right. I am at present only just recovering from the blow which recent jumps in value have given me, and I look upon English stamps at this moment as things to be worshipped only at a distance. Hence my reluctance to touch upon their virtues or faults? Perhaps by next month my diffidence will have vanished and I can approach my task with the equanimity that alone can warrant success. In the meantime I shall be pleased to hear from any devotees of this branch of philately, with a view to discussing the most interesting points within the scope of Notes on English Stamps.—The *Philatelic Chronicle* and Advertiser.

Foreign Correspondence Cards.

ONTARIO.

What philatelist is there that has not had his foreign correspondents, and how they do startle you with their requests and pleadings for 12d. Canadas and shillings of N. B. and N. S. galore. I have found a few foreign collectors of service to me, but nine out of every ten want to get the best of you—the tenth generally turn out a fair exchanger. I find the French language the most suitable for foreign work, but English is the old stand-by, and many a laugh have I had at the attempts of some writers to fathom the latter language. Here are a few samples of my correspondence, all taken from post-cards received:

"INQUIQUE, Chili, July 12, 1889.

"DEAR SIR: Pleased send me your circular exchange price-list. Please tell me if you change some foreign stamps for Chilian or other American ones, for I have a great many of them and I wish to know also how much you pay per cent of Chilian or other stamps. Your truly servant,

"GEORGE A. H.—"

"SKIOL, Denmark, Feb. 19, 1888.

"SIR: With this lettre I sent you as pattern of no value some Danish stamp of good sortiment, and I hope for thou to receive a good exchange of stamp. I have all Scandinavia stamp to change with you.

P. G. H.—"

"NYSTAD, Finland, 4 Apl., 1890.

"SIR: In 'L'amouire Timbrologie I have seen your advertise. I take liberty to ask you to enter in exchange-connexion with me, wanting to complete my

collection with Canada and U. S. If you like you might be so kind to send me some sheet what I want and make you counter-sending according to your manco-liste. Hoping to receive your news, I am, truly,
P. T. H.—."

"OFFEN-BACH-ON-REINE, Germany, Jan. 17, 1890.

"GENTLEMAN: I beg to now inform you that I have send right away yesterday a letter on you, and I will hope, that there is arrived rightly in your possess. Please send at once, I remain, Gentlem, yours,
"Paul H —."

"BRUSSELS, Belgique, Dec. 1, 1887.

"DEAR SIR: I should be very glad to exchange stamp with you. I can give you too good other stamp. From Canada I should wish to get 1851 6d 7½ 12d black 1858 perf 6d, ect. Hoping to hear from you in due time, I am yours,
A. DE B —."

"CONSTANTINOPLE, Turkei, 21 Dec. 1888.

"Having read your honorable announce at the philotelic couriers I wish to enter with you into business relations and offer you following very cheap oriental stamps, actual issue reference German and Austrian posts at this city respectfully,
"B. S. —."

"EMMERICH, Prussia, 12 Feb., 1888.

"I receive your sending of Jan. 10 but I regret that you have not send me also some shilling old of Nord-Amerika, for old Canada I have a good intercession, and it will be me very agreeable if you will send me with stamp now as I will like you please on approval I return with 10 days. Yours,
"FR. S. —."

"LIBAU, Russia, 24 June, 1890.

"SIR! offered to you the russian enveloppes entire and splendid I hold all 6 week for you will take following if fine specimens marked not higher than Scott 1851 ½, 7½, 12d 6d perf N. B. 1 shil, Connell N. S, 6d 1 shil, to send me also a hundred Brit Columbie and Vancouver. If you agree please send & return mail I will send enveloppes. Yours,
"ALB. S —."

"ERFURT, Ger. 24 oct. '87

"DEAR SIR: With my to-day's post card I beg to incommode you with a little request. The Secretaire of the Philasten Club a member of which I am which to enquire after a stamp-dealer in Sydney Australia, but as our society does not know anybody else in this town of the dealer I beg to ask you whether you would kindly give me address through which oblige per return answer. Yours,
"R. W —."

VIENNA, Austria, 21 V. 1887.

"GENTLEMAN: I am by Serles' address book of postage stamp collectories in possess of your address and take the liberty of to ask you if you would not make an exchange with the postage stamp which were used at your place and those which are circulating for Austro-Hugarian I also have a great many European & if you like I send also of those Send me as soon as you can a collection and I will change them for others. Expecting your kind reply Gen-

tleman, I remain,

"Karl W —."

BUCHARST, Roumaine, 13, II '90.

SIRS: Herewith I beg leave the friendly question if my letter from January is arrived in your possess and please you for your answer for many stamp. Yours, ere, per
H. P. —."

[Having given an idea to some, of what foreign correspondence is, we must not think we are any way too clever when we write German, Spanish or Italian ourselves.]

The Rarest Stamps.

Mr. George E. Marrow, of 38 Grinshill St., Liverpool, writes from an extract as follows:—"Among stamps which are so rare as to be almost obtainable at any price, the Mauritius "Post Office" pair hold the premier position. The highest price yet realised for the two was £780, paid in January, 1893, by Mr. Avery, the Birmingham philatelist, who almost rivals Philleppe le Renottiere von Ferrary, the 'Prince of Philatelists,' in his devotion to the hobby. The singular thing about this scarce Mauritius twain is that neither stamp has ever been successfully forged. This is explained by the fact that the owners of the very few known copies of these varieties are such well-known philatelists that suspicion would at once be aroused were a specimen from any unknown quarter to be placed on the market.

The 'Connell' stamp of New Brunswick, if not one of the very rarest stamps out, is certainly one of the most curious. It is a monument of disappointed ambition, and of vanity nipped in the bud. Connell, some while Postmaster of New Brunswick, thinking the New Brunswickers might tire of repeated portraits of her Majesty on their postage stamps, substituted his own noble head. The issue was peremptorily countermanded when the authorities heard of it, and Connell nearly lost his post.

Second only to the early issues of Mauritius are some of the first British Guianas. Crude enough, are they not? The circular stamp, the two cent. rose of the first issue is worth £200 any day. A specimen from the collection of Mr. F. de Coppett, of New York, sold at auction last year for £205.

Then there is the one cent. British Guiana of 1856, for which no price has lately been quoted. Probably if one came into the market to-morrow, it would be bought eagerly at £150 or £200, according to condition. Another interesting pair are the two first issued stamps of Reunion, chiefly notable as perhaps the most extensively forged stamps in the whole range of philately. Specimens on the original envelope—generally a guarantee of genuineness—are excessively rare.

A stamp—or rather envelope—which American philatelists delight to look upon as 'the rarest in the world,' is the New Haven, issued locally by the postmaster of New Haven, Connecticut, in the days prior to the general issue of postal stationery for the United States. It is not too much to say that the New Haven envelope is the rarest envelope. Its

rarity, however, is conditional. It must be 'entire,' as the stamp men say, to be worth its full figure \$1,250—say £250. That is to say, one must have the whole envelope, and not merely the stamp.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, a prominent American collector, discovered a splendid specimen of the New Haven envelope recently among the discarded papers of a Harvard Professor. A Philadelphia dealer promptly advanced him £200 on it, at the same time agreeing that the envelope should not be sold for less than £500. It is not sold yet, should anyone be anxious to put down the requisite amount.

Anyone who knows anything of stamps has heard of, or seen, the 'triangular Capes.' The rarest of these are the two 'woodblock errors,' by which is meant two specimens of the issue printed from woodblock dies produced in the wrong colour by error on the part of the printer. The fourpenny was printed in red instead of blue, and the penny in blue instead of red. Fine copies of these 'printer's mistakes' fetch about £50 apiece. The fourpenny sold at auction in the last week in January for £52. Hawaii supplies several great rarities, notably the two cents of the first issue, one of the pieces de resistance of the famous Tapling Collection, now on show at the British Museum. To fix the value of this great rarity would be sheer guess work. Only four copies are known to exist. From our Eastern Empire comes one great philatelic rarity—the half-anna red. A stamp of precisely similar design in blue, is comparatively common. Mr. G. J. Hynes, the Postmaster-General of Bengal, who is at present in England on leave, has a whole sheet of this scarce half-anna red. He values it a cool thousand.—The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser.

Queensland Reprints.

A correspondent informs us that the 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s. and Registered full-face type have been reprinted on the truncated star paper. He does not send us copies, but states that they are brighter in color than the originals, and have the appearance of being heavily printed, in order to get a good effect from worn plates. The 1d. is bright and crisp-looking in color; the 2d. is smudgy; the 3d. is in the light brown, of the Crown Q prints; in the 6d. the background is blurred, and the color very grass green; the 1s. is heavily colored; and the registered may easily be detected by the watermark—this stamp having never been printed for use on the truncated star paper.

Our correspondent also calls our attention to the recent appearance of perforated proofs of the same type, some of which are postmarked with an obliteration consisting of the figures 214 in the centre of a series of parallel bars, thus!—



These proofs are described in Mr. Basset Hull's

papers on Queensland (A. P., Vol. 1., p. 45). We have seen a series consisting of the 1d., 3d., 4d. (yellow), 6. and 1s. postage, and several of the Stamp Duty series, all of which were perf. 13, and cancelled with a small ring obliteration, apparently placed in the centre of each block of four stamps.

We have also seen the same series on Crown Q. paper in the following colors:—

1d. rose vermilion. 2d. dark blue and ultramarine,
3d. light brown. 6d. yellow green.
1s. grey lilac.

The colors of the 2d. and the 1s., are different from any originals we have ever seen. These stamps, we understand, were rejected in 1877 on account of their color not being in accord with the accepted shades, and should have been destroyed at the time, but in some manner were overlooked.

The fierce light of philately, which has been recently thrown on Queensland, is now revealing some strange things.

Another correspondent has given us some further information with regard to the above-mentioned reprints, and states that they will be probably destroyed by the Government. He, however, does not say whether any have "got out" yet.—The Australian Philatelist.

Our Exchanges.

The September "Pennys" came quite late, a marked contrast than its usual promptness. However as Mr. Kissinger has been on a "triumphal tour" of the country, this is in a measure condoned. The P. S. of A. report being very complete occupies considerable space. Major Egan discusses Seebecks in the only lengthy article.

The Collector for October contains a page and a half of reading matter and eight pages of official matter of the S. of P. This paper claims the official organship of this society, but we understand that this is to be questioned as not coming within the true meaning and spirit of the constitution. 'Tis reported that the editor, Mr. Martin is threatened with brain fever, which may be the reason for the poor standard of the sheet's contents.

The Michigan Philatelist is one of the most punctual of our Journals. The October number contains nine pages of reading, aside from over three pages of official matter connected with the Michigan Philatelic Association and the League of American Philatelists. The only trouble we find with its contents is that there is too much clipped matter and not enough of originality in its articles.

Through kindness of a friend we pursued the columns of the August number of The Stamp. We had thought all along that this journal had given up the ghost some time ago, but it seems to have eaten out of the same dish with the immortal cat and with her have come back. The cover was all that reminded us of The Stamp of old, as the contents were for the most part very poor. We can sympathize with

(Continued on page 98)

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

GEO. W. ACHARD.
HARRY S. SWENSEN. } Editors.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

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Editorial.

The most unpardonable piece of deception that has ever come under our notice, is that practiced by the Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales who has approved of the sale of reprinted O. S. Stamps which have been cancelled so as to facilitate their disposal to collectors.

There is no book catalogue that includes the list of philatelic volumes, but according to the statements of a Belgian society we shall soon have such a catalogue. This Belgian society with the aid of other societies and individuals is preparing a stupendous catalogue, the office of which will be a complete list of the books of the world. To some of our ambitious young "uns" we offer the suggestion that they write a book and perhaps their name and fame will be thus perpetuated.

We were never more shocked than when we read in our local papers of the death of Mr. Dudley Bagley, which occurred on the 28th of October. Dudley was out on a hunting trip and heart disease overtook him and after a three day's siege obtained the mastery. Although one of our younger collectors, he had gained a good insight into philately and gave promise of being one of our most brilliant lights. He was in to see us on the 23rd and little did we then think that he would be called to his rest so soon. Scrupulously honest, he was a marked contrast to many of our collectors. We sympathize most sincerely with his bereaved parents whose idol he was, and hope that through the bereavement they may see the hand of an all-wise Providence which never errs in its doings.

We were recently asked to join a philatelic society, but we refused because we were afraid that if we became a member we would soon be hankering after a philatelic office. It is very probably that if we ran for office we would be defeated, for 'tis said that women in politics are out of place and there is no doubt that the other members would accept the assertion. Being defeated we suppose that we like others would become disgusted with philately. I don't believe in the misconception that to be a philatelist membership to sixteen different societies is

necessary. The Philatelic society benefits certain members by offices. It is too bad that the number of offices is not more so that all the members could be benefited. Perhaps we will have such a society some day, then we will hear how one ambitious youth seeks the lofty office of head hinge licker; how he is defeated because the other man has the greater capacity for secreting saliva and a tongue of greater area. Such office holders will no doubt have dogs for assistants. I might some day become a corresponding member of a society, but even in that case I am much afraid that I would be a member corresponding to a fool. Or it may be possible that I may become a full fledged member because of that great inducement, having your name in the large letters of insignificant brevier type. In the meanwhile, we will let the brothers flood the channels of the exchange department with 15 c. stamps of France and we will cherish the hope that opinions and philatelic societies will change.

The editor has referred to us a letter of a correspondent, who thinks that a "Philatelic Literary Society" or "Philatelic society of Literature" would be in accord with the demands of present stage of philatelic literary development. His idea is that there be officers, dues etc. as in other societies. The dues to go towards paying for the printing of exchanging sheets or lists. The list of all papers, our correspondent says, could not be made without incurring a great deal of expense but all papers whose titles end with the word philatelic could be put on one sheet, which would make about 115 specifications in all, not including English papers. Then a second sheet could be made to embrace all journals, the names beginning with the "Philatelist," "Or a classification of the papers of certain states, as Illinois, Indiana, etc. or of all papers issued since Jan. 1st, 1890, or all papers issued since 1895, The "Philatelic" list would be less than 70 names, a list of Canadian papers less than 50 names. These sheets would cost about \$3.00 per 1000 and with 12 members; that would give each one about 84 lists, which would last each one a long time, and could well be divided into two parts, so that with 24 members, 40 lists would cost about 12 cents. The person who suggests the organization with the scheme as outlined above gives also an outline which illustrates his idea more clearly. We are sorry we have not the space to reproduce it. The person we are glad to say is very sincere in his purpose, for he does not want to be President of the society but is most anxious to participate as a member and is willing to pay the dues of such a member. As to the society we think it wholly unnecessary, and a nuisance for as heretofore expressed we are not infatuated with philatelic societies. But some person could have the sheets printed in a manner as hinted at and fulfil the purpose as adequately. We do think with all our ideas of a philatelic society taken into consideration, that a Philatelic Literature Society, as its names truly implies, might be of benefit to persons who are really interested in the good literature of philately.

Messrs. Kissinger and Beamish agreeably surprised their Minneapolis friends by dropping in entirely unexpected on the evening of Oct. 5th. While we were much pleased in meeting both gentlemen we regret that their stay of two days could not be prolonged. Both gentlemen made many friends by their affable manners and we anticipate a pleasant time when they attend the P. S. of A. and A. P. A. Conventions next year.

Our meeting with those affable, genial, good souled gentlemen, Messrs. Beamish and Kissinger was one that yielded great pleasure to us and one that will not soon be forgotten. Both gentlemen conducted themselves in a manner typical of eastern culture and refinement and were able to meet western frankness half way. Mr. Kissinger is a man of business from the word go which fact contributes greatly to our idea that he is well fitted for the different exalted seats of honor and duties at different philatelic societies have called him to fill. We were much impressed with the quiet, sensible demeanor of Mr. Beamish, whose sterling worth was disclosed to us in the little time which permitted our acquaintanceship to grow into firm friendship.

Notwithstanding statements to the contrary made heretofore on our part and others, Minneapolis has not up to this writing been selected as the site for the next convention of the American Philatelic Association. The committee is biding its time which is perfectly proper, but we trust that after consulting facts and evidence which relate to the adaptability of the different sites in view, Minneapolis or vicinity will be selected.

The S. S. S. S. warns us against a commemorative stamp, 1 d rose, Transvaal, also a set emanating from Peru, and Chinese locals from Amoy. Unnecessary commemorative stamps are promised from Greece, Hungary, Liege, and Sweden. It must be a sad blow to specialists to find their favorite countries, hitherto, clean made filthy by certain unnecessary issues as those referred to above.

That little Mediterranean country San Marino, steeped in philatelic shame, has at last come to grief and in suffering to a small extent from the inconsequence of her actions. The commemorative issue of last year has proved to be very unpopular with collectors, and the immense stock remaining is being sold at "50 cents on the dollar."

Revenues are bound to be in demand from this time on. Many collectors are turning their attention to these stamps because of the rise in adhesives. Revenues certainly are a pleasing study and we are glad to note that they are finding favor in the eyes of the philatelic public.

We are in receipt of an auction catalogue listing the third sale of the Baltimore Philatelic Society. Our readers may obtain a copy by addressing Mr. Hugh Jenkins, 1224 No. Charles St. Balto. Md. The list contains 1098 lots, of which 493 are U. S. and confederates and the balance foreign. The sale takes place on the evenings of Dec. 5th and 6th, at 719 Equitable Building.

The advance sheets are a nuisance. For three months before the appearance of the standard catalogue dealers refuse to part with any U. S. stamps for love or money. Now to our idea, the catalogue is a price current which is intended to last until the next edition is ready for delivery and the charge of five dollars seems like extortion. We are glad to note the progressiveness of Bro. Jewett of the Era in printing a list of stamps whose increase in price is the more rapid.

As was predicted last month collectors are becoming somewhat tired of the increase in stamps which they find they do possess and are disposing of their collections. During the past ten days, our largest firm, so they tell us, have purchased three good collections and in all instances their owners parted with them because they despaired of obtaining certain stamps at reasonable prices and gave up collecting as a consequence.

The Collectors, of Minneapolis, a new periodical which has undertaken to bear the burdens of Sons of Philatelic ventures to criticise the new form of the "Philatelic Era." It may be that our neighborly editor has us in mind when making the "dig" at Mr. Jewett. We think that the size of the Era is strictly consistent to the ideal form of a weekly philatelic paper. We also think that the philatelic magazine approaching the size of the Newsletter come nearer to the demand of a true magazine. The little insignificant sheets 4 x 6 reminds one of patent medicine dream books.

The price for registration should be reduced. Probably no country does a larger or more profitable business in this branch of its postal service than the United States and yet our rate is just twice that of Great Britain and three cents more than that of Canada. Does it not seem as though Uncle Sam ought to do business as cheaply as any of them? If Postmaster Bissell and congress desire to please and benefit the American public, they could do no better than to reduce the charge for registration. This means no inconsiderable sum to our dealers and yet we do not think it would deplete the postal receipts, but, on the contrary, advance them by reason of there being so much more use made of this branch of the service.

GEO. W. ACHARD.

According to Mr. C. J. Phillips the rare Brattleboro is not worth over £100.

Brother Grevning though, as he has passed through some trying times lately.

The Rocky Mountain Stamp for this month is a very fine number. It is a paper of more than usual value to the true Philatelist, the one who is an honest searcher after knowledge, as it contains a number of very instructive articles. Among some of the best things are "The First English One Penny" by E. R. Aldrich, and "The Stamps of the Greater and Lesser Antelles" by W. Lionel Moise. Then too, the translation of an article from *Revue Philatelique* by Geo. P. Grignard on Type Varieties of some English Colonies is a good exposition on these much-sought-after emissions.

Aside from Crawford Capen's editorials and the chronicle of new issues. The Post Office for October is filled with "A Comprehensive Catalogue of the United States Stamps" and American Philatelic Association notes. In these latter Mr. Gremmel lashes the Mekeels in as severe a distribe as it has ever been our lot to peruse. While we do not take sides with either of the debaters, it seems to us as though there was nothing more than a dealers war in this august body. It seems as though there was always a spirit of jealousy in the management of this society and the sooner both sides get together the better it will be for philately. The same sort of strife came near disrupting the association some years ago and unless both sides give in somewhat to the other, it will do so again.

Either some publishers haven't our names on their exchange lists or else their publications are behind time. We desire two copies of all good philatelic magazines and will gladly reciprocate with all doing so. We desire our review to be complete each month, but it cannot be so unless we are favored with copies when issued.

The Second Auction Sale of the U. S. Stamp Company.

On the evening of October 11th at the auction parlors of Hubert Brown & Co., the U. S. Stamp Co. held their second auction sale. There was a good attendance, some twenty collectors from the twin cities being present. However the inexperience of Mr. Martin, one of the proprietors of the company, who acted as auctioneer, marred an otherwise enjoyable evening. Then, too, Mr. Martin had some very unique, if not unbusinesslike ideas as well as to the manner of conducting the sale. He repeatedly shut off bids by making sales when the bidders would willingly have gone much higher. The stamps disposed of were mostly cheaper specimens, but almost invariably if a high priced stamp was put up it was damaged very badly or cancelled beyond recognition. This naturally had a tendency to lessen the interest taken in many lots. The 2c Hawaiian, of which the firm had made such ado, was not in evidence and no bids were received thereon. More than one of those present were inclined to believe it

was either a "fake" to get collectors out or that there was some question as to the genuineness of the specimen in question. One thing is certain, however, if Mr. Martin or the U. S. Stamp Co., expect to receive any patronage from local collectors, they must mend their methods of business and conduct everything above-board.

The following are some of the prices realized: Unsevered pair 5c 1847 on envelope \$1.55; 1857 5c red brown \$4.50; same, not so good color \$4.00; 3c pink on orig. cover, sold to H. J. Crocker \$6.00; 1861 30c unused block of four, \$10.25; 1869 1c block of three \$1.85; 24c, 1869, perforations clipped on one side \$4.05; 1870 30c good grill, but perforations clipped on left side, \$6.10; block of six unused 3c red brown dues \$3.00; 30c red brown and claret ranged from 50c to 70c; 50c same, from 50c to 90c; Post Obitum fine copy \$2.45. None of the foreign were sold.

The Minneapolis Philatelic Society.

On the evening of October the 5th, eleven philatelists of Minneapolis met in room 242 Boston Block to organize a new local society. The attendance was confined to gentlemen who had reached the age of majority and was of an altogether different nature from anything ever before attempted in the northwest. Hitherto societies composed of the younger element have flourished, but men of mature minds and judgment stood aloof from them because of the fact that they were considered "kid" societies. However the assurance of the holding of three national conventions in the Flour City next summer acted as a stimulus and aided largely in influencing many of the older collectors in the formation of the new society.

After the meeting was called to order, Mr. W. R. Young was elected temporary chairman and Mr. G. W. Achard, temporary secretary. A consensus of opinion seemed to favor the organization, and a committee consisting of Messrs. Achard, Stebbins and Swensen was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws and to report the same at the next meeting. Formality was laid aside and a general discussion of the scope of the society then ensued. It seemed to be the unanimous opinion of those present that our fellow-collectors in adjoining cities should be invited to corresponding membership and that the dues be placed for active members at \$1.00 per year and those of corresponding members at 50 cents per year. The committee was accordingly instructed to make such a provision. The election of officers resulted in the following choice:

President, W. R. Young; Vice President, A. Edsten; Secretary, G. W. Achard; Treasurer, Chas. Whitely; Librarian, Edw. S. Stebbins. The meeting then adjourned to meet at the same place on the evening of October 18th.

At the second meeting there were present in addition to those at the first meeting several St. Paul collectors, all of whom were anxious to be enrolled as members. The committee on constitution and

by-laws reported and a constitution which will be printed in the Newsletter at some future date was adopted. The committee desired more time on the by-laws in order that they might more fully acquaint themselves with the by-laws of other local societies and were instructed to report at the next meeting. Several members donated a year's subscription to various magazines and the secretary was instructed to write to others with a view to subscribing. Informal discussion consumed to remainder of the evening.

The following have signified their intention of joining: S. R. Kitchell; E. P. Capen; F. H. Carleton; J. L. Mayer; H. S. Swensen; C. J. Tyren; Z. T. Mullin; W. R. Young; E. S. Stebbins; C. Whitely; A. Edsten; G. W. Achard of Minneapolis; Mr. Tenney of Hamline; C. E. Thayer; C. E. N. Howard; D. M. Mer-

rill; Wm. Thiessen; Jas. R. Gooding of St. Paul.

The society starts out with every flattering prospects and visitors to the conventions may rest assured that it will do all in its power to see that they are treated in a royal manner. At the first meeting Messrs. Beamish and Kissinger dropped in unawares, but were unable to stay throughout the session. The corresponding membership is not limited to any section, but is open to any philatelist regardless of the place of his residence. The secretary will be pleased to correspond with any who may desire to join, a letter, addressed to him at 242 Boston Block will reach him. The next meeting will probably be held in the new offices of Mr. Carleton, 600 N. Y. Life Building and we shall be pleased to meet visitors as well as any who desire to become members. It is called for November 15th at eight p. m.

Minnesota Philatelic Association.

President; E. R. Aldrich.

Benson, Minn.

Vice President. Phillip Dick, Jr.

St. Peter, Minn.

Secretary; C. E. N. Howard,

656 Summit Ave. St. Paul, Minn.

Treasurer; C. E. Thayer,

154 E. 3rd St., St. Paul, Minn.

Exchange Supt. G. W. Achard,

242 Boston Block, Minneapolis.

Librarian: C. G. Selvig,

Rushford, Minn

Counterfeit Detector; W. M. Thiessen,

595 Dale St., St. Paul, Minn.

Trustees; H. S. Swensen, Chairman,

C. J. Tyren, A. L. Mayer, Minneapolis.

Report of Exchange Supt.

As was stated in the October report, the exchange department is now in running order and the superintendent desires to be notified by all members as to whether they wish to receive exchange books. Again I need more filled books. There are now five books on circuits but this number should be trebled. In this department, the benefits of a society can best be tested and the individual members must do their share. Send 15c for a couple of blank books, fill them and send them to me. If you put on good stamps and do not price them too high, they will sell well. Remember members will not pay more for them than they can get them from dealers.

As this department is probably new to most of you, read the rules laid down in the October number and live up to them. When you receive a lot, send it to the next on the circuit in three days and don't forget about sending the amount for stamps retained to the superintendent when you get through with a lot. This is imperative and the rule must be obeyed.

One word more. Try to obtain at least one new member before January 1st, then try for more. We should have a good, big list of applications each month. If you have no blanks write to the secretary for them.

Geo. W. Achard,
Exch. Supt.

Trustees Report

The amendment to Art III, Sec. 4, as propose has been adopted with one opposing vote. The secretary is hereby requested to record the accepted amendment.

HARRY S. SWENSEN,
Chairman Board of Trustees.

Report of Secretary.

On account of the nearness of this issue with that of October, we have no applications for this number. Having now passed the fifty mark, let us strive to double our present membership in the next three months, so that when the first year is finished we point to an even century as the figures of our membership. To do this we must all work together. Do you know any collector who has not joined? Go after him and keep him until his application has been sent in. If you need any blanks, write me and they will be forwarded at once. New cards have been printed and will soon be sent to all paid-up members.

C. E. N. HOWARD,
Sec'y, M. P. A.

Mr. Howard the effervescent secretary of the M. P. A., received a long epistle from some one recently, and as a result C. E. N. has been suffering from some form of prostration from which he is just recovering.

You will Miss it

If you do not secure advertising space in our Christmas edition which will consist of 28 pages finely printed. An edition of 5000 copies will be circulated. Our rates will remain at

60 cents per inch

At this rate, this is the cheapest advertising medium in the world. Write now and get on the ground floor.

Address

The Philatelic Newsletter,

1605 Stevens Ave.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Money Talks.

	CAT. PRICE	MY PRICE.
*Brit. Honduras 1865 1c blue	.75	.40
Brit. Guiana 1860 12c lilac	1.00	.45
Brit. Guiana 1863 24c green	.85	.40
Ceylon 1863 1 p blue	1.25	.60
*Natal 1876 1 p red Scotts No. 48	2.00	1.00
Newfoundland 1868 5c black	3.00	1.50
" 1865 10c black	.75	.40
" 1871 1c violet brown	.75	.40
" 1879 3c vermilion	2.00	1.00
Prince Edwards Id. 1870 4½ p brown	4.00	2.00
Bahamas 1882 4 p rose	1.25	.65
New Zealand 1863 3 p lilac	1.25	.60

Cash in advance. All are good specimens, but as I am breaking up my collection, I am selling cheap. There being but one stamp of each. First come, first served. Registration extra.

GEO. W. ACHARD,

242 Boston block.

Minneapolis, Minn.

WHAT DO YOU NEED —IN— BRAZIL —OR— ARGENTINE.

These countries are our specialties and we can fill many of your wants. Discount on these stamps is 33⅓ per cent.

We also have other foreign at 40 per cent. and U. S. at 20 per cent but require first-class reference before sending out sheets.

Flour City Stamp Co,

610 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn.

WANTED

high values of Columbians for spot cash

Also 30c, 90c unused Justice department.

Other U. S. Stamps wanted for my collection.

H. S. Swensen,

1605 Stevens Ave.

Minneapolis, Minn.

LOOK HERE.

1894 adhesives, U. S. from 1c to \$5.00 inclusive, \$10.85.

Cut square envelopes. Can supply your "wants." Write for prices, mentioning what you want. I have no printed price-lists.

How are your Revenue wants? If you want them filled, try me.

I do not sell \$5.00 stamps for \$1.00 if I know it, but I give good value for the money.

Cash paid for good collections of U. S. adhesives

JOE F. BEARD.

Muscatine, Iowa

518 American Phil. Association.

499 Phil. Sons of America.

1413 Sons of Philately.

135 League of American Phil.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

DECEMBER, 1895

NO. 10.

The Official Stamps of the State Department of the United States,

BY H. S. SWENSEN.

United States department stamps are at once interesting to the average stamp collector, because they show the work of skilled artists; because of the uniformity and appropriateness of the colors and designs assigned to each particular set, and because of their office, uniqueness and almost general scarceness. These characteristics have no doubt wrought their desirability and collection and superinduced the general interest accorded them.

Department stamps have the power to make stupendous changes in regard to prices, which fact has caused many non-collectors to become interested in them. It is certainly true that more can be realized on money invested in good department stamps, than on many of the so-called lucrative investments.

While it is our aim to enucleate upon the stamps of the state department yet much that we shall say will concern department stamps as a whole.

The stamps of the series of the state department were used as the name "state" indicates, by the officials of the different states and only for official business.

The earliest recognition of official correspondence relative to the department of state and other departments dates back, strange to say, to the year 1792, when the second congress, in its first session, took into consideration and approved the idea of providing for the free transportation of letters and packets of persons of official connection. The franking privilege, as it is called, remained in vogue until its abolishment, brought on by abnormal abuse of the system, took effect July 1st, 1873. On March 3rd, 1873, it was approved by act of congress that an appropriation be made for the purpose of purchasing postage stamps for the different departments, and the postmaster general received instructions to provide the necessary official stamps and stamped envelopes. As is generally known stamped envelopes were issued for the departments of postoffice and war only. It is a matter of speculation why the other departments were not similarly supplied, but we presume that stamped envelopes proved to be superfluous in that the other stamps satisfied the requisiteness. It is our opinion, however, that the stamped envelopes are the most suitable and adapted for official business.

Department stamps first came into use July 1st 1873. In three months time over 60,000 stamps of the state department were issued. Up to recently the number of varieties of the series we are discussing, corresponded to the number of values, which is fifteen, but according to distinctions lately drawn, there are 29 varieties known and four more supposed to exist. The postoffice recognizes 27 varieties. It has been our pleasure to meet with the other two. Like many of the varieties of the regular issues of the United States, the distinction of these varieties is based upon the different prints. All values of the state department were first printed from the Continental Bank Note Company's plates. In 1877 the stamps were engraved by an improved process. All the values, excepting the \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 plates are known to have been produced by this new process. In 1879 the contract for printing some of the department

stamps, perhaps all, was given to the American Bank Note Company. We have seen the two and seven cent stamps printed on thick, porous paper which is symbolic of the American print. The postoffice recognizes the 15-cent stamp on porous paper. Stamps of this last distinction are exceedingly scarce, and no doubt will be held at very high prices. It is probable that other varieties supposed to exist will be discovered. Department stamps became obsolete in 1884, when the remainders on hand were ordered to be destroyed.

To go into a detailed description of the stamp under discussion would be too voluminous for the space allotted us, and perhaps unnecessary in that but few collectors have not seen all or part of the stamps, but we shall give a casual description which, we trust, will not prove tiresome.

The heads of Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Stanton, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton and Perry appear respectively on each stamp of the state department from the 1-cent value to the 90-cent. The plate impression measures $19\frac{1}{2} \times 25$ mm; color, green; paper, white. The numerals of each value are between the two words, representing the value on a scroll. This is true for every stamp of the lower values. The groundwork is made up of very fine parallel lines upon which are placed the principal designs and devices such as the bust, oval, scrolls, numerals, letters, etc. One mm. from the edge of the impression at the top is a closely hatched border which is about one mm. in width. In the 12 and 90-cent stamp this frame or border runs completely around. In the others it terminates about the middle in two balls. Below the letters composing "Dept. of State" is a shaded ornament on each end of which is a fleur de lis. Above is a colorless band.

Upon the four higher values of the state department is the large profile head of the late Hon. Wm. H. Seward. The plate impression measures 25×39 mm; color, green; and black; paper white.

The design of the larger states has also a groundwork of fine parallel lines printed in black which form triangles in the upper corners. In the borders these lines are lighter in shade and are horizontal. The oval containing the central device with usual labels and letters are placed upon the hatched ground. Rods tied together with bands with the letters "U. S. A." are placed at the sides. The bottom has the characteristic hatched label with shadeless bands and inscription, shaded on sides of value. The stamps are very artistic both in design and engraving. The shades of the stamps of the state department varies from a rich deep green to a shallow light tint. The original color is of the first named shade. It is not generally known that the high values "state" were used for prepaying dispatch bags. These stamps we believe were printed in sheets of ten, there being two horizontal rows. The plate number is printed in two colors, as is the imprint which is to be found in the left hand corner and lower margin of the sheet. Since these "states" were supposed to have been printed from but one plate they are of but little interest to plate number collectors. The vignette of the high values is numbered 123. From the fact that these stamps were printed by two different companies might be developed that two different plates were used. As it is only the 3 and 6c treasury and 3-cent postoffice are known to have been printed from more than one plate.

The following is a correct list of the number of "states" issued, with quotations from 54th and 56th edition of Scott's Catalogue and number of plates:

Value.	No issued.	54th ed. Price.	56th ed. Price.	Plate No.
1c	31,800	\$.50	\$1.00	55
2c	41,800	1.00	5.00	59
3c	109,200	.50	.75	70
6c	82,100	50	.75	83
7c	37,800	.75	2.00	112
10c	64,900	.75	2.00	98
12c	20,800	1.50	3.000	78
15c	22,800	1.50	2.50	118
24c	13,800	2.00	5.00	117
30c	20,100	4.00	5.00	67
90c	6,043	5.00	7.50	67
\$2	3,508	10.00	17.50	121
\$5	363	....	125.00	120
\$10	363	*40.00	60.00	122
\$20	363	*35.00	50.00	124

*Unused.

According to these figures the two-cent stamp is too highly priced and the 24-cent is given too low a quotation. There were 3,200 90-cent justices issued, yet they are quoted at \$2.50 more than \$2 state. There is but little prospect that this stamp will receive much higher valuation in the next catalogue. The 90c navy as compared with the 90c state in number issued is too highly priced. But it should be remembered that something like 17,000,000 of department remainders were destroyed in 1884. Therefore we cannot take the number issued as a correct basis for valuation, although it is very evident that cataloguers are beginning to put some stress on this point. There could not have been very many of the \$20 state destroyed by the government for out of the 363 issued at least and perhaps more than 135 exist. A whole sheet was exhibited at the World's Fair and several single specimens were on exhibition. Mr. Chas. W. Hopkins, of Providence, R. I., possesses an unused block of four. Most of the large dealers have copies. During the last two years eighteen copies were sold at auction. Two years ago a set of the higher values were sold by W. C. Whitall, of this city, for the low sum of \$85. A set is now worth at least \$250. We believe that the only set now in the hands of a Minnesota collector is that held by a St. Paul gentleman. In regard to the 2-cent state we sincerely believe that the catalogue quotation, compared with the prices of the other stamps of the state department is in great excess of its correct valuation. We do not believe that it is worth one mite more than any other stamp of the department, excepting the three and six-cent stamps. But nevertheless we expect to see it continue its upward march or rather jumps, because its destiny lies in the power of speculators, who will without doubt control the catalogues. We believe that the 10-cent is also too highly priced, when taking into consideration prices of the other stamps. The 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90c stamps are all good stamps and are as firm and pay better than government bonds. The \$5 state is a rarity and a scarce stamp, without question.

Next in order is the reprinted or specimen stamp of this series. They were first produced in 1874, for the government exhibit at the Centennial exposition. Because of this fact they are often termed Centennial reprints.

We understand that their issuance was unauthorized by any law or decree, but were simply printed by order of the postmaster general. In 1875, March 27, "specimen" stamps could be obtained of the department at face value. The stamps were sold in sets except those of the high values of the state department and newspaper stamps, which could be obtained as desired. Specimen stamps of the state department are reprinted stamps, un-gummed, with the word "specimen" printed across the face. The color of the "specimens" is much richer in

than that of the originals; the impressions are pleasingly clearer and in no case is the paper of the stamps affected by the green coloring matter as is sometimes true of the originals. The department gave it out that it would be useless to apply for gummed stamps or official stamps with the word "specimen" omitted. It has been stated that "specimen" stamps of the official departments were printed with gum, but this assertion is untrue as would be inferred from the preceding sentence. It is true, however, that unscrupulous parties have treated "specimen" stamps with gum and sold them for the genuine article. We doubt if official stamps have been so treated very generally for the surcharge prevents disposal of the stamps as genuine originals. A prominent authority states that the "specimen" labels of the department series, correspond exactly to the regular stamps except that the gum is lacking and surcharge added. We wish to take exception to this. Although the stamps of the two different classes were printed from the same plates yet, when the specimens were printed the plates were thoroughly cleaned and special pains were taken that there should be perfect impressions and brilliant coloring.

The reason why the department ordered "officials" to be surcharged can be explained by the fact that it wished to save collectors and others any trouble in identifying the stamps, and also to prevent practices of deception.

Lately there has been considerable interest aroused in regard to the value of specimens. The average specimen is worth according to leading dealers about half the market value of the originals. A specimen set of states excluding dollar values, recently sold for \$17.05. In 1882 the sale of specimen sets was closed to public, and remainders were destroyed. Whilst there were a great number of specimen stamps printed, yet that number did not exceed the number of regular stamps that were issued. It is certainly very logical then to presume that "specimens" will bring higher prices than the originals at some very near day. There is a very great demand for them now as evidenced by auction sales.

Proof essays or proofs were also issued for the department of state and other issues of United States. The perforated India proofs are the more valuable and more sought after than the common cardboard proofs. Proofs can easily be distinguished from the originals; the color of the former being of a fresher hue.

On June 21, 1894, the postmaster general sent forth a circular stating that the department had no proofs or proof specimens of postage stamps for general distribution. In a letter received recently from Kerr Craig, assistant postmaster general, personally, we learn that the restricted supply has been entirely exhausted last April.

The Comming of Absolum

BY ROY FARRELL GREENE.

Willow Creek station was an inoffensive little place. Unpretentious and demure as a Quaker schoolm'am, if that's a good simile when speaking of a wayside station in a new country.

So unpretentious it was as to occupy only a space given up to simple italic lettering on the map which graced the big railway folder and a person must be looking for it on the map if he found it, just as the passenger who wished to visit that place must tell the conductor to stop else the train would go whirling through, only the postal clerk who caught the mail pouch suspended from the crane knowing that Willow Creek station had been reached. But Absolum knew it. Whether he got his information from the conductor or from the brakeman, the Pullman porter or the train boy, matters not, he asked enough questions from each one to have found out the name and location of every station from New York to San Francisco. That was Absolum's only unredeeming

trait, he was a human interrogation point and he asked questions almost mechanically. The whole train crew of the "Santa Fe Flyer" as well as the many passengers had all been put on the stand and subjected to a fire of cross-questions on widely diversified subjects. Ever since the freckled faced youngster of twelve years had been put on the cars at Kansas City by a cheery little mother whose last injunction was: "Be sure and not bother Aunt Mandy, and give 'em all my love, and kiss the baby for Aunt Ada."

Uncle John Hale and Aunt Mandy and half a dozen cousins lived on a farm in Western Kansas and Absolom was going out there to spend the Christmas holidays.

From Kansas City on westward through historic old Lawrence where the guerilla Quantrell devastated and killed in those days of civil strife, on through Topeka and Emporia, on and on over Kansas prairies now brown and sere under the touch of the Frost King.

"Willow Creek Station!" sang out the brakeman as though he were accustomed to sandwich this announcement between the larger towns regularly. The long train came to an abrupt stop, the whistling whirl of the air brakes making a fitting accompaniment to the chig-chug of the locomotive's exhaust. But, pardon the diversion, we were to tell about Absolom.

Uncle John was here with a spring wagon and a goodly supply of blankets in which to wrap up from the cold and very soon Absolom was sitting beside his brawny relative plying him with questions while the meek little ponies bowled the light vehicle over the smooth prairie roads in the direction of the Hale homestead six miles away. Be it added here that Absolom was a practical boy, with an eye to coupling business with pleasure, and for weeks he had been counting on picking up some varieties for his stamp collection out at Uncle John's where his mamma had told him there were old trunks just chock full of ante-bellum correspondence.

It was in the dusk and the dark of even that the little frame house on the prairie was reached and for just about ten minutes thereafter Absolom forgot to ask a single question. It may be doing an injustice to the boy to say that he forgot. Perhaps between the kisses and hugs of Aunt Mandy and the ohs and ahs of the Kansas cousins he couldn't get a question in edgeways, and come to think of it, the latter seems the more reasonable proposition.

It was two days before Christmas and it might add color to this narrative to tell how the intervening days were passed; how Hal and Rob and Absolom chased Jack rabbits over leagues of grassy prairies and followed the hounds, but, as Rudyard Kipling would say, "that is another story."

Christmas came, as it always does, even out on the Kansas prairies where it does seem sometimes that it never arrives until a week after the big cities have rejoiced and made merry. There was a big country dinner and all that's good for little boys and boys of older growth. In the afternoon the cousins enthusiastically joined Absolom in an investigation of the old trunks, but to Absolom's dismay, for every single letter was tied up in bundles and the original covers, where, oh, where were they? Not a single stamp could be found except a couple of three-cent green proprietaries which they found on the backs of old photographs in the family album. But the coming of Absolom was such an unusual event in the life of the Hale youngsters that nothing would satisfy them except that he stay a week into the New Year and visit around with them in the neighborhood. It was a Swede and German settlement round about and Absolom was taken around and introduced to the Glackenheimers, the Olsons and Petersons, Heidelmeiers, and Swensens, where the cousins always told about his stamp collecting proclivities and not without avail for his pockets just bulged with Norway and Sweden obsolete issues, old Germans, including one or two

Alsace-Lorraine, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Oldenburgs and Saxons. And it became noised around the neighborhood that the new boy over at Hales wanted old stamps and the kindly neighbors for miles around hunted up all they could find, bringing them to him with glad wishes and kindly cheer.

So it happened that when Absolom returned home he had a tale to tell his mother of a trip that might have been a transcontinental one for that interrogating tongue of his had found out all about Norway and Sweden and Germany, till he could repeat folk-lore stories and tell about "Yon Yonson and Pete Peterson" an hour at a stretch. Besides the addition to his album was a something to be proud of and healed the disappointment he first felt at the old family correspondence being despoiled. "The coming of Absolom" is still remembered in the Willow Creek neighborhood and even Ab., now grown older, says there's going to be another trip out there this year.

The Virgin Islands and her Stamps.

By Sidney K. Le Moyno.

Very few of our philatelic friends are acquainted with the group of small islands lying directly east of Porto Rico and numerous have been the questions asked me by my collector friends regarding them and their postal emissions. The editors have solicited an article for their holiday number and I have accordingly chosen as a topic the one heading this short sketch.

A few words as to the geography, history and population and resources of this interesting group. Being very close to San Salvador, the great Genoese discoverer is said to have made a landing on one of the group late in the year 1492. At that time they were but sparsely settled and that by a race somewhat similar to the people of Cuba, Porto Rico and Hayti, that is, they were not like the American Indian exactly, though in a measure resembling those found in Mexico. Today Denmark claims these islands, namely: St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. Johns. These have an area of 140 square miles and a population of 35,000. Spain possesses but two, Vique and Culebra with an area of 65 square miles and a population approaching 4,000. Of the fifty composing the group the other 45 belong to Great Britain and have an area of but 64 square miles and a population of about 5,500. It is of the British possessions that I wish to speak more particularly. But three of the islands amount to much, viz: Tortola, Anegada and Virgin Gonda, the capital, Kingston, being situated on the latter. The white population is less than 250 while the rest are emancipated blacks who till the soil and raise considerable cattle. Copper has been found in Virgin Gonda and a very profitable mine is worked. The principal productions are cotton, sugar, ginger and indigo. Great Britain realizes about £2,500 per annum from her revenues, while the exports amount to nearly £6,000 and the imports something over £3,000 a year.

So much for the general statistics. A few remarks now regarding her postal emissions. While, as stated above, there are less than 250 whites on the islands, still the mother country prepared twenty-one distinct varieties of adhesives and a couple of postals for use. And just here it might not be out of place to state that but one surcharge, that bane to collectors, has ever been put forth from the Virgin Islands and it was not of the "issued-for-collectors-only" sort, but was intended for actual use, the supply having become exhausted of the 4d. Consequently it is a clean country to collect and the engravings are such as to make the adhesives very interesting, if the high prices asked for them do not.

The first set was issued in 1866 and consisted of four denominations as follows: 1d, 4d, 6d and 1 shilling. The first was printed in green and had a full portrait

of the Virgin, over whose head was a small quarter circle of star-like pearls. The others were of a similar design, save that the 4d and 1 shilling were a trifle larger in size. The 4d was printed in brown-red on a rose tinted paper; the others being on white paper. The color of the 6d was a pinkish rose and that of the 1 shilling, a combination of carmine and black. The first set were watermarked and were perforated 12. In 1868, the 1d and 1d appeared perforated 15 and the 1 shilling had a frame of double lines added instead of the blank border which had previously been seen. The exact date of the change to a red border is not fully established or if it is, the proof of such date has not been noticed by the author. In 1879 the 1d was issued on paper watermarked C. C. and Crown and perforated 14. A few of the sheets (some think almost one-half) were run into the printing press from the side instead of the top or bottom of the sheet, and as a consequence, there appeared at the same time, the 1d stamp watermarked sideways. Some may think this was intentional, but the fact that philately was then in its very infancy tends to disprove such an assertion. The entire series are now quoted in a used condition at \$160.50 or an average of over \$16.00 each so that it will at once be seen that they cost money. This, undoubtedly lends much to the interest taken in them.

In 1880 a change in dies occurred, the former portrait giving way to that of the usual head of Queen Victoria, which was then coming into general use on the stamps of all British possessions. The set consisted of but two values, namely: 1d, green, and 2½d, red brown. Both were watermarked Crown and C. C. and perforated 14. In 1883 the watermark was changed, C. A. taking the place of C. C. and the color of the 1d became rose, while that of the ½d was a light blue. Two ½d stamps appeared during that year, the first being yellow, a change being made to green the latter part of the year, presumably to correspond with the colors adopted by the Postal Union. The ½d yellow is very scarce and a takes a new, crisp ten-dollar bill to obtain one and even then a skirmish must be instituted to secure it.

In 1887 the first type was resorted to and the 1d rose; 4d brick red; 6d lilac, and 1 shilling brown came to light. These were watermarked Crown and C. A. and perforated 14. However, their stay was but for a short time, for the new set of Leeward Islands was designed to take their place and in 1890-91 the Virgin Islands went into the new postal classification. The supply of 4d stamps were exhausted before the new set arrived and, as a consequence, the postoffice at Kingston had a number of sheets surcharged of the 1 shilling of 1866-79 of which there seems to have been some remaining, although they were selling the new supply. This surcharge was printed in violet and is today listed at \$10.00 in a used condition.

A complete collection of the 21 varieties described are listed at \$226.75 and their scarcity has made them the object of the counterfeiter's attention. I can remember eighteen or twenty years ago of being offered the first four used for 10 cents. I was a raw recruit then and, of course, very gullible. We boys scraped all our pennies together and by piling wood and shoveling snow obtained what then seemed quite a sum. We sent to a Boston man and were on the anxious seat until our purchases came. Of course we knew nothing about counterfeits then and not until some four or five years did we have the good fortune to meet with an advanced collector who told us of their correct status. As I look back now I can see what rank forgeries they were. The perforations were very rough, the cancellation evidently made with a cork and the die and color away off. Of late years I have not run across any counterfeits of the Virgin Islands, but presume some of those earlier ones still repose in the collections of the old timers, who, although they have discontinued collecting, still keep their albums. My advice to either general collectors or specialists on British Colonials is to obtain all of the emissions

of this interesting little group at an early date. They have not yet reached the limit of price and will not for years to come and to my notion are very good property. Get them now and you will in after years have no cause for regret.

Notes on English Stamps.

By M. E. N.

Since writing my last batch of notes, I have received Mr. Ewen's new publication, *The English Specialists' Journal*. This magazine should be a great help to the class of collectors for whom it is published. It is doubtful if there is sufficient support for the paper in this country, but if it can be kept up it will undoubtedly prove a great boon. There is a column for new issues and discoveries, correspondence, market value of stamps, and an article on the Threepenny Adhesive, besides a list of the 1d. plate numbers used abroad, and a list of official numbers of the British Post Offices, altogether a useful collection of information.

Many collectors of English seem to be doubt over the "hairlines in the lower corners of the 1d. blacks and reds." These hair lines have little or nothing in common with those of the 4d., 6d., 9d., and 1/- of later issues, in all of which they were engraved on the plates. In the case of the 1d. they seem to be merely errors of impression, and are usually very faint horizontal lines through the rectangular blocks containing the letters. Sometimes they are quite close to the lower outside line of the block, and, of course, parallel to it, at other times they pass through the letters themselves.

Auction prices are the best criterion value for ordinary or recognised varieties, and the following prices are those obtained for good copies, recently the 2/- red brown brought £2; 5/- carmine, "I. R. Official," £1 10s.; 10/- blue "I. R.," £2 2s.; £1 green "I. R.," £3 3s.; £5 orange, £2 15s.; 10s. and £1 (wmk. cross) £2 5s.; 1d. black V.R., £6 10s.; £5 v. fine, £2 14s.; £1 cross, £1 10s.; 9d. small letters, unused, 10s.

With regard to this question of prices, I was talking with a well known philatelist a few days ago who does not seem to have an all consuming reverence for the opinions of value expressed in recent catalogues. His words were, "There are a lot of used stamps catalogued at two or three shillings which I could buy at those prices per thousand, while others at the same figure or less, I have never seen, and when I come across a stamp I have never before seen, I think it is generally pretty good." No doubt the above idea is somewhat exaggerated, but still a careful study of the catalogue shows that there is a lot in it.

To Members of the American Philatelic Association:

We have just received word from the committee appointed to select the place for holding the next convention that they have chosen Lake Minnetonka. This is a beautiful sheet of water with a shoreage of over 400 miles and is located but twelve miles from this city. Three great railway lines run trains to and from the cities almost hourly. The hotel accommodations are unsurpassed, while for picturesqueness it is without an equal. Now many of the members cannot be present and all such want to be informed as to the convention as well as ante-convention doings. Now how can you better keep yourself informed than by reading *The Newsletter*? We are right on the ground and will have the inside track on everything which transpires. Those of you who expect to be in attendance desire to know what arrangements will be made. Then read the *Newsletter*. It only costs you 25c per year and the association news will be worth much more to you, with all the rest thrown in. Why not sit down and write out your subscription?

Minnesota Philatelic Association.

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REPORT OF SECRETARY.

New members—

- 49—Peter E. Kierland, Rushford.
- 50—Carl Selvig, Rushford.
- 51—Addison Miller, St. Paul.
- 52—C. H. Anan, St. Paul.
- 53—Benjamin Sheldon, Minneapolis.
- 54—C. Whitely, Minneapolis.

Applications—

Miss Severine C. Selvig, Rushford; references, Conrad G. Selvig, Eben S. Martin.

Thos. C. Hawley, Lake Park; reference, E. R. Aldrich, C. G. Hart.

N. E. Carter, Delavan, Wis.; reference, Geo. W. Achard, H. S. Swensen.

C. W. Kissinger, Box 368, Reading, Pa.; reference, Geo. W. Achard, H. S. Swensen.

Chas. Beamish, 105 Frankford street, Philadelphia, Penna.; reference, Geo. W. Achard, H. S. Swensen.

F. H. Carlton, 600 New York Life Building, Minneapolis, Minn.; reference, Geo. W. Achard, H. S. Swensen.

L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Neb.; reference. H. S. Swensen, Geo. W. Achard.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership Jan. 1st, provided no objection is filed before that date.

C. E. N. HOWARD, Secretary.

REPORT OF EXCHANGE SUPERINTENDENT.

I have to report that another book has been started over a circuit of eight members making six books now in circulation. I need more filled books. Why do you not take this as a personal matter and send 15c to me for a couple of books and having filled them, return them to me? Remember this is your society and you ought to do your part.

Members on circuits must remember that three days is the limit allowed for keeping books and that they must remit to me at once for what they retain. There is no credit business in this department. Cannot some of you also obtain a few new members. We ought to have 100 by March 1st.

GEO. W. ACHARD.

Minneapolis, Minn., 242 Boston Block.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The following amendments to the constitution were proposed on Dec. 1st. Members will send in their votes for or against the same before Jan. 1st.

(1) Insert "Western" in place of "Minnesota" in Article I.

(2) Insert the words "Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, California, Oregon and

Washington," after the word "Minnesota" in Art. III, Sec. 1.

Only those members are eligible to vote whose dues are paid. If you have not paid same, send the amount with your ballot to H. S. Swensen, chairman, 1605 Stevens avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.

ST. PAUL NOTES.

There is some talk here of publishing a stamp journal. The venture is fathered by some of the prominent M. P. A. members. They should remember that the graveyard of philatelic journalism is large.

R. A. Mason is wearing new honors. He has recently been appointed resident vice president for Minnesota for the League of American Philatelists.

Mr. Phillip Dick, Jr., writes that he expects to pay another visit to the twin cities during the holidays, while remembering the last one, yet we say "Come on, Phil."

The plate number craze has struck St. Paul and has struck it hard. Collectors are running hither and thither with their little magnifying eye-glasses. There are some scarce plates in the possession of some of the boys.

One of our older collectors is Mr. C. L. Annan. The writer recently spent a very pleasant afternoon with him and looked over his collection. Not a stamp in his album has been added since 1875 and it is needless to say that it contains numerous varieties. Although containing but 1,500 specimens they are worth easily \$2,000. Mr. Annan's collection of English plate numbers are exceptionally fine.

Informal gatherings are the rule nowadays. Usually a few of the boys gather on Saturday nights and a very pleasant evening is spent. Mr. Thayer entertained last week, when some of the Minneapolis contingent came over and assisted in livening up matters. If St. Paul cannot have a local society, she can have socials.

PENDENNIS.

To P. S. of A. Members:

In another column we have attempted to show members of the American Philatelic Association why they should subscribe to this magazine. Now the same arguments hold true with you. There are many things regarding the convention, both before and during, that we shall publish which will be read only in The Newsletter, and the small sum of 25c will not begin to balance up the information you will receive. Begin the new year aright by sending us your subscription.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

[A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

GEO. W. ACHARD.
HARRY S. SWENSEN. } Editors.

[MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

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Editorial.

For once the props have been knocked from under eastern power and western sentiment predominates.

The announcement that the next convention of the American Philatelic Association shall be held at picturesque Minnetonka, while not wholly unexpected was not entirely uncalled for. But now that it is true that Minnesota has secured the plum and uncertainty no longer prevails we, who have favored the selection of Minnetonka, can give vent to our pleasurable emotions without fear of having them dampened.

To the committee on convention site much credit is due for its business like consideration of the merits of Minnetonka and Put in Bay.

It is usually the case that the proximity of the proposed site wields considerable influence but we believe that in the present instance the committee did not suffer any such prejudice.

In behalf of ourselves and others we wish to thank the committee for their conscientious selection.

The opinion once held by many narrow minded eastern folk that the western people are rude and uncultured we trust by this time, is replaced by the correct estimation, that the people of the west and the people of the east are homogenous. The convention held at Denver, Col., last August was perhaps the most successful and best conceived of its kind. There is but little doubt that the meet to be held at Minnetonka next year, will prove to be less auspicious. The gathering will be the greatest in the history of Philately. Four great philatelic societies will convene in the same vicinity: The Philatelic Sons of America; The American Philatelic Association; The League of American Philatelists and the Minnesota Philatelic Association.

The railroad fares to the convention will be rendered very low on account of the G. A. R. reunion and Conclave of the Masons to be held respectively in St. Paul and Minneapolis in August, 1896.

The Minneapolis Philatelic Society, membership of which is very restricted was organized primarily for the purpose of meeting in part the demands of the conventions. With such an organization, co-operation is assured, and therefore we can naturally expect that arrangements for the convention will be elaborate and satisfactory.

Some time ago Mr. E. S. Martin, of this city, conducted an auction sale, at which was to be offered a stamp purporting to be a genuine specimen of the rare two-cent Hawaiian, catalogued at \$1,500.00.

A cut of the stamp in question was given to Mr. Martin's paper. The Scott Stamp and Coin company recognized in this cut a reproduction of a well known counterfeit and informed Mr. Martin to that effect, who thanked the Scotts for their information. Notwithstanding

Martin received several bids on the counterfeit, the highest of \$700.00 being made by a gentleman in California. Not being wholly satisfied as to the genuineness of the stamp, the successful bidder submitted it to the Scott company, who recognized it as the same stamping the kindly warning Mr. Martin goes right ahead and offers the counterfeit for sale as a genuine stamp. We were present at the sale, at which the stamp was not put up at auction, nor was it seen by anyone outside of Mr. upon which they had already passed judgment.

The counterfeit was once offered to a St. Paul collector by the owner for the small sum of \$900.00. The stamp, however, was not sold. The fact that Mr. Martin was aware of the character of the stamp, he having received information that it was a counterfeit and the peculiar manner in which he acted in regard to the matter, certainly does not show up this young man in a very desirable light. Why didn't Mr. Martin show his rarity to some of the local collectors? Why wasn't the stamp put up at the public auction? Why wasn't the warning of the Scott company heeded? While we are not aware that Martin is insincere in some of his transactions, we do not think his business methods are strictly consistent to pure principles.

"Although the Springfield Philatelist has been much improved and the reading matter set in smaller type which now gives our readers more choice reading than any other stamp paper published, the subscription price remains the same. The "Springfield" is now the only stamp paper in the world that is set with typesetting machines."—The Springfield Philatelist.

We pick out the above because it is the best illustration of poor phraseology, of unexcelled ambiguity and preposterous statements that has ever come to our notice.

A mind must be extraordinarily elastic to believe that the "Springfield" gives choicer reading than any other stamp paper published in the world. The world in which the "Springfield" exists has a very peculiar setting. We have heard of some things set with diamonds and the like but we have never before heard of the world set with typesetting machines.

It is to be admitted that the best of writers often fail to express perfectly their ideas, but the thoughts of our youthful contemporary are so poorly expressed that we are compelled out of respect for the subscribers of the "Springfield" to point out errors and try to bring about a reform to such extreme crudeness.

It is without malignity that we offer our criticism, and we hope that it will prove salutary in its effect.

There is some likelihood in the near future of the equalization of postal rates. A strong movement is now in action advocating the reduction of letter postage from two cents to one cent. The National Board of Trade, Philadelphia, has taken up the matter and issued a letter proclaiming the injustice of two cent letter postage. Notice is also called to the fact that a bill is to be introduced in congress providing for one-cent postage. These communications are being sent to the different local boards of trade throughout the country. Business firms are greatly interested in the introduction of the bill and their co-operation is assured. That the bill will be adopted is very possible.

The season for new stamp papers is now on. Geo. Cleaver, of Reading, Pa., announces the Pennsylvania Stamp. Norvan Edwards, of St. Joseph, Mo., the Western Philatelist; H. M. Porter Company, Philadelphia Stamp News; H. E. Beardsley, St. Joseph, Mo., Philatelic Advertiser. The South African Philatelist is out. This paper is the first that has been printed by means of the typewriter and "typographed." The Philatelic West has made its appearance from Sug. lor, Neb. Our well

known friend L. T. Brodstone, seems to be the financial backer with whom is associated Ed. H. Wilkinson. We have received the Homeworkeer and Philatelist, which is some larger in the size of the page than "Meekels Stamp News." It, as its name implies, is not devoted exclusively to Philately. The stamp department is conducted by Roy T. Greene, with Miss Amy B. Swift and Julius L. Cohen as associates. H. S. SWENSEN,

A merry Christmas from the Newsletter's entire force! This is the first time that the magazine has had the opportunity of wishing its readers a merry Christmas and we do so most heartily. May the Yule log burn brightly in the fire places of all philatelists, and may we gather in our respective abodes, a united family to praise God for the gift he bestowed so freely nearly nineteen centuries ago. But while we are enjoying ourselves and the blessings He has given us, let us not forget those whose condition is far different from our own. Many are suffering from cold, hunger and lack of clothing. Can we not at this time be practical in our gifts and remember some poor one whose heart will be filled to overflowing in gratitude for a donation of some of the necessities of life. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these ye have done it unto me."

Recently we received a letter from an officer in a national society in which he charges us with being brought up by a rival society. We wish to refute the charge and deny the same in toto. Independence is our most cherished trait and our neck has never yet and never shall be encircled with the collar of any man. The person making the charge knows full well that had we so desired we could have received quite a sum for our opinion as an official of the society in question, but that our sense of the right and wrong prompted us to render an opinion to the detriment of our purse. Anything of such a nature comes with very poor grace from such a source. We simply mention this that our friends may know where we stand and that they may not form an incorrect idea by reason of seeing our name as an associated editor of The Penny.

The Minneapolis society are starting out in the right manner. At the last meeting a very instructive paper was prepared and read by Mr. Swensen and we are pleased to see so many of the members jotting down some of his sayings in their note books. To our notion this is the way to learn about stamps, and he only is the philatelist in its broadest sense, who studies his specimens. Knowledge is what we are all after and any information which throws light upon some hitherto unknown or perplexing question should be highly cherished. We are too apt to become sordid in our accumulations and not derive the benefits we might by a little careful research. The next paper to be read before the society will be a joint one on "Secret Marks" and some fine enlarged drawings will undoubtedly be shown.

An English paper has the following from a correspondent:

"I have a letter which says that the writer recently had a consignment of St. Lucia, 1d and 4d, 1892 issue, in which the surcharge is distinctly over the postmark. Somebody is evidently supplementing the efforts of the colonial postmaster and collectors must be on their guard." It is just such things as these that disgust collectors and unless one is constantly on the lookout, these counterfeits will creep into our albums.

In our October number Mr. Swenson wrote regarding the proceedings of the American Philatelic Association in the case of Mr. Georges Carlon. The latter took our editor's sayings as a personal thrust when such was not

intended. We, accordingly make this correction cheerfully. We do not believe the charges as preferred in the French society and certainly think our American Philatelic Association acted altogether too hastily. Mr. Carlon should have been given a chance for a reply to whatever charges were preferred against him and the snap judgment does him a great injustice. We have had dealings with him for some time and have always found him scrupulously honest. The association must take steps to correct the former decision at the '96 convention.

While on the subject we shall indulge in a few thoughts on the subject of frauds. There is too much of this indiscriminate branding nowadays. The least petty grievance is magnified until it becomes a case of fraud. True, there are genuine cases of fraud in the ranks, but almost nine cases out of ten of the branding and publishing of certain men as frauds is nothing more or less than the result of misunderstanding. Suppose such a state of affairs were to exist in regular business circles, what would be the result? Why nothing else than that every man who owed a dollar would be included in the category. And what a vast amount of libel suits there would be were they to be published as stamp frauds are. We can say that we are most heartily sick of these lists. Why not send the claims to an attorney for collection and then, if no disposition to pay is manifested, let the rest of the world know of the transaction. Some of our best friends have been libelled when we felt morally certain that the fault of the entire matter rested on the other side of the case.

Probably no announcement has come to Twin City collectors with as hearty a welcome as the message that the American Philatelic Association has decided upon Lake Minnetonka as the site of the next convention. Coming as it does to cities which have stood aloof from the association for so long a time, it certainly carries a double weight of responsibility upon local collectors. The society may expect from fifteen to twenty-five new stockholders before August next and if nothing further is accomplished it will be good enough. However, these meetings of national societies will have much to do in breaking down the feeling here that stamp collecting is mere boys' play. Minneapolis and St. Paul extend a warm welcome to every collector to come and enjoy the festivities. We are ready to receive all. So begin making your plans now. GEO. W. ACHARD.

MINNEAPOLIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Organized, October 5, 1895.

President, W. R. Young; vice president, A. Edsten; secretary, G. W. Achard; treasurer, C. Whitely; librarian, E. S. Stebbins.

Meeting of November 22nd.—

Meeting called to order by the president. There were present Messrs. Young, Stebbins, Carleton, Howard, Gooding, Ingren, Whitely, Mayer, Swensen, Edsten and Achard and as visitors Broat and Hannigan. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. The committee on bylaws reported a draft which was accepted. Under suspension of the rules Mr. E. F. Van Gorder was elected unanimously to membership. A bury, Eng., for kindly donating a subscription to the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain as well as well as back numbers of the same. Mr. Swensen read an interesting article on "The Stamps of the Department of State." Messrs. Stebbins and Achard were appointed as joint essayists for the next meeting. After informal discussion the meeting adjourned. The secretary desires to state that any philatelist residing out of the city may become a corresponding member upon application and election. Dues for corresponding members is 50c per year. Only residents of Minneapolis are eligible to active membership. GEO. W. ACHARD, Sec.

Hints to Beginners.

C. S. N.

Second Paper.

In the October number I began the first paper on hints to beginners and intended that this second paper should appeal in the November issue, but various circumstances conspired against it. As was stated in the opening article, it is not the intention of the author to advance new ideas very much or digress to theories. And therefore if this may seem a trifle stale or dry to some advanced collectors, they should remember that we were once beginners ourselves and were in search for some one to tell us a few things in regard to the essentials to successful collecting.

We have now passed the transition period and have commenced to notice a few variations in certain stamps. The beginner has an 8-cent stamp of 1877 of Argentine. He notices that it is somewhat different from the 8 cent of 1880 in that the latter shows perforations while the former has a somewhat rough edge. Are these different stamps? They look alike save the cutting of the edges. Now our experts tell us that the former is rouletted and that it is another variety for the collection. We have learned something. But up comes a fellow collector and in looking over our duplicates finds a $\frac{1}{2}$ penny stamp of Barbados of the issue of 1874. He looks at it for some time and finally offers catalogue price of 4 cents for it. The beginner sells it at once for there was no discount demanded. Imagine his surprise when a couple of days afterwards a young friend who is also a collector tells him that he heard H— gleefully chuckling when he told how he had secured the stamp perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ for less than one-tenth its value. Immediately our beginner wants to know what it all means. He goes to another advanced collector and is informed that it refers to the number of perforations contained in a space of 20 millimeters. The advanced collector, glad to notice the interest taken, hands the new collector a small card showing the plate for measurement. Upon arriving at home we find that this measurement gives us over a hundred additions to our album and that some of the "traders" are worth much more than what they were formerly supposed to list. Learning by experience is costly at first but it pays in the end.

In a short time our new beginner is invited to come to the meeting of the local society. He attends but is fairly bewildered when C—, the attorney, reads a paper containing such expressions as *perce en arc*, *perce en scie*, *perce en ligne*, and *perce en pointe*. All this is as Greek to him and he wants to sell his collection, but when H— offers him a stiff price he thinks that perhaps he has something of value after all—and resolves to master as much of the details as possible. His old friend is again sought for and he tells him that *perce en arce* is a perforation such as the stamps of Finland had from 1863 to 1875. He is told that *perce en scie* and *en pointe* are almost identical and that they are a sort of perforation resembling the teeth of a saw. These are rare and he doesn't find any of them among his duplicates. The *perce en ligne* is somewhat similar to rouletting save that in the former the teeth for separating are not set closely. Then, too, C— had spoken of *plin* perforation. With what he had now learned this latter title was not difficult of solution and he does not ask any questions.

One day a lot of mixed stamps fell into his hands and he saw some old German states with colored rouletted lines. He goes to his catalogue and there, plainly en-

ough, he finds two separate issues. He is learning fast and, sacrificing the money he wanted to use to buy a couple of sets of very flashy stamps from Honduras, he becomes a member of the K—ville Philatelic Society. This move proves of service to him for he learns that every member has placed a prohibitory statute in his album against Seebecks unless actually used in a postal manner. He soon knows the entire history of Seebecks and goes away firmly resolved to throw out every unused stamp of a speculative nature.

One day H— was again looking over the book of duplicates when he came across a very common 10 cent Mexico of the 1885 issues. He wanted to trade and offered a 4 cent red of the same issue but our beginner had commenced to grow suspicious of H— and remarked that he did not care to trade. He had profited by his former experience and did not wish to again get caught. Over he hurries to his friend who at once said "Why, this is on laid paper, and is worth a dollar." After a lesson on the difference between wove and laid papers, our young collector thought himself fairly well posted. He had taken instruction regarding proofs, essays, surcharges, perforations and different papers. But one evening at the stamp society's meeting the subject of watermarks and how to find them came up for discussion. Hitherto he had paid no attention to them because he did not know much about them and did not suppose it made much difference anyway. This meeting opened a new field for investigation. This time the secretary read extracts from a Mr. Wheeler's article in which he said the best method he had yet found for bringing out watermarks was as follows: Take a piece of japanned tin, an old tin-type will do, and lay the stamp face downward. Then with a small fine haired brush, saturate with benzine, pass over the white surface of the stamp. The benzine will bring the watermark out prominently and, being a fugitive liquid, will evaporate readily leaving the stamp unmarked by reason of its contact. It will not even destroy the original gum on an unused specimen, and is the most satisfactory method for bringing out faint watermarks. Our youthful collector was rapidly progressing and he, too, was becoming a "scientist" in our pursuit. Another inspection of his collection and duplicates revealed more varieties until a new album must be obtained.

One day a friend loaned him a philatelic paper and in it he noticed a dealer's advertisement that he would sell 2-cent 1890 issues with caps at 10 cents each. Our youthful enthusiast replied and by return mail received what looked like an ordinary 2-cent stamp. He was tempted to throw it in the waste basket as he did not wish his fellow collectors to think him such a chump as to be gulled in by such a foolish investment. However he thought the dealer ought to know his business and that perhaps there was a mistake after all. So another trip was made to the advanced collector, who pointed out the little square over the circular part of the figure 2, and our boy was happy again.

But I've exceeded the limit of the space allotted me, and must close. Before doing so let me impress it upon the minds of all readers of this sketch, and in as strong language as possible, the importance of making a careful study of their stamps. I wish I could personally say to each one of you, "Study your stamps." How many varieties can be picked out of the duplicate box by a careful examination of the specimens therein contained. One trouble with our American collectors is that they do not devote enough time to the rigid scrutiny of their specimens. Our German friends make the best philatelists, because they have the patience to sit down by the hour and actually work over their treasures and we cannot expect to attain a position anywhere near them without devoting time to a critical examination of our possessions.

The November number of the Evergreen State Philatelist consists of 24 pages and cover. Of this 19 pages are solid "ads" and but 8 pages reading matter. At this rate Bro. French should soon be opulent.

Philatelic Facts and Fallacies for November contains an article of unusual interest. It is by Mr. Sellschopp and details in a very pleasant manner the Californian's visits to German dealers while on a European trip. Mr. Phillips has his usual quota of space devoted to Western Franks. This is interesting to collectors of these strange bits of paper.

The Michigan Philatelist comes with clock-like regularity. Always promptly the first of every month, we find something refreshing in its contents. The December issue is an average number, no attempt at a holiday edition having been made.

Messrs. Kissinger and Beamish detail in nearly four pages of the Penny for November their cross country trip. Other features are the articles of Major Egan on "A Fortune in Stamps," of Fred B. Woolston on "Stamps of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving" and Hy. N. Bullard's "Yesterday and Today." Thirty-four applications attest the fact that P. S. of A. members are trying for the 3,000 mark 'ere the '96 convention has convened at Minneapolis.

The mammoth edition of Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News was something of a surprise. We had not looked for anything quite so elaborate and it must do good not only to the firm but all interested in philately. While many persons do not approve of the St. Louis firm's occupying almost the entire amount of the advertising space they should remember that the Mekeel's pay the bill and they are the only ones entitled to a kick. One thing is certain, it is a good exponent of what its name indicates, news, and is well worth the price of the subscription.

Another paper fully worth the admission price is Bro. Jewett's Weekly Philatelic Era. Bro. Jewett has displayed a commendable spirit in publishing the new prices as they will appear in the 56th edition catalogue. Many of us are unable to put up \$5.00 for the advance sheets and the Era bridges the chasm and lets up have it for 50 cents with the rest of the paper thrown in. The notes by correspondents are always bright, crisp and to the point.

The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser of Birmingham, England, enjoys an advertising patronage which we American publishers have a right to envy. The literary contents are not large but there is always an article of merit. We reproduce one on another page, for the reason that as the paper is not seen by many of our readers it may prove beneficial to them.

Mr. Pinkham has certainly produced a fine holiday edition in his November number. The Eastern, since it has adopted the size of the Newsletter, is one of the best printed and edited of our philatelic magazines. Thirteen pages of reading matter and fifteen of "ads" makes up the issue. We read with considerable interest the articles by Crawford Capen, Raymond S. Baker and S. B. Hopkins for they were our ideals of what philatelic articles should be. However for a small admixture of light reading, Mr. Freeman Putney, Jr., is entitled to much praise. We have read attempts to be funny but Mr. Putney is funny without making a pretense of being so.

Other papers received but which time will not permit of a review: Springfield Philatelist, Metropolitan Philatelist, Post Office, Boston Stamp Book. We shall be pleased to exchange with all philatelic magazines and ask that two copies be sent us for which we will reciprocate.

A young man with a fearless air and graceless strut, meandered into D. M. Merrill's Stamp emporium one day. After a terrible assault upon poor Merrill's auricular appendages for something near the space of time which includes sixty golden minutes, golden perhaps to the young man, but not to Mr. Merrill, the effervescent scion began to fumble over some cheap packets of stamps which lay scattered promiscuously over one of the large counters. Mr. Merrill permitted his eyes to rest upon the young man in a peculiar manner and allowed thoughts of a freakish character to control his alert brain. The young man had impressed Mr. Merrill! The storehouse of Mr. Merrill's philatelic feeling was being drawn upon. A feeling of philatelic pleasure to lighten his countenance! In ecstasy he murmured, "At last; at last, I have met a true philatelist." "Why the grandiloquent talk of the young man himself would convince the most skeptical that in him lies the requirements of a philatelist." Why he knew more about 10,000 different stamps than I know about two exactly alike. According to his statements he is a veritable Creosus in stamp possessions. Having stamps the mere sight of which would throw an ordinary stamp collector into most rapturous bliss. Having examined a great number of the packets, the young man seemed to be satisfied when he espied one packet upon which were glued some beautiful Japanese labels representing the first issue. The price of the packet was five cents. The young philatelic leviathan suddenly grabbed the packet, tore the Japanese stamps from it and hurled the remainder with a nickel at the head of Mr. Merrill, saying, "Here, these Japans are worth several dollars. I make you a present of the rest of the packet," at which he rushed out of the store pell mell, very much in the manner of a 10-year-old school boy rushing out of school at dismissing hour. Our learned philatelist sought out Mr. C. E. N. Howard, well known as the secretary of the Minnesota Philatelic Association, and informed him of his truthful fairy story of how he in the atmosphere of Aladdin, rubbed his "lumpy" brain, procured the rare "Chinese" and outwitted the high muck a muck of stamp traffic of St. Paul "Do Much" Merrill.

Mr. Howard smoothed out the stamps on his lap and examined them in his usual quizzical manner. He eyed our expectant and "flushy" cheeked (cheeky flushed) young man with a look of commiseration and contempt and said, "Why, you wooly-eyed gilly, these Japans are sample pictures sent out by dealers to advertise their trade, and are worth but little more than your brains." Our poor young mountain of philatelic lore did not reply, but the expression upon his face indicated that he could whip the atmosphere black and blue with the lashings of his quivering tongue, if it were possible.

Mr. Merrill had in the meantime realized his misjudgment in regard to the young man and was permitting his sides to shake with pure philatelic mirth.

Moral—A philatelist should never boast of his knowledge, but on the contrary should sit down and look wise.

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Below I quote you net prices on unused, original gum, and good specimen stamps. If you have not same in your collections, procure at once.

1890 90-cent Orange.....	\$1.25
Columbian 5-cent Chocolate.....	.08
“ 8-cent Magenta.....	.10
“ 10-cent Black-brown.....	.12
1875 10-cent Brown.....	.30
1873 15-cent Orange.....	1.00
1894 \$1 Black, unwatermarked.....	3.00
“ \$2 Deep blue “.....	3.50
“ 50-cent Orange “.....	.60
“ \$5 Dark green “.....	8.00
1893 10-cent Orange, special delivery.....	.15
1889 10-cent Blue, special (special office).....	.20



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Should send their want lists, and special sheets will be made up for them, on which same discount will be allowed.

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Any doubtful stamps will be examined by our Mr. Georges Carion, for which a charge of 50 cents per 10 stamps will be made, with a minimum charge of 50 cents for all examinations.

If a written guarantee is desired, a charge of 5 per cent. of the value of the stamps submitted will be made. In this case our guarantee is entire. Stamps will be registered by us, and if at any time a stamp we guarantee genuine shall be proven to be otherwise, we will be responsible for twenty (20) times the amount of percentage charged for examination. Postage and registration must in all cases be paid both ways on stamps sent for examination.

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- 1872, 10c, Brown, 20c each, or \$25 entire sheet.
 15c, Orange, Continental Bank Note Co., 56th catalogue \$2.50 and \$4.00 each in the revised list, I offer for \$1.45 each, or \$175 the entire sheet.
 8c, Sherman; 9c each, entire sheet \$9.25.
- 1890, 30c, Black; 40c each, or \$45 an entire sheet.
 90c, Orange, \$1.10 each, or \$115 an entire sheet.
- 1893, 15c, Columbian, 22c each or \$25 an entire sheet.
 30c, " 38c " 40 " "
 50c, " 85c " 150 " "
 \$3.00, " \$3.75 "
 4.00, " 4.40 "
 5.00, " 5.50 "
- 1894, No w. mk, 8c, 15c each, or \$20 entire sheet.
 " 50c, 60c " 65 " "
 " \$1.00, \$2.50 " 400 " "
 " 2.00, 5.25 " 600 " "
 " 5.00, 8.00 " 1,000 " "

The above '94 issue is being cornered at present by an Eastern syndicate; don't miss this last chance.

All the above stamps are unused and perfect. A deposit of \$10.00 secures my Approval Books.

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Issue.		New Cat. Price.	New Price
1847.	5c, Brown, fine	\$0.85	\$0.70
1851.	1c, Blue, new.....	2.00	1.40
	Same, used.....	.30	.25
	10c, Green, new, o. g. v. f. copy, showing guide line.....	15.00	11.25
	Same, used.....	1.00	.60
	12c, Black, v. f.....	1.50	1.25
1857.	5c, Red, brown, v. f.....	7.00	6.25
1861.	12c, Black.....	.30	.25
	24c, Lilac, new, o. g. v. f.....	1.50	1.25
	Same, used.....	.40	.30
	30c, Orange, new, no gum.....	3.00	2.20
	5c, Chocolate, fine.....	1.50	1.25
1866.	24c, Mauve, fine.....	1.50	1.00
1868.	1c, Blue, rather grill.....	1.00	.75
	2c, Black, " " .....	.25	.20
	10c, Green, " " .....	.50	.45
	12c, Black, " " .....	.60	.50
	5c, Brown, v. fine.....	2.50	1.75
	24c, Lilac, "	5.00	3.00
	30c, Orange, "	3.50	3.00
1869.	1c, Buff, new, o. g., in v. f. condition.....	.75	.50
	2c, Brown, new, o. g., in v. f. condition.....	.35	.25
	3c, Blue, new, o. g., in v. f. condition.....	.25	.20
	6c, Blue, new, o. g., in v. f. condition.....	3.50	2.75
	10c, Orange, new, o. g., in v. f. condition.....	5.00	3.35
	12c, Green, new: o. g., in v. f. condition.....	1.50	1.25
	15c, Brown and blue, v. f.....	1.75	1.35
	24c, Green & purple, almost new	7.50	7.00
	30c, Blue and carmine, color v. v. fine.....	3.50	3.25
1869.	Reprint, 1c, Buff, new, o. g., v. fine	2.00	1.00
	12c, Green, " v. v. fine....	7.50	7.00
1870.	1c, Blue, v. fine.....	.50	.40
	2c, Brown, new, o. g., v. rare..	3.00	2.00
	6c, Red, v. f.....	3.50	3.00
1872.	7c, Vermilion, new, o. g., v. v. f.	5.00	3.75
	10c, Chocolate, " " "	5.00	2.75
	12c, Purple, " " "	10.00	8.00
	24c, " " " "	10.00	8.00
	Columbians, 1-30, new, full gum.....	1.60	1.25
	" \$1.00, " " "	8.00	6.25
	" 5.00, " " "	6.50	6.00
	State Dept., v. v. fine.....	7.50	7.00
	Treas, " 90, ccomplete, all v. fine..	8.50	7.50

These stamps are all in the finest condition. I do not send these stamps on approval, but if not satisfactory when received may be returned within three days, and money will be refunded. v. v. f., very fine. All stamps are used unless otherwise stated. Dealers should send 5 cents for sample copy of the best approval book on the market. **Prices on Application.** Try me once and you will be sure to send again.

James R. Gooding

757 Fairmount Av., St. Paul, Minn.

R. F. ALBRECHT & CO., STAMP DEALERS AND PUBLISHERS,

90 Nassau St., New York.

STAMPS ON APPROVAL.

For collectors possessing about 3,000 varieties (or less) we have prepared for the season of 1895-96 the following sheets, which we can send by return mail.

No. 24.	West Indies and other good British Colonials.....	\$1.90	(33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent)
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New additions to this list almost weekly, and as fast as we can make up new assortments.

We are sure that a majority of the stamps on our sheet are not contained in your collection. They are all of that class of stamps which steadily increase in value, and which dealers in general are not over anxious to sell. Why not secure them while they are within your reach. Write us, giving satisfactory reference if unknown to us, and we shall be pleased to serve you.

AN UNCONDITIONAL OFFER—To the three collectors who buy the most from our approval sheets during the season of 1895-96 (without regard to date of commencing to receive our approval sheets), we offer the following *special discount premiums*.

First Discount Premium—Complete unused set Agriculture Department.

Second Discount Premium—1869, 90-cent, Lincoln, used.

Third Discount Premium—1894, \$2.00 and \$5.00, unwatermarked, unused.

The above premiums are on view in our office.

If permitted to do so, we will publish the names of the parties to whom the above have been allotted. The contest to close May 31st, 1896.

R. F. ALBRECHT & CO.,
90 Nassau Street, New York City.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

JANUARY, 1896

NO. 11.

SAN MARINO'S SMOKE.

Is San Marino as a republic and stamp issuing country doomed? The reports are ominous. The continuance of its existence as a republic is very uncertain. Its autonomy for almost fifteen hundred years' standing is greatly endangered.

San Marino has violated its treaty with Italy, and as a result Signor Crispi, the Italian premier, evidently thinks it advisable to put an end to the long-lived independence.

Though the obscure hermit, St. Marinus, whose name gave birth to that of the little republic objects to its fall in the awful tones of a ghostly visitant; though Otto Bickel uses his former persuasive influence and pristine power to prevent the abrupt change in the philatelic history of that little country, it appears now that complete subjugation to Italian rule is surely to follow.

The liberty loving American has always objected to monarchical restrictions and other non-republican forms of government and has always sympathized and upheld the liberty-inspired races whose standards of governments are raised upon the only true staff of patriotism and freedom. A tie of friendship exists between republics.

When the great grasping and hoggish kingdoms and empires seek to fasten their tentacles of subjugation on the countries of pure government a shadow of indignation is cast upon the would-be landlords, and in contrast an overflowing and heartfelt sympathy is extended to the threatened republic. And this is true in the case of the territory which includes only a solitary mountain based by a narrow strip of land, and which is dignified by the sweet sounding name of San Marino. Even a resolution of encouragement and sympathy has been drawn up by the ever alert and patriotic Yankee and submitted to the people of the endangered country. The following resolution was recently introduced in the House of Representatives:

"Whereas, The cable dispatches indicate that the autonomy of the republic of San Marino is threatened, and its proud continuance of freedom for over 1,400 years is endangered, the Republic of the United States, the greatest in the world, extends to San Marino, the smallest, but the oldest, the cordial assurance of our friendship and sympathy in the common faith of human liberty."

But sentimentality and well meaning resolutions, while they may stimulate, will not save San Marino. We have every reason to believe that its reign as a republic will soon come to an end. But with the change there will come a most propitious result. No longer will philatelists suffer from a furtherance of the most outrageous piece of fraud ever imposed upon them. Although Italy slightly extends its power, which is contrary to the sentiment of the times, yet it fortunately does some good in cutting off the opportunities of a badly influenced postmaster general. From the philatelic standpoint a most fortunate retribution has overtaken this little nook—retribution well earned.

We speak of Seebecks and other unnecessary labels as being corrupt, but in this respect the postal issues of San Marino leads the van. Not a single one of its postal emissions deserve the name, immaculate.

The spirit of speculation enshrouds the stamps of San Marino. It may be interesting to recount the philatelic crime, associated with the twenty-eight stamps of this country.

Number of adhesives issued twenty-eight. Surely, this looks favorable, but appearances are deceitful, for it will be found that this one good point is obscured and hidden from sight by the thick covering of unworthy characteristics.

At first inspection the stamps of the first issue have the appearance of delightful legitimacy. But even these seven stamps are badly besmirched by the dirty touch of the crafty speculator. The philatelic bull made a mad rush at these stamps, and with his mighty horns, pierced the tender film of their purity and carried them on high. How well the speculator won his point is shown by the present catalogue. My set of "San Marinos" cost me fifty cents in 1888. Today a set is worth, according to the bulls' prices in this country, \$2.50; in England, \$5.00. Hold your temples, but it is true! Some one has made a great deal of money very easily, but in a most shameful manner.

Otto Bickel was the evil spirit which hovered over the stamps of San Marino, although he has now lost his grip, his influence still remains. His mode of procedure was noticed and has been copied. Otto Bickel, however, is not the sole cause to the lamented condition of these stamps. He and he alone is blamed but if the stamps themselves could testify, the testimony would no doubt show him up black enough, but would also show that he was not the only party to be censured. Otto Bickel was in position and place to foster and carry out unworthy philatelic schemes, yet the enormous quantities of San Marino stamps in the hands of certain stamp dealers point strongly to the fact that Otto Bickel was aided and abetted; that the full materialization of his schemes would have never but if the stamps themselves could testify, the testimony brought about were it not for the fact that a person in Europe and others extended to him financial backing and furnished the necessary vehicle for carrying out his intentions.

Otto Bickel's connection with philately being so transparent to the public in its true light, has made him a most conspicuous figure in philately. His progressiveness and energy is shown by him in publishing his San Marino Philatelist, which, however, met with poor success, and was only another means for helping along his unworthy business. The American press denounced the paper as a failure and a swindle. A couple of European papers were exceedingly quiet on the San Marino subject at the time of its highest agitation.

The stamps of San Marino were all right until the arrival of Bickel. In his paper he said that the correspondence of the republic was very small, but since his arrival the work of the officials has increased very much. What a confession! But for all that, unintentional. It told that Mr. Bickel controlled the entire postal department. He ran the whole business of the post office department. But the stamps did not sell good in unused condition, and used stamps were exceedingly scarce. European stamp dealers had an excellent idea which if carried out would no doubt prove to be efficacious. The idea was this: Why not cancel a number of the unused stamps? Of course they

would sell better thus. The postal demands of a country with a population of 8,000 are certainly very small, and a correct estimate of the scarceness of genuine postally used stamps of San Marino can be made taking the population as a basis.

Otto Bickel took the European stamp dealers' suggestion and went to work and cancelled thousands of stamps, as he saw fit. Well can we whisper, and very loudly, Dirty dogs! The catalogues list used and unused specimens at about the same prices. This is due to the action of Otto Bickel. A genuine used specimen and used postally by an inhabitant of San Marino of the 25-cent value is without doubt worth not less than \$5.00, but who can tell the difference between a "cancelled to order" and a genuine used stamp?

Next comes the most inexcusable act of Mr. Bickel. He goes to work and surcharges 10,000 30-cent stamps with 5 cents, 20,000 10-cents with 5-cents, and 40,000 as 10-cents. That the issue was wholly unnecessary is evident on the face of it. The idea of making 10-cent stamps out of 20-cent stamps, when stamps of the 10-cent value were on hand is absurd. It shows, however, that Otto Bickel ruled the postmaster generals. We have no doubt but that more stamps than the number stipulated were surcharged, but of course it was Otto Bickel's intention that he public should believe that only the number mentioned were so treated. It was asserted that as soon as they were placed on sale they were bought up by speculators, who held them at 50 centimes each; a few hundred were intentionally surcharged with inverted surcharge. It was said to be an error of the printer, an instructed mistake, we might add. These were said to have been sold for 75 cents each.

We are glad to see that catalogues ignore many of the provisionals. Some of the provisionals issued are the 2-cent stamps cut in half to make the 5-cent rate with 2-cent stamps. Sept. 9th, 1892, the 20 with new numerals of value printed over the old in black. Many other provisionals have been issued and many varieties have been manufactured merely by instructing to invert a letter or omit it. We are thankful that they are not recognized. There are eighty-two varieties of stamps of San Marino which are not catalogued in Scott's. The stamps of 1892-4 were wholly unnecessary. We hope that all collectors will soon find this out. Scott's fifty-sixth edition fails to classify San Marino issues as unnecessary and speculative, but that don't make them any less so.

The commemorative issue of 1894 was another output of the wily speculator, but this time he has missed his calculations, for the issue proved to be a failure.

Such is the character of San Marino stamps. That they are rubbish in uncancelled or obliterated condition there is no doubt. They merit the complete banishment from the collector's album.

It may be that matters can be adjusted and San Marino may continue its long lived freedom, but if it does we hope that it will issue legitimate postage stamps.

MARCUS P. STEWART.

THE FIFTY-SIXTH CATALOGUE.

With the opening of the new year comes the very welcome edition of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue which explains so fully and so lucidly what great changes have been brought about by the ever revolving wheel of time.

This stamp catalogue is the object upon which is centered a good share of the thoughts of many thousands. It causes some to throw up their hats in joy; others to subject themselves to good sound self-kicking. In other words it tells the collector whether his philatelic selections during the past year have been wise ones or not. Among other things there is shown

that the ever varying prices are based not only upon simple supply and pure demand, but also upon fad, stamp trusts and speculators.

The 56th edition is the most excellent work of the kind that has ever been produced. The 56th surpasses all former editions, considering the stupendousness of a "Catalogue compilation." This latter work seems to be a model and ideal one. An item, very important to many, is the remarkably low fee charged for the publication. The Stanley Gibbons firm exacts 85 cents for their catalogue. Scott reverses these figures. A collector asked us the other day why the catalogue was not issued free, as is the case in other branches of business. The fact is no firm could afford to issue gratuitously as many catalogues as would satisfy the demand.

The binding, typography, material and arrangement of this edition are all suitable.

A new feature of the book is a well written and useful article entitled "Hints to Collectors."

The list of tables is a commendable innovation. The catalogue is useful in many ways to persons who are not interested in philately. It is a book which is the acknowledged standard the world over.

At last speculative and unnecessary issues receive in part their proper classification. This move is a most important one, but "Mekeel's Weekly" declares it to be hypocritical. It says: "The hypocrisy of these (meaning the Scott Stamp and Coin Co.) who are the largest dealers in the Seebeck rubbish, is apparent, and it is the mission of the press to expose sham and fraud wherever it exists, and it shall be no fault of ours if the collectors of America are deceived about this rubbish." This statement is vigorous—perhaps a little too vigorous—but nevertheless to the point. The 552 stamps which are known as Seebeck labels certainly do not deserve recognition at the hands of the cataloguers. We want to believe that the Scott Company are perfectly free from any intention to defraud or to practice sham, but whatever their intentions may be it is certainly true that the Seebecks have received improper classification. As the "Weekly" says, "they are wolves in sheep's clothing. But there are other black sheep which even the "Weekly" should not have ignored. Some of the stamps of Tonga deserve to be branded; also those of San Marino, some of Obock, Shanghai, Samoa, Niger Coast Protectorate. Certain company issues North Borneo, Labuan, commemorative cards, etc.

Although new United States prices have been known for some time, comment on them has not been very current.

It appears that the well known Brattleboro is excessively priced, as copies are more plentiful than the \$650 quotation would indicate. Last September a copy was sold for \$425. Mr. Philipps, of London, offered a copy for sale at \$490. It appears then that last year's price, \$500, is about right.

We don't understand why the 5-cent black Buchanan should rise \$150 in value while the price of the 5-cent bluish should remain at a standstill. Why don't the St. Louis stamps take a slump? One hundred and thirty-seven of these stamps have been brought to light; yet this very fact seems to have accentuated their desirability. We believe that if the stamps had not been found they would not have received as high prices now accorded them. But they are reversed. Dealers are selling now, not buying. Nineteen stamps were sold in New York for \$2,000. The 20-cent bluish copies of this stamp held by the New York parties will not change hands for less than \$500 each. The Mekeel Company secured 95 of the St. Louis stamps of which 16 are of the 20-cent value for the magnificent outlay of \$2,300. As long as these stamps are in the hands of dealers who control the catalogues there is no danger of a slump in their catalogue price.

The pair of 1847's are not priced nearly high

enough, for several speculators who have bought up these stamps during the last year or so. But don't look for a tumble in prices. The steady ones win. The new types of 1851-56 issues are somewhat puzzling, but the price allotted the new variety should be enough to stimulate the laziest collector to stir his limbs and exercise his perceptive powers. The broken circle variety is type III. The "broken circle" is an appropriate name, for broke will many be before they purchase the golden envelope which encircles it. We do not think that the demand for broken circles and new types is so strong as to make the prices so high. The 3-cent laid paper has dropped from \$10 to \$7.50; should have dropped to \$2.50 and the price would be about right. There is no demand for this stamp. The 3-cent scarlet is still on the jump. This stamp is supposed to be a government proof. Jno. K. Tiffany states that it was claimed that "a sheet or part of a sheet unused was picked up at the New York postoffice by a collector." The tinge of mystery connected with a stamp seems to give strength to its value. This seems to be true in the case of the 3-cent scarlet. The Scott Co. continues to call the color of the 5-cent stamp of 1862 chocolate. The color is reddish brown, and is certainly not like the delicate shade chocolate.

Unused United States increased most in price. The 15-cent black grilled goes up like a balloon, from \$1.25 to \$20. We think, however, that its descent is bound to follow. The prices of a great many of the stamps of United States are based upon wind. Each year the blowing goes on, but mark well our words, bye and bye the bubble will become so large that it will burst.

The great inflation in prices is doing more harm to philately than the speculative stamp. What if the price of a stamp changes a couple of thousand per cent each year? What then? Simply this: Philately will become a fashionable fad of the wealthy. In a few years there will be a sort of a timbre-philatelic set which includes only the Vanderbilts, Astors and Goulds. The poor little school boy will be no longer in it. He will be riding the bicycle. We may be somewhat radical, but it is a great deal better for the philatelic community as a whole that a stamp receive its just valuation in the catalogue. Philately is getting to be too much of a good thing for some stamp dealers. They are reaping an unfair profit; but the erratic, insane and gullible public are much to blame. The illustration of the secret marks of the national and continental bank note companies is an important and almost necessary feature, yet the full mystery in regard to secret marks has not yet been unfolded. It has been stated that some stamps on a sheet lack the secret mark whilst others on the same sheet show it. This is certainly a revelation, and if true puts a different face upon the question and the importance of the secret marks is not as great as surmised. The prices of some of the unused specimens of these issues are pretty high, but are near the right mark. Others, however, are marked altogether too high, the 15-cent orange being an example.

Like some of the Columbians, some values of the 1894 issue are bound to become rare because of the small number issued. There are over a million collectors in the world. A great part of these will want these stamps, but for many there will be none, for the supply in this case is not nearly large enough to satisfy the demand.

In the errata the \$1 and \$2 values are valued at \$3 and \$5 respectively. But good specimens cannot be obtained of the company even at those prices. The catalogue fails to show by illustration what the 2-cent carmine triangle II. variety is. This is a mystery to many of us. But then mysteries are interesting. Especially so is the non-appearance of the legitimate cap varieties in the catalogue, a pretty good sized mystery to many. A member of the Minneapolis Phila-

telic Society has volunteered to disclose the secret, however. His key to the mystery is that Chas. Greyning discovered the cap varieties; the Scott people and their sympathizers or cohorts did not. Therefore were the "caps" of Charlie Greyning ignored.

Department stamps received their due in the catalogue. Some of the stamps are excessively priced, the 90-cent justice being an example; but perhaps by this time next year its present quotation may not be much out of the way. There is one thing to be remembered about the prices in the catalogue and that is they must serve from now on until some time in the fall of the year. The \$2 state don't seem to skip along very fast. Yet it is a rarer stamp than the 90-cent justice. A Kansas collector holds two whole sheets of the latter. Denver collectors hold several sheets, it has been said.

Now a word about Revenues. It has been the hope of many honest collectors that these stamps would increase much in value. Well, they have grown considerably in price, but they don't deserve the growth for it isn't healthy. There are millions of document revenues on various kinds of papers in numerous vaults. Many of these stamps now hidden from public gaze will some time get into philatelic circulation. History tells us so. There is no use denying that what has happened time and again is very apt to occur once more.

In some way the stamps manage to emerge from dark recesses and pass into the hands of the collector. Every year hundreds of revenue stamps are unearthed. At Washington last fall thousands of revenue stamps were stolen from public documents. Many of the stolen stamps were recovered, but we have it from good source that 25,000 stamps disappeared completely. The 25,000 stamps are no doubt already in the hands of stamp dealers and collectors. Recently some records were being destroyed at some place in Kansas. A stamp collector stepped in on the scene and secured over 10,000 revenues of various denominations. In this case the writer was fortunate to secure from a friend about 150 2-cent bank checks and other values. Ninety per cent of the stamps proved to be of the partly perforated issue. So much for the pienteousness of some "Revenues." Yet it is true that there are other stamps which will never become more plentiful in the market, because they are really scarce. This is true of the \$5 proprietary, and many of the stamps of the second and third issues.

The "provisionals" of Confederate States are very interesting stamps, both on account of their peculiar office and rarity. The stamps have not changed much in price during the past year. The "lilac blues" Uniontown, so long doubted, are at last catalogued. The general issues do not appear to be very popular with collectors.

To be continued.)

THE WESTERN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT AIMS TO DO.

On February 15th, 1895, a few collectors residing in the Twin Cities met at St. Paul and organized a state society to be known as The Minnesota Philatelic Association. Eighteen charter members were enrolled and various offices were filled. The Pipestone Philatelist, being the only stamp journal published in the state at that time, was selected as the official organ. For the first six months but little was done in the departments and the interest displayed was not great. However, at the first convention, held in St. Paul in September, affairs began to assume a new life and fourteen of the thirty-eight members were present in person, while five others were presented by proxy. A very successful convention was the beginning of better things members began to roll up and the departments assumed their work. The Newsletter was se-

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

GEO. W. ACHARD.
HARRY S. SWENSEN. } Editors.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

"There is room for improvement" is the sensible cry of one of our philatelic editors. Yes, and this room is a very spacious one. Philately is by no means at the point where a chance for melioration is lost and retrogradation begins. The top-most rung of the ladder has not yet been reached by a good ways.

Many howls have been serenading the high pricing of stamps on exchange sheets. We wish to emit another howl. The howling may be discordant, but often times a little more brings about the desired result. At least such is the evident theory of Major Egan.

The man who marks his stamps on exchange sheets at full catalogue price should be shanghaied to some port in distant China, and forever relegated from the sight of sensible stamp collectors. But he should not be alone in his sufferings. The person who buys stamps from exchange sheets at catalogue rates should also be shipped anywhere out of the sight of the same.

Honesty in philately and honesty in the ordinary channels of life sometimes are viewed differently. At least the interpretation of honesty, in philately, by many persons is a peculiar one, but we believe that the interpretation is accepted in sincerity by some. To illustrate, here is a person who can be trusted with any amount of money, from one cent to a million dollars under any circumstances. Yet that same individual will pilfer a postage stamp, common or rare, as the case may be, for the purpose of enlarging his postal accumulation. We do not understand this lack of the power of discrimination between honesty and dishonesty. Perhaps psychologists may help us out. Along the line of honesty then there is room for "improvement."

Stamps on exchange sheets should be marked 33 1-3 per cent, at least, below catalogue quotations, unless the stamps are exceedingly rare, even in which case a reasonable discount should be made. Who wants to receive exchange sheets and then pay twenty cents for postage, perhaps more, and then accrue no benefits? No one who is in his right mind.

Another thing—the exchange department is becoming a veritable but temporary dump for philatelic rubbish. When we see penny stamps that no member's collection lacks, sent out on exchange sheets by such old time philatelists as — we think that he is verging closely on the abyss of insanity.

The exchange department is a good thing, but as slightly hinted at it is open to improvement.

ments. We wish the "Daily Stamp Item" long life and hope that its feline majesty may long continue its agreeable purrs.

It transpires that Jno. Luther Kilbon, the efficient editor of the "Boston Stamp Book," is a clergyman and that A. L. Cassino, of the firm of A. L. Cassino & Co., the publishers, is a lady, Annie L. Cassino, by name. It is becoming more and more evident that women are becoming a power in philately and that professional men find philately to be well worth their attention.

We believe that the Reverend Mr. Kilbon is very unselfish in his views; but we think that he is just a little bit selfish when he thinks that the East was subjected to a freezeout when Lake Minnetonka was selected as the site for the next A. P. A. convention. His editorial has at least a selfish tone. We venture the guess that Mr Kilbon would be in favor of Minnetonka if Minnesota or vicinity were his residence. But then, it is human to be a little selfish, especially in the present instance.

"Almost every issue of your paper contains something closely resembling an absurdity."—Scott Stamp and Coin Company to W. W. Jewett, of the Philatelic Era.

Dr. Jewett, however, refuses to accept this call down as correct judgment passed upon the contents of his paper.

The Philatelic Era is noted the world over as the exponent of views impartially wrought. It has the notwithstanding that philately in all its branches is not perfect, yet the present era is one of progressiveness and enlightenment.

Ten years ago we were forced to be content with monthly visits of philatelic papers, and considered a weekly stamp periodical an impossibility, but the present controverts this idea most aptly in the shape of two well established weekly stamp papers and one daily.

A few months ago there came from somewhere down East the bold announcement that a daily publication was to be soon started in the interests of the pursuit. The would-be publisher was ridiculed for his apparently preposterous idea, and was no doubt discouraged, for the paper never appeared. But with the opening of the New Year comes a daily paper in reality, but this time backed by the energetic firm, C. H. Mekeel Company. The Daily Stamp Item is certainly a surprise, and all the more so because it has come without the usual preliminary eclat and boisterous announcement to speak when other papers are dumb. We admire the "Era" and think that what the Scott Company say is harsh. It may be true that an erroneous opinion comes to light in the Era, but the best journals in the world are characterized by just such mistakes.

The philatelic career of Eben S. Martin has been a most notorious one. He first became known because of being suspected as Lewis Bishop, next as the S. O. P. rejuvenator with "The Collector" as his aid-de-camp. Then because of his connection with the 2c Hawaiian, and now as an editor of a paper to be published in four languages. The paper is called the International Stamp, and is printed in St. Paul, Minn. Mr. Martin's paper, "The Collector," has been refused second class rates.

The "Sons of Philatelia" seems to be destined to pass out of existence, now that its official journal, The Collector, has gone. We are really sorry to learn of this, for we believe that the society was recovering its lost health. Perhaps it may yet pull through. Who knows?

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. McCredie's counterfeit 2c Hawaiian has been denounced as a counter-

felt, yet some persons maintain that the counterfeit is genuine, although the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. have passed their dictum on the stamp. We wrote to the company asking them to give us a fuller opinion. Their reply was that they could not add anything more to what had been said; That the stamp which was purchased at E. S. Martin's auction sale and submitted to them for examination is a rank fraud there can be no question.

Mr. Anton Amann, of Dayton, O., says that he knows of a 2c Hawaiian possessed by a collector in his city. He claims that the history of the stamp can be traced back to the time when it was used in Hawaii on a letter addressed to Dayton, O., and that the stamp has the broken frame like the above mentioned fraud. There are known to be only four specimens of the 2c Hawaiian, one of which rests in the collection of the late Mr. Tapling. Can it be possible that in the stamp mentioned by Mr. Amann we have another specimen?
H. S. SWENSEN.

That meteor in our class literature, W. Lionel Moise, whose erratic effusions have entitled him to the cognomen of "the Byron of philatelic authors," has broken forth again. In a recent number of the Michigan Philatelist he bemoans the fact that editors are like a lot of sheep, having no originality and but little brains. He says that current comment seems to be the basis of all the editorials and that they (the editors) are seldom willing to even recognize that their souls are their own. Now let us for a moment consider who this philatelic leviathan is and what is the quality or substance of his own articles. The excerpt is from "impressions by the way," and to our way of reading is but a rehash of articles written by other authors. Originality is lost sight of and the thoughts are but old ones clothed in a new garb. If Brother Moise is such an author as he would have us to be, why does he pursue the very course he condemns in editors as a class?

The author above referred to in the same article touches upon another of our tender spots. He speaks of the demand for scientific manuscript and regrets that such mediocre pen pushers should be allowed to lower the standard of these sketches, but fails to offer even a suggestion as to the remedy for its correction. Now one of the first maxims which we, as a student in law, learned was that "Equity will not permit of a right without a remedy." Then why does not Brother Moise, posing as a philatelic jurist, evolve and lay down some rule of action applicable to the case at issue? Our only theory is that of inconsistency on his own part, and as proof of this, we will state that as short time ago he submitted for our approval what he was pleased to term a "scientific" article. This was nothing more or less than a copy of the 55th catalogue, and the only semblance of originality was the title and a very short introduction. A few weeks pass rapidly by and the author is out with the article which condemns this very method of procedure. Consistency is a jewel of priceless worth, but like some of the rich philatelic gems, evidently is not possessed by Mr. Moise, or we should not be subjected to such criticism. He who plays with fire is liable to be burned.

We have spoken before on the subject of the support which collectors give to their class journals. Still the subject seems to permit of at least another mention. While it is true that some collectors subscribe to most of the stamp papers, still the great majority seem satisfied with the sample copy method of obtaining their information. These men are not philatelists, but mere camp followers and of no practical

benefit to philately. It is not necessary to be a subscriber to every paper published, but it is an almost compulsory rule that one who is to learn and keep posted on the various doings in our pursuit should be a subscriber to at least five of the representative journals. We wonder how many of our readers would be included in this category? The cost is but a very slight amount and entirely inadequate to the amount of information given.

Another philatelist has embarked on the sea of matrimony. This time our friend W. H. Barnes is the groom and the bride is Miss Alice Bishop, one of Minneapolis' fairest young ladies. The ceremony was performed on the 15th of this month, and Billie is already setting up the cigars. That their wedded life may be one of unalloyed pleasure and length is the wish of The Newsletter.

The stamp business in the Northwest is again picking up after the usual Christmas dull season. Our dealers report some good sales and the anticipation of much better trade in the future. 'Tis rumored that a new firm with an incorporated capital of \$10,000 is soon to be formed in the Flour City.

Have you noticed the difference in advertisements in the continental and American stamp magazines? There almost all of the ads. are of packets and sets, while here those of single stamps and approval sheets predominate.

Last week we were greeted by the Daily Stamp Item. A daily, indeed! Well, there's enterprise for you, but as yet we have failed to see the mission for such an innovation. The office cat as editor. What is she, Brother Mekeel, a black or maltese? From the noise we should believe him to be a Thomas.
GEO. W. ACHARD.

(from page 6)

ation of the President, have considered it best for the welfare of the society to grant acceptance to the resignation. Mr. Howard is hereby informed to that effect.

Mr. C. E. Thayer has been selected to carry out the duties assigned to the unexpired term of office. To the Honorable Board of Trustees, Western Philatelic Association, Minneapolis, Minn.:

Gentlemen:—
It is my pleasure to thank you for having selected me to serve as secretary of the Western Philatelic Association. It will be my aim to give my undivided attention to the members of the organization, and I will work faithfully to unbuild the society and advance its interests. Fraternaly yours,

C. E. THAYER.

New cards have been printed and the newly elected secretary is requested to send cards filled out to all members who are not in arrears. He is also called upon to notify delinquent members of their delinquencies.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Trustees,
H. S. SWENSEN, Chairman.

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN.

Rushford, Minn., Nov. 16, 1895.

I wish to thank the M. P. A. members for the great honor conferred upon me by trusting me with the library of M. P. A. In return I will try to build up as large a library as any state society has. To this end, fellow-members, donate what ever you can spare and more too. Would that every member follow the example of the below named parties. "Reading maketh a full man;" let this apply to the M. P. A.; let us have a large library full of good literature and make M. P. A. one of the shining societies.

Western Philatelic Association.

President; E. R. Aldrich.

Benson, Minn.

Vice President. Phillip Dick, Jr.

St. Peter, Minn.

Secretary; C. E. Thayer,

154 E. 3rd St. St. Paul, Minn.

Treasurer; C. E. Thayer,

154 E. 3rd St., St. Paul, Minn.

Exchange Supt. G. W. Achard,

242 Boston Block, Minneapolis.

Librarian: C. G. Selvig,

Rushford, Minn.

Counterfeit Detector; W. M. Thiessen,

595 Dale St., St. Paul, Minn.

Trustees; H. S. Swensen, Chairman,

C. J. Tyren, A. L. Mayer, Minneapolis.

lected as the official organ and has done good work in advertising the Association. On October 1st, the section relating to corresponding membership was adopted and on January 1st the name was changed to the one at the head of this sketch. The reason for this last change arises in the fact that Minnesota has very few active collectors who are not members, and a great many felt that a larger field should be secured. In liberal terms the limit to active membership includes those states north of the Missouri line, although Kansas is included. From this time on we anticipate a successful organization.

We believe the exchange department is at least one of the best, if not the best, in the country; the library is already of good size and rapidly growing, while its usefulness can only be appreciated by a test; the detection of counterfeits is in good hands and satisfactory results may be expected. The other departments will be in running order very soon, probably at the time this is printed.

We invite all honest philatelists to become members and to all such application blanks will be mailed by the Secretary upon request. You will certainly find it to your interest to join. The benefits far surpass the cost (ten cents initiation and twenty-five cents annual dues), and we should be pleased to have you become one of us. The next convention will be held in Minneapolis in September, when a very enjoyable time may be expected. We are trying for two hundred and fifty members by that time. Will you be one to help it up to that mark?

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

NEW MEMBERS.

55. Miss Severine C. Selvig, Rushford, Minn.
56. Thos. C. Hawley, Lake Park, Becker County, Minn.
57. N. E. Carter, Delavan, Wis.
58. C. W. Kissinger, Box 368, Reading Pa.
59. Chas. Beamish, 1105 Frankfort ave. Phila, Pa.
60. F. H. Carleton, 600 New York Life Bdg., Minneapolis, Minn.
61. L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Neb.

APPLICATIONS.

- C. R. Butler, Stillwater, Minn., reference Geo. W. Achard, C. G. Hart.
 W. B. McPherson, Stillwater, Minn., reference Geo. W. Achard, C. G. Hart.
 W. C. Moulton, Decatur, Mich., reference Geo. W. Achard, C. E. Thayer
 M. M. Marsh, care of C. B. & N. offices, St. Paul, Minn., reference Geo. W. Achard, C. E. Thayer.
 N. H. Withee, 230 South Ninth Street, La Crosse,

Wis., reference, E. R. Aldrich, F. T. Lewis.

John N. Nind, 122 Highland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn., reference, Geo. W. Achard, C. E. Thayer.

John N. Deglmann, Mankato, Minn., reference, H. S. Swensen, Geo. W. Achard.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership Feb. 1, provided no objection is filed before that date.

There are a number of members who are very slow in remitting their dues. Such delinquents should send them to the secretary at once or stand suspended. The association cannot prosper unless all of the members pay their dues promptly, and work for the interests of the association. All members who joined prior to August 1, 1895, are reminded that their dues for 1895 are now payable, and upon receipt of same, the new membership cards, which are now ready, will be sent.

Mr. E. R. Aldrich, our worthy president, will present to the person securing the most members by Sept. 1, 1896, an old German envelope. This is a very fine specimen and all members should try to obtain this prize. New applications are now ready. Send at once for some and begin.

C. E. THAYER,
Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from ex-treasurer.....	\$1.30
Received from secretary	2.72
Received from members, dues	2.10
Total	\$6.12
Paid Newsletter for printing.....	\$1.92
Paid librarian freight bill .....	.25
Stationary and Postage	1.00
Balance on hand Jan. 10.....	2.95
Total	\$6.12

C. E. THAYER, Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The proposed amendments to Article I and Article II, Section I, have been unanimously adopted.

In pursuance to the above amendments the name of our association will hereafter be "The Western Philatelic Association." Collectors living in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, California, Oregon, and Washington are now also eligible to active membership. Persons in other states can become corresponding members only.

Mr. C. E. N. Howard, secretary of the organization, has sent in his resignation as secretary. After duly considering the action, the Trustees, with affirm-

(Continued on page 5)

Here is a list of donations: Chas. G. Hart, complete file and standing subscription to Pipestone Philatelist, also 425 philatelist papers; Eben S. Martin, 50 pieces; Conrad G. Selvig, 50 pieces; H. S. Swenson, complete file to Minneosta Philatelist.

Now that we have a little something to begin with, let all members ask for it and use it, remembering to pay postage to and from in advance. Hoping to get more donations, I am yours fraternally,

CONRAD G. SELVIG, Librarian.

CONSTITUTION, W. P. A.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

Section 1. The name of the association shall be The Western Philatelic Association.

ARTICLE II.—Object of the Association.

Section 1. The object of the Association shall be study, collecting and interchange of postage stamps, envelopes, postal cards, etc.

The detection and prevention of forgeries and frauds pertaining to the same.

ARTICLE III.—Membership.

Section 1. Any stamp collector residing in the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, California, Oregon and Washington may become a member of this Association by applying to the Secretary; such application shall be signed by two references, one of whom must be a member of the Association, the other being a resident of the same place as the applicant. The Secretary shall thereupon cause the name and address of the applicant and references to be published in the next number of the official organ and if no objection shall be received by the secretary within one month after such publication, the applicant shall be considered elected and entitled to receive the membership card of the Association on payment of dues. In case any member shall object to an applicant, the application shall be submitted to the Trustees. The Secretary shall notify the objecting member to furnish proofs, substantiating his claims, upon receipt of which the trustees shall consider the matter and shall accept or reject the applicant, and the action of the Trustees shall be final and conclusive.

Sec. 2. Any member of the Association against whom charges have been preferred in writing, addressed to the Trustees, may be tried by a court composed of the Trustees, acting ex-officio as presiding officer, and four members of the Association appointed by the Trustees. The court may in its judgment, suspend or expel such member and their action in the matter shall be final.

Sec. 3. Any member wishing to withdraw from the Association shall signify his intention in writing to the Secretary. No resignation shall be considered until his accounts with the Association are paid.

Sec. 4. Any stamp collector residing in the United States may become a corresponding member in a like manner as provided for active members in Section 1, of this article. Corresponding members shall be entitled to all privileges of this Association, except voting and holding office.

ARTICLE IV.—Conventions.

Section 1. The Association shall meet in convention once a year at such date and place as shall be designated by the preceding convention.

Sec. 2. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of one-half of the membership there represented, in person or by proxy.

Sec. 3. Every member of the Association, who is not in arrears for dues, shall be entitled to a vote at said convention.

ARTICLE V.—Officers.

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Li-

brarian, Superintendent of Exchange, Purchasing Agent, Counterfeit Detector, Auction Manager, Attorney and three Trustees.

Sec. 2. The officers of this Association shall be elected for one year and shall serve until their successors have qualified. All officers shall be chosen by ballot, a majority of the whole number of ballots cast, being sufficient for a choice.

Sec. 3. In case of death, resignation or inability to act of any officers the Trustees are empowered to appoint some one to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VI.—Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of this Association and appoint all committees not otherwise provided for. He shall submit an annual report to be printed in the Official Journal. He shall sign all warrants on the Treasurer for money required by the Association and at request of ten members shall call for a mail vote upon any desired question, a majority of which votes cast shall be sufficient to determine the question.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President shall act in case of vacancy in the office of President, or in his absence.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all proceedings of the Association, preserve all documents, and receive all moneys due from members. He shall keep a financial account and pay over to the Treasurer all money received by him over and above ten dollars, taking receipt for same. He shall receive all applications and dispose of them as provided for in Article III, Section 1. He shall furnish a copy of the Constitution free to each member, and duplicates at the rate of ten cents per copy. He shall sign all warrants on the Treasurer for money required by the Association.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all moneys and securities of the Association delivered to him by the Secretary; pay all warrants drawn on him by the President and Secretary and submit to each convention, during his term of office, a complete financial statement. He shall give a bond to the Trustees in the sum of fifty dollars.

Sec. 5. The Librarian, Superintendent of Exchange, Purchasing Agent, Counterfeit Detector, Auction Manager, Attorney and Trustees shall perform such duties as are required of them by this constitution and the by-laws of the Association.

ARTICLE VII.—Revenues.

Section 1. The Revenues of the Association shall be derived from dues of members and revenues of the different departments as provided in the by-laws, and such shall be used in defraying the expenses of the Association.

Sec. 2. All dues shall be payable annually, in advance, on the first day of January of each year. The fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and be divided into quarters. The dues to be paid by members shall be computed from beginning of the quarter in which they shall have been elected to membership in the Association.

Sec. 3. Any member who, after having been notified by the Secretary, does not pay his dues within thirty days from date of notification shall be expelled from the Association and his name published in the Official Journal of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII.—Property.

Section 1. All officers shall, at the expiration of their term of office, deliver to their successors all books, papers, moneys and other property of the Association, and shall not be relieved from their bond or obligation until this requirement shall be complied with.

ARTICLE IX.—Deceased Members.

Section 1. The Association will take proper steps to dispose of collections of deceased members to the best advantage of the heirs, if they so desire, to prevent sacrificing the property.

ARTICLE X.—Amendments.

Section 1. The constitution can only be amended or altered by the assent of two-thirds of the members voting on such alteration or amendment, provided such two-thirds shall constitute a majority vote of the entire membership.

Sec. 2. Any by-law not in conflict with the constitution may be made by the Trustees, but should ten members object to the proposed by-law or amendment, it must be submitted to a general vote of the Association as provided in Article 6, Section 1.

Sec. 3. In all cases of a mail vote, thirty days shall elapse between the time of sending out notices of such vote and the date of closing the polls, and the votes of only those members in good standing, on the day of mailing such notice of vote shall be counted.

The by-laws will be published in the next number.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The Dixie Philatelist wandered into our sanctum lately. We cannot say much regarding it as we hate to injure the feelings of the publishers, but we feel constrained to say that were it to be printed in better shape, it would take better.

The Missouri Philatelist, Vol. I., No. 1., is at hand. The copy we received is evidently a mis-strike, as pages 7 to 10 inclusive were not bound or inserted. We presume Bro. Wilson will derive as much pleasure from his little paper as the editors of larger journals do from theirs, but we fear for his pile of the where-withal, if he doesn't succeed in ensnaring the festive advertiser in a greater measure.

It is reported that The Collector, that sheet of many vicissitudes, has again succumbed to the inevitable. At least it hasn't appeared for over two months, but its editor and general head pusher is down at the top of the staff of a new one. The International Stamp Leon G.Lambert is business manager. It will be a semi-monthly. The issue for Jan. 3 contains a few good items, but its typographical appearance is nowhere near the equal of its predecessor.

Through the kindness of Mr. Tyren we were permitted to peruse the November number of the American Philatelic Magazine. This is the very first copy we have seen since last February, and we wonder why Messrs. Parmalee and Brown do not put us on their X-list. Mr. Achard says that he cannot stand sponsor for "Sholly Tyren's" pome, as it appeared in the September Newsletter, but on the contrary says Tyren was in one of his sonnambullistic fits when the reporter caught it in shorthand. Achard also says if "competent kicker" doesn't like his style after a foot-ball game, he doesn't have to. For ourselves we cannot see any connection between philately and the game of long-haired humanity and think Mr. C. K. ought to confine himself to correcting some of the existing abuses in stamp collecting.

Filatelic Facts and Fallacies for December reached us unusually late. Mr. Sellschopp's "Circling About Europe" is one of the most readable of the lighter articles that has appeared for some time. We do not exactly understand why so much space is allowed to Western Franks, as this class of postal curiosities has but a limited number of adherents. The perfidy of the officials of Perak is to be deplored and the publishers deserve the thanks of the collecting public for their prompt expose of the swindle.

That embodiment of enterprise, Clifford W. Kissinger, comes forth with the best number for the holidays that has yet reached us. One hundred and twenty-eight pages makes quite a book, and as for advertisements, they are there galore. We have only one

kick coming and that is along a line which may seem threadbare to many. There isn't enough of the scientific grade of articles, too much of notes, etc. Still one can show such a number to his collecting friends with no embarrassment or feeling of ridicule of our friends.

The magazine with the red cover is certainly prompt. New Year's morning we went to the post-office and there it was, the first of the 1896 crop. In this respect the The Michigan Philatelist must be awarded the bun shop. Its literary qualities are slightly in advance of previous issues, still there is much room for improvement.

As we mentioned last month THE NEWSLETTER desires to exchange with all philatelic journals and requests that two copies be mailed us, one to H. S. Swensen, 1605 Stevens avenue, and the other to Geo. W. Achard, 242 Boston block. We shall be glad to place all who favor us on our lists.

LOOK HERE!

1894 adhesives, U. S. from 1c to \$5.00 inclusive \$10.85.

Cut square envelopes. Can supply your "wants." Write for prices, mentioning what you want. I have no printed price-lists. How are your Revenue wants? If you want them filled, try me. I do not sell \$5.00 stamps for \$1.00 if I know it, but I give good value for the money.

Cash paid for good collections of U. S. adhesives.

JOE F. BEARD

MUSCATINE, IOWA.

Member of all leading societies.

EXCHANGE COLUMN.

Advertisements under this head, one cent a word each insertion cash in advance. One advertisement, restricted to 30 word free to each new subscriber.

I desire stamps of Uruguay, Argentine and Brazil, and would be pleased to hear from collector having any to exchange. Geo. W. Achard, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

All Minnesota collectors should join the Minnesota Philatelic Association. Blanks may be obtained from the editors or C. E. N. Howard, Sec'y, 656 Summit Ave. St. Paul, Minn.

Phil. Literature to exchange for Phil. papers or stamps. H. S. Swensen, 1605 Stevens Ave Minneapolis, Minn.

STAMP DEALERS DIRECTORY

Terms for a three line advertisement in this column, \$1.50 for 12 insertions. 75 cents 6 insertions. payable semi-annually in advance.

B BEARD, JOE F. Dealer in Stamps and Envelopes for Collections. Send your "want list" with good reference if unknown, and it will be filled on approval.

B RILL, GEO. E. 15th and Bremen Cincinnati, O. 50 per cent approval sheets. Try them. 5 and 10 Col. Env. unused entire, 30 cents 1000 varieties \$7.00.

B URLEIGH, JOSEPH, Govanstown, Balti Co. Md. Dealer in rare postage stamps. Send for stamps on approval.

H OLDEN, C. H. Durand, Mich. Unexcelled approval sheets at 50 per cent commission. Good reference required, Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of Packets, Sets, &c.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. I.

MARCH AND APRIL, 1896.

NO. 12.

PHILATELY RUN MAD. SIDNEY K. LE MOYNE.

Years ago when stamp collecting was in its infancy and its adherents were small boys instead of staid, business men, we were called cranks and twitted about being engaged in a pursuit of a frivolous nature. We were told that our hobby was mere child's play, and in no respect should it commend itself to persons of a mature mind. Remarks of this nature were hurled at us on every hand. But as time rolled by and a stamp collector became a philatelist, and our numbers swelled from hundreds of thousands this gradually wore away, until today we are not laughed at by our friends, frowned upon by our parents or held in derision by our acquaintances. They have gradually come to see that there is more in the collecting of "these little bits of paper" and that our time and money have not entirely been wasted. This wearing away of public opinion has not been accomplished in a short space of time, but has been gradual and slow. Today we are considered as having a legitimate right to a free living on this earth and not as fit subjects for the asylums for the insane and feeble-minded.

However, all this good report is likely to change in the next few years unless a halt is called along certain lines. It would seem as though some of our worthy confreres in stamps had "run mad" in these directions and were destined to tear down the fabric of public opinion we have labored so ardently to erect. To commence with, there is too much variation today. Every little detail, however minute, whether on the stamp die or not is magnified until one almost becomes insane in his vain search through hundreds, if not thousands, of specimens which to an unpracticed eye appear identical. Now I would not have one reader for a moment think that I deprecate genuine distinctions, but I do most heartily object to the foisting of many of the fashionable variations of this latter-day kind. The following appears to be almost axiomatic. Philatelists should only recognize as collectible stamps those which have come forth by reason of some governmental decree. That this doctrine is in a measure observed, just glance for a moment at the list of stamps branded as fraudulent, unnecessary or speculative. Every month the Society of the four S's comes forth with a new batch, but never a word is said concerning the collecting of plate numbers of sheets.

This is a subject over which I have lately become somewhat exercised. What is a sheet plate number? Did the government ever authorize it as a part of the stamp itself? The attitude of the department effectually silences those whose answer would tend to the affirmative. The post-office department refuse to recognize the clamorings of these faddists for plate numbers. They were intended simply as a government check and not a part of the stamp itself. Then why collect them and pose as "wise" philatelists? But, say some, "how about English plate numbers?" My reply is that they are certainly collectible, for their issuance upon the stamps themselves was authorized. The plate number is a part of the stamp and marks a very decided distinction; much more so than the crossed lines of certain U. S. adhesives.

Will some one please answer the following query? By what governmental decree was any set of stamps

changed in perforation, for example, from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ or visa versa? Now to my mind here is another distinction with which we, as collectors, have burdened ourselves. It seems foolish to distinguish between these things and at times makes one worth ten times the price of the other. Collectors are to blame for the state of affairs now existing, for if they gave our catalogue makers to understand in positive tones that they would have none of them, we would not be on the verge of a philatelic panic and our non-collecting friends would not have as much of an opportunity to murmur something about "wheels," "cranks," and the like. It is high time we collectors were asserting, in a measure, our independence from the manipulator of prices and specimens with minute variations. Collect only what is actually recognized by the government issuing the stamp in question and you will have done your share towards ameliorating our present condition. Advancement should be our watchword and not degradation.

VARIETIES IN PAPER.

(Read by Geo. W. Achard before the Minneapolis Philatelic Society.)

Gentlemen:—At your suggestion the following sketch has been prepared in the hope that in a measure I may be able to make clear some of the points around which every true philatelist at some time in his career gropes in a night as black as Egyptian darkness. Realizing that I, too, am in need of instruction and am not infallible, your consideration and patience is craved, should this article contain no new points or be unnecessarily long and dry. The subject is one which involves a great deal of research, much more in fact than I have been able to give it.

The study of variety in papers in itself requires some knowledge of the process of manufacture. Let us briefly consider this before entering into the strictly philatelic part of the article. As is well known, most of the white paper in use is made from rags, while manilla is made of the pith of trees, shrubs and straw. The process of grinding, soaking and pounding into pulp is uninteresting to us. After the pulp has been produced and sent into the large vats, it is then drawn off in a rather liquid state on a frame composed of fine wire work. This is where the sheet becomes either laid or wove. In the former, the wires are arranged so that from twelve to twenty are included in the space of one inch and these usually run parallel to the length of the sheet. Other wires at a distance of perhaps a half inch apart run in a transverse direction. This is done to maintain a firmness on the first set of wires. As the pulp comes on this frame, wherever it strikes the wires an impression is left. This causes the laid appearance. In the wove paper, the wires, both lengthwise and transverse, are much closer together and no impression is left.

After the pulp becomes "set," it passes through a pair of rollers bound with felt, in order that the moisture may be taken away. Then it passes rapidly through a bath of sizing, where a color is given. From this it goes to another set of rollers through which steam is sent which completely dries the sheet. This ends the process of manufacture as far as drying is concerned. But if it is to be finished as a calendared paper, it must pass through still another set or sets

of heavy hydraulic cylinders which gives it the shiny, glossy appearance. Such in brief is the process of paper making.

But as my theme is to be more of a philatelic than of a mechanical nature, I will pass on to a dissertation on the terms in use in distinguishing varieties. Perhaps it will be best to take these up in an alphabetical order.

Barelage. This paper is somewhat difficult to describe on account of the peculiar pattern or groundwork used. The best illustration may be found in the 4 R. B. S. of the 1851 issue of Denmark.

Batonne. In ordinary parlance this is known as "Foreign Note," on account of its excessive thinness. Parallel lines run through it though much wider apart than in the ordinary laid papers. The stamps of Guadalajara of 1867-68 are an instance of its use.

Carton. This is a paper of a very heavy texture and is similar to thin cardboard. The stamps of Rampour furnish an illustration.

Colored. This hardly requires a definition and examples are numerous.

Enameled. This is likewise in common use in every day business and is well known. An illustration is afforded in some of the U. S. Locals and the reprints of Roman states. These are also termed glazed.

Gold Beater's Skin. This is a very tough, transparent paper resembling parchment. You are referred to the stamps of Prussia, 1866, 10 and 30 silber-groschen for an example.

India Paper. A heavy fibrous paper much used for proofs.

Manilla. A very coarse, tough and cheap paper made from the fibres of manilla grass, and used principally for envelopes and wrappers.

Mince Paper. This is a French term used to designate a paper of a very light and thin texture. The Turkish stamps of 1862-63 were printed on this variety.

Moire. This is a species of ribbed-wove paper which has wavy lines on it, giving it the appearance of watered silk. The stamps of Spain, 1875 serve as a type.

Native. A paper of varying thickness so caused by its being made by hand in semi-civilized countries and therefore incapable of producing a clear impression. The stamps of the native Indian states furnish a good example.

Perlure. A paper of the wove variety, very thin and tough. The first of the 1855 issue of New Zealand furnishes a good illustration.

Quadrille. This is a species of Batonne, in which the laid or water marked lines cross each other in rectangle or squares. Illustration same as for Batonne.

Ribbed. A specie of wove paper of a coarse nature, showing heavy ribed lines. This is used but little, however, later research reveals some of the 1872 issue of U. S. and the 1858 issue of Canada on this kind of fabric.

Rice. This paper is made from the pith of rice straw and is of a fine, soft, silky appearance. The Japanese used this in their issue of 1871.

Silk Thread. This term is used to denote that kind of wove paper into the pulp of which fine threads are mixed to give the paper a tougher quality. It has been but seldom used, the stamps of Switzerland, 1854, and some of the old German states being the best examples.

Straw. As its name implies, it is made from the straws of some grains. It is used principally in wrappers.

Toned. A paper which has been slightly tinted. This may be natural or artificial, when the latter, it is caused by the ink in printing or by the gum used. A type of the pure or natural toned paper may be found in the first issue of 1866, New Foundland, 2, 5, 10, and 12c. The later impressions of these stamps were on white paper.

Verge. A laid paper in which the crossed lines run diagonally. Verge Batonne paper combines the qualities of both.

I might go into the various colors, as for instance, amber, lemon, fawn, cream, flesh, buff, orange or gold, but I feel that these terms are known to you and do not desire to weary you with what might be termed a technical distinction without a difference. Accordingly I will conclude by thanking you for the attention you have displayed and in hope that you may have been benefited by something which has been presented, however much it may lack in style and originality.

THE 56TH CATALOGUE.

(Continued from last month.)

Through a typographical error, the price paid for the ninety-five St. Louis stamps is quoted at 2,300 in the opening chapter of our article. In justice to the C. H. Mekeel Co., the purchasers, we wish to state that the price paid for the stamps was \$23,000, ten times the amount of our quotation. We make the correction, hoping that the energetic St. Louis firm will overlook the carelessness of the proof reader.

A comparison of prices in the 55th edition with those in the 56th reveals some remarkable changes. The logical inferences to be drawn from the comparison is, to say the least of it, astounding. It is possible that one or two stamps may merit an increase in value to the tune of five or six hundred per cent, but we do not believe that several hundred stamps can truthfully advance in price at the same rate of increment.

It has been said that some of the stamps of the U. S. are appraised at extravagant figures. This may be true, but that many of the "foreign" have received abnormal quotations, there can be no doubt. The compilers have simply juggled the prices in many instances, just as their own sweet fancy directed. If there is any thing back of this fancy, it is personal business interests.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co.'s catalogue is accepted most generally as the standard one, but there is room for doubt as to its rightful claim to such a position. "Every man for himself" applies most aptly to stamp dealers, and you can be assured that the publishers of the catalogue upon which we are commenting find it hard to be strictly impartial.

It is detrimental to the interests of Philately that the leading philatelic publishers are stamp dealers.

Perhaps you are not aware that, in one sense, there are more rare stamps than common ones. Look over your catalogue, and you will be surprised to learn how few the stamps are, that are listed at less than ten cents each. Why \$500 stamps are numerous. As each year goes by, several new recruits are added to the \$2,000 class. The one cent red, Br. Guiana, now balances \$2,500.

It appears that unused stamps are becoming favorites, at least, as far as high pricing is concerned. The catalogue has sounded the signal for advance, and an energetic boost is given the unused all along the line.

The most remarkable and greatest proportional increase in price is shown by the 5 pf. violet, 1879 issue, to Bavaria, which makes a clean jump from 8 cents to \$3.50. The 50 pf. of the same issue moves from 60 cents to \$8. The one mark, violet, from 85 cents to \$20. The 6 stone, and 7 blue, each from 12 cents to \$1. Other stamps of this country advance at the same exorbitant rate. We say exorbitant because we know such advances to be excessive. The stamps can be obtained from other dealers at the same old prices or very close to them, if price lists speak the truth. The J. W. Scott Co. have just issued a new edition of their catalogue, wherein the stamps are priced much

in accordance to 55th prices. Why is such a discrimination made by two such firms as the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. and the J. W. Scott Co. It is extortionate to sell stamps based upon the 56th prices, to a man who is not in full possession of the facts. The 56th edition is considered to be a truthful compendium of prices. It appears, however, that the quotations are incorrect reflections of market values. The Scott Stamp and Coin Co. ask \$3.50 for the 5pf., Bavaria. The J. W. Scott Co. want 15 cents. It doesn't seem possible that the latter company has been deceived as to the true value of the stamp, for the company has the facilities for pricing equal to those possessed by the former.

Probably the greatest advance is that of \$1,000 made by the 81 paras, blue, Moldavia, which is now priced at \$1,500 instead of \$500. There are two specimens of this stamp in the hands of St. Paul collectors. We extend to them our congratulations, but doubt that their stamps would bring an amount anywhere near the catalogue price.

The 45 blue Lombardy Venice takes a beautiful slide from \$2.00 to \$30.00. We don't think that the stamp is worth any where near the new price. There is but little demand for it. It may be that some rich sucker may be hooked by the price. Lucky is the man who lands him. Albrecht prices the stamp at \$2.00.

British Colonials in some cases receive a good impetus. The six pence Barbadoes increases ten fold. The used specimens of the stamps of Heligoland have sprung into great favor during the past year, especially across the Atlantic. A very valuable article which has been widely reprinted has added much to their popularity. And then the stamps have been greatly underestimated in regard to their scarcity. But the 56th edition has taken this into consideration. The 1/2 sch. green and rose, error, is now priced at \$75, a pretty high mark when comparing it with last year's price of \$5. Many persons may think that in the case of "Heligolands," sweet fancy has been a potent factor in the listing, but the true position of the stamps, up to the last year or two, has not been well defined. The number of some of the stamps in existence at the present time is very limited but the stamps undoubtedly merit a good advance in price. But 2,500 copies of the "error" passed into circulation, the others were destroyed. It would certainly be a good idea to save "Heligolands." As far as the reprints are concerned they can be readily distinguished from the originals and are worthless.

Scott has precluded reprints from his list. In propos to the stamps of Heligoland we wish to say that we recently came across a variety that thus far has been inedited. It is a 1 sch. stamp unperforated, on very thick paper with green lines in its texture. The post mark on the stamp is undoubtedly genuine, and this fact causes us to believe that the stamp is also genuine. The stamp is of the 1871 type. A stamp very similar to the one noted, with the exception that it was rouletted, was exhibited at the Philatelic Congress at Manheim. The stamp, however, was declared to be one of the many reprints struck in 1884. A writer in an article which first appeared in Le Timbre Post exhorts that the stamp is a reprint because it is practically impossible that "there could be any rouletted 1 sch. stamps of the redrawn type, the latter being that of the second printing of that value, July 1871, all the stamps of which were perforated like those of the previous printings of the 1/2 sch. in 1869, 1870 and 1871.

How is the existence of our unclipped but unperforated 1 sch. to be accounted for? The stamps appear to have a watermark, characteristic of the 1873 issue.

Among other notable cases of great advance in price are the 1 shilling Lake and 1 pence on 6 pence green, Dominica, which are raised respectively from \$7.50 to \$35.00 and \$75.00 to \$200.00. The 50c green of France is now worth ten times its former value of

10c. The 10g slate, of the German empire was jerked from 60c to \$1.25. This is not a bad showing for Herr Weinerwurst. Other advances are 3c blue Nevis 18c to \$2.00, the 1sh, green, \$200.00 to \$100.00, 2g blue, Prussia \$25.00 to \$100.00, 1sh. mauve, New Brunswick, \$100.00 to \$300.00, 1sh violet \$125.00 to \$350.00. Notwithstanding occasional assertions to the effect that the shillings of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are very scarce, there seems to be no drouth of them on the market. In almost every auction sale of the season shillings have been offered for sale.

It may be a bold statement to state that the 56th edition reflects some prices dishonestly, but there is no question of it. The ten centgreen of the issue of Argentine Republic, isn't worth one-half the catalogue price. The unused stamps of Austria can be purchased all the way from one-fifth to one-twentieth the 56th prices.

If the 56th is the standard, which guides us in our purchases, well can we say, alas, for we are sorely misguided in many particulars.

In the J. W. Scott catalogue the 10r., yellow, Azores, is priced at \$15. The 56th appraises the stamp at \$35. The 2 cent, mauve, Sarawak, is listed at 12 cents and 50 cents respectively. Why this disparity? Who is in error? The J. W. Scott Co. are more conservative and also more correct. Too much faith should not be placed on prices in the 56th.

The British Colonials are priced quite fairly, but even here there is too much wind.

The 8 cent, registered, Canada, is not too highly priced. Such stamps as the 10 cent, carmine, Dutch Indies, the 2rs. blue, Denmark, are fairly listed. The early Egyptians are well worth their present quotations. The shillings of the Gibraltar are very popular stamps. The 25 cent on 2 penny brown, violet, has not been trifled with, for it deserves its appaisement. The stamps of Hawaii are pretty highly figured, but they will prove worthy of their listing before the year is up. Hawaii is a favorite with most collectors of the U. S. The stamps of Iceland, especially those in unused condition, are going to be bonanzas to their holders. We doubt that a good unused specimen of the 8s., mauve, can be obtained for \$3.00. Iceland is a clean country, philatelically speaking, and deserves the attention of every general collector. The Malta 1/2 buff, bluish, is a very good stamp, which is really rare. How many have got a specimen? Another desirable stamp for the price set down in the catalogue, \$100, is the "steamer" stamp, the Lady McLeod. The stamp was issued the 16th of Feb. 1847, by Mr. David Bruce, owner of the steamer Lady McLeod. The stamp was used for prepaying letter, sent by steamer, between the towns of San Fernando and Port of Spain. Scott fails to price the 4 pence, unused, error, Cape of Good Hope. There is but one copy known to exist, and this is now owned by the Stanley Gibbons firm. The stamp will be held at a very high figure. Ten years ago, this identical stamp, under similar conditions, would not have brought over \$100. But, since then, the ranks have grown. Philately is no longer a much laughed at baby, but is a big, healthy, rollicking youth, influenced by the contrasting wiles of speculation, fashion, and fancy. The demand for stamps has certainly increased ten fold, but this demand has been declared because of undue inflation of values. An English authority has declared that all of the stamps of the West Indies, and British North America have assumed fictitious prices. An example is the 5 shilling, St. Vincent, which, because of its beauty, and not because of its scarcity is revered by many, many persons. The one shillings, Dominica, is not worth near the amount of its quotation of \$35. There were almost 1,500 remainders that fell into the hands of dealers and collectors. The 6 pence, gray, lithographed, Nevis at \$75 seems to be a pretty low estimation, for but 1,200 wer issued.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

HARRY S. SWENSEN, Editor.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.

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All in all stamps are being too highly priced. As philately grows older, we suppose that stamps will continue to increase in value, but the summit is bound to be reached some day. By and by prices of stamps will be so exalted that even the most wealthy will be too poor to buy. Then the prices are sure to come down, no matter how scarce or rare the stamp may be. As a stamp increases in value, the demand for it increases. That so many stamps are held out of the reach of such a large number of collectors is undoubtedly one of the causes which created the desire to collect minor varieties. The public wishes to satisfy its desire to collect without much expense and it does it by collecting plate numbers, shades, and oddities, some of which are always easily obtainable.

The San Antonio Society is not going to squelch the mania for plate numbers, nor is the society for the suppression of speculative stamps going to bring about the much needed reform in regard to Seebecks. There is a class of collectors known as boys who are going to collect anything that has the semblance of a postage stamp, be it match, medicine or seebeck. The crop of young ideas will never be a failure and as a result the market for gumpaps is not going to decrease. It is too bad that money makes the collector nowadays. There is no use denying the fact that it does take money to acquire a good collection, but, the collector who obtains a good collection without expense is the happier one. A certain barrister sold his collection the other day for \$15,000.00, netting him a profit of about \$14,700.00, but even here an expense of \$300.00 is something, especially when considering the fact that gentleman began to collect as far back as the year 1859.

We hope that in the future the compilers of the Scott's Catalogue will be less partial to their own interests and more solicitous for the welfare and progress of the pursuit. We hope that they will be at least just a wee bit more conservative, thereby fostering and aiding Philately.

EDITORIAL.

Auction sales are slowly but surely destroying the importance of the approval sheet trade.

Philatelic societies may now be considered to be a distinct hobby, enjoyed by a large number of notoriety seekers.

The Standard Stamp Co., of No. 4 Nicholson Place, St. Louis, Mo., have issued a new gigantic price list, which is sent free to applicants.

The superb collection of Mr. H. N. Terrett, of Woodside, N. Y., will be sold at auction under the direction of the J. W. Scott Co. on the evenings of Feb. 26 and 27.

Mistakes will happen, as our last number testifies. Linotype is "onery" stuff to handle, and the errors were committed after the final proof had been corrected.

Another notable philatelist has passed to the great beyond. This time it is the favorably known Irish peer, the Earl of Kingston, who died recently at Cairo, Egypt. The Earl was well known as a philatelist, principally through his connection with the London Philatelic Society.

The postoffice department is preparing for a systematic weeding out of second class matter undeserving of such classification, and it has an eye peeled specially for philatelic publications.

Readers of the "American Philatelic Magazine" should register a kick against the "competent kicker" for his failure to kick last month. A kicker, in order to be competent, must be ever active in his violent exercise.

The editor of the "Philatelic West" apologizes to Roy Greene for placing his contribution (a poem) on the last page instead of the first. Truly the free and unincumbered tongue of the independent editor has been reduced to a humble and apologetic status.

A couple of well meaning collectors intend to publish a philatelic journal "printed in four different languages." They would, no doubt, fight shy of such intentions if they only knew how hard it is for 50,000 or more debilitated publishers to print their papers in one language.

Mr. Walter Scott, in commenting on the 15 cent Justice, says that he considers it worth \$10.00 instead of \$5.00, simply because its issue consisted of but 2,800 stamps, whilst the issue of the 7 cent Navy, priced at \$10.00, consisted of 16,000. He should remember that the number of stamps issued is not the basis of a stamp's value. It is true supply, and not the original number issued that counts.

The dead speaks! Notwithstanding the fact that "The Philatelic Review of Reviews" long since became a shade, it still speaks through the advertising columns of the "Metropolitan Philatelist." The M. P. might be dubbed the Metropolitan Philatelic Phonograph.

The one cent State has brought double its present catalogue price at a Chicago auction sale. Some one has said that auction sales are a poor criterion of the price of a stamp. We think that a stamp is worth just as much as it will bring, be it through the medium of an auction sale, an approval sheet, or a price list.

Hilkes and Co. Limited, of London, Eng., which firm is said to be made up of the one person Harry Hilkes, is suffering considerably from legal proceedings. The well known dealer, Mr. Wm. Brown, recently brought action against the firm for libel, which resulted in judgment for the plaintiff. Mr. Geo. Wichman, in a like action, secured a similar result. And now a stamp dealer of Philadelphia, has left for England to bring suit against the same person for uttering alleged libellous statements.

We are informed that the veteran Parisian stamp dealer, Mons. Maury recently brought claim against one Victor Robert for infringement of, copy-right, and counterfeiting. Maury charged Robert with illegally

imitating the "Maury Catalogue." The case was decided in favor of Robert, the principal point being that he could not be held liable for the reproduction of any of the details to which Maury could not hold exclusive right. The method of arrangement used by Robert in his publication was a general one to which Maury could not lay claim.

We have just received from R. F. Albrecht & Co., No. 90 Nassau street, New York, a very handy device for carrying stamps. It is just the thing for the collector who cannot very well be without one. Copies may be had of the publisher for the very reasonable sum of fifteen cents each.

ANENT COUNTERFEITS.

The great advancement of scientific philately, during the past few years has been such that the counterfeiter, in many cases has found that his skill and sagacity are wanting, and as a result, but few forgeries appear to be coursing philatelic channels. But the counterfeiter is now becoming more wary, and is exercising greater skill. The public is growing more careful every day. So is the counterfeiter, and as a consequence, he is turning out such clever imitations that the majority of collectors are bound to be deceived. Never purchase a stamp, which you do not know to be genuine. Don't trust to the assertion of the seller to the effect that he, in person purchased the stamp at the postoffice, or took it off the original envelope. Too many times the assertion may prove to be untrue.

The importance of detecting counterfeits is a growing one. Even the most lawful authorities are oftentimes deceived.

Examples of Newspaper stamps of Austria, sometimes called "Mercuries," which were discovered in considerable quantity, recently, are declared to be clever reprints. In this instance, the highest experts were fooled.

Some excellent counterfeits of Tuscany and Sicily are out.

The one mark, mauve, Finland, with serpentine perforations has been pronounced a fraud. Look out for fraudulent surcharges of the French Colonies. A person in Paris is offering forged Spanish, which are said to be perfect imitations. They are usually sold in packets containing some genuine stamps.

A WINNER.

The new organization, the Western Philatelic Association, is going to be a winner without question. It is the society for western collectors. The number of new applicants to membership shows that it is growing and testifies to the amount of work our new secretary, Mr. Thayer, is doing. He is the mainstay of the association. In its infancy, before it grew out of its old name, Mr. Thayer was the hardest worker for its interests. He furnished accommodations for the convention last fall, and now, in the capacity of secretary, is pulling the society to the front. Mr. Thayer will undoubtedly be re-elected.

Now all we want is a few more men like Mr. Thayer. We don't care for those persons, who are seeking to make their names better known, to present themselves. We do want men who are willing to work philanthropically for the aggrandizement of the society. We ought to have 500 members by the time of the next convention. The association is typically western, and is not a rival to any of the larger societies.

WHAT MAY PROVE TO BE A GOOD THING.

One of the drawbacks of philately is the instability of the material of the postage stamp. A stamp is torn so easily that much care must be taken in handling it. Fire reduces the beautiful engraving to an undefined mass. What a godsend it would be then, if a

material could be made that would be a safeguard against the evils that now beset the postage stamp, and that would also be thoroughly adaptable. What would you say to the statement that such material is now in sight? A fire proof paper, for either printing or writing, has been invented, and is manufactured in Berlin. The paper is made up of ninety-five parts of asbestos fibre, treated with a solution of permanganate of calcium, and bleached with sulphuric acid. Five parts are of wood pulp. The paper is non-combustible, and is very tough. Water marks can be applied to it.

ROWLAND HILL VS. JAMES CHALMERS.

A very important serial article, now running in The Monthly Journal, entitled "Rowland Hill and James Chalmers' Correspondence," is attracting attention. The evidence, already put forth in the article, is of an important nature. The writer states, "James Chalmers seems to have been an honest, straight man, and had it not been possible for him to have foreseen the preposterous claim, which long after his death would be put forward in his behalf, he could hardly have written anything stronger than that which he has, in anticipation, furnished for refutation."

MYSTERY.

There has been some very mysterious whispering during the last two or three weeks in regard to what is considered to be an all important discovery in United States stamps. A Boston man is said to have made mention of the discovery, but he failed to explain what the discovery is. Some think that varieties in grills have been found. Others that an entirely new issue has been discovered. There is a party, who is seeking to buy one cent 1869s at 10 per cent discount on the catalogue price, and it is supposed that this fact has something to do with the discovery.

H. S. SWENSEN.

Our late appearance with this issue is directly attributable to an attack of sciatic rheumatism which placed the managing editor in a state of hors du combat for about four weeks. It isn't the pleasantest thing to have, but we had to grin as much as possible and bear it.

The 56th edition of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., marks a new departure in collecting. Never have so many varieties been added to the list of collectible adhesives of the U. S., and, likewise, at no time have the prices been run up so high proportionately. True, certain stamps should increase, but to our manner of looking at things, they are away up beyond reason. It seems the height of folly to adopt the present scale of prices as a standard, and two things are inevitable, either collecting must be given up except by those who are possessed of more of this world's goods than the average philatelist, or the prices must take a drop. The latter seems the more probable. It is about time collectors took this business of creating a standard catalogue into their own hands.

During the first month of the new year the other Scott Co. came out with the announcement of their "standard" catalogue. From the advance sheets and circulars we learn that prices considerably lower in a great many instances predominate and that the multiplying of varieties because of secret marks, perforations, water marks, etc., are not to be included. In other words John Walter Scottt means to take us back to the time when stamp collecting was a pleasurable pursuit, and before the days of "improved" stamp dealing and scientific, painstaking, laborious research. Well, there is considerable to be said in favor of such a plan, but then there is the pleasure to be derived on the other hand, incident to the discovery of varieties.

Humanity, though, is prone to cry out, "Oh! for the good old days that are past." This new aspirant for favor should be named "The Syndicate," because of the many dealers represented in its make-up and appearance.

There are one or two things which we cannot quite understand. One of these is when the number of perforations is taken into account and size of grilling as well, why are not stamps, which appear to be from one to three millimeters longer in paper, listed as varieties. All the minutiae of varieties of paper as well as hair lines on dies and others of that ilk are classified, yet nowhere do we find a list of sizes of the actual stamp. Then, why are the "Fuera de Hora" surcharges of Uruguay and Venezuela omitted? Aren't they genuine surcharges? Was not their issuance and use legitimate? Then why eliminate them from the catalogue? A word as to their use. They were intended to be a special delivery stamp or for matter that was to be "rushed," and were put to a much greater use in the early 80s than are the numerous, high priced and semi-speculative "official." But the Scott people do not even mention them, much less price them. What's the reason, have they no supply on hand to sell to collectors? Admitted that they are not listed in European catalogues, but is that any reason why we Americans are obliged to copy after their publications?

As managing editor of this publication we want to say a few words about our advertisers. As is quite well known a philatelic press association is in existence, and its chief object is to secure payment for advertisements from dealers using space in the papers whose publishers are members. Now with some papers this may be a necessity, but we want to state that we are not obliged to join the association from any such standpoint, as our advertisers always pay their bills promptly. This point should be of especial interest to our readers, for if a man is honest with his printer, he will be just as honorable in his dealings with those ordering goods from him. Our readers can rest assured that they will be treated fairly by every one of our advertisers. We should also be very much pleased if you would mention THE NEWSLETTER when writing to those whose ads. appear in our columns.

With this number THE NEWSLETTER closes its first volume. We have now cut our eye teeth and doffed swaddling clothes. Many do not wish to support a paper until it shows signs of continuing to live longer than a few months. As we have passed that age, we feel as though we merited the patronage of the timid ones. This magazine now pays for itself, and as long as it does, no one need have any fears as to its future appearance. It is here to stay. During the next year we intend to have some of the best articles that can be written. They will be instructive, yet not wearisome. As in the past personalities will not be tolerated and yet, we still shall maintain a spirit of independence and be fearless in the expression of our opinions. One of our first articles for the second volume will be a monograph on the postal emissions of Uruguay. The undersigned has made a specialty of the stamps of this country for years and expects that the work will run through at least three and possibly more issues of from two to four pages. His ideas along certain lines conflict with other authorities but he will bring forth proofs for the same and not rely on general statements. Other features will be stamps not catalogued, but which were actually used for postal purposes. Can you afford to be without this volume?
GEO. W. ACHARD.

THE AMERICAN STANDARD CATALOGUE.
A new departure marks the second month of 1896.

We have before us the American Standard Catalogue, issued by a syndicate of dealers of whom John Walter Scott is the head. A cursory glance reveals the fact that it has been prepared more for that great class known as beginners and semi-advanced collectors and not for the specialist. Collecting has become such a study today that the average youth can hardly make head or tail out of the 56th edition of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co.'s catalogue. Today one must be thoroughly conversant with watermarks, varieties of paper, perforations, tints, etc. Now few of the great body of collectors have attained this knowledge, and the issuance of the new catalogue is intended almost solely for this class. It eliminates this technicality and carries one back to the days when stamp collecting was a pleasure.

As to the typographical appearance of the work, it is unexcelled. Every letter in the 260 pages seems new and stands out prominently; the cuts are clear and the paper good. It comes with the imprint of 'Joseph Holmes, Printer, N. Y.'

A word or two as to prices. In a great many cases they are much lower than those of the other Scott Co. and in this respect should prove popular with collectors. The U. S. will average perhaps 10 or 15 per cent lower, and the foreign in many cases fully 40 per cent less. As illustrations the following prices will serve: 5s, 1847, 70c; 10c, \$3.50; 3c, pink, 1861, \$7.00; 5c, yellow, \$6.00; 3c, 1868, grilled all over, \$15.00; 90c, 1869, \$16.00; 90c, purple, 1888, \$1.00; 90c, orange, 1890, 75c; 5c, news-paper blue border, \$15.00; 15c, justice unused, \$1.00; used, \$3.50; 10c post office, used, 75c; 90c, \$1.00 used; 1c state, \$2.50; 2c, \$4.00; 7c, \$1.50 and \$1.00; 10c \$1.50 and 90c; 12c, \$2.50 and \$1.75; 30c, \$4.00; \$2, \$16.00; treasury, 7c, \$1.50 and \$1.25; 24c, \$7.50 and \$4.00; 90c, \$1.50 and 75c; War, 7c, \$2.50 and \$2.00. A very few of the prices of U. S. are somewhat higher than the 56th as for instance, the 24c, 1862-66, mauve, \$10.00, against \$7.50; the 12c Agriculture, \$10.00 against \$8.00, yet on the whole the prices are lower by the per cent stated above. Canada and other British North American provinces come in for a reduction of from 20 to 40 per cent although the 8 cent register goes up to \$2.75. foreign stamps appear with various reduced ratings, and among them we might mention the 10 reis, Azores, 1868, unperforated, listed at \$15.00, against \$35.00 in the 56th. The 10 groschen, 1859, Hanover, is quoted at \$15.00; the 5c, blue, 1853, Hawaii at \$3.50 and the 13c vermilion at \$5.00. The 4 pence, 1861, Nevis, bluish paper is quoted at \$20.00 against \$27.50; 6 pence, grayish paper at \$8.00 against \$25.00, and so on all down the line of these scarce leeward island beauties. German states hold their own fairly well although in a number of instances these are lower. There seems, however, no reason why the early stamps from Allemagne should not be higher than they are, for every one knows how difficult it is to obtain good specimens of them.

The agents for the West and Northwest are the Flour City Stamp Co., 610 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, from whom the catalogue may be obtained post-paid for 25 cents. THE NEWSLETTER has made arrangements with them so that we are enabled to offer the catalogue and one year's subscription for 30 cents. Your immediate order is solicited.

NOTICE.

Mr. G. W. Achard has withdrawn his interest in the Newsletter and Mr. H. S. Swensen is now the sole owner. Through such misfortunes as sickness and various changes the publishing of the paper has been delayed, but now we having acquired new facilities will be enabled to present our readers with a finer Journal than ever. Watch Vol. II, No. 1.

Western Philatelic Association.

President; E. R. Aldrich,

Bentson, Minn.

Vice President; Phillip Dick, Jr.

St. Peter, Minn.

Secretary; C. E. Thayer,

154 E. 3rd St. St. Paul, Minn.

Treasurer; C. F. Thayer,

154 E. 3rd St. St. Paul, Minn.

Exchange Supt. G. W. Achard,

242 Boston Block, Minneapolis.

Licrarian; C. G. Selvig,

Rushford, Minn.

Counterfeit Detector; W. M. Thiessen,

595 Dale St., St. Paul, Minn.

Trustees: H. S. Swensen, Chairman,

C. J. Tyren, A. L. Mayer, Minneapolis.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

New members:

No. 62, R. C. Butler, Stillwater, Minn.

No. 63, W. B. McPherson, Stillwater, Minn.

No. 64, W. C. Moulton, Decatur, Mich.

No. 65, M. M. Marsh, St. Paul, Minn., C. B. & N.

Gen. offices.

No. 66, N. H. Withee, La Crosse, Wis., 230 South Ninth street.

No. 67, John N. Nind, Minneapolis, Minn., 122 Highland avenue.

No. 68, John N. Degelman, Mankato, Minn.

APPLICATIONS.

Joe F. Beard, Muscatine, Iowa; ref., Geo. W. Achard and C. E. Thayer.

Robert M. Bettsworth, Chicago, Ill., 155 La Salle st.; ref., Chas. G. Hart, B. Mather.

Abe Hoerschgen, Arlington, Minn.; ref., Phillip Dick, Jr., F. J. Poppe.

H. D. Ruhlman, Sharon, Wis.; ref., H. S. Swensen, C. E. Thayer.

Ellsworth Lentz, Baker City, Ore.; ref., Chas. G. Hart, C. E. Thayer.

Oney K. Carstarphen, Denver, Colo., box 734; ref., Geo. W. Achard, C. E. Thayer.

Wilder T. Murdock, Minneapolis, Minn., 2533 South Lyndale avenue; ref., H. Freeman Cooper, G. W. Achard.

Lewis R. Kierland, Rushford, Minn.; ref., Peter E. Kierland, C. E. Thayer.

Geo. H. Julsrud, Rushford; Minn. ref., P. E. Kierland, C. E. Thayer.

Clarence L. Thurston, Omaha, Neb., 2408 Farman street; ref., C. E. Thayer, Chas. G. Hart.

F. H. Friend, St. Paul, Minn., 274 Pleasant avenue; ref., C. E. Thayer, Jos. R. Gooding.

R. W. French, Harland, Wash.; ref., Geo. W. Achard, C. E. Thayer.

O. E. Jacobsen, Greeley, Colo.; ref., Chas. G. Hart, M. Forsdale,

W. A. Bicket, Sibley, Ill., Ford county; ref., E. R. Aldrich, Hon. A. McElroy.

Arthur W. Drew, Henry, S. Dak.; ref., E. R. Aldrich, C. E. Thayer.

Lawrence K. Sowle, Minneapolis, Minn., 2306 Colfax avenue south; ref., C. E. Thayer, H. F. Cooper.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership March 1, provided no objection is filed before that date and their dues are paid. C. E. THAYER,

Secretary.

BY-LAWS.

1. Rules of order.

All questions of order and parliamentary law shall be determined by reference to Robert's Rules of Order.

2. Convention—Order of Business.

At the annual convention of the Association the president shall appoint the following standing committees, of three members each: Credentials, Standing Rules, Finance, Library, Exchange, Auction and purchasing Departments (one committee) and a committee of five members, of which the president shall be ex-officio chairman, on the constitution and by-laws. The following shall be the Order of Business.

I. Preliminary Roll Call. II. Appointment of Standing committees. III. Recess. IV. Report of Committees on Credentials. V. Roll Call. VI. Reading of Minutes. VII. Report of committee on Standing Rules. VIII. Communications. IX. Report of Officers and Standing Committees. X. Unfinished Business. XI. New Business. XII. Adjournment.

3. Librarian—Duties.

The Librarian shall keep a correct list of all work, etc., in his possession and a record of the same. He shall collect in advance, one cent and the necessary postage from every member desiring to take any publication from the library. All such shall be returned, postpaid, to the Librarian within ten days after receiving the same, and members who shall violate this rule shall not be entitled to have any other publication issued to them until they shall have satisfied the Librarian concerning the delinquency.

4. Superintendent of Exchanges—Duties.

This office shall conduct the exchange of the Association, under the following rules and regulation:

(1) Blank exchange sheets will be furnished by the superintendent at 8 cents each, two for 15 cents and only these will be accepted by him.

(2) Members must remove the paper from the back of stamps and attach them to the sheets with gummed paper hinges so that they may be examined for watermarks, etc., and must mark the price of each stamp upon the proper place, legibly in ink. They must forward them, pre paid to the Superintendent, who will make them up and place them upon circuits. sheets and book numbers are for the Superintendent's use, and will be placed thereon by him. The spaces on the sheets for the owner's name, and value of sheets must be properly filled cut by the owner.

(3) The member removing a stamp from a sheet must mark his name plainly in the square from which the stamp was taken. He must foot up the total amount removed from a sheet or book and mark his

name and the amount in the proper space at the end of the book. If a name or amount is missing it shall be the duty of the next member on the circuit to note such an error on the sheet and notify the previous one. Failure to do so will make the last party responsible for any loss.

(4.) Members having no duplicates in the exchange may receive books by applying to the Superintendent. Reference or deposit may be required by the Superintendent and must be furnished by such member. Members are allowed to keep exchange books three days. A fine of ten cents per day will be imposed for each day exchanges are kept over the allotted time.

(5.) The Superintendent will designate circuit routes and these must be strictly adhered to and completed before being returned to the Superintendent. At the time of forwarding exchanges to the next member on the route the sender must notify the Superintendent by postal card, giving the date of sending and amount he has taken. Books and sheets will be circulated until the Superintendent deems it advisable to discontinue the same. Sheets and books must not be refilled.

(6.) Individual members are responsible for the value of all exchanges sent them from the time of receipt until forwarded and for any difference that may arise during that time, but the society shall be responsible for any loss in transitu, if investigation excuses the member from any fault. Returns of more than five dollars must be sent by registered letter or express, value declared; otherwise the sender will be held responsible for any loss. In sending exchanges or books the above shall apply.

(7.) The Superintendent will keep an account with each member participating in the exchange, receiving and disbursing all money received. Settlement with owners will be made as soon as practical. The Superintendent shall deduct 10 per cent as a remuneration

for his work of all sales, and may refuse the use of the exchange to any member not settling accounts promptly. He shall report any delinquency to the trustees at the expiration of 30 days.

8.) The Trustees shall decide upon all cases of misunderstanding that may arise in this department.

5. Purchasing Agent—Duties.

The Purchasing Agent shall make arrangements to obtain at the lowest possible cost any stamps desired by the members charging five per cent for his work.

6. Auction Manager.—Duties.

The Auction Manager shall receive from members consignment to be sold by bid, accompanied by return postage. When not less than 50 lots have been received he shall publish a list giving particulars plainly, in the official journal. After the sale takes place he shall notify members of the sale to them of lots and forward the same after receipt of the amount offered. Any lot not satisfactory must be returned in two days to permit of a return of money paid. He shall make a settlement with the owners as soon as possible after such sale. He shall receive 10 per cent of all sales as an equivalent for his work.

7. The Attorney shall attempt the collection of all accounts sent him receiving therefor 10 per cent for all collections. The lowest fee shall be 25 cents. Four cents for postage must be sent with each claim.

8. Trustees.

The Trustees shall assist in settling any misunderstanding that may arise in any department.

9. Dues.

The annual dues shall be 25 cents and the initiation fee 10 cents. If any member fails to pay either within thirty days from the time when due the Society shall notify such member of his delinquency and if not paid within fifteen days thereafter the Secretary shall drop his name from the rolls, unless otherwise ordered by the trustees.

THE NEXT NUMBER

of the Newsletter is going to be a.....



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The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. II.

SEPTEMBER.

No. 7.

THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The eleventh annual convention of the American Philatelic Association was held on the banks of beautiful Minnetonka, August 11th, 12th and 13th. It was one of the most successful of conventions and was as harmonious as it was successful. Here were joined together in unison forces that had in days gone by fought to the bitter end, and here, too, were the hatchets of strife and dissension buried. Everybody seemed to think it his particular business to say sweet bon mots about everybody else. In this respect there has never been such a convention of this grand society.

The absence of President Tiffany was a matter of regret by all who were present, as his pleasing personality was missed, and many had hoped to meet personally the man who for ten long years had been guiding the helm of the philatelic ship. In Chairman Smith the association secured the proper kind of a presiding officer—calm, collected and courteous to all. The Kissinger matter was smoothed out to the ultimate satisfaction of all, and in a manner that none but diplomats could have done. The Carion affair was disposed of in a way that evidently pleased the large majority of the members present, although perhaps not to the liking of the writer, who did not think the evidence sufficient to justify the verdict. The question of locating the Association's library in the public library of one of our large central cities seemed to take well, it being carried unanimously that a committee be appointed to look up the matter and report to the next convention.

All the visitors seemed pleased with the entertainment furnished by the collectors of the Twin Cities. It was, of course, our first attempt in that direction, and if only the out-of-town members were satisfied with the Northwestern style of hospitality, our committee on arrangements will be gratified. In another column, Mr. Swensen has something to say about the men into whose faces we looked for the first time, in many instances, and consequently I shall pass over that phase of the convention. The attendance was good, much better than our Eastern brethren anticipated, and it gives us no end of gratification to think that at least a few of the men who were against what they last year termed a far Western out-of-the-way location, are today loud in their praises of this section as a convention site. No longer will we hear of the wild West and roaming Indians, with a few cannibals thrown in by way of diversion. Those who were here know that such is not the case.

The vote on the members of the Official Board resulted as follows: E. Doeblin, 1,155; C. W. Kissinger (declined), 871; G. D. Mekeel, 649; Joe F. Beard, 638; N. W. Chandler, 612; F. F. Olney, 601; W. C. Stone (not eligible), 531; H. B. Phillips, 359; J. L. Kilbon, 343; W. C. VanDerlip, 331; G. L. Toppan, 271; Scattering, 11. The election of the new board gave universal satisfaction to those present, although a number would have preferred seeing Mr. Stone on the board. The number of proxies held was an even seven hundred, and they were certainly used as directed. There can be no kicking about the misuse of proxies this year. It was the cleanest use that has ever been seen. No one man held

enough or controlled what would amount to enough of those powers of attorneyship to run things. And as a consequence, the lack of wrangling, which in previous conventions had been so prominent a feature, for one was absent. This must certainly portend well for the future of the Association.

There were a number of changes made in the Constitution and By-Laws. The principal change and one which will cause a reincorporation of the Association comes from the motion that the name of the Association be changed to "The American Philatelic Society." It is apparent to everybody why such a change was made. Then, too, the system of cumulative voting was abolished, and that renders incorporation in some other state than West Virginia a necessity. The cumulative system of voting has long been a thorn in the flesh of many of the most ardent members of the A. P. S., and the change will undoubtedly be hailed with rejoicing by these champions of a direct ballot. Under the old system a popular candidate and one who was the choice for a certain office might be sidetracked to permit of the election of an inferior man for some other office. The A. P. S. never did a better thing than when they abolished cumulative voting. The dues were raised and are now \$1.80, which with the share of stock makes the first payment of an applicant coming in with the fiscal year \$2.80. The reason assigned for this change is that the society now has a deficit of some \$300 or \$400 and would doubtless have a larger one next year if the dues remained at the old figure. Of course the usual provision for a rebate in accordance with the month an applicant becomes a member will still obtain, so that practically the dues are now 15 cents per month. The insurance of stamps in the sales department was made compulsory, and by so doing the department hopes to accumulate a surplus to be used in paying whatever actual losses may accrue through the carelessness of the mails and express companies. The superintendent of this department made far from a satisfactory report on the matter of voluntary insurance during the past year, the members apparently taking but little interest in this feature of the work in their own behalf, hence the new provision.

The convention decided another point in the By-Laws over which there has been not a little dispute. By nearly a unanimous vote it was agreed to interpret the By-Laws to the effect that if three Vice-Presidents are elected from a radius of fifty miles, no other person residing in the same state shall be eligible to office if elected. This and the Carion matter were the only points over which any amount of discussion was raised. Mr. W. A. Batchelder fought the decision to the end on behalf of Mr. W. C. Stone, whose candidacy was thereby affected, but the convention outvoted his proposition and sustained the Committee on Credentials. Hereafter the Committee on Credentials will consist of five members instead of three, and they will be appointed a couple of weeks before the convention. They will then have time enough to get through with their work by the opening instead of the closing of the convention. But right here let the writer state that the Committee on Credentials for the last convention is entitled to no end of praise for their faithful and conscientious performance of the very arduous and thankless duties which were thrust upon them. It was

a most trying situation, but they did the business with neatness and dispatch, as the printer would say. Think of counting a total vote of 6,372, to say nothing of getting the proxies all straightened out. Messrs. Deats, Beamish and Severn are entitled to the thanks of every A. P. S. man for their services.

When it came to propositions for the next convention seat, there were three cities, or rather places placed in nomination, namely, Boston, Put In Bay and Nashville. Before the voting had progressed very far it was evident that the city of baked beans and culture had a walk-away and a motion to make it unanimous for Boston for '97 was made before Chairman Smith had announced the vote. The ballots were cast as follows: Boston, 618; Put In Bay, 54; Nashville, 1. Mr. Gremell then indulged in some facetiae by moving that Mr. Batchelder be put under \$500 bonds to live up to his promises, but the gentleman from the Hub was not compelled to seek a surety company. After the usual complimentary votes to the chairman and Entertainment Committee the eleventh annual convention became a thing of the past by a motion to adjourn sine die, which carried.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

President Tiffany's address was read at the opening of the first session, and many remarked, "What a pity he had to miss this convention, the first since the society's organization."

The Minneapolis dailies did the convention in good style, one being particular to guard against inaccuracies by having a real live philatelist representing them at every session.

The influence of the convention in the Northwest cannot be estimated. Such an awakening among collectors has never taken place in this neck of the woods, and its salutary effect will long be felt.

The vote on the Carion matter resulted as follows: In favor of expulsion, 645; against, 20; not voting, 3. It will thus be seen that the convention was overwhelmingly against the San Franciscan.

The session at The Hermitage was unique if nothing else. To meet at the grave of a suicide was something singular, but the grounds at this part of Minnetonka seemed particularly adapted for a meeting and the picnic was accordingly held there. The place had much of interest for the ladies at the convention.

The American missed having a picture. This is something that the P. S. of A. did not forget, they going into the city for that purpose. The older organization should also have had one, for many of us may not again see one another and the best reminder of the occasion would have been in the shape of a photograph.

It must have given George Mekeel considerable pleasure to inform the convention in his report of the amount of business which the Sales Department transacted during the past year. This department is certainly the thing of chief interest to the members and should be placed to a greater use than it has been in the past. With an era of good times again we shall look for even better results than has been achieved in the past.

The report from other Departments were very interesting to us. And although all of them could not equal the one above mentioned in results, they showed that the average A. P. S. member is learning to use the advantages and benefits which membership brings.

GEO. W. ACHARD.

DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE PHILATELIC SONS OF AMERICA.

It was exactly ten minutes past ten o'clock, Thursday morning, when the P. S. of A. fraters assembled in the commodious room which the management of the Hotel Lafayette had kindly placed at their disposal.

The looks on the faces of some persons showed

that they anticipated trouble, for it was understood that the scene soon to be staged would be an animated one. But everything was lubricated with the oil of harmony, for, as we shall soon see, the wheels of the organization turned with no squeaks, nor were there any spokes broken.

It seems that Mr. Kissinger, the President, had appointed the Credential Committee prior to the opening of the first session, and had showed or caused others to believe that he was just a wee bit partial to his own interests in selecting for his appointees Mr. Beamish, his bosom friend, Mr. McDermott, his private secretary, and Mr. Brodstone, his avowed ally. It transpired that the Chairman had received from Mr. Batchelder and Mr. Beardsley certain suggestions, imparting the idea that a revision of the Credential Committee would be a wise move. Acting upon these suggestions the President made known his intention to substitute the name of Mr. Massoth for that of Mr. Beamish. At this point a discussion arose in regard to the rights of the candidates. Mr. McDermott, in reply to Mr. Batchelder's statement that the candidates merited representation on the committee, said that the Chairman had the right to appoint whomsoever he saw fit. Thereupon Mr. Batchelder ventured the demand for representation of candidates on the committee. It was understood that Mr. Carstarphen, one of the candidates, wanted his manager, Mr. Beardsley, to serve on the committee.

Mr. Beardsley wanted to know of Mr. Kissinger if he had any objections to the desired appointment; and what the reasons were for such objections. Mr. Kissinger said he had always sought to keep his paper free from slander, but that Mr. Beardsley had not been so kind.

The Chairman was desirous of seeing Mr. Massoth on the Credential Committee. The names of Mr. Swensen and Mr. Achard were presented. Sentiment was against all three parties. The President still maintained his stand to the effect that he was opposed to the appointment of Mr. Beardsley. Mr. Achard arose and said something about not wearing any man's collar and not being dictated to by any one, and then brought matters to a head by moving that Mr. Beardsley be placed on the committee. The motion was carried and the committee read, McDermott, Bradstone Beardsley.

The Committee on Standing Rules consisted of Messrs. Becker, Swensen and T. O. Withee.

The meeting was adjourned until 10:00 a. m. the following day.

The entire party then boarded the steam yacht Act for a trip on Lake Minnetonka.

SECOND SESSION.

Mr. McDermott, on behalf of the Credential Committee, reported the number of proxies to be 464. The largest holders were as follows: McDermott, 50; Beamish, 50; Becker, 50; Barnum, 46; Beardsley, 50; Carstarphen, 49; Lambert, 35.

The Committee on Standing Rules recommended that the rules in use at previous conventions be enforced at this one. The Chairman then read the appointments of other committees. We give the list:

Finance—Thurston, Brodstone, Becker.
Constitution and By-Laws—Becker, Althen, Achard, Severn, Kissinger.

Official Journal—Barnum, McDermott, Althen.
Branch Societies—Michael, Young, Massoth.

Exchange and Sales—Beamish, Beardsley, Aldrich.
A well-wishing telegram from E. H. Wilkinson was read, as was a poem written for the occasion by Roy F. Greene. Both readings were applauded vociferously.

President Kissinger then read from type-set copy his message, which teemed with opportune suggestions, timely advice and earnest wishes for the society's welfare. His speech, though somewhat flowery, perhaps too much so for the unbuttoned bachelors, was well rendered, well devised and well received.

Further reports were read, accepted or referred. Mr. Carstarphen created laughter by saying that his work as official editor had been so extremely onerous that he had not had time to prepare a report.

Mr. Barnum's report showed that 738 members were paid up.

Complaint was made against a Mr. Bergman for dishonest dealing. The case was referred to the association attorney. The Carion case was referred to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Achard moved, under the head of new business, that a by-law be framed to the effect that the attorney, after failing to collect a claim, shall turn it over to the trustees for final action. The motion, after some discussion, was carried, a second having been made to it.

A vote for the 1897 convention seat was called for, with the following result: Atlantic City, 288, Detroit, 80; Reading, 56; Boston, 42; New Orleans, 7; Kansas City, 5.

The meeting was then adjourned until 1:30 o'clock p. m.

THIRD SESSION.

At 2 p. m. the business of the convention was continued, with President Kissinger presiding.

The report of the Committees on Branch Societies, Official Journal, Library and Finance were listened to. Mr. Becker called attention to the society's indebtedness to Mr. Kissinger in a sum of \$200, and moved that Mr. Kissinger be secured by notes. After discussion, Mr. Achard seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Severn moved that a vote of thanks be tendered Secretary Barnum for his efficient work. Mr. Achard added an amendment to include Mr. L. T. Brodstone as a party to the motion, which thus changed was carried without a dissenting voice.

It was voted that thanks be tendered the stamp collectors of the Twin Cities and the management of Hotel Lafayette for kindnesses shown.

The report of the Obituary Committee was offered and received.

Mr. Carstarphen was called for a speech. He said that the support he had received in the campaign was fully appreciated, and in carrying out his duties as President he would seek to steer the society's ship in the course of prosperity.

Among others who responded to speeches were Chas. Beamish, H. C. Beardsley, G. W. Achard, L. T. Brodstone, C. L. Thurston, D. J. McDermott, E. S. Martin, Fred Michael, L. M. Becker, E. R. Aldrich and H. Swensen. Amid a whop the convention was adjourned.

GLINTS FROM THE CONVENTIONS.

Everyone attending the conventions impressed me. Joe Beard, inimitable as was Edgar Wilson Nye, was one of the first to appear upon the convention scene. Though Joe's surname would indicate that his facial cuticle is well besprinkled with elongated cilia, no hirsute fibres are plainly visible. Joe evidently keeps his face well groomed by means of the tonsorial hoe. Joe is so genial that even the dogs wag their tails when he passes by. Joe is also a very good sea urchin. He tobogganed himself into Lake Minnetonka liquid as though accustomed to agile movements.

Mr. Beard brought with him a fine lot of U. S. Revenues, worth not a centime less than \$1,200. He exhibited a fine specimen of the rare Buchanan provisional. Mr. Beard won the secretaryship of the American Philatelic Society hands down. If he had held hands up it is possible that no one else would have received any votes.

Joe's popular and handsome companion, Mr. E. Ralph Wood, of New Orleans, and Mr. H. C. Beardsley, were dubbed the "Philatelic Twins." They do look very much like each other. Mr. Wood had among his effects over \$25,000 worth of rare stamps. He has been a hobbyist for years, and has made a comfortable

fortune in stamps. It is said that he cleared \$40,000 in U. S. Revenues in a short five months.

Mr. N. H. Withee, of La Crosse, Wis., proved himself to be a pleasant gentleman, and an expert on matters of a philatelic nature. His stamp collection is truly superb. Among his many stamps are the decidedly unique imperforate stamps of the 1890 issue, in blocks. His departments are complete, excepting the 5 and 10 dollar states.

Mr. T. O. Withee, the younger of the two brothers, quickly made friends, and impressed all with his modest conduct. He, also, possesses a very fine collection of stamps, to which he adds pretty bits of valuable paper, as his fancy directs.

Mr. A. W. Batchelder, of Boston, brought with him a very fine lot of stamps, but, as far as I know, bought more than he sold. Mr. Batchelder is a man of about 45 years, possessed of business tact and capable of immediate action, as evidenced in the business session of the convention. He served his proxies well, and managed to insert some animus into the slow convention body.

Mr. C. H. Mekeel, the backbone of the American Philatelic Society, certainly deserves the title of dictator. Some say that he holds such a position. If he does, he merits it and is not theman to misuse his power unless I have not read him aright.

Geo. D. Mekeel is the quiet member of the famous St. Louis trio. He is evidently earnest-minded and capable of business affairs.

Mr. H. E. Deats, owner of perhaps the finest philatelic library, is a man of judgment, conversant on all topics. He is accustomed to meeting all sorts of people and used to sight-seeing. His sensible demeanor and rational appearance (apologies to the rabid philatelic politician) won for him a position among the senators of the conventions.

The state of Minnesota was honored in having one of its habitants elected permanent chairman of the American Philatelic Association convention. I refer to Mr. H. G. Smith, of Winona. Mr. Smith is a fine appearing gentleman in the best years of his life, a possessor of a fine lot of stamps, a congenial and interesting companion. Mr. Smith is one of the oldest philatelists in America. It was in the sixties, I believe he said, that he issued a price-list which he exhibited at the convention. Mr. Smith would make a good American Philatelic Association director.

Mr. Robie is an old Minneapolis man. He showed that Minneapolis culture has not been lost on him.

Mr. Chas. Beamish and I were together a great deal during the convention time. I had met Charlie one year before the convention meeting and I found that he has lost none of the sparkle of his old time self. Charlie will be a candidate for Philatelic Society of America Presidency next year and no doubt will have but little opposition.

Mr. Kissinger gained many friends and impressed everyone favorably, because of his gentlemanly withdrawal from the A. P. A. fight. The number of votes that Mr. Kissinger received testifies to the fact that the aspersion which he received in the campaign was ignored almost entirely by the voters. Mr. Kissinger is young, and for this reason has been the object of considerable blarney. If a youth possesses ability, I see no reason why he does not merit recognition. For that matter Mr. Kissinger is no longer a child in kilts.

Ira M. Becker showed that legal training is a polish of the proper sort, for he shone forth as one of the most important personages at the convention.

F. N. Massoth was a genuine surprise to those who had not seen him before. In expecting to see a stern-faced patriarch, I saw a dapper young man, very businesslike, and always willing to talk on stamp matters.

Mr. B. S. Ross is a good story teller, and did much to make a merry time merrier.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A Monthly Magazine.

Subscription to United States, Canada and Mexico, 25 cents per year in advance. To Foreign Countries, 37 cents.

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EDITORS.

H. S. Swensen, F. S. George, A. Edsten.

All communications should be addressed to The Managing Editor,

GEO. W. ACHARD,

242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

EXPLANATORY.

The Philatelic Newsletter Publishing Co., was organized on August 21st, when a stock company with all of its capital stock subscribed held its first meeting. The time seemed ripe for the launching of a paper which would be a credit to the northwest, and the organizers, with that in view, secured the good will of the old Philatelic Newsletter, standing ready now to fill the unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts. The new company is fully officered and among the stockholders, aside from the officers, are the names of such men as Chas. Beamish of Philadelphia, F. J. Bescher of Kansas City, W. C. Whitall, E. S. Stebbins, of Minneapolis, C. E. Thayer and Jas. R. Gooding of St. Paul. The officers are E. F. Van Gorder, Minneapolis, President; C. E. N. Howard St. Paul, Secretary; W. R. Young, Minneapolis, Treasurer; G. W. Achard, H. S. Swensen, F. S. George, A. Edsten, Managing Board of Editors. The Magazine will appear regularly each month in its present size, never smaller. It will be the organ of no clique, and the editors assure our readers that no axes will be ground. It will, therefore, be independent, and it is our aim to make it of a high grade, sparing no expense in the accomplishment of that object. Articles of a semi-scientific nature will appear in each number, though we trust they will not be of a dry and uninteresting nature. Authors of repute will be secured and articles of a high grade only will be allowed space. In fine, we hope to give our readers as good a paper as any published at the price. The Mergenthaler Linotype guarantees a neat typographical appearance.

As to our advertising rates, we can say that they are as low as those of any first-class philatelic magazine now published and will be sent on application. At present our rates are six cents per line, ten cents to the inch, brevier measure. Nothing less than ten lines will be accepted. A reduction will be given on contracts for fifty lines and upwards. As will be readily seen our columns are about an inch wider than the ordinary newspaper measurement, so that our rates would only be about the same as 40 cents per inch in other journals. This is something the advertiser should bear in mind when making his contracts. Then, too, advertisements of a questionable nature, or of notorious dead beats, will not be allowed in our columns. Only notices of reliable parties will be solicited, thus assuring our readers of some sort of protection at least.

With these few remarks, we hand you the initial number of The Philatelic Newsletter, new series, trusting that it will meet with the favor and patronage which we anticipate.

THE MANAGING BOARD.

A philatelist is a good hand at licking, so reprove not a philatelist lest he "lick" thee.

EDITORIAL.

There is nothing like having a stamp you haven't got.

In order to buy a stamp one must have money. In order to sell a stamp near catalogue value one must have patience.

Don't spoil your stomach by gormandizing. Don't ruin your philatelic appetite by accumulating stamps so fast that your pocketbook assumes an emaciated condition.

Beware of some of the stamps of Italy. They are deemed deceitful because some are deemed as liars (lire).

The prince of philatelic jokers, without doubt, is Herr H. Hartman. Herr Hartman admits after eighteen months that the imperforate specimens of the ¼ shilling, 1873, Helgoland, were manufactured by his own deft hands. He explains that the stamps were made for joking purposes only. Needless to say that such jokes are dangerous, not only for collectors in general, but for the perpetrators of the joke.

"She was my loved one." Such is the unusual sentence that add lustre and spice to a tearful love romance, the leading feature in the ——— Philatelist. Why did the author select such an uncommon expression of sentimental thought? We are not used to the language which flows so freely from his gifted pen, and we are not accustomed to such touching tales of love. Our laundry bill is much too large this week, due to the extra number of handkerchiefs spoiled in the attempt to quell the lacrymal disturbance, superinduced by the studied perusal of the animated love romance.

Thursday, Sept. 13, 1896, was a gala day for the city stamp collectors and their guests, the visiting philatelists. The Minneapolis Philatelic Society, St. Paul collectors and others were the hosts. At 2 o'clock p. m. two large electric cars were boarded by over seventy-five jolly stamp collectors. Minnehaha Falls, immortalized by Longfellow, was the first point of interest visited by the party. All saw the beautiful stream of water and the spot where the denizen of the forest bore in his arms the Indian maiden.

"Across the rushing, roaring waers,
In his arms he bore the maiden."

Lake Harriet was next visited, from which the party returned to be feasted in right purple royal style at the Commercial Club. The inner man being satisfied by each one, the President of the local society, Mr. W. R. Young, arose and in fitting words welcomed the visitors. Various personages were called upon to respond to toasts. The feasting and speechmaking done, the party again boarded the cars and were taken to St. Paul and its beautiful park, Como. Mr. E. P. Capen was the master of ceremonies as far as transportation was concerned, and did much to make the excursion what it turned out to be—a great success.

Some of the Western Australian stamps are punched, each with a round hole. These stamps are used officially. It has been asserted that Western Australian stamps mutilated in the manner mentioned are for convicts' use. The stamps, being punched, could not be exchanged for anything else of value.

Does anyone know anything about Belgian provisionals? We have seen the lower half of the ten cent green, unpaid letter stamp, on original cover. The provisional presumably served for the five cent value. Scott does not mention this provisional or any other Belgian provisional. We would be pleased to hear from any one who can give information on the subject.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The business management has asked the writer to take charge of the review department of the Newsletter, and in doing so, we feel that we are not entirely a stranger to you all, or to the work entrusted to us. We trust that the review department will be beneficial to all the readers of the Newsletter, and we are sure we shall do all we can to make it so.

We shall make it a point to mention the receipt of everything sent to us that relates to philately, and to review them so far as our space will permit. For this purpose we ask you to mail all matter for review to the writer at No. 17 South Fourth street, Minneapolis, Minn.

Up to date (Sept. 10th) we acknowledge the receipt of the following: August numbers of the Post Office, Eastern Philatelist, Boston Stamp Book, International Philatelist, Allegheny Philatelist, Philatelic Free Lance, September numbers of The Rocky Mountain Stamp, Philatelic West, Philatelic Monthly and World, Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, Nos. 295-6-7-8.

The Philatelic Monthly and World in its new form certainly contains much valuable reading. Although there are no lengthy articles, the notes are of infinite worth to one who is truly making a study of our pursuit. The Monthly and World has but recently been taking advertisements of other firms than the Bogert Duffin Co., but now it must be regarded as more than a trade journal.

The Boston Stamp Book always contains something of interest in the shape of articles of a semi-scientific nature. This is what makes it valuable to the collector. The August number contains a continuation of Mr. Kilbon's "Reference List of Type and Die Varieties," notes on West Indian Surcharges by Rev. Alan S. Hawkesworth, an article by Dr. Elmer on the varieties of the 5 cent (Garfield) brown and an excellent review of the market by George L. Toppan. All in all the August number is a good one to preserve for future reference.

From a philatelic standpoint the Eastern Philatelist and the Post Office contain the best reading matter. In the former the article by S. B. Hopkins on "Counterfeits I Have Seen" ranks among the first. In this article he describes at length the counterfeits of Liberia. In closing the article Mr. Hopkins gives the following "General Tests": "The following may be applied indifferently to the 6c 12c or 24c of the 1860, 1864, 1867 and 1869 issues: First the flag in the forward rigging—this is different for each of the three values, but I never saw any one of these flags successfully or even passably imitated; these flags will be found described under their proper headings in my papers in the May and June E. P. Secondly, the wavy lines bounding the value containing scrolls—in the upper scroll may be SIX, TWELVE or 24; in the lower scroll is always the word CENTS; but the outer edge of each scroll is a slightly irregular or wavy curve. I have never seen this reproduced in any counterfeit."

The most prominent article in the Post Office is "A Descriptive Catalogue of United States Postage Stamps." The article treats on the first perforated issues of United States stamps, including the 1c blue with ornaments removed, and the 3, 5, 10, 12, 24 30 and 50c of this issue. The article is illustrated and well worthy of careful reading.

In the International Stamp we find the most complete report of the fifth annual convention of the S. of P. held at Gettysburg, Aug. 4th; the eleventh annual convention of the American Philatelic Society, and the fourth annual convention of the Philatelic Sons of America. Mr. Martin deserves great credit for present-

ing these reports in so full and complete a manner. With this issue the paper becomes a monthly and the publication office is removed to Minneapolis.

F. S. GEORGE.

IMPRESSIONS.

Auction sales have been playing havoc with the down east dealers. Complaints come from all that their business is on the decline and that collectors have run auction-mad. The trouble seems to be that almost every one essays to be either an auctioneer or the conductor of sales. Then, too, guarantees are disturbing the equilibrium of the vendee. Of what use are guarantees for a limited time? The conductors of sales will surely kill off the auction business, if this sort of method is continued. Perhaps the sooner they do the better for Philately.

Collectors are like a lot of sheep, always willing to follow the leader, to no matter what place. Recall, if you will, the war against reprints, then the fad of specialism, next the Seebeck conflict and now the auction craze. Somebody says it is fashionable to take up one of these things, and away goes the great body of collectors after Baal and Ashtaroth. Anything to be in the swim seems to be the prevailing cry. We presume that auction managers will soon issue little cards for each specimen printed something like this: "This stamp was purchased at Skinnemquick's 122nd sale, March 4th, 1897." Then collectors would be obliged to purchase in order that their albums might be adorned with these labels.

Under the title, "Whither Are we Drifting," in a recent issue of the Rocky Mountain Stamp, Mr. Joseph S. Davis bemoans the fact that the younger collector isn't collecting any more. What he says is gospel truth. Improved collecting is not at all pleasant to the average youngster, and we feel certain that, however much we encourage him with donations of cheap continentals and Seebecks, he will not take up our hobby as a permanent pursuit until the day shall come when secret marks, thick and thin papers, watermarks, perforations and what nots have been eliminated from the catalogue intended for general use. There is too much that is absolutely bewildering to the average school boy whom we expect to become the philatelist of the future. Yes, old days were the best days and the old style of collecting was certainly the most pleasant.

These are days of excitement. A national campaign is usually not conducive to the study and close observance of stamps. There is so much of "the paramount question" and the doctrine of 16 to 1 that one rarely hears stamps mentioned on the street. The present campaign and the election of William J. Bryan to the Presidency may mean considerable to philatelists. In the event of his election, governmental ownership of the telegraph might be effected. This would undoubtedly mean the issuance of a set of stamps for use in this department and would add another set for the collector. Whether this is a "consummation devoutly to be wished for" or not depends in a large extent upon the volition of those holding the rights of suffrage. For ourselves—but, then, we must not go into a political discussion, for the Managing Board of this magazine is divided on the question and the NEWSLETTER is not a political sheet.

The low price now asked for the \$2.00 Columbian will undoubtedly lead more than one philatelist to question the advisability of investing in commemorative issues as a speculation. Only this week, we received a circular offering them at 15 per cent below face for good, well-centered specimens. Why should any current stamp of the United States be worth less than face is a question that is beyond our comprehension. Some of our readers may think that there is a catch about it, but when we tell you that they were offered by a dealer whose reputation is first class, it will be readily seen that such is not the case. We can understand and account for the low price now asked for

the two jubilee stamps of Argentine, but even they are not below face. Can any of our readers furnish us with a solution of this apparently inexplicable problem?

GEO. W. ACHARD.

Continued From Page 3.

Herbert Crane Beardsley and wife were registered at the hotel headquarters. They were the handsomest couple at the hostelry. "Herb" is one of the boys and participated in the fun with a vim. By the way, he and Mr. Kissinger were the best of friends. There are times when even mud fails to stick.

We must not forget philately's banner litterateur, Charles Esterly Severn. Severn is a scholar and a diplomat, also a facile and most interesting conversationalist. Through the mint of his pen he coins a fair livelihood. His writings mirror the man. It is often the case that the author is a disappointment while his writings are admired. There is, however, no such "rough" to Severn's diamond.

Mr. E. R. Aldrich and his handsome helpmeet remained in Minneapolis several days after the convention. Mr. Aldrich is a very worthy gentleman, well posted, good at repartee, and of political leanings.

Frank Bescher, of Kansas City, was the last man to leave, excepting Mr. Barnum. Frank is one of the kind that makes friends everywhere. It will take some time to remove from our memory the impression of his ever jovial face and pleasing friendship. We wish that more were like Frank.

"Smiling Brody." His smile was with him always. Even when in a tiny skiff, tossed about by the treacherous waters of Lake Minnetonka, the heavens aglow with awe-inspiring lightning, our friend Lewis B. Brodstone wore the same cheery smile, which allayed the fears of the other occupants of the boat, Mr. Beamish and myself. Mr. Brodstone was exceedingly fortunate in being chaperoned by Miss Cora Erickson, a beautiful and accomplished Minneapolis girl. All who met him hope to meet honest "Brody" again.

William Hamilton Barnum, one of the youngest members in attendance, is as bright as the "rest of 'em," and handsomer than the majority. His pleasing manner and frank, striking face won for him friends on all sides. I was surprised to find W. H. Barnum a gentleman so youthful. His work as secretary of the P. S. of A. explains that he is very capable for one so young. If he keeps his "wagon hitched to a star" long enough he will find himself drawn through the space of success as swiftly as the harnessed star can glide. He was the last visitor to leave the battlefield. A St. Paul magnet in the form of a young lady undoubtedly attracted him, and was the main reason for his prolonged stay.

"Senator" Clarence Thurston's sun browned face was always bright with stampic excitement. He is loyal for his home associates, for in his neat little speech he alluded to the charms of Omaha as a convention site. He is the worst kind of a base ball crank and enjoyed the game as no one else could.

Mr. N. W. Chandler was made temporary chairman for the American Philatelic Association. He remained over long enough to organize an A. P. A. branch in St. Paul. Mr. Chandler is an acknowledged authority on U. S. envelopes. Any statement that he made in regard to philately was always listened to by his hearers with attention.

Conspicuous among the boys was a lady stenographer. She evidently enjoyed the proceedings. Anyway, she took everything in (in short hand).

Mr. Gremmel is a small man, but his sagacious eyes and nervous quickness showed that he is a big man when he comes to a battle of words and argumentative harangue. It is well to have a man like Gremmel on your side of the ring, for he pushes his and his friends'

interests with a great zeal. He is at the same time one of the jolliest and wittiest of men.

Mr. Gregory, the stamp hinge man is the proprietor of a large printing establishment. He is one who indulges in much pleasantries, and as a result was liked by all.

D. J. McDermott, C. W. K's private secretary, was pronounced guilty of being an exceedingly jolly fellow. His Daniel Webster effort at the close of the convention was one of such magnetic influence that I, like the listeners of the "lost speech of Lincoln," passed into a hypnotic trance. I do remember that he said, "Gentlemen, I can make a speech, I can make a most excellent speech, one that would forever tingle in your ear, if I only knew how."

Edward C. Athen, imperturbable as the rock of Gibraltar, preferred H2 O to maltus vini every time. Although he has interest in one of the largest brewing institutions in Illinois, Mr. Athen subscribes to all the worthy philatelic magazines, and as a result is a philatelic authority of considerable importance.

Mr. F. Michael, of Chicago, would make a juryman, for he would be puzzling to both plaintiff's and defendant's council, as his face wears a sphinx-like expression that conceals every condition of his mind. Mr. Michael manifested much interest in the convention matters and contributed his share to the good work.

Geo. Julsrud, of Rushford, Minn., is possessed of a genial nature, and readily formed acquaintances who liked him, because they couldn't help themselves.

Oney K. Carstarphen, of Denver, realized his fondest ambition. His election to the presidency of the P. S. of A. was well merited, for Oney has certainly worked hard for the society's interests. He is genial as well as gentlemanly, witty as well as well read and sober. If you did not see him, look at his likeness on our first page.

If I have forgotten anyone, I have done so unintentionally. My impressions of the St. Paul and Minneapolis boys I will leave to another writing.

H. S. SWENSEN.

SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE WESTERN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

FIRST SESSION.

Meting was called to order at 9:15 a. m. Mr. Achard was elected chairman and Mr. Swensen secretary. A committee on credentials, consisting of Messrs. Swensen, Tyren and Achard.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the time for voting close at 9 p. m. instead of 12 m. Session closed to meet at 8:30 p. m. at 242 Boston Block.

SECOND SESSION.

Mr. Achard in the chair and the following members present: C. E. N. Howard, C. E. Thayer, Leon G. Lambert, E. S. Van Gorder, Edw. S. Stebbins, Chas. Whitely, F. S. George, Elmer S. Martin, C. J. Tryen, G. W. Achard, J. L. Mayer, W. B. McPherson and H. S. Swensen. Visitors: Mr. J. A. Pierce, of Chicago, and L. K. Kramer, of Elkadar, Iowa. The appointments of committees were as follows:

Finance—Stebbins, Lambert, George.

Library—Howard, Mayer, Whitely.

Exchange and Purchasing Agent—Van Gorder, McPherson, Stebbins.

Constitution and By-Laws—Swensen, Howard, Thayer, Tyren and Achard.

The report of the Committee on arrangements was read and accepted without comment.

The result of the election is as follows:

PRESIDENT.

C. E. Severn, Chicago, Ill. 18 votes
 Joe F. Beard, Muscatine, Iowa. 13 "
 C. E. N. Howard, St. Paul, Minn. 9 "

VICE-PRESIDENT.

H. D. Ruehlman, Sharon, Wis. 32 votes
 O. E. Jacobson, Greeley, Col. 7 "

Western Philatelic Association.

President, C. E. Severn, Chicago, Ills.
 Vice-President, H. D. Ruehlman, Sharon, Wis.
 Secretary, C. E. Thayer, 154 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.
 Treasurer, J. R. Gooding, 757 Fairmont Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
 Exchange Superintendent, G. W. Achard, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Trustees, H. S. Swensen, C. E. N. Howard, C. J. Tyren, Minneapolis, Minn.

Counterfeit Detector, H. C. Beardsley, Box, 216, St. Joe, Mo.
 Purchasing Agent, L. G. Lambert, 151 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
 Auction Manager, O. K. Carstarphen, Denver, Colo.
 Librarian, E. Lentz, Baker City, Oregon.
 Attorney, R. W. French, Hartland, Wash.

SECRETARY.

Chas. E. Thayer, St. Paul, Minn. 39 votes

TREASURER.

J. R. Gooding, St. Paul, Minn. 39 votes

N. H. Withee, La Crosse, Wis. 9 "

LIBRARIAN.

Ellsworth Lentz, Baker City, Ore. 31 votes

Conrad Selvig, Rushford, Minn. 8 "

McPherson, Stillwater, Minn. 1 "

COUNTERFEIT DIRECTOR.

H. C. Beardsley, St. Joe, Mo. 33 votes

Drew, Henry, S. D. 7 "

PURCHASING AGENT.

Leon G. Lambert, St. Paul, Minn. 34 votes

C. L. Thurston, Omaha, Neb. 6 "

AUCTION MANAGER.

O. K. Carstarphen, Denver, Col. 39 votes

ATORNEY.

R. W. French 39 votes

EXCHANGE SUPERINTENDENT.

Geo. W. Achard, Minneapolis. 39 votes

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

H. S. Swensen, C. E. N. Howard, C. J. Tyren. . 40 votes

Twenty proxies were held by Mr. Achard and one by Mr. Swensen.

On motion of Mr. Swensen the calling of the full roll was dispensed with.

The retiring President's farewell address was then read by the Chairman.

Secretary and Treasurer's reports were next listened to.

The Librarian sent in no report. Upon motion, which was seconded and carried, the Secretary was instructed to request Mr. Selvig to turn over the effects of the library to the newly elected Librarian, Mr. Ellsworth Lentz, Baker City, Ore. The report of the Exchange Superintendent was accepted as read. The Finance Committee reported that the accounts of the Treasurer were correct. The Committee on Library recommended that the Librarian send in his report for publication in the next issue of the official organ.

The Committee on By-Laws and Constitution recommended that persons living in states west of the Mississippi and in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois be eligible to membership; that a quorum shall consist of one-third of the membership represented in convention. The committee further recommended that the dues be 35 cents per year, the initiation fee of 10 cents being dropped.

Mr. Martin thought that if the states of Wisconsin and Illinois were included in the membership limit other states along the east side of the Mississippi should be included. Mr. Martin then offered a motion to the effect that Wisconsin and Illinois be dropped. Mr. Stebbins offered as an amendment to the motion that all states bordering the Mississippi be included. The amended motion was carried.

Mr. L. J. Kramer was elected to membership under suspension of rules.

Nashville, Tenn.; Clear Lake, Ia.; St. Paul, Minneapolis, Denver and Omaha were nominated for the convention of 1897.

A ballot was taken, with the following result: Clear Lake, 27; Nashville, 5; Omaha, 1; Denver, 1.

Clear Lake, Iowa, will be the next convention seat. It was moved that the date of convention be set by the Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

Convention was then adjourned sine die.

HARRY S. SWENSEN.

SECRETARYS REPORT.

The following is a correct list of members in good standing in the Western Philatelic Association, Sept. 1, 1896.

- No. 1.—E. R. Aldrich, Benson, Minn.
- No. 2.—C. J. Tyren, 309 Fourteenth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 3.—C. E. N. Howard, 656, Summit Avenue, St. Paul.
- No. 4.—Geo. W. Achard, 242 Boston, Block, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 5.—L. G. Lambert, 151 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 6.—C. G. Hart, Pipestone, Minn.
- No. 7.—D. M. Merrill, 442 Broadway, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 8.—C. E. Thayer, 154 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 9.—Robert I. Mann, Mankato, Minn.
- No. 10.—Irwin Zimmerman, 214 Mt. Airy Street, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 11.—William Thiessen, 597 Dale Street, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 12.—H. S. Swensen, 1605 Stevens Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 13.—Walton Mitchell, 534 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 14.—R. W. Ervin, Pipestone, Minn.
- No. 15.—R. A. Mason, 387 East Eighth Street, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 16.—William V. Moore, Windom, Minn.
- No. 17.—Oscar Gardelin, 1363 Thomas Street, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 18.—Jas. R. Gooding, 757 Fairmont Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 19.—Paul Reichelt, 401 St. Peter Street, St. Paul, Minn.
- No. 20.—Philip Dick, Jr., St. Peter, Minn.
- No. 21.—W. L. Parker, Farmington, Minn.
- No. 22.—Conrad G. Selvig, Rushford, Minn.
- No. 23.—J. L. Mayer, 119 Aldrich Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 24.—Eben S. Martin, Box 493, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 25.—J. A. Bruederly, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 26.—Ina J. McGregor, Rushford, Minn.
- No. 27.—Oscar J. Larson, Madison, Minn.
- No. 28.—E. S. Stebbins, 610 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 29.—W. R. Young, 610 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 30.—H. F. Cooper, 2416 Harriet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 31.—Allyn K. Ford, 1217 First Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 32.—Adolph Edsten, 2432 Ninth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn.
- No. 33.—Peter E. Kierland, Rushford, Minn.
- No. 34.—Carl Selvig, Rushford, Minn.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

No. 35.—Addison Miller, 533 Carroll Street, St. Paul, Minn.

No. 36.—C. L. Annan, City Engineer's Office St. Paul, Minn.

No. 37.—C. Whitley, 521 Guaranty Loan Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

No. 38.—Miss C. G. Selvig, Rushford, Minn.

No. 39.—Thomas C. Hawley, Lake Park, Minn.

No. 40.—N. E. Carter, Delavan, Wis.

No. 41.—C. W. Kissinger, Reading, Pa.

No. 42.—Chas. Beamish, 105 Frankford Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

No. 43.—F. H. Carlton, 600 New York Life Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

No. 44.—L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Neb.

No. 45.—C. R. Butler, Stillwater, Minn.

No. 46.—W. B. McPherson, Stillwater, Minn.

No. 47.—M. M. Marsh, 34½ German-American Bank Building, St. Paul, Minn.

No. 48.—N. H. Withie, 230 South Ninth Street, La Crosse, Wis.

No. 49.—John N. Nind, 122 Highland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.

No. 50.—John N. Deglman, Mankato, Minn.

No. 51.—Joe F. Beard, Muscatine, Iowa.

No. 52.—Abe Hoerschgen, Arlington, Minn.

No. 53.—H. D. Ruehlman, Sharon, Wis.

No. 54.—Ellsworth Lentz, Baker City, Oregon.

No. 55.—Oney K. Carstarphen, Box 734, Denver, Colo.

No. 56.—Wilder T. Murdock, 2533 Lyndale Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.

No. 57.—Geo. H. Julsrud, Rushford, Minn.

No. 58.—Clarence L. Thurston, 2408 Farnam Street, Omaha, Neb.

No. 59.—F. H. Friend, 274 Pleasant Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

No. 60.—R. W. French, Hartland, Wash.

No. 61.—Otto A. Krohe, Beardstown, Ills.

No. 62.—O. E. Jacobsen, Greeley, Colo.

No. 63.—W. A. Bicket, Sibley, Ills.

No. 64.—Arthur W. Drew, Henry, S. D.

No. 65.—L. K. Sowle, 2306 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn.

No. 66.—Geo. L. Banks, Sonora, Cal.

No. 67.—M. E. Whitehead, 506 Eighteenth Avenue, Denver, Colo.

No. 68.—W. T. Fuller, 728 South Second Street, Mankato, Minn.

No. 69.—S. G. Stein, Muscatine, Iowa.

No. 70.—Kendall G. Smith, 373 Main Street, Winona, Minn.

No. 71.—Edward C. Althen, Elgin, Ills.

No. 72.—Chandler Sloan, Tacoma, Wash.

No. 73.—Wm. A. Peterson, Windom, Minn.

No. 74.—Simon Blum, Cold Springs, Minn.

No. 75.—W. N. Mulcahy, Elk Point, S. D.

No. 76.—Geo. Liebman, care Kuh Nathan & Fisher, Chicago, Ills.

No. 77.—C. W. Bell, Earlville, Iowa.

No. 78.—John Toften, 287 Concord Street, St. Paul, Minn.

No. 79.—D. D. Doolittle, Fremont, Neb.

No. 80.—W. H. Barnum, 47 Livingston Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

No. 81.—Herbert C. Beardsley, Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

No. 82.—F. S. George, 17 South Fourth Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

No. 83.—E. F. Van Gorder, 318 First Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn.

No. 84.—F. J. Bescher, City Hall Market, Kansas City, Mo.

No. 85.—Theo. O. Withee, 230 South Ninth Street, La Crosse, Wis.

No. 86.—C. E. Severn, 448 Racine Avenue, Chicago, Ills.

No. 87.—J. J. Waddell, Mankato, Minn.

No. 88.—L. J. Kramer, Elkader, Iowa.

APPLICATIONS.

The following have applied for admission to membership and, unless objection is made before Oct. 15th, they will be considered as elected upon payment of dues of 44 cents to January 1st, 1898:

W. J. Walsh, DeKalb, Ills.; Ref. C. E. Thayer, H. S. Swensen.

L. J. Zeigler, Madison, Wis.; Ref. G. W. Achard, J. R. Gooding.

C. L. Trabert, Minneapolis, Minn.; Ref. H. S. Swensen, G. W. Achard.

Chas. P. Gaylon, Knoxville, Tenn.; Ref. H. S. Swensen, Chas. Waring.

The convention is now over and with the new officers and all of the members taking hold and booming the Association, there is no reason to doubt why it should not push rapidly to the front. By the date of the next convention we should have an active, energetic membership of over 500. This means work and plenty of it for everyone, so let all do their share toward the accomplishment of our purpose. Application blanks may be obtained of the Secretary at any time. Send for some and begin your share of the missionary work.

C. E. THAYER, Secretary.

THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PHILATELISTS.

Convention Report.

The League of American Philatelists held its first annual convention in Minneapolis, September 4th and 5th. While the attendance was not as large as was hoped, it was nevertheless a very successful meet and will do much toward stimulating the interest in this young society. The sessions were held at the Hotel Beaufort and were conducted in a business-like manner. The Northwest certainly obtained enough recognition, three places being secured in the list of officers.

The election resulted as follows: President, L. J. Kramer; Vice President, W. H. Kessler; Secretary, Chas. B. Hesse; Treasurer, F. B. Woolson; Exchange Supt., John Arbtin; Auction Manager, H. C. Beardsley; Purchasing Agent, L. G. Lambert; Supt. Lit. Exch., B. L. Morris; Ad. and Sub. Agent, L. T. Brodstone; Counterfeit Detector, Chas. F. Noe; Librarian, Miss Helen Thomas; Attorney, Geo. W. Achard; Trustees, Messrs. Swensen, Achard and Tyren; Official Organ, The International Philatelist; Convention Seat 1897, Clear Lake, Iowa.

Seventy-one proxies were held as follows: Kramer, 25; Swensen, 25; Achard, 21. Other members present were, Messrs. Lambert of St. Paul, Miss Keiler of Iowa, Martin, Tyren and Mayer of Minneapolis. In the absence of the secretary, Mr. Achard was appointed secretary pro tem. and he made a good one. The sales department showed that over \$2,200 worth of stamps had been sold during the past year, or about 46 per cent. of the amount placed in the department. This is a showing that some of the more pretentious societies can not equal, and is very creditable for so young an organization.

We found in President Kramer, a man of the kind that one likes to meet a genial, whole-souled collector, and we trust that the present trip will not be his last one to the Twin Cities. To those who did not attend, we can only say that you missed a good time and one that you would long remember. We hope, however, to meet many of the Leaguers at Clear Lake next year.



The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. II.

OCTOBER.

No. 2.

SOME UNCATALOGUED SPECIMENS.

By Chic.

The 56th edition catalogue is perhaps the most complete of any list ever issued by a stamp firm. It is by far the best we have ever seen, and still it is far from complete in that there are many genuine postal emissions which are uncatalogued, and some are not even mentioned. It is regarding these latter specimens that I shall attempt to write.

Since 1888 I have made a specialty of the stamps of the Western Hemisphere, but more particularly those issued by Brazil, Venezuela, Argentine and Uruguay. While it is true that many of my most highly prized specimens are more of oddities than regular postal emissions sent forth by some departmental decree, still there are two classes of stamps which are and must be termed "regular postal issues." Neither of these types are catalogued by our American compilers and I have not had the good fortune to possess foreign catalogues, and consequently cannot say whether they are included in them.

The first class includes the split provisionals of Uruguay. I have the 120 centavo, die A2., split from the upper right hand corner to the lower left corner and visa versa, both on the original covers and used as 60 centavos. Then there also rests in my albums the lower horizontal half of a 240 centavo of the same issue, used as a 120 centavo. Now the compilers have listed provisionals of St. Christopher, St. Lucia, and the like, but have never mentioned these rarities of the little South American republic. Were the former authorized by any departmental decree? I have never heard of any such. Then why should they be favored and these oddities, if such you call them, which have done postal duty, be slighted? To my way of thinking the latter are as collectible as any regular issue, more especially so when they are cancelled with the name of some small town at which possibly the supply of the regular denomination then in vogue had run out.

The second class deals with a surcharge, which to my mind, is as regular as any issue can be. I refer to the stamps of both Uruguay and Venezuela, surcharged "Fuera de Hora." Probably very few of our collectors have ever had the fortune to run across this type and a much less number know what the words mean and to what use the stamps bearing them were put. I was very much at sea over their meaning and not at all satisfied with our learned friend, Maj. Evans', explanation. So I addressed letters to several professors of the Spanish language, connected with the leading colleges and universities, determined upon arriving at as nearly a correct conclusion as possible. The definition which seemed the most reasonable and the one entirely applicable to the question under dispute, came from Prof. Farias, who has recently died. He said that the words meant "beware of the hour." From this I take it that the stamps which were surcharged with this phrase were used as special delivery stamps. This reasoning becomes the more apparent when one remembers that all cancellations of those of Uruguay are the Montevideo postoffice's stamp, while those of Venezuela were cancelled at Carracas,

these places being the only cosmopolitan cities within their country's territorial limits. It has also been remarked that these stamps were of a semi-official nature, from the assertion that none but governmental employes were allowed to use them. As far as Uruguay is concerned, I am inclined to doubt such a claim, because they have been used by persons who have no connection whatever with the postal department or any of the government offices. That they were intended for local use is evident from the fact that every copy ever seen on the original cover was on an envelope addressed to some one in the city in which the letter was posted.

But a word or two as to the types of the surcharges. I have so far seen but one type used by Venezuela. It is in celtic type, badly blurred, and in appearance is as follows:

FUERA
DE
HORA

This surcharge will be found on the 25 centavos of the issue of 1883. It, undoubtedly, was struck off in the local printing office connected with the department at Caracas, and the stamps used very much as our special delivery's are. They were not, in all probability, not manufactured and placed on sale until late in 1886, as every specimen I have ever met with bears a cancellation later than July of that year. In 1887 a portion of the new issue of the 25 centavos was treated to a like surcharge. It seems to have been from the same plate, as the blurred appearance is still visible. Nearly all of this emission bear cancellation dates of the latter part of 1887 and first few months of 1888, so that it is probable that their use was discontinued during the second year because of some changes in the heads of departments.

Uruguay issued her first "Fuerra de Hora" provisional, or rather surcharge, in 1883, when the 1 centavo, green, was over-printed. It was in the latter part of that year that the 10 centesimos, vermillion, of 1877, were surcharged and made to do the service of 1 centavos. The reason for this is found in the fact that the government did not order a very large number of the 1 centavos of the 1883 style, and, as a great many were surcharged with the three words that made the stamps do special service, the supply of the unsurcharged stamps ran out. However, the number surcharged with the "Fuerra de Hora" design (see type 1 below) was also limited and they became very scarce. I would not take \$10.00 for my specimen, as but three have ever come before my eyes. From an un-official source, I have learned that less than 20,000 were so surcharged, and as a consequence their rarity at the present date can readily be ascertained.



Type 1.



Type 2.

In the latter part of 1883, the supply of the 5 centesimos, blue, also gave out and the government ordered the remainder of the 5 centesimos, green, of 1877, surcharged with the words "1883—Provisorio." A portion of these were in turn surcharged with type 2, illustrated above. It is said that upwards of 60,000 specimens were surcharged thus, and did duty from September 15th, 1893, to the early part of 1887. I have never seen a single specimen cancelled with a later date than May, 1887, and therefore believe that they were either recalled or their use abandoned. It was probably the latter, as the little republic has not, to the best of my knowledge at least, issued anything since that could properly be termed a special delivery. Suffice it to say in closing that their collectibility as distinct varieties must certainly be admitted, and I hope in the near future our cataloguers will perceive this fact sufficiently to warrant the listing of them.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN STAMPS.

By Omen.

The British Columbian stamps in which we include the Vancouver Island issues, although comparatively rare are seldom honored by being written up, and as the writer specializes the stamps of British North America, he thought to make a few remarks on this subject which might prove interesting to some readers of the Newsletter. First he thinks that these handsomely designed stamps are placed by American cataloguers at far too low a value. Especially is this true of the used specimens. It may be that because we live in Eastern Canada, we see numbers of the high priced Canadian stamps, while the lower priced British Columbians are few and far between. Compare the numbers of the used 5-cent and 10-cent perforated British Columbian offered for sale, or exchange with the 3-pence perforated, the half-penny unused or even the 6-pence Canada that are continually passing around. It is doubtful if many, be they dealers or collectors, have met with one of the former to ten of the latter. Rarely do we get an auction catalogue that has not quite a list of Canadian stamps valued from \$1 upwards, but do we not often find the name of British Columbia does not appear at all in these very catalogues? The only conclusion that can be come to is that these stamps are much rarer than the prices in our standard catalogues would indicate.

There is a point about British Columbian stamps that is unknown to many, some dealers not being aware of the existence of the variety and others ignorant of its true value.

One hardly expects that a general collector would know all the different varieties of paper, watermark and perforation of the stamps of each country that he collects, but why do many specialists of British North America issues not know the varieties of perforation of the British Columbian surcharges? In the catalogue for advanced collectors by Collin and Calman, these varieties are given as 14 and 12½, the former being the regular perforation and the latter the variety. In all other catalogues that the writer has seen the regular perforation where mentioned at all is given as 14. The writer has used the Scott Stamp and Coin Company's gauge in measuring some twenty British Columbian surcharges that are now in his possession and many others that have at various times passed through his hands, but has never found one stamp that showed 14 perforations by the gauge. The 12½ variety were exactly as stated, but all the rest measured 13½ only. On an approval sheet now before him, sent by a prominent Canadian dealer, is an unused \$1.00 marked "Perf. 14," but the gauge shows 13½, whether applied to bottom, top or sides. On the same sheet is a 3-pence Canada, also marked "Perf. 14" and in this case gauges nicely to that number. The stamps before

mentioned as having tested at 13½ were not what had been received in one lot, but were received as various times, extending over years, and from as widely separated points as London, Eng., San Francisco, where by the way, many good British Columbians are picked up, New York and other stamp centers, and all in small lots or singly. As to the value of the stamps perforated 12½, a safe estimate would be three times the listed prices of the 14 perforation, excepting the 10-cent and \$1.00 values, which are worth about the same for either variety, or about \$30.00 each.

One great comfort to all collectors of British Columbian stamps is the absence of any good or even fair counterfeits, all that do exist being poorly printed and on unwatermarked paper. Anyone who has ever seen a genuine copy is hardly likely to be deceived by these counterfeits.

PHILATELIC BY-WAYS.

By C. E. Severn.

There is a growing tendency among a certain class of collectors to make little incursions into the territory bordering on that of Stampland. They depart from the well-worn paths and seek fresh delights, far from the spots which are of common philatelic interest. The collectors who are prone to do this are usually men who have comparatively complete collections of general or special countries. When they find that only occasional additions can be made to their albums because of the difficulty in securing the rarities required, or because of the magnitude of the sums demanded for needed specimens, they are apt to be attracted by or turn for relief to new fields for philatelic recreation.

Of course this second collection is subordinate in the possessor's estimation to the regular one, yet it is held in high esteem, for it is invariably a source of interest and satisfaction. The fact that a philatelist divides his time between two collections, the one of a regular, the other of an irregular nature, does not argue that one must be neglected; by virtue of their dissimilarity, the pleasant features of either are accentuated.

A few cases in point are here advanced, with mention of the particular by-way favored by each individual.

A gentleman who possesses a fine special collection recently started to gather all forms of governmental policies bearing printed stamps, lock-seal, hydrometer, tobacco, beer, distillery, warehouse stamps, and all other forms of stamped paper which collectors ordinarily ignore.

Another collector, whose collection on certain lines was practically complete, had his fancy captured by the pictorial envelopes so common in bellum days, and now he gathers them with signal satisfaction. Each envelope to be collectable must bear a stamp and show evidences of postal cancellations. The envelopes in this collection are all of different designs, but the stamps in most instances are duplicated many times.

Here and there, philatelists may be met with who collect the encased stamps, used as currency during the Civil War, and the varieties of postal currency.

A few gather envelopes bearing Ohio and Mississippi river steamboat postmarks, some of which are of ornate design and all of which are of interest.

The collecting of U. S. stamps on the original covers is coming into philatelic favor, and some of those who are partisans of this form of collecting, give especial attention to the postmarks on the envelopes and the color of the cancellations on the stamps. Early postmarks of cities, such as Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, etc., are not without interest, while others, as for instance, "Ft. Des Moines, Ia.," "Laramie City, Wyo. Ter.," possess an apparent historical value.

Many are the by-ways of philately into which the collector can slip when circumstances suggest a change from the usual collecting methods, and not a few of the prominent collectors are taking up uncommon lines as a foil to their collections of the conventional sort.

NOTES IN GENERAL.

By Veda.

It would seem from an article in an old magazine that the owner of private proprietary dies placed a deposit with the government as a guarantee of good faith, as the article in question states that P. Elchele & Co., the St. Louis match firm, had deposited \$20,000 as their guarantee.

John T. Boyd, the proprietor of Boyd's City Post, prior to the early part of 1845, when he started his post, was a regular licensed auctioneer.

It is not generally known that the sorting cases, which comprised nearly, if not all, of the furniture of the first postoffice of St. Paul, is in the cabinet of the Minnesota Historical Society. It was hastily constructed from old packing boxes, soon after the first postmaster, Henry Jackson, received his commission. The commission was issued April 7, 1846, but with the service in those days it was probably July ere the appointee would receive it, but as his saloon was the "gathering point," it had become a sort of local post-office several years before the appointment. The office was located not far from the corner of Jackson and Third street, the site of the Merchants' Hotel. Besides being postmaster, Jackson also held several other offices in early days, and was one of the leading pioneers of the state, having arrived in St. Paul in 1842. In 1853 he removed to Mankato, where he died July 31, 1857.

It has been a matter of considerable speculation with some collectors why the Scott Company failed to list the 24-cent and 90-cent with secret mark. Other dealers list them and why the Scott Company does not seem s inexplicable as the difference from the regular type is certainly on a par with that of the 2-cent. In regard to the 30-cent, the "hair-line" variety listed by Andre'ne, in the Stamp Book, is such an extremely minute variety that it is a matter of congratulation that it is omitted.

Some of the counterfeits which exist of the Baton Rouge confederate locals were prepared and disposed of by the postmaster, who was responsible for the originals, and are said to have been placed early in the seventies. The originals were prepared at the office of the Gazette and Comet, at Baton Rouge, for Joseph McCormack, who was the federal postmaster at the outbreak of the war, and continued to hold over when the Southern authorities took charge of the office.

PRICES FROM ADVANCE SHEETS OF THE

57th CATALOGUE.

Revenue Stamps—First Issue.

	Imper-	Perfor-
	fect.	ated.
\$	\$1.00	\$.05
.01 Express ..	4.00	2.50
.01 Playing Card ..	1.50	.07
.01 Proprietary ..	..	.20
.01 Telegraph ..	.50	.01
.02 Bank Check ..	..	.02
.02 Certificate ..	.50	1.00
.02 Certificate ..	..	.75
.02 Express ..	.40	.05
.02 Express ..	..	.10
.02 Playing Card ..	7.50	.40
.02 Playing Card ..	..	1.50

.02 Proprietary ..	6.00	.07
.02 Proprietary ..	..	3.00
.02 U. S. Internal Revenue ..	..	.01
.03 Foreign Exchange ..	..	.08
.03 Playing Card ..	35.00	8.00
.03 Proprietary ..	..	.12
.03 Telegraph ..	1.50	.35
.04 Inland Exchange ..	..	.07
.04 Playing Card ..	..	8.00
.04 Proprietary ..	..	.15
.05 Agreement ..	..	.04
.05 Certificate ..	.35	.01
.05 Express ..	.50	.10
.05 Foreign Exchange ..	..	.05
.05 Inland Exchange ..	.20	.01
.05 Playing Card ..	..	.90
.05 Proprietary ..	..	1.50
.06 Inland Exchange ..	..	.25
.06 Proprietary ..	..	50.00
.10 Bill of Lading ..	1.00	.07
.10 Certificate ..	2.50	.01
.10 Contract ..	..	.01
.10 Foreign Exchange ..	..	.60
.10 Inland Exchange ..	5.00	.01
.10 Power of Attorney ..	15.00	.03
.10 Proprietary ..	..	1.50
.15 Foreign Exchange ..	..	1.00
.15 Inland Exchange ..	1.25	.04
.20 Foreign Exchange ..	1.25	1.25
.20 Inland Exchange ..	.25	.02
.25 Bond ..	5.00	.20
.25 Certificate ..	.50	.01
.25 Entry of Goods ..	.40	.07
.25 Insurance ..	.15	.02
.25 Life Insurance ..	1.75	.40
.25 Power of Attorney ..	.30	.03
.25 Protest ..	1.25	.50
.25 Warehouse Receipt ..	2.00	1.00
.30 Foreign Exchange ..	1.00	2.00
.30 Inland Exchange ..	.75	.10
.40 Inland Exchange ..	7.50	.07
.50 Conveyance ..	1.75	.01
.50 Entry of Goods ..	..	.01
.50 Foreign Exchange ..	1.75	.60
.50 Lease ..	1.50	.75
.50 Life Insurance ..	3.00	.10
.50 Mortgage ..	1.75	.07
.50 Original Process ..	.50	.02
.50 Passage Ticket ..	3.50	.25
.50 Probate of Wills ..	4.00	1.75
.50 Surety Bond ..	6.00	.10
.60 Inland Exchange ..	1.50	.15
.70 Foreign Exchange ..	5.00	.12
1.00 Conveyance ..	.35	.25
1.00 Entry of Goods ..	2.00	.05
1.00 Foreign Exchange ..	1.00	.05
1.00 Inland Exchange ..	.25	.02
1.00 Lease ..	2.00	.10
1.00 Life Insurance ..	5.00	.25
1.00 Manifest ..	2.50	1.00
1.00 Mortgage ..	1.25	3.50
1.00 Power of Attorney ..	1.25	.12
1.00 Probate of Wills ..	2.25	1.25
1.30 Foreign Exchange ..	35.00	1.25
1.50 Inland Exchange ..	.25	.20
1.60 Foreign Exchange ..	10.00	2.50
1.90 Foreign Exchange ..	50.00	1.50
2.00 Conveyance ..	2.50	.20
2.00 Mortgage ..	2.50	.25
2.00 Probate of Will ..	15.00	1.50
2.50 Inland Exchange ..	25.00	.10
3.00 Charter Party ..	2.00	.25
3.00 Manifest ..	2.00	.35
3.50 Inland Exchange ..	40.00	2.00
5.00 Charter Party ..	3.00	.25
5.00 Conveyance ..	1.50	.20
5.00 Manifest ..	3.50	2.50

(Continued on page 16.)

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EDITORIAL.

According to the advance sheets, a complete set of
unused department stamps will be quoted at \$677.05
in the 57th edition of the catalogue. Just ponder a
little, and then reprimand yourself for not buying the
set a few years back, when it was obtainable for an
outlay of but \$50.00.

The 90-cent State, used, is now held at \$15.00 by the
leading dealers, as is also the 24-cent Justice. Among
the regular issues, but little advance in price has been
accorded the cancelled specimens, with few exceptions.
On the other hand the unused stamps have made great
strides in price all along the line. This is especially
true in the case of departmentals.

The compilers of the 57th catalogue have intimated
thus far by their advance sheets that they are seeking
for correct adjustment in pricing stamps, and that
they are trying to do away with the "ballooning" of
prices. They have even gone so far as to rectify some
of their 56th catalogue blunders by lowering some of
its prices. Now that two of the largest stamp firms
control the publication, we may expect a more accu-
rate listing.

Here are a number of examples illustrative of the
fall in price, and interpretative of the compilers' de-
sires for true values:

56th Catalogue.		
	Unused.	Used.
1862-6, 24-cent red lilac	\$7.50	\$1.50
1868, grilled, 11x13, 15-cent .....	.....	8.00
1875, ribbed paper, 15-cent .....	.....	4.00
1879, Am. print, 15-cent .....	.75	.....
1879, Am. print, 30-cent .....	.....	.25
57th Catalogue.		
	Unused.	Used.
1862-6, 24-cent, red lilac	\$4.00	\$.40
1868, grilled, 11x13, 15-cent .....	.....	5.00
1875, ribbed paper, 15-cent .....	.....	2.50
1879, Am. print, 15-cent .....	.50	.....
1879, Am. print, 30-cent .....	.....	.20

The "Columbians" have in most cases come down a
few pegs.

So much attention in this country is given domestic
stamps that, as a rule, the question of the desirability
of foreign stamps is not being considered as it ought
to be. But, notwithstanding the lack of agitation,

some of the "foreign" will soar above the "U. S." All
the knowing dealers are on the lookout for stray
"Gibralters," "Icelanders," and the stamps of Nevis.

In regard to United States revenue stamps, we fear
that many of them are not worth one-half the present
catalogue quotations. We admit that there is a fair
demand for revenues, but the supply is enormous, if
the reports of recent numerous finds are true. Just
the other day, Mr. W. G. Sylvester, of San Francisco,
found in the vaults of the city hall nearly 40,000 reve-
nue stamps of different denominations, aggregating in
value something like \$20,000. (See Mekeel's Stamp
News, Vol. VIII., No. 15.) Thousands of the common
kind were ignored. It is reported that last winter
a certain well known philatelist unearthed in the New
Orleans Custom House bushel baskets full of U. S.
revenue stamps, worth, according to the price lists,
over \$200,000. The finder, a gentleman of unques-
tioned veracity, confirms the report, and has declared
that he had cleared \$40,000 on what stamps he had
thus far sold. It is said that 3,000 or 4,000 three and
four-cent 1878 proprietaries turned up in Chicago dur-
ing the month. From every part of the country come
the news "another important find in revenues." The
supply of revenues that have not as yet come to light,
seems to be endless, considering the evidence.

It appears to us that the influence of these finds
on the value of the stamps is as effective as a govern-
ment's striking off of 10,000 copies of a stamp sup-
posed to be obsolete. Before the final printing was made
the supply of the stamp is one of the ruling powers of
value. So it is after the new lot of 10,000 is placed on
the market. A slump in price is the result. The find-
ing of the Nova Scotia remainders is a prime ex-
ample of this fact.

We do not wish to deaden the craze, and we do not
desire to ruin the market for revenue stamps. We do
not think that any statement we may make, can in-
duce such a result, but above any result, above any
wish that is opposed to the depression of the trade, or
spirits of persons possessing large quantities of reve-
nues, is our regard for the stamp collector as a class.
Hence our assertion that the catalogue prices of reve-
nues are inflated in most instances.

Some one has said that prices will adjust them-
selves. This is partly true, but it is not a law. If the
word "value" were substituted for the word "prices"
then we would have the law. It is the aim of all well
meaning parties to bring about, or at least to hinder
the correct adjustment of prices, but there are too
many persons who work just the other way, thereby
maintaining fictitious prices. Price, in respect to
Philately, is used in a technical sense. Supply and
demand is not as much a standard of prices of stamps
as the catalogue. That the catalogue is a correct
standard of value, in toto, is erroneous. It is indeed
a mere price list of the dealer. Yet philatelists in gen-
eral make the leading catalogues their standard of
value of the philatelic commodity. The fault lies with
the stamp collector that such a state of affairs exists
and to this is due inflation. The dictates of supply
and demand, at times, have been totally ignored by the
compilers of the different so-called standard cata-
logues. The price of the "St. Louis Locals," instead
of being lowered because of the increased supply, was
boosted. (137 specimens were brought to light and
placed on the market about a year ago. See No. 2,
Vol. I., Newsletter.) Are we given to presume that
the demand for St. Louis stamps was greater after
the find than before? No! Have we not good reasons
for entertaining the idea that the catalogue prices are
not always based upon supply? We do not wish to
combat those who recognize the conditions, but do
urge those persons who lay undeserving stress on
dealers' prices, to not rely fully on catalogue quota-
tions.

The practice of quoting auction prices without explaining the condition of the stamp, is one that should be stopped. It is often the case that a damaged stamp, catalogued at \$10, brings but \$5, or even less at auction. Some well-meaning editors merely announce in their respective publications that such a stamp was sold under the hammer for \$5, without mentioning that it was a very poor specimen. The result is that some of Mr. Editor's readers are deluded as to the value of a good specimen, taking for granted that the paper they read gives the auction price of a stamp in fair condition. They may be astounded in experiencing trouble in buying the stamp for \$5, and furthermore may learn that it is not purchaseable for an amount less than \$8. On the strength of his belief that a stamp magazine gives the auction price of at least an average specimen, no word to the contrary being given, a person may dispose of a copy of the stamp in question for \$4 to another person, who doubtless peruses a more solicitous journal. The first party is well satisfied with the transaction, perhaps, congratulating himself on the heady sale. The second party, alive to the real situation, rubs his hands in glee. Explanations of the stamp's condition should always be given in cases of this kind.

* * * * *

So aesthetic are the tastes of philatelists that if a beautiful unused well-centered stamp lacks only the gum, it waives the right to a place in their albums. The stamp, nowadays, if not perfect in every particular, is not deemed collectible by the philatelist. This prevalent notion may be grounded upon sense, but it is one of the causes of the small boy's relegation to the rear of Philatelia's domain. The boy likes to emulate his elders, and therefore "will" collect the fine "copy," when he discovers that the imperfect stamp is valueless. As he has not the means for securing the evenly centered, lightly cancelled, stamps, he very naturally throws aside his philatelic aspirations. It appears to us that each year more entrances to the domicile of stamp collecting are being barred to the enthusiastic boy. We see how such a state of affairs might be partly obviated, for the tendency of the older generation need not interfere with the admission of the younger class. As the matter now is, it seems that displacement is going to happen.

* * * * *

The position of Japan during the last few years, has been a prominent and respected one. Hampered by certain conditions such, for example, as its geographical position and old customs, Japan has progressed wonderfully, of recent years, both in civil conduct and scientific warfare. That it has the power of taking the initiative is to be deduced from the fact that it has published a book entitled "A Short History of the Postage Stamps of Japan."

From Mr. Hopkins' review in No. 240, Stamp Item, we first learned the facts in the matter of this unique publication. We quote what Mr. Hopkins clipped from the August "Philatelic World," of Bengal, India: "The book is bound in the most bewitching golden silk brocade, with purple bows; is printed on the best of paper, and is fully illustrated by actual genuine specimens of each value, of each issue. The actual bare historical facts are recorded in English as well as Japanese, but (alas) all the laborate statistical portion of the work is in Japanese only." The book may never be a boon to the collector, because it is, sacredly, government property.

* * * * *

H. S. SWENSEN.

IMPRESSIONS.

The high values of Obock take the entire bakery, when one considers the unnecessary phase. The idea of a 50-franc stamp for those savages is certainly preposterous.

Why should not the 8-cent registration stamp of Canada be worth far more than its present listed price? The total number printed was but 125,000, but upon an order issued by the postmaster-general in 1878, all of the supply then on hand, numbering 75,000, was destroyed. This was done because the rate was changed and the 8-cent could no longer be put to use. As a consequence, 50,000 specimens represents the sum total of the emission. Now nearly 20 years have elapsed since the remainders were destroyed, and one can readily see that their worth is far above catalogue.

One of my collector friends has sent me the following as his "impression." "History informs us that it was in the year 1855 that Victoria, queen of Great Britain, first used garters, they being then of small size. During the next year, she used the medium size, but in the following year (1857), she was obliged to use the large size. Lest there might be some misapprehension, it might be well to state that the garters were water-marks and were used on the four-pence postage stamps."

It has for years been said that philately is a hobby. Many do not like the use of this word, but there may be an essence of truth in the assertion when we come to consider that a man named Hobbie was the assistant postmaster-general at the time our first stamps were issued. If Hobbie was in charge at that time, of course our pursuit must necessarily be termed a hobby, and so accepted by us.

The new amateur magazine, known as Stamps, was to be out during the latter part of September. Its mission will be the reviving of interest in stamps among the youth of our country. We hope they will succeed in their efforts, but as long as our catalogues continue to bolster up prices and list numerous hair-splitting varieties, we have little faith in any attempt at a renewal of the times of ten or twelve years ago. Collecting is entirely to complicated a study for the average Young America of today.

This leads me to another impression. Who makes the price of stamps today? The standard catalogue is issued by one firm, and therefore, it would seem that they were responsible. On the other hand, however, collectors in recognizing the work as a standard are as much to blame. An illustration was given me lately and the reader may take it for what it is worth. Said the kicker, "An engineer with but little exertion moves a small lever. This, in turn, starts a power far exceeding the initiatory force, and along moves one of the greatest machines of the age. Just so with philatelic prices, a few men get their heads together and manufacture the prices that govern a multitude." Is this right? Well, no. But what are we going to do about it. It has always appeared to me that this catalogue business should be taken up by the American Philatelic Society, and the 1st issued by a board appointed or elected at the conventions. The real market value would then be more thoroughly and justly represented.

How prices of advertising in some mediums have shrunk. I was looking over some of the first numbers of the American Journal of Philately recently and was surprised to notice that their charge was \$140.00 per issue for a single page. Today their price is \$10, and even at that figure it is higher than many of our best magazines which have fully as large a circulation. Of course, in the olden times of collecting, there were magazines with fairly cheap rates, but advertisers do not realize the snap they have today, as compared with the times of high prices and small circulations.

GEORGE W. ACHARD.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The International Stamp is the first publication to reach the writer in his capacity as review editor of the Newsletter. Although the September issue does not contain anything of special interest to stampites, yet

it is well worth reading. H. F. Swartz contributes the first article, which bears the title "Collecting Stamps That Are Going Up." He opens the article by asking two questions: "Is it true that the younger collectors no longer care for stamps that are not going up?" and "Are we really coming to collect for the money that is in it?"

He further sounds a note of warning to dealers and speculators in the following lines:

"If one collects stamps with constant regard as to the increased value of his collection, he comes dangerously near being a "professional." He is no longer a collector of stamps, but a speculator in stamps."

There is also more truth than poetry in the following:

"Thus the price of any stamp, of which a given number of specimens may be regarded as existing, originally arose from the demand for that particular stamp. In the more recent speculative times, in which we seem now to be living, the whole, original and legitimate process appears to be inverted, and the demand for any stamp depends now upon its present or probable future price. This can have but one result. After a time the more solid, sensible collectors, those who are philatelists for the pastime, not for speculation, will get disgusted and let stamps drop."

In conclusion Mr. Swartz adds: "Our catalogues are doubtless largely to blame for this speculative interest."

H. F. is certainly a modern Daniel for he has interpreted correctly the philatelic handwriting on the wall.

The second article is by our Chicago friend C. E. Severn, who writes under the caption "Phases of Philatelic Life." As one phase of philatelic life, he gives the following story:

"A young man, who had been married but a short time before he caught the collecting fever, was making payments on some property which he had purchased. He occupied a responsible position at a good salary. He began to buy stamps. His salary went almost wholly for stamps, and when it was time to meet one of his notes, given in payment for his house and lot, he had no money, and the note was renewed. It was only after the tearful remonstrances of his wife and the pleadings of his mother that he promised to give up stamp buying for a while."

We know of a parallel case in this city. A gentleman nearly 40 years of age began to collect stamps. Bought moderately at first; but as the desire to fill those blank spaces increased, he bought heavily, using all his income as a merchant and finally drawing on his little pile in the bank, which he had been saving up for some time to build a home with. It took all his evenings and Sundays to arrange the stamps and to attend to his other philatelic duties. His wife and family were neglected. He admitted all this to us and more one day and said he believed he would go insane on the subject if he did not stop. After thinking it over a few moments he decided to quit then and there, and he did stop, and soon after sold his entire collection; then—well we have seen the little home and his wife's smiles, and can vouch for the fact that the cure was full and complete. Of course this was an extreme case. We believe stamp collecting when carried on with due moderation, will be beneficial to old and young; but when it becomes so fascinating that it is beyond the full control of the collector, it is time to stop.

M. Chapman Spears follows Mr. Severn with an article about "Overenthusiasm in Collecting." He concludes the article with the following paragraph which shows that he fully agrees with the writer in the above remarks:

"I believe in enthusiasm in collecting to a degree, but when it becomes so great as to monopolize one's whole time and attention, it is disgusting; for "Mod-

eration in all things, especially in Philately," is an excellent motto."

Up to date (Oct. 15th) we acknowledge receipt of the following:

International Stamp, for September.
The Herald Exchange, for October.
The Pennsylvania Philatelist, for September.
The Post Office, for September.
The Rocky Mountain Stamp, for October.
Daily Item and Weekly News, current numbers.
Catalogue of the 10th Auction Sale of B. L. Drew & Co.

The Philatelic West, for October.
The Weekly Philatelic Era, No. 177.
The first article in the Post Office is a continuation of the paper on "A descriptive catalogue of U. S. Stamps." The subject in this issue is National Bank Note Company, print of 1861-1873. The different types of these issues are fully illustrated, and the text is arranged in so simple and accurate a manner that the different varieties can be ascertained even by a novice. The issue contains besides the Editorials and Chronicle of New Issues, a paper on the Queensland Provisionals of 1895.

The Rocky Mountain Stamp opens with Chapter 1 of a series of papers by Raymond S. Baker, on "Five Years of Philatelic History." Chapter 1 presents a history of the rise of the S. of P. The issue contains besides the above a short paper by C. E. Severn and "A complete table of stamp duties, as amended March 3rd, 1863."

The Era gives to its readers each week some of Scott's 57th catalogue prices, and in No. 177, before us, gives the quotations of some of the Newspaper and Unpaid Letter Stamps, printed by the American Bank Note Company, and some of the official stamps printed by the Continental Bank Note Company. This is the first publication that we have seen giving the new prices of each of these stamps in full. Thanks, W. W.

The Pennsylvania Philatelist contains a report of the P. S. of A. convention. The president's address is given in full, and although a good many changes in the constitution were recommended, nothing seems to be said about the changes that were actually made.

ADDRESS OF RETIRING PRESIDENT.

Fellow Members of the Western:—

For a third time the Western meets in convention, and for a third time it is my misfortune to be absent. Words will hardly suffice to express my great regret at being compelled to be absent, and being unable in person to express my thanks for the confidence the members have had in me, in twice selecting me to preside over the organization, and I hope that my successor may receive the same unbounded confidence which I have received.

The progress of our association for the past year while not as great in the increase of members as might have been, has been encouraging, that of the six months following our last convention being especially so. The suspension of our official organ, unfortunately rendered work a little up-hill for the last few months, but the philatelic interest which the holding of three great national conventions in the Northwest has infused into the whole of the Central states, can not but reach so that our association will awake out of its lethargic sleep into brisk and energetic life, and our rapid onward progress be assured.

It is united effort that tells. So let us all together put our shoulders to the wheel and push, and when the next convention shall be held, our association will be pre-eminently in the advance of any sectional society.

In retiring to the ranks, let no member think that they cannot just as well address me for any informa-

Western Philatelic Association.

President, C. E. Severn, Chicago, Ills.
 Vice-President, H. D. Ruehlman, Sharon, Wis.
 Secretary, C. E. Thayer, 154 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.
 Treasurer, J. R. Gooding, 757 Fairmont Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
 Exchange Superintendent, G. W. Achard, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Trustees, H. S. Swensen, C. E. N. Howard, C. J. Tyren, Minneapolis, Minn.

Counterfeit Detector, H. C. Beardsley, Box, 216, St. Joe, Mo.
 Purchasing Agent, L. G. Lambert, 151 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
 Auction Manager, O. K. Carstarphen, Denver, Colo.
 Librarian, E. Lentz, Baker City, Oregon.
 Attorney, R. W. French, Hartland, Wash.

tion which it may be in my power to give as before, for it will always be a pleasure to aid in any way I may any member in pursuit of philatelic knowledge, and my only regret will be I have so little of it to impart.

Again, gentlemen, I thank you for the consideration I have received at your hands, and wish you an ever prosperous and happy voyage o'er the philatelic seas.
 ERNEST R. ALDRICH.

From George W. Achard 25
 One copy of Metropolitan Phil., from J. W. Scott.. 1

Total 551
 Various papers at times have been sent to members, but there is very much that has not been asked for. The library is composed of copies of 115 different journals, some complete files, and many very fine single copies.
 CONRAD G. SELVIG.

REPORT OF EXCHANGE SUPERINTENDENT.

Minneapolis, Sept. 1, 1896.

Gentlemen:—The first book of this association was sent out on Nov. 3rd, 1895. Since that time seventeen other books have gone over from one to three circuits and I have to report that today they have all been retired. The total value of books received is \$141.78, and the amount of sales \$45.04, an average of about 32 per cent. The principal trouble encountered has been that members do not take the interest in sending in books. They expect the superintendent to supply them with filled books, but do not seem to consider it their duty to place stamps in the exchange themselves. This is not right and the superintendent can assure them of ready sales.

The second fault is in the quality, with the exception of three or four books, cheap trash has been put in. This class of stamps will not sell and it is only a waste of time to send them. Good specimens marked at a fair price are always in demand, and a ready sale can be relied upon. With an increasing membership, the sales have advanced, a sign of activity in our young society. During the coming year, the superintendent hopes to see much better results, but these can only be brought about by individual efforts on the part of each member. Blank books may be had at 8 cents each, or two for 15 cents. May we not expect your books soon to come in filled?

Circuits will be started soon and the work of the exchange department again is in running order. In but one instance have books been kept over the required time and this has been satisfactorily accounted for to the superintendent. Members have been quite prompt along this line. Now will not each of the members do their duty in the matter of filling up a book or two and placing them in the superintendent's hands?

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE W. ACHARD,
 Exchange Superintendent.

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN.

Total number of pieces in the library, 551; acquired in the following manner:

From C. G. Hart, complete file of P. Phil., and some duplicate copies of each 20
 Miscellaneous papers donated by C. G. Hart..... 449
 From H. S. Swenson, complete file of Minn. Phil... 5
 From Conrad G. Selvig, miscellaneous papers..... 50
 From E. S. Martin 10

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

New Members, W. P. A.

No. 89—W. J. Walsh, De Kalb, Ill.
 No. 90—L. J. Zeigler, Madison, Wis.
 No. 91—C. L. Trabert, Minneapolis, Minn.
 No. 92—Charles P. Galyon, Knoxville, Tenn.

Applications.

Anna Lambert, 151 Summit avenue, St. Paul, Minn. References, C. E. Thayer, H. D. Ruehlman.

W. C. Whittall, 1418 Spruce Place, Minneapolis, Minn. References, G. W. Achard, H. S. Swensen.

J. Watson Smith, Chamber of Commerce Building, St. Paul. References, C. E. Thayer, G. W. Achard.

The above have applied for admission for membership and unless objection is made before Nov. 15, they will be considered as elected upon payment of dues.

I have received communication from R. W. French, of Hartland, Wash., our new elected attorney, that owing to press of business he shall have to decline the office of attorney. Mr. French desires to thank the members of the W. P. A. for the honor they would so kindly confer on him.

There are several members that are still delinquent in paying their dues. The next issue of the Official Organ will contain a list of members that have been dropped for non-payment of dues. The Western Philatelic Association is no boom society and don't desire to swell its membership with members that don't pay their dues. I will drop every member from the association in the next 30 days that will not pay up. Do you care to see your name in the list for the sake of spending 35 cents. One hundred members that pay are worth five hundred that don't. Persons that don't intend to pay their dues, and expect something for nothing, are requested not to send in their names as we don't want such persons in our association. As secretary of the W. P. A., I mean business, and I would much rather see the Western with forty members in good standing than five hundred that have not paid. The bills of the association have to be paid and wind and promises will not pay the printer. The new membership cards will soon be out and each member in good standing will receive one. Anyone wishing application blanks please send to the secretary and some will be furnished at once. I hope all of the new officers will work hard for the Western. We have a large field to draw from. Let every member strive to do his best and we shall soon have an association to be proud of.
 C. E. THAYER,
 Secretary W. P. A.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. II.

NOVEMBER.

No. 3.

CORDOVA.

By Topaz.

In the Argentine Republic are fourteen states or provinces in all and three of these, it is said, have issued postage stamps independently of the central government. The provinces thus known to philatelists are Buenos Ayres, Corrientes and Cordova, the last named being the present subject of our attention. The name of Cordova or in Spanish Cordoba belongs to one of the central provinces which in area is almost exactly the same size as the State of Georgia, but is of course far behind the latter in size of population and other respects. Its capital is a city of the same name. Now the issues of postage stamps for Buenos Ayres and Corrientes are of undoubted authenticity, but with the supposed issue of Cordova the case is altogether different. Everything about these labels is disputed. Out of a dozen catalogues examined, all give the date of issue as 1860 except Henry Collin's, which says that their emission took place in 1858. Consequently their precise date is very uncertain. The number of denominations comprising the set was given some years ago as six, being as follows: 5 centavos, blue; 10, black; 15, violet; 25, yellow; 50, green; 1 peso, carmine.

However, no genuine specimens of the 25 c., 50 c. and 1 p. were ever found, so these are now rejected by every one as inventions of the philatelic sharper. The English philatelists recognize only the 5, 10 and 15, and the latter is thrown over by all the collectors on this side, as no specimens but bogus ones are known. Our list is now reduced to the 5 and 10 centavos. The true history of these is that they are genuine stamps issued between thirty and forty years ago, but as revenue and not as postage stamps. One dealer says they were issued in 1860 and superseded January 11, 1862, by the stamps of the Argentine Republic. However, this is a fiction, for we have the statement of the Argentine Postmaster-General himself that the stamps in question were never used for postage but were local revenue like the large stamps of Buenos Ayres occasionally met with in packets. Therefore the 5 and 10 c. are the only genuine Cordovan stamps, and these two are of no interest to any one but collectors of fiscals. The 5 c. blue is the more common of the two, though it is a high priced stamp. The 10c black is almost, if not quite, unobtainable. This disposes of the question as to the value of the Cordova issue. Being almost unknown and very scarce, some designing dealers put them before the public as a rare postal emission and added other denominations from their own brain. There is not the least thing on the face of the stamp to indicate whether it was intended for revenue or postal service, and this fact probably induced swindlers to use them in the way they have. The entire sets of Cordovan and Samoan stamps, the Holte locals, the 25, 50 and 100 cents Corea, and a host of surcharged counterfeits are only a few of the bogus stamps which ought to be cleaned out of our catalogues.

For the benefit of revenue collectors I will say a few words more about the 5 and 10 c. of Cordova. The

genuine are lithographed on laid paper, and there are two varieties of the 5, blue and bright blue. Of course, there are no postmarked specimens. Senf Bros., of Germany, have made fine imitations of these to give away with their paper, the I. B. J. Imitations are liable to deceive revenue collectors. Instead of laid paper they are on wove and better lithographed than the real. The 5 is of wrong shade of blue, however, and the 10 is printed in greyish brown instead of black.

IDIOSYNCRACIES OF COLLECTORS.

By Pendennis.

In going through life we frequently meet with people of peculiar traits. It is said that we all have our foibles and that to understand man we must study man. While this is true in the ordinary routine of business, it is never so appreciable or manifest as it appears in collectors. Every collector has a queer spot somewhere in his make-up and many are possessed of not only one, but oftentimes of three or four.

There is one peculiarity to which almost every collector seems addicted, and that is their aversion to the department stamps surcharged "specimen." These are not catalogued, and were you to offer one to a collector at the prices for either used or unused stamps of the same denomination, the buyer would regard you as a fit subject for an imbecile asylum. But why should he? Are they not just as genuine as those which never were touched by the eight pieces of type composing that word? To my notion they have an additional badge of authenticity. They cannot be classed as reprints. Neither are they known as counterfeits, and yet collectors seem to think that a price over one-half the catalogue rates is extortion and robbery. For my part, as far as any real pleasure is derived, I would as soon have them as a cancelled one. Just who is to blame for this freak in prices, it is somewhat difficult to ascertain, but the fact is an assured one, nevertheless.

Then, again, have you noticed how very carefully a certain collector will scan an apparently cheap stamp? It must be evenly perforated, well centred, lightly cancelled and priced low, or he will not touch it. But let some rarity be placed before him for his inspection and be a very poor specimen, perforations partly clipped, postmarked galore and priced away up, and this same species of the genus homo will snap it up with an avidity worthy of a hungry shark. Consistency with him then ceases to become a virtue. He must have that stamp, and, ten to one, he pays much more than he would had he waited until he could have obtained a much better copy of it.

Another "oddity" in the collecting line, and one who brings upon Philatelia's fair name more ridicule and abuse than any other, is he who shifts "with every stormy wind that blows," and one day will be a general collector, the next a specialist, and the third give up collecting entirely, only to begin again the fourth day. I have in mind a collector who had a very large collection up to about three months ago, when he concluded

to drop all save those of one country, and that not the U. S. A. stamps, either. A few weeks ago he gave up that country also, and now he says that he is going to begin again, but does not know what he will take up. Now, while he is perfectly free to act as he wishes, still he brings no credit to our pursuit.

Another acquaintance of mine actually spends more money in paying his dues to the numerous societies to which he belongs than he does upon his collections. And to what purpose? Simply to hold an office. He can talk intelligently (at times) upon the affairs of this association and the dissensions arising in another society, but his knowledge of his collection and stamps in general is so vague and misty that it reminds one of an American in a London fog. Two or possibly three societies are enough for any one, but when it comes to a dozen or fifteen, it appears to be stretching the matter entirely too far. I am "wound up" on this subject and hardly know when or where to stop, but as I have taken up as much space as was allotted me, I must desist, in the near future hoping to be able to point out a few other likenesses with which most of the readers are familiar.

WHAT A STAMP COLLECTOR OUGHT TO KNOW.

How the Young Collector Can Make Himself Worthy to Be Called a Philatelist.

None of the duties connected with intelligent stamp collecting is so generally overlooked and ignored by collectors as that of making themselves thoroughly familiar with every detail in the history and description of the stamps they place in their collections, and though the following article, or others like it, has been frequently reprinted, no apology is needed for printing it again. It ought to be useful to those who wish to be more than merely stamp collectors in name, and we hope they will give it a careful reading.

The different countries where the stamps have been successfully employed.

The dates when the stamps were created and suppressed.

The classifying of the stamps of each country in the order they were issued.

Their classification according to type.

The details necessary to distinguish genuine stamps from imitations.

The kind of printing adopted for every stamp; and consequently the characteristic features of lithography, and engraving on wood, stone, or metal.

The various kinds of paper employed for the impression, whether thick or thin, dull or glazed, watermarked or plain.

The various watermarks in the paper, and what stamps have been struck on watermarked paper.

What stamps have never been perforated; those which were issued first imperforate, and have been perforated subsequently; and, lastly, those which have never been issued otherwise than perforated.

What are the stamps where the sheets are composed of different types.

Whether the paper of the envelopes is wove, laid or watermarked.

Designs of stamps on envelopes that have been affixed on various kinds of paper.

What stamps have been created for any special service; that is to say, for simple letters, registered letters, too late letters, newspapers, official correspondence, etc.

What stamps are struck on sheets in groups of types, differing from each other only in some slight particulars.

What stamps are found only in one type.

What stamps have been printed by mistake in colors that were not their distinguished mark of value.

What stamps have been reprinted, and how the reprints are to be distinguished from the original impression.

What are the countries where the reprints are available for postal purposes.

The various sizes of envelopes on which stamps have been affixed.

On which side or sides the stamp was affixed.

What envelopes have or have not inscriptions on them.

The color of such inscriptions.

Whether the inscriptions are to the right or left, or on any other part.

When an amateur has devoted himself to a somewhat serious study of these particulars, he will be able to give a rational classification to his collection, to keep it free from every false or doubtful specimen, and to talk of stamps with some degree of authority, regarding with pitying indifference those jests which are in such good taste, but are only variations of that well known refrain, "Can anything be more stupid than this mania for collecting postage stamps."

OUR EXCHANGES.

All matter intended for Review should be mailed to the Review editor, F. S. George, 17 South Fourth street, Minneapolis, Minn.

The following have been received since our last issue:

October Numbers—The American Collector, The International Stamp, The Post Office, The Pennsylvania Philatelist, The Postage Stamp, The Philatelic Californian, The Eastern Philatelist, Stamps, The International Philatelist, The Philatelic Free Lance, and The Stamp Advertiser.

November Numbers—The Philatelic West, The Rocky Mountain Stamp, and The Evergreen State Philatelist.

Other Publications—List No. 1 and No. 2 of the Nassau Stamp Company, giving a reference and price list of U. S. Revenues and Bureau Plate Numbers.

The International Philatelist comes to us this month with a much improved appearance, both as to paper and contents. The first article is by Severn on "Good Stamps to Get." The article is well written and contains a number of good pointers for the average collector. Among the stamps that are catalogued too low he gives the following: The 2rs 1851 of Denmark; the only adhesive stamp of Poland, issued in 1860; the first issue of Luxemburg, 1852; the 4s 1854 of Norway; the 5c blue, the 10c red and the 15c orange, 1852, of Netherlands; the 10c carmine, 1864, of Dutch Indies. He closes with the following timely advice:

"Among the early Belgium and Sweden, cheap prices are asked for stamps that are possibly worthy of higher catalogue ratings.

"All of these stamps are, to quote some of the dealers who gauge values by their extended experience in Philately, 'catalogued too low;' consequently, the collector of the great middle class should make all haste to buy them."

The next article on "A Reference List of the Stamps of Cochin China," is by Georges Carion. It is a good article and shows much study on the subject. A history, in brief, of the country and its stamps is given. In closing Mr. Carion says: "From the small number issued it can be seen that these stamps are destined to become very scarce, and philatelically speaking are worth as much or more than the unpaid letter stamps of Benin, Martinique, Diego-Suarez, St. Pierre Miquelon, Tahiti, etc."

In the October number of the Philatelic Californian are a number of articles of great value to the stamp devotee. The first article is on "The United States Department Stamps," and gives all of the recent investigations and discoveries pertaining to the Agricultural and Executive Departments. Following the introduction, which is complete and full, are the articles I and II, which we quote in condensed form:

I.
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

"The stamps of this department consist of nine different values, all printed in the same color, yellow, of slightly varying shades. In their production two bank-note companies, the Continental and the American, participated. The former used both the original and improved process.

"Below will be found in tabular form the quantity of each value issued to the department from 1873 to 1884:

Original Process.		Continental Company—			
Year.	1c	2c	3c	6c	
1874	60,000	95,000	80,000	60,000	
1875	30,000	80,000	15,000	25,000	
1876		25,000	30,000		
1877	5,000	15,000	20,000	5,000	
Year.	10c	12c	15c	24c	30c
1874	50,000	19,000	14,000	30,000	32,000
1875	45,000	32,000	40,000	30,000	50,000
Improved Process.		Continental Company—			
Year.	1c	2c	3c	6c	
1878			50,000		
1879		5,000	40,000	10,000	
American Bank Note Company.		Printed on Thick Porous Paper—			
Year.	1c	2c	3c	6c	
1880			40,000	5,000	
1881			60,000	5,000	
1882	200		50,000		
1883	65	10,000	50,000	10,000	
1884	150	150	50		
Year.	10c	12c	15c	24c	30c
1882	50	50	50	50	50
1883	65	65	50	65	65
1884	150	150	150	150	150

The small number issued during 1882, 1883 and 1884, barring the 2c, 3c and 6c values, seems to indicate some special purpose, but what that was is impossible to say at this late day. Did some dealer with a good pull in the Department secure the sets? They certainly are among the scarcest of all Department stamps.

II. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

This Department was most scantily supplied, both as to the number of values and also the quantities of each. The values are the 1c, 2c, 3c, 6c and 10c. Carmine

was the color chosen for them, varying from a light, rosy carmine to a deep carmine. The Continental Bank Note Company was the only one that produced these stamps, in 1874, 1876 and 1877. The following table shows the quantity of each value issued for each year:

Original Process.		Continental Company—			
Year.	1c	2c	3c	6c	10c
1874	1,600	2,100	9,100	1,900	1,550
1876	2,200	3,000	5,400	2,100	2,300
1877	3,000	4,000	9,000	1,500	1,300

The total quantity of each value is small; and, if Mr. Luff is sound in his theory that the regular stock of the Department stamps was drawn upon for "specimen" sets, and we have no doubt as to the accuracy of his statement, for many sources of information are open and available to him that cannot be reached by other mortals—the rarity of the uncharged stamps is further explained, and consequently their high price justified by the comparatively frequent occurrence of "specimen" sets. The 6c stamp is scarcer and valued higher than the 10c, though issued in larger quantity.

Following this is an article on "The Stamps of St. Helena," by Chas. E. Jenney. The next is an illustrated article by Alfred H. Greenbaum, on "United States Envelopes and Wrappers." The article is continued and treats of the first and second series only. The balance of this issue is full of good reading and should be read by every collector.

We have awaited with a good deal of interest the first number of the new illustrated monthly, "Stamps," and now that the same is before us we must say that it is a disappointment. After a short introduction titled "Our Plan," is an article by L. A. C. on Benjamin Franklin. The next on "The Olympian Games," is by Alpha. This is followed by a short essay on "Compositions," which completes the issue.

The Managing Editor informs us that space is at a premium in this issue, so that we will have to omit many things that we intended to say about the various publications we have received. We will try and make up for it in the next issue, which will be an extra large edition. Among the magazines which we intended to review this month, and which deserve special mention, is the American Collector, the Eastern Philatelist and the Rocky Mountain Stamp.

Western Philatelic Association.

President, C. E. Severn, Chicago, Ills.
 Vice-President, H. D. Ruehlman, Sharon, Wis.
 Secretary, C. E. Thayer, 154 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.
 Treasurer, J. R. Gooding, 757 Fairmont Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
 Exchange Superintendent, G. W. Achard, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Trustees, H. S. Swensen, C. E. N. Howard, C. J. Tyren, Minneapolis, Minn.

REPORT OF PURCHASING AGENT.

One of the advantages of membership in the Western Philatelic Association is the ability to secure all new issues unused at 10 per cent over actual cost of same. I have now the pleasure to announce that this department is now in running order and for the benefit of members wishing to participate I give the following rules and information:

A member desiring to avail himself of the benefits of this department must make a cash deposit as provided in one of the following classes:

Class A—Deposit required \$2.50. This will entitle the participant to receive all new issues of face value up to and including 10 cents. No deposit under \$2.50 will be received.

Class B—Deposit \$5.00. This will entitle the participant to receive all new issues up to 25 cents.

Counterfeit Detector, H. C. Beardsley, Box, 216, St. Joe, Mo.
 Purchasing Agent, L. G. Lambert, 151 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
 Auction Manager, O. K. Carstarphen, Denver, Colo.
 Librarian, E. Lentz, Baker City, Oregon.
 Attorney, R. W. French, Hartland, Wash.

Class C—Deposit \$7.50. This will entitle participant to receive all new issues under face value of \$1.25.

Class D—Deposit \$10.00. This will entitle participant to all new issues of the value under \$2.50.

Class E—Deposit \$25.00. This will entitle participant to all new issues up to any amount face value.

Deposits will be placed in a savings bank and a certificate issued for amount deposited, same redeemable in cash subject to 60 days' notice. The member's account with the department, however, must be balanced.

New issues will be sent from time to time as stamps are received, for which he must remit, regardless of his original deposit represented by the certificate. No account of this kind must remain open over thirty days.

Geographical distinctions and limitations may be made, but the deposit must be made in accordance with

(Continued on Page 21.)

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A Monthly Magazine.

Published by the Phil. Newsletter Publishing Co.
Minneapolis, Minn.E. F. Van GORDER, Pres. W. R. YOUNG, Treas.
C. E. N. HOWARD, Sec'y.

EDITORS.

H. S. Swensen, F. S. George, A. Edsten.

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Managing Editor,GEO. W. ACHARD,
242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.Entered at the Minneapolis Post Office as second
class matter, Oct. 16, 1896.

In our advertising columns on the second page of the cover our readers will find an ad. which will be to their benefit to read. It is headed "For 60 Cents." We desire to call more particular attention to it as it may not be seen by a number who will read this column. We are in a position to offer a year's subscription and the 57th catalogue for the very reasonable sum of 60 cents, if money is sent by postal order. We do this in the hope that we shall secure many new subscribers, but old patrons may renew their subscriptions at the same rate. The catalogues will be mailed as soon as published, and you will secure them as soon as though you had ordered direct from the publishers. Send in your order and we will give you credit for the same.

The Christmas edition of The Newsletter will surpass anything we have previously attempted. While we believe that we are giving value received to our supporters, still we shall endeavor to give them something out of the ordinary as far as The Newsletter is concerned. To this end, therefore, we have the pleasure of announcing that the Christmas number will be just twice its regular size, that it will be filled with articles of unusual merit from the pens of our foremost authors, that from a typographical standpoint it will be unsurpassed. Not only will its size be doubled, but also the number printed and circulated will likewise be increased in the same proportion, thus making it one of the best advertising mediums extant. Our rates will not be changed, neither will our terms of payment. Does your business warrant a little boosting? Then try The Newsletter's Christmas edition. Have you anything to offer as especial bargains? The Newsletter's columns will assist you in finding customers. Do you want to purchase or exchange anything in the philatelic line? Try The Newsletter. Remember, we shall not reserve any particular space for any advertiser, so that in order to have the choice of space you should get your order and copy in as early as possible. The edition will all be mailed by the 12th, so that Christmas bargains will be allowed a chance for sale. Get a hustle on you, or some other more enterprising dealer will get the trade you are looking for. Don't wait until just before we go to press, but reply to this at once.

THE MANAGING BOARD.

EDITORIAL.

There recently appeared in a local "daily" an article with the heading "A Dying Fad," the author of which transcends exactness, misrepresents facts, and with rare grace and pseudo earnestness urges that Philately in all its glory and power is slowly but surely becoming extinct as a pursuit of enjoyment.

Mr. S. Allan Taylor, of Boston, Mass., writes us that in the New York Daily Press for Oct. 18th there appeared a long article in which the author attempts to show and does assert that the great firm, Hilton, Hughes & Co., of New York, was forced to the wall because of the misjudgment and insanity of Mr. Hilton, the head of the house, and that his weakness of mind was superinduced by abnormal interest in the collecting of stamps.

Both of the above mentioned articles are excellent illustrations of the smooth literary fabrications, which are the newspaper's most readable "space-fillers," and which are written by persons who have but an extrinsic knowledge of the facts they seek to expound.

Such misrepresentations not only should receive adverse criticism but also severest censure. We presume that they are merely written for the purpose of meeting the demands of a certain number of ems of space, without regard for the concern of other parties interested, but with respect for the sensational and readability.

We believe that it is possible that a man may lose his mind through a too ardent interest in stamp collecting, but so may a person become insane through a too close application to study, thought or pleasure. The "Press" article is written in such a spirit as implies that Philately should be looked out for as though it were some terrible disease of the brain. As a matter of fact, Mr. Hilton's reason was not unhinged because of philatelic paralysis.

The newspapers of the country have been both kind and unkind to the stamp collecting fraternity, but they have had no reason for holding to the latter attitude.

Even the philatelic press at times gives space to affairs and fallacies which are unsightly moles and freckles on the fair face of Miss Philatelia, but which are admitted to publication because of sensational characteristics.

It may be hard to neutralize the effect of an erroneous "united press article," but it certainly requires but little effort to make the stamp paper less an exponent of impotent auguries and false declarations.

The puerile-minded scrawler continually is saying that speculation is the death curse of Philately, that seebeckism will cause its downfall, and things of a like nature. Such assertions do no one any good, and oftentimes are harmful to the interests of collectors.

Such unconscionable vaporings concentrated in the above mentioned articles have a humid effect on the stamp enthusiast, and the pithless pulings of some of our class writers may grate the nerves of some and cause them to believe that stamp collecting's bright day has passed, but, as one column of Philately's peristyle falls, ten are constructed.

The interests of thousands of persons are so imbedded in the rock of Philately that nothing less than the dynamite of eternal destruction could strip those interests of the firmly adhering atoms.

Plagiarism is a crime that has been practiced to some extent in Philately, but never has the philatelic literary world been the victim of a more daring imposition, a more fragrant steal than that practiced last month by a well-known philatelist and an officer in "The Philatelic Sons of America."

In the "Asian," Calcutta, India, issue of July 10th, 1896, there appeared an article entitled "Zoology in Stamps," which is the work of Mr. L. Leydekker. It is a very instructive essay, and has been reprinted in "Stanlye Gibbons Monthly" and "The Daily Stamp Item," due credit having been given the proper parties.

The same article, changed in the arrangement of the paragraphs and some words, is the first article in the October "Pennsylvania Philatelist," the name of R. W. Ashcroft being given as the author.

Whole paragraphs are given in the identical phraseology of the original article, but words are changed here and there, plainly evidencing Ashcroft's intent to deceive.

Mr. Ashcroft has been identified with Philately off

and on for the last five or six years, and his conduct hitherto has been irreproachable. He has been considered a very bright fellow for one so young, but it appears that he has been judged incorrectly. His fall from a respected position comes as a severe blow to his many friends who find that they have truly mistaken their man. "Murder will out."

Is the East losing its grip as an auction center? The prices realized at recent stamp auctions held there are 50 per cent below late catalogue prices. Just think of a fine, evenly centered copy of the 1857 ninety bringing but \$11.00, and a beautiful set of Executives but \$24.30. In explanation of this state of affairs the "Metropolitan Philatelist" says: "Prices, as will be seen by the following list, are away down. The election did it. Buyers are happy. The seller—well, he will have better luck next time." You can't buy good U. S. in this part of the country for half of catalogue. But you can easily sell them at that rate. We admit that there is depression in stamp prices, but this is a healthful depression.

We have received the J. W. Scott Co. Catalogue of the Perozo collection of Columbian stamps and U. S., to be sold under the hammer Nov. 25 and 26. The Chicago Philatelic Society announces that its 37th auction sale will be held Nov. 17 and 18.

WESTERN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from Page 19)

the class he joins. Any member participating is entitled to subscribe for one to three copies, or he may be entered in Class A for one copy, in Class B for another, etc. In any case he must make the full deposit in whatever class he joins for each copy wanted.

As I am purchasing agent for four of our National Philatelic Societies with a membership of 4,000, and have appointed members of these societies in nearly every country to act as purchasing agents, I can secure new issues quicker and at less cost than any other purchasing agent. Respectfully,

L. G. LAMBERT,

151 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

NEW MEMBERS.

93. Anna Lambert, 151 Summit avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

94. W. C. Whitall, 1418 Spruce Place, Minneapolis, Minn.

95. J. Watson Smith, Chamber of Commerce Building, St. Paul, Minn.

APPLICATIONS.

R. J. Lemert, Pueblo, Colo. Ref. J. R. Gooding, C. E. Thayer.

H. G. Earle, 1611 Fourth avenue south, Minneapolis, Minn. Ref., G. W. Achard, H. S. Swensen.

Frank N. Massoth, 838 Marquette Building, Chicago, Ills. Ref., C. E. Severn, G. W. Achard.

Fred Michael, 258 West Madison street, Chicago, Ills. Ref., C. E. Severn, G. W. Achard.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership on the 15th of next month, provided no objection is filed. Members wanting application blanks may obtain them by addressing me.

C. E. THAYER, Secretary, W. P. A.

THE MINNEAPOLIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The annual election of the local society occurred at the meeting of October 16th. One year had passed since its inception, and the boys were somewhat jubilant over its success. There has been a steady growth and the interest manifested has been of a stable nature. President Young, against his wishes, was selected as his own successor, the other officers chosen being as follows: Vice-president, Mr. Littlefield; secretary, Mr. George; treasurer, Mr. Whiteley; librarian, Mr. Stebbins; library

board, the president, librarian and Mr. Achard. A surplus was reported by the treasurer, while the outgoing secretary's books showed a membership of 19, of whom 15 are active and 4 corresponding members. The librarian's report was the occasion of much favorable comment and simply illustrated what a little personal effort will do toward making this department one of the principal features of a local society. All complete volumes are to be bound in cloth, with a very substantial leather back, and that at a cost that is astonishing by reason of its smallness.

The society holds a meeting on the third Friday evening of each month and congratulates itself on having never missed a single month without holding a meeting. At times the attendance was small, but the meetings were held nevertheless. One of the features at the meetings is the reading of a paper by some member. These papers are interesting and instructive and have largely been the means of keeping up and increasing the interest in the meetings. A very pleasant social feature, and one which is looked forward to with considerable enthusiasm, is the proposed banquet, which will, in all probability, take place during December. It will be an innovation in local philatelic history, as nothing of the sort has as yet been attempted in the Northwest previously. That it will be a success seems assured, judging from the manners of some of the members.

The 57th Catalogue and The Philatelic Newsletter, one year, for a 60-cent postal order. Send at once.

PRICES OF 57th CATALOGUE.

	Unused.	Used.
ANGOLA.		
1870-76, 10r, yellow	\$1.60	\$1.00
40r, blue	2.50	2.50
ANTIGUA.		
1862, no watermark, 6d, green.....	20.00	.....
1863, star, 1d, lilac rose	3.00	.75
star, 6d, green	5.00	1.25
1873, C. C. (12½), 1d, red	2.00	1.00
1d, vermilion ...	3.50	1.75
6d, green	17.50	1.00
1873-79, C. C. (14), 1d, red	1.00	.50
2½d, brown	15.00	12.50
6d, green	5.00	1.50
1882-85, C. A. (14), 2½d, brown.....	4.00	1.00
4d, blue	8.50	1.00
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.		
1862, 5c pink	1.00	.40
10c green	2.50	2.50
15c blue	4.00	5.00
1864, imperforate, 10c green	20.00	20.00
15c, blue	40.00	40.00
perforated, 5c rose	1.00	.25
5c lake	1.00	.35
10c green	2.00	1.00
15c blue	3.00	2.00
1867, 5c carmine	5.00	4.00
1868-69, 5c vermilion	2.50	.75
AUSTRIA.		
1858-59, 2k yellow	10.00	.15
2k orange	75.00	3.50
3k black	12.00	.65
3k green	5.00	.60
5k red	7.50	.01
10k brokn	20.00	.01
15k blue	35.00	.02
1861, 2k yellow	1.25	.06
3k green	1.25	.06
5k red	1.00	.01
10k brown	2.00	.01
15k blue	2.50	.01
1863 (14), 2k yellow	3.00	.25
3k green	3.00	.20
5k rose	2.50	.03
10k blue	6.00	.05

1864 (9½), 15k brown	5.00	.05	1850-58, 9k green	1.25	.04
2k yellow	.25	.04	12k red	2.50	1.00
3k green	.25	.04	18k yellow	2.50	1.25
5k rose	.15	.01	1867, 1k green	1.00	.04
10k blue	.25	.01	3k rose	1.50	.01
15k	.25	.01	6k blue	6.00	.15
LOMBARDY—VENICE.					
1850, thin paper, 5c yellow	25.00	1.00	9k stone	6.00	.50
5c orange	20.00	.75	12k lilac	6.00	1.25
15c red	10.00	.02	18k red	6.00	1.25
thick paper, 15c red	10.00	.02	1868, 6k stone	6.00	.18
30c brown	15.00	.02	7k blue	6.00	.08
1858-59, 2s yellow	2.00	.40	1874 (unperforate), 1 mark	20.00	1.00
3s black	4.00	.75	(perforated), 1 mark	7.00	.15
3s green	4.00	.75	1875, 7k blue	.04	.75
10s brown	2.00	.04	10k yellow	.10	.50
15s blue	4.00	.04	1876, 3pf, light green	.35	.01
1861, 5s red	4.00	.04	5pf, green	1.00	.04
10s brown	10.00	.12	10pf, rose	.60	.01
1863 (14), 2s yellow	.75	.25	20pf, blue	1.25	.01
3s green	2.50	.50	25pf, brown	3.00	.05
5s rose	3.00	.03	50pf, scarlet	6.00	.06
10s blue	35.00	.12	1 mark, violet	35.00	.35
15s brown	15.00	.15	2 mark, orange	2.50	.08
1863 (9½), 2s yellow	.25	.85	1881, 3pf, green	.35	.01
3s green	.25	.25	5pf, violet	.35	.02
BADEN.					
1851, 1k buff	20.00	.75	10pf, carmine	.35	.01
3k yellow	10.00	.04	20pf, blue	.50	.01
6k green	20.00	.06	25pf, brown	2.00	.04
9k pink	2.00	.10	50pf, brown	5.00	.63
1853-57, 3k green	8.50	.03	1 mark, violet	.50	.03
6k yellow	10.00	.05	1888, 3pf, green	.15	.01
3k blue	20.00	.10	25pf, brown	1.50	.02
1861, 1k black	2.00	.08	50pf, brown	3.00	.02
3k blue	4.00	.08	BELGIUM.		
9k rose	1.50	.80	1866, 10c, slate	.75	.02
1864-68, 6k blue	25.00	.15	20c, blue	.75	.02
BAHAMAS.					
1861 (14 to 16), 1d lake	20.00	5.50	30c, brown	1.50	.08
4d rose	60.00	7.50	40c rose	2.00	.08
6d violet	50.00	6.00	1 franc, lilac	2.00	.85
(12), 1d lake	35.00	10.00	1883, 25c, blue	.60	.10
4d rose	10.00	10.00	50c, violet	1.00	.25
6d gray	10.00	10.00	BERGEDORF		
(13), 1d carmine	40.00	6.00	1861, ½s, violet	150.00	.....
4d rose	5.00	5.00	3s, rose	100.00	.....
6d violet	8.50	8.50	BRAZIL.		
1862-67 (12½), 1d carmine	1.00	1.00	1843, 30r	6.50	4.00
1d vermilion	3.00	1.50	60r	5.00	1.50
4d rose	2.50	1.00	90r	17.50	12.50
1s green	10.00	10.00	1844, 300r	40.00	22.50
1882, 1d vermilion	3.00	2.50	600r	60.00	40.00
4d rose	15.00	2.50	1861, 430r, yellow	6.00	4.00
BARBADOS.					
1852, blue paper, ½d green	4.00	6.00	1876, 10r, vermilion	1.50	1.00
1d blue	4.00	1.75	20r, lilac	.60	.40
4d red	4.00	6.00	1881, 200r, red-brown	2.00	.35
white paper, ½d green	4.50	2.50	BREMEN.		
1d blue	4.00	.85	1861-63, 2gr, yellow	10.00	20.00
1871, 4d red	10.00	10.00	2gr, orange	15.00	25.00
4d vermilion	10.00	10.00	3gr, blue	15.00	13.50
1871-73, ½d green	50.00	6.00	10gr, black	15.00	25.00
3d claret	8.50	5.00	5gr, green	20.00	6.00
4d red	7.50	7.50	1866, 7gr, yellow	4.00	60.00
4d vermilion	7.50	7.50	10gr, black	7.00	25.00
1s black	.85	.85	BRITISH BECHUANALAND.		
1873, 5s pink	35.00	16.50	1886 (anchor), ½d black	.12	1.25
1874 (large star), ½d green	4.00	.50	1d red	.30	.30
1d blue	4.00	.35	1887, 1 shilling, green	2.50	.35
1874, C. C., ½d green	2.00	.75	2 shilling, green	4.00	1.50
4d scarlet	7.50	1.50	2s 6d, green	4.00	.....
6d orange	15.00	5.00	5 shillings, green	6.00	.....
1874-78, 3d violet	3.50	2.50	10 shillings	10.00	.....
1882-85, 4d slate	5.00	.25	1889, ½d on 3d, lilac	6.00	10.00
6d gray	2.00	2.60	1892-94, 2d	.18	.18
1s red-brown	1.50	1.50	4d	.50	.50
5s ochre	12.00	12.00	6d	.50	.50
BAVARIA.					
1849, 6k brown, broken circle	80.00	1.00	1 shilling	2.00	2.00
BRITISH COLUMBIA.					
			1861, 2½d, pink	250.00	250.00
			(perf.), 2½d, pink	6.00	5.00
			1865, (perf), 5c, rose	6.00	5.00

10c, blue	5.50	4.50	1892, 2c, red-rose	1.00	.50
1868, (14), 10c, rose	50.00	50.00	ANTIOQUA.		
\$1, green	75.00	75.00	1869, 2½c, blue	1.00	1.00
BRITISH GUIANA.			5c, green	1.50	1.50
1876, 96c, bistre	25.00	15.00	20c, brown	1.00	1.00
BRITISH HONDURAS.			1p, carmine	2.50	5.00
1865 (14), 1d blue	1.00	1.50	1873, 10c, lilac	5.00	5.00
6d, rose	8.00	5.00	1875, 1c, green (glazed)	1.00	1.00
1s, green	15.00	7.50	1878, 2½c, blue .....	.60	.60
1872-73 (12½), 1d blue .....	.85	3.00	5c, green .....	.75	.75
3d, brown	3.50	3.50	1882, 10c, mauve (laid paper)	7.50	4.00
6d, rose	10.00	5.00	20c, brown (laid paper) .....	.75	.75
1s, green	8.50	3.50	BOLIVAR.		
1872-74 (14), 1d blue .....	.75	1.25	1873, 10c, mauve	1.25	1.25
3d, brown	8.00	4.00	20c, green	5.00	5.00
6d, rose	30.00	7.50	SANTANDER.		
1s, green	7.50	3.00	1884, 10c, purple .....	.50	.50
1879, 4d, violet	7.50	1.00	1887, 10c, violet .....	.40	.40
1882, 1d blue	2.50	1.25	TOLIMA.		
1884-87, 4d, violet	1.25	.75	1884, 20c yellow .....	.60	.....
6d, yellow	16.50	25.00	25c, black	1.00	.....
1s, gray	22.50	22.50	50c, green .....	.75	.....
1888 (12½), 3c on 3d	100.00	.....	1p, vermilion	1.50	.....
C. A., 10c on 4d	1.25	1.25	1886, 5c, yellow-brown .....	.50	.50
20c on 6d	2.00	2.00	5c, brown .....	.25	.20
50c on 1s	25.00	30.00	10c, blue .....	.40	.40
BRUNSWICK.			1887, 1c, gray	1.00	.....
1852, 1s, rose	250.00	4.00	2c, mauve .....	.40	.....
2s, blue	100.00	2.50	former price, 75c, 2½c orange-red	10.00	.....
3s, vermilion	150.00	3.00	former price, \$1, 20c, yellow..	15.00	.....
1853, 1s, orange	12.00	.40	25c, black ..	2.00	.....
1s, yellow	12.00	.30	COOK ISLANDS.		
3s, rose	40.00	.65	1892, 10p, carmine	3.00	3.00
1863, Perce en arc, 1-3s, black	15.00	15.00	1843, 1d, brown .....	.25	.25
½s, green	25.00	25.00	COSTA RICA.		
1s, yellow	75.00	50.00	Prices same as last year.		
3s, rose	17.50	5.00	CUBA.		
BULGARIA.			1862-64, 2rp, vermilion .....	.20	1.00
1884-85, 3s on 10s .....	.75	.75	1867, 5c, lilac .....	.50	5.00
5s on 30s	1.00	1.00	20c, green .....	.40	.20
15s on 25s	1.00	1.00	40c, rose .....	.30	2.50
CANADA.			1868, 40c, rose .....	.50	.50
1851, laid paper, 12d, black	500.00	450.00	1869, 5c, rose	1.00	.....
1855, 10d, blue	75.00	13.00	10c, brown .....	.18	.....
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.			20c, orange .....	.35	.08
1853, blue paper, 1d, red	12.50	.85	40c, lilac	1.00	.65
4d, blue	12.50	.50	1870, 40c, rose	5.00	1.50
1853-64, white paper, 1d, carmine	1.50	1.25	1874, 12½c, brown .....	.25	.40
1d, rose	2.00	1.00	1p, carmine	2.00	3.00
4d, blue	1.75	.35	1877, 10c, green	5.00	.....
4d, slate	3.50	2.00	1878, 10c, black	1.50	.....
6d, gray	12.50	3.00	1p, carmine	1.00	1.00
6d, violet	6.00	2.50	1879, 10c orange	3.50	.....
6d, lilac	7.50	1.25	1880, 10c, rose	1.00	.....
1s, green	25.00	4.50	1882, 2½c, brown .....	.15	.10
1s, em. green	30.00	5.50	20c, red brown .....	.75	.75
1891-94 1s, green	2.50	.50	1884, 2½c, violet .....	.20	.12
CAPE VERDE.			1890 (newspaper), 4m .....	.10	.15
1877, 10r, yellow	1.00	.....	8m .....	.15	.25
40r, blue	2.00	.....	CYPRUS.		
CHILE.			1880, ½d, red .....	.40	.....
1852-62, 1c, yellow	1.50	1.00	4d, sea green	1.00	.....
20c, green	3.50	1.00	6d, slate	7.50	.....
COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.			1s green	9.00	.....
1861, 5c, yellow	7.50	6.00	30 paras	1.25	1.75
5c, buff	7.50	6.00	1881, No. 8, half penny .....	.75	1.00
10c, blue	6.50	4.50	No. 9, half penny	7.50	7.50
20c, red	12.00	7.50	No. 10, half penny .....	.85	1.50
1p, pink	12.00	8.00	1881, C. C., ½pi, green .....	.25	.25
1864, 1p, violet	10.00	7.50	1pi, rose .....	.80	.80
1866, 5p, green	10.00	5.50	2pi, blue	1.00	1.00
10p, vermilion	20.00	4.00	4pi, green	5.00	3.00
1869, 2½c, violet .....	.15	.35	6pi, slate	10.00	6.00
1870, 25c, blue	1.00	.75	1882, ½pi, green	2.00	1.00
1871-74, 1c, green .....	.15	.15	30 paras, rose	4.00	2.00
1876-77, 20c violet blue	1.25	.50	1882-84, C. A., ½pi, green .....	.08	.02
1888, 1p, claret, bluish	3.00	1.00	½pi, green .....	.20	.15
1p, claret	2.00	1.00	30 paras, mauve .....	.15	.15
1890-91, 20c, violet	1.25	1.25	1pi, rose .....	.15	.08

The 57th Catalogue and The Philatelic Newsletter,
one year, for a 60-cent postal order. Send at once.

	2pi, blue .....	.30	.08
	4pi, green .....	.60	.60
	6pi, slate	1.00	1.00
	12pi, red	3.00	3.00
DANISH WEST INDIES.			
1855-67,	3c, red, yellowish	2.50	1.50
	3c, carmine	1.50	.35
1872,	3c, rose	1.00	2.00
	4c, blue	4.00	.....
1873-79,	1c, green & lilac .....	.20	.08
	14c, lilac & green	5.00	5.00
DENMARK.			
1851,	2rs	15.00	2.50
1853-57,	16s, lilac	6.00	.75
1863,	16s, lilac	30.00	7.00
1870,	48s	8.00	3.00
Other stamps have advanced, but in unused condition.			
DOMINICA.			
1874 (12½),	1d, lilac	1.50	1.50
	6d, green	10.00	6.00
1879,	2½d, brown	4.00	1.50
	4d, blue	4.00	1.00
	6d, green	7.50	2.50
1883-90,	½d, bistre	1.00	1.00

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one year, for a 60-cent postal order. Send at once.

	1d, lilac	1.50	1.25
	2½d, claret	2.50	1.25
DUTCH INDIES.			
1864,	10c carmine	2.50	1.00
1868,	10c carmine	4.00	2.00
EGYPT.			
1867,	5pia, brown	4.50	4.50
1879,	10pa, pink	1.50	.40
1888 (unpaid),	5pia, gray	7.50	7.50
FALKLAND ISLANDS.			
1878-79,	1d, claret	10.00	6.00
	4d, gray	10.00	4.50
	6d, green	1.50	1.50
	1s, brown	1.50	1.50
1884,	1d, claret .....	.35	.35
1891,	1d, orange-brown .....	.35	.35
FERNANDO PO.			
1879,	5c, green	2.00	.....
	10c, rose	2.00	.....
1889,	10c, brown .....	.50	.75
FINLAND.			
1866-67,	1 mark	10.00	3.50
1875-81 (11),	8p, green60	.30
	1 mark,	5.00	.20
Other advances have been made on unused copies.			

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The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. II.

DECEMBER.

No 4.

THE MANUFACTURE OF STAMPS.

By George W. Achard.

[Read before the Minneapolis Philatelic Society.]

About a year ago the writer read before this society an article on "Varieties in Paper," and as some of the members have suggested that the plan followed in that monograph be continued along other lines connected with the making of stamps, I have consented to take up the subject where it was left by that paper. Realizing that an article dealing with the stamp from its beginning to the use for postage must necessarily be lengthy and to be of any value, should be exhaustive, it is not without some hesitancy that I undertake the subject, for the writer feels that he will probably not do the subject the justice which some older and more experienced writer would do.

The manufacture of postage stamps is a theme upon which very few persons outside the pale of Philately have written and a still smaller number in the ranks have paid it the attention which it deserves. Some of the longest and most bitterly fought law suits in the history of our United States courts have been over patents arising in the manufacture of these little bits of paper so earnestly sought for by the collector. As is well known almost every country lets out the contract of furnishing stamps to some bank note company. The reason for this is found in the fact that the companies can furnish stamps at a much less cost than the governments, and on the ground of economy they have secured the contracts.

The first step in the process of manufacture is to make the design, or in more technical terms, the essay. This, of course, is submitted for approval by artists who receive a considerable sum when a design is accepted. An engraver then places the design on steel which has been decarbonized so as to soften the hard surface of the metal. The engraving is always put on in the reverse, but the work is done by several sets of engravers for the reason that each engraver has a style of his own, and counterfeiting is made more difficult. The engraved block is said to be an intaglio or female die, in the printers art known as the matrix. Next the male die or punch is made by pressing a piece of soft steel upon the intaglio engraving which has been recarbonized to make it hard. After the male die has been made it is gone over by the engravers, who touch up any indistinct parts. The dies are now arranged in a press ordinarily accommodating from 200 to 400 of each, upper and lower. Of course, plates with a lesser number of dies are often used, but now most of the plates contain the number of dies stated above. The paper, which has undergone a dozen government counts to secure accuracy and prevent fraud, is then fed into the press, resting upon the female dies which are inked. The male dies come down and press the paper upon the

inked surface. This is, in short, the process of steel engraving.

When the engraved dies are finished, a number of "proofs are always struck off. These are of two kinds, namely, die and plate. Die, or hub proofs as they are frequently termed, are the impressions which are taken from the single dies before they have been arranged into plates and are distinguished from the latter by much longer margins than is possible from the entire plate. Plate proofs have only the margin left for perforating. Die proofs are usually printed on India paper, while most of the plate proofs are printed on card board. However, there are many of this latter class to be found on India paper. A few years ago but little attention was paid to proofs and essays, but with the advancement of Philately they have been given a status in collecting and are now considered as a legitimate field for the philatelist's attention.

The process of gumming the sheets was formerly a very slow and tedious one, as all the sheets were gummed by hand, a large brush being used. Now all this is done by machinery, the principle being a large roller which in passing over applies the mucilage very evenly. But even this is not without its faults, an example being found in the fact that almost one-half of the 3-cent 1869 issue were rendered valueless by reason of the poor gumming. After the gumming is done the sheets are placed on racks and dried over steam pipes.

Next comes the perforating. This seems like a very simple matter, but it is one about which the various governments had no end of trouble in the early days of stamps. As is well known, the first stamps were unperforated and were separated by the unhandy shears. The government of Great Britain offered quite a sum of money to the individual who would be ingenious enough to devise some means for an easy separation, and strangely enough the solution was furnished by an old toper in an English ale house, who wrote the postmaster-general to punch holes between the rows of stamps. The method was tried, but was not a success because of poor machinery, but afterward upon the introduction of more improved machinery it was a success and the inventor received the reward. It sometimes happens that there are two rows of perforations on the same side of a stamp, and then it is termed as double perforation. When the sides are perforated a different size from the top and bottom, it is termed compound perforation. These sizes are determined by the number of holes in a space of two centimeters, so that if a stamp has 13 holes in the prescribed space it is termed "perforated 13." It is frequently the case that the number of perforations determine a stamp's value or genuineness, so that it is of the utmost importance to have a perforation gauge handy. As there are many subdivisions to the

subject of perforations, it may be advisable to continue the method used in the article to which reference has previously been made.

Line Perforation—The stamps are divided by a coarse piece of ordinary printer's rule. Example, the Thurn and Taxis stamps.

Pin Perforation—In these the division was made by what looks like the point of a pin. Example, some of the Mexican issues.

Roulette—This closely resembles a series of dashes as - - - - - . Examples are numerous, see Brazil 1876; Uruguay, 1884, etc.

Serpentine—(Perce en arc.) The name itself is an explanation, see the stamps of Finland, 1860-8. Scaloped is but a very slight variation of the serpentine.

Saw-Tooth—(Perce en pointe.) In this style the division is made by teeth set like a saw. This form was used but little, the Guadalupe provisionals furnishing the best example.

Serrated—(Pere en scie.) This is but another term for saw tooth, and an illustration is furnished by the Bremen provisionals.

Zig-zag perforations are found in the La Guaira locals.

But I have digressed somewhat, it being my intention to cover the other methods of manufacturing the dies. In addition to the method of manufacturing by steel engraving above described, there are some seven or eight other methods employed. They are etching, wood engraving, engraving on ivory and celluloid, ordinary printing from type, lithographing, electrotyping and stereotyping.

In the process of etching a copper plate is heated and then treated to a solution of asphaltum varnish. When this is dry a tracery of the outlines of the design in reverse is made with a fine needle. This removes the varnish from the design and the plate is ready to be treated to a solution of acid which eats into the space from which the varnish has been removed, leaving the coated part intact. The varnish being taken off, the plate is ready for the press.

In the wood engraving, the design is engraved on a block of boxwood in reverse and the printing done therefrom. Engraving on ivory and celluloid is done in the same manner as on wood. The plates wear very rapidly and poor specimens are the result. A great many of the Indian states used this method.

The stamps from ordinary printing require no explanation.

In lithographing the process consists in drawing the designs in reverse on a sort of German limestone, using an ink especially prepared for the purpose. The stone is then covered with acid, which makes all save the design impervious to the printing ink which is used. The stamps of Venezuela afford an illustration.

Electrotyping is done by producing the design in wax, which, after being dusted with black lead is placed in a galvanic battery and a thin coating of copper plate is formed over the surface. This copper plate is then made the proper height by running molten metal into a mould. Stereotyping is a very similar process, but the matrix is made of papier mache and the coat of copper is not used.

So much for the manufacture of stamps in printing. But there is another subject in connection with them that must be thought of. It is the watermark. That it is of the utmost importance, one has only to turn to his catalogue and he will readily note the difference. Nor is this the only thing in its favor, for many of the most cunningly devised counterfeits fall down when it comes to the watermarks. As a matter of fact the use of watermarks was brought about by the wholesale attempts at counterfeiting on the continent. The first country to use watermarks was Great Britain, they being placed on the first issue in 1840. Since that time almost every nation has made use of them, the United States taking them up after

the counterfeiter had got in his fine work on the 1894 issue.

Briefly described the watermark may be said to be a design made on a sheet of paper while yet in the pulpy condition. They are produced by means of raised wires made into the design to be used and placed as required on the surface of the roller which passes over the sheet just as it is becoming hard and dry. These range in size, as is well known, from a few millimeters to the length and width of an entire sheet. To decipher some of them is enough to try the patience of a Job, and varied have been the methods advanced for bringing them plainly to the surface, the method of Mr. Krauth being by far the more satisfactory. I shall not attempt any sort of a listing in this article, as the catalogue renders it unnecessary. Suffice for me to state that if you have not given this branch of our pursuit any attention in the past, you should by all means make up for the loss by commencing at once. Remember the old adage of the Yankee, "there's money in it."

But one other matter remains for discussion. It is the subject of grills. The average philatelist confounds the two words, "grill" and "embossed." At this late date there is no good reason for such a confusion of terms, for they are widely diverging in their application. A grill has reference to the minute indentations on the back of a stamp, made by a steel die divided into small points. It is similar to that used by many firms to prevent the raising of a check. A stamp, on the other hand, is said to be embossed when the die has been sunken and the design shows in relief, as for instance, the stamps of the early issues of Portugal and many envelopes. The grill was used in order that the paper might be slightly broken and allow the cancelling ink to be absorbed the more readily. This, of course, was to prevent the washing and cleaning of stamps once used for postage. It had but a short life and no one seems to account for its early demise. It varied in size from one covering the entire stamp to $8\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ millimeters. But few countries used the grill and its life in the United States was limited from May 8, 1867, to the early part of 1871. In the early days of stamp collecting (it was not then dignified with the title of Philately) we paid but little attention to grills, and many a stamp now of great value passed through my hands with no attention, because I had the un-grilled specimen and was content.

But I shall not weary you with any more, and only hope that I have succeeded in clearing up some mooted question for a few of you.

SOME U. S. STAMPS OF THE 1870 DESIGN.

At our last meeting the society imposed on me the duty of reading an article, original or otherwise, of some philatelic interest. Material offering opportunity I have prepared a short paper. During the past month I submitted 50 varieties of U. S. stamps to Mr. Crawford Capen for expert opinion. Mr. Capen's reputation for intimacy with U. S. adhesives is familiar to you all. These 50 stamps which I place before you are of denominations 1-10 (7 excepted) of the issues 1870-1885. With Gremmel's Comprehensive Catalogue as a standard, Mr. Capen intimates that I have correctly classified 27 of the 50, and misplaced 7. The status of the remaining 16 is doubtful. Here, then, is a point that may be emphasized: One third of a lot of stamps classified as to their supposed accord with the requirements of a certain standard are indeterminate, either because they are not typical specimens, or because they lack some such necessary adjunct as a plate number or the cover on which they were used. The average collector thus finds that many varieties, according to this advanced standard, are determined by distinctions much to fine. He also sees, perhaps, some incongruities in the standard catalogue classifi-

cation. What is he to do? Assembling the results of my limited reading and observation, I will presume to submit to you what appears to me to be a consistent classification. I arbitrarily assume six principal varieties of the denominations above mentioned, types of which any collector, with a little patience may readily recognize, stamps whose characteristics, patent to the naked eye, entitle them to places as distinct varieties in all ordinary collections. To go much beyond this is to enter a maze of minor varieties, some of which seem to merge into one another and which in many cases require more than appears within the bounds of the perforations to specifically determine their place.

I would describe the six typical varieties as follows:

No. 1—Print, National; date of issue, 1870-71; thin, hard, elastic paper; grilled.

No. 2—Print, National; date of issue, 1870-72; thin, hard, elastic paper; not grilled.

No. 3—Print, Continental; date of issue, 1873-77; thicker, elastic, ribbed paper; secret mark.

No. 4—Print, Continental; date of issue, 1877-79; elastic paper, of woven appearance; sharp impression.

No. 5—Print, American; date of issue, 1879-81; soft, nelastic paper; distinctive margin.

No. 6—Print, American; date of issue, 1881-85; soft, nelastic paper; re-engraved plate.

The above is based more particularly on the characteristics of the 3c stamp, but the other denomination (the 2c partially excepted) seem subjected to the same classification.

My studies have been confined to but a few hundreds of stamps, and consequently it is somewhat presumptuous for me to depart from the classification of the standard catalogue. Incidentally to a discussion of the above series my reasons for so doing will appear. It is understood that I write from the standpoint of an average collector and not as a deep-dyed specialist.

No. 1. I would make no distinction between the sizes of grills on any of these stamps, for the reason that a complete grill of either size is such a rarity that the catalogue value gives us no idea of its infrequency. I have seen but two, and these unfortunately were on re-engraved impressions appended to sheets of reputable dealers. One naturally infers from this that little attention is given by some philatelists to the study of the plain features which proclaim marked varieties in some of our most common stamps.

No. 2. This variety is identical with No. 1, except that the grill is lacking.

No. 3. I would take the ribbed stamp as the type for the reason that the paper, both thin and thick, of all the Continental prints, as far as my observation goes, has the striated appearance, and very careful scrutiny is sometimes necessary to decide whether a stamp shall be declared ribbed or not. When the ribbing is quite pronounced the stamp imprint is generally deep in color and vivid in aspect, though not particularly sharp lined. Mr. Capen says: "I now think the ribbed stamp appeared as early as 1873, though 1874 was the year of greater issue." The standard catalogue presents it as an 1875 issue.

No. 4. I think that more than ordinary experience would be required in case of a thin paper specimen, to determine positively in which of the years between 1873 and 1879 a stamp was printed. A yellow-green impression would be considered an early one, while a fine imprint in bluish-green would be pronounced an improved process print of the period 1877-79. Consequently inasmuch as a fine specimen of the improved print is quite a contrast to most of the prints on ribbed paper in clearness of cut and finished appearance I would chose it as a type.

No. 5. Though it is not easy to describe the distinctive appearance of the face of the early American stamp, yet once recognized it is easily identified without turning the stamp. The paper is unmistakable.

No. 6. The re-engraved varieties have been often described. Though generally classed as an 1882 issue the 3c stamp, at last, was in use early in December, 1881. Some of the 1885 (or 1886) prints might be separated from those of the years immediately preceding and called series No. 7. Especially the 1c and 10c stamps are quite distinct varieties.

If the stamps are mounted in groups of the same denomination instead of in sequence by years, as is usually the case, the contrast of varieties is brought out more plainly. Examine the sheet of threes for instance, that being complete. First the light green with the grill apparent in the face; then the same stamp unembossed. The shiny, dark green of the ribbed stamp follows; next the finished impression of the later Continental; then the American, with creamy margin; and finally the re-engraved print, marked, contrasts all. There is much entertainment in forming such a sheet of typical specimens and if these few words should arouse your interest, they are written to some purpose.

—C. L. ANNAN.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT.

New Members.

- 96—R. J. Lemert, Pueblo, Colo
- 97—H. G. Earle, 1611 Fourth avenue south, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 98—F. N. Massoth, 838 Marquette Building, Chicago, Ill.
- 99—F. Michael, 258 West Madison street, Chicago, Ill.

Applications.

- Andrew A. Quevli, Windom, Minn.; references, W. M. Moore, C. E. Thayer.
- Moses B. Page, Muscatine, Iowa; references, G. W. Achard, C. E. Thayer.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership on the 15th of next month, provided no objection is received prior to that date.

Counterfeit Detector, H. C. Beardsley, Box 216, St. Joe, Mo.

Purchasing Agent, L. G. Lambert, 151 Summit Avenue St. Paul, Minn.

Auction Manager, O. K. Carstarphen, Denver, Colo.

Librarian, E. Lentz, Baker City, Ore.

Attorney, R. W. French, Hartland, Wash.

The secretary desires to inform members that their dues are payable on Jan. 1, and he hopes that each member will be thoughtful enough to remit without requiring an individual notice from this office to that effect. We now have over 100 members on the rolls and if each member will bestir himself we can increase that to double the number with but little exertion. Remember there is no initiation fee; that the dues are 35 cents per year; that active members can be had from the states bordered by and west of the Mississippi river. Will you not do your part towards securing a much larger and efficient membership?

—C. E. THAYER.

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All communications should be addressed to the
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GEORGE W. ACHARD,
242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

OUR AUTHORIZED AGENTS.

L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Nebraska.
The Birmingham Consolidated Stamp Company,
85 Wills street, Loyells, Birmingham, England.

Entered at the Minneapolis Postoffice as second
class matter, Oct. 16, 1896.

EDITORIAL.

Another year has rolled around and again the yule
log becomes the attraction for both young and old.
After a long seige in a law office, rummaging through
musty old briefs and law books, it is with a sigh of
relief that one turns his attention to the holiday sea-
son and begins to think of relatives and friends. We
have been in that position for some time past and
turn to our task of editorial writing for this issue
with no regrets. The Newsletter for a second time
brings greetings to all its readers. One year ago we
wrote of the blessings which had been so bountifully
bestowed upon us by an all-kind Providence, and
commented on our attitude toward those who had been
less fortunate than ourselves, expressing the hope
that our readers would be practical in our gifts and
remember with some of the necessities the poor at our
doors. Today, we wonder how many did so. How
many will do so during the present holiday season.
Remember "it is more blessed to give than to re-
ceive."

If ever a publication has received advertising and
at the same time castigation, such an work is the 57th
edition of the Standard Catalogue. Berated and lam-
pooned because of the seemingly inconsistent raise in
prices, it has become well known before its issuance.
The collector and dealer as well have taken a hand
in the thrashing, and it would seem as though no
one cared to raise his voice in defense. It strikes us
that much of the criticism is merited and that many
of the stamps which are comparatively common have
been boosted beyond their normal values. We be-
long to the number who believe that the proper list-
ing can be found in auction sales to a large extent.
We believe that the proper standard of prices will al-
ways be had there, because supply and demand are
elements that largely enter into and control the
prices which ordinary, sane people will give for the
more obsolete and rare specimens. Of course, the is-
sues in use and those which are of a comparatively
reasonable figure must be listed in a somewhat ar-
bitrary manner, but a stamp which is perfect in all

particulars is only worth what people will pay for it.
What is true in other business ventures should be ap-
plicable in the stamp world.

The flurry in the auction market is cited as proof
by those holding opposite views to those we have ex-
pressed above to warrant them in defending their
position. In this they must be mistaken, for take
whatever commodity you wish, you will at times find
that the quality may be unchanged and still the mar-
ket price is much lower than it was a few months pre-
vious, and that the converse may as truthfully be
stated. It all depends on the supply and demand, and
in a short time the flurry will have passed and the
commodity resume its normal price. We believe the
present flurry in the stamp market, particularly in
United States, is but temporary and that a speedy re-
covery will be noted. Happy the man who has had
sense enough to feather his nest with the choice gems
that are today going for a song. Now is the time to
buy, either for one's collection or for speculative pur-
poses. The bottom has certainly been reached and we
look for an up-grade tendency in all lines, though
present catalogue rates will not be reached for a
couple of years, but in many instances this will not be
the case. The reason for this latter proviso may be
found in the arbitrary rating of these specimens and
in this alone.

It has always struck us as peculiar that more orig-
inal matter relating to stamps has not been evolved
by our societies. Now there are in this country many
local societies, boasting of philatelists of no mean
ability along many lines of study. And yet we sel-
dom see an article headed "Read by Mr. Blank be-
fore the X—— Society." Whether the societies do
not have original articles read at their meetings or
whether they do not find their way into print, is a
question we have thought over for some time, but the
fact remains, nevertheless, there are very few ar-
ticles that appear to have been the production of our
first philatelists for the edification of their less for-
tunate brothers. In this respect the societies in the
Twin Cities, seem to be in the lead of others, for rarely
ever does a meeting of either of them go by without
a paper which has been especially prepared for the
meeting. How the editors would scramble for this
original matter, were it to be presented in shape for
them. Perhaps we are too much absorbed in the af-
fairs of business or society to take the time to pre-
pare anything. It seems to be an American's nature
to always be in a hurry. And this has militated con-
siderably against American articles of merit. Let us
hope that an early conversion along this line will come
over our society members and that they will see to it
that in their society, at least, the paper shall be read
and given to the public.

RANDOM REMARKS.

By Era.

The last mail train before the investment of the
city by the German army left Paris over the Western
Line at 3 p. m., Sept. 18, 1870, and, although the post-
office department occasionally succeeded in having let-
ters carried through the lines on foot until the end
of October, when, owing to the repeated failures, at-
tempts were abandoned, practically the only means
of mail service was by balloon and pigeon carriers.
It is said that out of eighty-five messengers sent out
between Sept. 20 and Oct. 30, only five succeeded in
passing the lines and delivering the mail at Tours.
and three of these failed to return with answers. The
pigeon service was so precarious that but fifty birds
are said to have been able to return to the cots in the
city with messages. The balloon service was much
more successful and to it philatelists owe the exist-
ence of the celebrated balloon-service envelopes.

Charles H. Westervelt, the proprietor of Westervelt's Post, died at Chester, N. Y., in October, 1893. The first stamp he employed was issued in 1863, and like all of his issues simply prepaid the postage from his store to the postoffice, which was distant about a half mile. The use of stamps was discontinued in 1867 by the order of the postoffice department, although the delivery was still continued. The value of the stamps would seem to be about on a par with the "Jay" locals of Iowa, as their use seems to have been of the same nature. The stamps are said to have been printed at the Democrat office, at Goshen, N. Y., and some of the plates are said to be in private hands

The Weekly Scotsman, published at Edinburgh under date of Oct. 31, devotes considerable space to a report of a sale of stamps which occurred on the 24th. Among the prices realized was \$7.75 for Bahamas, 1861, one penny; \$8.50 for the British I. R. official five-shilling; \$8.75 for the six-pence of the first issue of Western Australia and \$8.50 for the one penny 1848 Mauritius.

The following peculiarities of the reprints of the earlier issues of Austria will help to enable the reader of The Newsletter to distinguish them from the originals. The 1850 issue is on paper almost glaze, and of a whiter tint, while the colors look brighter and fresher than the originals. Two sets of reprints exist of the 1858 and 1861 issue, the earlier set being perforate 12, and the later 11, while the original are uniformly 15. The reprints of the 1863 issue are perforate 12, while the originals are either 9 or 15.

While speaking of Austrian stamps, I am reminded that I recently secured a fine uncancelled Austrian envelope cut square in a most peculiar manner. In looking over a bulk lot of stamps I ran across a 2k Hungary, and needing one on unwatermarked paper, I placed it in water to remove the paper adhering on the back and was much surprised to find the paper adhering was a portion of an envelope, the stamps being placed immediately over the stamped portion.

In its issue of July, 1884, the British humoristic journal, Judy, contains the following:

"Bismarck commends the G. O.-M.,
Nor wishes his removal,
The reason is not far to seek
Of this august approval,

The cause demands no plenteous words
Of logic to expose it;
It is a trick with cards,
And Mr. Fawcett knows it.

Our post cards once from Devon came,
But by a fate ironic,
From Germany they're issued now,
And made by hands Teutonic."

The Philatelic Referee (published at Ipswich, Eng., by F. Bickers & Co., in 1884-5,) is authority for the statement that the "grid-iron" cancellation on the earlier Spanish stamps is really not a cancellation, but a method of the government of defacing the remainders before placing them on the market, much the same as the word "cancelled," employed by the postal officials of Mauritius.

In an old number of Der Philatelist—the official organ of the Dresden society—is an interesting article on surcharges, in which is a list of countrys which have used the "over-print" and those which have not. Of European countries nineteen come in the first class and forty-five in the latter. In Asia thirty-four countries had surcharged to twenty-five which had not. In

Africa forty-four had employed it, while twelve had not. In America twenty out of sixty-six had never recoured to it, and in the "Isles of the Sea" but three countries had refrained, while twelve had at some time resorted to it.

FIRST ANNUAL BANQUET

Of the Minneapolis Philatelic Society.

The evening of December 10th marked an epoch in the history of the Minneapolis Philatelic Society. It was the occasion of the first annual banquet of the society. Society philatelically has been looking forward with no small amount of interest to this conviviality and quite a number of the faithful presented themselves at the Commercial Club prepared to stow away everything in sight. From the appearance of the table after the menu had been discussed, one would be led to the conclusion that all of the participants had done justice to their task. When the first course was brought in, the following had arranged themselves around the board: Messrs. C. L. Annan, C. E. N. Howard, W. Bailey, J. Watson Smith and James R. Gooding from St. Paul; W. R. Young, E. F. Van-Gorder, E. P. Capen, A. Edsten, E. S. Stebbins, J. L. Mayer, H. G. Earle, E. S. Martin, F. S. George and George W. Achard, of Minneapolis. Regrets were received from A. W. Batchelder, N. W. Chandler, Joe F. Beard, E. R. Aldrich, Charles Beamish, Oney K. Carstarphen, H. C. Beardsley, F. Michael, F. N. Mas-soth, L. Robie, H. N. McKusick, C. R. Butler, L. L. Manwaring, Theo. Jassy, W. B. McPherson, and A. T. Lindholm. Mr. N. H. Withie, of La Crosse was expected, but he was obliged to leave Minneapolis the morning of the 10th, so the toast to which he was to respond was omitted. The menu was as follows:

BLUE POINTS.

(Strip of Six, on Original Cover)

CELERY.

(Trimmed)

SOUP.

(Original Gum)

ROAST YOUNG TURKEY.

(For Offices in the Levant)

BAKED SWEET POTATOES.

(Confederate Locals)

GREEN PEAS.

(Seebecks)

POTATO SALAD.

(Several Varieties, Well Mixed)

ZEPHER CRACKERS.

(From Windward Islands)

APPLE PIE.

(Cut Diagonally and Used as a Provisional)

ROQUEFORT.

(Obsolete)

WATER CRACKERS.

(Tough Wove Paper)

PUNCH.

(Watermarked Wavy Lines)

COFFEE.

(Porous)

(Cuban Remainders)

CIGARS.

After dissecting the above, Mr. C. E. N. Howard called the assemblage to order and after a few choice expressions announced the first toast by President C. L. Annan on "The St. Paul Philatelic Society," (well centered and of fine color). Mr Annan's remarks were at once witty and to the point. Then followed President W. R. Young on "The Minneapolis Philatelic Society" (bad as Clipperton Islands). Mr. Young pointed out some of the salient features in the local society and at the same time reminded the members of their duty to the society. Mr. Withie was to have spoken on "Our Guests" (rare as Milbury's), but as none of the boys had seen Mr. Withie since the day before, they concluded that his presence was likewise as rare as the local. Mr. C. E. N. Howard, the toastmaster, then inaugurated an innovation in calling upon himself to respond to the toast "The Ladies" (we

get along very nicely without them), and he did so with a zest that was refreshing to say the least. "Perforations" (everybody get a gauge), was then discoursed upon by Mr. E. S. Stebbins, and in the course of his remarks he made mention of a certain member who, according to the reduced scale in the back of the catalogue, had all sorts of uncatalogued specimens. Then he deftly untied a small package and on behalf of Mr. A. W. Batchelder, presented each one of the banqueters with a very neat celluloid perforation and millimeter scale. A vote of thanks was immediately carried in favor of the donor, and his health drank instant. George W. Achard then spoke on "The Fraternalizing Influences of Philately" (a recent discovery.) Some of those present were inclined to think that Mr. Howard's and Mr. Achard's toasts had a reflex bearing on each other, but were reassured by the latter that by a reference to The Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 7, they would find that she was not such a new issue after all. Mr. George spoke on "The Press" (squeezes everybody), and he certainly squeezed some of those present and earned his title of editor. "General Collecting" (from Hamburg locals to Seebecks), was the title of Mr. Edsten's disquisition. Mr. Edsten brought out many happy allusions to collecting in former days. Mr. Capen, of the Boston Ice Company, was the last on the program and dilated on "Plate Numbers" (they cut very little ice). Mr. Capen thought they did cut some ice when it came to paying the prices asked for some of them, and said that, despite censorious remarks, he intended keeping on with his plate number collection.

After the set program of toasts, all of the other gentlemen were called on for a few remarks. Some of these sparkled with wit and were well received. The banquet party broke up about 11 o'clock, each one holding to the opinion that he had a splendid time and should never miss future events of a like nature.

OUR EXCHANGES.

All matter intended for review should be mailed to the Review Editor, F. S. George, 17 South Fourth street, Minneapolis, Minn.

The following have been received since our last issue:

October Numbers—Canadian Philatelic Magazine; Columbian Philatelist; Evergreen State Philatelist; Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser.

November Numbers—New York Philatelist; Boston Stamp Book; Philatelic Literature; Home Worker; Maryland Philatelist; Philatelic Monthly and Philatelic World; Omaha Philatelist; American Collector; Philatelic Journal of Great Britain; Ontario Philatelist; Philatelic Free Lance, and Diamond Philatelist.

December Numbers—Rocky Mountain Stamp and Indiana Philatelist.

Other publications as follows: First Auction Catalogue of George R. Tuttle; Fourth Sale Catalogue of W. F. Gregory; E. T. Parker's Price List No. 86; Fred H. Pitman & Cos.' 1897 Price List of Revenue and Proprietary Stamps.

In our last issue we acknowledged the receipt of the November number of the Evergreen State Philatelist, and in this issue the October number. Although this is somewhat of a novelty, Mr. French explains it by laying the blame entirely upon the printer; we have no doubt this is correct, as we have had some experience in such matters heretofore. Notwithstanding the lateness of this issue it is a good one and worthy of the careful reading. The first article is by Gordon C. Corbaley, on "Punctured Stamps." This is followed by an article on "The Abuse of Government Granks," by W. C. Moulton. Among other things Mr. Moulton says: "An official letter from the postmaster at Washington shows the abuses of government franks, and it can readily be seen that a large per-

cent of this expense is useless. The substance of the letter is as follows: 'In the past year desks have been sent by mail, and frequently type-writers with stands. The stationery division of the treasury and interior departments send all their supplies of ink, mucilage, etc., for all outside offices attached to these departments. It is not an extraordinary thing to have cases delivered by the treasury department weighing as much as 1,200 or 1,400 pounds, and some have to be returned for the reason that they could not be gotten through the doors of the railway postal car.' All this is doubtless true, but 'not half has ever been told.' A few weeks ago we received a typewriter for repairs by mail and shortly after we were furnished one of the ordinary penalty envelopes to use as postage in returning the machine, which went to a distant point in South Dakota."—The Critic writes on "Articles and Other Matter of Philatelic Interest," which is followed by two pages of editorials. "Greater New York Notes," by Gove, completes this issue.

No. 6 of the Columbian Philatelist opens with "The Other Side," by Amy L. Swift. This is followed by an article on "United States Revenues," by S. E. Miller. Four pages of editorials and some new catalogue prices complete the issue.

The Canadian Philatelic Magazine, Vol. III., No. 8, opens with some of Scott's 57th Catalogue prices. Next is a "History and Catalogue of Canadian Revenues." I. E. Weldon writes entertainingly on "Philatelic Journalism in the Dominion. The editorials and "Dominion Philatelic Association Notes" complete the issue.

No. 2 of the New York Philatelist contains a number of good articles, the best of which is "The Triangular Stamp of the Cape of Good Hope," by H. J. M. Besides "My Oddity Collection," "Canadian Notes" and the editorials this issue presents a fine cut of the postal card issued by the French government in honor of the czar's visit.

Philatelic Literature is a unique publication and we hope it has come to stay. It meets a long felt want and will doubtless be well supported. There are very few stamp collectors who do not keep files of nearly all of the philatelic magazines. The greatest drawback in this direction heretofore has been the difficulty in securing missing numbers. The greater part of this difficulty has been overcome by the appearance of Philatelic Literature. Another valuable feature is the Philatelic Chronicle, which gives the philatelic announcements, births, deaths, etc.

With the November issue the Maryland Philatelist makes its bow and casts itself before a cold and merciless world. No. 1 will bear a close inspection, for it is a good initial number. One of the pleasant features is the page devoted to prominent philatelists. In No. 1, a fine half-tone and brief sketch of Ralph W. Ashcroft is presented. There are a number of other good articles in this number. It is published by T. H. Gafford, Jr., Church Hill, Md.

No. 3 of the Omaha Philatelist also has a page devoted to prominent philatelists, and this issue contains a half-tone and sketch of Clarence L. Thurston, the editor. I. E. Patterson also presents a brief sketch of Detroit's most prominent collectors. Besides the editorials, Roy F. Green writes on "Philately vs. the Wheel," and W. P. Steinbrecher advises us all to collect United States revenues.

The November issue of the Home Worker is dedicated to "Our Boy Collectors," and contains a number of good articles not only of benefit to boys, but profit-

able reading for the more advanced collectors. Besides the editor's remarks it contains the following articles: "Johnny's Diary," "The Mail Transportation in Japan and Her History," "Advice to Young Collectors," "Experiences of a Young Philatelist," "About Catalogues," "The Beginner's Error," and a short essay on "The Kinds of Paper Generally Used for Printing Stamps and Envelopes."

The American Collector is another publication having a prominent collector's page. No. 5, now before us, contains a good half-tone cut of the S. of Ps. sales superintendent, C. E. Shaw. Also a well written sketch of Mr. Shaw's philatelic career. This issue also contains "A Plea for the Boys," by Lillie H. Murray, and the "C. & W. Bridge Despatch," by E. E. Weaver. Mr. Weaver publishes a letter from the party who printed this stamp, in which he states that none were ever used, but that they were issued solely as a fake to "get even" with a certain stamp dealer who had sold the party some counterfeits for genuine stamps. In conclusion Mr. Weaver says: "Three hundred were issued, none of which were ever used or intended to be used. They are genuinely bogus, and any dealer who sells them as legitimate issues, is imposing upon the purchaser a wrong in which the dealer should be exposed."

The editors of the Philatelic Free Lance have called their No. 6 issue "Our anadlian Number." A glance at the contents will convince the most skeptical reader that this title is correct. All the reading matter relates in some form to the stamps and stamp interests of that country. The opening sketch, by Onelda, treats on the revenue stamps of Canada. The balance of the issue is filled with Canadian notes and comments from such able writers as R. G. Widdicombe, Alex. M. Muirhead and I. E. Weldon.

The opening sketch in the Ontario Philatelist is styled "Ed. Bee's Letter," and contains remarks and notes gathered at the last meeting of the Duett Stamp Club. A few of the 57th Catalogue prices are given, which with the editorial remarks, notes and comments by R. G. Widdicombe, and a page devoted to the Dominion Philatelic Association, complete the issue.

The editor of the Diamond Philatelist claims that his paper is now most two years of age, and during those two years the Diamond has not failed to sparkle at least once a month and has never been late. A good thing to be able to say, "shove" it along.

The Indiana Philatelist is another bright stamp journal which makes its bow with the December issue. The covers are printed in color. The contents are readable and interesting, notwithstanding the fact that the matter is mostly clippings. This is, of course, excusable in an initial number.

The Rocky Mountain Stamp is as usual full of good reading matter. The covers are printed in color, which makes a very attractive journal.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain is as usual full of good and interesting reading matter. The first three pages is devoted to notes and comments. Following these notes is a short resume on the stamp denying ordinance.

The announcement was made in the Philatelic Record that the G. P. O. has issued an order to all colonial postmasters, putting a stop, once for all, to the wicked practice of postmarking stamps to order, and also the same officials are forbidden to sell more than £5 worth of stamps of any value at a time to any one stamp dealer.

The writer of this article finds some fault with these orders. With the first of these edicts he heartily agrees and states that "A postmark is, or ought to be, a voucher that the letter or stamp so distinguished has actually formed part of a mail as an independent post-letter or working stamp. To postmark stamps which are never intended to do postal duty, is therefore in a very true sense a fraud, which the postoffice does well to prevent."

As regards the second edict the author states there may be some difference of opinion. He thinks that if the colonial postmasters were not allowed to sell less than £5 worth at a time to any one dealer, not only would the department be saved much needless trouble, but the stamp men also.

Following this are some notes from the Parisian correspondent in reference to the trial of Aubert for the murder of the stamp collector M. Delahdeff. The notes are written in a style at once refreshing and unique. We quote the closing paragraph, which not only gives an example of the style of the author, but also shows Aubert's fate:

"Well, after the crime was proved over and over again our court finds this wretch guilty with extenuating circumstances! I am not concerned to attack the methods of my own country which you in yours find at times so hard to understand, but I will own that on this occasion it has been difficult for me to see where the extenuating circumstances were found. Yet the humours of a French jury are almost as inexplicable as to us are those of your Pharisee and Philistine British public! Forgive us our eccentricities; the best of us try hard to forget yours. Suffice it to say that this inhuman creature Aubert passes away to that terrible living death—hard labor for all his life (travaux forces a perpetuite). His greatest enemy can wish him no more awful and cruel fate, and his best friends (if he has any) might well have preferred for him an early morning interview with M. Deibler. But philately has no more to do with the essence of this crime than the Bordeaux vineyards, whose agents this creature swindled, or the poor parents whom he bled to the last sou."

The next ten pages are filled up as follows: "On the Track of the Czar," by an Old File; "New Leaves to Cut," by Messrs. Bacon & Napier, and society notes and reports.

In the Philatelic Review department the first article which is called "The Article of the Month," is "The Nova Scotia Reminders." For the benefit of our readers we will quote, in condensed form, Mr. C. J. Phillip's report in the Monthly Journal, and also reproduced in the journal before us:

"We shall now endeavour, as far as lies in our power, to relate all the facts in reference to the lot of remainders of these stamps, that we have been for some weeks supplying to the trade

The first intimation we had, of the existence of any remainder of the cents issue of Nova Scotia, was on May 14th last, when we received the following cablegram from the Hon. W. S. Fielding, the premier and principal secretary of Nova Scotia, but since advanced to the important position of finance minister of the Dominion of Canada:

"For what quantity Nova Scotia stamps of cents issue will you give face value? Our government guarantee them to be remainders.—Fielding, Premier."

The same day we replied by cable as follows:

"State quantity of each value; we probably take all. The lot must not be broken, or market will be spoiled.—Gibbons."

On May 15th we received a reply cable from the premier:

"Denominations one, two, eight and-a-half, ten, and twelve and-a-half. You might offer for each denomination, with your own limits; if offer satisfactory, will close for whole.—Fielding, Premier."

On the same or following day we cabled again as follows:

"Cable quantity of each value; our offer cannot be made until this is known.—Gibbons."

No answer was received to this last cable, and the next information we had was that the entire stock of remainders had been purchased by Messrs. A. A. Bartlett, of Charlotte-town, Prince Edward's Island, and Mr. Donald A. King, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, both well known philatelists of many years' standing.

We at once opened negotiations with Messrs. Bartlett and King, to see if a business arrangement could not be entered into for us to have the sole sale of these stamps for certain districts, and eventually we secured the sole right of sale in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

The following certificate was given with the stamps:—

"Halifax, N. S., June 4th, 1896.

"A. A. Bartlett, Esq.:

"Dear Sir.—For the information of all whom it may concern, I desire to say that, acting for the government of Nova Scotia, I have sold and delivered to you the remainder of the cents issue of Nova Scotia postage stamps, and that no other stamps of that issue are in the possession of this government.

"Yours faithfully,

"W. S. FIELDING,

"Provincial Secretary."

As soon as we received a supply of the stamps, we prepared the following circular, for issue to the trade generally in the countries we represent

"NOVA SCOTIA.

"Government Remainders of the Cent Issue.

"The Government of Canada, through the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Hon. W. S. Fielding, has just sold the whole remainder of the Cent Issue of that Colony to a strong syndicate of stamp dealers; and the entire sales of these stamps for the whole of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia, have been placed in the hands of Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

Arrangements are being made by which the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, Limited, of New York, will have the sole sale of these stamps in America and the West Indies.

In September we wrote to Messrs. Bartlett and King, and suggested that the number of stamps of each value in the "remainders" should be published; and under date of October 1st, we have the following reply:

"We do not feel called on to take the dealers into our confidence, and give them details of the number of stamps we purchased; and so far as the collectors are concerned, we think they will scarcely find any grave cause for complaint, when we cheapen the set to them, as we do, and give them that queen of handsome stamps, the 8½ cents, at a quarter the price it has been selling at in the past year, and at the same time we guarantee never to lower the price."

The balance of the issue contains reviews of the various philatelic journals received.

The 57th Catalogue and The Philatelic Newsletter, one year, for a 60-cent postal order. Send at once.

PRICES FROM THE 57th CATALOGUE.

FRANCE.

	New	Used.
1849-50, 15c greenish	\$30.00	\$2.00
25c blue	3.00	.06
40c orange	2.50	.50
1f carmine	7.50	1.00
1852, 25c blue	2.50	.08
1853-60—Most of the unused stamps advanced.		
1862, 10c buff .....	.40	.02
1863-70, 5f violet	3.00	1.00

The 57th Catalogue and The Philatelic Newsletter, one year, for a 60-cent postal order. Send at once.

5f in blue, 5f violet	7.50	1.50
1870, lithographed, 2c red-brown ...	.50	.50
4c gray .....	.50	.50
5c green ..	.20	.20
10c bistre .....	.75	.12
No. 51, 20c blue	20.00	1.00
No. 52, 20c blue	1.00	.08
No. 53, 20c blue	1.00	.04
1876, Type I, 2c green .....	.20	.15
5c green .....	.75	.20
25c ultra marine	3.50	1.00
Type II, 10c green .....	.25	.25
1877-78, 1c blue	12.50	2.00

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

1859, lithographed, 10c black	10.00	5.00
1870, lithographed	1.00	2.00

FRENCH COLONIES.

1871, 1c olive .....	.60	.60
5c green	3.50	3.50
10c bistre	1.00	.75
1876, 2c red-brown	3.50	7.50
4c gray	15.00	11.00

FRENCH CONGO.

1891, 5c on 1c, red surcharge,	18.00	18.00
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FRENCH SOUDAN.

1894, imperforated, 15c on 75c	40.00
perforated, 15c on 75c	18.00	18.00
25c on 1f	15.00	15.00

GAMBIA.

1869, 4d brown	6.00	6.00
6d blue	10.00	6.00
C. C., 4d brown	8.00	6.00
1880, ½d orange .....	.30	.30
1d maroon .....	.30	.30
2d carmine .....	.60	.60
3d blue .....	.75	.75
4d brown	1.50	1.50
6d blue	3.00	2.50
1st green	17.00	15.00

The advance in Thurn & Taxis, north and south, North German Postal District and German Empire; have been on the early issues unused.

GIBRALTAR.

1886 2d violet brown	2.00	2.50
2½ blue	1.50	.50
6d violet	5.00	6.00
1sh bistre	17.50	18.50
1886, 2d brown violet .....	.60	.60
4d orange	2.00	3.50
6d violet	4.00	5.00
1sh bistre	10.00	10.00
1889, 75c olive	1.00	1.00
1p light brown	1.75	1.75
5p steel blue	2.50	2.50

GOLD COAST.

1875, 1d blue	15.00	7.50
4d mauve	5.00	5.00
1879, ½d bistre	1.50	1.50
1d blue .....	.50	.25
2d green	1.25	.50
4d mauve	1.00	.35
6d orange	1.50	.50
1884-91, 1d blue	75.00	4.00
1887, 1d on 6d orange	5.00	2.50

ADVANCE ON GREAT BRITAIN, Are on an early issue unused.

GREECE.

1861, Paris print, 1l brown	5.00	4.00
large figure on back, 10l orange	8.00	4.00

GRENADA.

1860, 1d green	5.00	1.50
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THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.


The 57th Catalogue and The Philatelic Newsletter, one year, for a 60-cent postal order. Send at once.

6d rose	20.00	3.00
1860-66, 1d green	2.50	.18
6d rose	8.50	1.00
6d vermilion	7.50	1.00
1875-81, ½d violet .....	.50	.50
2½d claret	2.50	1.50
4d blue	2.00	2.00
1sh purple	7.50	2.00
1882, No. 10, ½d orange and green ..	8.00	8.00
No. 11, ½d orange and green ..	8.00	8.00
No. 12, 1d orange and green ..	4.00	4.00
No. 13, 1d orange and green ..	4.00	4.00
1883, 1d rose	2.00	.60
8d bistre	2.00	2.00
1sh violet	12.50	10.00
1886, 1d on 4d	3.50	....
1d on 1sh .....	.60	....
1888-89, No. 29, 4d on 2sh orange ..	35.00	....
1892, unpaid letter, 1d on 8d bistre ..	....	.60
unpaid letter, 1d on 6d, mauve ..	....	.85
unpaid letter, 2d on 8d bistre ..	....	.75
unpaid letter, 2d on 6d mauve ..	....	1.00
GRIQUALAND.		
1877, No. 8, 1d black sur	1.25	1.25
No. 30, 6d red sur	1.50	1.25
No. 31, 6d black sur	10.00	5.00
No. 32, 1sh red sur	3.00	1.25
No. 33, 5sh red sur .....	....	3.50
No. 34, ½d red sur	1.25	....
No. 35, 1d black sur	1.00	....
No. 37, 4d red sur	5.00	....
No. 38, 4d red sur	5.00	....
No. 39, 6d red sur	2.00	2.00
No. 41, 1sh red sur	3.50	3.50
No. 42, 5sh red sur .....	....	5.00
No. 43, ½d red sur	2.00	....
No. 51, 5sh red sur .....	....	5.00
No. 55, ½d red sur	3.50	....
No. 71, 1d black sur	1.75	1.75
GUATEMALA.		
1871, 5c brown .....	.25	.50
10c blue .....	.35	.60
20c rose .....	.25	.40
1881, 1c on ¼r brown and green ..	.50	.50
5c on ½r green .....	.50	.85
10c on 1r green and black ..	.50	.85
20c on 2r carmine .....	.85	1.50
HAMBURG.		
1859-64, ½s black	1.50	8.00
1¼s lilac	4.00	.75
1¼s gray	5.00	1.00
2½s green	4.00	1.00
HANOVER.		
1851, 1a green	2.00	.05
1-30 crimson	3.00	.40
1-30 salmon	3.00	.40
1-15 blue	3.00	.40
1-10 yellow	5.00	.40
1856, 1-30 rose	10.00	.20
1-10 yellow	35.00	.50
1859-61, ½a black	4.00	2.00
3a brown	7.00	.25
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.		
1853, 5c blue	50.00	25.00
1864-71, 12c black	1.50	1.50
1882, 10c black	2.00	2.00
15c brown	3.00	3.00
1883-86, 25c purple	2.00	2.00
50c red	4.00	4.00
1dol rose red	5.00	5.00
Prov. Govt. red surcharge 12c mauve	3.50
HAYTI.		
1881, 1 c vermilion25	.25
2c purple50	.50

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3c bistre50	.50
5c green	1.00	.50
7c blue	1.00	.50
20c red brown	5.00	2.50
1882, Perf. 13, 1c vermilion15	.15
2c purple .....	.50	.25
3c bistre .....	.50	.25
5c green .....	.40	.15
7c gray .....	.50	.25
20c red brown .....	.75	.20
1883, white paper, 1c vermilion ..	.25	.25
2c purple ..	.50	.50
3c bistre .....	.50	.50
5c green .....	.35	.15
7c ultra marine ..	.75	.50
1887, 1c carmine .....	.10	.10
2c purple .....	.10	.10
3c blue .....	.15	.15
5c green .....	.25	.10
HELIGOLAND.		
1869-71, ½sch green and rose	3.00	5.00
1sch rose and green	6.00	7.50
1875-76, 1pf rose and green .....	.25	17.50
10pf green and red .....	.15	1.00
3pf green and red	1.50	30.00
1879, 5m	3.50	20.00
HONG KONG.		
1862, 2c brown	1.50	.50
8c yellow	1.50	.50
12c blue	3.00	.60
18c violet	4.00	.40
24c green	5.00	.60
48c rose	10.00	2.00
96c gray	10.00	3.50
1863-77, 16c yellow	5.00	.75
18c lilac	20.00	1.50
30c vermilion	2.50	.25
1880-81, 48c brown	5.00	1.50
HUNGARY.		
1871 Lith. 2k orange	4.00	1.50
3k green	12.00	7.50
5k rose	5.00	.08
10k blue	25.00	1.25
15k brown	30.00	2.00
25k mauve	20.00	.75
1872 Eng. 3k green .....	.75	.15
5k rose .....	.50	.02
10k blue	1.00	.06
15k brown	2.50	.10
25k lilac	2.00	.15
1874-76, 2k violet .....	.75	.02
3k green .....	.75	.02
5k rose	1.00	.01
10k blue	1.50	.02
20k black	12.00	.10
ICELAND.		
1873, 3s gray	1.50	1.75
16s yellow .....	.65	.65
1876, 5a blue	1.00	1.00
20a violet	1.00	1.00
40a green	3.00	1.00
INDIA.		
1866-68, 6a8p	3.00	.25
We will omit the native states.		
IONIAN ISLANDS.		
1859, ½d orange	1.50	....
1d blue	1.75	....
2d carmine .....	.75	....
ITALY.		
1851, 5c black	6.00	6.00
20c blue	2.50	1.00
40c rose	10.00	10.00
1853, 20c blue	2.00	1.00

40c rose	4.00	3.00		
1854, 5c green	3.00	4.00	1872-73, thin wove paper, 20s mauve	2.00 2.00
20c blue	1.50	.75	thin wove paper, 30s gray..	4.00 4.00
40c rose	2.50	7.50	1875, 20s carmine	1.00 .15
1856-58, 5c green .....	.25	.10	45s carmine	1.50 1.00
20c light blue .....	.40	.10		
1863, 3 lira bronze .....	.50	5.00		
1862, 5c green .....	.05	.10		
10c brown .....	.15	.15		
1865-67, 10c blue .....	.25	.02		
20c orange .....	.35	.01		
1861-63, newspaper, 2c black.....	.04	.10		
newspaper 2c buff .....	.08	.20		
Italian Offices in the Levant.				
1874, 2 lira scarlet	1.00	2.00		
1878, 20c orange	1.25	.60		
1881, 5c green .....	.25	.20		
10c rose .....	.25	.30		
20c orange .....	.25	.25		
50c lilac .....	.25	.60		
1874, newspaper, 1c green .....	.08	.35		
23 brown .....	.08	.35		
JAMAICA.				
1860-63, 6d lilac	7.50	.60		
1sh brown	7.50	.75		
1871, 2d rose .....	.75	.03		
4d vermilion	3.00	.40		
1883, 1d blue	3.50	.25		
2d carmine	6.00	.25		
1885-90, 2d gray .....	.50	.05		
			JAPAN.	
			1872-73, thin wove paper, 20s mauve	2.00 2.00
			thin wove paper, 30s gray..	4.00 4.00
			1875, 20s carmine	1.00 .15
			45s carmine	1.50 1.00
			LABUAN.	
			1879, 2c green	18.00 25.00
			1880-82, 2c green .....	.50 1.75
			6c orange	3.00 7.50
			12c red	7.50 10.00
			16c blue	3.50 7.50
			1880, 1c on 16c blue	75.00
			1883, 8c carmine.....	15.00 16.50
			16c blue	4.50
			LAGOS.	
			1874-75 Perf. 12½, 3d brown	6.00 2.50
			4d rose	7.50 3.00
			6d green	6.00 1.25
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			3d brown	15.00 2.00
			4d rose	18.00 1.25
			6d green	2.50 1.25
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			1882, 2d blue	12.00 1.85
			4d rose	12.00 2.00
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			4d lilac	2.00 1.25

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45.	Mexico	50 "
46.	British Colonials	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ "
47.	" "	25 "
48.	" "	25 "
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107.	German States	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ "
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" 30c	7.50	5.25	15c Agric New n. g.	4.00	2.80
1861 30c	60	40	12c Justice New o. g.	3.50	2.50
" 90c Fine	4.00	3.00	Same, used	2.50	1.75
1868 1c 11x13	1.50	75	1894 1.00 Unwmk New o. g. in blks etc.	3.00	1.75
" 1c 9x13	1.25	70	" 2.00 " " " " " " "	5.00	3.25
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757 Fairmount Ave., St. Paul.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. II.

JANUARY

No 5

THE EARLY POSTAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA.

E. G. Aldrich.

The postal condition of even the more thickly settled portions of our country in the days when the earlier settlers of Minnesota were wending their way to where "the roar of that Western Niagara, the St. Anthony Falls, could be heard in the wigwams of the Dakotahs," was so meagre and chaotic that any service whatever could hardly be expected, especially since the nearest white habitation was three hundred miles away.

Although a few hardy British and French traders had established themselves at fairly convenient points to carry on a fur traffic with the Indians, the actual history of the North Star state can hardly be said to have commenced prior to the establishment of Fort Snelling in 1820.

In 1805 Lieut. Z. M. Pike was sent by the government to expel British traders, make treaties with the Indians, and in every possible manner guard against any English encroachments, and, among other acts, he secured the cession of a tract of land for the building of a United States fort. Nothing further was done until 1818 or 1819, when the planting of a colony by the Earl of Selkirk near the boundary caused agitation which resulted in an order being issued on Feb. 10, 1819, by the War Department instructing the 5th infantry (Lieut.-Col. Leavenworth commanding) to proceed west from Detroit to garrison Fort Crawford (now Prairie du Chien), Rock Island, and to proceed with the remaining portion to St. Peter's (now Mendota), and erect a fort which should be the headquarters of the regiment. The expedition was made in keel boats and that point reached on Sept. 24, 1819. Rude huts in which to pass the winter were erected, but no attempt was made until the next summer toward erecting the fortifications. In August, Col. Snelling arrived and took command, and on Sept. 10, 1820, the corner stone of Fort St. Anthony was laid. At the approach of winter the troops returned to their huts at Mendota.

It was not until 1822 that the fort was near enough to completion for occupancy, and upon recommendation of Gen. Scott the name changed from Fort St. Anthony to Fort Snelling, in honor of its commandant.

With the advent of the soldiers crude arrangements for communication with the outer world were made, and two or three times a summer soldiers were detailed to go for supplies and to handle the mails. These trips were down the Mississippi and back in canoes or keel boats, and continued to be the summer means of mail service until 1823. During the winter months an occasional service was had by means of dog sleds, the trip being made on the ice to Fort Crawford. This "dog sled" service continued in use until the establishment of stage service late in the '40s, but was so irregular and uncertain that Maj. Taliaferro (Indian low, returning from a furlough with the first mail in five months. This occurred Jan. 26, 1826.

In May, 1823, the first steamboat arrived, bearing a handful of mail matter, and thereafter during the summer at Fort Snelling from 1820 to 1840) records in his diary, now one of the treasured documents of the Historical Society, the arrival of two officers from better months two or three mails arrived this way for a few ensuing years.

In May, 1832, a regular mail service between Snelling and Fort Crawford was attempted by Col. Zachary Taylor, then commandant at Fort Crawford. (The placing of his portrait on the 5-cent blue, 1875, might well be attributed to a recognition of his assistance in pioneer mail service, rather than his Mexican victories or his successful presidential campaign.)

He detailed a private—one James Halpin—as mail carrier, who made the journey on foot, carrying the mail in a small pouch slung over his shoulder. When we remember that at the time there was not a human habitation, unless the tepee of an itinerant Indian, on the entire route, we need be little surprised that the service lasted but a year, and that steamboats in the summer and dog sleds in the winter again became the mail facilities.

On Oct. 10, 1837, the total number of inhabitants, exclusive of the garrison, dependent upon these means of communication was 157.

The time consumed for transit of mail was slow, as is instanced that the steamer Palmyra arrived on July 18, 1838, with the mail, containing, among other messages, the announcement of the ratification of an Indian treaty mailed from Washington just a month previous. This, however, would seem to be almost a "special delivery" letter, as twice that time might not have been unusually consumed, especially in the winter season. In fact, sometimes longer time was needed, as is instanced by a letter from the United States Marshall of Wisconsin, dated at Mineral Point, Feb. 18, 1840, acknowledging the receipt of instructions sent by Secretary of War Poinsett under date of Oct. 21, 1839.

On July 18, 1840, the first regularly authorized governmental postoffice in the present limits was established at the present Point Douglas under the name of Lake Saint Croix Postoffice, but the sutler at Snelling still handled the mail of the territory now comprised in the Twin Cities and their suburbs. The growing importance of St. Paul gradually began to be felt, and nearly every year in the early "forties" saw continued increase of settlers. In June, 1842, among others, came Henry Jackson, who is the earliest, and possibly the most conspicuous, figure in St. Paul's postal history. Born in Abingdon, Va., in 1811, he was in early life of a rather roving disposition, having lived at different times in Texas, New York and Illinois. Having engaged in an unsuccessful business adventure at Galena, he cast about for a new location and decided upon St. Paul, and on the evening of June 9 landed on the lower levee. In the fall of the year, having purchased from Ben Gervais, one of the early pioneers, a suitable location (not far from the present corner of Third and Jackson streets), he erected a small building

and opened up a store for Indian trade. The following year he was appointed the first justice of the peace the Saintry City had. Being located near the landing, he soon got accustomed to entertaining such strangers as visited the growing hamlet, and his place naturally became the place to leave letters or packages for a friend. Nearly every boat that landed at the levee would have a dozen or so letters for parties in the neighborhood, and if the owners were not present to claim them, it became natural to "leave them at Jackson's." These as they accumulated were thrown in a bunch on a shelf, and any one calling for mail sorted and selected such as he desired.

The location of Stillwater, the county seat, and St. Paul being such that each could be reached by the same carrier, governmental postoffices were established in 1846, the Stillwater office being created on Jan. 14, and St. Paul on April 7. Of the former I have been unable to find any particulars. Of the latter the records of the postoffice department show a commission issued to Henry Jackson as postmaster on the day of its establishment.

Now the governmental sanction of his postal business had been received, he set about in a more methodical way to conduct affairs, and among the first steps was the manufacture of a sorting case, and out of some old boards a rude case was fashioned. Fortunately, it has been preserved, and "St. Paul's first postoffice" is one of the most interesting relics possessed by the State Historical Society. In 1847 Jackson's prominence as a citizen was further manifested by being elected to the Wisconsin legislature for the district consisting of Crawford, St. Croix (in which was St. Paul, having been detached from Crawford in 1840, and of which Stillwater was the county seat), Chippewa and La Pointe counties.

In 1847 the first steps toward organizing a steamboat company was taken, as only stray boats had previously made trips when a paying cargo could be secured. As the bulk of the summer mail was obtained in this manner, a more regular mail was secured. It is said that forty-one steamboat arrivals occurred in 1844, forty-eight in 1845, and but twenty-six in 1846. After the organization of the company sixty-three arrived in 1848, and ninety-five in 1849.

The winter of 1848 was especially severe, and mail service exceedingly poor. In the first number of the Pioneer (April 28, 1849), in a communication we find: "During the past five months the communication between this part of the country and our brethren in the United States has been difficult and infrequent. A mail now and then from Prairie du Chien brought up on the ice in a train, sometimes drawn by horses and sometimes by dogs, contained news so old that the country below had forgotten all about it. When milder weather commenced and the ice became unsafe, we were completely shut out for several weeks. Some time in January we learned that Gen. Zachariah Taylor was elected president. We had to await the arrival of the first boat to learn whether our territory was organized and who were its federal officers. How anxiously was that boat expected! The ice still held its grasp on Lake Pepin. For a week the arrival of the boat had been looked for every hour. Expectation was on tiptoe. Monday, the 9th of April, had been a pleasant day. Toward evening the clouds gathered and about dark commenced a violent storm of wind, rain and loud peals of thunder. The darkness was only dissipated by the vivid flashes of lightning. On a sudden, in a momentary lull of the wind, the silence was broken by the groans of an engine. In another minute the shrill whistle of a steamboat thrilled through the air. Another moment, and a bright flash of lightning revealed the welcome form of a steamboat just rounding the bluff, less than a mile below St. Paul. In an instant the welcome news flashed like electricity throughout the town, and, regardless of the pelting rain, the raging wind, and the pealing thunder, almost the entire male population rushed to the landing—as the gallant steamboat, Dr. Franklin No. 2,

dashed gallantly up to the landing." To be sure, in this instance the knowledge sought was such as to excite all, but the first boat of several seasons received nearly as hearty a welcome.

With the organization of Minnesota territory "a boom" struck St. Paul, and from eighteen houses at the beginning of the year, a population of 840 was noted in the census taken in July. The entire territory had 4,780, of whom over 700 were in what is now the Dakotas, and 367 soldiers at the different stations.

In the issue of The Register for July 28 we find: "Our postmaster, Mr. H. Jackson, has fitted up his new postoffice building on Third street with great taste and convenience. Every citizen whose business requires it can have a box to himself." The new building is said to have been situated where 105 East Third street now is, and the new boxes consisted of 200 glass covered call boxes. Prior to the occupancy of the new building Jackson had been removed and Jacob W. Bass appointed in his stead. At the election held in August Jackson was elected to the legislature, receiving 165 votes out of 188 cast; at the next election (Sept. 2, 1850) he was defeated.

Having disposed of his business interests on April 23, 1853, he removed to Mankato, where he died July 31, 1857.

Bass' commission was dated July 5, 1849, but it is not likely that the office was transferred into his charge before the fall of the year. Prior to this he had made arrangements for it by building a small lean-to on the Jackson side of his hotel, for by a singular coincidence his occupation was the same as that of Jackson's. The distance of the removal of the office was less than a block, as his hotel stood on the present location of the Merchants. Into his addition the "glass boxes" were moved and the office placed in charge of Mr. Wallace B. White as deputy.

The mail service during the winter of 1849 was well nigh as bad as that of the preceding one. In November and December of this year a post road was made from Prairie du Chien to St. Paul by way of Black River Falls. It was blazed and marked the entire distance—223 miles—and was laid out by one Knowlton, of Hudson, Wis. Willoughby & Powers ran over this and carried the mail under the contract of Hon. H. M. Rice, who received it in 1849. About this time post routes were also established from St. Paul to Snelling (later continued to St. Anthony), also to the Falls of the St. Croix via Stillwater. The services, however, were not always prompt, and the Pioneer of March 20, 1850, laments over the fact that twenty days had elapsed since the last mail. In the issue of Feb. 27, 1850, it says: "The number of letters passing through the postoffice at St. Paul averages 700 per week. The mail to St. Anthony alone is larger than the whole mail of the territory was one year ago."

The contract given in 1850 to Rice, who again obtained it, called for two mails a week in summer and one in the winter, and the compensation was \$800. Two years later the contract was assigned to James C. Burbank.

With the advent of Pierce's administration Wm. H. Forbes succeeded Bass, but as this was after the commencement of stage service it was after the early period of difficulties was past.

TALKS ON COUNTERFEITS.

By H. S. Swensen.

Stamp counterfeits made their appearance almost simultaneously with the appearance of the postage stamp. They came and continue to come, as evil has menaced and still accompanies good. It was the primal purpose of the counterfeiter to defraud governments of a part of their revenue to be accrued from the sale of postal wares, but when the postage stamps were being strung around the symmetrical neck of Baby Philatelia, he saw the way to produce a more lucrative trade. As a result of such dangerous foresight, we find thousands of philatelic parasites always ready to feed

upon the pocketbooks of the unwary. From the moment that postage stamps were valued as desirable curiosities to the present time when they are treasured as being of monetary importance, the festive counterfeit has been the greatest contentment with which the stamp collector has had to battle. Every precaution, every effort has been put forth to discourage the output of imitations, forgeries and faked stamps, but the traffic goes on merrily though somewhat checked. The tendency to study stamps has been on the increase in the last five years. This tendency is one of the most dangerous to the interests of illicit business. Careful study of the minute particulars of a stamp sharpens the perception of the student to a very keen edge. The keener the edge the duller become the interests of the persons seeking to defraud. These persons possess an advantage over their hoped for victims. But the latter are being trained and rehearsed so well in their study of stamps under the microscope that the former, opposed by watchfulness instead of a sleeping sentinel, must find solace in the hope that greater skill and patience shall unguard the watcher. Whilst the scientific study of stamps may be condemned for many reasons, yet it may be seen that it imparts to one considerable aptitude in detecting what is and what is not the scum of Philately. In days gone by lithography was the best method used in imitating stamps. Today the improved processes of photo-engravure, etc., render the most delicately engraved stamp liable to wonderfully exact imitation. So tempting is the fruit that some unscrupulous persons use every practicable and up-to-date means of plucking it. The discoveries in science have aided man to fulfill bad as well as good intentions.

The idea that it is impossible to reproduce a stamp in every detail of design, paper, watermark, perforation, gum and color, is a prevalent one and is accepted by most experts as true, but there are some skeptics who opine differently. We presume that a counterfeit might be produced that would not differ from the original more than two stamps vary which are from different dies but from the same plate. It is certainly true that fraudulent grilles have appeared upon some United States stamps that have puzzled the highest experts. The best authorities have disagreed in regard to these grilles in the most ludicrous manner. A certain gentleman of our acquaintance sent two specimens of the grille type, which he had removed from original covers, to a New York expert for opinion. The judgment rendered was to the effect that one of the stamps

bore a forged grille; the other stamp, the genuine and original grille. The identical stamps were sent to a Boston stamp firm, who made a similar blunder, except that matters were reversed in their statement that the first mentioned grille was genuine, the second a counterfeit. Both authorities disagreed; both were in error.

Two years ago a find of Austrian stamps was reported. Unused and defaced labels of this so-called find were placed upon the market, and, now, a number of them are resting in the collections of various persons who, of course, have considered the stamps genuine, at least up to the time of the recent expose. After passing unscathed through a fire of most critical examination on the part of the very elect of English, French and German authorities, the stamps were finally shown up in their true colors by certain Austrian philatelic lights.

For years the 1 kreutzer, black, 1862, perforated 13½, Bavaria, held its position as a genuine stamp. Up to the publication of the 54th edition of Scott's catalogue it was recorded. It was not until about a year since that all doubt was removed.

Just the other day we sold a two rs., blue, Denmark, that has received the mark of genuineness of a reputable New York firm, whose decisions are always looked upon with respect. But a local stamp analyst says, no, the stamp is a counterfeit. He was ready to back his statement not only with excited gestures and gesticulations, but with gold and silver of the realm. What are we to think under such conflicting opinions, with our own skill and perception of no avail? We shall await developments, but with a rankling fear that we are not yet safe from the hold ups of philatelic highwaymen.

That the output of counterfeits was very large in the earlier days of stamps collecting is to be inferred from the fact that so many dumb witnesses may be found in stamp collections formed at that time. We have seen many collections which were formed prior to the year 1875, and in them we have noticed that 50 per cent of the stamps credited as rarities were in fact of the fraud class. The majority of the frauds of ye olden time was of a humble type, not calculated to trouble greatly the enlightened philatelist of today, but there was by no means a happy dearth of high class imitations. Who is justified in urging that the counterfeits of the first envelopes of Finland are poor copies of the originals? These counterfeits stood the test of

(Continued on page 5.)

WESTERN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT.

from the roll. Last call, so respond promptly.

C. E. THAYER, Sec'y.

New Members—

100. Andrew A. Quevli, Windom, Minn.

101. Moses B. Page, Muscatine, Iowa.

Applications—

Chas. Stewart, 210 East Ninth street, St. Paul.

Reference—R. E. Stower, C. E. Thayer.

The above applicant will be admitted to membership on the 15th of next month upon payment of dues, provided, no objection is received before that date.

I desire to again call the attention of members to the fact that THEIR ANNUAL DUES OF 35 CENTS ARE NOW PAYABLE. Unless they are paid within 30 days, I shall be obliged to drop you

REPORT OF EXCHANGE SUPERINTENDENT.

I have to report that there are eight books now circulating valued at \$76.12. Sales from same to date have been \$9.29. I can use more filled books and hope that members having duplicates that they wish to dispose of will send for some of the exchange books and return them to me filled. Any member wishing to be placed on a circuit will please send me his name and his request will be granted.

GEORGE W. ACHARD,
 Exchange Supt., W. P. A.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A Monthly Magazine.

Published by The Philatelic Newsletter Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minn.

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H. S. Swensen, F. S. George, A. Edsten.

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Advertising rates, 60 cents per inch. Liberal discounts given on time contracts.

A cross opposite this paragraph indicates that your subscription has expired. Your prompt renewal is respectfully solicited or we will discontinue sending it.

All communications should be addressed to the Managing Editor,

GEORGE W. ACHARD, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

OUR AUTHORIZED AGENTS.

L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Nebraska. The Birmingham Consolidated Stamp Company, 85 Wills street, Loyells, Birmingham, England.

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EDITORIAL.

Owing to the sickness of Mr. Swensen, it again devolves upon the managing editor to pen the editorial column for this month. Therefore, we trust our readers will not expect too much of us, as we have been so busy for the past month that our mind could only with difficulty be concentrated enough on stamp topics to jot off these few paragraphs. However, at the outset let us state that The Newsletter is now the official organ of the League of American Philatelists and that beginning with this issue our magazine goes to and is read by nearly five hundred new collectors, whom we did not have on our subscription lists before. Although this society is of more recent origin than some of the other national organizations, still it is rapidly forging to the front and bids fair to soon be one of the largest and best in America.

The average dealer of today is becoming very solicitous as to the welfare and nurturing of the young collector. Time was, and that not such a great distance in the past, when our dealers stuck up their noses at and would have none of the young collector and his trade. But Time, the great leveler, has changed the condition of affairs, and today we see the dealers falling over themselves to bid for the trade they once spurned. The falling off in their trade has become a matter of general alarm, and efforts are being made for a revival of the collecting spirit among the younger element of our population. Just along this line the firm of Albrecht & Co. are making a commendable move in the issuance of what they term "The Favorite Album." We have been favored with a copy of this new publication and must say that it is the best of its class that we have been fortunate enough to scan. Its low price and excellent arrangement, as well as the absence of minor varieties in United States stamps, should secure a large sale.

There is one country that has always been a favorite of ours, but that seems to have been neglected by collectors as a rule. It is the little South American Republic of Uruguay. Perhaps one reason for its non-popularity may be found in the fact that seldom do we see specimens either on the sheets of dealers or offered for sale through the advertising columns of our press. Even the auction catalogues have been

wonderfully silent and very rarely have any quantity of them been offered. We were agreeably surprised the other day, on receiving a catalogue of Tuttle's third sale, to find that two hundred and forty-two of this country were to be disposed of on the night of the 20th.

The rumor of the new issue for the United States has been the subject of considerable discussion among local philatelists during the past month. The new administration could certainly give us a more tasteful set than the present one, but what will the Bureau do with all the unused plates now on hand? Of course, they will never be issued, and platenumber fiends are a little exercised over them. Another question that undoubtedly will be raised is that of the selection and use of the international colors. It is more than probable that they will be adopted, and we shall again have a green stamp of a low value.

The Loud-bill that has just passed the lower house of congress is one of more than passing interest to publishers of philatelic journals. Some of the provisions are bound to kill off some of our class journals, as the sample copy will be a thing of the past, and the advertiser will refuse to place his contracts in papers of a small circulation. Those having a fairly good subscription list will not be affected, unless the bill confers certain powers of discrimination and interpretations on the postmaster-general that will militate against the interests of those publishers. This the bill already has incorporated in it, but the senate is likely to amend it so that the postal department will be the servant of the people, as it should be. There are certain provisions in the bill that are very foolish and crude, and these will probably be amended.

The Newsletter has a treat in store for its readers for next month. We shall print an address given by Major, then Lieutenant, Evans before the Royal Society of Arts and Science of Mauritius, the theme being "Mauritius Postage Stamps." It is written in the Major's unique style and is certainly worth considerable to the student of philately. However, those who receive sample copies this month will not have the pleasure of reading it unless their subscriptions are received before the 15th of February, as we shall send sample copies to an altogether new lot of collectors from those sent this month. If you want to see it, get in line.

OUR EXCHANGES.

All matter intended for review should be mailed to the review editor, F. S. George, 17 Fourth street south, Minneapolis, Minn.

The following have been received since our last issue:

The November numbers of the International Stamp, The International Philatelist, The Columbian Philatelist, December numbers of the Post Office, The Ontario Philatelist, The Philatelic Monthly, The Advertiser, The New York Philatelist, The Evergreen State Philatelist, The Boston Stamp Book, The Philatelic Free Lance, The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser, numbers 186 and 188 of the Weekly Philatelic Era, The Eastern Philatelist and the American Collection, January number of the Evergreen State Philatelist. Other publications as follows:

Stamp Collectors' Almanack, Price List of U. S. Stamps No. 7, from J. M. Bartels & Co.; Walter Mottley's Revised Catalogue and price list of Government Issued Envelopes, Registered Envelopes, News Bands and Post Cards of Great Britain.

The issue of the Columbian Philatelist, now before us, is the beginning of volume No. 2. The first article is by Amy L. Swift on "The First Postal Service." This is followed by an article on "A. P. A.

Justice." The balance of the number contains the Press, Editorials, and some new catalogue prices, and Philatelic Society reports.

The opening article of the International Philatelist is "No Time Like the Present," by C. E. Severn. This is a good article for collectors to read, who are interested in the 57th catalogue. True it is that now is the time to buy. Money is scarce and all the better varieties of United States stamps can be purchased at about one-half catalogue price. Mr. Severn quotes several instances as follows: The 5-cent, 1851, is priced at \$13.50 in the advance sheets. This stamp is being advertised at from \$9 to \$11 in the current numbers of stamp journals. The 90-cent, 1855-60, is catalogued by the advance sheets at \$27.50. It is possible to buy a fine specimen today for about \$20. The 90-cent, 1868, is priced at \$18 by the new catalogue and is being offered by dealers at from \$12 to \$15.

The second article in this issue is by M. E. Whitehead, and he writes entertainingly for consolidation. Mr. H. E. Briggs writes an interesting article on "Chronological Collecting, Shall We Adopt It?" The balance of the issue is filled up with new issues, editorials and society reports.

No. 3 of the New York Philatelist is a very good number and contains a number of interesting articles. The first, by F. P. on "The Stamps of Naples and the Two Sicilies;" the second, by S. Estelle Miller on "U. S. Proprietary Stamps." Following this article is another by M. S. on "The Old Postal System of South America." The next article is by Fred, and is entitled "How I Struck a Snap." It is the same time-worn story about finding hundreds and thousands of valuable stamps and then waking up to find that it is all a dream. The balance of the article is filled up with notes and comments, editorials and some catalogue prices.

We have not the space to review the remaining journals this month, as we wish to say a word about the "Standard" catalogue. The old saying is, "if you want to spoil anything, overdo it." This saying is true, not only in philatelic matters, but in all things. Many a town or city has in times gone past been boomed to such an extent that it is now a howling wilderness; or received such a set back that it has never entirely recovered. Booming prices in stamps to such an unreasonable extent will have the same effect. Let us quote some opinions. Iberius, in No. 315 of the Weekly Stamp News, says: "The 57th Catalogue, as a guide for collectors in arranging their collections, I should pronounce it invaluable. As a reflex of the actual state of the stamp market as regards prices, I would unhesitatingly call it a mockery. Men acquainted with the stamp market know that actual cash sales are made for stamps of low, medium and high grade, all kinds, in fact, except rarities, at about half catalogue prices, and dealers are glad to turn their stock into available bank assets even at half 56th catalogue prices." R. W. French, in the January issue of the Evergreen State Philatelist, says: "Notwithstanding that the advance sheets of the 57th are nearly all out, the low prices of the past summer seem yet to prevail." In No. 186 of the Weekly Philatelic Era, a dealer views the present catalogue thus:

"What I have to say may seem radical; very well, it is radical. Moreover, something radical must be done, or our pretty pastime, our helpful hobby, will fade away, will go to join the great majority in the graveyard of worn out fads."

"Plainly, the great middle class of collectors is getting tired, is stopping to reflect, and with reflection comes, often, an abandonment of stamp collecting."

"I have had experience enough to know the difference between a proper appreciation and an arrant boasting. And, to a fair extent, my finger is on the philatelic pulse. I know how both collectors and dealers feel about the tactics of inflation pursued by the makers of the standard catalogue. 'Inflation' is the

proper word; I have passed the stage where I believe that prices are the result of mistaken enthusiasm.

"Unmindful of the severe lesson of last January, the prevailing low prices (in comparison with the catalogue) and other signs of the times, in spite of all these things, the makers of the catalogue are carrying out another feverish campaign of 'get all there is in it—now!' and even hardened speculators tremble a little at their temerity."

(Continued from page 3.)

many years' scrutiny before their true character became public. No one who is at all a philatelist would challenge the statement that the forged labels of the scarce Moldavians are excellent reproductions. We know of a collector who has collected and studied stamps since almost before the time he grew a crop of hair, who possesses a counterfeit of the 81 paras, Moldavia, which he sincerely believes to be a genuine stamp. He claims that he secured it from a party who had removed it from the original envelope. He says that the party's veracity is not to be questioned for a moment. But the stamp is a counterfeit and has been so proven by comparison with the original. The distinguishing points are as follows: (1) The impression of the counterfeit is slightly larger than that of the original. (2) Some of the letters of the inscription on the counterfeit are better formed. (3) There is a discrepancy in the number of lines in the shading of the post horn of the imitation. The paper of the counterfeit appears to be the same as that of the genuine stamp.

Notwithstanding these conclusive facts as to the authenticity of the stamp in question, its owner still maintains that it is a genuine original, and, if a counterfeit, it must have been used postally.

In the early period of Philately the old Swiss stamps were also objects of the counterfeiter's designs. The Swiss frauds were particularly successful, this being due to the fact that they were made in Switzerland, the home of the genuine. They were hard to detect, and are an example of the best work of the counterfeiter of that time.

The simplest way in which a counterfeit may be detected is by comparison. In comparing a suspected stamp with one known to be genuine, the examiner should note first that the impressions coincide as to lettering, measurement and general appearance. The frame or decorative lines and figures may be imperfectly formed, or there may be an insufficiency of shading or a superabundance of ink. The color may be off, as in the case of the reprints of Heligoland and Lubeck. The second main point to be observed is whether the genuine stamp contains a watermark. If you find that it does, then you will know that the suspected stamp is without much doubt a counterfeit if it lacks the watermark. Most of the imitations of the early stamps of Denmark may be distinguished in the above manner, as may also many of S. Allan Taylor's creations. There are instances where a stamp may have been so printed that a part or no part of the watermark shows, though it may be in evidence in the sheet from which the stamp was taken. The stamps of Hamburg, first issue, are an illustration. Then, again, some stamps have been artificially watermarked, hence we cannot take the watermark remedy as wholly reliable.

Artificial watermarks are of several kinds, the most important of which is made by passing dampened paper through rolls over a die upon which is the watermark design. The watermark resembles so closely the ordinarily executed watermark that few, if any, points are available for distinguishing the artificial from the genuine. Paper so impressed may be detected by treating it with a bath of natron lye. The watermark, if artificial, will swell and soon disappear; the genuine watermark also assumes a swollen appearance, but, instead of disappearing, is more easily discerned. The chemical results of this test are such that but a small number of stamps can be subjected to it, in that the

lye destroys the color of many. The second artificial watermark is called the engraved. The stamp is applied to a die engraved in relief and dipped in sulphuric acid. The acid affects the paper by making it less opaque. The acid causes the paper fibres to present a different appearance from that not acted upon. Through the aid of the microscope this change may be seen.

Another test for artificially formed watermarks is to soak in a solution of soda, which makes the artificial watermark faint in outline, and causes the natural watermark to appear more distinctly. India and Argentine Republic have experienced the artificial watermark on some of their stamps.

Whilst the collector has not much to fear in regard to the artificial watermark, yet it is well to always be on the guard. The means of applying it is so simple that no surprise need be evinced if it be found upon any stamp, even of our own country.

The character of a stamp often may be learned by examining its perforation. A genuine stamp may be perforated 12 to the space of two centimetres, whilst its counterfeit may be detected from the fact that it is perforated 13½. The former may have a clean cut perforation, the latter a ragged, jagged edge. It is well

to be posted as to the nature of the "gum" upon the stamps. It is here that the counterfeiter often falls down. There is a counterfeit of the five-cent, black, Newfoundland, which may be detected by its perforations, and the paper, which is unlike any paper that has been used in the manufacture of Newfoundland stamps.

The counterfeiter sometimes makes a mistake in using improper cancellations. Some of the counterfeits of Modena have been treated to obliteration with a circular, simple and concentric, cancellation, which was never in use in Modena. We have in our counterfeit collection imitations of Modena stamps which may be distinguished by the following particulars:

- (a) Type of inscriptions too large.
- (b) Crown above eagle much broader in the counterfeit.
- (c) Lines representing feathers of eagle too coarsely drawn.
- (d) Too much of a curl in the top of the scroll on each side of the label.

Note—As the genuine stamps of Modena are very roughly printed, the counterfeits might easily be taken for the originals.

(To be continued.)

League of American Philatelists.

President—L. J. Kramer, Elkader, Iowa.
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SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Resignations—

J. S. Dunn, Cumberland, Me.
 C. E. Bostwick, Elkhart, Ind.
 C. C. Harrington, Denver, Colo.

Change of Address—

A. W. Drew, to Temple, Arizona.

New Members—

442. E. L. Shove, Unionville, N. Y.
 443. O. K. Carstarphen, Box 734, Denver, Colo.
 444. H. N. Bullard, Parkville, Mo.
 445. Herbert J. Guest, Watford Road, Kings-Norton, Eng.

The above will receive their membership cards upon receipt of their dues to Jan. 1, 1898.

Applications—

F. Van Ruth, 616 Vine street, Cincinnati, Ohio. Reference—P. M. Weiss, L. J. Kramer.
 O. L. Moses, Powell, Ohio. Reference—P. M. Weiss, L. J. Kramer.
 Mrs. P. M. Weiss, Box 232, Cincinnati, Ohio. Reference—P. M. Weiss, Sidney Hurtig.
 Chas. Tressel, Sixth Precinct Police Station, Cleveland, Ohio. Reference—P. M. Weiss, Sidney Hurtig.
 T. C. Harbough, Casstown, Ohio. Reference—P. M. Weiss, Sidney Hurtig.

Geo. T. Johnson, 43 Mulberry street, Cincinnati, Ohio. Reference—P. M. Weiss, Sidney Hurtig.

Carl E. Magin, Holdredge, Neb. Reference—P. M. Weiss, Sidney Hurtig.

J. T. Clauson, Amelia, Neb. Reference—L. T. Brodstone, P. C. Sammons.

C. R. Simpson, Petittcadiac, N. B. Reference—L. C. Mutch, L. J. Kramer.

Chas. B. Marsh, Newport, R. I. Reference—W. Sanford, L. J. Kramer.

W. C. R. Bell, Adelaide, South Australia. Reference—I. E. Patterson, Chas. G. Hart.

Henry S. Adair, McConnellsville, Ohio. Reference—B. L. Morris, L. J. Kramer.

Chas. S. McNutt, Knoxville, Tenn. Reference—H. B. Hunt, J. E. Patterson.

A. Von Degen, Chicago, Ill. Reference—E. H. Clark, Chas. B. Hesse.

W. A. Merritt, Millbank, S. D. Reference—C. W. Merritt, F. Minnegan.

H. R. Springer, Norway, Iowa. Reference—C. W. Merritt, Chas. B. Hesse.

Willard P. Emery, 932 North Fifth street, Des Moines, Iowa. Reference—John Arbtin, L. J. Kramer.

Ferdinand F. Jelke, 516 La Salle street, Chicago, Ills. Reference—B. J. Bishop, Jno. F. Jelke.

Ralph M. Lowery, Box 437, Wellsville, Ohio. Reference—Ben L. Morris, L. J. Kramer.

T. L. Green, Mt. Olivet, Ky. Reference—H. C. Beardsley, L. J. Kramer.

The above named applicants will be admitted to membership on Feb. 15, provided no objection is received before that date, and, provided, each pays his dues to Jan. 1, 1898. The secretary will be pleased to forward application blanks and information to any prospective members. The League is on a firm footing and will continue so, if members will work for its interests.
 CHAS. B. HESSE, Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the L. A. P.—

No doubt, many of the members will be surprised in receiving the Newsletter as the official journal of the L. A. P., but I hope you will be pleased with it nevertheless. The International Philatelist, having resigned, we were obliged to secure a new one, which task was subject to much consideration, there being so many good magazines in the field. I sincerely hope the Newsletter will serve us satisfactorily.

We are now in fine shape for a prosperous year, and members will please remember that the dues for this year are forthcoming.

The dues now are 25c, but if the new constitution,

which will probably be published next month, be adopted, then the dues will be 35c. So pay up at once, and, while you are about it, just send along another quarter for '98.

It is a surprise to me to see a few of our prominent philatelists still owing '96 dues. Now, I believe this is but carelessness, and it would be a severe thing for them to be expelled or dropped from the society.

There will soon be a revision of the roll, and all delinquents will be ousted, and those indebted to the society in any way will be taken into consideration by our trustees.

So please pay up today, and if there is any member of this society who thinks he does not get his money's worth, I want to know it. I will cheerfully refund him the money.

Most all of the departments are in very good shape; the exchange department, in fact, is in excellent shape, and I want you to try it. Do not think that all exchange departments are alike. Do not think that all the officers in charge of those departments are alike—and because you did not fare well with one, that you will never try another.

Try the exchange department. Send Mr. Arbtin some "good" stamps, and if you don't get good returns and promptly, as he states, I want to know it. If the officers in the various departments do not do their duty, I want to know it. If you have got anything to say, or don't like the way things are run, I want to know it. That's what I'm here for—to see that you get what you pay for.

The following resident vice-presidents have been appointed:

For New Jersey—John Faisant, 777 East Fourteenth street, Paterson.

For California—Georges Carion, San Francisco.

For Wisconsin—M. L. Buterfield, Waukesha.

Hoping you will forward your dues at once to the treasurer, and also the means of securing a new applicant, I remain, very truly yours,

LOUIS J. KRAMER, President.

Elkader, Iowa, Jan. 15, 1897.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The treasury has now been turned over to me.

Cash received from E. B. Jones.....	35
Fees received from W. H. Kessler.....	\$1.00
Other fees and dues.....	1.52

Balance on hand	\$2.87
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FRED B. WOOLSTON, Treasurer.

November, 1896.

Gentlemen and Members L. A. P.—

On account of the failure of our official organ to come out regular, and for some other causes I do not wish to made public just now, this department has been somewhat delayed. But I am very much pleased to report that at last I have been able to get the Exchange Department in a very good running order.

Up to Jan. 1, 1897, I have received 87 sheets for circulation, valued at \$525.59. Of this I have sent out 77 sheets, valued at \$507.13, on five different circuits. Sales from same amount to \$41.10. The last circuit, valued at \$269.78, was sent out only a few days ago, and, therefore, no sales from same are made yet. I have 10 sheets on hand, valued at \$18.46.

Through correspondence with members I have been able to secure a good many names for the circuit lists, but still there is room for more. I would be very glad to have at least twice as many before my next report.

I will also earnestly request all members who have any "good" duplicate stamps to dispose of to send me the same as soon as possible for circulation. I can sell all "good" stamps I can get, but I cannot sell any "very common ones," because all members on the circuit lists are "advanced" collectors.

Please remember that I will make settlement for all stamps sent to me within three months from acceptance.

Please send me your names for the circuit lists and

your stamps for circulation as soon as possible. Any information in regard to this department will gladly be furnished by yours, very respectfully,

JOHN ARBTIN.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 9, 1897.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LITERARY EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

Fellow Members—I find I have been elected to an office that is about as useless to the members as the library. My predecessor made strenuous efforts to make the department a success, but failed, simply because there are not enough literature collectors in the society to make the department pay.

I would suggest a literary sales department for the selling of the library, which is a useless incumbrance, and putting the money in the treasury.

Let members send papers to be sold at auction each month instead of trying to make an exchange. Have auction sales of literature each month.

I would be pleased to hear from any members on this subject.

For the best interests of the League, I remain, fraternally,

BEN L. MORRIS.

Box 340, Bellaire, O.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Since the convention this board has held three meetings. The first was unimportant, but at the last two the cases of Chas. G. Hart, ex-secretary, and E. A. Stigeler, ex-superintendent of the exchange department, were brought up. Investigations are still pending in both of these matters, and we hope to soon report and adjustment. Mr. Hart has agreed to settle up with the League at an early date.

The board, after much work, has finally finished the revision of the constitution, and, as there are so many changes in it, the publication of the constitution and by-laws in their entirety will be given in the next number of the official organ, as the work of copying them does not permit of their insertion in this number.

The board hereby directs the secretary to notify members who are delinquent in their dues, to pay up at once or suffer expulsion. No society can live with barnacles clinging to it and weighting it down. One hundred active, working members are better than five hundred drones, and the time for a house-cleaning has come. Pay up or get out.

The board desires to congratulate the members on the efficiency of the exchange department. Under Mr. Arbtin's supervision it is becoming very useful and our only hope is that more of the members will make use of it. The purchasing department is ready for business on a businesslike basis. Of the other departments we have nothing to report, but would respectfully ask the various officials to report what they have done at an early date.

The bonds of the various officers have been sent them, and we expect to approve of them at no late date.

Respectfully submitted

The Board of Trustees,

By GEO. W. ACHARD, Sec'y.

PRESS AGENT'S REPORT.

I desire to call he attention of the members to the fact that I can save them from 20 to 40 per cent on ads. and subscriptions in nearly all American and English papers, as well as on many handbooks and directories. Send "postage" for particulars to

L. T. BRODSTONE.

Box 116, Superior, Neb.

COMMUNICATIONS.

E. B. Horn, Jr., 11 Greenwich Park, Boston, Mass., offers stamp collectors joining the L. of A. P. with his name as first reference a copy of the "Stamp Dictionary" (retailed at 20 cents). He will furnish you with blanks.

...Cast Your Optic Here...

SETS.
 10 Argentine, 10c
 3 " 1, 2, 5 pesos, 92c
 4 Brit. Guiana, 1c on 1, 2, 3, 4 45c
 7 Labuan, '94, 2 to 40c, 60c
 9 Borneo, 1-2 to 10c, 30c
 20 Brazil, 25c
 3 Chile, telegraph, 5c
 We have many others on our lists. Write for one.

1,000 VARIETY PACKET.
 This contains no locals, telegraph, revenue, re-prints, cards or U. S. but is the choicest packet of foreign stamps ever put on the market at the price. We sell it at \$7.00 registered and post-free.

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 are unequalled both for quality and price and are sent only on receipt of firstclass reference or deposit. No sharks need apply. Discounts, 33 1-3rd and 50 per cent, allowed on sales. Send for a lot and note the difference.

FLOUR CITY STAMP COMPANY,

721 S. 7th Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE,

The Minneapolis Philatelic Society desires to exchange its duplicate copies of magazines for odd numbers to complete files. Have you anything to exchange? Send lists and we will send ours.

E. S. STEBBINS, Librarian,
 612 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn.

BARGAINS

War Department 9 Varieties Unused
 Cat 2 40 \$ 80
 U S 1847 10c Washington 2 00
 Canada 12 1/2c Green 25
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 8c Registration, Un. 1 75
 Officially sealed Cat. 2 50 Only 75c, a bargain.

Japan 1896 War Stamps, 4 varieties, FREE TO ALL sending for our fine approval sheets at most liberal discounts and prices and enclosing first class references, will receive 4 varieties of Japan War Stamps.

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HALL'S BARGAIN COUNTER

Is in full blast and many strange faces are seen in the throng of bargain hunters. I offer the finest hinge on the market at 9c per 1,000, and the finest blank approval sheets at 40c per 100.

Ginger(y) Snaps for the New Year:

	Cat. Price	My Price
U. S. 1851, 10c, type I, slight defect.....	\$20 00	\$ 9 00
" " 10c, 500, a fine desirable lot.....	75 00	34 00
" " 10c 40, on covers, fine.....	6 00	3 50
" " Agriculture, 3c.....	25	15
" " " 6c.....	75	50
" Registered Seal, green.....	25	10
" Revenue, 2c, Play Card, blue.....	40	16
" " 2c, Certificate, Orange.....	75	35
" " 3c, Telegraph.....	35	20
" " 25c, Warehouse Receipt.....	1 00	55
" " \$1. E. of G., fine cut punched, imperf.....	2 00	60
" " \$2. Conveyance.....	20	12
" " \$2. Mortgage.....	25	15
" " \$3. Charter Party.....	25	15
" " \$1. Manifest.....	35	22
Canada 1851, 3d, laid paper.....	1 50	80
" " 6d, " ".....	6 50	3 60
" " 1852, 3d, " ".....	35	20
" " 6d, purple black.....	6 00	3 40
" " 6d, spongy paper.....	8 00	5 40
" " 1857, 1/2d, " ".....	4 00	2 50
" " 7/8d, fine cut scant margins.....	22 50	12 50
" " 1858, 1/2d, perf.....	8 50	5 40
" " 3d, " ".....	3 50	2 25
" " 1859, 5c, Beaver, variety, fine.....	15 00	9 00
" " 1875, 8c, Register.....	2 50	1 75
" Officially Sealed.....	2 50	95
" " 1860, 5c, envelope, new or used entire.....	1 50	1 10
" " 5c, envelope, variety, rare, entire.....		6 00
" " 10c, envelope, entire, new.....	4 00	3 40
N. B. 1851, 3d, on cover, fine.....	4 50	3 20

Cash with order. Postage 3c extra on orders under \$1. Send me your want lists.

W. KELSEY HALL,
 PETERBORO, ONT., CANADA.

When you answer advertisements, kindly mention The Philatelic Newsletter.

The Philatelic Newsletter.

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. II.

FEBRUARY

No 6

MAURITIUS POSTAGE STAMPS.

The following paper was read by Lieut. (now Major) Evans, R. A. at the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences held on the 28th of August, 1878:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

The paper which I have the honour of reading before you today is devoted to the consideration of certain curious specimens of engraving, and printing, made in this island some years ago, for the purpose of being employed as postage stamps.

Before proceeding however to the subject of my paper, I venture to ask your attention to the few remarks showing how widely spread is the pursuit of collecting postage stamps, and thus accounting for the interest taken in these and other parts of the world, in these engravings as stamps principally and as curiosities of engravings secondarily.

These books (the Stamp Collector's Magazine and The Philatelist) are volumes of two periodicals published in England in monthly numbers entirely devoted to subjects directly or indirectly connected with the collection and study of stamps; both of them contain a vast number of illustrations, showing that neither care nor expense was spared in their preparation; one of them was started in 1863, the other in 1867, the first continued in existence 12 years, the second for ten. These were the most important, or at all events the most long-lived of the English publications devoted to this subject, but they were not by any means the only ones; during their career they may be said to have seen the rise and fall of stamp collecting as a fashionable mania, during the accurate period of which many ephemeral periodicals of kindred nature sprang up and died away. Although both of these magazines have ceased to exist in their earlier forms their publishers still issue monthly or quarterly circulars, consisting principally of advertisements and descriptions of newly issued stamps, etc., and these, as well as three or four other firms in England still are in the business of dealing in stamps, and, I presume, succeed in making a living by it; in other parts of Europe, in France, Germany and Italy, also in the United States, there are works of a similar nature published, and persons engaged in the same business; in short, I may say that no other pursuit of no direct utility, certainly no other that has been so much despised and ridiculed, has given rise to so large an amount of special literature or afforded a means of livelihood to so large a number of persons.

Besides this there are two Societies—may I venture to call them Learned Societies?—the headquarters of one of which is in London, and the other in Paris, founded for the express purpose of studying stamps and other things connected with them; the English society has not yet published any of its work, but that of Paris issues a quarterly bulletin, containing

accounts of its meetings and portions of a catalogue which it is preparing; the number laid before you contains a list of its members who may be seen to be of various professions and nationalities.

The early stamps of Mauritius, and more especially those produced by local talent, have always excited very great interest among collectors, partly as very curious specimens of engraving, partly on account of the great rarity of some of the varieties of them, and partly, no doubt on account of the want of accurate information as to the origin and date of issue, which led to all sorts of conjectures being formed about them and consequent discussions of the various theories on the subject; many articles upon them have been published from time to time both in English and foreign magazines, but it is not until quite recently that any really authentic information about them reached Europe. This information I was enabled to obtain through the kindness of the late, and of the present colonial secretary.

It appears that in 1846 a postal ordinance was passed in Mauritius in which postage stamps were first contemplated, and some time in 1847 a Mr. Barnard engraved two copper plates, one bearing a single stamp of the value of one penny, the other a similar stamp of the value of two pence, for in September 1847, the then postmaster reported that the stamps required for carrying out Ordinance 13, of 1846 were ready, 700 of them having been struck off, such being apparently his idea of an adequate supply; however, he seemed soon to have found out that the stamp consuming capacity of the Mauritius public, even at that date was very much greater than he expected, for in May 1848, he reported that certain improved plates containing 12 types each, one plate of 1 penny, the other of two pence stamps, were ready, and requested that a supply of each value should at once be struck off; other paragraphs in the letter show that 1000 stamps have been printed from the original single stamp plates, and that those plates had been at once found to be quite unable to produce a sufficient quantity of stamps to supply the demands of the public. These stamps were entirely for local postage, no stamps of higher value than two pence were issued here till some years later, but even in England penny and two pence postage stamps were the only ones in use up to 1846, in which year a shilling stamp was issued, followed in 1847 by a ten pence.

It may not perhaps be out of place to observe here that Mauritius was early among the places which issued postage stamps, and was indeed the first British colony which did so. England, as I believe is generally known, was the first country to adopt, in 1840, this system of prepaying postage, the rates of which were at the same time very greatly reduced, Sir Roland Hill being if not the actual inventor of postage stamps, at all events the first person to bring them into use; Brazil was the first foreign country to fol-

low the example, issuing its first stamps in 1843, in which year and in the following some of the Swiss Cantons did the same; local stamps for New York were issued in 1844 and in 1845 similar issues were made in other cities of the United States, a general issue for that country only taking place in 1847; Russia and Finland issued stamps in 1845. The above are, I believe, the only places which precede Mauritius in taking this step.

A few specimens are known to exist of certain Mauritius postage stamps bearing the words "Post Office" on the left hand side. These are found in two types only, one for each value, that is to say all the penny stamps of this variety are precisely alike, and all the two pence equally so; the stamps more commonly known differ from these in bearing the words "Post-paid" in place of the words "Post office" and in being found in twenty-four different types, twelve of each value.

There is little or no doubt that the latter were produced from the improved plates mentioned by the postmaster in his letter of May, 1848, and I believe it to be equally certain that the first mentioned stamps were from the single stamp plates mentioned in the letter of September, 1847.

Now herein lies one of the peculiarities of these engravings. The usual mode of forming a plate from which stamps are printed is as follows: The design is engraved upon steel; from the single die thus engraved, copies are made either by means of electrotyping or by taking impressions upon some soft metal which is afterwards subjected to a hardening process; in this manner a sufficient number of exact copies of the original die, or matrix as it is termed, are produced to form a plate from which whole sheets of stamps may be printed; these plates are printed from until they begin to show signs of wear, and then fresh plates are prepared from the matrix as before, the original steel die therefore, being subjected to comparatively little wear and tear, lasts for an unlimited time; thus the same matrix has served to produce the English penny and two penny stamps from 1840 down to the present date. The engraver of the first plates for the Mauritius stamps might have multiplied his original designs by means of electrotyping, had he been acquainted with that process and had he possessed the necessary apparatus; but this it appears was not the case. When therefore it was found that the single stamp plate could not produce a sufficient supply of impressions, he set to work to engrave fresh plates with twelve types upon each, and these twelve types being separately engraved by hand, naturally no two were exactly alike, thus producing twelve typical varieties of each value of the stamps; these varieties differ very slightly from one another for the most part, it requiring close examination to discover the various type; there is, however, among the two-penny stamps one well marked variety formed by the engraver having made the "c" of the word "pence" an "o"; thus reading "two-pence". This curious error was apparently never altered, which it might very easily have been, for the letters on these stamps were not cut into the plate, but were left in relief, the portions which are dark in the stamps being cut away in the plates so as to receive the ink, so that by cutting away a small portion of the "o" it could have been made into a "c".

Looking at the general design of these stamps, if we disregard for a moment the lettered labels at the sides, I think it is evident that it is a rough copy of that of the English penny and two-penny stamps, a profile to left of the Queen with a diadem, the word "Postage" above, and the value below; it was then no doubt thought necessary to add some indication of the locality to which they belong, accordingly the word "Mauritius" was placed on one side of the label. Something was necessary to balance this on the other; the words "Post Office" were natural enough and, owing to the curious manner in which "Mauritius" was made to read from below upwards,

if a stamp of the first issue be looked at from one side, its labels read "Post Office, Mauritius". Why, when fresh plates were engraved, the words "Post-paid" were substituted for "Post Office" is hard to say, for with the word "Postage" at the top "Post-paid" was unnecessary.

These plates continued in use for about ten years, during which time they gradually became worn out, so that later impressions from them only show traces of the original design, the lettering even becoming almost if not quite illegible; in consequence of this the post master in the early part of 1858 requested that the plate of the two-penny stamps (that value being the most used and that plate being consequently the most worn) might be re-engraved or a new one made. The old plate was placed in the hands of Mr. Sherwin who undertook to re-engage it, but, who after some delay returned it in an unfinished state in the latter part of the year, stating that he had no time to complete it. This plate was then submitted to another engraver, a Mr. Lapirot, whose opinion was that it was too much worn to be of any further use; he at the same time undertook to engrave a fresh plate, which he apparently did early in 1859, for at all events before the end of March in that year a new variety of two-penny stamp made its appearance, also printed from a copper plate engraved in a similar manner to the earlier ones, and thus also showing twelve different types.

The design of the stamps engraved by Mr. Lapirot, is, if anything, more curious than that of their predecessors, and although he attempted, what perhaps should be considered a higher style of art in giving his lettering a back ground of lines instead of solid ones, this execution must be confessed to be decidedly inferior to that of Mr. Barnard, and his lines can have but little depth, for although these stamps were not in use for more than one year specimens are found which show quite as much deterioration of the plate as those of the former issue.

The old plate partially re-engraved by Mr. Sherwin and perhaps completed by someone else, appears to have been employed for short time, either while Mr. Lapirot's plate was being prepared or after it was worn out, for there exists a third species of two-penny stamps, specimens of which are somewhat uncommon showing that they were in use for a short time only, which species is also found in twelve typical varieties, the arrangements of which on the plate which produced the earlier stamps. I may add that these scarce stamps are about the most hideous things of the kind ever produced, this fact perhaps accounts for so few of them having been made.

The above are the engraved stamps made in Mauritius, the only other postage stamps of local manufacture are some penny and two-penny stamps lithographed by Mr. Dardenne, at the end of 1859, on the beginning of 1860. These were, I believe, in sheets of sixty; the design like those of the engraving is a somewhat primitive one, but there are no varieties of types, the sheets being made up of lithographic reproductions of the original drawing; the design of the two values differ slightly from one another; these also were in use but a short time being superseded before the end of 1860 by the penny and two-penny stamps sent out from England of the designs which have continued in use down to the present time.—*Mercantile Record and Commercial Gazette.*

TALKS ON COUNTERFEITS.

By H. S. Swensen.

(Continued from last Month.)

Sometimes the fraud may be found out by a mistake in the spelling of a word. Hundreds of collectors have in their collections complete sets of the peculiar but well executed retimus counterfeits of British Guiana. The counterfeiter was undoubtedly unacquainted with the Latin language, for in spelling the word "petimus" of the motto he spelt it with an

"r" instead of a "p." These counterfeits are quite common. Look to your albums and see if you are harboring wolves in sheep's clothing within the confines of your philatelic fold. About a year ago a certain annotator announced the discovery of a British Guiana error. He was only another of a great multitude who have been deceived by a counterfeit which we choose to call the retimus fraud. The other distinguishing points of this very deceiving fraud are:

- (a) Some of the letters are ill-shaped.
- (b) The sails of the ship are shaded too much.
- (c) The buckle and collar are too large.

Note—The counterfeit is cancelled as a rule, thus requiring greater vigilance on the part of the detector.

Some counterfeits confess their character when placed in water or some other liquid causing greater reactions. This is because they are printed in inks of an inferior quality. Counterfeits of many Brazilian stamps suffer under this liquid test.

Secret marks have been a greater aid in the discovery of counterfeiting. Not long since we were in a decided dilemma as to whether we should purchase a certain grilled stamp of the United States which had been sent to us on approval. The stamp purported to be a copy of the ten-cent, brown, of the 1870-71 issue. The stamp looked all right, even after comparing its grille with one known to be genuine. We were on the point of taking it, when a sudden light broke over us and disclosed to us the fact that the stamp before us was of the American print. We demurred a little at this sudden transition, and then to make sure we turned to the indispensable catalogue and from it gleaned that the grille must be of the national print. A little common sense and a fortunate mistake of the counterfeiter prevented a slight mulcting of the writer's emaciated pocket book.

Some of the German states placed secret marks upon their stamps as a precaution against the counterfeiter. We will not attempt to reiterate what has been so well given in excellent illustrated articles which have appeared from time to time in both domestic and foreign periodicals.

The stamps of Hamburg have these check marks, but their counterfeit may be detected in other ways perhaps more efficacious than by noting the absence of secret marks. We give two examples of Hamburg imitations below:

4 s. imperforate, fraudulently cancelled.

9 s. imperforate, fraudulently cancelled.

How distinguished—

Lacks watermark.

Insufficiency of shading.

Lower scroll, containing the word "Postmarke," too near the border line of the stamp.

The color is proper enough to deceive the most alert. The above named counterfeits bear the correct form of cancellation, that of four bars. An excellent treatise on the stamps of Hamburg, explaining all the secret marks and describing all the better known counterfeits appeared in one of Mekeel's publications about three years ago.

It is often the case that the cancelled stamp is of more value than its unused duplicate. Seeing a new avenue of profit, the counterfeiter has traversed it by besmirching the clean specimen with a counterfeit obliteration. Many of the stamps of Bremen have been spoiled in this manner. We have seen he 7 gr. with fraudulent postmark. The counterfeit cancellations, as described by Von Girsewald, are blurred, small parts of them only appearing on the stamps, and as little of the lettering as possible is visible. Girsewald says that the letters are mostly very thin, of a cold black, fresh color, while the genuine ones are rather greyish black and present a somewhat fatty appearance. The letters of the cancellation on the 7 gr. stamp we have mentioned are thick in appearance.

The first stamp issued by Saxony has been counterfeited extensively. But one imitation of the 3 pf. ever fell into our hands, but it remained there many years before its true character became known to us. We purchased it in 1886, the same year that the Min-

neapolis Philatelic Society added our name to its membership list, from one of the shining lights of Minneapolis for the small sum of 50 cents. For years we retained that stamp in our collection, always pointing it out to viewers as the great Saxony rarity. One day a smart looking young man called at the writer's home, and introducing himself and politely asking pardon for his boldness, begged leave to look over our much prized collection, supplementing this with the statement that he was an ardent crank on stamps. Of course, acquiescence was but in accordance to the demands of politeness and etiquette, so we took him by the hand and led him to our den where the stamp album lay on top of a pile of debris of dead and gone philatelic literature. Our caller evinced much interest in stamp matters and proved himself quick at philatelic repartee. We became friends at once, and the result was that he called again. Of course, the Saxony rarity was praised to the highest degree by its owner. But our friend merely smiled in a quiet manner at our enthusiasm over the ownership of such a valuable stamp. We were somewhat incensed at him for his apparent non-interest in a matter which to our eyes involved so much money. He one day put to the writer the question, "Why is it that some people like to be humbugged?" We did not understand his query, nor did we then think he had us in mind as one of the persons who so easily find themselves in the category of the humbugged. We answered the question by saying, "Because people delight in it." One day we told our friend collector, whom we now looked up to as a philosopher of philatelic thought, that our purse strings had been pulled pretty hard of late, and to meet the strain we must dispose of the treasured and lauded Saxony stamp. "I am going to sell it to B—," was said. B— was a retired business man who had lots of money, but little knowledge of stamps. Many of our stamps had sought repose in his album. My friend took a seat in silence, looked at me a moment, and then said: "Harry, I want to tell you something: the Saxony, which you have had so many years and about which you have boasted in and out of my company, is the rankest kind of a fraud, and you certainly

(Continued on page 8.)

WESTERN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

President, C. E. Severn, Chicago, Ills.

Vice-President, H. D. Ruehlman, Sharon, Wis.

Secretary, C. E. Thayer, 154 East Third street, St. Paul, Minn.

Treasurer, J. R. Gooding, 757 Fairmont avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

Exchange Superintendent, G. W. Achard, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

Counterfeit Detector, H. C. Beardsley, Box 216, St. Joe, Mo.

Purchasing Agent, L. G. Lambert, 151 Summit avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

Auction Manager, O. K. Carstarphen, Denver Colo.

Librarian, E. Lentz, Baker City, Ore.

Attorney, R. W. French, Hartland, Wash.

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SECRETARY REPORT, FEB., 1897.

NEW MEMBERS.

No. 102. Chas. Stewart, 210 E. 9th St., St. Paul, Minn.

RESIGNED.

Allen K. Ford, Minneapolis, Minn.; C. G. Hart, Pipestone, Minn.

APPLICATIONS.

N. G. Thompson, Hutton, Mont., Ref., C. E. Thayer, W. T. Fuller.

The above applicant will be admitted to membership on the 15th of next month upon payment of dues, provided no objection is received before that date.

C. E. THAYER, Secy.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A Monthly Magazine.

Published by The Philatelic Newsletter Publishing Company.

Minneapolis, Minn.

E. S. Stebbins, President. W. R. Young, Treasurer. C. E. N. Howard, Sec'y.

EDITORS.

W. C. Whittall, F. S. George, A. Edsten.

Subscription to United States, Canada and Mexico, 25 cents per year in advance. To Foreign Countries, 37 cents.

Advertising rates, 60 cents per inch. Liberal discounts given on time contracts.

A cross opposite this paragraph indicates that your subscription has expired. Your prompt renewal is respectfully solicited or we will discontinue sending it.

All communications should be addressed to the Managing Editor,

GEORGE W. ACHARD,
242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

OUR AUTHORIZED AGENTS.

L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Nebraska.

The Birmingham Consolidated Stamp Company,
85 Wills street, Loyells, Birmingham, England.

Entered at the Minneapolis Postoffice as second class matter, Oct. 16, 1896.

EDITORIAL.

Our readers will notice a change in the staff of THE NEWSLETTER this month. Mr. Stebbins has been elected President of the Newsletter Publishing Co., and Mr. W. C. Whittall takes the place of Mr. Swensen on the board of Editors. Mr. Swensen is no longer connected with this magazine, as his arduous duties at the law school would not permit of his giving the time to philatelic matters that the editorship required. We trust the changes will result in no lowering of the standard that this magazine has attained and we shall at all times attempt such an advancement as our support warrants.

How comes it that certain dealers are able to sell the current issue periodical stamps in an unused condition at about forty per cent below their face value? There is a screw loose somewhere in the department at the Capital. The idea of a set that lists at face value about \$205, being offered for \$125. It shows on its face that something must be wrong. And we poor mortals cannot obtain them even at face at our post offices. The postmaster general should be informed and the guilty parties made to suffer, or, if the department is run for dealers, why not let some of the rest of us in on the deal.

Already some of the members of certain societies are grooming their pet candidates for offices at the conventions to be held six months hence. For goodness sake, let us hear something about stamps and not have another campaign thrust upon us now. Three months is time enough to fix up the slates and fences. Philately isn't the sort of a thing that should be besmirched by one continual striving after some petty office that invariably costs the candidate far more than the paltry glory is worth. Still some of our youth are not satisfied until they see their names in print as running for this or that office. Why not walk part of the time?

We were thinking the other day about the vast difference between what philately was fifteen or twenty years ago and what it is to-day. When we first began to collect stamps, societies were almost an unknown quantity and stamp papers were as rare as St. Louis locals. We were looked upon as a lot of fools to pay

out our money for these worthless bits of paper that never would be worth a row of pins. But notice the change to-day. Societies are to be found in almost every city of any consequence in the country and we even hear of the Collectors' Club, operated on a strictly business basis. Papers galore, good, bad and indifferent, stare us in the face, their publishers earnestly seeking our subscriptions. The dailies devote considerable space to our doings and we are now looked upon with some semblance of charity. Why, who ever heard of a philatelic banquet back in the seventies? The idea of one would have seemed preposterous and the originator of the scheme laughed to scorn. Do we realize now philately has progressed? What will be the future, no one can tell.

Since writing the second paragraph, we have been handed a clipping by one of our editors and reproduce it here. The government must have smelled a rat with the following results:

"New York, Feb. 3.—The United States authorities, after a long investigation have discovered the manner in which sets of uncanceled "newspaper and periodical stamps", which are only used between one department and another of the postal service come into the possession of philatelists. It has been ascertained that the sets, which sell at \$207 each, have been stolen from the bureau of engraving and printing at Washington. Following up this information, Hamilton F. Coleman, an employe in the chief clerk's office for the general land office at Washington, was arrested here to-day. In the possession of the prisoner was found uncanceled newspaper and periodical stamps to the value of \$5,508. Coleman denied that he had stolen the stamps, but refused to make any statement regarding them."

We desire to explain the laxness that our last issue came out. It was not through any negligence of the publishers, but on the contrary, was occasioned by the carelessness of the postal employees at our local post office, as the entire edition rested securely in a corner of the post office for a week, unbeknown to us, until the kicks began to come in. The annoyance was no greater upon our patrons than on ourselves and we hope that such occurrences will not happen again. We try to have the issues mailed before the 20th, and usually have the sacks in the post office upon that date.

OUR EXCHANGES.

All matter intended for review must be mailed to the Review editor, F. S. George, 17 S. 4th St., Minneapolis, Minn.

We acknowledge the receipt of the following since our last issue:

November Numbers: The Monthly Post and the Michigan Stamp.

December Numbers: The Columbian Philatelist; Canadian Philatelic Magazine; Ontario Philatelist and the Monthly Post. & the International Phil.

January Numbers: The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain; Eastern Philatelist; Rocky Mountain Stamp; Philatelic Advocate; Weekly Philatelic Era, and Philatelic Chronicle & Advertiser.

February Numbers: Evergreen State Philatelist; Philatelic West Boston Stamp Book; The Philatelic Advocate; the Philatelic Monthly and World; and the Herald Exchange.

The November and December issues are a little too far in the past to be reviewed at this time, although the most of them are creditable numbers. Of the January issues the first that comes to our notice is the Boston Stamp Book. Editorially Mr. Kilbon touches up the ups and downs of the market, and among other things says "there are no signs that stamps in general are going to fall in price." Continuing he says further: "The rise and fall of stamps is recognized in the open market. A good many people think, however, that any acknowledgement by

the cataloguers that stamps have fallen in value, except in cases where the fall is so great as to amount to a crash, will lead men to be afraid to buy stamps. That fear may to some extent, be well grounded, but as a matter of fact the men who are buying stamps wisely know already that they are like other things in having their falls as well as their increases. If we could have a catalogue which should really set forth what stamps ought to bring, we should have a manual whose changes in price would not always be upward."

Following the editorials is an article by Geo. Maximilian on Japan's Counterfeits which is concluded in the February number. The Stamp Market is thoroughly reviewed by Geo. L. Toppan in the next eight pages. This is followed by a talk about new issues by Edmund L. Smiley who takes the place of our genial friend Kennedy in this issue. The balance of the journal contains stamp society notes and reports. While we are reviewing this journal we might as well include the February number which has just come to hand. In the editorial remarks a good deal is said about the 57th catalogue which we will refrain from quoting as we have already touched upon that subject. Following the editorials are the following articles: A Reference List of Type and Die Varieties, Japan's Counterfeits, Some Important Price Lists, Facts for Philatelic Learners, the Market, A Talk about New Issues, and society notes and reports.

The January number of the Eastern Philatelist is full of good reading matter. The first article is by Crawford Capen and will bear repeating. It treats on Philatelic Literature and contains many good suggestive ideas. We quote as follows:

"A large amount of knowledge and great critical ability is not necessary in order to see clearly the great superiority of the stamp literature of the present over that of twenty years ago.

This better condition of affairs is not due to the greater ability of those who write, but to the enterprise of publishers of seeking the most valuable contributions for the benefit of their readers and to the natural growth and development of Philately during the period named. A subject of interest becomes more interesting when it has journals of size and influence through which its followers may learn of its progress; and a pursuit with a history furnishes opportunities for essay and instructive writing which a pastime cannot have when it is first taken up by its friends."

"Have we, then, in such excellence reached the summit of philatelic literature? Shall we look back twenty years hence and say 'We are to-day publishing nothing of greater value than the work of twenty years ago'? Every lover of stamps must hope that this will not be the case. It would mean that there had been no progress—that the regular historical development of our pleasant pursuit had been interrupted, and while there might be publishers willing to do their part and writers who could furnish what might be demanded, there would nevertheless have been no real gain in the passage of the years."

"We all desire the opposite. We want to see Philately make all possible gain in the time to come. We therefore naturally inquire the way of progress and the means which may be employed for great advantage in the years before us. The writer is one who believes in the possibility of the production of philatelic literature. This term is used in a different sense from that in which it is usually employed in the papers devoted to our pastime. Any article on stamps is philatelic literature in the common use of the term. The thought of the writer is that it is possible to produce articles on stamps, or subjects related to them, which shall possess the literary qualities which would entitle them to a position in general literature."

"Assuming that nothing has been produced in the

way of philatelic stories or poems of any literary value, the writer firmly believes in the possibility of these, and that proper encouragement will tend to their production. The writer is acquainted with some literary people who claim that any one who collects stamps is naturally so devoid of sense that even if an article of literary merit in connection with stamps should be produced, there would be no stamp collectors who would know it. We can afford to smile at such assertions, which originate in prejudice, although a large part of what is published as literature in stamp papers of the poorer class gives some ground for the opinion."

"It is a generally recognized fact at the present time that the best thing that can happen to Philately is a great increase in the number of its followers. The public is not reached by the stamp papers. No matter how excellent may be the articles on stamps or on topics which please the collector, the non-collector throws the sample copy into his waste basket, or, if he is good-natured, gives it to some one he knows is interested in collecting. The public, however, can be reached by anything of a literary nature, even though connected with stamps. I heard not long since a gentleman who is an enthusiastic student of Shakespeare, but who has not the slightest interest in stamps, express great pleasure at an article of some literary merit which appeared in a stamps paper."

"The number of contributors who are able to furnish good material for the uses of our magazines will increase rapidly if encouragement is given by publishers to the production of literary work in the pursuit excited by the variety which would be found in stamp publications.

The collecting of stamps is a far more worthy pursuit than the public is willing to admit. It has been obliged, however, year by year during the past decade, to allow greater and greater merit to the work of Philatelists, and if a successful invasion of literature can be made it will be obliged to throw down its arms and acknowledge defeat.

This cannot be accomplished by one or a dozen collectors, but when the time comes that there is a general appreciation of the power of Philately on the part of collectors, and they become satisfied that success will crown their efforts in invading the literary world, we shall see advances made which will make any present or past progress seem insignificant indeed."

Publishers of Stamp Journals often find it hard to get good reading articles for their Journals that will be of interest to their readers. A great many subjects are not treated at all, and others are almost "done to death". We are inclined to believe that too many of the articles are purely statistical. Of course these are all right and what the most of us are looking for, but the old saying might be applied here that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". We feel sure that a poem or a stamp story would be a good thing for a change once in a while. It sort of rests one to read something of this style occasionally.

We have not the space to review all the journals we receive each month, and so have concluded to review a few of them more thoroughly each month, and get around to all of them in time. In this way we will be able to quote more of the best of the articles which appear and thus it will be of more benefit to our readers. A great many of the publishers do not seem to understand that their journals must be mailed to the writer in order to be reviewed.

The lots comprising Albrecht's 42nd Auction sale will be on exhibition in Minneapolis at the offices of Stebbins & Young on the 25th, 26th and 27th.

The stamps of the Ionian Islands were suppressed upon the cessation of the English protectorate in 1864. They were used exclusively for interinsular postage.

League of American Philatelists.

President—L. J. Kramer, Elkader, Iowa.
 Vice-President—W. H. Kessler, Detroit, Mich.
 Secretary—Chas. B. Hesse, Fort Madison, Iowa.
 Treasurer—F. B. Woolson, Wayne, Neb.
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Auction Manager—H. C. Beardsley, St. Joseph, Missouri.
 Librarian—Helen R. Thomas, Edgewater, Colo.
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 Attorney—Geo. W. Achard, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Counterfeit Detector—Chas. F. Noe, Amana, Iowa.
 Advertising Agent—L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Nebraska.
 Tyren, Minneapolis, Minn.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

New Members.

- 446—F. Van Ruth, 616 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 447—O. L. Mapes, Orwell, Ohio.
 448—Mrs. P. M. Weiss, Box 232, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 449—Chas. Tressel, 6th precinct police Station, Cleveland, Ohio.
 450—T. C. Harbaugh, Casstown, Ohio.
 451—Geo. T. Johnson, 43 Mulberry Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 452—Carl E. Magin, Holdridge, Neb.
 453—I. T. Clausen, Amelia, Neb.
 454—C. R. Simpson, Petitscadiac, N. B.
 455—Chas. B. Marsh, Newport, R. I.
 456—W. C. R. Bell, Adelaide, South Australia.
 457—Henry L. Adair, McConnellsville, Ohio.
 458—Chas. S. McNutt, Knoxville, Tenn.
 459—A. Von Degen, Chicago, Ill.
 460—W. A. Merritt, Millbank, South Dakota.
 461—H. R. Springer, Norway, Iowa.
 462—W. P. Emery, 932 North 5th Street, Des Moines.
 463—Ferdinand F. Jelke, 516 La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois.
 464—R. M. Lowery, Box 437, Welusville, Ohio.
 465—T. L. Green, Mt. Olivet, Kentucky.

Applications.

- E. G. Gibson, 354 10th Avenue, New York, N. Y.
 References, Jno. Arbtin, L. J. Kramer.
 Findlay I. Weaver, Berlin, Ontario. References,
 I. E. Patterson, Charles G. Hart.
 Simon Lev, 914 14th Street, Denver, Colorado. References,
 E. A. Stigeler, L. J. Kramer.
 R. G. Widdcombe, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. References,
 I. E. Patterson, Chas. G. Hart.
 C. L. Moreau, 122 West 48th Street, New York, N. Y. References,
 Jno. Arbtin, Chas. B. Hesse.
 Carl F. H. Krug, 1424 North Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs,
 Colorado. References, B. J. Bishop, R. K. Hutchings, M. D.
 Geo. F. Roub, 1608 6th Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. References,
 L. J. Kramer, Jno. Arbtin.
 Harry Gray, 621 West Third Street, Des Moines, Iowa. References,
 Jno. Arbtin, Chas. B. Hesse.
 F. S. George, 17 South 4th Street, Minneapolis, Minn. References,
 Geo. W. Achard, L. J. Kramer.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership on the 15th of next month, provided no objection is received before that date and provided each pays the dues to January 1st, 1898.

The Secretary will be pleased to forward application blanks and information to prospective members. The League is now on a firm footing and will continue so, if each member will work for its interests.

CHAS. B. HESSE, Secretary.

COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR'S REPORT.

I wish to thank my fellow members of the L. A. P. for their confidence in me, which they showed in electing me their Counterfeit Detector.

So far this Department has not been a success, but it certainly will be in the future, if every member of the League will co-operate with the Counterfeit Detector in making it so.

I shall certainly do my part to the best of my

knowledge and ability and now invite every other member to do the same.

The League, with its new officers and official journal, certainly has bright prospects and hoping to soon see it the largest Philatelic organization of the United States, I am yours,

CHARLES F. NOE, Amana, Iowa.

Edgewater, Colorado, January 15th, 1891.

Having been elected Librarian of the L. A. P., I desire to call the members' attention to the library of our society. I hereby am soliciting contributions to this department of all such members who have Philatelic literature to dispose of. All such contributions shall be accepted and published in the official organ. Further, I would be glad to receive regular Philatelic papers and magazines from the Publishers. I remain, very respectfully,

HELEN R. THOMAS, Librarian.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

We have to report that the Constitution and By-laws printed in this number is unanimously recommended for adoption by the League. A mail vote is hereby called upon its adoption, said voting to close on March 15th, 1897, at 12 m. All members in good standing are requested to send in their votes to Geo. W. Achard, Secy. of the Board, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

The proposed draft is as follows:

CONSTITUTION of the

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PHILATELISTS.

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of this association shall be The League of American Philatelists.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTS.

The objects of the association shall be to assist members in obtaining knowledge of Philately; to aid members in the interchange of and purchasing of postage stamps, postal cards, etc., to suppress the manufacture and sale of forgeries.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1. Any philatelist may become a member of the association by filing with the secretary an application in the prescribed form, signed by two references, one of whom must be a member of this association. The secretary shall thereupon cause the name and address of the applicant and references to be published in the next number of the official organ and if no objection shall be received by the secretary within one month after such publication, the applicant shall be considered elected and entitled to receive the membership card of the League on payment of dues. In case any member shall object to an applicant, the application shall be submitted to the trustees. The secretary shall notify the objecting member to furnish proofs, substantiating his claims, upon receipt of which the trustees shall consider the matter and shall accept or reject the applicant, and the action of the trustees shall be final and conclusive.

Sec. 2. Any member of the League against whom charges in writing have been preferred, shall be tried by a court composed of the Board of trustees. This court may, in its judgment, suspend or expel such member and its action shall be final and con-

clusive.

Sec. 3. Any member wishing to withdraw from this League must signify his intention in writing to the secretary. No resignation shall be considered until his accounts with the League or any departments thereof are paid.

ARTICLE IV. CONVENTIONS.

Sec. 1. The League shall meet in convention once a year at such place and date as shall be designated by the previous convention. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of one-third of the membership in good standing, there represented in person or by proxy.

Sec. 2. Every member of the League in good standing shall be entitled to a vote at said convention.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS.

Sec. 1. The officers of the League shall consist of a President, Vice President Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Superintendent of Exchange, Purchasing Agent, Counterfeit detector, Auction manager, Advertising and subscription Agent, Superintendent of Literary Exchange, Attorney and three trustees.

Sec. 2. The officers of this League shall be elected for one year and shall serve until successors have qualified. All officers shall be chosen by ballot, a majority of the whole number of ballots cast, being sufficient for a choice.

Sec. 3. In case of death, resignation or inability to act of any officers the Trustees are empowered to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VI.—Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the League and appoint all committees not otherwise provided for. He shall submit an annual report to be printed in the Official Journal. He shall sign all warrants on the treasurer for money required by the League and at the request of 25 members shall call for a mail vote upon any desired question, a majority of which votes cast shall be sufficient to determine the question.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President shall act in case of vacancy in the office of President, or in his absence.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all proceedings of the League, preserve all documents, and receive all moneys due from members. He shall keep a financial account and pay over to the Treasurer all money received by him over and above five dollars, taking receipt for same. He shall receive all applications and dispose of them as provided for in Article III, Section 1. He shall furnish a copy of the Constitution free to each member, and duplicates at the rate of ten cents per copy. He shall sign all warrants on the Treasurer for money required by the League. He shall give a bond to the Trustees in the sum of \$50.00.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all moneys and securities of the League delivered to him by the Secretary; pay all warrants drawn on him by the President and Secretary and submit to each convention, during his term of office, a complete financial statement. He shall give a bond to the Trustees in the sum of One Hundred Dollars.

Sec. 5. The Librarian, Supt. of Exchange, Purchasing Agent, Counterfeit Detector, Auction Manager, Advertising and Subscription Agent, Supt of Literary Exchange and Attorney shall conduct their respective offices in accordance with such rules as may be made by the Trustees or the League in convention assembled.

Sec. 6. The Trustees shall perform such duties as are imposed upon them by this constitution and the by-laws.

ARTICLE VII.—Revenues.

Section 1. The revenues of the League shall be derived from dues of members as provided in the by-laws, and such shall be used in defraying the expenses of the League.

Sec. 2. All dues shall be payable annually, in advance, on the first day of January of each year. The

fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and be divided into quarters. The dues to be paid by members shall be computed from beginning of the quarter in which they shall have been elected to membership in the League.

Sec. 3. Any member who, after having been notified by the Secretary, does not pay his dues within thirty days from date of notification shall be expelled from the League and his name published in the Official Journal of the League.

ARTICLE III.—Property.

Section . All officers shall at the expiration of their term of office, deliver to their successors all books, papers, moneys and other property of the League, and shall not be relieved from their bond or obligation until this requirement shall be complied with.

ARTICLE IX.—Amendments.

Section 1.—This constitution can only be amended or altered by the assent of two-thirds of the members in good standing.

Sec. 2.—Any by-law not in conflict with this constitution may be made by the Trustees, should twenty-five members object to the proposed by-law, it shall be submitted to a vote of the League, as provided in Article VI., section 1.

Sec. 3. In all cases of such a mail vote at least thirty days shall elapse between the time of sending out notices and the closing of the polls.

BY-LAWS.

I. Rules of order.

All questions of order and parliamentary law shall be determined by reference to Robert's Rules of Order.

II. Convention—Order of Business.

At the annual convention of the League the president shall appoint the following standing committees, of three members each: Credentials, Standing Rules, Finance, Exchange, Auction and Purchasing Departments (one committee), and a committee of five members, of which the president shall be ex-officio chairman, on the constitution and by-laws. The following shall be the Order of Business.

I. Preliminary roll call. II. Appointment of Standing Committees. III. Recess. IV. Report of Committee on Credentials. V. Roll call. VI. Reading of Minutes. VII. Report of Committee on Standing Rules. VIII. Communications. IX. Report of Officers and Standing Committees. X. Unfinished Business. XI. New Business. XII. Adjournment.

III. Librarian—Duties.

The Librarian shall keep a correct list of all publications, etc., in his possession and a record of the same. He shall collect in advance, one cent and the necessary postage from every member desiring to take any publication from the library. All such shall be returned postpaid to the Librarian within ten days after receiving the same, and members who shall violate this rule shall not be entitled to have any other publication issued to them until they shall have satisfied the Librarian concerning the delinquency.

IV. Superintendent of Exchanges—Duties.

This office shall conduct the exchange of the Association, under the following rules and regulations:

(1). Blank exchange sheets will be furnished by the superintendent at 5 cents each, six for 25 cents, and only these will be accepted by him.

(2). Members must remove the paper from the back of stamps and attach them to the sheets with gummed paper hinges so that they may be examined for watermarks, etc., and must mark the price of each stamp upon the proper place, legibly in ink. They must forward them, prepaid, to the Superintendent, who will make them up and place them upon circuits. Sheet and book numbers are for the Superintendent's use, and will be placed thereon by him. The spaces on the sheets for the owner's name,

and value of sheets must be properly filled out by the owner.

(3). The member removing a stamp from a sheet must mark his name plainly in the square from which the stamp was taken. He must foot up the total amount removed from a sheet or book and mark his name and the amount in the proper space at the end of the book. If a name or amount is missing it shall be the duty of the next member on the circuit to note such an error on the sheet and notify the previous one. Failure to do so will make the last party responsible for any loss.

(4). Members having no duplicates in the exchange may receive books by applying to the Superintendent. Reference or deposit may be required by the Superintendent and must be furnished by such member. Members are allowed to keep exchange books three days. A fine of ten cents per day will be imposed for each day exchanges are kept over the allotted time.

(5). The Superintendent will designate circuit routes and these must be strictly adhered to and completed before being returned to the Superintendent. At the time of forwarding exchanges to the next member on the route the sender must notify the Superintendent, giving the date of sending and amount he has taken, with payment for same. Books and sheets will be circulated until the Superintendent deems it advisable to discontinue the same. Sheets and books must not be refilled.

(6). Individual members are responsible for the value of all exchanges sent them from the time of receipt until forwarded and for any difference that may arise during that time, but the society shall be responsible for any loss in transit, if investigation excuses the member from any fault. Returns of more than five dollars must be sent by registered letter or express, value declared; otherwise the sender will be held responsible for any loss. In sending exchanges or books the above shall apply.

(7). The Superintendent will keep an account with each member participating in the exchange, receiving and disbursing all money received. Settlement with owners will be made as soon as practical. The Superintendent shall deduct 10 per cent as a remuneration for his work of all sales, and may refuse the use of the exchange to any member not settling accounts promptly. He shall report and delinquency to the trustees at the expiration of 30 days.

(8). He shall give a bond to the Trustees in the sum of Five Hundred Dollars.

(9). He shall not be personally liable for dishonesty of members or accidents in the handling of postal matter by the postal authorities or express companies, when said dishonesty and accidents are proven to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees to have occurred through no negligence of the Superintendent.

V. Purchasing Agent—Duties.

The Purchasing Agent shall make arrangements to obtain at the lowest possible cost any stamps desired by the members, charging 10 per cent for his work.

VI. Auction Manager—Duties.

The Auction Manager shall receive from members consignments to be sold by bid. When not less than 50 lots have been received he shall publish a list, giving particulars plainly, in the official journal. After the sale takes place he shall notify members of the sale to them of lots and forward the same after receipt of the amount offered. Any lot not satisfactory must be returned in two days to permit of a return of money paid. He shall make a settlement with the owners as soon as possible after such sale. He shall receive 10 per cent of all sales as an equivalent for his work.

VII. The Attorney shall attempt the collection of all accounts sent him, receiving therefor 10 per cent for all collections. The lowest fee shall be 25 cents. Four cents for postage must be sent with each claim.

IX. The Superintendent of Literary Exchange shall list all publications the property of members wishing to sell or exchange and shall receive the rate of one cent each besides necessary postage for conducting the interchange. Said fees to be paid by each member participating in the exchange.

X. The Advertising and Subscription Agent shall secure, if possible, reduced rates for members desiring to advertise in or subscribe for all philatelic magazines and shall be at liberty to make a reasonable charge for his services.

XI. Trustees.

The Trustees shall assist in settling any misunderstanding that may arise in any department. They shall make arrangements for the publication of official matter in some philatelic journal of recognized standing, a copy of which must be sent to each member in good standing.

XII. Dues

The annual dues shall be 35 cents. If any member fails to pay same within thirty days from the time when due the Secretary shall notify such member of his delinquency and if not paid within fifteen days thereafter the Secretary shall drop his name from the rolls, unless otherwise ordered by the Trustees.

(Continued from page 3.)

would not sell it to an old man who is ignorant of the stamp's true character, and who will never discover the truth unless I tell him." Our first reply was only a frown, which was followed by a prolonged outburst of denial as to the fraudulent character of the stamp, and finally he was told to not meddle with other people's business. We turned from him as if to leave the room; he, on the other hand, closing our album, grabbed his hat and left the house. This occurred one afternoon. The following evening we dressed to call on Mr. B— with the purpose of selling the Saxony in view. We turned to the album to get the stamp, when, lo! it was gone. We quickly scanned the different leaves of the book, rummaged around the disordered room in hopes of finding the missing Saxony. But the hunt was of no avail. It was then that the thought, an adder in its sting, came to mind, a thought that told the writer that his dear philatelic friend was none other than a thief. But, no, it could not be so. He had always been so friendly, so solicitous. But how could we tell who and what he was? We had been to his house once or twice, and no one was there except his mother. We had never taken pains to inquire about him. Governed with the thought that he had stolen the stamp, we first resolved to place the matter in the hands of the police. But, no, it would be better to lose the stamp rather than become mixed up in court proceedings. Why not await developments? Everything comes to him who waits. Five days afterward something did turn up. We received a registered letter from an Eastern stamp company. Opening the letter, what should we find but the missing Saxony attached to a slip of paper on which was written: "This stamp submitted to us by ——— (giving the name of my suspected friend) is a rank fraud." That night saw the writer in the home of his friend, reconciled to the truth that that friend was a friend indeed. When asked why he had not spoken before about the counterfeit, he replied that he dared not explain for fear that our feelings would be greatly hurt, but, realizing the importance of preventing the sale of the counterfeit, he broke the film of ignorance enveloping a shallow mind in a manner as related, and much good resulted.

There is a little moral and several precepts to the above little story. Always be on your guard. Be watchful. A night of misery, yea, even a life might be saved if you only look out of the locomotive's window with the headlight of common sense before you, to enable you to use your watchful eyes. The writer had often been told that the 3 P. Saxony was counterfeit, but he thought he knew it all. But he suffered from his stubbornness, his blindness, his selfishness.

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ABOUT BRITISH ADHESIVES.

In prefacing this paper I need only say that anything on this subject from any one who has not unlimited time at his disposal for investigation can be at best only a resume of what we can all have access to from the pens of our English cousins, not the least of whom, in this respect, is H. L'Estrange Ewen.

The exclusive privilege of letter carrying in the United Kingdom has always been claimed as a royal right. The first letter posts date from the reign of King John, but none were regularly established until the 16th century. Under Charles I, in 1635, single letter rates were fixed at 2d for 80 miles, 4d up to 120 miles, 6d beyond 140 miles, and 8d to Scotland. After many changes, on January 10, 1840, the rate was made 1d per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce to any point in the island, although penny posts of a more or less local character had been in operation ever since 1683. Postage stamps were first issued on May 6, 1840 but ten years or thereabouts elapsed before their use was made compulsory. This first issue consisted of adhesives, envelopes, and letter sheets, of the values of one and two pence. We will only write of the adhesives of this and other issues.

Before proceeding further we pause to say that, in England, a postal adhesive must have three essential characteristics, as follows: (1) The impression must have been struck from a plate approved and authorized by the commissioners of inland revenues, (2) on paper having the watermark assigned to the particular face value, and (3) in the approved and authorized color. In preparing a stamp for issue, its design is first officially chosen. Then the die thereof is engraved and an impression struck in black on a card, and this is submitted for official approval. Then a plate is made from the die, and an impression in black taken on unwatermarked paper, to again receive official sanction. This given, impressions are made from this plate in various colors and the commissioners of inland revenue select one, indorsing thereon their approval, and it is then filed in the archives of the department. Finally sheets in the chosen color are printed, gummed, and (generally, but not necessarily) perforated. Official red tape is at an end, and a new stamp appears, to find a resting place, perchance, in a far off land in some collector's album.

Of the watermarks we will say, in brief, that lack of time has prevented a reproduction of them for illustration this evening. They are as follows: Small crowns of 1841 and of 1853 (lighter, latter, and more open than that of the earlier date); large crowns of 1855, of 1862 (in which the fleur de lis lines are wanting), and of 1880 (a heavier and more angular type than that of 1855); the script "half penny;" the "V R;" the emblems: in four varieties, the two chief ones being known as "emblems of 1856" and "of 1864," the spray of rose; the garters of 1855 (small garter,

of 1856 (medium garter, distinguished by a wider band,) of 1857, and of 1872,—the two last being called "large garters," and the latter thicker lined than the earlier; the small and large anchor; the orb; and the Maltese cross. All 4d stamps from plate 8, 9, 10 and 11, and those from plate 12 issued prior to July 26, 1872 are found to have the garter of 1857 inverted. This, not being accidental, is sometimes known as the "large garter of 1867."

British adhesives have been classified under four heads: (1) The "lines engraved series;" (2) the "embossed series;" (3) the "surface printed series;" (4) the De La Rue series." In all these issues wherever letters appear in the corners, that in the lower left hand corner of a stamp shows its place in the vertical row of the sheet, and that in the lower right hand corner is the place in the horizontal row. Whenever letters are found in the upper corners this order is reversed.

1. The series known as the "lines engraved" was the printing of Perkins, Bacon & Co., and includes the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 2d. values issued prior to 1880. Only the 1d. and 2d. were at first required and then alone were printed.

Of these, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., rose-red, watermarked "half penny," in script, extending over three stamps ("hal," "pen," and "ny") were issued from October, 1870, to October, 1880, being three one of the last of the series to appear. They were printed in sheets of 480, in 20 rows of 24 stamps to the row, with letters in the four corners, and lettered in the lower corners from AA to TX. Twenty plates, numbered from 1 to 20, were made, but plates 2, 7, 16, 17, and 18 were not printed from. Plate 9 is much the rarest single stamp being now quoted at \$2.

All "line engraved" 1d. stamps were printed in 20 horizontal rows of 12 stamps per row, lettered from AA to TL in the lower corners. Until 1854, except for the Archer rouletting and perforation which was an experiment and unofficial, all were unperforated. They were issued in black for about a year, and for the balance of the time in red or red-brown of varying shades. Until 1855 they were watermarked "small crown." After 1864 the plate numbers (which before appeared a la United States, in the sheet margin) were transferred to the side of the stamp. Of 157 plates from 69 to 225, six (69, 70, 75, 77, 126, and 128) were never used. Plates 132 and 225 are the rarest of this series. However, in plate 92 we have occasionally a curious error of watermarks,—a crown in which all the lines have become curves and one of the base lines has entirely disappeared.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. "line engraved" stamps are arranged in the sheet as are the 1d. values. Watermark, large crown. Issued from 1870 to 1880. Plates, 1, and 3. Color, rose-red.

The 2d. "line engraved" stamps have the same sheet arrangement as have both the 1d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. "Small crown" was the watermark until 1855; afterwards the

"large crown." Blue, in varying shades, was the color throughout. Fifteen plates were issued. Plate 5 occurs in both watermarks. All earlier plates are small crown; all later, larger crown.

2 Regarding the "embossed series," embracing the octagonal 6d., 10d., and 1s stamps of 1847 to 1856, we will only say that the two latter were printed on unwatermarked but silk-threaded paper being the only unwatermarked British postage stamp ever issued, and the 6d. on hand-made paper watermarked "VR." All were imperforate. The 6d. and 1s. values were printed in sheets of 20, arranged in 4 rows of 5 each; the 10d., in sheets of 24, arranged in 6 rows of 4 each.

3. The surface-printed series "embraces the 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 1s., 2s., 5s., 10s., and £1 values, printed by De La Rue & Co., and issued between 1855 and 1883.

Of the 2½d., we have 23 plates. Plates 1 to 3, lilac-rose, are watermarked "small anchor." Plates 3 to 17 in rose and 17 to 20 in blue are watermarked "orb." Plates 21 to 23 are watermarked "crown of 1880." Plates 3 to 17, watermarked "orb" are the varieties. At first the sheet contained 192 stamps, in 16 rows of 12, AA to PL, divided horizontally into two "panes," or postoffice sheets. With the use of the crown watermark came the sheet having 240 stamps, in 20 rows of 12, AA to SL.

The 3d. are given to us in plates 2 to 12 and 14 to 21. Plates 2 and 4 bear the "emblems," watermark. It is somewhat doubtful if plate 3 was ever issued. Plates 4 to 20 show "spray of rose" watermark. Plates 20 and 21 are "crowned." Uniform color, rose, shading to lilac in plate 21. Plate arrangement, disregarding margins, is in sheets of 240, the same as in 2½d., crown watermark.

In the 4d. we find those watermarked with small and medium garter in carmine (without letters and without plate number,) as also with the large garter in rose until 1862. Plates 3 to 15 in orange, shading into orange-red, and thence into vermilion; plates 15 and 16 in sage-green; and plate 17 in brown,—all with large garter watermark, and plates 17 and 18, in brown, with "crown of 1880" watermark, are arranged in the sheet, disregarding margins, as are the 3d.

As to the 6d., we have "emblems" in lilac and violet, unlettered (plate 1.) All others are lettered. Plates 3 to 6, violet, "emblems;" plates 6, 8, 9, and 11 to 17, in various colors, "spray of rose;" and plates 17 and 18, "crown of 1880,"—are in sheets having the same arrangement as the 3d. value.

The 8d. was issued from plate 1 only, arranged in the sheet as was the 4d., and watermarked garter of 1872."

The 9d., in plates 2, 3, and 4, "emblems," and plate 4, "spray of rose," had the same arrangement as the 3d. value.

The 10d., plate 1, "spray of rose," has also the 3d. sheet arrangement.

The 1s. plate 1 (not numbered on its face) was not lettered; "emblems." Plates 2, 3, and 4, "emblems;" plates 4 to 13, "spray of rose;" and plates 13 and 14, "crown of 1880,"—have also the sheet arrangement of the 3d. value.

The 2s., plates 1 and 3, "spray of rose," have also the 3d. sheet arrangement.

The 5s. (plates 1 and 2) was first watermarked with the Maltese cross; then (plate 4) with the anchor. At first, the sheet contained 80 stamps, in 8 rows of 10 each, lettered AA to HJ. When "anchor" paper was used, there were 112 stamps in the sheet in 14 rows of 8 each, lettered AA to NH.

The 10s. and £1 values, each having a single plate, 1, have the same watermarks and the same sheet arrangement.

4. The "De La Rue series" embrace all new issues since 1880. In this we include what we may fairly consider the only postal provisional issue ever put

forth by Great Britain. To quote the Language of Mr. Ewen: "During the first 20 days of July, 1881, the penny stamps sold at the postoffices were for the most part the 1d. 'revenue,' watermarked 'orb.' The 'postage and revenue' 1d. was not issued until the stock of these was exhausted."

All values between 7½d. and 1s. were printed in sheets of 240, in 20 rows of 12. The 2d., 2½d., 6d., and 9d. values of 1884 were printed sideways. All the lettered stamps ran from AA to SL. As to the 2s., 6d., 5s., and 10s. stamps, the sheets contained 112, in 14 rows of 8, as in the 5s. "anchor" of the surface printed series. The £1 is printed in sheets of 80, in 20 rows of 4; the £5, in sheets of 56, in 14 rows of 4.

The so-called "Jubilee issue," of 1887-1892, is the one now current, and needs no detailed description at this time, save that we may not inaptly term it "bi-colored." This is a very hasty outline of a very large field for a specialist. I have said almost nothing of minor varieties, inverted watermarks, postmarks, of British stamps with foreign postmarks. I trust I have not wearied you who are not specially interested. The fact that I am thus interested has been the reason of my choice of this as my special topic.

F. H. FRIEND.

PHILATELIC ADVERTISING.

By Chic.

"The secret of success is in the liberal use of printers' ink." This trite saying was spoken many years ago by one who made a success of business. No one knew the value of advertising more than P. T. Barnum, the premier of American showmen, and when asked as to what means brought about his successful career, he gave to the public the sentence above quoted. Since then many men have been successful in business enterprises and each in turn gave evidence of the value of the same means.

There is no getting around the fact that this identical phrase will apply with equal force to stamp dealers, perhaps more so than in other realms of business. Consistent and judicious advertising is to the stamp-dealer what water is to the mill. It makes the wheels go around. Now there are several essentials to good advertising and I shall attempt to enumerate them and discuss the merits or demerits each possesses. First comes the circular or dodger form. I chose this first because it strikes me as of the least value. Circulars as a usual rule don't pay, because they are to frequently consigned to the waste basket. They are costly inasmuch as one's postage bill grows enormously. As a usual rule they do not reach the buyers, the class for which they are intended. Take for instance a sheet the size of one of these pages. It cannot be gotten out short of \$3.50 or \$4.00. Add to this the cost of 1,000 envelopes at say \$1.50 to \$2.00. Then a thousand one-cent stamps must be purchased, this adding an even \$10.00. Now compute your time in folding, addressing and mailing the circulars and from \$18.00 to \$20.00 is a low estimate of your expense. You wait a week, two weeks, a month passes by with but one or two replies. Then you sit down and bemoan the hard times. Is this the real reason? I hardly think so. Your circulars have gone to the wrong class of people, they have found the convenient receptacle under every busy man's desk, they did not advertise what people want. You know how you have treated hand-bills and circulars, and yet you wonder why you don't catch the trade.

The next style to be tried is a more pretentious price list of say sixteen to twenty four pages and cover. This may bring in more trade than the first method but it is more expensive and in many instances does not pay. This, too, is more or less liable to be thrown to one side and lost, still it possesses more points of advantage than the circular and gives your firm an appearance of stability. It

reaches more nearly the young as well as the advanced collector, but still there's that awful appearance on the wrong side of the ledger every few months. However, no firm of any pretensions can be without some price lists. It is an aid to business when customers have been secured.

The last method is far the more satisfactory in its results. It is the continuous appearance of your advertisement in the columns of high grade philatelic magazines and journals, the mediums by means of which the dealer comes in touch with the buying public. And why is it the more satisfactory? Because in these latter days philatelic literature is prized and kept and the dealer frequently receives answers from even old ads of six months and a year's standing. Now do not mistake me as saying that I would have an ad in every paper published. No. I would not do that, but my notices would appear regularly in the best ones. Then I would not have an entire page or two in one and nothing in the others. They would rather occupy two or three inches in six or eight or even ten of our high grade magazines. The Boston Stamp Book for February gives you a very good list of American papers the American Journal of Philately, Post Office, Metropolitan, Eastern, NEWSLETTER, Facts and Fallacies, Californian, Weekly Era and Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News. From such a list as these one certainly can get good results and ads inserted in others will hardly pay though the list should have included the Rocky Mountain Stamp and one or two others.

And then a word or two relative to the subject matter of the advertisement. By all means use some originality. If you don't, you will say, as many others before you have said, "it don't pay." Don't you know that people are tired of reading the same old chestnut about sheets at seven per cent off (what.) that seebecks will not sell, that they rarely wade through a batch of solid agate or nonpariel? There must be something striking about the ad. Look at those of a certain Chicago dealer. Every issue has something decidedly refreshing and crisp about it and though I don't collect the specialty to which he caters, yet if I ever do I shall certainly give him my first order for I know he has what I shall require. I never pick up a philatelic paper without looking to see if his ad. is in it, for I enjoy his breezy style. Where is he now? Why trade rushed in on him to such an extent that he had to go south for his health. How many other stamp dealers would be willing to have such a trade. It is possible if only ingenuity be exercised and then you will get the people to read your ads. Make them attractive and have something the people want. Use a number of papers for they go to different parties and thus your notices are brought to the gaze of many more collectors. Keep everlastingly at it. Don't become discouraged because you are not deluged with orders the day after the magazine is mailed. Keep your name before the public. It may take them some time to find that you are the man they should patronize, but let the fault be their's not your's. Then, too you cannot always trace where certain trade has come from, there's nothing in the letter to indicate what paper was responsible for the orders. Why, I received trade two or three years after I had quit dealing and to this day cannot trace where the party saw the ad. So, I say, keep at it and your labors will ultimately be rewarded. Then don't quit, but the rather with an increase of business, increase the amount of your advertising space. So in closing let me say that if you are striving to reach the top, leave no stone unturned but if content with being a drone pursue the old time methods and a drone you will certainly become.

HISTORY OF THE POSTAL FAMILY OF THURN & TAXIS 1510 TO 1866.

The family Tassis lived in the mountains and forests, called Tassis near the city of Berganes (Italy) but their original name was Torriani, and were noblemen. The forests were abundant with badgers (in Italian Tassis,) and therefrom they derived their name Tassis family. In the 14th century the present Kingdom of Italy (also Belgium & Holland, at that time united as the Netherlands, Austria, Germany belonged to the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations. In the year 1500 Francis and his brother Baptist del Tassis offered to the German emperor Maximilian I. to establish a regular mail service in his domains, and to forward private mail for fees, but the imperial mail free of charge. In 1501 A. D. March 1st the Tassis brothers opened a postal route, with horses wagons and messengers on foot and horseback from Vienna (Austria) to Rome (Italy) and were appointed "Capitaines & Maitre de nos Postes" (Captains & Rulers of our Postes) and they also carried the English mail from London (England) to Calais (France) which is a matter of record. In 1504 Francis del Tassis was intrusted to establish regular posts between Brussels (Belgium) and the capital of Germany (Berlin) of France (Paris) and Madrid (Spain) with a pay of 12,000 Livres (\$2,400). Every postoffice was to have two horses, and his time for forwarding mail was fixed, according to distance. On June 5th 1520 Baptist del Tarriani Tassis was commissioned by the German Emperor Charles I ruler of Germany, Austria, Italy, Netherland & Spain as Postmaster general in his land. Baptist del Tassis in 1504 became a German citizen for himself and his heirs and was named by imperial German decree Marquis of Thurn & Taxis. In 1505 the German emperor Ferdinand I reappointed the Taxis family as the imperial Postmaster General in his lands and Leonhard of Thurn & Taxis was made special postmaster of the Netherlands. As in 1576 a revolution occurred in the Netherlands the postal service was crippled, and Leonhard of Thurn & Taxis came in financial trouble. He owed to postmasters and messengers 6,000 Gold Kroner (about \$2,000.) A man named Henst (Jacob) or Hmekø as the chronic narrator paid the Taxis debt, and got the imperial permission to run a mail service in some German states (besides Taxis) but only until the year 1588. But before that time had expired Henst who had much done to improve his postal routes, could not pay his debts, his postmasters complained to their resp. Princes (rulers) and Henst gave the job up, and lived at the imperial court in other capacities. Under the reign of emperor Rudolphus II. of Germany, by imperial decree, Bernhard of Thurn & Taxis on June 6th 1595 was intrusted with all privileges as supreme Postmaster General of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations (Spain under King Philip II. meantime had conquered the Netherlands, but Taxis forwarded mail to and from Spain and the Netherlands with permission of the German Emperor). Success followed Success! Taxis was dying, Taxis was living! century was going and century was coming! On June 2nd 1615 the German Emperor Rudolphus II. made Lamoral of Thurn & Taxis a "Count" a title for himself and his family, on account of the valuable services Taxis had rendered to the imperial court. Lamoral of Thurn & Taxis also was appointed Imperial German Postmaster (Kaiserlich Deutscher General Postmeister) with the power, that his service should be a newly created postal service, belonging to himself and all his male heirs. This was done on the condition, that Taxis should have his service as an imperial postal lessee. The postal house Thurn & Taxis was gaining more and more, and improved his postal service to the benefit of the German Empire, and the postal family of Thurn & Taxis was acknowledged as leading postal

(Continued on page 6.)

The flower beneath the crown on the first stamps of Nova Scotia is the Nova Scotian Mayflower.

THE PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER.

A Monthly Magazine.

Published by The Philatelic Newsletter Publishing Company.

Minneapolis, Minn.

E. S. Stebbins, President. W. R. Young, Treasurer. C. E. N. Howard, Sec'y.

EDITORS.

W. C. Whitall, F. S. George, A. Edsten.

Subscription to United States, Canada and Mexico, 25 cents per year in advance. To Foreign Countries, 37 cents.

Advertising rates, 60 cents per inch. Liberal discounts given on time contracts.

A cross opposite this paragraph indicates that your subscription has expired. Your prompt renewal is respectfully solicited or we will discontinue sending it.

All communications should be addressed to the Managing Editor,

GEORGE W. ACHARD,
242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

OUR AUTHORIZED AGENTS.

L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Nebraska.
The Birmingham Consolidated Stamp Company,
85 Wills street, Loyells, Birmingham, England.

Entered at the Minneapolis Postoffice as second class matter, Oct. 16, 1896.

EDITORIAL.

In another column will be found an article on "Philatelic Advertising," a perusal of which will be of considerable advantage to dealers. The author has had a varied experience and gives the essence of it. Too frequently dealers have been wont to complain that their advertising does not pay. This is usually done to beat down the price of their bill which is unpaid. But if it is true that their ad has not attracted attention the trouble can be traced in nine cases out of ten to the dealer himself. He has not advertised the goods people want and has been lacking in originality and attractiveness. If you desire to reach the buying classes you must have something they want and display it in a catchy style.

Just in line with the above we desire to state that the Newsletter has never been given to printing the encouraging remarks which dealers have written us relative to the value of our magazine as an advertising medium. However we shall give a few that have been received lately. The J. T. Starr Stamp Co., says "Have we sent copy for our next ad. It is paying us well. We are doing an enormous business and the Newsletter has brought us as much as any." Lewis Robie writes "I have had many distinct orders mentioning the Newsletter from my ad. therein and as soon as I return to Chicago and am in shape to attend to my stamp business, you can depend on receiving my patronage." These firms know how to advertise and get the trade.

One of Philatelia's noblemen, Mr. Gilbert E. Lockyer, of England, has lately passed over to the great majority, his demise occurring in December. A member of the London Society, he was active in his researches into Philatelic knowledge, an author of exceptional ability and perhaps the greatest of authorities on stamps of British Colonies. His place will with difficulty be filled. His loss is a sad blow to our pursuit.

And now we have to chronicle the death of America's foremost collector, Mr. John Kerr Tiffany, of St.

Louis. He passed away on March 3rd, in his 56th year. While he was widely known as the first president of the American Philatelic Association, his terms of office extending over the years from its organization to the election last August, he will be known more from his works in philatelic literature. His articles and books show a vast amount of research and there never was a dry line in anything he wrote. We can ill afford the loss of such a man.

Isn't it about time that a collector was placed in charge of the sales department of the American? There has always been more or less trouble and kicking when a dealer has been at the head of this important department and the recent investigation would tend to the conclusion that the present administration has been no exception to the rule. It is time the members elected one of their own number and it is rumored that a prominent collector of the twin cities, who has had considerable experience of the sort required, will make the run. Mr. Mekeel is out of it and will not seek a re-election.

The American Philatelic Association will soon be a thing of the past. Its place will be taken by the American Philatelic Society, all plans for incorporation being completed. It will be incorporated in Minnesota which state does not require cumulative voting.

Some of us like to be looked upon as Croesuses of philatelic knowledge. Let us not feel envious of another's greater attainments. Let us not think that we can blind others as to our own. Don't say a stamp is a counterfeit if you are not in a position to render a decision one way or the other. Our assertions to this effect might lead us into trouble from which we cannot easily extricate ourselves. A certain gentleman of St. Paul claimed to have in his possession a genuine specimen of a stamp valued in the hundreds of dollars. We have been informed that he did not know whether the stamp was genuine or not. It has been asserted that he thought the stamp was a fraud. Nevertheless, he contracted to have the stamp sold at public auction, representing that the stamp had been secured from a certain party who had foolishly removed it from the original letter it had franked. The auction sale was well advertised and attracted a great deal of attention because of the stamp in question. Several bids were received by the person conducting the sale, the highest being six or seven hundred dollars. The stamp was sent to the party making the highest bid, who, in turn, submitted the stamp to stamp experts for opinions as to its genuineness. The stamp was pronounced a counterfeit, and a very poor one at that, it being drawn from an album cut. Of course, the stamp was returned to the seller, who gave it back to the owner, demanding, however, the regular commission. This the gentleman refused to pay. The other party sought the services of attorneys who collected the amount demanded by the auction manager, which sum was not inconsiderable. In paying the money the owner of the counterfeit said that he had thought that it was "O. K." But that's where the rub comes in. He thought, but he did not know. His unwise presumption was rebutted in a way that he will not soon forget. Whatever you do, be honest and be especially careful when trafficking in stamps you know nothing about. Don't play with the fire even with a six-foot pole. An ember might fly up and cause the loss of an eye. In other words, never sell a stamp you know is a counterfeit and never sell a stamp you know little or nothing about, unless you say that you are willing to return the consideration in case the stamp turns out to be a counterfeit.

The stamps of the Pacific Navigation Company were used by that company in coast trade by their vessels.

OUR EXCHANGES.

F. S. George, Editor.

We have received the following since our last issue:

January numbers: American Collector; Canadian Philatelic Magazine; Monthly Post; Ontario Philatelist; Columbian Philatelist;

February numbers: Omaha Philatelist; New York Philatelist; Philatelic Visitor; Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly; Monthly Observer; Youth's Realm; American Collector, and English Specialists' Journal.

March numbers: Rocky Mountain Stamp; Evergreen State Philatelist; Boston Stamp Book; Philatelic Advocate;

No date given: The Funny Foolatelist.

Several Dates given: The International Stamp. Dec., Jan. and Feb.

The January issues are too far back to be reviewed at this time. We will begin with the February issues and notice them in the order given above. The Omaha Philatelist comes in various colors and fine paper. A number of fine cut of various business houses in the city of Omaha are shown, also a half tone of Mr. Shepard. The first ten pages are taken up with a brief description of Omaha. This is followed by an article by Severn on Varieties of Special Collecting. The issue is well gotten up and very neat in appearance. The editors claim that Omaha is the place for all the conventions in 1898.

The first article in the New York Philatelist is on the Stamps of Prince Edward Island by "Maritime Boy." The balance of the issue is taken up with the Editorials and a full account of the late deal in Newspaper stamps by one Colman.

The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly contains the following: Philately at Home and Abroad; Philatelic Events; Twixt Editor and Reader; Between Ourselves; Notes on New Issues; British Postmarks and Obliterations; Our Reviews, and the Auction Supplement.

A half tone cut of Mr. O. E. Clapp is presented in the American Collector. Mr. Clapp is a prominent collector at St. Paris, Ohio. Although only 23 years of age he is now publisher of the Daily News, a paper printed in his native town. He is a member of the various philatelic societies and an occasional contributor to the philatelic press. S. Estele Miller writes on U. S. Postage Dues, giving a full, written description of these interesting stamps. There are several other good articles in this number.

The English Specialists' Journal is the Official Organ of the English Specialists' Association and is indispensable to collectors of this class of stamps. The contents of the February number are as follows: New Issues and Discoveries; General Notes of the Month; The Stamped Stationery of Great Britain; The Auction Market; Reviews; List of Post Offices in the United Kingdom, and the Die Numbers of Envelope Stamps.

The half tone cut on the first page of the March Rocky Mountain Stamp is a scene on the Platte near Idlewild. This idea of running a cut similar to this each month is a good one, a good ad, not only for the Journal but for the State as well. The writer has been fortunate enough to have visited Denver a few years ago and visited many of the places that have been represented on the front cover of this Journal. The scenery round about Denver is grand, the grandeur of which cannot be expressed on paper or shown by cuts. The opening article is by C. E. Severn and gives a full account of A Postal Card Essay. This is followed by a Character sketch together with a half tone cut of Mr. Joseph S. Davis who is now associate editor of this Journal. The article closes with the following: "Mr. Davis will be a candidate for vice-president of the P. S. of A. at the forthcoming election at Atlantic City, N. J."

The Evergreen State contains Notes and Comments by Era; U. S. A. E. B. Horn Jr.; and the editor. Mr. Gordon C. Corbaley writes an article on A Columbian Study. Society reports complete the issue.

The Boston Stamp Book for March contains besides the editorials the following: "Japan's Counterfeits" Again; Wanted. A Catalogue; A Reference List of Type and Die Varieties; Philatelic Facts; The Market; A Talk about New Issues; The American Stamp Exchange and Boston Philatelic Society reports.

The editors of the Funny Foolatelist state that this is a forerunner of the Phunniest Paper Published. The name is to be The Philatelic Punch and the first issue to appear about the first of March. The editors are Page & Adair of McConnelsville, Ohio.

Friend Martin in order to catch up to father time has concluded to combine Dec. Jan & Feb. in No. 17 of the International Stamp. He states that this was necessary on account of sickness and that it will never happen again. This issue is a 24 page number and printed in several colors. The paper is the best and the reading matter good. We trust Mr. Martin will catch up soon as the International Stamp would be missed by a good many if it did not appear regularly.

NOTES IN GENERAL.

A sheet of yellow paper hung in a tobacconist's window, stuck over with stamps, each with a price in ink below it, the whole headed "Timbre a Vendre," revealed to Paris collectors in the early days of philately the existence of other collectors and dealers.

The stamps of China were never authorized by the government, but were prepared for use by a local company that secured a license to transport mail in the Celestial Kingdom. Many of them were stamped with the custom house cancellation and were not used for postage.

The one-half peso of the 1858 issue of Peru is very rare. It was issued March 1st and suppressed June 1st, 1858. It was printed in two colors, yellow and rose. Of the rose there exist two shades—light and deep. The rose colored variety is believed to have been an error and is almost unattainable.

Of Natal stamps the 3 pence rose and 6 pence green of the 1857 issue are the only ones of that issue that can be obtained without considerable trouble. The other values of the set are day by day getting scarce, and one of them, the 9 pence blue, is now only obtainable on the breaking up of an old collection, and not always then.

The Modena, 1 lire, white, of the 1852 issue, was watermarked "A," which was the initial of the maker of the paper, Signor Amici. In the entire set of this issue frequent errors occur, prominent in which are "cctn," "cnet" and "ceu" for "cent," besides numerical errors.

The 40-reis sheets of the 1877 issue of Cape Verde contain by mistake a 40-reis Mozambique stamp, and although the error was latterly rectified, the 40-reis Mozambique, with a 40-reis Cape Verde on either side of it, will forever remain one of the curiosities of philately.

Most of the Transvaal stamps were engraved in Mecklenburg, and large quantities of the sheets were obtained from the printers in the actual and other colors and then obliterated by a circular postmark. It is not known whether this was done illiterally or by authority of the government.

The provisional issue of 1867 of Argentine Republic on their watermarked paper are very difficult to obtain, the 5 centavos excepted, which may be found at a comparatively low price. This 5 centavo was again issued a few years later, but the re-strike can readily be distinguished from the early prints in that the imprint is indistinct and the color was a dingy rose over lake instead of a clear rose.

THE ST. PAUL PHILATELIC SOCIETY BANQUET.

The "First Festal Function" of the St. Paul Philatelic Society was held at the Windsor in that city on March 12th, 1897. It was one of those delightful occasions that come none to frequent and was enjoyed by nearly a score of the faithful of the two cities. Upon arriving at the banquet table Mr. Edsten was asked to act as chaplain but refused on the ground that he was to respond to a toast and did not wish anything to interfere with the flow of soul that he had prepared. The menu was as follows:

- Blue Points, on Rough Wrappers.
- Celery, Albino. Olives, Proper Color.
- Turtle Soup, Bogus.
- Planked White Fish, Fine Line and Net Work
- Tenderloin of Beef, Grilled.
- considerably Obliterated with Mushrooms.
- Green Peas, French.
- Roman Punch, Serpentine.
- Antelope, Plain Laid.
- Jelly, Current Issue.
- Sweet Potatoes, Shades of Brown.
- Lettuce Mayonnaise, Choice Mixture.
- Ice Cream, Blurred Impression.
- Assorted Cakes, Entire and Cut Square.
- Water Crackers, Pin Perforated. Roquefort, Oxidized.
- Coffee, Arabesque.

After all had done justice to this, Mr. Smith, in a "few well chosen words," introduced Mr. F. H. Carleton who discoursed on Philately in the Northwest. He was followed by Chas. Ezekiel Nason Howard on the general collector. Mr. Mart'n then spoke on the special collector; Mr. Bailey, on Reprints and Counterfeits; Mr. Edsten on the Old-Time Collector, and Mr. Stewart brought the set speeches to a close with a witty toast on Fashion in Philately. Afterwards all of those present were called upon for a few remarks and the "feed" wound up with a resolution to congress praying for the sale of Periodical and Due Stamps.

(Continued from page 3.)

messengers by foreign rulers. But still Taxis reached higher. The only true acknowledgement, that his postal messengers on horseback and foot, his mail wagons with horses, his postillions in the Taxis postal uniform delivered safely the mail. The highest point of imperial grace, and in the point of his power Taxis reached on the fourth day of October 1695. Then Leopoldus II. Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations, surrounded by all German Princes (rulers) and the highest Roman Catholic Church dignitaries made his Postmaster General Eugene Alexander Francis of Thurn & Taxis a German "Prince" a title for himself and all his family members for eternal times! At our present time the descendants of the world known postal family Thurn & Taxis are still living as "Multi-Millionaires" at their large estate in the Kingdom of Bavaria, and the Prince of Thurn & Taxis still is a powerful man at the Bavarian court. The arms of the Taxis family are as follows: Within a circle is the Imperial German double eagle. The Austrian double eagle, because the (old time) German Emperors were Austrian Princes and abdicated in 1804, below the eagle is a badger, having on left side a postal horn, and on the right side a pigeon. The whole empty ground filled out with flowers.

The explanation of the arms is: The double eagle and postal horn signify that the Thurn & Taxis family was Postmaster General under the reign of the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations. The badger signifies in Italian Tassis (the original name). The pigeon signifies the rapidity of the Taxis postal service. As powerful as the Taxis postal family was still opposition meantime had sprung up. The Prince Elector (Kurfuerst) Fredrick

William of Prussia refused Taxis in future to forward mail through Prussia. Taxis complained to the Emperor, and Leopoldus II. of Germany wrote a letter to the Elector of Prussia in regard to the matter, but got the reply that Prussia had established since 1680 a new regular postal service, and that settled matters. Soon this example was followed by the larger German states as Saxony Bavaria, Wurtemberg. Although Taxis had lost these customers still his postal territory was a large one, and he improved the service more and more. Taxis was dying and Taxis was living! Centuries were passing Centuries were coming! Taxis was still there with his postal service! German Emperors died and German Emperors lived! and gave Taxis new privileges. But "Dark Days" were coming for Germany.

(To be continued.)

WESTERN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

- President, C. E. Severn, Chicago, Ills.
- Vice-President, H. D. Ruehlman, Sharon, Wis.
- Secretary, C. E. Thayer, 154 East Third street, St. Paul, Minn.
- Treasurer, J. R. Gooding, 757 Fairmont avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
- Exchange Superintendent, G. W. Achard, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Counterfeit Detector, H. C. Beardsley, Box 216, St. Joe, Mo.
- Purchasing Agent, L. G. Lambert, 151 Summit avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
- Auction Manager, O. K. Carstarphen, Denver Colo.
- Librarian, E. Lentz, Baker City, Ore.
- Attorney, R. W. French, Hartland, Wash.
- Trustees, H. S. Swensen, C. E. N. Howard, C. J. Tyren, Minneapolis, Minn.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The suggestion is made by various members that the W. P. A. merge itself into the League of American Philatelists. It is known that the L. of A. P., while a national society, was born of and is now the champion of Philately in the Great Northwest.

By the amalgamation of the two societies, the W. P. A. would lose little more than its name, as the L. of A. P. would doubtlessly fill the position of Sponsor to Philately in the Northwest, in the manner of our inter-state W. P. A.

The unification would concentrate the Philatelic effort which is now being divided between two societies, for the benefit of one. I have been asked to call for a mail vote on the question of consolidation but before I do this, there must be a more general demand for a ballot. An expression of opinion on the advisability of consolidation with the L. of A. P. is invited.

Meanwhile, let us strive to make the Western Philatelic Association a power in its section of the land. Fraternally.

C. E. SEVERN,
448 Racine Ave., Chicago.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

NEW MEMBERS.

- 103. N. G. Thompson, Hutton, Montana.
- Resigned. J. L. Mayer, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Change of address, A. W. Drew, to Tempe, Arizona.

APPLICATIONS.

- F. E. Wagner, 540 Fifth St., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, C. E. Thayer.
- Theo. A. Isert, 2226 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, F. E. Wagner.
- Otto G. Everback, 538 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, F. E. Wagner.

Edw. Brooks, 662 Preston St., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, F. E. Wagner.
 Nicholas Adler, 210 W. Madison St., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, F. E. Wagner.
 C. Underwood, 2009 Maple St., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, F. E. Wagner.
 L. C. Hassler, 764 E. Jefferson St., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, F. E. Wagner.

James V. Porter, 1931 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, F. E. Wagner.
 Chas. H. Jenkins, Standard Oil Co., Louisville, Ky., Ref. G. W. Achard, F. E. Wagner.
 The above applicants will be admitted to membership on the 15th of next month, provided no objection is received before that date.
 C. E. Thayer, Secretary.

League of American Philatelists.

President—L. J. Kramer, Elkader, Iowa.
 Vice-President—W. H. Kessler, Detroit, Mich.
 Secretary—Chas. B. Hesse, Fort Madison, Iowa.
 Treasurer—F. B. Woolson, Wayne, Neb.
 Exchange Superintendent—John Artbin, Des Moines, Iowa.
 Superintendent Literary Exchange—B. L. Morris, Bellaire, Ohio.
 Trustees—H. S. Swensen, Geo. W. Achard, C. J. Tyren, Minneapolis, Minn.

Auction Manager—H. C. Beardsley, St. Joseph, Missouri.
 Librarian—Helen R. Thomas, Edgewater, Colo.
 Purchasing Agent—L. G. Lambert, St. Paul, Minn.
 Attorney—Geo. W. Achard, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Counterfeit Detector—Chas. F. Noe, Amana, Iowa.
 Advertising Agent—L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Nebraska.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

NEW MEMBERS.

- 469. E. G. Gibson, 354 10th Ave., New York, N. Y.
- 470. Findly I. Weaver, Berlin, Ont.
- 471. Simon Le, 914 14th St., Denver, Col.
- 472. R. G. Widdecombe, St. Catherines, Ont.
- 473. C. S. Moreau, 122 W. 48th St., New York, N. Y.
- 474. Carl F. Krug, 1424 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs.
- 475. Geo. F. Robb, 1608 6th Ave., Des Moines, Ia.
- 476. Henry Gray, 621 N. 3rd St., Des Moines, Ia.
- 477. F. S. George, 17 S. 4th St., Minneapolis.

APPLICANTS.

- C. E. N. Howard, 656 Summit Ave., St. Paul, Minn. Ref. Geo. W. Achard, S. J. Kramer.
- Chas. King, 105 E. 10th St., New York, City. Ref. E. B. Hoon, J. F. Dodge.
- Adolph Stupannes, with Federal Bank, Bosle, Switzerland. Ref. Stigule, S. J. Kramer.
- Elou N. Lee, Jr., Des moines, Ia. Ref. Jno. Artbin, F. A. Yongberry.
- Trimble Hunter, 1821 W. 8th St., Des moines, Ia. Ref. Jno. Artbin, P. Lance.
- Kenneth Hunter, 1821 W. 8th St. Ref. Jno. Artbin, P. Lance.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership on the 15th of next month, provided no objection is received before that date and provided each pays the dues to January 1st, 1898.

The Secretary will be pleased to forward application blanks and information to prospective members. The league is now on a firm footing and will continue so, if each member will work for its interests.

CHAS. B. HESSE, Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mar.1—Received from Retiring Secty.....	5.71
Mar.4— " " members.....	.25
Disbursements.	
Mar.3—Express on Official matter.....	.60
" 8—Paid H. C. B. to appear on acct.....	5.00
" 8—Bal on hand.....	.36

Fraternally,
 B. J. Bishop.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Owing to the small vote cast for the adoption or rejection of the Constitution, the polls are hereby declared open until April 15th.

Mail Your Vote.

All members who have not voted are requested to

send theirs in at once. No votes have been cast against the proposed draft.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

League of American Philatelists. Auction Sale.

Send in your Bids.

Bids received until April 20, 1897

* means unused. Highest bidder will be notified immediately after above date and goods will be forwarded promptly on receipt of remittance.

HERBERT C. BEARDSLEY,

Auction Manager, Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

	No. in Re-	Lot. serve.
1. U. S. 1875 (1869 reprint) 3c, no gum used.....	1	
2. " 1853, env. 10c, die 4 on buff, very slightly damaged	1	1.25
3. " Columbians, 10c, used.....	93	1.40
4. " 1887, env., 2c, on white, square cut, unused, (catalogue \$11.15).....	223	2.00
5. " Revenue, 2c, liberty, rouletted. (cat. 75c)	1	
6. " Revenue, 2c, Life Ins., unperf. (cat. \$3)	1	
7. " Revenue, 1878, 1c, roulette, cat. 1.35).....	1	35
8. " Columbian envelopes, 1 & 2c, cut square and entire.....	132	15
9. " Env. printed on both sides and other oddities.....	9	10
10. Porto Rico, 5c yellow, green, * cat. 20c each block of.....	4	
11. Porto Rico, same * block of.....	4	
12. Porto Rico, same * strip of.....	5	
13. Wholesale lot of South African Republic, British Bechunaland, Orange Free States, Swazieland, Natal and Cape of Good Hope, used and unused, from 1 to 30 of each stamp, 180 in all, cataloguing from \$30 to \$35, an elegant lot for any dealer	180	6.00
14. Japan, wholesale lot, cataloguing over \$3, including 1 @ \$1.00.....	444	80
15. Canadian College stamps, 100*, 2 varieties	100	
16. Foreign envelopes and wrappers, cataloguing about \$1.40.....	22	25
17. Collection in Philatelic Album, no duplicates new collection.....	465	2.50

EVIL EFFECTS OF THE CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM.

A few days ago a registered letter was received at Post Office Station A, addressed to an aged German living in the neighborhood, and was given to the letter carrier for delivery, but was returned to the Station because its owner was not at home, and there was no one on the premises authorized to sign the required receipt. After several other efforts to deliver it, it was sent to the General Post Office; and the German, on calling at the Station and making inquiry about it, was informed of the facts, and furnished with a slip of paper on which was written a certificate that would enable him to obtain the letter on application at the General Post Office.

Armed with this document, he made his way to the big Federal building and was soon wandering through its mazes seeking for the "Registered Letter Department." Observing on the gallery a line of citizens standing outside the closed door of an office, each provided with a slip of paper similar in appearance to the slip he held, he fell in at the foot of the line, which was rather a long one. At intervals of 10 or 15 minutes, the office door opened, a man emerged and departed, a voice called "Next!" The man at the head of the line entered, and the door closed behind him. In about an hour and a half the patient German's time arrived, and, entering the room, he found himself alone with a gentleman of professional aspect who, giving a hasty glance at a slip of paper said:

"That's all right—take off your coat."

"Take off mine goat? Vot you dink I come for? To got shaved? I vant—"

"Oh, that's all right—take off your coat: I can't examine you unless you do."

"Den I vos got to be examined? So? Dot's all right, Is'e bose," and off came the coat.

"Well, take off your waistcoat and shirt; do you think I can examine you with your clothes on?"

"Look here, mine vriend, you dink I vas a tief? You vant to search me? Vell, dot's all right. I peen an honest man, by gracious, and you don't vind no shtolen bropery my clothes insite. I vas nefer zearch before already—"

"I don't want to search you; I want to examine you. Don't you understand?"

"No, I ton'd understand him at all—but dot's all right—dere's my shirt off, und if I a cold catch d.t vill your fault peen."

The professional-looking gentleman placed his hand affectionately on the visitor's shoulder blade and applied his ear to his chest, listening intently; then tapped him on the breast bone and punched him in the small of the back, injuring if it hurt.

"Hurt? No, dot don't hurt; but maybe if dose foolishness don't stop somepody ellus gits bretty soon hurt."

"Does that hurt?" was the next question, accompanied by a gentle thrust among the ribs.

"No, dot don't hurt, but py gracious, if—"

"Oh, be quiet, I'm in a hurry, and have got a dozen more to attend to. Now, can you read this card when I hold it so?"

"No."

"Can you read it now?" bringing it a few inches nearer.

"No, but you choost pring me out mine sbegdables by my goat bocket, und I read him."

"Oh, that won't do; your eyesight is defetive, I'm sorry to say, and you're rejected. Put on your clothes again, quick, please."

"Dot's all right. So I vos recheded, eh? Vell, dot vos nezezary, I subbose, but it's very vunny, choost the same. Und now I've been recheded und examined, und all dose dings vot you do mit me, maybe you

don't some objections got to gif me dot recheded letter?"

"What registered letter?"

"Dot recheded vat vos sboken on dis biece of baper from Station A."

"The dickens! who sent you to me with that? I thought you had come to be examined. Didn't you apply for appointment as a letter carrier?"

"As a letter garrier? No, I don't vant to be a letter garrier. I haf good pusiness got by mine own self; but py gracious, I vants mine recheded letter from Germany vat mine bruder sent me by Station A."

"Here," said the professional gentleman opening the door and calling a messenger from the lobby: "show this gentleman to the Registered Letter Department;" and the bewildered foreigner was conducted to the proper window.

It happened to be the day for the examination, by the Post Office medical officer, of candidates for appointment as letter carriers.

RAWUL PINDEE AND MUREE, 1 NY DAK STAMPS.

These are native stamps used for prepayment of letters between the two places named, a distance of forty miles. As the pony post is run somewhat in opposition to the government post, (though a real accomodation to the inhabitants,) the proprietor will not sell these envelopes to the public, as he fears unpleasantness with the postal authorities. The pony dak will deliver a letter in about four hours, while the post closes at Pindee at 4 p. m. and letters for Murree are not delivered there till next morning, so the pony dak is quicker than the post-office which uses runners to carry the mails. Every letter handed to the pony post they stamp with the above design, and charge 8 annas; or, if you write a letter in the office, you can be served with either a white or blue envelope for 8 annas; and if you want to prepay the answer, you obtain a stamped envelope to put inside your letter. They are certainly postage stamps, for no letter goes by the pony dak without one.—

M. Liaunos in 1865 obtained a concession from the Sultan to issue a series of stamps, and distribute papers, letters, etc. in Constantinople only. They were of the following design: Crescent and five-pointed star in lined disc on ground-work of rays. POS TE LOCALE on the left, and PARAS below. Arabic inscriptions above, and on the right side. Numerals of value in corners. Colored impression and perforated. Rectangular in shape. The values were 5 paras rose. N. Liaunor gave up the plan after six months, although the concession was for six years.

The new blank album that Messrs. Stebbins and Young of Minneapolis have recently placed on the market is about the finest that we have ever seen. It certainly does not belie its name, for it is very close to "Perfection." Its low price should also make it popular. It is now used by almost every collector of any prominence in the two cities. Send for a sample sheet which only costs a two cent stamp.

As there has been considerable talk about a flag stamp for the U. S., it may not be out of place to state that in years gone by there was a great deal of discussion over an alleged stamp bearing the flag of the Confederate States. After all the learned Philos had spoken their little piece, it became known that the stamp in question was never thought of by the postal authorities of the Confederacy and one by one these learned Doctors of Philately have to acknowledge themselves mistaken.



THE
Philatelic * Newsletter

A Magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collecting.

Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

VOL. I.

FEBRUARY; 1895.

No. 1.

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Published by
HARRY S. SWENSEN,
1605 Steven Ave.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

8000 VARIETIES.

My stock contains over 8000 varieties of fine postage stamps. A very complete line of U. S. general issues, rare envelopes, and departments at

20 to 30 per cent. Less than Catalogue,

Finest lot of foreign, British Colonials and others at from

25 to 40 per cent. Below Catalogue.

Upon receipt of a list of your wants, in U. S. and foreign I will send you a fine selection at these prices. Merchantile references indispensable.

I wish to buy a good collection and rare stamps for cash.

FREDERICK T. HOYT,

909 W. Polk St. Chicago, Ill.

WHAT SNAPS.

	CAT. PRICE	MY PRICE
U. S. 1888, 90 cent purple unused.....	\$2.00	\$1.55
" " 30 " puce brown unused.....	.50	.50
" " 1885, special del. unused.....	.25	.15
8 varieties Hawaii.....	.35	.20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over.....	1.00	.25
6 " Ecuador.....		.10
8 " Nicaragua 1869-78.....	.85	.55
2 " Corea, 5 m's 10 m's.....	.35	.20

105 good foreign from Natal Cape Good Hope, India, Egypt, Australia, etc., for 20 cents. Approval sheets a specialty but I must have A 1 references.

Lock Box 40. 2 6m **C. H. WILSON** MELVERN KAN.

"DON'T MISS THIS CHANGE."

LOAN STAR PACKET—This packet contains no rubbish, but 30 specially selected genuine used and unused stamps, all different, including obsolete U. S., Chili, Argentine, New Granada, Venezuela, Honduras, Great Britain (obs), Salvador, Mexico and many other good desirable stamps. Price, postage free, 18c. As this packet is almost given away, it is offered for a limited time only. Prize stamps to every applicant.

NORMAN R. ENSOR,
Galveston, Texas.

DEALERS AND COLLECTORS.

You all use Stamp Hinges.

But you are not up-to-date if you don't at least give mine a trial. I sell the

Rouletted Hinges.

They are the BEST ON EARTH.

Are made in sheets 8½x11 in. Are made of thin, tough, transparent paper.

Have the best sticking, tasteless gum.

All in all, they are the best stickers and the handiest hinges on the market.

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

They are 8½x17 m'n'n in size—400 to the sheet. Prices

3 sheets.....	10c
10 ".....	25c
250 ".....	\$5.00

Send at least 10c for 3 trial sheets and you will be pleased. All post free

GEO. E. CLEAVER,

P. S. of A. 434 2 6m 1132 Perkromen Ave. Reading, Pa.

FREE to all applying for my sheets at 33⅓ commission, and enclosing references, a rare Hawaiian or Canadian stamp. State preference.
150 finely assorted Canada 11c. 250 finely assorted U. S. 10c. 1000 "Ideal" hinges 8c.

T. E. FITZGERALD.

ELLSWORTH, WIS.

1 Dollars for 10 Dollars Worth.

1000 U. S. Postage Stamps of 82 varieties, from 1851; Columbian 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10c; Columbian postal cards; special deliceries, blue and orange; Department, etc., the greatest offer ever made; 200 different Foreign Postage, some scarce, for 25c. (Member P. S. of A. No (774).)

N. HAUSSELMAN,

1706 MARKET ST.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

BEHOLD!

We have recently purchased three fine collections of stamps, and are selling them at 50 per cent. discount. Send a satisfactory reference, and your want list to the

H. M. HERR, Stamp Co.

Box 333.

WELLINGTON, OHIO.

It is an established fact that

L. V. LINDSEY, GREENE, N. Y.

is the best dealer you can find to exchange with, he allows good fair prices for U. S. Revenues, Postage or department, and good foreign. Send a list of what you have, he will make offers and send sheets at the same time. Circulars free.

IN A JIFFY

You can run your eye over my handy price-list and select such stamps as you want. It saves time and makes collecting easy and quick. Sent free.

E. T. PARKER,

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Branch Store 30 East 23d st., N. Y. City.

2 1y

CENTURY STAMP & COIN CO.,

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

We desire the patronage of honest and reliable collectors and agents, to whom we will send good selections of U. S. or foreign stamps on approval. Commercial references are required. Ready Cash to pay for any good stamps, or entire collections.

WANTED.

I want all denominations of present issues of U. S. stamps and will give good prices for same. Write and let me know what you have for sale and I will make you an offer.

FOR SALE.

I have some entire volumes of Phil. Lit for sale cheap.

I want to get Phil. Lit. of all kinds and offer good U. S. or cash for same. I also have some good papers to exchange for others. Send on your lists.

A fine line of U. S. and Australia on hand. Sent an approval upon deposit or good reference.

W. J. COLCLEUGH,

165 Congress St. East,

2 3m

Detroit, Mich.

STAMPS WANTED FOR CASH!

I wish to buy a good collection of stamps, also single rare stamps, Locals and Lots of Stamps, and am prepared to pay cash for all such. I solicit correspondence regarding same.

FREDERICK T. HOYT,

909 W. Polk street.

CHICAGO, ILL.

COLLECTORS send a three cent stamp and have your name in the Collectors Directory, which will be published in book form and sold to collectors and dealers at 10c per copy.

I buy all kinds of postage stamps catalogued at ten cents or over. If you have any send on approval.

T. E. FITZGERALD,

Ellsworth, Wis.

Bargains in Sets and Packets.

50 varieties for.....	\$ 10c
100 " ".....	20c
200 " ".....	50c
500 " ".....	3 00
1000 " ".....	7 50
Argentina 1892, 7 var.....	12c
Bahamas 1862-7 3 var.....	35c
" 1884-90 4 var.....	25c
Brazil Yellow Newspaper 5 var.....	65c
*Curocao 4 var.....	12c
Danish, West Indies 4 var.....	06c
Hawaii, including Prov. 9 var.....	30c
Italy 50 and 100 Lire.....	25c
Japan 12 var.....	12c
Japan Wedding stamp 2 var.....	12c
*Paraguay 1884 3 var.....	15c
Phillipines 1886-8 4 var.....	15c
Porto Rico 1894, 4 var.....	05c
*Suriname, 5 var.....	12c
Tunis, 7 var.....	18c
Western Australia 5 var.....	12c
Oil Rivers 1/2, 1 and 2d 3 var.....	1 00

And many other bargains. Rare U. S. and Foreign Stamps wanted for cash.

Theodore Toppell,

71 Nassau st.,

2 3m

New York, N. Y.

PACKETS.

Buy your stamps in packets. We have just put up a large number of packets made up principally from old collections which we sell at following prices

50 varieties.....	\$ 15c
100 " ".....	25c
200 " ".....	1 00
400 " ".....	2 00
500 " ".....	4 00
1000 " ".....	8 00

No better packets have ever been put up on the market for the money—approval sheets at from 10 to 50 per cent commission.

Indiana Stamp Co.

FORT WAYNE,

2 1y

Indiana.

READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY!

Compare the prices with those of other dealers, and you will be convinced that mine is the cheapest list ever published.

BARGAINS IN MEXICAN SETS.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

1856 1/2r, 1r, 2r.....	3	\$ 0 26	\$ 0 20
1856 1/2r to 8c complete.....	5	4 01	3 00
1861 1/2r, 1r, 2r.....	3	0 93	0 65
1861 1/2r to 8c complete.....	5	4 68	3 50
1862 4r, 8c.....	2	4 00	3 00
*1863 1r to 1p complete.....	4	0 23	0 12
1864 Eagle 1-1-2-2r.....	4	0 37	0 30
*1866 Maximilian 7c to 50c complete.....	4	3 00	2 00
1867 Provisional 1 2 2r.....	3	1 70	1 00
1868 Unperforated 6-12 25c.....	3	0 25	0 20
1868 " 6c to 100c complete.....	5	2 00	1 35
1868 Perforated 6-12 25c.....	3	0 46	0 30
1868 " 6c to 100c complete.....	5	3 00	2 25
1872 Unperforated 6-12 25c.....	3	0 48	0 30
1872 " 6c to 100c complete.....	5	1 98	1 50
1872 Perforated 6-12 25c.....	3	1 25	0 90
1872 " 6c to 100c complete.....	5	3 75	2 80
1874 5-10-10-25c.....	4	0 30	0 20
1874 5 10-10-25-50 100c complete.....	6	0 52	0 30
1882 2-3-6c, Numeral.....	3	0 37	0 20
1884 1c to 50c.....	11	0 60	0 40
1884 1p-2p-5p.....	3	7 00	5 50
1885 1c to 25c.....	9	0 81	0 55
1886 1 2-3-4 5-6 10c.....	7	0 16	0 08
1886 3-4-6-10-12-25c, all lilacs.....	6	0 83	0 60
1887 20 25c red.....	2	0 10	0 06
*1892 Unpaid.....	3	0 00	0 45
1884-94 Officials.....	5	0 50	0 30
*1888-93 Officially sealed.....	3	0 23	0 15
1893 5p-10p scarlet.....	2	no value	10 00
1883 Compound Envelopes 10c chocolate and brown violet (5x5).....	1	no value	2 00
1883 Compound Envelope 25c chocolate & green (5x10x10).....	1	no value	1 50
1890-91 Custom house stamps (Aduanas) 1c to 1000p, complete.....	11	11 60	7 75
1891-92 1c to 1000p, complete.....	11	11 35	7 50
1892-93 1c to 100p.....	9	3 65	2 25
*1873 Morelos State, (National Guard) 12 1/2 25c.....	2	2 25	1 50
*1890-94 Durango State 1/4c to 10c.....	7	1 05	0 50
*1890-94 " " 1/4c to \$1 00.....	9	1 35	0 65

* Means unused. All others are used.

Although these prices are very low, I have decided to allow a liberal 5 per cent discount on orders of \$5 00 upwards.

TERMS CASH with order. Payment in American Bank-notes in registered and sealed-wax letter. Orders under \$1.00 13c. extra for registered return postage.

Amounts under \$1 00, payment in unused stamps. Always enclose a 5c stamp for return postage when asking for information of any kind.

ADDRESS:

J. V. REVELO,

Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores,

2 3m

Mexico, D. F.

Get The Full Value Of Your Money.

PACKETS OF UNITED STATES STAMPS.

	Per 1	10	100		Per 1	10	100
PACKET A contains 25 varieties of U. S. all different.....	\$.25	\$2.50	\$22.50	PACKET F contains 100 varieties of U. S. all different.....	\$ 3.00	\$25.00	
PACKET B contains 30 varieties of U. S. all different.....	.35	3.50		PACKET G contains 125 varieties of U. S. all different.....	6.00	55.00	
PACKET C contains 50 varieties of U. S. all different.....	.50	5.00		PACKET H contains 150 varieties of U. S. all different.....	10.00	100.00	
PACKET D contains 50 varieties of U. S. extra good.....	1.00	10.00		PACKET I contains 175 varieties of U. S. all different.....	12.00		
PACKET E contains 75 varieties of U. S. all different.....	1.25	12.00					

NOTE:—All the above packets contain stamps valued at retail about three times as much as I charge for them.

PACKETS OF FOREIGN STAMPS.

Contains no United States Stamps.					Per 1	10	100
	Per 1	10	100				
PACKET J contains 25 var. no 1 or 2c stamps.	\$.20	\$ 2.50	\$20.00	PACKET P contains 500 var. (Retail price \$5.00)	\$2.00	\$15.00	
PACKET K contains 50 varieties no common	.50	4.25	40.00	PACKET Q contains 500 var. more common.....	1.75	12.50	
PACKET L contains 75 var. (Retail price \$3.)	1.00	9.50		PACKET R contains 1000 mixed stamps to sell on sheets at 1 to 5c each	1.00	6.00	50.00
PACKET M contains 100 var. more common stamps.....	.25	2.00	15.00	PACKET S contains 5000 mixed stamps to sell on sheets at 1c to 25c	5.00	40.00	
PACKET N contains 150 var. a better class.....	.50	3.50	30.00				
PACKET O contains 200 var. some envelopes...	.75	6.00	50.00				

NOTICE:—These stamps I received in trade from all parts of the World and as I do not care to handle Foreign stamps I let them go at just what they cost me.

SPECIAL.

JAPAN STAMPS, Extra good, from 1 sen to 1 yen. Mixed
 These stamps will catalogue at about \$3.00 to \$5.00 per 100.

Per 100 \$.50
 1000 \$4.50

STAMPS BY THE POUND.

	1lb	10lb	100lb		1lb	10lb	100lb
U. S. Mixed 1c to 10c, 1851 to 1893.....	\$.50	\$4.50	\$40.00	Foreign Stamps Extra Mixed.....	\$1.00	\$9.50	\$90.00

These stamps are well mixed having been gathered by Sunday Schools, all values and kinds. Each pound will contain about 5,000 to 7,000 stamps. Try 10 pounds as a sample.

B. S. ROSS, 509 Weiland St. Chicago, Ill.

THE Philatelic * Newsletter

A Magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collecting.

Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

VOL. 1.

MARCH, 1895.

No. 2.

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Published by
HARRY S. SWENSEN,
1605 Steven Ave.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

Dealers and Collectors

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But you are not up to-date if you don't at least give mine a trial. I sell the

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They are the BEST ON EARTH.

Are made in sheets 8½x11 in. Are made of thin, tough, transparent paper.

Have the best sticking, tasteless gum.

All in all, they are the best stickers and the handiest hinges on the market.

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3 sheets	10c
10 "	25c
250 "	\$5.00

Send at least 10c for 3 trial sheets and you will be pleased. All post free

GEO. E. CLEAVER,

1132 Perkromen Ave

P. S. of A. 434

2 6m

Reading, Pa.

ADVANCED COLLECTORS

SEND FOR MY CLASS B APPROVAL SHEETS AT 33½ per cent discount

REFERENCES REQUIRED.

They contain the finest grade of stamps on the market today, old European Colonials and Rarities etc. All marked at catalogue prices.

FOR THE

average collector I have the greatest packet on the market—my famous WORLD RENOWNED

DIXIE

Containing 399 different stamps from all parts of the globe. Post paid ONE DOLLAR.

A. M. RARESHIDE,

HOUSTON,

TEXAS.

2612 Milan St.

IN A JIFFY You can run your eye over my handy price list and select such stamps as you want. It saves time and makes collecting easy and quick. Sent free.

E. T. PARKER,

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Branch Store 30 East 23d st., N. Y. City.

2 ly

Collectors.

Dealers.

TRY OUR NEW HINGE

The best in the market. Will be sold until April 20th at the following prices.

1000 Postpaid	.06
3000 "	.15
5000 "	.25

Will be sold at these prices for only one month.

O. H. TREICHEL & CO.,

Beaver Dam, Wis

Mexico-New Issue!!

On April 2nd will appear the new issue of Mexican postage stamps. The set will be very beautiful. If you wish to obtain them as soon as possible send your order to me and will mail the stamps the same day of the circulation. I will give them at face value in American money. Cash with order. Satisfaction guaranteed.

The "Popular" fine packet containing 99 different stamps from Mexico (postage & revenue). Price only \$1.00.

The "Mixed revenue" contains 300 assorted Mex. rev. cat. at \$8.00. Price \$1.15.

The "Mixed postage" contains 300 assorted Mex. postage cat. by Scott at \$8.00. Price \$1.10.

The "Hispano-America" contains 100 diff. stamps from Mexico, Central & So., America, Cuba Ste. Domingo, etc. Price 60 cts.

The "World" 450 diff. of all countries. Price \$2.00.

Price-list of Mexican stamps for collectors, 2 cts. Payment in American Bank notes, Express Order or unused stamps.

S. B. TOSCANO.

S. of P. 1099, P. S. of A. 608 } Box 758, Mexico City, Mexico.

50 PER CENT COMMISSION

My approval sheets are unexcelled. Large stock constantly on hand, good chance for collectors wishing to complete their sets, 5 different Columbians to each applicant. Good references required. Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of packets sets etc.

C. H. HOLDEN,

3 6m

Durand, Mich.

FREE To each stamp collector who sees this add and sends 2 cent stamp for postage. I will send a set of 8 Japanese stamps, I also sell 3 Korean stamps for 10c, 100 all different for 9 cents.

JOHN A. WILSON, Dept. M. M.

2 3m

1129 Olive st., Philadelphia, Pa

WANTED.

I want all denominations of present issues of U. S. stamps and will give good prices for same. Write and let me know what you have for sale and I will make you an offer.

FOR SALE.

I have some entire volumes of Phil. Lit for sale cheap.

I want to get Phil. Lit. of all kinds and offer good U. S. or cash for same. I also have some good papers to exchange for others. Send on your lists.

A fine line of U. S. and Australia on hand. Sent on approval upon deposit or good reference.

W. J. COLCLEUGH,

165 Congress St. East,

Detroit, Mich.

STAMP DEALERS DIRECTORY.

Terms for a three line advertisement in this column, \$1.50 12 insertions, 75 cents 6 insertions, payable semi-annually in advance.

BURLEIGH, JAS. B. Govanstown, Balto. Co. Md., dealer in rare postage stamps. Send for stamps on approval.

CLEAVER, GEO. E. 1132 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa. Finest stamp hinges in the world

FITZGERALD J. E. Ellsworth, Wis. Send for my unexcelled approval sheets. Reference required.

HOLDEN C. H. Durand, Mich. Unexcelled approval sheet at 50 per cent commission. Good references required. Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of Packets sets etc.

HOYT, F. T. 909 W. Polk st., Chicago, Ill. Send me your want list. Rare stamps a specialty.

INDIANA STAMP CO. Fort Wayne Indiana. Approval sheets @ 10 per cent to 50 per cent com.

ROSS, B. S. 509 Wieland st. Chicago, Ill. U. S. stamps by the pound. Send for sample 50 cents.

TOPPELL, THEODORE, 91 Nassau st New York. Rare stamps wanted for cash.

EXCHANGE COLUMN.

Advertisements under this head one cent a word each insertion, cash in advance.

I need a few high denominations U. S. Rev. for my collection, want only the finest specimens and will exchange stamps or Phil. literature for those I need. Send on approval with want list. Geo. E. Cleaver, P. S. of A. 434. 1132 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa.

WHAT SNAPS.

	CAT. PRICE	MY PRICE
U. S. 1888, 90 cent purple unused.....	\$2.00	\$1.55
" " 30 " puce brown unused.....	75	50
" " 1885, special del. unused.....	25	15
6 varieties Hawaii.....	35	20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over.....	1.00	25
6 " Ecuador.....		10
8 " Nicaragua 1869-78.....	85	55
2 " Corea, 5 m's 10 m's.....	35	20

105 good foreign from Natal Cape Good Hope, India, Egypt, Australia, etc., for 20 cents. Approval sheets a specialty but I must have A 1 references.

C. H. WILSON
MELVERN KAN.

Lock Box 40. 2 6m

F. M. Thomas,

4117 Prytania st. New Orleans, La.

Fair exchange of Stamps with Dealers and Collectors. Foreign Correspondence desired. I have a large stock of old U. S. stamps, envelopes and postal cards, Confederate stamps and U. S. Revenues.

I will give same in exchange for good Foreign Stamps.

BARGAINS.

QUEENSLAND.

1882, 2-h 6d unused @ \$1.00

TASMANIA.

1864' 1d unused (No. 32) @ 50c
" same not well centered 20c
" 1sh unused (No. 40) 75c
" same, not well centered 30c
Gold Coast 2sh unused 65c

BARBADOS.

1882 85, 3d unused 20c

BAHAMAS.

1882, 1d unused (No. 24) 20c

Wholesale prices on application. Cash with order.

JOS. B. BURLEIGH Jr.

Govanstown,
Balto Co., Md.

200 varieties of fine foreign stamps, price this month 75 cents. With every packet a U. S. stamp cat. a 50 cents is given away.

J. E. MAPLES,
424 Century Bld.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HAND BOOK.

Full of live information on each and every branch of Philately
A CYCLOPEDIA PRICE } Paper... .. 25c
} Cloth..... 50c
} Foreign Postage 5c extra.

CLIFFORD W. KISSINGER,
1030 Penn St. Reading, Pa.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE American Philatelic Magazine
(Established 1892.)

A FIRST-CLASS STAMP MONTHLY.

The American Philatelic Magazine, stamps from cover to cover. It pays its subscribers, its advertisers and its publishers. Subscription 25 cent a year. Advertisements \$1.00 an inch; contract rates furnished on application.

PUBLISHED BY

PARMELEE & BROWN, Box 870, Omaha, Neb.

THE BOTTOM-AT LAST.

In order to introduce ourselves we offer you beautiful specimens of the 30 and 50 cent Claret One stamps. Very lightly cancelled and original gum at \$1.25 for the pair. We have the same value in the yellow brown and red brown at low rates. When you order these enclose a short want list.

A. L. CASSINO & CO.

51 Portland St., Boston, Mass.

Complete file (very rare) of the Minnesota Philatelist, for 45 cents post paid. Address

J. E. MAPLES,

422 Century Bldg.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Philatelic Reviews of Reviews

To know what it contains

SEND 5 CENTS FOR SAMPLE COPY

A whole year for 50 cents.

One sample free to those who have
not had one.

H. E. TUTTLE & CO.,
OSAGE, IOWA.

Bargains in Sets and Packets.

50 varieties or	\$ 10c
100 " "	20c
200 " "	50c
500 " "	3 00
1000 " "	7 50
▲ Argentine 1892, 7 var.	12c
Bahamas 1862 7 3 var.	25c
" 1884 90 4 var.	25c
Brazil Yellow Newspaper 5 var.	65c
*Curocao 4 var.	12c
Danish, West Indies 4 var.	06c
Hawaii, including Prov 9 var.	30c
Italy 50 and 100 Lire	25c
Japan 12 var.	12c
Japan Wedding stamp 2 var.	12c
*Paraguay 1884 3 var.	15c
Phillipines 1886 8 4 var.	15c
Porto Rico 1894, 4 var.	05c
*Suriname, 5 var.	12c
Tunis, 7 var.	18c
Western Australia 5 var.	12c
Oil Rivers ½, 1 and 2d 3 var.	1 00

And many other bargains Rare U. S. and Foreign Stamps wanted for cash.

Theodore Toppell,

71 Nassau st.,

2 3m

New York, N. Y.

PACKETS.

Buy your stamps in packets. We have just put up a large number of packets made up principally from old collections which we sell at following prices

50 varieties	\$ 15
100 " "	25c
200 " "	1 00
400 " "	2 00
500 " "	4 00
1000 " "	8 00

No better packets have ever been put up on the market for the money—approval sheets at from 10 to 50 per cent commission.

Indiana Stamp Co.

FORT WAYNE,

2 1y

Indiana.

READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY!

Compare the prices with those of other dealers and you will be convinced that mine is the cheapest list ever published.

BARGAINS IN MEXICAN SETS.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

1856 ½r, 1r, 2r,.....	3	\$ 0 26	\$ 0 20
1856 ½r to 8r complete.....	5	4 01	3 00
1861 ½r, 1r, 2r,.....	3	0 93	0 65
1861 ½r to 8r complete.....	5	4 68	3 50
1862 4r, 8r.....	2	4 00	3 00
*1863 1r to 1p complete.....	4	0 23	0 12
1864 Eagle 1-1-2-2r.....	4	0 37	0 30
*1866 Maximilian 7c to 50c complete	4	3 00	2 00
1867 Provisional 1 2 2r.....	3	1 70	1 00
1868 Unperforated 6-12-25c.....	3	0 25	0 20
1868 " 6c to 100c complete	5	2 00	1 35
1868 Perforated 6-12-25c.....	3	0 46	0 30
1868 " 6c to 100c complete	5	3 00	2 25
1872 Unperforated 6-12-25c.....	3	0 48	0 30
1872 " 6c to 100c complete	5	1 98	1 50
1872 Perforated 6-12-25c.....	3	1 25	0 90
1872 " 6c to 100c complete	5	3 75	2 80
1874 5-10 10 25c.....	4	0 30	0 20
1874 5 10 10-25-50 100c complete...	6	0 52	0 30
1882 2-3-6c, Numerals.....	3	0 37	0 20
1884 1c to 50c.....	11	0 60	0 40
1884 1p-2p 5p.....	3	7 00	5 50
1885 1c to 25c.....	9	0 81	0 55
1886 1 2 3 4 5-6-10c.....	7	0 16	0 08
1886 3-4-6-10-12-25c, all sizes.....	6	0 83	0 60
1887 20 25c red.....	2	0 10	0 06
*1892 Unpaid.....	3	0 60	0 45
1884 94 Officials.....	5	0 50	0 30
*1888-93 Officially sealed.....	3	0 23	0 15
1893 5p-10p scarlet.....	2	no value	10 00
1883 Compound Envelopes 10c chocolate and brown violet (5x5).....	1	no value	2 00
1883 Compound Envelope 25c chocolate & green (5x10x10)	1	no value	1 50
1890 91 Custom house stamps (Adu- anas) 1c to 1000p, complete	11	11 60	7 75
1891 92 1c to 1000p, complete.....	11	11 35	7 50
1892-93 1c to 100p.....	9	3 65	2 25
*1873 Morelos State, (National Guard) 12½-25c.....	2	2 25	1 50
*1890-94 Durango State ½c to 10c.....	7	1 05	0 50
*1890-94 " " ¼c to \$1 00..	9	1 35	0 65

* Means unused. All others are used.

Although these prices are very low, I have decided to allow a liberal 5 per cent discount on orders of \$5.00 upwards

TERMS CASH with order. Payment to American Bank-notes in registered and sealed-wax letter. Orders under \$1.00, 13c. extra for registered return postage.

Amounts under \$1 00, payment in unused stamps. Always enclose a 5c stamp for return postage when asking for information of any kind.

ADDRESS:

J. V. REVELO,

Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores,

2 3m

Mexico, D. F.



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Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS, Assistant Editor.


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APRIL, 1895.

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Danish, West Indies 4 var.	06c
Hawaii, including Prov. 9 v.	30c
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Japan Wedding stamp 2 var.	12c
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Philippines 1886 8 4 var.	15c
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50 varieties	\$ 15c
100 " "	25c
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1862 4r, 8r,	2	4 00	3 00
*1863 1r to 1p complete	4	0 23	0 12
1864 Eagle 1 1-2-2r	4	0 37	0 30
*1866 Max million 7r to 50c complete	4	3 00	2 00
1867 Provisional 1 2 2r	3	1 70	1 00
1868 Unperforated 6-12-25c	3	0 25	0 20
1868 " 6c to 100c complete	5	2 00	1 35
1868 Perforated 6 12 25c	3	0 46	0 30
1868 " 6 to 100c complete	5	3 00	2 25
1872 Unperforated 6 12 25c	3	0 48	0 30
1872 " 6 to 100c complete	5	1 98	1 50
1872 Perforated 6 12 25c	3	1 25	0 90
1872 " 6c to 100c complete	5	3 75	2 80
1874 5-10 10 25c	4	0 30	0 20
1874 5 10 10 25-50 100c complete	6	0 52	0 30
1882 2 3 6c Numerals	3	0 37	0 20
1884 1c to 50c	11	0 60	0 40
1884 1p-2p-5p	3	7 00	5 50
1885 1c to 25c	9	0 81	0 55
1886 1 2 3 4 5-6 10c	7	0 16	0 08
1886 3-4-6 10-12-25c, all blues	6	0 83	0 60
1887 20 25c red	3	0 10	0 05
*1892 Unpaid	3	0 60	0 45
1884 94 Official	5	0 50	0 30
*1888 93 Officially sea ed	3	0 23	0 15
1893 5p-10p scarlet	2	no value	10 00
1883 Compound Envelopes 10c cocoa-bte and brown violet (5x5)	1	no value	2 00
1883 Compound Envelope 25c cocoa-bte & green (5x10x10)	1	no value	1 50
1890 91 Custom house stamps (Adu- anas) 1c to 1000p, complete	11	11 60	7 75
1891 92 1c to 1000p, complete	11	11 35	7 50
1892 93 1c to 100p	9	3 65	2 25
*1873 Morelos State, (National Guard) 12 1/2-25c	2	2 25	1 50
*1890 94 Durango State 1/4c to 10c	7	1 05	0 50
*1890 94 " " 1/4c to \$1 00	9	1 35	0 65

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HARRY S. SWENSEN,
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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

SELLING OUT AT COST.

On account of having to move I desire to clean out all American and Foreign stamps. I will sell, as long as they last, at the following low price. If out before your order comes in I will return the money.

		Scott's 55.	My Price.	30 Sets
Austria 1890 Complete,	13 Varieties,	\$0.75	\$0.40	\$03.75
Belgium 1851,	4 "	.54	.20	1.80
" 1893,	12 "	.25	.10	.75
" Packet,	9 "	.30	.15	1.25
Costa Rica Unused 1887 and Official,	5 "	.74	.30	2.50
Chili,	10 "	1.33	.50	4.50
Equador Revenue used as postage 1887 to 1890,	10 "	3.70	1.50	12.00
Finland 1890,	5 "	.10	.05	.40
Gautemala Envelopes,	3 "	.32	.15	1.25
Hamburg 1886,	2 "	.50	.20	1.50
" Envelopes,	7 "	.21	.10	.75
Heligoland Unused,	16 "	.50	.20	1.75
Spain 1889 Complete,	13 "	1.01	.40	3.75
Switzerland 1881,	8 "	.31	.15	1.25
Wurtemberg,	7 "	.11	.05	.40
Foreign Packets of	50 "	each \$0.10	Per 10	\$00.75
" " "	100 "	" .25	"	2.00
" " "	150 "	" .35	"	3.00
" " "	200 "	" .40	"	3.50
" " "	500 "	" 1.75	"	15.00
U. S. Packets of	25 "	" .10	"	.75
" " "	50 "	" .25	"	2.25
" " "	100 "	" 1.50	"	10.00
" " "	150 "	" 3.50	"	34.00
Mixed U. S.		Per pound,	10 pounds,	100 pounds-
" Foreign,		\$0.50	\$4.00	\$35.00
		1.00	9.50	90.00

Other stamps at 50 to 85 per cent off Cat. Dealers send me \$25.00 and I will send you \$100.00 of stamps catalogued from 3c. to \$2.00 each. **No Stamps on Approval.** Any stamps not satisfactory, I will either exchange or refund the money.

B. S. ROSS,

509 WEILAND STREET,
CHICAGO, ILL.

Dealers and Collectors

You all use Stamp Hinges.

But you are not up to-date if you don't at least give mine a trial. I sell the

Rouletted Hinges.

They are the BEST ON EARTH.

Are made in sheets 8½x11 in. Are made of thin, tough, transparent paper.

Have the best sticking, tasteless gum.

All in all, they are the best stickers and the handiest hinges on the market.

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

They are 8½x17 in. in size—400 to the sheet. Prices

3 sheets.....	10c
10 ".....	25c
250 ".....	\$5.00

Send at least 10c for 3 trial sheets and you will be pleased. All post free

GEO. E. CLEAVER,

1132 Perkromen Ave

P. S. of A. 434

2 6m

Reading, Pa

IN A JIFFY You can run your eye over my handy price list and select such stamps as you want. It saves time and makes collecting easy and quick. Sent free.

E. T. PARKER,

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Branch Store 30 East 23d st., N. Y. City.

2 ly

WHAT IS
IN
A NAME

\$5.00 FREE

We have prepared exactly 500 Packets of U.S. stamps, consisting of 100 finely selected, well mixed stamps, including a packet of 150 varieties, ALL "U. S." for only 25c per packet, but as we do not intend to fill orders until we have selected an

APPROPRIATE NAME

we make this offer, viz: The first person sending a NAME or list from which we can select one, will receive **\$5.00 FREE** Announcing in next issue who won the prize. Send in your selection for the NAME of his, the bargain packet of 1895.

THE DIXIE STAMP & NOVELTY CO.

BOX 53 NASHVILLE, TENN.

P. S. Please enclose 2c stamp for reply.

Editor of the NEWSLETTER desires to purchase a complete file of the Philatelic Journal of America and other papers at a reasonable figure.

LOOK! READ!

Bids Solicited on the Following Lots.

	No. in lot.
1 10 cent green on buff, die 2, 1853 issue, entire envelope,	1
2 Another	1
3 10 cent green on buff, die 4, 1853 issue, entire envelope,	1
4 Another,	1
5 10 cent green on white, die 2, 1853 issue, entire env. superb spec.	1
6 10c. green 1857 on original envelope,	1
7 Another,	
8 30c. pure brown 1888,	5
9 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24 Justice unused,	8
10 Navy complete,	11
11 State except 90 cent,	10
12 War complete,	11
13 Agriculture complete unused,	9
14 90c. 1869 unsevered pair,	2
15 3 p. red Saxony slight tear,	1
16 Collection valued at \$500.00,	3,500
17 " Mexico valued at \$30.00	
18 Dealers stock, valued at \$180.00	
19 350 varieties U. S.	350
20 1000 philatelic papers	

The above lots are all in good condition and used unless otherwise stated. Money refunded if the stamps are unsatisfactory.

A few Mekeels albums, latest edition at \$1 each.

Stamps Hinges per thousand .08
1000 varieties \$8.00

Send your want list. All orders promptly attended to

J. E. Maples,

422 Century Building

Minneapolis, Minn.

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Danish, West Indies 4 var.....	06c
Hawaii, including Prov. 9 var.....	30c
Italy 50 and 100 Lire.....	25c
Japan 12 var.....	12c
Japan Wedding stamp 2 var.....	12c
*Paraguay 1884 3 var.....	15c
Phillipines 1886 8 4 var.....	15c
Porto Rico 1894, 4 var.....	05c
*Suriname, 5 var.....	12c
Tunis, 7 var.....	18c
Western Australia 5 var.....	12c
Oil Rivers 1/2, 1 and 20 3 var.....	1 00

And many other bargains. Rare U. S. and Foreign Stamps wanted for cash.

Theodore Toppell,

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2 3m

New York, N. Y.

200 varieties of fine foreign stamps,
price this month 75 cents. With every
packet a U. S. stamp cat. a 50 cents is
given away.

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1864 Eagle 1 1 2-2.....	4 0 37 0 30
*1866 Maximilian 7c to 50c complete.....	4 3 00 2 00
1867 Provisional 1 2 2r.....	3 1 70 1 00
1868 Unperforated 6-12 25c.....	3 0 25 0 10
1868 " 6c to 10c complete.....	5 2 00 1 35
1868 Perforated 6 12 25c.....	3 0 46 0 30
1868 " 6c to 10c complete.....	5 3 00 2 25
1872 Unperforated 6 12 25c.....	3 0 48 0 30
1872 " 6c to 10c complete.....	5 1 98 1 50
1872 Perforated 6 12 25c.....	3 1 25 0 90
1872 " 6c to 10c complete.....	5 3 75 2 80
1874 5-10 10 25.....	6 0 30 0 20
1874 5 0 10 25-50 1 0c complete.....	3 0 52 0 10
1882 2 3 6c. Numeral.....	4 0 37 0 20
1884 1c to 50c.....	11 0 60 0 40
1884 1p to 5p.....	3 7 80 5 50
1885 1c to 25c.....	9 0 11 0 55
1886 1 2 3 4 5 6 10.....	7 0 86 0 48
1886 3 4 6 10-12 25c, all 11c's.....	6 0 03 0 60
1887 20 25c red.....	2 0 10 0 06
*1892 Unpaid.....	3 0 60 0 45
1884-94 Officials.....	5 0 50 0 30
*1888-93 Officially sealed.....	3 0 23 0 15
1893 5p 10p scarlet.....	2 no value 10 00
1883 Compound Envelopes 10c chocolate and brown violet (5x5).....	1 no value 2 00
1883 Compound Envelope 25c chocolate & green (5x10x10).....	1 no value 1 50
1890 91 Custom house stamps (Ad- anas) 1c to 1000p, complete.....	11 11 60 7 75
1891 92 1c to 100p, complete.....	11 11 35 7 50
1892 93 1c to 100p.....	9 3 65 2 25
*1873 Morelos State, (National Guard) 12 1/2 25c.....	2 2 25 1 50
*1890 94 Durango State 1/4c to 10c.....	7 1 05 0 50
*1890 94 " " 1/4c to \$1 00.....	9 1 35 0 65

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COLUMBIAN STAMPS

AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

I offer fine specimens from a picked Stock, at the following low rates:—

Cash must accompany all orders. Remittances should be made by Draft, Money order, or in Currency by Registered Post. None of these stamps will be sent on Approval, but if they are not just as represented they may be returned, providing same is done within three days of receipt. Bear in mind that I do not accept Postage Stamps of any denomination or country in payment, and if sent will be returned at sender's expense. Positively no exchange.

Where specimens are offered in 100 lots, I supply 50 at same rate.

	UNUSED		USED	
	EACH	EACH	PER 10	PER 100
1c Blue.....\$	.03	\$.01	\$.03	\$.18
2c Violet.....	.05	.01	.02	.08
3c Green.....	.08	.03	.29	2.50
4c Ultramarine.....	.08	.03	.28	1.50
5c Chocolate.....	.09	.03	.29	1.75
6c Purple.....	.10	.06	.55	5.25
8c Magenta.....	.12	.05	.55	4.25
10c Brown.....	.15	.04	.35	2.50
15c Dark Green.....	.22	.15	1.45	14.00
30c Red Brown.....	.40	.30	2.90	28.00
50c Slate Blue.....	.75	.60	5.50	
\$1 Salmon.....	5.50	5.25		
\$2 Brown Red.....	2.50	2.40		
\$3 Green.....	3.35	3.30		
\$4 Carmine.....	4.50	4.40		
\$5 Black.....	5.50	5.40		

USED SETS.

	1 SET	3 SETS	10 SETS
1c to 10c, inclusive.....	\$.25	\$.60	\$1.80
1c to 15c, inclusive.....	.40	1.05	3.00
1c to 30c, inclusive.....	.70	2.00	6.00
1c to 50c, inclusive.....	1.30	3.60	11.00
4 var. cut square Envelope.....	.25	.72	2.30
4 var. cut square Envelope, unused.....	.35	1.00	3.00

\$21.00

Buy the entire series, consisting of 20 varieties, Adhesives and Envelopes complete, used. Complete set, unused, \$23.00.

A Special Inducement to all Wide Awake Philatelists. As the warm season is almost here, and more especially to reduce stock, I make the following offer.

To those who will send a deposit of not less than \$10 and a want list in U. S. stamps, I will send a selection consisting of as many of the stamps named in list as possible, and will allow a discount of 25 per cent.

B. N. A. Stamps at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent against deposit. \$1 Columbian new \$5.50, used \$5.25. \$1.50 Buys a 50c red Brown postage due stamp lightly canceled. My new 1895 list free. (1000 hinges 10c silver.)

ADDRESS,

N. E. Carter, Stamp Importer and Dealer,

LOCK BOX 31,

DELAVAN, WIS., U. S. A.

STAMP DEALERS DIRECTORY.

Terms for a three line advertisement in this column, \$1.50 12 insertions, 75 cents 6 insertions, payable semi-annually in advance.

BEARD, JOE F. Dealer in Stamps and Envelopes for Collections. Send your "want list," with good references if unknown, and it will be filled on approval.

BIRLL, GEO. E. 15th and Bremen, Cincinnati, O. 50 per cent approval sheets Try them. 5 and 10. Col. Env. unused, entire 30c. 1000 Var. \$7.00

BURLEIGH, JOS. B. Govanstown, Balto. Co. Md., dealer in rare postage stamps. Send for stamps on approval.

CLEAVER, GEO. E. 1132 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa. Finest stamp hinges in the world

HOLDEN C. H. Durand, Mich. Unexcelled approval sheets at 50 per cent commission. Good references required. Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of Packets sets etc.

ROSBERTS, S. B. S. 509 Wieland st. Chicago, Ill. U. S. stamps by the pound. Send for sample 50 cents.

TOPPELL, THEODORE, 91 Nassau at New York. Rare stamps wanted for cash.

EXCHANGE COLUMN.

Advertisements under this head one cent a word each insertion, cash in advance.

I need a few high denominations U. S. Rev. for my collection, want only the finest specimens and will exchange stamps or Phil. literature for those I need. Send on approval with want list. Geo. E. Cleaver, P. S. of A. 434. 1132 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa.

WANTED; for cash or exchange for a new Roger saw, and a fine lawi g out-fit. A stamp collection of about 3,000 varieties. JASON M. KPEACE, 20 Plain St., Taunton, Mass.

50 Per cent Commission.

That is the com. we allow collectors who remit at least 25c. net at a time.

DETROIT STAMP CO.

DETROIT, - - - - MICH.

THE WAVERLY PACKET



1000 CONTINENTALS. 150 VARIETIES.

Stamps from Europe, Asia, Africa, North South and Central America and Australia are all combined in one fine mixture in **THE WAVERLY PACKET** including a separate **PACKET OF 45 VARIETIES**, at the extreme low **PRICE 25cts.**

We have sold up to date over **900** of these Packets and for every two we sell, we sell three and four more. Let us receive your order.

A subscription to the "Dixie Philatelist" at 25c for one year to every 4th order.

THE DIXIE STAMP & NOVELTY CO.

Box 53 Nashville Tenn.

IN A JIFFY You can run your eye over my handy price list and select such stamps as you want. It saves time and makes collecting easy and quick. Sent free.

E. T. PARKER,
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Branch Store 30 East 23d st., N. Y. City.

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C. H. HOLDEN,

Durand, Mich.

3 6m

WHAT SANPS.

	CAT. PRICE	MY PRICE
U. S. 1888, 90 cent purple unused.....	\$2.00	\$1.55
" " 30 " puce brown unused.....	75	50
" " 1885, special del. unused.....	25	15
6 variety- Hawaii.....	35	20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over.....	1.00	25
6 " Ecuador.....		10
8 " Nicaragua 1869-78.....	85	55
2 " Corea, 5 m's 10 m's.....	35	20

105 good for ign from Natal Cape Good Hope, India, Egypt, Australia, etc. for 20 cents. Approval sheets a specialty but I must have A 1 reference.

C. H. WILSON

Lock Box 40.

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MELVERN KAN.

ADVANCED COLLECTORS

SEND FOR MY CLASS B APPROVAL SHEETS AT 33 1/2 per cent discount

REFERENCES REQUIRED.

They contain the finest grade of stamps on the market today, old European Colonials and Rarities etc. All marked at catalogue prices.

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average collector I have the greatest packet on the market—my famous **WORLD RENOWNED**

DIXIE

Containing 399 different stamps from all parts of the globe. Post paid **ONE DOLLAR.**

A. M. RARESHIDE,

HOUSTON,

2612 Milan St.

TEXAS.

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Buy your stamps in packets. We have just put up a large number of packets made up principally from old collections which we sell at following prices

50 varieties.....	\$ 15c
100 " ".....	25c
200 " ".....	1 00
400 " ".....	2 00
500 " ".....	4 00
1000 " ".....	8 00

No better packets have ever been put up on the market for the money—approval sheets at from 10 to 50 per cent commission.

Indiana Stamp Co.

FORT WAYNE,

Indiana.

2 1y

Philatelic Reviews of Reviews

To know what it contains

SEND 5 CTS. FOR

SAMPLE COPY

A whole year for 50 cents.

One sample free to those who have not had one.

H. E. TUTTLE & CO.,
OSAGE, IOWA.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HAND BOOK.

Full of live information on each and every branch of Philately

A CYCLOPEDIA PRICE { Paper... .. 25c
Cloth... .. 50c
Foreign Postage 5c extra.

CLIFFORD W. KISSINGER,
1030 Penn St. Reading, Pa.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE American Philatelic Magazine.
(Established 1892.)

A FIRST-CLASS STAMP MONTHLY.

The American Philatelic Magazine, stamps from cover to cover. It pays its subscribers, its advertisers and its publishers. Subscription 25 cents a year. Advertisements, \$1.00 an inch; contract rates furnished on application.

PUBLISHED BY
PARMELEE & BROWN, Box 860, Omaha, Neb.

WHAT IS
IN
A NAME

\$5.00 FREE

We have prepared exactly 500 Packets of U.S. stamps, consisting of 500 finely selected, well mixed stamps, including a packet of 45 varieties, ALL "U. S." for only 25c per packet, but as we do not intend to fill orders until we have selected an

APPROPRIATE NAME

we make this offer, viz: The first person sending a NAME or a list from which we can select one, will receive **\$5.00 FREE** Announcing in next issue who won the prize. Send in your selection for the NAME of this, the bargain packet of 1895.

THE DIXIE STAMP & NOVELTY CO.

BOX 53 NASHVILLE, TENN.

P. S. Please enclose 2c stamp for reply.

Our Original Style of Advertising

Tis a Good Thing-Push it Along!

BRITISH COLONIALS, OUR SPECIALTY. We can send you a good selection of stamps at 33 1/3 or 40 per ct.

Perfect "Stamp Hinges" are best. 10c. per 1000.

WESLER & COMPANY,

STATION A.

DETROIT, - - - MICH.

U. S. Postage,
Foreign,
Match,
Medicine,
Document,
California Revenues,
Nevada " "
Oregon " "
Alabama " "
Louisiana " "
Lock Seals,
Hydrometer,
An unsurpassed variety.
Cash or exchange.
Liberal discount.



W. J. Greany,

827 Brannan Street,

San Francisco, Cal.

64 Page catalogue for stamps.



THE Philatelic Newsletter



A Magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collecting.

Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

MISS AMY B. CARRUTHERS. Assistant Editor.

VOL. 1.

JULY, 1895.

No. 5.

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Foreign Postage 5c extra.

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Durand, Mich.

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6 varieties Hawaii.....	35	20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over.....	1.00	50
6 " Ecuador.....		30
8 " Nicaragua 1869-78.....	85	55
2 " Corea, 5 m's 10 m's.....	35	20

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A. M. RARESHIDE,

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50 varieties.....	\$ 15c
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200 ".....	1 00
400 ".....	2 00
500 ".....	4 00
1000 ".....	8 00

No better packets have ever been put up on the market for the money—approval sheets at from 10 to 50 per cent commission.

Indiana Stamp Co.

FORT WAYNE,

2 ly

1 1/2

COLLECTORS.

Summer time is almost here, and before you lay away your album, INSERT your loose STAMPS WITH "ROULETTED HINGES."

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

Not? Well, it costs only 10c. to see them, and besides you have the privilege of using 1200. Send 10c. for 3 trial sheets and you'll be pleased with them. PRICES 10c. per 3 sheets (1200.) 25c. per 10 sheets (4000.)

PHILATELIC PAPERS WANTED!

Send me your want, also duplicate lists. I Have a few to sell as follows: CURIO Christmas 1890, 5c. CURIO Vol. VIII. No. 2-3 or 7, 4c. each. Phil. Fortnightly Vol. I. No. 4, 4c.

GEO. E. CLEAVER,

1132 Perkenmen Ave.

P. S. of A. 434.

Reading, Pa.

SPECIAL BARGAINS.

U. S. STAMPS (Good Specimens.)	
1000 U. S. asst., including Columbians.....	\$0.22
100 " " " issues '51 to '89, embossed 1870, War. Interior. P. O. depts., Revs., 2c. brown, 1871, claret dues, etc.....	.25
500 of same mixture.....	1.00
100 different U. S. stamps (postage only and env., this packet catalogues over \$5.....	1.75
50 diff. U. S. stamps, including revenues.....	.20
40 " " " incldg. depts. dues, etc.....	.25
100 8c. Cols.....	\$3.25
100 5c. 1890.....	.20
100 8c. Shermans.....	2.85
100 4c. 1894.....	.30
100 6c. 1890.....	2.50
100 5c. 1894.....	.30
100 4c. Cols.....	1.25
100 6c. 1894.....	3.00
100 4c. 1890.....	.20

BARGAINS IN PACKETS.

OUR LEADER, 1000 asst. Con inentals, only.....	.20
100 var., incl. Mexico, Anstralia, etc.....	.08
150 " " " good stamps.....	.20
200 " " " all over world.....	.40
500 " " " no cut cards or revenues.....	2.00
1000 var., the best and cheapest: no cut cards or revenues; this packet is as fine as other dealers advertise for \$8 and \$10; see p. 10.....	6.75
Selections sent on request of U. S. & I. no t. com. p. e. Selections sent on request of U. S. & I. no t. com. p. e. Selections sent on request of U. S. & I. no t. com. p. e.	
Price in catalogue packets and packets free.	

F. N. MASSOTH & Co.,

338 MARQUETTE BLDG.,

CHICAGO, ILL

Our Original Style of Advertising

Tis a Good Thing-Push it Along!

BRITISH COLONIALS, OUR SPECIALTY. We can

send you a good selection of stamps at 33 1/3 or 40 per ct.

Perfect "Stamp Hinges" are best. 10c. per 1000.

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STATION A

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To know what it contains

SEND 5 CTS. FOR

SAMPLE COPY

A whole year for 50 cents.

One sample free to those who have not had one.

H. E. TUTTLE & CO.,

OSAGE, IOWA

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP.

Sixteen Pages and Cover.

25C A YEAR.

Send your name and address for a Sample Copy.

3301 WYNKOOP ST.

DENVER, COL.

DETROIT STAMP

One half off

Company.

Fifty per cent is the coin we allow on

FOREIGN

DETROIT, MICH.

collections bought for spot cash.

* BARGAINS *

1851 1c.....	\$.20
1851 10c.....	.65
1856 3c (outer line).....	.20
1861 3c pink (good shade).....	3.20
1868 1c.....	.65
1869 1c.....	.80
1869 6c or 12c.....	.50
1869 15c.....	1.30
1869 24c.....	6.00
1869 30.....	2.25

DUE STAMPS CHEAP

1879 30c y b new \$1.25. used.....	\$.80
1879 5c y b new, o g and fine.....	1.50
1882 30c v b new. \$1.00. used.....	.75
1882 50c v b used and fine.....	.50
1891 30c claret new \$1.00. used.....	.50
1891 50c claret new \$1.00. used.....	.75

WHOLESALE BARGAINS.

1891 30c claret used, per 5.....	\$2.00
1891 50c claret, used, per 5.....	3.00
1879 89c yellow-brown, unused.....	per 5 5.00

These bargains only good for this month. Unused stamps have o. g. Selections of fine U. S. sent out against commercial reference. Remit by money order.

F. E. SMITH,

50 Fairmont Avenue.

Newton, Massachusetts.

Circular Printing

AND MAILING

500 CIRCULAR 2 X 3

Printed of not over 50 words, 300 sent you, and 200 mailed by our Mailing Agency all for only 25 cents.

Jacobson Print Co.

Colman, Iowa.

Sample Copy Free.

Send your name on a postal card to G. J. LUHN, 30 Broad St., Charleston, S. C., and get a copy of the SOUTHERN PHILATELIST.

It will please you and the low price of 25 cents a year will induce you to join the already large army of subscribers.

Ever Alert in the Interests of Collectors.

FEARLESS, INDEPENDENT, IMPARTIAL.

COSTS BUT 1C PER WEEK. To publish such a paper as the "ERA" is—as out lined above—it is impossible to always retain the friendship and support of some dealers who are ever scheming to worm dollars from collectors, by various questionable practices. In consequence of this it is necessary that we look to the collector for much of our support. We would like yours, and promise to give you your money's worth. Try the collector's weekly.

10 WEEKS FOR 10 CENTS.

The Weekly Philatelic Era. Portland, Maine.

Subscription to this paper reduced from 50 cents to 25 cents per year.

Advertising rates reduced from \$1.00 to 50c per inch. We expect that every stamp collector and dealer will take advantage of this reduction. For 25 cents the subscriber surely gets his money's worth.

With a circulation of two thousand we think that 50 cents per inch is very reasonable.

Roll in your subscriptions.

PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER,

1605 Stevens Ave. Minneapolis, Minn.

STAMPS.



1847	5c	unused, fine.....	\$2 50
"	10c	" "	7 00
"	5c	fine, used.....	50
"	5c	superb copy on letter.....	70
"	10c	very fine, used.....	2 75
"	10c	on letter, grand copy.....	3 00
1856	5c	Red Brown, fine.....	4 00
"	5c	Ornaments.....	2 40
"	5c	No ornaments.....	1 75

30c Orange 1861 unused, o. g.

A block of four splendid specimens, very rare in this condition \$8.50.

\$2.00 state dept. unused, fine \$15.00.

\$200.00 revenue, used and fine, \$12 50.

30c postage due, yellow brown, unused 75c

30c postage due, red brown, unused 75c.

Cash with order, money refunded if stamps are not satisfactory.

30c Postage Due in exchange.

We have a surplus stock of the 30c, yellow brown and red brown dues, unused o. g. in singles, strips blocks, etc., that we will exchange at \$1.25 each for any good U. S. and departments at catalogue price. These due stamps are rare, and you will not have another chance like this in a life time. Send what you have to exchange at once.

50 PER CENT. 50

All kinds of Foreign stamps sent on approval at 50 per cent. discount, against first class references.

1000 AGENTS WANTED at once. Write us if you want to handle a good class of stamps, that you can make some money on.

CENTURY STAMP & COIN CO.,

Box 9.

Minneapolis, Minn.

FREE ADVERTISING

a 22 word "add" in 3000 copies of PLEASANT THOUGHTS

FOR 5 CTS.

Jacobson & Dunham Co.,

Box 217
Colman, Iowa.

L. B. 677
St. Joseph, Mich.



THE Philatelic Newsletter



A Magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collecting.

Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

VOL. I.

AUGUST, 1895.

No. 6.

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JASON MAKPEACE,

20 Plain Street, Tsunton, Mass.

WANTED--An entire set of unused, original gum, Justice Department, well centered.

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.....MUSCATINE, IA.

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6 varieties Hawaii.....	.35	.20
10 varieties Venezuela, catalogue over.....	1.00	.25
7 varieties Ecuador.....		.10
6 varieties Nicaragua, 1869-78.....	.85	.55
8 varieties Corea, 5 m's to 10 m's.....	.35	.20
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Indiana Stamp Co.,

2ly

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA.

SPECIAL BARGAINS.

U. S. STAMPS. (Good Specimens.)

100 U. S. asst. including Columbians.....	\$0.22
100 U. S. asst. including issues '51 to '69, embossed 1870 War, Interior, P. O. Depts., Revs. 2c brown 1871, claret dues, etc.....	.25
500 of same mixture.....	1.00
100 different U. S. stamps. (postage only and env., this packet catalogues over \$5.00.....)	1.75
50 diff. U. S. stamps, including revenues.....	.50
40 diff. U. S. stamps, including depts. dues, e. c.....	.25
100 8c Coils.....	\$3.25
100 8c Shermans.....	2.85
100 6c 1890.....	2.50
100 4c Coils.....	1.25
100 4c 1890.....	.20
100 5c 1890.....	1.75
100 4c 1894.....	.30
100 5c 1894.....	.30
100 6c 1894.....	3.00

BARGAINS IN PACKETS.

OUR LEADER, 1000 asst. Continentals only.....	.20
100 varieties, including Mexico, Australia, etc.....	.08
150 varieties, including good stamps.....	.20
200 varieties, including good stamps all over world.....	.40
500 varieties, including good stamps, no cut cards or rev.....	2.00
1000 varieties, the best and cheapest, no cut cards or revenues. This packet is the same as other dealers advertise for \$8 and \$10; our price.....	6.75

Our stock of U. S. is almost complete. Selections sent on receipt of deposit or commercial references. Price list of cheap sets and packets free.

F. N. MASSOTH & CO.

837 Marquette Building,

CHICAGO, ILL.

DETROIT

One-Half Off

STAMP

◆ Fifty per cent
◆ is the coin we
◆ allow on - -

COMPANY,

FOREIGN

DETROIT, MICH.

◆ collections bought
◆ for spot cash.....

BARGAINS

1851 1c.....	\$.20
1851 10c.....	.65
1856 3c (outer line).....	.20
1861 3c pink, good shade.....	3.20
1868 1c.....	.65
1869 1c.....	.80
1869 6c or 12c.....	.50
1869 15c.....	1.30
1869 24c.....	6.00
1869 30c.....	2.25

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1879 5c y b new, o g and fine.....	1.50
1882 30c v b new, \$1.00, used.....	.75
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1891 30c claret, new, \$1.00, used.....	.50
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1891 30c claret, used, per 5.....	\$ 2.25
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SUBSCRIPTION to this paper reduced from 50 cents to 25 cents per year.

ADVERTISING rates reduced from \$1.00 to 60 cents per inch. We expect that every stamp collector and dealer will take advantage of this reduction. For 25 cents the subscriber surely gets his money's worth.

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260 Varieties Cat. at \$11.37,

Only \$2.50 Post-paid.

Besides, I will give with every packet, a rare and scarce collection of nine Mexican Revenue Stamps from the State of Durango, catalogued at \$1.35.

All stamps are in good condition, no telegraph, locals, or cut postal cards. Among them will be found of the following countries: Argentine, Belgium, 1870, 1 fr 1886, 2 fr; Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chili, Costa Rica, Columbian Republic, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, 1882, 10 and 20c; 1887, 20 and 25c; Honduras, Italy, 1862 2l; Puru, Porto Rico, Salvador, Saxony, Spain 1 and 4 pesetas; no punched; etc. etc.

Remember that all will be sent post-free in registered letter in a Mexican Stamped envelope of the new issue, for only \$2.50.

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Surcharge in black, 1c to 50c complete, (10) \$1.10
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1895, 1c to 10 pesos, complete set in black (13). This set is necessary to complete the collection of Mexican stamps, only \$4.00, post-free.

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Of the Wells-Fargo, Mexican National, and Hidalgo Express Companies, on used entire envelopes of the new issue and numeral type. These envelopes are all necessary to complete a collection of Mexican issues. 16 varieties only \$3.15, post-free.

Cash with order; Payment in American Bank notes registered letter. Amounts under \$1.00, payment in used U. S. postage stamps, full gum.

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Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, MEXICO, D. F.



THE Philatelic Newsletter



A Magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collecting.

Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.


VOL. 1

SEPTEMBER, 1895.

NO. 7.

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Special Offers.

	Per 100	No. in Stock
*Mexico Official	Green 5 0	3,000
"	Blue 6 3	2,000
*Porto Rico 1 mil	Fawn 1 9	4,000
"	Blue 3 0	3,000
"	2 Brown 6 0	450
"	4 Brown 8 6	450
*Cuba	Brown 1 8	2,000
*Servia, new issue	10 mauve 7 3	2,000
"	15 purple 9 0	300
"	20 yellow 7 3	2,000
U. S. A. 1c Columbus	2 2	5,500
"	2c " 8	10,000
"	2c Env 5 0	400
Belgium 2c Blue	5	10,000
"	2c Chocolate 7	5,000
"	1c Sunday Stamp 9	1,000
"	10c " 9	1,000
Russia 7 kop blue	3	5,000
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50 varieties.....	\$ 15c
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400 ".....	2 00
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HOLDEN, C. H. Durand, Mich. Unexcelled approval sheets at 50 per cent commission. Good reference required. Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of Packets, Sets, etc.

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I carry a full line of postage, revenue and envelopes, [cut square and entire.]

\$10 OR MORE

deposit will secure a very fine assortment on approval, at liberal discounts from catalogue rates, depending on amount deposited and number purchased. My new list No. 3 is now ready and will be sent free. A fine line of U. S. entire envelopes at low rates.

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Complete set used, \$25.00

Complete set new, \$26.00

\$1 used \$5.80 \$1 new \$6.25

\$2 used \$4.25 \$2 new \$4.30

I also handle British N.A. stamps, send want list

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I have a few files of The Northwest, and will dispose of the seven numbers for 50 cents. Your library is incomplete without it.

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NOW! is the time to buy my U. S. packets.

U. S. 100 var. 50

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Approval sheets 25 to 50 per cent discount. Reference required.

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P SHEETS

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PER CENT.

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1851 10 cent green	\$.60
1861 30 cent orange35
1861 24 cent lilac30
1861 5 cent brown30
1868 1 cent blue . . . . .	.55
1868 5 cent brown	1.40
1868 10 cent green . . . . .	.30
1868 24 cent lilac, perf. slightly cut on left side	1.75
1868 30 cent orange	2.25
1870 1 cent blue . . . . .	.30
1870 6 cent red, fine	3.25
1872 1 to 90 complete	2.35
Set of 1890 1-90 complete	1.10
Interior dept. 1 2 3 6 new o. g. . . . .	.30
Interior dept. 90 cent	1.10
State dept. 90 cent fine	5.25
State Dept. 10 cent fair75
War Dept. 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30 o. g.	1.25
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U. S. 1888, 30 cent purple unused	\$2.00	\$1.55
" " 30 " puce brown unused75	.50
" " 1885, special del. unused25	.18
6 varieties Hawaii . . . . .	.35	.20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over	1.00	.25
6 " Ecuador . . . . .	.35	.10
8 " Nicaragua 1869-78 . . . . .	.85	.55
2 " Corea, 5 m's 10 m's . . . . .	.35	.20

105 good foreign from Natal Cape Good Hope, India, Egypt, Australia, etc., for 20 cents. Approval sheets a specialty but I must have A 1 references.

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DETROIT, MICH.

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Fifty per cent is the coin we allow on
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Collections bought for spot cash.

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" " 1885, special del. unused	.25	.15
8 varieties Hawaii	.35	.20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over	1.00	.25
6 " Ecuador		.10
6 " Nicaragua 1869-78	.85	.55
2 " Korea, 5 m x 10 m	.35	.20

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Send for price-list free.

Sample Copy Free.

Send your name on a postal card to C. J. LUHN,
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Phil. Literature to exchange for Phil. papers or stamps. H. S. Swensen, 1805 Stevens Ave Minneapolis, Minn.

U. S. STAMPS

are my specialty.

I carry a full line of postage, revenue and envelopes, [cut square and entire.]

\$10 OR MORE

deposit will secure a very fine assortment on approval, at liberal discounts from catalogue rates, depending on amount deposited and number purchased. My new list No. 3 is now ready and will be sent free

A fine line of U. S. entire envelopes at low rates.

COLUMBIANS.

Complete set used, \$25.00

Complete set new, \$26 00

\$1 used \$5.80 \$1 new \$6.25.

\$2 used \$4.25 \$2 new \$4.30.

I also handle British N.A. stamps, send want list

N. E. CARTER,

Lock Box 31.

DELAVAN, WIS.

COMPLETE YOUR FILES.

I have a few files of The Northwest, and will dispose of the seven numbers for 50 cents. Your library is incomplete without it.

GEO. W. ACHARD,

243 Boston Block.

Minneapolis, Minn.

NOW! is the time to buy my U. S. packets.

U. S. 100 var..... 50
U. S. 70 var..... 30

Approval sheets 25 to 50 per cent discount. Reference required.

D. M. MERRILL,

57 East 5th street.

St. Paul, Minn.

FLOUR CITY STAMP CO.

610 Masonic Temple Minneapolis, Minn.

S	S		S	S
T	T		T	T
A	On	40	A	A
M	approval.	PER CENT.	M	Reference
P	M		P	Required.
S	P		S	P
S	S		S	S

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE American Philatelic Magazine.

Established 1902.

A FIRST-CLASS STAMP MONTHLY

The American Philatelic Magazine, stamps from cover to cover. It pays its subscribers, its advertisers, and its publishers. Subscription 25c a year. Advertisements \$1.00 an inch; contract rates furnished on application.

PUBLISHED BY

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Box 860 Omaha, Neb.

A. WEISZ,

Wholesale and Retail

Stamp Dealer.

ESTABLISHED 1880.

61 Regent St. London, W.

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Selections sent on approval against receipt of cash or first-class references.

Wanted to buy, better and rarer English Colonies, United States of America in large quantities. Offers or consignments solicited. Settlements by return of post. Bankers: The London and County Bank.

STOP!

And run your eye over these U. S. Bargains.

Issue,		
1851 10 cent green.....		\$.60
1857 5 cent red brown, fine.....		6.15
1861 30 cent orange, new.....		2.20
1868 24 cent lilac.....		2.25
1869 10 cent orange.....		.70
1869 12 cent green.....		.50
1869 15 cent brown and blue.....		1.20
1869 30 cent blue and carmine.....		2.30
1872 7 cent vermillion.....		.40
1872 90 cent carmine.....		.40
Interior 1-2-3-6 cent new.....		.30

Don't forget to send for my Packet containing 15 all different Dept. stamps, only 6c cents.

Fine U. S. sent on approval at liberal dis. against a cash deposit or good business referentes.

J. R. GOODING,

757 Fairmont Ave.

St. Paul, Minn.

WANTED--An entire set of unused, original gum, Justice Department, well centered.

J. F. BEARD,

MUSCATINE, IOWA.

50 per cent commission.

My approval sheets are unexcelled. Large stock constantly on hand, good chance for collectors wishing to complete their sets, 5 different Columbians to each applicant. Good references required. Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of packets sets etc.

C. H. HOLDEN,

Durand, Mich

WHAT SNAPS!

	CAT. PRICE	MY PRICE
U. S. 1888, 90 cent purple unused.....	\$2.00	\$1.55
" " 30 " puce brown unused.....	75	50
" 1885, special del. unused.....	25	15
6 varieties Hawaii.....	35	20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over.....	1.00	25
6 " Ecuador.....		10
8 " Nicaragua 1869-78.....	85	55
2 " Corea, 5 m's 10 m's.....	35	20

105 good foreign from Natal Cape Good Hope, India, Egypt, Australia, etc., for 20 cents. Approval sheets a specialty but I must have A 1 references.

C. H. WILSON,

Lock Box 40.

2 6m

MELVERN KAN.

THOMAS STAMP CO.

513 Royal Street.

New Orleans, La.

Approval sheets at 25 and 50 per cent discount.

Confederate Stamps on original covers.

Reference required.

DETROIT

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ONE HALF OFF

Fifty per cent is the coin we allow on

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THE
Philatelic Newsletter

A Magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collecting.

Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

Vol. I

November, 1895

No 9



Published by
HARRY S. SWENSEN,
1605 Stevens Ave.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

SCOTT STAMP AND COIN CO., LD.,

18 EAST 23D ST., NEW YORK

The 1896 Edition

of the International Postage Stamp Album will be ready for distribution on November 15th., and orders may now be booked. The album contains spaces for all stamps issued up to October 1895. and in typographical appearance as well as general arrangement will be far superior to anything that has hitherto appeared. Explicit price lists will be sent on application.

THE 56TH EDITION

of our Postage Stamp Catalogue will be ready for delivery before January 1st, 1896. This work will be superior to previous editions, in so far as it will be revised and brought fully up to date and the prices have been arranged after due consultation of the market in all parts of the world. The opinions of experts on various countries have been obtained in making our quotations, and there is no doubt that the Catalogue will be the recognized standard in all parts of the world.

Price 58c, post free.

Those desiring to have advanced sheets of the catalogue may do so by remitting to us \$5.00 in advance, and they will receive the various forms of the catalogue as soon as they are printed. The first form will be mailed on October 10th, and the prices established will be uniform to everybody.

PLATE NUMBERS.

Will pay ten per cent over face value for the three stamps from top of sheet with imprint. Old values wanted. High prices paid for old issues with plate numbers

C. E. N. HOWARD,

656 Summit Ave.

St. Paul Minn.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

The Stamp Collector's Hand Book.

Full of live information on each and every branch of Philately.

A CYCLOPEDIA

PRICE { Paper.....25 cents.
Cloth.....25 cents.
Foreign Postage 5c extra.

CLIFFORD W. KISSINGER,

1030 Penn St. Reading, Pa.

ADVANCED COLLECTORS.

Send for my Class B Approval sheets at 33½ per cent discount.

REFERENCES REQUIRED.

They contain the finest grades of stamps on the market today, old European Colonials and Rarities etc. All marked at catalogue prices.

FOR THE

average collector I have the greatest packet on the market—my famous World Renowned

DIXIE

Containing 399 different stamps from all parts of the globe.

Post paid ONE DOLLAR.

A. M. RARESHIDE.

HOUSTON,

2612 Milan St.

TEXAS

F. NOYES,

Dealer in Postage Stamps.

ALICE, TEX.

Collector since 1863. Dealer since 1884.

Will send selections of good stamps to responsible collectors on receipt of good home references. State whether you wish American, Colonial, European or foreign, and if medium or high priced ones.

Good Stamps bought or taken in exchange at fair prices.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP.

Sixteen Pages and Cover.

25C A YEAR.

Send your name and address for a Sample Copy.

3301 Wynkoop St.

DENVER, COL.

FOR 60 CENTS.

Send us 60 cents by postal note for a copy of

Scott's 56th Catalogue

and

The Philatelic Newsletter

one year.

Remember the catalogue alone will cost you 58 cents and for but 2 cents more you can get it and this magazine one year. Send at once and we will mail your catalogue as soon as issued.

The Philatelic Newsletter,

1605 Stevens Ave. Minneapolis, Minn.

Wm. v. d. Wettern Jr.

WHOLESALE DEALER IN

POSTAGE STAMPS,

411 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

New list sent free on application to dealers only
Rare stamps and collections bought for cash.

FREE! FREE! FREE!

To all applying for my approval sheets at 40 per cent discount will receive free, 2 Rare Foreign post-cards, worth 10c. Send at once. Reference required.

E. MARKS,

169 McCaul St. Toronto, Canada.

Send for price-list free.

Sample Copy Free.

Send your name on a postal card to C. J. LUHN,
30 Broad St. Charleston, S. C. and get a copy of the

SOUTHERN PHILATELIST.

It will please you and the low price of 25 cents a year will induce you to join the already large army of subscribers.

Ever alert in the interests of Collectors.

FEARLESS, INDEPENDENT, IMPARTIAL,

COSTS BUT 1 CENT A WEEK. To publish such a paper as the "ERA" is—as outlined above—it is impossible to always retain the friendship and support of some dealers who are ever scheming to worm dollars from collectors by various questionable practices. In consequence of this it is necessary that we look to the collector for much of our support. We would like yours, and promise to give you your money's worth. Try the collector's weekly.

10 WEEKS FOR 10 CENTS.

The Weekly Philatelic Era Portland, Maine.

RED HOT FAVORITES!

"Northern Queen" packet of U. S. contains 100 picked varieties catalogued at over \$3.00, price 50c.

"Northern King" contains 70 var. U.S. catalogue about \$2.00, price 30 cents.

Packet A 500 U. S. mixed, 50 varieties, 27 cents.

C. E. THAYER,

154 E. 3rd St. St. Paul, Minn

IN A JIFFY You can run your eye over my handy price list and select such stamps as you want.

It saves time and makes collecting easy and quick.

Sent free.

E. T. PARKER,

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania,

Branch Store 30 East 23 st N. Y. City.

STMAP DEALERS DIRECTORY

Terms for a three line advertisement in this column, \$1.50 for 12 insertions. 75 cents 6 insertions. payable semi-annually in advance.

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610 Masonic Temple Minneapolis, Minn.

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T	A	M	P	S	T	T	A	M	P	S	T
	On					Reference					
	approval.					Required.					

40 PER CENT.

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J. R. GOODING,

757 Fairmont Ave. St. Paul, Minn.

WANTED--An entire set of unused, original gum, Justice Department, well centered.

J. F. BEARD,

MUSCATINE, IOWA.

50 per cent commission.

My approval sheets on hand, good chance sets, 5 different Columbian sets etc.

Large stock constantly wishing to complete their each applicant. Good references required. Collections wanted for cash. Send for list of packets

C. H. HOLDEN,

Durand Mich

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1885, special del. unused.....	.25	.15
6 varieties Hawaii.....	.35	.20
10 " Venezuela, Catalogue over.....	1.00	.25
6 " Ecuador.....		10-
8 " Nicaragua 1869-78.....	.85	.55
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C. H. WILSON,

Lock Box 40. 26m MELVERN KAN.

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513 Royal Street. New Orleans, La.

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Confederate Stamps on original covers.

Reference required.

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DETROIT, MICH.

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THE Philatelic Newsletter

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Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

Vol. I

DECEMBER 1895.

No. 10

The Newsletter's Xmas Greeting.

Wherever philatelic clans shall congregate together,
And tell, Alladdin-like, their tales, this chilly wintry weather,
Our hearts shall beat in unison, our love o'er distance meeting,
We yield a wealth of honest cheer and send you Xmas greeting.

What matters it though prairies wide and vast divide us,
The love that makes us all akin shall reign whate'er betide us,
Though no enchantment distance lends, our hearts are beating,
We clasp each hand in fancy still, and send you Xmas greeting.

What greater blessing could we crave than friends to cheer us,
Whose presence comes in thought, though forms cannot be near us
The season's joys are incomplete if Father Time in fleeting
Shall warm not brothers hearts who send us Xmas greeting.

We pledge our life, our hope, to brothers in the hobby,
We care not where they walk today, in social halls or lobby.
A heart whose love is true, with yours in union beating,
Across the winter's snow doth send you Xmas greeting.

ROY FARRELL GREENE.

Published by
HARRY S. SWENSEN,
1605 Stevens Ave.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

F. NOYES,

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ALICE, TEX.

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Sixteen Pages and over.

25c A YEAR.

Send your name and address for a Sample Copy.
3301 Wynkoop St. DENVER, COL.

A comprehensive
Catalogue of
United States
Postage Stamps,

If you make a speciality of our own country, then you should know all about our stamps.

Scott's Catalogue gives us 231 varieties adhesives, from 1847 to 1895. The Comprehensive Catalogue has 342 varieties. Scott's gives us 93 varieties Departments. Do you know that there are 147 varieties?

All varieties are priced, and at the low price which I ask for the book, no Collector should be without it.

Paper Covers. - 10 cents.

Cloth Covers, - 25 cents.

HENRY GREMEL,
85 NASSAU STREET,
NEW YORK.

Did you ever see any of my approval sheets? They are dandies and will be sent on receipt of good reference.

SCOTT STAMP AND COIN CO., LD.,

18 EAST 23D ST., NEW YORK

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FOR 60 CENTS.

Send us 60 cents by postal note for a
copy of

Scott's 56th Catalogue

and

The Philatelic Newsletter
one year.

Remember the catalogue alone will cost you 58 cents and for but 2 cents more you can get it and this magazine one year. Send at once and we will mail your catalogue as soon as issued.

The Philatelic Newsletter,

1605 Stevens Ave. Minneapolis, Minn.

Wm. v. d. Wettern Jr.
 WHOLESALE DEALER IN
POSTAGE STAMPS,
 411 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

New list sent free on application to dealers only.
 Rare stamps and collections bought for cash.

Sample Copy Free.

Send your name on a postal card to C. J. LUHN,
 30 Broad St. Charleston, S. C. and get a copy of the

SOUTHERN PHILATELIST.

It will please you and the low price of 25 cents a
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 of subscribers.

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A CYCLOPEDIA PRICE { Paper.....25 cents.
 Cloth.....25 cents.
 Foreign Postage 5c extra.

CLIFFORD W. KISSINGER,
 1030 Penn St. Reading, Pa.

 **FREE**

An illustrated Album and Packet of stamps free to every new
 agent at 50 per cent commission. Cat. of greatest bargains in
 the world, free.

A. BULLARD & CO.
 97 Pembroke St. Boston, Mass.

JUST NOTICE THESE FINE OFFERS.

50 fine U. S. stamps only \$.25
 100 fine foreign stamps only .25
 Post free. Good assortment. Cast your eye here too.
 5c Columbian envelopes, Unused, Entire, post free.
 Only 20c each. H. G. Earle, Stamp Dealer,
 507 Pabst Bldg., Milwaukee, Wis.

U. S. Bargains.

10c War Department unused	19c.
10c Interior	28c.
12c "	28c.

Agents wanted to sell my sheets at 1/4 and 1/2 Commission.
 Mrs. L. DISSELBORTH, 30 Sullivan St., Chicago, Ill.

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD,

But convince yourself that our Approval Sheets are
 the Neatest and Best. By sending for a trial selection.
 We Strive To Please. Reference Required.
 We will mail you Gratis, a list of our unexcelled
 — PACKETS. —

W. H. Walker & Co. P. O. Box 887, Denver, Col.

J. N. & W. J. Deglmann.

Stamps for Collection. Send for a selection to-day.

**20 VARIETIES FREE TO ALL
 SENDING FOR SHEETS.**

Send reference. Stamp Hinges 1000, 8c. 3000 20c
 P. O. Box 585 Mankato, Minn.

Business Established 1885,

**Standard
 Stamp Co.**

H. Fachskamm, Manager,
 No. 4 Nicholson Place,

St. Louis, Mo.

We carry a large stock of Stamps and
 Albums of all kinds and can supply
 very nearly everything required by
 Stamp Collectors. **Good APPROVAL
 SHEETS at 25, 33 1/2 and 50% discount.**
 Our new illustrated 80 pp. **PRICE LIST is
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 other dealers, why not cor-
 respond with us, just for a change?

We will treat you right, no matter
 whether you spend \$250 or only 25 cents.
STANDARD Packets are **GOOD**, almost
 every bookstore in the country sells them.
 Ask for them and insist upon getting
STANDARD Packets, as there are imita-
 tions. The dealer may make more profit
 on the **OTHERS**, but is that to your benefit?

DOLLAR VALUES COLUMBIAN.

\$1.00 Columbians, Canceled with small hole.	\$2.50
\$2.00 Columbians, " " " "	2.75
\$4. Columbians, " " " "	2.00
\$5.00 Columbians, " " " "	2.50

Cash with order, no stamps or checks taken, nor do I send these stamp out on approval, if they are not satisfactory when you receive them the money will be refunded, if the stamps are returned within five days. Address, L. D. SNOW, Kankakee, Ill.

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THE
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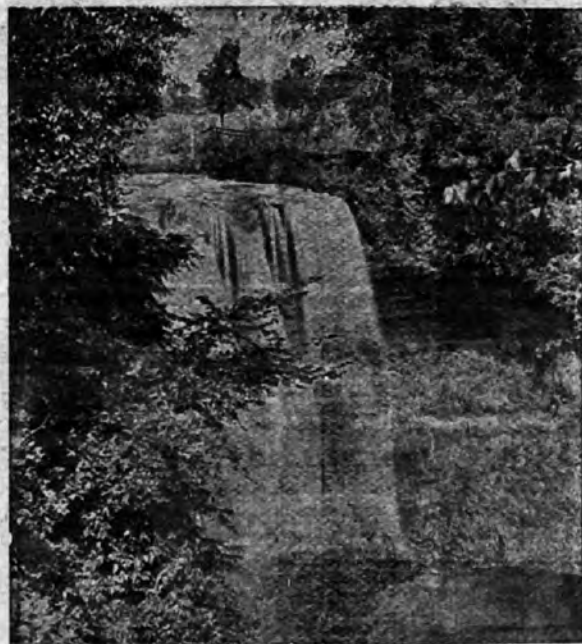
A Magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collecting.

Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

Vol. I.

JANUARY 1896.

No. 11.



Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis.

Published by
HARRY S. SWENSEN,
1605 Stevens Ave.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.



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I carry a full line of postage, revenue and envelopes, [cut square and entire.]

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THE 56TH EDITION

of our Postage Stamp Catalogue will be ready for delivery before January 1st, 1896. This work will be superior to previous editions, in so far as it will be revised and brought fully up to date and the prices have been arranged after due consultation of the market in all parts of the world. The opinions of experts on various countries have been obtained in making our quotations, and there is no doubt that the Catalogue will be the recognized standard in all parts of the world.

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THE Philatelic Newsletter

A Magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collecting.

Edited and Published by HARRY S. SWENSEN.

Vol. I.

MARCH AND APRIL 1896.

No. 12.



A scene, as enacted some thirty years ago upon the shores of Lake Minnetonka, the site of the American Philatelic Association's next convention, and what you wont find in this wild and woolly region, in these days of "plate numbers."

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THE ORIGINAL.

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St. Louis, Mo.


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I also handle British N. A. stamps, send want list.

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Lock Box 31.

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THE
Philatelic Newsletter

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Vol. II.

SEPTEMBER 15th, 1896.

No. 1.



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President, P. S. of A.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

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" 30c orange new no gum little off center	3.50	2.25
" 90c blue magnificent used copy	3.50	3.25
1868 1c blue 9x13 fine	1.25	.95
" 2c black "	.25	.18
" 5c brown " fair	2.50	1.90
" 10c green " good copies	.60	.47
" 12c black " fine	.60	.50
1872 12c purple new o. g. perf. three sides	10.00	7.00
" same used good copies	.75	.40
" 15c orange new o. g. in blocks etc.	2.50	1.00
" 24c purple new poor gum perf. three sides		
good order	10.00	7.00
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O. K. CARSTARPHEN, DENVER, COLO.,
President, P. S. of A.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

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P. O. BOX 308.

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252 Boston Block.

A Stamp Packet,

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F. NOYES,

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Collector since 1863. Dealer since 1884.

Will send selections of good stamps to responsible collectors on receipt of good home references. State whether you wish American, Colonial, European or foreign, and if medium or high priced ones.

Good Stamps bought or taken in exchange at fair prices.

The Rocky Mountain Stamp.

SIXTEEN PAGES AND OVER.

25c A YEAR.

Send your name and address for a Sample Copy.
3301 Wynkoop St. DENVER, COL.

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An ad. in the paper with a large circulation. The International Philatelist, will always pay, because 5,000 copies are mailed every month. Address, H. C. BEARDSLEY, Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

J. N. & W. J. Deglmann.

Stamps on approval.
Send for a selection to-day.
Price List of Packets FREE.
Send us your order for Stamp Hinges.
Box 585, Mankato, Minn., U. S. A.

LOOK HERE!

1894 adhesives, U. S. from 1c to \$5.00 inclusive, \$10.85.

Cut square envelopes. Can supply your "wants." Write for prices, mentioning what you want.

How are your Revenue wants? If you want them filled, try me.

I do not sell \$5.00 stamps for \$1.00 if I know it, but I give good value for the money.

Cash paid for good collections of U. S. adhesives.

JOE F. BEARD,

Box 73. Muscatine, Iowa.
Member of All Leading Societies.

IN A JIFFY You can run your eye over my handy price list and select such stamps as you want. It saves time and makes collecting easy and quick.

Sent free. **E. T. PARKER,**
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SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO., LD.

18 East 23d Street, New York, N. Y.

E. F. VAN GORDER

STAMP BROKER.

P. O. BOX 308.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

I desire to buy for cash, one good copy of each of the following stamps:

State Dept. 1, 7, 10, 12, 15, 90 cent.
Navy Dept. 1, 7, 10, 12, 15, 90 cent.
Treas. Dept. 7, 24 cent.
Agriculture Dept. 1, 12, 15, 24 cent.
Revenues Petf. \$15, \$25, \$50.

Send with your lowest cash price.

I send stamps on approval to reliable persons, and solicit correspondence with those that have money to buy.

E. F. VAN GORDER,

MINNEAPOLIS,

Box 308.

MINN.

GOODING'S Good Things

1856-1c type, 1 new, o. g.	\$7.00
1856-5c type, 1 fine.	3.00
1856-12c, fine.	.65
1861-15c, fine.	.50
1861-24c mauve, fine.	1.10
1861-30c, new.	2.25
1868-5c.	1.65
1868-10c, new, 9x13.	2.25
1868-15c, 9x14, fine grill.	5.25
1868-24c.	3.00
1868-30c.	3.00
1869-24c.	5.00
1869-30c, fine.	2.90

The above are "CHEAP," considering the condition they are in. If you don't see what you want, write for it. I have engaged this space for a long while, and will offer "GOOD THINGS" each month at such reasonable prices that you can't afford to let them go by.

WANTED—To buy, for cash, all State, Navy, Justice, Agriculture and Executive Depts; also all 7, 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90c values. Send with lowest cash price.

JAS. R. GOODING,

Dealer in U. S. Stamps Only,

757 Fairmount Ave., - - - ST. PAUL, MINN.

Are You Interested.

in filling up the blank spaces in your album at a moderate cost? If so, we will be glad to receive your **List of Wants.**

We offer for cash the following :

Periodical 8c Unused, fine for.....	\$.40
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War 7c Unused, fine for.....	2.40
War 90c Unused, fine for.....	1.10
War Set Complete, 11 Varieties.....	4.00

We also buy collections at good prices.
Your trade is earnestly solicited.

Address

BEAMISH BROTHERS,

P. O. Box 1308.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

This Space

Will be occupied regularly by my announcements. I have'nt the time this month to let you know of the bargains in my stock.—Too much politics. But I will fill all orders promptly. Is there anything you want in U. S. or British Colonials? If so, write me. My prices are as low as the lowest.

F. J. BESCHER,

CITY HALL MARKET,

Kansas City, Mo.

A comprehensive Catalogue of United States Postage Stamps,

If you make a speciality of our own country, then you should know all about our stamps. Scott's Catalogue gives us 231 varieties adhesives, from 1847 to 1895. The Comprehensive Catalogue has 342 varieties. Scott's gives us 93 varieties Departments. Do you know that there are 147 varieties?

All varieties are priced, and at the low price which I ask for the book, no Collector should be without it.

Paper Covers, - 10 cents.

Cloth Covers, - 25 cents.

HENRY GREMMEL,

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NEW YORK.

Did you ever see any of my approval sheets? They are dandies and will be sent on receipt of good reference.

Business Established 1885.

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H. Flachskamm, Manager,
No. 4 Nicholson Place,

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We carry a large stock of Stamps and Albums of all kinds and can supply very nearly everything required by Stamp Collectors. **Good APPROVAL SHEETS at 25, 33½ and 50% discount.** Our new illustrated 80 pp. **PRICE LIST is FREE.** You have tried nearly all the other dealers, why not correspond with us, just for a change?

We will treat you right, no matter whether you spend \$250 or only 25 cents. **STANDARD** Packets are **GOOD**, almost every bookstore in the country sells them.

Ask for them and insist upon getting **STANDARD** Packets, as there are limitations. The dealer may make more profit on the **OTHERS**, but is that to your benefit?

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Vol. II.

OCTOBER 15th, 1896.

No. 2.



H. C. BEARDSLEY, ST. JOSEPH, MO.

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Bargains in U. S. Stamps!

5c 1863, yellow, unused, post O. G.: small piece hole in lower left corner, otherwise a fine stamp, and very cheap.....	\$22.00
2c 1868, grill 12x14, unused, no gum. This stamp is catalogued at \$40, and a bargain at any price.....	18.75
2 ¢ State Dept., unused O. G., a perfect beauty.	21.00
90c Seate Dept., fine used copy.....	12.00
24c 1869, fine used copy.....	5.85
30c 1869, fine used copy.....	2.98
30c 1863, unused, O. G. and fine.....	4.00
90c 1863, fine used copy.....	3.50
90c 1868, grill, used and perfect.....	17.00

I have \$5,000 worth of fine U. S. stamps that I am going to sell this season at a bargain, and am anxious to send selections on approval to advanced collectors who have money to buy stamps. Send your references and want list. The stamps offered above are *cash with order*.

Write to me before buying elsewhere.

E. F. Van Gorder,

MINNEAPOLIS, - - - - - MINN.

Metropolitan Theater, —

PLATE NUMBERS.

Are you looking for scarce plates? I have them, at prices that are right.

No. 1.....	\$4.00	No. 32.....	\$1.00
No. 3.....	1.00	No. 78.....	.30
No. 4.....	1.00	No. 79.....	.35
No. 5.....	1.00	No. 80.....	.40
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All unwatermarked, and fine specimens. Orders over \$5.00 10 per cent discount; over \$10.00, 15 per cent discount; over \$25.00, 25 per cent discount.

C. E. N. HOWARD,

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Per Annum.

You must append your society number in order to avail yourself of the reduction.

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Managing Editor, Newsletter,
Minneapolis, Minn.

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SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO., LD.

18 East 23d Street, New York, N. Y.

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1879—50 cents, green-C. C., mint late..... 75c

United States

1894—50 cents, no water mark, mint state... 75c

Hayti—1893-95—1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 7c, mint state, set..... 30c

Tobago—½, 1, 2½, 4, 6, 1 shill., mint state, set..... 82c

We can furnish almost any stamp in mint state in the current issues of British Colonies at 25 per cent discount from Scott's 56th Catalogue.

Write us for any stamps you need in current issues.

We are always ready to buy for cash all collections.

Postage Extra on Orders Under One Dollar.

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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ENVELOPES, ENTIRE AND UNUSED.	Cat. P.	My.	Per 10.
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1887—90c, purple on manilla.....	5.00	2.55	
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Agriculture 12c, good.....	5.25	8.00	
Justice 30c, damaged by being patched.....	5.00	25.00	

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No. 3.



C. H. MEKEEL, ST. LOUIS, MO.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

SPECIAL Sale of U. S. Stamps.

For this month we offer all classes of United States adhesives and revenues at 33 1-3 per cent. discount from current prices. Remember this is only for this month, and all applications for approval lots must be accompanied by A 1 commercial references or a cash deposit of at least \$10.00.

Send your want list, we can fill it.

13 varieties of entire unused U. S. envelopes, only \$1.05, cash with order.

CENTURY STAMP CO.,

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Box 308.

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Are you looking for scarce plates? I have them, at prices that are right.

No. 1.....	\$4.00	No. 32.....	\$1.00
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Good Stamps bought or taken in exchange at fair prices.

GILT EDGED Bargains

Will be found on our approval books. We are breaking up two collections and allow from 33 1-3 to 50 per cent off. Good reference required. A years subscription to The Newsletter to all buying over \$2.00 worth.

FLOUR CITY STAMP CO., Minneapolis, Minn.

721 SOUTH 7TH STREET.

The Rocky Mountain Stamp.

SIXTEEN PAGES AND OVER;

25c A YEAR.

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\$3.50 Inland Exchange

IMPERFORATE.

Price, net, \$75.00.

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(LIMITED)

18 E 23d STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue

57th Edition.

Will be ready in December.

Besides retaining all the features of the last edition, it will contain full descriptions of all reprints and many other interesting items of information of great value to every stamp collector.

PRICE 58c. POST FREE.

**International . . .
Postage Stamp Album.**

1897 Edition.

Will be ready for delivery about November 1st. Without spaces for varieties of watermark, etc.
Bound in boards, half cloth, \$1.00, post free.
Bound in cloth, gilt, fine paper, 2 50, post free.
Bound in cloth, gilt, fine paper, with blank leaves and stubs for future issues, 3.50, post free.

**International . . .
Postage Stamp Catalogue.**

A complete Catalogue of all Postage Stamps, without minor distinctions of watermark, perforation, etc.
Almost all Stamps are priced, both used and unused.
Bound in paper, 10 cents, post free.

Will be ready for delivery about December 1st.

Mauritius, 1879, 50c. green C. C, mint state, \$0.75
Havti, 1893-95, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 7c. mint state set, 30
South African Republic, 1895-96, 1/2c, 2c, 2 1/2c, 3c,
4c, 6c, 1sh. min. state set, 1.00
1896, 2s 6d, mint state, 95

We can furnish almost any stamp in mint state of the current issues of British Colonies at 25 per cent. discount from Scott's 56th Catalogue. Our U. S. packet, 60 different, cat. over \$2.00 for 50cts. post-paid.

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610-611-612 MASONIC TEMPLE,
Minneapolis, Minn.

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Pricing the revenues and other articles of merit are now appearing in THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE.

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Bargains . . .

Argentine Republic, 1892, 1, 2, 5 pesos, only 92 cents, cat. \$1.95.
Bolivia, 1894, 1 to 100 cents, complete, only 38 cents, cat. \$1.25.
Hawaii, 15 cents, red-brown, only 65 cents.
Hawaii, 25 cents, blue, unused, only 32 cents.
Oldenburg, 3 g., yellow, only \$4.00.
All in fine condition. Cash in advance.

**Leon C. Lambert, 151 Summit Av.,
St. Paul, Minn.**

**GOODING'S
Good Things**

ENVELOPES, ENTIRE AND UNUSED.	Cat. P.	My.	Per 10.
1883-4c, green or white	\$.20	\$.10	\$.85
1864-2c, black on manilla, Die 2, wrapper	1.50	.82	7.00
1887-90c, purple on manilla	5.00	2.55	
"-90c, purple on manilla amber	5.00	2.55	
"-90c, purple on white	5.00	2.55	
"-90c, purple on amber	5.00	2.55	

ADHESIVES.	Cat.	57th.
1869 Set complete, all fine, only	\$43.50	\$60.07
1870-30c, quite good	12.50	25.00
1872-24c, magnificent	1.60	2.00
Agriculture 12c good	5.25	8.00
Justice 30c, damaged by being patched	5.00	25.00

The above are "CHEAP," considering the condition they are in. If you don't see what you want, write for it. I have engaged this space for a long while, and will offer "GOOD THINGS" each month at such reasonable prices that you can't afford to let them go by.

WANTED-To buy, for cash, all State, Navy, Justice, Agriculture and Executive Depts; also all 7, 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90c values. Send with lowest cash price.

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Dealer in U. S. Stamps Only,

757 Fairmount Ave., - - - ST. PAUL, MINN.

Are You Interested

in filling up the blank spaces in your album at a moderate cost? If so, we will be glad to receive your **List of Wants**.

We offer for cash the following:

Periodical 8c Unused, fine for.....	\$.40
Periodical 9c Unused, fine for.....	12.50
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War 7c Unused, fine for.....	2.40
War 90c Unused, fine for.....	1.10
War Set Complete, 11 Varieties.....	4.00

We also buy collections at good prices.
Your trade is earnestly solicited.

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P. O. Box 1308.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

My Pickle

Business has been good and my Stamp trade excellent. However, I am prepared to supply many more of the readers of The Philatelic Newsletter with their wants and only desire the opportunity. Isn't there something you want? Write me and if it is obtainable you shall have it.

F. J. BESCHER,

City Hall Market.
Kansas City, Mo.

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		New.	Used.
1873.....	10c.....	\$0.15.....	\$0.05
	25c.....	.30.....	.07
	50c.....	.40.....	.20
2gl.	50c.....	1.75.....	1.25
1889.....	12½c.....		.15
	15c.....		.15
	30c.....	.45.....	.25
1g.	50c.....	1.25.....	1.25
	1c, 2c, 2½c, 3c,		
	5c, set of five	.15.....	.15
1891.....	25 on 30.....	.50.....	.45
1892.....	10, 12½, 15,		
	25 and 30,		
	set of five.....	.60.....	
1895.....	2½ on 10.....	.50.....	.50
	2½ on 30.....		.50

Unpaid letter stamps at 25 per cent. off Cat. prices. Price list free.

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NEW YORK.

Business Established 1885.

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Holiday Number



The

PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER



A monthly magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collectors.

VOL. II.

DECEMBER 1896.

No. 4.

Full of Fleas

says the dog to the rooster,
"I need your comb"—

Speaking of roosters, reminds us of a feller up the country collecting rooster's spurs.

"You stamp fiends are no better" good-naturedly says our friend, the druggist.

"You are all chumps spending your money and time in this way."

If he only knew that we got \$15 for the stamps we paid him a dollar for, he would not think us so chump-like.

If YOU only knew how much match and medicine stamps will advance from year to year, you would hesitate no longer in writing us for an approval selection at 60 p. c. off present catalogue prices.

Lewis Robie

Highland Park, Ill.

Scott Stamp & Coin Co.,

(LIMITED)

18 E 23RD STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue

57th Edition.

WILL BE READY IN DECEMBER.

Besides retaining all the features of the last edition, it will contain full descriptions of all reprints and many other interesting items of information of great value to every stamp collector.

PRICE 58c POST FREE.

International Postage Stamp Album

1897 Edition.

Will be ready for delivery about November 15th. Without spaces for varieties of watermark, etc.

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Bound in cloth, gilt, fine paper,	2.50, post free
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International Postage Stamp Catalogue

A complete Catalogue of all Postage Stamps, without minor distinctions of watermark, perforation, etc.

Almost all Stamps are priced, both used and unused. Bound in paper 10 cents, post free

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F. NOYES,

Dealer in Postage Stamps.

ALICE, TEX.

Collector since 1863. Dealer since 1884.

Will send selections of good stamps to responsible collectors on receipt of good home references. State whether you wish American, Colonial, European or foreign, and if medium or high priced ones.

Good Stamps bought or taken in exchange at fair prices.

Spasmodic purts eldom ecre uccess.

Advertise in medium of cknowledged dvantage to id your business.

The Philatelic Newsletter is such a medium.

Secure space from GEO. W. ACHARD, Mgr. Editor, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

REVENUES.

5c Express	.05	1.00 For Ex.	.05
5c Playing Card	.50	1.00 Lease	.03
5c Proprietary	.80	1.00 Manifest	.60

Good specimens only. Approval sheets to responsible parties at 33 1/2 per cent. dis. Chas. D. Collins, 481 Merrick Ave., Detroit Mich.

Every Philatelic Literature Collector should send for a sample copy of our Philatelic Literaturist. Put in first of each month. 12 to 16, 5 1/2 x 8 pages contains our "Big" auction sales of Literature. No 3 out December 1st. No. 4 will contain our "Big" sale. About 3000 copies listed, (out January 1st.) Send at once. Latest thing out.

DOUGHTY & PAGE, Publishers.

Box, 1061.

Muscatine, Iowa.

Just Published

Morley's Catalogue of Great Britain, Cards and Envelopes, listing all minor varieties. Post free, 12 cents.

Morley's Catalogue of Great Britain, Postage, Fiscal, Telegraph, College, Railway and Deed Stamps, (with supplement) price 30 cents.

Morley's catalogue of Colonial Revenue Stamps 60 cents.

Wanted to purchase U. S 1c and 3c Telegraph Stamps, perf., unperf., partperf., used and unused.

Walter Morley

Dealer in Postage, Fiscal and Telegraph Stamps.

186 West Green Road.
Gold Medal Paris Exposition 1894

Tottenham,
London, England

The . . .

“NEWSLETTER”

1897.

Will be even better than it has been the past two years. Typographically it is unexcelled and from a literary standpoint it ranks with the best. However for 1897 we have contracted with some of the best authors and append below a list of a few who will contribute:

RICHARD HOLLICK, Birmingham, Eng.,

C. E. SEVERN, Chicago, Ill.,

ROY F. GREENE, Arkansas City, Kansas,

MARCUS P. STEWART,

SYDNEY K. LE MOYNE,

E R ALDRICH.

The papers read at the meetings of The St. Paul and Minneapolis Philatelic Societies will also be printed. As an all around Magazine of Philatelic literature, it will not be equalled.

You cannot afford to be without it. So enclose the subscription price in an envelope directed to the Managing Editor at once.

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or write to us.

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The success of these collections is due to the care with which they are composed. They should not be mistaken for the 1,000 variety packets sold by unscrupulous dealers, who do not fear to sell locals, revenues, postal cards and even counterfeits as postage stamps. This collection is composed exclusively of postage stamps from all countries of the world, guaranteed strictly genuine and in fine condition, assorted and classified by alphabetical order upon onion skin sheets. The real value of this collection, catalogue in hand, is at least five times the price we ask for it. No other dealer is able to supply a collection like this at such a low price. Besides we give with every collection a year's subscription to the Evergreen State Philatlist, Philatelic Californian and Newsletter; and with every 5th collection a fine unused 2.00 Col-

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Argentine Rep. '92, 1,25 pesos 92c
Bolivia, '94, 1 to 10c complete 38c
The two sets for only \$1.25

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15c Foreign Exchange, "	1.00	"	.40
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SETS.

10 Argentine,	10c
3 " 1, 2, 5 pesos,	92c
4 Brit. Guiana, 1c on 1, 2, 3, 4	45c
7 Labuan, '94, 2 to 40c,	60c
9 Borneo, 1-2 to 10c,	30c
20 Brazil,	25c
3 Chile, telegraph,	5c

We have many others on our lists'. Write for one.

1,000 VARIETY PACKET.

This contains no locals, telegraph, revenue, re-prints, cards or U. S. but is the choicest packet of foreign stamps ever put on the market at the price. We sell it at \$7.00 registered and post-free.

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are unequalled both for quality and price and are sent only on receipt of firstclass reference or deposit. No sharks need apply. Discounts, 33 1-3rd and 50 per cent. allowed on sales. Send for a lot and note the difference.

FLOUR CITY STAMP COMPANY,

721 S. 7th Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

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The Minneapolis Philatelic Society desires to exchange its duplicate copies of magazines for odd numbers to complete files. Have you anything to exchange? Send lists and we will send ours.

E. S. STEBBINS, Librarian,
612 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn.

BARGAINS

War Department 9 Varieties Unused	
Cat 2 40	\$ 80
U S 1847 10c Washington	2 00
Canada 12½c Green	25
10c 1859	35
17c	1 00
8c Registration, Un.	1 75

Officially sealed Cat. 2 50. Only 75c, a bargain.

Japan 1896 War Stamps, 4 varieties, FREE TO ALL sending for our fine approval sheets at most liberal discounts and prices and enclosing first class references, will receive 4 varieties of Japan War Stamps.

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DEALERS ONLY.—Send for samples and prices of our fine blank approval books and sheets, the best and the cheapest yet on the market sent free on application to DEALERS ONLY.

HALL'S BARGAIN COUNTER

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	List Price.	My Price.
U. S. 1847, 85c pairs, \$1.40	\$.85	\$.50
" 1851, 10c on cover 75c	1.00	.60
" 1855, 10c " " 35c	.50	.28
" 1861, 10c " " 10c	.15	.08
" " 24c red lilac	1.50	.80
" 1862, 5c red brown	3.50	2.25
" " 5c brown	.40	.25
" 1869, 1c per 10, \$4.20	.75	.45
" " 6c " " 4.60	.85	.50
" " 10c " " "	1.00	.70
" " 12c " " "	.75	.50
Brit. Columbia law stamp, 50c, blue, 1st issue	.75	.30
Canada, 1859, 1c per, 100	12.00	5.00
" " 5c " " "	6.00	2.50
" " 12½c green	.40	.25
" " 17c blue	1.50	.95
U. S. 90c Treasury	1.00	.55
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Cash with order. Postage 3c extra on orders under \$1.00.

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—You can find out regarding counterfeits at a very reasonable rate—

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U. S. 1891-93 Postage due, Claret	\$ 30	\$ 60
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400 Varieties, Postage, Fine,.....	\$1.00
200 " " " " " " " " " " " "	25
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Choice lot of old Colonials and Rare United States at desirable prices. Everything on approval for reference.

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5c Brown, due, o. g. Fine, each.....	12c
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1c Red brown.....	5c
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242 Boston Block.

Minneapolis, Minn.

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Brit. Columbia law stamp, 50c, blue, 1st issue	.75	.30
Canada, 1859, 1c per 100	12.00	5.00
" " 5c " "	6.00	2.50
" " 12 1/2c green	.40	.25
" " 17c blue	1.50	.95
U. S. 90c Treasury	1.00	.55
" 50c Probate of Will	1.75	.80

Cash with order. Postage 3c extra on orders under \$1.00.

W. KELSEY HALL, Peterboro, Ont., Can.

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Members in The Western Philatelic Association derive many benefits from their membership. Among them we might state that they are—

- A fine official organ—
- A good purchasing department, where you can secure new issues at 10 per cent. above face values—
- An exchange department, as good as any in the land and one in which returns are made promptly—
- Attendance and participation at the convention which in 1897 will be held at Clear Lake, Iowa, next summer—
- You can find out regarding counterfeits at a very reasonable rate—
- Your stamp claims will be adjusted quickly and in a satisfactory manner by the attorney.—All it costs you is 35 cents per year. Send for an application blank to the Secretary.

C. E. THAYER,

154 E. Third St. St. Paul, Minn.

ONLY ONE

A magnificent pair of the

\$3.50 Inland Exchange

IMPERFORATE.

Price, net, \$75.00

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Ninety U. S. Stamps neatly arranged in the ninety Cents (post free \$1) **FAVORITE ALBUM**

90 Nassau Street, New York.

R. F. ALBRECHT & CO.
90 Nassau St., New York.

The Rocky Mountain Stamp.

SIXTEEN PAGES AND OVER.

25c A YEAR.

Send your name and address for a Sample Copy.
829 17th St. Denver, Col.

WILL IT PAY?

An ad, in the paper with a large circulation.

The International Philatelist,

will always pay, because 5,000 copies are mailed every month. Address, H. C. BEARDSLEY,
Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

History and Catalogue of Canada Stamps

Pricing the revenues and other articles of merit are now appearing in THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE.

Subs. 25cts a year; Ads. 50cts an inch. Sample free.

Wm. R. ADAMS, Toronto, Canada.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

WHOLESALE DEALER IN

POSTAGE STAMPS,

411 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

New list sent free on application to dealers only. Rare stamps and collections bought for cash.

Stebbins & Young,

611-12 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn.

U. S. 1891-93 Postage due, Claret	\$ 30	\$ 60
" " " " " "	50	75
" 1894 Unwater-marked, Mint State	50	70
Mauritius 1879 c. c. Mint State	50	75
U. S. Packet 70 varieties, cat. over 2.00		75

Paragon Stamp Hinges 10c per thousand.

Approval books sent to responsible collectors.

Stebbins & Young,

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IN A LIFE TIME!!!

NOTHING BETTER HAS BEEN OFFERED.

400 Varieties, Postage, Fine,.....	\$1.00
200 " " " " " " " " " "	25
300 " " " " " " " " " "	50
500 " " " " " " " " " "	2.00
600 " " " " " " " " " "	3.00

Choice lot of old Colonials and Rare United States at desirable prices. Everything on approval for reference.

W. H. BRUCE,

Hartford, Conn.

GOOD MORNING!

Have you read this add?

5c Brown, due. o. g. Fine, each.....	12c
10c.....	25c
1c Red brown.....	5c
1c 1895 Newspaper o. g. Fine, each.....	7c
2c.....	8c
5c.....	25c
10c 1885 Special delivery.....	15c

Will exchange any of the above and other fine U. S. for plate numbers not in my collection. F. S. George, 17 South 4th Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

STAMPS. Send for our fine Approval sheets of stamps marked by Scott's Catalogue. 50 per cent. to all agents.
PACKETS. 1000 mixed 20c; 100 all different 8c; 500 varieties \$2.50. Post free.

MINNESOTA STAMP CO.,

Room 16 Collom Block,

Minneapolis, Minn.

For 60 cts.

Send us a postal order for the above amount, and we will mail you the

57th CATALOGUE and the PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER

For One Year.

Remember, the price of the Catalogue alone is 58 cents, and for but 2 cents additional you will get the NEWSLETTER an entire year. The Catalogue will be mailed as soon as issued. Send at once, and we will place your name on the list.

GEO. W. ACHARD,

Managing Editor.

242 Boston Block.

Minneapolis, Minn.

BRAZIL BARGAINS.

		New	Used
1845-6	10r Black	\$ 75	\$ 18
1850	10r "	25	18
	30r "	5	2
	60r "	6	2
	90r "	30	15
	300r "	2 25	1 50
1854	30r Blue	25	35
1861	280r Rose	—	2 00
1866	10r Verm	7	6
	20r Lilac	6	3
	20r Violet	2 50	1 00
	50r Blue	9	3
	80r Violet	40	10
	200r Black	22	6
	500r Orange	80	20
1876	50r Blue	—	12
	80r Violet	—	30
1878-9	280r Brown	1 50	50
	300r Green & Or	1 00	30
1887	500r Olive	35	—
1888	700r Violet	35	35
1890-2	500r Olive Gr	30	18
	700r Chocolate	70	—
	1000r Bistre	80	15
1894	100r Red & Bl	5	1
	200r Yel & Bl	12	3
	300r Green & Bl	15	5
	500r Blue & Bl	20	10
	700r Mauve & Bl	35	35
	1000r Green & Vi	45	15
	2000r Slate & Vi	85	65

Mostly all newspaper and unpaid stamps and envelopes can be supplied at 50% off 1897 Cat. price. Price list free. Have you seen a copy of the Post office?

HENRY GREMMEL,
85 Nassau St., New York.

Business Established 1885.

Standard Stamp Co.

H. Flachskamm, Manager,
No. 4 Nicholson Place,

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We carry a large stock of Stamps and Albums of all kinds and can supply very nearly everything required by Stamp Collectors. **Good APPROVAL SHEETS at 25, 33½ and 50% discount.** Our new illustrated 80 pp. **PRICE LIST is FREE.** You have tried nearly all the other dealers, why not correspond with us, just for a change?

We will treat you right, no matter whether you spend \$250 or only 25 cents. **STANDARD** Packets are **GOOD**, almost every bookstore in the country sells them.

Ask for them and insist upon getting **STANDARD** Packets, as there are imitations. The dealer may make more profit on the **OTHERS**, but is that to your benefit?

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You

Interested

in filling up the blank spaces in your album at a moderate cost? If so, we will be glad to receive your **List of Wants.**

We offer for cash the following:

Periodical 8c Unused, fine for	\$ 40
Periodical 9c Unused, fine for	12 50
Justice 1c Unused, fine for	1 50
War 7c Unused, fine for	2 40
War 90c Unused, fine for	1 10
War Set Complete, 11 Varieties	4 00

We also buy collections at good prices.
Your trade is earnestly solicited.

Address

BEAMISH BROTHERS,

P. O. Box 1308.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

My Pickle

Business has been good and my Stamp trade excellent. However, I am prepared to supply many more of the readers of The Philatelic Newsletter with their wants and only desire the opportunity, Isn't there something you want? Write me and if it is obtainable you shall have it.

F. J. BESCHER,

City Hall Market,
Kansas City Mo.



The *wavy*
PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER



A monthly magazine devoted to the interests of stamp collectors.

VOL. II.

JANUARY, 1897.

No. 5



The Rocky Mountain Stamp.

SIXTEEN PAGES AND OVER.

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200 " " " " " " " " " " " "	25
300 " " " " " " " " " " " "	50
500 " " " " " " " " " " " "	2.00
600 " " " " " " " " " " " "	3.00

Choice lot of old Colonials and Rare United States at desirable prices. Everything on approval for reference.

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Hartford, Conn.

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Managing Editor.

242 Boston Block.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Stebbins & Young,

611-12 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn.

The following sets are unused and in mint state.

St. Helena, 1896, 1, 2, 2½, 5, 10d, the set,	.85
Turks Islands, 1, 2½, 4, 5, 6d, 1s. " "	.95
Tobago, ½, 1, 2½, 4, 6d, 1s. " "	.84
Gibraltar, 5, 10, 20, 25, 40, 50c " "	.50
Malta, ½, 1, 2, 2½, 4d, 1s. " "	.72
So. Af. Rep. ½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 6d, 1s " "	1.02
Paragon Stamp Hinges, 10c per 1000.	
Approval books sent to Responsible collectors.	

TEN DOLLARS ON DEPOSIT

Is all that is required to obtain a look at my choice sheets of U. S. & foreign stamps. If you really wish to see something good in my line, don't let this opportunity pass unheeded. List free. Large stock U. S. Plate Numbers on hand.

N. E. CARTER,

Delavan, Wis., U.S.A.

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access.

Advertise in
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id your business.

The Philatelic Newsletter is such a medium.

Secure space from GEO. W. ACHARD, Mgr.
Editor, 242 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

Free...

TO THOSE sending 50 cents for a copy of Bright & Sons' (of England) Standard Catalogue of the world postage stamps, containing over 700 pages, 5,000 illustrations, same size as Scott's and pricing every stamp, envelope, postal card and letter card ever issued. The latest one out. Over 200 illustrations of U. S. stamps. I will send a packet of 100 rare varieties of postage stamps from Argentine Republic, Ceylon, Mexico, Puerto Rico, etc. cataloguing OVE \$2.50. This offer is only made to introduce this fine catalogue in America and will only be good for a few months.

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151 Summit Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

Purchasing agent of the Western Philatelic Association.



WANTED!—Active agents able to sell at least \$5.00 per month. Send for our approval sheets at 33½ per cent discount, the cheapest and cleanest on the market. They contain stamps that are not to be obtained from others.

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Box 2457, San Francisco, Cal.

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==DESIRABLE SPECIMENS.==

Japan Memorial, '96, 4 var.....	20
Greece Olympian Games, '96, 4 var.....	12
3c. Playing Card	Cat. \$8.00; 6.00
4c. Playing Card	Cat. 10.00; 8.00
Confed. States, '61, 2c. green.....	Cat. 2.50; 2.25
Interior, 90c	Cat. 2.50; 2.00
Post-Office, 90c.....	Cat. 2.00; 1.60
Treasury, 7c.....	Cat. 1.50; 1.25
Treasury, 90c.....	Cat. 1.00; .60
2c. Certificate, blue, imp.....	Cat. .50; .20
2c. Playing Card, blue perf.....	Cat. .40; .20
5c. Playing Card, blue, perf.....	Cat. .90; .45

CANADIAN REVENUES.

The increasing demand for these beautiful stamps has caused us to lay in a big stock of them. We can furnish you with Canadian Revenues valued from a cent to one hundred dollars. They can now be bought for very low figures. So could U. S. Revenues five years ago—now where are the latter? Out of sight.

Perhaps you don't know what magnificent looking stamps Canadian Revenues are, then let us send you a book on approval, together with a book of U. S. Revenues. All we ask is Bank or good Commercial Reference. Our Canadian Revenue Price List is now ready, and will be sent free to all.

Send good references for approval sheets; 10 to 60 per cent discount. Catalogues free.

The J. T. Starr Stamp Co.,
Coldwater, Mich.

Scott Stamp & Coin Co.,

(LIMITED)

18 E 23RD STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue

57th Edition.

WILL BE READY IN DECEMBER.

Besides retaining all the features of the last edition, it will contain full descriptions of all reprints and many other interesting items of information of great value to every stamp collector.

PRICE 58c POST FREE.

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1897 Edition.

Will be ready for delivery about November 15th. Without spaces for varieties of watermark, etc.

Bound in boards, half cloth,	\$1.00, post free
Bound in cloth, gilt, fine paper,	2.50, post free
Bound in cloth, gilt, fine paper, with blank leaves and stubs for future issues,	3.50, post free

International Postage Stamp Catalogue

A complete Catalogue of all Postage Stamps, without minor distinctions of watermark, perforation, etc.

Almost all Stamps are priced, both used and unused. Bound in paper 10 cents, post free

WILL BE READY FOR DELIVERY ABOUT DECEMBER 1ST.

If you want a good Catalogue to buy from, send Stamp for a Copy of

TOWNSEND'S CATALOG.

Prices are very low, good Stamps are promised at these Prices, and fair treatment is guaranteed.

A. C. TOWNSEND,
L. & T. Bld., Washington, D. C.

GOODING'S GOOD THINGS.

	Cat. price.	My price.
1847 10c on part o. c.	\$4.00	\$2.75
1851 3c new o. g. in blks.	2.00	1.00
1851 5c with magnificent strip of (4) 10c-1856 lightly cancelled in red; very FINE and RARE	15.50	11.50
1872 30c black new o. g. in blks.	2.00	1.35
State Dpt. magnificent, unused full gummed set complete 1-90 finely centered, a bargain.	61.75	39.50

Money refunded if not entirely satisfactory upon receipt.

JAS. R. GOODING (Dealer in U. S. only),
757 Fairmont Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

WHOLESALE PRICES

I offer the following in retail at wholesale prices viz: 2 cents green capped envelope, 25 cents each or 5 for \$1.00. Unsevered pairs of types II & III 2 cents carmine plate No. 170, 25 cents a pair. 1864 env. 4 cents pink, used, either white or buff p. p. with patentbars 50c each.

Postal cards, used, No. 1015-60 cents and No. 1087 35 cents each. Barbadoes stamps, 1-2c green and 1d carmine, 50 cents per 100.

Highest prices paid for entire collections of envelopes and postage stamps. Address

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Morley's Catalogue of Great Britain, Cards and Envelopes, listing all minor varieties. Post free, 12 cents.

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Dealer in Postage, Fiscal and Telegraph Stamps.

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Gold Medal Paris Exposition 1894 London, England

Mention The Newsletter when answering advs.

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Numbers are those of 1897 Edition Catalogue.

93 5 bani, green,05
101 3 " mauve,03
102 5 " green, . . . . .	.04
Set of five, 101 to 104, . . . . .	.10
112 50 bani, bistre, . . . . .	.04
118 25 " blue, . . . . .	.10
126 50 " orange, . . . . .	.25
Set of seven, 134 to 140, . . . . .	.10
Set of four, 140 to 144,	1.50
150 1 bani, bistre and rose, . . . . .	.10
151 2 " orange and brown, . . . . .	.25
Set of seven, 152 to 158, . . . . .	.12
" " " 159 to 166, . . . . .	.12

NOVA SCOTIA

1c black, 2c " " , 8 1-2c green; set of 3 only \$2.00.
 Though other Bargains will be found
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Drop me a Postal if you have not seen it.

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STANDARD Packets, as there are Imita-
 tions. The dealer may make more profit
 on the **OTHERS**, but is that to your benefit?

Are You Interested

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in filling up the blank spaces in your
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Justice 1c Unused, fine for	1 50
War 7c Unused, fine for	2 40
War 90c Unused, fine for	1 10
War Set Complete, 11 Varieties	4 00

We also buy collections at good prices.
 Your trade is earnestly solicited.

Address

BEAMISH BROTHERS,
 P. O. Box 1308.
 PHILADELPHIA, PA.

My Pickle

Business has been good and my
 Stamp trade excellent. However,
 I am prepared to supply many
 more of the readers of The
 Philatelic Newsletter with their
 wants and only desire the oppor-
 tunity, Isn't there something
 you want? Write me and if it is
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F. J. BESCHER,
 City Hall Market,
 Kansas City Mo.



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Choice lot of old Colonials and Rare United States at desirable prices. Everything on approval for reference.

W. H. BRUCE,

Hartford, Conn.

PLATE NUMBERS.....

For Sale or Exchange

Send list of Duplicates & Wants.

E. P. CAPEN, 5 South 4th St., MINNEAPOLIS.

The Northwestern Adjustment Co.,

GEO. W. ACHARD, Manager,

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This company undertakes the collection of philatelic accounts on moderate commission. Having a philatelist of twenty years experience, as manager, we can render better service than any collection agency, or 99 percent of the average attorneys. Write us for rates. Service everywhere in the U. S.

Stebbins & Young,

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St. Helena, 1896, 1, 2, 2½, 5, 10d, the set,	.65
Turks Islands, 1, 2½, 4, 5, 6d, 1s. " "	.95
Tobago, ½, 1, 2½, 4, 6d, 1s. " "	.84
Gibraltar, 5, 10, 20, 25, 40, 50c " "	.50
Malta, ½, 1, 2, 2½, 4d, 1s. " "	.72
So. Af. Rep. ½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 6d, 1s " "	1.02

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N. E. CARTER,

Delavan, Wis., U.S.A.

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ecure
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Advertise in
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cknowledged
dvantage to
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Secure space from GEO. W. ACHARD, Mgr.
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Box 2457, San Francisco, Cal.

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The Minneapolis Philatelic Society desires to exchange its duplicate copies of magazines for odd numbers to complete files. Have you anything to exchange? Send lists and we will send ours.

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--DESIRABLE SPECIMENS.--

Japan Memorial, '96, 4 var.....	20
Greece Olympian Games, '96, 4 var.....	12
3c. Playing Card	Cat. \$8.00; 6.00
4c. Playing Card	Cat. 10.00; 8.00
Confed. States, '61, 2c. green.....	Cat. 2.50; 2.25
Interior, 90c	Cat. 2.50; 2.00
Post-Office, 90c.	Cat. 2.00; 1.60
Treasury, 7c.	Cat. 1.50; 1.25
Treasury, 90c.	Cat. 1.00; .60
2c. Certificate, blue, imp.....	Cat. .50; .20
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Coldwater, Mich.

U. S. at 50 Per Cent Discount.

90c 1861.....	\$2.10	1c state, specimen.....	\$.60
10c 1857.....	.28	12c " unused.....	3.00
1c 1869.....	.40	90c " used.....	9.00
2c ".....	.10	2c " unused.....	15.00
6c ".....	.45	10c navy, used.....	1.10
24c ".....	4.00	10c Post office, used.....	1.10
12c 1872.....	.40	24c " " unused.....	.65
15c 1879, unused.....	.22	6c " " ".....	.12
30c " used.....	.10	12c war, used.....	.15
30c 1869, used.....	2.00	90c " unused.....	.85

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90c 1857, unused and fine, gum, \$16.00

All stamps in fine condition. Cash with order, postage extra. Above offers are for this month only. New price list just issued, sent free. Foreign stamps on approval at 50 per cent discount. Send us four 2-cent stamps, and the names of five young collectors in your town, and we will send you a United States stamp valued at 20 cents.

Please mention this paper when answering ad, and don't forget to read our ad in next months' Newsletter as it will contain a list of \$50 worth of rare stamps that we are going to distribute to our customers, absolutely free. Remember, next month's Newsletter will tell you how to get a rare stamp free.

WESTERN STAMP CO.,

Box 87, Eureka, South Dakota.

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	Cat. price.	My price.
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State Dpt. magnificent, unused full gummed set complete 1-90 finely centered, a bargain.	61.75	39.50

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JAS. R. GOODING (Dealer in U. S. only),
757 Fairmont Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

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Postal cards, used, No. 1015-60 cents and No. 1097 35 cents each. Barbadoes stamps, 1-2c green and 1d carmine, 50 cents per 100.

Highest prices paid for entire collections of envelopes and postage stamps. Address

JOHN ARBTIN, Supt. L. A. P.,
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