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THE CALIFORNIA COLLECTOR.

Vol. 1. Sacramento, Cal. September, '85. No. 1.

Reunion Isle.

This island lies in the Indian Ocean about five hundred miles east of Madagascar, and one hundred miles south-west of Mauritius.

It is thirty miles in length and almost as much in width, and has an area of about 825 square miles.

In 1852 the French government, to whom the colony belongs, authorised the issue of stamps to pay postage on letters.

Two values were all that was issued, viz. 15 centimes and 30 centimes.

They were printed in black, on paper having a bluish tint.

Unlike other colonies, they did not resemble the stamps used by the home governments, but were of a Geometrical design, and rectangular in shape.

The 15 centimes has a rosette in the centre, around which is a square consisting of of shaded balls, connected by lined ovals, Ile de la Reunion, above, Timb. Poste, and value (15c.) below.

The 30 centimes is a trifle smaller than the 15 centimes, and has for central device a square consisting of

interlaced waved lines forming a kind of net work. Ile de la Reunion above, Timb. Poste, and value (30c.) below.

They were in use a very short time, when they were withdrawn, and are now among the rarest stamps known.

A pair of them on the original envelopes were recently sold in Paris for 2000 Francs or about \$200. each.

A few reprints were struck from the plates, but these too are almost unobtainable, except on the breaking up of some large collection. They have been counterfitted to some extent, and one enterprising Boston dealer offers a pair of them for 6 CENTS.

However they are not likely to deceive many as the price asked for them is enough to satisfy one of their character.

Irregularities of the Mexican Mail.

We commend the following to persons expecting mail from Mexico.

Every foreigner in Sonora hailed with joy the news that a postal arrangement had been made whereby letters would come to Guaymas and other points on the railroad in sealed bags, and all expected a reform in our

postal system, and if any country on the face of the earth needs reform Mexico stands first on the list. To this date nothing seems to have been done, though it was published as going into effect January, 1 1885. I have in my possession a letter postmarked "San Francisco, December 24. 1884," which passed Benson on December 37th, reached Nogales Mexican postoffice by their mark December 28th, and I happily received it on the 16th of January, 1885. This is of frequent occurrence. And the paper mail is worse. That comes when it can. I receive papers from the City of Mexico in advance of those from San Francisco. All complaints seem unavailing. The universal "Quien Sabe" is all you get in response. The mail still comes in open bags, and as the Mexican Government has prohibited Wells, Fargo & Co. from carrying letters, those now sent by them must go as packages and pay package rates.

T. J. J. Guzman Mexico.

Exchange's.

With our next issue we shall open an Exchange Column, in which all subscribers will be allowed the privilege of inserting exchanges, free of charge, provided they do not consist of of more than 25 words.

Are you a stamp collector? If so send two dimes and receive this paper one year.

The CALIFORNIA COLLECTOR is the only monthly paper published on the Pacific Coast which is devoted entirely to Philately. Dealers should send us a trial advertisement.

Correspondents Column.

Questions regarding Philately may be discussed through this column.

I have set (116 var.) of Hamburg Local, all of which, even the envelopes, are gummied. Can any one tell me whether they are genuine or not.

G. S. P.

Can you tell me whether the U. S. penalty envelopes are collected as varieties? I have several, all of which are cancelled.

Chas. B. K.

I have a circular stamp with a shield in the centre, and crown above. 'S' on the left 'R' on the right. "3 K" below printed in black. Is it a revenue or postage stamp?

Unc.

BLACK LIST

Beware of Henry W. Davis, alias Chas. Warner, of Norvell Michigan.

He owes us for a sheet of stamps and although we have written to him about it, he has failed to respond.

Several other dealers have been served the same way.

Guess, Guess, To the person guessing nearest the number of postage stamps a common freight car will contain we will send FREE a set of Five varieties, Wells, Fargo, & Co. franked envelopes.——Open to all.——

THE CALIFORNIA COLLECTOR.

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Wm. A. Tebow, Editor.

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One page \$3.00

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Will exchange with all.

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W. A. Tebow

No. 1630—Q—Street.

Sacramento, Cal.

W. W. Baker, Printer.

This being our first number we hope
our mistakes will be overlooked.

To all those sending in their sub-
scriptions before the 10th. of Oct., we
will send this paper one year for only
20 cents.

Advertisers wishing to reach collec-
tors living in the Pacific States will do
well to give our paper a trial.

To every person sending us three
subscriptions and 60 cents, we will
give a rare unused Wells, Fargo & Co's
newspaper stamp, worth 25c by Scotts
Catalogue, Subscribe your-self and
get two of your friends to do so also,
and thus get one of the stamps.

PHILATELIC SCRAPS.

Some of the Bajocche Roman States
have the numeral inverted.

There are 463 postoffices in Oregon,
only one of which is of the first class
grade.

The 10 and 20 paras of Turkey, 1865
issue have been found with the in-
scription printed upside down.

The large U. S. newspaper stamps
are 40 times the size of the stamps
used by Bolivar in 1863.

We have a specimen of the 50 reis
Cape Verde surcharged "GUINE in
large letters.

All values of the first issue Shangi
were printed both with and without the
"s" after Candareen.

We have two of the 80 reis Portu-
gal, that did postal duty from the
Madeira Islands without being sur-
charged.



There are several varieties of each
value of the Saint Domingo provis-
ionals, owing to different styles of type
used in surcharging.

New issues, change of color, and
other items of interest to collectors will
be gratefully received and credited.

We are not going to give any glow-
ing account of what our next issue
will contain, but will modestly say
that we shall do all in our power to
make it interesting.

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 Birds egg list for stamp. 

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