
THE WORCESTER
—COUNTRY— PHILATELIST.

VOL. I. NO. 1. WORCESTER MASS. OCTOBER 1891. QUARTERLY.

OUR CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. *Name of the Association.*

SECTION 1.— This association shall be called "*THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION*," and its meetings shall be held in Worcester, Mass.

ARTICLE II. *Object of the Association.*

SECTION 2.— The object of this association is the study, collecting and interchange of postage stamps, envelopes, postal cards, etc., and the discussion of subjects relating thereto.

ARTICLE III. *Membership.*

SECTION 3.— The membership of this association shall be divided into the following classes:

- Active Members,
- Corresponding Members,
- Honorary Members.

SECTION 4.— The first class (Active Members) shall constitute the governing body of the association, from which all officers and committees must be elected.

SECTION 5.— The second class (Corresponding Members) shall consist of those who, by reason of residence abroad, or distance from place of meeting, do not desire to become active members. They are expected to take an interest in the objects of the association, and to aid it by contributions or information.

SECTION 6.— The third class (Honorary Members) shall consist of those persons who, by virtue of valuable services in the cause of Philately, are considered deserving of the distinctive title of honorary members.

SECTION 7.— Candidates for membership must be proposed in writing, by an active member of the association, at one of its meetings, and shall be referred to the Executive Committee, who shall report thereon at the next meeting when the ballot takes place.

SECTION 8.— No candidate shall be entitled to membership without the consent, by ballot, of a simple majority of the members present at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE IV. *Government.*

SECTION 9.— The governing board of officers of the association shall be as follows:

- President,
- Vice President,
- Secretary and Librarian,
- Treasurer,
- Executive Committee of two members.

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SECTION 10.— The term of each officer shall be for one year from date of annual election and shall hold office until their successors be elected. A simple majority of the members present at such a meeting, shall be sufficient for election.

SECTION 11.— It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of the association and act as chairman on all committees.

SECTION 12.— It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to preside, in case of the absence of the President, at all meetings, and in the absence of both, a temporary chairman shall be appointed.

SECTION 13.— The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all transactions and proceedings of the association. He shall conduct all its correspondence, keeping copies thereof in a book provided for that purpose. Notify members of their election and give notice of all meetings, at least three (3) days in advance of such meetings. All letters received by him in his official capacity, shall be filed among the archives of the association, and furthermore, in doing duty as Librarian, he shall take charge of all books and papers belonging to the association, and shall keep the same in good order. He shall also act as Superintendent of the Exchange Department.

SECTION 14.— The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys, provided that no moneys shall be expended by him, except by orders to that effect, duly voted upon by the members present at a regular meeting. He shall keep a strict account, in writing, of all moneys which he may so receive and disburse, in books kept for that purpose, together with all accounts relating to the association; and these books of accounts shall, at all reasonable times, be open to the inspection of the association or any of its members.

SECTION 15.— The Executive Committee shall inquire into the merits of all applicants for membership, and report thereon to the association at the next meeting. It shall also act as a standing committee of reference for any matters that may be duly referred to it by the association; as well as to examine and approve the annual statements reported by the treasurer and secretary.

SECTION 16.— The Secretary and Treasurer shall turn over at the termination of their offices all letters, moneys, vouchers, documents, books and other properties belonging to the association to their successors in good order.

ARTICLE V. *Meetings.*

SECTION 17.— The regular meetings of the association shall be held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

SECTION 18.— Special meetings shall be called by order of the President, at a written request of three members; due notice of three (3) days in advance must be given by the Secretary.

SECTION 19.— Six (6) Active members shall constitute a quorum to transact all the necessary business of the association.

ARTICLE VI. *The Elections.*

SECTION 20.— The annual election for officers and executive committee shall take place

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at the first regular meeting in October. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any of the offices, the same shall be filled at the next regular meeting.

SECTION 21 — The election of officers shall be by ballot, a simple majority of the whole number of members present at such meeting shall be sufficient for a choice.

ARTICLE VII. *Entrance Fee and Dues.*

SECTION 22.— The entrance-fee for Active or Corresponding Members shall be one (1) dollar.

SECTION 23. — The quarterly dues shall be twenty-five cents for active or corresponding members, payable in advance.

SECTION 24. — Any member, in arrears for three (3) months dues or over, shall be notified of the fact by the Treasurer, and requested to pay the same. If, within thirty (30) days after such notification and request, the arrearage be not paid, he shall then, on motion, cease to be a member of the association, and his name stricken from the roll.

ARTICLE VIII. *Resignation of Members.*

SECTION 25. — Any member may at any time resign his membership and leave the association, on payment of all his liabilities (consisting of stamps taken from exchange books, etc., and unpaid dues) to the association.

SECTION 26. — A member may be expelled by a two thirds vote of members present at any regular meeting of the association, for non-payment of dues etc., or gross misconduct. (Such member having first been notified of the intention of making such motion.)

ARTICLE IX. *Dissolution of the Association.*

SECTION 27. — The Association shall be dissolved only upon a resolution to that effect, carried by a majority of two-thirds of the members present, at a special meeting called for the purpose, and of which fourteen (14) days notice must be given by the Secretary. On such dissolution all property of the association shall first be converted into money, by selling the same to the highest bidder, and the proceeds thereof, together with remaining money in the treasury, shall be equally divided among the members.

ARTICLE X. *Amendments.*

SECTION 28. — This Constitution, as well as the following By Laws, shall not be altered, modified, or amended, except at a regular meeting, by a two thirds vote of the members present. No action thereon shall be valid, unless one (1) months notice shall have been given.

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BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I. *Rules of Order.*

All questions of order and parliamentary law arising at any meeting in debate, shall be decided according to "Cushing's Manual."

ARTICLE II. *Order of Business.*

The following shall be the order of business at all regular meetings:

1. Roll Call.

2. Reading Minutes of last meeting.
3. Proposals for Membership.
4. Report of Executive Committee on applications.
5. Election of New Members.
6. Unfinished business.
7. Reports of Officers.
8. Reports of Committees.
9. New Business.
10. Election of Officers and Committee.
11. Adjournment.

ARTICLE III. *Time of Meetings.*

All regular meetings held at the association rooms, shall be called as directed by the President.

ARTICLE IV. *Sales and Exchange.*

No stamps shall be bought, sold or exchanged at the place of meeting of the association, during any of its sessions. After adjournment in accordance with the following rules.

Rules.

1. All stamps for circulation amongst the members shall be placed in books provided for that purpose, and those for foreign circulation on sheets.
2. All stamps are to be washed and then fastened with gummed hinges to either books or sheets.
3. Each member is earnestly requested to pass the book on after three days to his following member as indicated on list of members accompanying each book.
4. Mark large and plain your number on places where you have removed stamps.
5. Mark on Account list in each book, under your number total amount you took out of the book.
6. November 1st and April 1st of each year each member will send the book he has in his possession at that time to the owner. Owner will examine his account list and spaces where stamps have been removed and send same at once to the Treasurer for entering amounts in the ledger.
7. Cancel all places with your private mark where stamps have been removed on your books, and put in new duplicates, and have your book ready for circulation, awaiting notice to that effect.
8. Mark over or under each stamp your lowest price in U. S. Currency, the Association will deduct 10 per cent. of each stamp sold, for expense account.
9. All foreign sheets must bear owners name and number.
10. If a member is out of town for any length of time, he shall notify his foregoing number to that effect, so as not to create any delay in the circulation of exchange books.
11. All members not complying with the above rules, will be excluded from the exchange list without any further notice.

ARTICLE V. *Foreign Stamps.*

Each member will be allowed three (3) days to examine the sheets sent us by foreign societies, after which time they have to be sent to the following number. The last man returning the sheet to the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI. *Members withdrawing from Association.*

In case any member wishes to withdraw from the Association, he can only do so upon full settlement of his account the association has against him. Should there be a balance in his favor, the association will settle in cash after deducting the usual 10 per cent. for the expense account.

ARTICLE VII. *Counterfeit Album.*

The Association's Counterfeit Album shall be kept in good order by the Librarian, and shall be on exhibition at any regular meeting after adjournment, on request of any member, if made in time to the Librarian.

ARTICLE VIII. *Members Responsibility.*

All members shall be held responsible for a period of six (6) months, after election, for the accounts of new members proposed by them. After the expiration of such time they are released from such responsibility.

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—OUR CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.—

It is ours by the hard work of the committee, of the Staten Island Society, who, as a model, have given to the Philatelists a constitution embodying so many good points and so very little that could be thrown aside that we could do no better than to adopt the same with such changes only as a difference in location made necessary. To return thanks is not enough nor is a "Resolution" sufficient. To live up to it and show that if we cannot go above we can successfully imitate and by so doing try our best to advance the cause of Philately. With this as our guide and a determination to live up to its requirements will be the best proof of the excellency of the "pudding." M.

The printing of this Constitution and By-Laws and the following sketch and notes was undertaken, for the good of the cause so to speak, by W. L. Brown and ably assisted by Mr. A. C. Woodward. We wish to announce that this is a decidedly *amateur* effort as regards the printing and editing of this little sheet and that we did our best with the materials at hand and the limited amount of time we could devote to it outside of business hours. The association surely needs a constitution and by-laws and we present it in this shape free of expense to the association because we know that the cash balance in the Treasurers keeping does not warrant placing the job in the hands of a printer. The continued publication of this sheet, quarterly or semi-occasionally, depends entirely upon the quantity of leisure moments, for that purpose, at the disposal of the printer. If it meets with any favor in our fraternity we will endeavor to issue it regularly and publish the announcements of the association.

B.

A COLLECTOR'S REMINISCENCES.

Yes, I am a collector and somewhat of an old one, at that. Early experience in the field of "Stamps" was of such a nature as to bring to mind many pleasant hours spent in companionable study of our hobby.

Quite a number of years ago amongst the pupils at the Worcester High School were three of a family but recently from Boston. The male member and one of the female members were stamp collectors, not "philatelists" for that word was not in use. From acquaintance with these two quite a number of scholars had more or less severe attacks of "stamp fever," myself amongst the rest, and being one of the intimates was let into the little ring of dealers. Shortly after this disease broke out the members of the school took a trip to Boston and then commenced my collecting in earnest as I thought. Instead of going with the body of the school three or four of us got lost with our Boston comrade for a guide and paid a visit to two of the oldest dealers in the country, F. Trifet and S. Allan Taylor. Am sorry to speak of the two in the same breath as the former still in the business has had a long and honorable career while the other well known as one of the greatest enemies of stamp collectors, being, in fact, *the* counterfeit dealer of America. Our purchases of the former were not very heavy, one or two high colored sets of continentals and one or two pretty Canadas; but when we entered the little room of S. Allan Taylor, it was going almost into a palace. The walls were decorated with many sheets of stamps and Oh! how much we could get for a little money. We almost regretted the little mite we had squandered (?) with Mr. Trifet.

Now Mr. Taylor was just the man to catch the boys. He told us all about stamps and how they were made and, particularly, how some folks cheated by asking so much for a little stamp. Now we, living in Worcester, ought to find lots of nice stamps, and I would give us two or three times as much for them as some others would in exchange for some he had.

We ought to study "Local" stamps, such as New York locals, Confederate locals, Hamburg locals, etc. As a result of his persuading talk we deposited with him every thing in the shape of money (even going without a dinner) and brought away such a lot of — pieces of paper.

I can remember my album, an old blank book, with my highly prized locals stuck fast to it. There were Confederates, Mobile with its big star, New Orleans, in two or three colors, Spartansburg, Greenville, Goliad, Macon and Petersburg. Macon that looked like a sale ticket and others not any handsomer. Next came that lot of catch-penny placards with "Boyd's City" and the "the post man striding over the house tops" and the great post office building and many others equally as valuable.

Another double page was covered with "Hamburg locals," more than a hundred in number, it was a complete set, and we valued them so much the more.

Were it not for the limited amount of ready money our dealings with Mr. Taylor might have been much more extensive. We did some thing in the "swap" line, (I don't think the exchange department was in existence at that time.) and from this city went a real one cent carrier on its envelope. One or two Mulreadys that we thought were pretty

poor samples of English stamps, and a strip of five cent Jefferson that were not of much account because they were without the usual perforations. I should like to show the association members what I got in return.

A lot of continentals, a number of sheets of flags etc. to make my album look pretty, and the privilege of ordering stamps from Mr. Taylor's list to the value of two dollars.

What that order was I cannot now say, but think that the four 1864 Mexico that had struck my fancy, the price was twenty or twenty five cents each. "I noticed the same four this last month for sale at fifteen cents a set."

My collection now numbered several hundred and was referred to by my companions with great gusto. I recall some of the specimens that I should like to put into a collection to day in better form. Like many others I thought the envelopes looked better cut just to shape and so had 3 cent 1853, 6 cent 1853 and 3 cent 1861 with the 3 and 1 1861 all cut to shape and a 40 cent envelope was treated in the same manner. Not a trace of the color of paper could be seen. A triangular Cape of Good Hope was also shown and Mr. Taylor's word given for it that it was a "wood block"—we didn't know what this meant but said what he said. But a change came over my fondest hopes when a business man stopping at our house one evening showed me the value of my collection and kindly set me to rights, furnishing me at the same time with quite a number of valuable stamps. I then found out what local pride meant as the Mulready's and the strip of five cent Jeffersons would have, with proper exchange, added several more specimens to my collection. The yankee trait

of swapping had placed my collection amongst the largest in number, but rather lower in value than after knowledge would have done. M.

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✦ EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT. ✦

— A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY. —

What are you going to do about the exchanges, and approval lots sent us? Is it first pick for some one "the rest afterwards" has been asked. To this I would answer: all approval sheets or lots will be shown to the members as far as possible before the meeting or early in the evening. Select what you want noting the stamp, its price, and the number of the sheet. As that sheet is called for make your choice known and the stamp will be taken off then and not before. Should two or three desire the same stamp it will be a matter of an additional bid or of one giving up his claim to another. We shall try and give no one cause for complaint in this matter.

The Worcester County Philatelic Association invites all collectors, of good social standing, who reside in Worcester County to become members of our society, either as active or corresponding members. We propose to make the association one of great fraternal and material interest to those who will join their cause with ours and help us *push*. Send applications and credentials to our Secretary, Mr. E. H. Marble 6 Ely St. Worcester Mass. B.

Our Exchange Circuit will be started as soon as enough members present their names to make it practical. It will be open to corresponding as well as active members,

and can, with proper support, be made a valuable department of our association. At present the Secretary will have charge and all who wish to have their names placed on the circuit list will inform the Secretary. Uniform sheets will soon be ready. B.

This paper is printed for the association for the purpose of making the association better known to collectors whose names do not yet appear on our books, to carry news, notes, and announcements of interest to members and also for the purpose of shaping our history in a convenient book form suitable for future reference. Our constitution is printed in the first number so as to be in a convenient shape for each members perusal as well as to give prospective members a clear insight to our work. From time to time the Wor. Co. Philatelist will contain sketches of direct interest to members. Any items of interest pertaining to our hobby or association will be thankfully received by the editor. B.

At the last meeting held Monday evening October 26, at the home of our Secretary Mr. E. H. Marble the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

G. Stuart Dickenson	President.
A. C. Woodward	Vice President.
E. H. Marble	Secretary.
W. L. Brown	Treasurer.

We enjoyed a very interesting meeting although there was not a very large attendance. The subject for discussion was "What shall we collect" and was thoroughly considered by the members present. Many very good things were shown among them, a fine New York 5 cent, Pony Express red and

also a black, Hale & Co. two varieties, also a Wyman, and many more all fine and all on the original envelope. These were shown by Mr. Lickenson. He also showed us an old catalogue of "Postage Stamps of the World" published in 1863 by Seaver and Francis, Cambridge, and a very fine sheet of Providence entire (11 5 cent and 1 10 cent) which he recently bought of Durbin and Hanes. Our Secretary had several good lots sent in for exhibition and sale. Stamps to about the value of thirty-five dollars changed hands. B.

Several of our collections number over three thousand varieties and many of our smaller collections contain valuable stamps some of the best of which we will name in our next number. Quite a number of our collectors make the study of U. S. stamps a hobby while others devote themselves to all kinds. Philatelic literature of all kinds is considered, by some, of as much value as stamps and is therefore hoarded up. Mr. Dickenson has about five thousand numbers of papers and books. He has been a subscriber of Durbin and Hanes' Philatelic Monthly for 14 years. B.

All lots of stamps intended for the association should be sent to our Secretary, Mr. E. H. Marble 6 Ely St. Worcester Mass., who will present them at the next meeting. B.

The association will soon start a Philatelic library and any of our members or friends who have duplicate papers, books or clippings to spare may send them to our Sec'y and receive the thanks of the association.

THE WORCESTER
—COUNTY— PHILATELIST.

VOL. I. NO. 2.

WORCESTER MASS. NOVEMBER 1891.

MONTHLY.

PHILATELY IN WORCESTER.

To assert that philately had ever taken a deep hold in this city would be to strain the truth, but despite the large numbers of school boys who collect today and tomorrow dispose of their collections at any price, a few amateurs have retained their interest unshaken.

The first collection the writer finds mentioned was in 1863, when a few rebel stamps sent home from the army, current issue U.S. and a few foreign begged or bought formed a large combination for the times. From that time on collecting must have spread slowly, as other matters more important were uppermost at that period. The word philately itself was coined in Paris in 1865 to take the place of timbrology and other terms in use previously. The issue of a new set of beautiful color and design in 1869 with the consequent discussion and objection to them and their withdrawal soon after, must have stimulated our hobby for a while, but still there was little interest as a stamp paper, *The Boys Stamp Gazette* issued, in January 1870, but one number for lack of support. In October 1870 *Harpers' Magazine* published a fine article entitled "Postage Stamps and their Origin" by J. M. Chute, which undoubtedly stimulated collecting very much in the country.

The writer read that article, and soon after began his collection which he has kept up to the present time, commencing first in a blank book and transferring successively to Scott's *Common Sense* and *International* albums. In 1873-74 Mr J. K. Tiffany spent much time here in the preparation of his *Philatetical Library*, published in 1874, which is the standard for this country.

In 1875 the writer sent on to Washington for a set of specimen Executive stamps, which were sent in an envelope bearing a 10 cent P. O. Dept. stamp and others of the set. This he has preserved, and it became the beginning of his collection on the entire envelope, which now numbers over 1000 varieties. In 1876 the fine collection exhibited at the Centennial in the government building, and also by Scott proved a great help and encouragement to the many collectors who saw them. Many small dealers had sprung into existence among them E. A. Welch, who published, in April 1879, one number of the *Stamp Reporter* and in 1880 two numbers of *The Collector*.

In 1879 the writer carried on for several months a prosperous stamp business in a vacant store No. 272 Main St. and here he disposed of large consignments of stamps from New York dealers. In January and February 1879 there appeared the *Boys of Worcester* devoted to stamps, but like all the preceding had little or no support.

In September 1884 the author found a copy of the Millbury Local on the original envelope, in Antiquarian Hall in this city, which was disposed of for a large sum, and is one of three known in that condition, and the first discovered on entire letter.

In 1887 W. J. Culross, issued six numbers of the *Peerless Review* and from time to time philatelic departments have appeared in local amateur papers, but nothing of importance occurred until the formation of the Worcester Philatelic Association in April 1891, when philately in Worcester took a new life and its future seems more insured than ever.

Collections in Worcester have always been small and the largest at present contains only about 4000 varieties, but many confine themselves to the issues of the United States which restricts the number very much. In October 1891 *The Worcester County Philatelist* appeared making, up to November '91, six papers and thirteen numbers issued in this city, besides several dealers price-lists.

G. S. DICKINSON.

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PHILATELIC "UPS AND DOWNS."

Ever since a lad in my teens I have kept myself busy collecting something, be it coins, minerals or stamps, and my collections have all had their "ups and downs" especially my stamp collections, for I have started several. Parental authority has it, that I began still earlier in life to collect, for they say that my pockets were always full of something in the line of bits of colored glass or broken crockery. Of course one thing leads to another and finally postage stamps began to attract my attention. The first stamp which I obtained was gathered in by me from the floor of a Washington St. music store, in Boston, at that time we lived there and I was about six years old. It was a 25 cent blue Republic of France cancelled with a lot of small dots. I took it home and studied on it, spelled out the letters and made enquiries about it and wondered if I could find any other kinds about. I went poking around the desk in my father's store and found quite an interesting harvest in the waste basket of stamps of the issue, 1870-72 U. S. postage. There might have been "grills" among them but I had not then proceeded far enough in my stamp research to consider them.

Everything that was a stamp or that looked like one was layed away in a box. These had been such a nuisance to all in the house that they mysteriously disappeared. Christmas with all its pleasures came along about that time and my grief at the loss of my stamps was forgotten.

After a few years our family moved to Worcester and very soon after the subject of stamps was introduced to me by the larger boys on our street whom I came across trading their treasures during noonings between school hours. I was too young to receive any favors from them but watched my chances and finally got into the "ring." I believe I found a few old issues of the U. S. postage on some old letters about the house, which I had overlooked on my former raids, and some document stamps on the checks and old papers in a shoe case in our store cellar. With these as a letter of introduction I approached the boys one noon and they kindly traded with me to the extent of thirty or forty varieties of cheap European stamps for my entire lot except what I had left at home for "keeps."

Once in the "ring" I found out that a large number of these stamps came from an old book store on Front St. kept by a very eccentric gentleman, Mr. Richard O'Flynn.

Hardly a boy in Worcester did not know Mr. O'Flynn, and possibly some remember the box covers used as trays held several hundred one cent stamps in one, and two cent stamps in the other, and so on, and that those stamps used to disappear by the handfuls while Mr. O'Flynn turned to find an old book, for a customer. When the boys had become thoroughly supplied with the cheaper stamps, our stamp dealing friend would occasionally allow us the privilege of looking at his collection of rarities, and to select as many as we could pay for from his store of rarer stamps.

Possibly Mr. O'Flynn knew how and where his cheap stamps disappeared, but he was kind enough not to expose the culprit when among his fellows.

An occasional approval sheet from New York or Boston found its way among us and it usually went back empty, unless the dealer ventured to send us stamps of value beyond our "income".

Such was our source of supply, and our collection grew larger till our little composition book with its thin pages were plastered on both sides with stamps, stuck fast. The need of a new and better book and better arrangement, then presented itself.

The "Boys" had books and albums of various kinds. In some, the stamps were arranged neatly and put on with hinges. In others the stamps were stuck fast, badly arranged and soiled. By comparing my collection with the others I found that my collection as not in satisfactory shape, so began to cast about for "ways and means" to better the condition of it.

A copy of "Stanley Gibbons" album looked up at me one day as I glanced into the window of Putnam and Davis, book-sellers, and I immediately went in and looked at it. Finally I bought a copy of this album and began my tug of war to remove my stamps and arrange them in the proper spaces in the book. This new album did not satisfy my needs very long for soon after I saw a Scott's "International" album, cheap edition, and began the task again of removing my stamps to a better book. This done my collection grew to the extent of nine hundred varieties. My pride in it was immense. It was the largest collection I knew of in our locality. The unused stamps of the British Colonies interested me most at that time and I had quite a lot of them.

As was the case with most of the boys there came a day when I traded off my collection for a fine lot of fossils. For several days I was undecided whether to trade or not. I wanted both the fossils and my stamps but could not arrange it so and finally traded. Thus ended the first epoch of my stamp collecting.

After an interval of a year or two of close application to my books and school work I again took up my hobby and heartily wished back my old collection but that was not to be found. I then decided to collect this time for keeps and never to dispose of my collection if it were possible to keep it, for then it might save me some cause for future regret.

W. L. B.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

Early in the Spring of 1891 three of our older Worcester collectors had done considerable trading of stamps together and found it both profitable and congenial, so we then decided that a larger union of kindred spirits would be desirable. We soon began the work of finding out who and where the resident collectors were, and of making plans for the purpose of getting them all together. We assigned the work according to the opportunities of each gentleman. Mr A. C. Woodward and Mr. Forehand and the writer went into it to win and each gained something toward the end in view. Finally the services of Mr. J. B. Witherby were enlisted and he used his bicycle, to a good purpose, in going around to see the collectors and urged them to be present at an organization meeting.

On Wednesday evening April 15 1891 eleven gentlemen interested in our hobby met at the store of Mr. A. C. Woodward and organized under the name of The Worcester Philatelic Association. Officers to serve three months were elected as follows: A. C. Woodward President, J. B. Witherby Vice President, and W. L. Brown Secretary. Some business was done and the discussion of several philatelic subjects enjoyed. A hearty interest was manifest, and all who could agreed to meet again on call from the Secretary.

The second meeting was called to order, Monday evening May 4, in the V. M. C. A. parlors. After the usual routine of business some interest was manifest in stamp discussion and trading.

The third meeting was held, Monday evening May 18, in the Pilgrim Hall Reading Room and five new names added to the membership list. This brought our list up to seventeen members.

On Monday evening, June 1, the members again gathered for a fourth meeting in the Reading Room and entertained themselves with the discussion of stamps, trading and selecting such stamps as they desired from a large collection sent on by a New York dealer.

At the fifth and sixth meetings held Monday evenings June 15 and 29, in the Reading Room the interest in the discussion of subjects pertaining to our hobby flagged and we adjourned our meetings for a Summer vacation to meet again September 14.

At the seventh meeting our present Secretary was elected to membership and considerable business of importance was done.

At the eighth meeting held, September 28, at Pilgrim Hall, the Constitution and By-Laws of The Staten Island Philatelic Society were adopted, with a few changes making it suitable for our use. Mr. Forehand resigned as Sec'y-Treas. and Mr. Marble was chosen to fill the position of Secretary and W. L. Brown to act as Treasurer.

At the ninth regular meeting held at the Reading Room, October 12, the general business and discussion was followed by a talk on "Philately and Its Early History" by Mr. Dickinson.

At the tenth meeting held at the home of our Sec'y Mr. Marble No. 6 Ely St. the following officers were elected to serve one year: G. Stewart Dickinson, President; A. C. Woodward, Vice President; E. H. Marble, Secretary; W. L. Brown, Treasurer. W. L. B.

•THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST. •

—DEVOTED TO—
OUR HOBBY.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

WALTER L. BROWN 3 Norwood St.
G. STEWART DICKINSON 7 Cedar St.
A. C. WOODWARD 883 Main St.

This is a notion of ours and will be sent to all who care enough about it to send twelve one cent stamps for postage.

We will exchange with all who wish to place our address upon their list. Two copies will be appreciated as one copy will be placed on file in the association library.

Small exchange notices will be inserted on the last page for members of the association at the rate of fifteen cents for five lines.

Our friends will kindly send us any sketches, news or notes of interest to our hobby or association and receive our thanks for the same in advance.

Address: THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,
883 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

ODDITIES.

We find no mention of the 1870-82 issues of U. S. postage unperforated as a regular issue yet these stamps cannot be very rare for we have seen several of the 2 cent brown and the 3 cent green all used. One of our members recently purchased fine used copies of a 5 cent blue and a 10 cent brown, with wide margins, at a small price. After a careful search in Mr. Sterling's Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps 1887 we find them listed as oddities but not priced. We find the values of the unperforated stamps of this issue mentioned as follows: 2 cent vermilion, 3 cent green, 5 cent blue, 6 cent rose, 10 cent brown, on white and brown surface paper, 12 cent purple, 15 cent orange, and 30 cent black all used. It would be interesting to know whether these stamps were or were not put through the perforating machine or whether they were issued to the post offices without having first passed through the perforating machine. Mr. Sterling makes mention among his oddities of some of the stamps in unsevered pairs, used and unused, and part perforated, also that some of the unperforated stamps with large margins showed a slight marking of the perforator. Mr. Marble has a 3 cent vermilion of the 1887 issue, printed on blue surface paper which he recently picked up. It is quite an oddity. Mr. Sterling mentions used perforated stamps of this issue on pink paper, but none on blue. Mr. Brown has a 2 cent blue Bank Check first issue document unperforated, with fine margin, with a vertical row of perforations at right within the die 2 m. From the above it would seem that the study

of oddities might be made a very interesting one, and we will be glad to make mention of any that our friends will send in for inspection. Such stamps will be well cared for and promptly returned to the owner.

NOTES.

The higher values of the present issue cannot now be obtained at our Worcester post-office for some reason probably best known to the "powers." When the issue was first placed on sale at this office the writer was fortunate in having enough cash about him and bought the set except the 6 cent stamp which they did not have. The 6 cent stamps of the issue just previous to this could not be obtained. These we got from the post-office in Providence.

Bananas are out of season now, but Mr. Dickinson showed us quite a treat of them, at the last club meeting, which however we could not enjoy internally. The treat was in the shape of a cloth lined envelope with thirty green 5 centimes stamps (1029 Scott) of the Congo state all post marked "Banana."

Worcester has become quite a market for stamp dealers to dispose of their wares. At the last meeting, as well as at the meeting before, of our association, stamps to the value of \$30 or \$40, each evening, were purchased from the lots in possession of the Secretary. Among the interesting things bought by the members this month were a "Post Obitum," a 2 cent Navy green, error, a fine set of proofs, and fine lot of the rarer locals on the covers. Altogether the members have invested about five hundred dollars within the last thirty days.

Local pride may cause us to devote too much space to our own affairs and interests but we do not do it boastingly, or at least try not to. The purpose of this little sheet is to represent our Worcester city and county collectors and the association. After all what is better than local pride?

We regret the fact that some one or two of our number have been published as frauds, but can say in good faith that there is not a fraud among us. We do know that there has been a little troublesome misunderstanding between some of us, and one or two dealers outside, but that is no reason why a gentleman should be published as a fraud. We also know that certain dealers, whose great experience and long connection with the business ought to be worth something, and is of course, are a little bit inclined to be stiff about some things especially differences in accounts or sheet numbers or kindred annoyances, but they should bear in mind that mistakes occur in the best regulated families and that the mistakes are just as liable to occur on their end of the line as on our end. And we would advise certain dealers not to be too hasty in publishing a man as a fraud, because that is a very grave and serious charge especially when put in print. A little enquiry and patience and a little less of that stiffness, on both sides perhaps, would easily right matters. Any such differences between dealers and any of our number that cannot be settled easily and satisfactorily should be laid before our Secretary. Never publish a man without warning or without proof because there is always two sides of a story.

W. L. B.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

—DEPARTMENT.—

- G. Stewart Dickinson, President, 7 Cedar St. Worcester Mass.
A. C. Woodward, Vice President, 883 Main St. Worcester Mass.
E. H. Marble, Secretary, Box 641 Worcester Mass.
Walter L. Brown, Treasurer, 3 Norwood St. Worcester Mass.
All communications for the association should be sent to the Secretary.

—oſo—

At the last meeting held at the home of W. L. Brown, Monday evening November 9, a good attendance and a very lively interest in stamp affairs was shown. Mr. A. C. Woodward was appointed librarian for the association and is now ready to receive favors for the association in the way of duplicate copies of philatelic papers' books and clippings which the members or friends may have to spare for the association. Many fine lots of stamps were shown by the members, and several unique specimens which lack of space forbids to enumerate. We enjoyed the presence of one visitor, Mr. Merrick, of the High School. The meetings are growing better and it is safe to say that before the Winter is passed we will find quite a long membership roll and a warm place in the hearts of our friends. We would like to see more of the members out to the meetings however and invite all who are interested in our pursuit to come.

The Treasurer would like to receive remittances from all whose dues to the association are in arrears. Notices of such have been sent and early returns are expected.

The Circuit sheets are about ready and will be supplied to members at the rate of two cents per sheet. Send to the Treasurer or Secretary for them. This will be a good way to dispose of duplicates and make pleasant acquaintances among our corresponding members. There is a great deal of pleasure and profit to be got from a well conducted exchange circuit and we hope ours will be well patronized.

The Treasurer has been appointed printer for the association and is almost overwhelmed by the honor conferred.

This department has been allotted to the association, by the proprietors of this paper, for the use of the Secretary to make any announcements or remarks of interest to the association and we hope he will find it of some value and conduct it in his usual bright style.

On Wednesday evening, November 18, four of our number enjoyed the pleasure of a talk with Mr. Alvah Davison, whose business called him to our city for a day or two. He told us many interesting things about New York dealers and collectors and philatelic matters in general. He expressed a friendly interest in our association and his willingness to represent us in New York. We are happy to announce him as an honorary member. Come again friend Davison.

The job for printing the application blanks has been given to the printer and they will be ready in a few days. The Secretary will send them to all who wish to apply for membership and hopes he will have a number of calls for them soon.

W. L. B.

NOTES.

In looking over a catalogue of 1878 I noticed amongst the Postal Cards of Austria only 42 different cards are mentioned. Brother Watson has enough catalogued to fill up about six pages of that same catalogue. The United States is credited with nine, including one with large U. S. P. O. D. watermark, three "light, medium and dark brown" small watermark, five 1875 all different shades of buff. Including these and completing the list with the same minuteness of color examination we shall have a goodly number when "The Post Card Catalogue" is completed. M.

Mr. Dickinson recently added to his collection another fine thing in the shape of a complete set of United States (1870 type) postage on chemical paper issued as a trial set in 1876. This is a unique set of stamps and we hope to know more about them soon. Mr. Dickinson seems very fortunate in picking up such good things as this set and the sheet of 'Providence,' 'Post Obitum,' and the Navy Department error 2 cent green all of which he has obtained within the last thirty days. His philatelic library is also growing fast. B.

Mr. Marble is now making a study of the different die impressions of the 3 cent red issues of 1851 and 1861 and of the 5 cent brown of the same issues. Also of the different die impressions and knives of the United States envelopes. B.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

G. S. DICKINSON 7 Cedar St. Worcester Mass. desires to exchange or purchase old philatelic papers or stamps on original envelopes not in his collection. Special attention paid to proofs, oddities and entire envelopes.

W. L. BROWN 3 Norwood St. Worcester Mass. desires to exchange U. S. revenues and entire envelopes and post cards for stamps, entire envelopes, post cards or philatelic papers not in his collection.

A. C. Woodward 88 1/2 Main St. Worcester Mass. desires to exchange U. S. Document, Match, Medicine and Playing Card stamps for any not in his collection.

FOR SALE

IN BREAKING UP A COLLECTION OF AMERICAN STAMPS THE FOLLOWING VARIETIES ARE

—OFFERED AT A BARGAIN—

U. S. 90 cent, 1861 used	\$.25
U. S. 30 cent, 1869 used	\$.25
U. S. 10-12-15-24 cents, 1870 unused	\$.65
U. S. envelope buff paper 4 cent red and blue entire	\$ 1.50
U. S. Executive Department set 1-2-3-6-10 cents used	\$.85
New Brunswick set of six used	\$.50

ADDRESS

—But as the above 'ad' appeared in 1878 and the party has laid aside stamp collecting we will omit the rest.

CHRISTMAS * NUMBER

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

A Monthly Magazine

Devoted to Stamp Collecting.

VOLUME 1.

NUMBER 3.

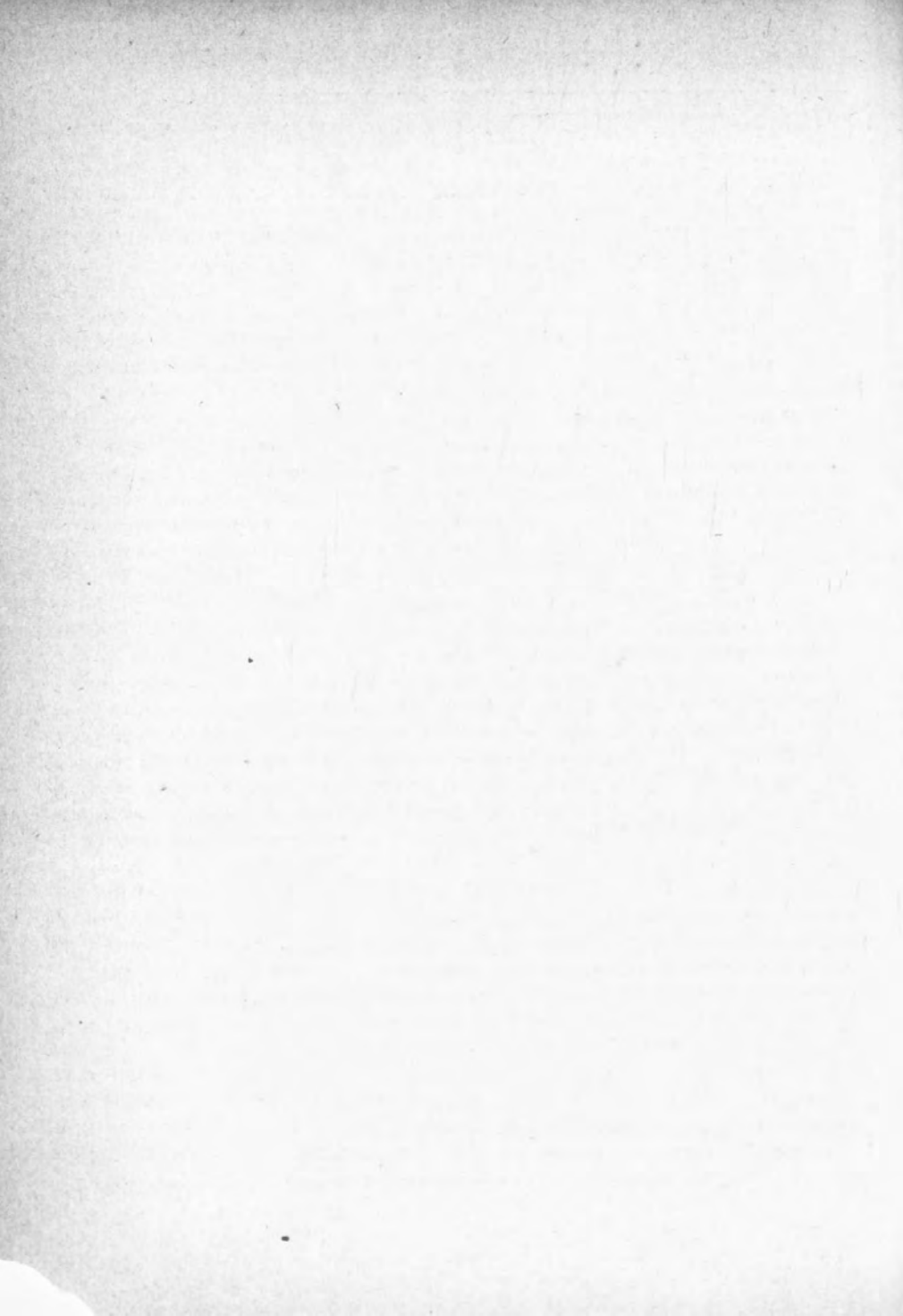
* DECEMBER 1891 *

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G. Stewart Dickinson
Walter L. Brown
A. C. Woodward
PUBLISHERS
388 Main St. Worcester Mass.





NOTED COLLECTIONS.—H. E. DEATS.

On January 20th 1878, one of the largest lots of stamps ever sold to a private individual in this country was purchased by Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J., from the well known dealer, E. B. Sterling. The price paid was \$7,000; and although this may seem a large sum, yet the stamps at Sterling's prices amounted to over \$10,000.

Being desirous of seeing what I knew must be a magnificent collection, I took occasion to visit Mr. Deats a short time ago, and enjoyed his hospitality for a couple of days.

His collections are mounted on blank sheets of heavy ledger paper, 8x11-2 inches, each having a double rule border about a half an inch from the edge. His stamps at present fill 1,100 of these sheets, which when placed one on top of the other will make a bundle two feet in height; but the different collections are kept separate, so they are more convenient to handle.

I first glanced over the United States postage proofs and essays, of which he has 1,450; and although I at one time thought little of proofs, after seeing this collection I was compelled to admit that, in all my life, I had never seen such beautiful specimens of the engraver's art as were here presented; not only were the proofs of the complete stamps shown, but scores of proofs of the medallions, borders, labels, etc. of the stamps; and then the essays, what a sight they presented for the philatelist! Dozens of designs which were submitted and which many collectors have never seen, some of them master pieces of engraving and others not fit for the stopper of a beer bottle. Here was a set of entire envelopes, the stamps on them being black impressions of the 1870 issue of adhesives; but the ones among these which particularly caught my eye were the "hub" proofs, of which there were a goodly number. The total value of the postage proofs is \$2,200.

From this display I ran through the proofs of documents, match, medicine, tobacco and liquor stamps, numbering in all 3,385; and of these I almost despair of giving a description, as their number seems to be legion. I noticed no less than six of the \$5,000 revenue proofs, worth \$100 each, being printed in three colors. The second and third issues of documents were shown up to \$50 each printed in eleven different colors! Of the \$200 revenue proof on paper he has seven, these being worth \$25 each; also a proof on cardboard of the \$200 1st issue being the only known proof.

In tobacco and liquor proofs Mr. Deats has nearly everything—not only the proofs of the stamps, but every variety and style of license issued for the sale of these commodities. He has a beautiful set of essays of tobacco stamps, the central design being a tobacco plant.

His medicine stamps are mounted the same as the documents, one stamp to a sheet, first, old paper, then silk, and watermark paper, and arranged by Sterling's catalogue.

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

Mr. Deats' medicine proofs number 1,350, many of them being in unsevered pairs. Nearly all the undelivered dies are represented, and one of them, the D. M. Richardson 3 cent match, printed in black, is the only proof of that die known to exist.

After these, I looked over the foreign postage and revenue proofs and trial colors, these numbering 2,750, and many of them being in entire sheets of one hundred each.

One lot of 1,670 of the trial colors he had just received from one of the Casey's sales. They were Canadian and South American postage proofs, some of them being in over one hundred shades of color! Also 2,000 trial colors added since, making 2800 varieties now.

For the document stamps, one is given for each stamp, the first line being those perforated, the next, part perforated, and the unperforated; all the shades of color and varieties following on the lines. Here I noticed two of the \$20 Probate of Will catalogued at \$15.

In revenues I also saw three hundred varieties of license stamps, and many cotton tax stamps of brass, the latter being unmounted, as an album has not yet been designed for them.

He has all of the Canada bill stamps but fourteen, including many shades of color surcharges, etc.

His collection of postage stamps numbers 5,100 varieties, this consisting of North, South and Central American, with a few others, these being the only countries he collects.

The totals of Mr. Deats' stamp collections are as follows:

United States proofs and essays	1,450
Foreign postage and revenue proofs	1,400
United States document proofs	650
" " match " 	800
" " medicine " 	1,350
" " playing card " 	90
" " proprietary " 	130
" " revenue essays	150
" " tobacco and liquor proofs	215
Foreign trial colors	2,500
United States postage, adhesives, envelopes and revenues of all kinds	1,600
North, South and Central American and West Indies postage	2,000
Other foreign	1,500

Total 14,135

Of paper money he has alone 3,500 varieties, including Confederate, Colonial, Continental and fractional currency; and his collection of illustrated war envelopes numbers about the same, many of these, however, being duplicates.

Of coins he has a complete set of the United States silver dollars with the exception of the 1804, 1836, and 1838. The halves, quarters and minor coins are well represented and everything is in fine condition.

Mr. Deats, library of philatelic and other papers contains over 5,000 different pieces, including catalogues, books, pamphlets, etc.; of these, 70 volumes are bound. His duplicate papers number about 10,000.

Of archaeological specimens, prehistoric stone and bone implements he has 1,500; among which I particularly noticed two very large war clubs, a blow from either of which would kill an ox. He also has a large number of South Sea Island curios, purchased from the Boban collection, sold by Frossard in October 1887, among these being a dress worn by a South Sea Island woman. In addition to these he has a considerable number of curios, antiquities, etc., which were accumulated by him during a number of years. His collection of minerals is displayed in a large case in the dining room, each specimen being set in a small box.

In such a short article as this it is exceedingly difficult to give anything like a good description of such large collections, but I have tried to give a general idea of his possessions, while the remainder will have to be supplied by imagination. The writer spent about fifteen hours in looking over his various collections, and even in this time they were simply glanced at, as to have done more would have taken many days, which, unfortunately, I could not spare at that time.

Mr. Deats is an enthusiast regarding his collections, and he is always happy to show them to his brother collectors; and all who have a chance to see them I know will agree with me that time was never more profitably or pleasantly spent than when looking them over,

ALVAH DAVISON in *The Collectors Ledger* Sept. 1888.

—o§o—

WHAT SHALL WE COLLECT?

After our meeting Sept. 26th, with my mind still occupied by some facts that had been presented. I took out my collection, and one or two catalogues and looked the subject squarely in the face. Commencing with 1851 to 1868. I examine my 5 cent Jefferson's, and call upon one or two friends, we compare. Here is a clear yellow, another rather more on the lemon yellow, and then brown, red brown, chocolate brown, heavy dark brown, no less than three colors and six or seven distinct shades. Shall we collect all?

With three we ought to be satisfied. Examining again we find one with embossing and here comes in the question of "grills". With three and some times four sizes grills to place on our collections, we increase our varieties as our study may call for.

In a collection of entire envelopes, the blue paper seems to be about as variable as any oppression coloring. I can readily distinguish five shades, and am not an expert at color testing. Which is "the blue" paper? A 5c 1886 (No 221 Evans) is almost a stone grey, while a 2 cent 1886 "Kellogg" so called (why?) is a very dark blue. Similar differences are found in the ambers, creams and oriental buffs (or fawn) while manila may be yellow, in the un gummed envelopes.

Referring again to the envelope collection we note the different sizes and picking out 40 2 cent brown we find only a small number of the many catalogued varieties. This envelope alone, if complete in its collection, would add about 118 or 120 to the numbers in your collection. If you wish to take the sizes of envelopes, watermarks of the paper, and varieties of dies into account your collection will never be complete, and always a questionable article. It is in fact beyond the reach of any except the most advanced philatelist.

Of the two cent envelope from 1864 to 1890 we have about 16 to 20 distinct dies with a few varieties such as the round 'O' of 1884, and the uneven '2's' of 1883. Major Evans catalogues 18 dies and notes two or three others. I think perhaps if you get 15 of these into your collection you ought to be satisfied.

From the envelopes look into a collection of revenues and what a variety of shades you find! Its catalogued brown, but you find from light bronze to dark mahogany. You go on until from six to eight specimens are found of one stamp. If your pocket book will admit of it collect everything, if not confine yourself first to something definite, adding others only when you can do so without detriment to your particular branch of philately. Make your collections complete. Six complete sets look better than a dozen scattered sets and a dozen odd stamps that look lonesome on your album page. Don't wander you will find the poorest hen in the flock is the one that scratches three scratches in twenty places, while the fat one has put her twenty into three places and goes the most satisfied. M.

—c50—

Which is Right?

"Up to 1878 there were no towns in Montenegro, the capital, Cettengi, consisting of about one hundred houses of a poor sort. After the Russo-Turkish war, the independence of Montenegro was recognized, and a slice of territory bordering on the Adriatic was added giving them a solitary seaport. In this newly acquired territory there are several towns, the largest containing 7,500 people. The people are very ignorant, hold education in contempt, and very few of them can read or write. There are but three or four schools in the whole country, and up to 1871 there was not a single newspaper published within its border.

Postage stamps were introduced in 1874 consisting of seven values viz: 2 soldi (or novitch) yellow; 3 green; 5 red; 10 blue; 15 brown; 25 lilac. Used specimens are rarely met with but when it is considered how poor and ignorant the people are and few, even among their priests, can write, it is not to be wondered at; probably a vast number of these never saw or heard of a postage stamp. "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," is no doubt a popular saying with the Montenegrins." *The Stamp Collectors Companion* Oct.

"Montenegro is somewhat smaller in area than the state of Connecticut and has a population a little less than that of Rhode Island. It is well governed and education is general. The mail service has been confined to the capital city Cettengi but is now extending. Used stamps of this country are scarce." *Philatelic Monthly* Dec. 1891. W

•THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,•

—DEVOTED TO—

OUR HOBBY.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

WALTER L. BROWN 3 Norwood St.
G. STEWART DICKINSON 7 Cedar St.
A. C. WOODWARD 883 Main St.

This is a notion of ours and will be sent to all who care enough about it to send twelve one cent stamps for postage.

We will exchange with all who wish to place our address upon their list. Two copies will be appreciated as one copy will be placed on file in the association library.

Small exchange notices will be inserted on the last page for members of the association at the rate of fifteen cents for five lines.

Our friends will kindly send us any sketches, news or notes of interest to our hobby or association and receive our thanks for the same in advance.

Address: THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,
883 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

NOTES.

Most of the philatelic papers published in the United States find their way to Worcester regularly. The publishers of this paper carry twenty six subscriptions and it will be brought up to over thirty soon. That is a fair beginning towards a philatelic library of papers. We also have some of the best books published. Mr. Dickenson's collection of books and papers numbers over five thousand pieces but as he has been gathering them in for the last fifteen years it would not take long to double the number at his present rate, subscriptions to fifteen or twenty papers not to say anything about the books and catalogues he buys. Worcester probably patronizes philatelic literature at the rate of forty five or fifty yearly subscriptions.

One has to hustle now-a-days to keep up with the list. Mr. Watson's new catalogue of post cards and letter sheets reminds us that we ought to have seventeen varieties of United States post cards and thirty four varieties of letter sheets. This of course includes the distinct varieties of paper etc. the study of which is very interesting and ought not be overlooked entirely.

On Dec. 7th the two well-known firms of R. R. Bogert & Co., of New York and Durbin & Hanes, of Philadelphia, were incorporated under the laws of the state of New Jersey as one firm with the name of Bogert & Durbin Co. Capital \$75,000. *Dec. Post Office.*

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

Owing to the very unfavorable weather, Monday evening Nov. 23, the members of the Worcester County Philatelic Association did not come very strong in number. The meeting was called at the home of Mr. Dickinson but as only two, the PHILATELIST mechanical engineers Messrs Brown and Woodward, braved the elements the meeting could not be called to order. The evening was passed very pleasantly with Mr. Dickinson in looking over his collections of stamps and philatelic books and papers. We were very pleasantly entertained by Mr. Dickinson's reminiscences and flow of wit and forgot for the time, the pouring rain and roaring wind outside.

Among the interesting things in his collection which he showed us at the meeting were two West Town Locals one on an envelope with a 3 cent 1861 postage and the other on an envelope with an 1875 issue 3 cent green. Both were postmarked "Street Road." Also a pretty set of thirteen varieties of the 30 cent stamped envelope, present issue, all entire and unused; and the three new "odd shaped" U. S. stamped envelopes 2 cent green on white, amber and amber manilla paper unused. A 2 cent red '83 die 1-st., on blue, No. 788 Horner, unused and entire, value \$ 10.00, and an albino 1 cent news wrapper. Also a folded letter showing a high rate of postage which had on the cover, addressed to Bavaria, a 2 cent Jackson '61, 30 cent yellow and a 24 cent violet making a total of fifty-six cents for postage on an ordinary letter. And an envelope from the Department of State having a 24 and two 30 cent State Dept. upon it. Among the locals, we saw on the original cover a "C. Carter paid" (\$ 3.50), D. O. Blood & Co., B and C. Scott, (\$ 10. each), an American Letter Mail Co., Government City Despatch No. 4, (\$ 8.00), Bloods Post Office Despatch (\$ 2.00), Pomeroy Letter Express (\$ 2.00), Pony Express red, 'Hale, two varieties, one red, which we do not find catalogued. Also New Orleans 5 cent brown on blue paper (\$ 3.00). A fine copy of the New York black and a 10 cent green 1861 on cover with a Danish West Indies stamp mailed on Shipboard.

We have to enjoy Mr. Dickinson's collection on the installment plan as he has so many varieties and good things that we cannot comprehend them all at once.

While in Providence, on Thanksgiving day in search of a Rhode Island turkey and the usual fixings, at the home of my parents, the writer had the good fortune to find Mr. Jno. B. Calder at his place of business. It being a busy day Mr. Calder's duties kept him at the store and he could not show us any of his stamps; but we enjoyed a good talk with him and learned many interesting things about philatelic matters in Providence. There is a solid and flourishing philatelic society there and the members are men of standing and means and also owners of valuable collections. THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST hopes to hear more about Providence from Mr. Calder.

Just as we go to press we receive a pretty little favor from The Chicago Philatelic Society in the form of an invitation to the banquet commemorating the sixth annual installation of officers of the Society, at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Thursday, January 7th. 1892. We return thanks for the kindness and wish the boys a jolly time.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

—DEPARTMENT.—

G. Stewart Dickinson, President, 7 Cedar St. Worcester Mass.

A. C. Woodward, Vice President, 883 Main St. Worcester Mass.

E. H. Marble, Secretary, Box 641 Worcester Mass.

Walter L. Brown, Treasurer, 3 Norwood St. Worcester Mass.

All communications for the association should be sent to the Secretary.

—o8o—

The last meeting of the association was held at home of Mr. Marble, 6 Ely St., and proved a very interesting one in many ways. Mr. Marble showed us several carefully prepared collections of the 3 cent red 1851-57 perforated and unperforated on envelopes and otherwise showing the different die impressions of that stamp. These were all neatly mounted on large pieces of bristol board and arranged with concise descriptions of each stamp. It was a very interesting little collection and showed a deal of careful study and work in making it up. Mr. Marble looked thro' over 5000 stamps to find a certain variety. We hope to be able to print the descriptive sketch which Mr. Marble prepared and also a diagram showing the variations. Such studies ought to be made on other stamps. The meeting was honored by the presence of one visitor, Mr. Roney.

The Librarian has received two bundles of papers for the Library. One from W. L. B. and another from himself with promises of more from friends and members of the association. Durbin and Hanes kindly sent a copy of their catalogue, Edition De Lux, for which the association returns a vote of thanks. W. L. B.

In a letter received from Pres. John K. Tiffany by our Sec'y this sentence occurs, "I am always glad to see the formation of local societies knowing well how much pleasure it would have afforded me to have belonged to one when a beginner." But, he adds, "I hope for greater things from a national society, which should have at least one member in every locality." To this we add our heavy endorsement. One national society, and that patronized by every national philatelist. Sectional feeling has done much to help, much to hinder such an organization. If every one would have the feeling expressed by one of our consuls when questioned as to his position on certain European matters "First of all I am an American and then I am from the old Puritan settlement of Boston." American Philatelist *first*, Local society *second*.

Mr. Davison in his recent pamphlet "How to Collect" which by the way we wish to enter our endorsement of, as it is the most carefully prepared article that has come to our notice, touching upon philately from a point little referred to by writers, 'how to collect.' From this little work I quote "in fact every branch of mercantile life is represented, these men (lawyers, bankers, merchants, book-keepers, etc.) finding in stamp collecting a pleasant change for their tired brains.

NOTES.

At an auction sale held June 27, 1887 the following prices were given for U. S. stamps: Set of Navy \$3.85, Post Office \$1.40, State 1 cent to 90 \$4.51, \$2.00 State \$3.10, \$5.00 State \$4.40, \$10.00 State \$5.50, \$20.00 State \$9.00, set of Treasury \$1.87, set of War \$.77. 1857 4 cent (1 and 3 cent) cut envelopes on white \$5.25, same on buff \$4.25. Nearly every one of these have doubled in price within three years and a half and some have been sold for even better prices than 100 per cent advance.

At the last auction sale of R. R. Bogert & Co. the prices realized give us some idea of what collectors are ready to pay. New York 3 cent pair, severed, on original letter \$16.50, \$20.00 State Dept. \$18.00, 1869 15 cent with inverted medallion (one of the engraver's error stamps as it is called) sold for \$65.00. As this stamp was probably never used for postage and must be classed with oddities, it is a great rarity. Of the revenues the \$200. unperforated block of three brought \$39.00, \$200. red, blue and black perf. \$17. Of the private revenues F. Gorman & Bro. 1 cent black cut to shape \$7.00. M.

We notice in some catalogues that Oct. 1, 1883 is given as the date of issue of the well known 2 cent maroon and 4 cent green. Of course they were issued Oct. 2, as Oct. 1 was Sunday and not one could be procured for love or money before Monday morning.

Scott's tenth edition International Album mixes up rather queerly the dates of issue of some U. S. stamps. For instance it gives 1847 as the issue of the St. Louis when they appeared in 1845 without a doubt. The New Haven appeared in 1847 instead of 1846 as he gives it, while he spaces two varieties of New York and makes no mention of the varieties of Providence, Brattleboro, etc.

Among my most interesting whole envelopes is one sent out of Paris "par ballon" in 1870 during its siege by the Germans. The cover in question bears a 20 cent blue empire and 10 cent bistre republic, both perforated, and bearing the postmark Paris, Nov. 12 1870. The catalogs usually mention 1871 as the date of the perforated republic, so that this must have been unofficially done on the stamp in question. A 24 cent 1861 U. S. on the whole envelope addressed to England in 1866 reminds us of the high rates of postage to that country, which existed from 1753 to 1868, and which contrast so strangely with the present low rates of the Universal Postal Union.

Speaking of unperforated U. S. stamps reminds me of the fact that I have on the entire envelope an unsevered pair of 3 cent pink 1861, postmarked New York, Oct. 20, 1863 and clearly unperforated. The stamps undoubtedly prepaid the letter and the only question is whether they were actually issued by the department or not. If officially made and sold they deserve notice, and if not, unsevered pairs on envelopes should certainly hold a higher place than mere oddities.

Can any of our readers inform us why the Agriculture stamps were engraved "Dept. of Agriculture" when of course the Bureau of Agriculture was not created a separate department by itself until 1890 or 17 years after the stamps were issued. G. S. D.

The tardy appearance of this paper is due to the rush of holiday business, for which an apology is unnecessary. W. L. B.



We have received copies of the following papers the publishers of which will please accept thanks. *The Spy Glass, Philatelic Fraud Reporter, Eastern Philatelist, Chicago Stamp News, American Philatelist, Missouri Philatelist, Dominion Philatelist, Philatelic World, American Philatelist and Collector, One Dime, Canadian Philatelist, and Philatelic Era.* Also auction catalogues from the S. B. Bradt Company, *Stamp Collecting* by Alvnh Davison, and *Advertised Philatelic Frauds* by A. B. Merrill.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

G. S. DICKINSON 7 Cedar St. Worcester Mass. desires to exchange or purchase old philatelic papers or stamps on original envelopes not in his collection. Special attention paid to proofs, oddities and entire envelopes.

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JANUARY * NUMBER

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

A Monthly Magazine

Devoted to Stamp Collecting.

VOLUME 1.

NUMBER 4.

* JANUARY 1892 *

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G. Stewart Dickinson Walter L. Brown
A. C. Woodward
PUBLISHERS 883 Main St. Worcester Mass.

THE WORCESTER
-COUNTY- PHILATELIST.

VOL. I. NO. 4. WORCESTER MASS. JANUARY 1892. MONTHLY.

A STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE.

It has been said that "Man's needs are always filled before the need is felt" and while this is pretty generally true as regards the publishing of books, pamphlets etc., yet even this rule has its exceptions. Publishers, or those engaged in different lines who publish to advertise their business, usually anticipate the wants of the public and supply it before they have had a chance to give expression to their wishes.

In Philately, I, with others, believe there is an unfilled want, and although this want has been expressed through the philatelic press, no one as yet has come forward to fill it. Some claim to do so, but the evidence I don't think justifies the claim. The want referred to is a standard postage stamp catalogue. The reader possibly will say as others have done "we already have three or four such works," but the fact of there being three or four so-called standard catalogues, makes the need of *one* catalogue, more strongly felt.

The publishers of the present works claim that each man can have his own standard, but in that I fail to agree with them, as the word "standard" cannot rightly be used by any man or firm to give an individual idea of values. It is the public that causes anything to be a "standard," and nothing can be made so by a private concern. To back up my position, let me go to the only authority there is, in which Webster defines the word "standard" as "that which is established as a rule or model by custom or general consent."

Is there any stamp catalogue published today in which the values by general consent are considered standard? I know of none, and I don't believe any one else does. You may say that the prices given by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. are most often quoted, but hundreds of stamps are not even priced in their catalogue. The J. W. Scott Company in their work price all stamps, but the prices in many instances are too low.

Many collectors dote on Durbin & Hanes handsome catalogue, but there are many stamps there which I should like to purchase at the prices given as "standard". Various specimens of stamps which are catalogued at ten or fifteen dollars, when sold at auction will always bring at least twenty dollars, and yet the catalogues are supposed to give the retail selling price.

The publishers of the present stamp catalogues, do, in many instances, give what is considered the selling prices for the different specimens, but in many cases they do not, and the causes there of are many. Occasionally one large dealer will obtain a "corner" in certain issues, and naturally he makes his own price on them. A rival concern prices the same stamps much lower, even though they can not supply them, but their purpose is served by preventing collectors from buying at the higher prices.

Every dealer is running his business in his own way, and because he prices certain specimens at much less than they are worth, is no reason to believe that he will sell these same stamps at his prices, not by a jug full. All large dealers have their regular customers and when a stamp is obtained which a number of these customers want, the catalogue price is lost sight of, and its real value is shown, and obtained.

I know of stamps today, of which the highest prices given in catalogues is fifteen dollars, and yet collectors and dealers both would jump at them at twenty-five dollars. Many will say, "why not order them from the dealer who prices them at \$15.?" Well, you might order until both your paper and patience were exhausted, but you would not get them, for the reason that the dealer has none, but when buying from a collector, you can depend on it that this stamp would be purchased on the basis of its being worth only fifteen dollars, because you know it is only catalogued at that — see!

A really standard catalogue would give the *real* price of stamps, irrespective of business rivalries, corners or any thing, but that such a work would meet with a hearty support I am convinced. I have my hopes that some day a standard catalogue will be published, one which will be standard not only in name, but also in nature. ALVAH DAVISON.

—o—o—

A FRAUD LIST. *What is a Fraud?*

A list advertised by Mr. A. P. Merrill is on my table. Three that I call to mind have been included in this, two not named might be. A gentleman at the head of a large manufacturing establishment rated A 1 in reports, has a fine collection, a paper hearing of it makes a note of it. The gentleman is flooded with unsolicited approval sheets at 30, 40 and 50 per cent discount on stamps such as we find in the 20 cents per 1,000 packages. The number who enclose stamps for return postage is very few. Yet lot after lot is returned. One lot about \$3.00 by approval sheet (25 cents true value) has no name. It is around for a month or more, is mislaid or tossed aside as rubbish. A letter comes in boys handwriting "If you don't send me \$3.00 to pay for stamps I will publish you as a fraud," hardly waiting for an answer. The "Stamp Co." (?) publish in a journal this party as a fraud—result what?

Case 2. A package claimed as sent is not received by the person to whom it should have been addressed. Dealer says, 'I sent it' party says, 'I have not received it.' He is trying to cheat me, thinks dealer (probably), and so publishes him "stamp fraud." Result, package comes about in time (ei. U. S. P. O. D.) addressed Concord 'N. H.,' instead of Concord 'Mass.' Dealer says, 'I am sorry' yet can't stop the fraud notice now. Party has "fraud" to his credit for years to come.

Case 3. Young collector deals with a person for two or three years, and all is pleasant. A package is sent, stamps taken and lot returned. The cash is remitted by a friend while in city where dealer lives. Dealer fails to record the fact. About six months later comes

a postal with "You still owe \$3.26 on stamps sent" such a date. Young collector states fact and shows proof (circumstantial) but no receipt. Dealer is in doubt and puts it amongst bad bills and finally is persuaded to send same to a publisher. Young collector finds stamp fraud against his name. Result, dealers shun him. He is a fraud.

Case 4. Dealer advertises bargain list. Prominent collector sends for same enclosing \$5.00. Dealer reports stamps all sold before order is received and sends a lot to select from. This lot is found to be common stamps at catalogue prices. These are returned and another lot is sent in same condition. It takes five lots and then rather than continue the farce, anything is taken to balance account. No fraud reported, but ought to be.

Case 5. A dealer advertises an Auction sale and a party bids \$15.20 on lot another bids \$7.50 but through the dealer. Lot is bid up to \$7.50. No one else bids. Dealer then bids \$15.20 and takes the lot for customer number one, when \$7.60 would have taken it for a party present at sale. Is this a case for fraud list? These cases are not imaginary but all actual and names of parties are not unknown to philatelists.

Since writing the above the following fact has been called to my attention :- A collector and dealer that advertised last Spring but failed to answer remittances, causing him to be rated by some papers as a fraud, has been proved by good authority to have had so serious illness for months that his life was thought to be almost over. Almost two hundred letters were received and not one but what have been answered during his first weeks of convalescence. Don't publish a fraud until you know you have one. M.

○

HOW WE FIND THEM.

While our secretary was away on business recently, and sitting at the table in a manufacturer's private office the clerk brought in the mail of about thirty letters. Among them was a return envelope, one of our present issue one cent stamped envelopes. Common enough you say. Yes, but as the color on this one was a very faint it led to the remark that "perhaps the contractors were saving in ink." "So you take an interest in stamps" rejoined the manufacturer. Admitting such to be the fact, one remark led to another until the gentleman opened one of the table drawers and produced two large 12 by 16 albums with the statement "I collect only entire envelopes, no adhesives in any form." Leaf after leaf was turned until "enough" was given by our Secretary. Envelopes priced from 1 cent to dollars, rarities, oddities and uniques. "It's a pleasant way to drive away business worry" was the remark of the Manufacturer as our Secretary left.

Another, a Superintendent of a large department in a textile Establishment, was discovered by him, to be a Philatelist by the dropping of an odd envelope from his Card Case, another, by the discovery of Mekeel's Weekly on his desk. Others have been noticed to carefully examine an odd business card, and the symptoms of stamp fever very soon show themselves. Indefinite as to numbers, yet still gradually coming out to the light, we hear of business man after business man who has his little or great collection. M.

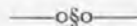
THE A. P. A. LIBRARY.

The question of how to increase its value though of direct interest to A. P. A. members has an indirect bearing upon all philatelic libraries. How many numbers of the different papers are thrown into the waste basket or rag bag that might be of value. I came across a lot of odd papers some time ago that were loose, scattering, torn, old papers in every sense of the word. What could be found amongst them were two numbers of S. Allen Taylor's *Record* of 1864, published in Montreal, two numbers of Maury's French *Philatelic Journal*, 1862 or '64, better known perhaps as "*Guide Manual*." Several early catalogues and a "Lalliers" 2nd. album. Had the party, who owned it, not had a bad relapse and a renewal of the stamp fever, of 1868 to 1872, the old paper would have been a very valuable addition to our library.

In this connection let me give some points from my own method of preserving the numbers of philatelic papers. Procure from a carpenter, pieces of hard wood three quarters of an inch wide, one quarter of an inch thick and ten inches long, also some the same size nine inches long. One inch from each end bore a small hole one eighth of an inch in diameter. From your shoe dealer purchase some light shoe strings three fourths of a yard long. Your *American Philatelist*, *Philatelic Journal*, *Post Office* and others of that size will take the longer sticks, while smaller publications call for the nine inch ones.

About three-eighths inch from the back with a belt punch or large awl put holes equal distances from the ends to match the holes in your sticks. Thread half of your sticks with a shoe string allowing the string to hang equally, and with a small tack fasten the middle of the string. Commencing with your first number thread it onto your string. Put on the others in regular order and on the back of your last number thread another stick and tie the string in a close bow knot.

It is some work to get ready but one set of sticks for a years numbers is all that is required. For your *Stamp News* it is best to use one of the regular binders as its size is against the stick method. At the end of a year either permanently bind them or thread them with a heavy manilla cover cut to size. It is perhaps a good plan to use this cover from the first though the back must be very loose at the start to allow for the twelve numbers and it is also liable to be torn. M.



Of the New South Wales (remainders or reprints) 2d. blue, 6d. brown and 8d. yellow in entire sheets the two last have been offered at a value of 50 cents each, yet one cannot purchase a single stamp for less than \$ 1.00 or \$ 1.50. That, to all appearances, a fraud has been circulating these, purporting them to be genuine government issues, and even sold to some of our best dealers, is quite evident. They have been printed from the original plate without doubt but by private enterprise without government endorsement. *The Post Office* for October gives a good account of this transaction. M.

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST.

—DEVOTED TO—

OUR HOBBY.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

WALTER L. BROWN 3 Norwood St.

G. STEWART DICKINSON 7 Cedar St.

A. C. WOODWARD 883 Main St.

This is a notion of ours and will be sent to all who care enough about it to send twelve one cent stamps for postage.

We will exchange with all who wish to place our address upon their list. Two copies will be appreciated as one copy will be placed on file in the association library.

Small exchange notices will be inserted on the last page for members of the association at the rate of fifteen cents for five lines.

Our friends will kindly send us any sketches, news or notes of interest to our hobby or association and receive our thanks for the same in advance.

Address: THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,
883 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

REVIEW,

The September and October numbers of *One Dime* comes to us a little late but welcome. It is published by Chas. W. Peugh, Kossuth, Washington Co., Ind.—Price one dime.

The Dominion Philatelist comes very regularly. Stamp Collecting in Italy is continued and reports of the C. P. S. and New York State Philatelic Association together with a few notes makes a readable number. Published by the Dominion Philatelic Publishing Co., of Peterborough, Ont. Canada.—Price 50 cents per year.

Number 2 of the *Chicago Stamp News* comes to us full of interesting notes. It is very neat, a quality which we particularly admire in papers of its class. Published by the S. B. Bradt Co., 93 Wabash Ave. Chicago.—Free.

The Stamp Collectors Companion takes its place in the front rank from the start. We hope it may continue in that position and meet with the support it deserves. An article "The Postage Stamp Mania" should be read by all. Published by The Stamp Collectors Publishing Comp'y, St. Louis, Mo.—Price 50 cents per year.

Mr. H. E. Deats kindly sends us a file of *The Jerseyman*, a quarterly amateur magazine which is devoted to airing the pet notions of the editor and others. It is one of the prettiest journals printed and contains a department headed "Matters Philatelic" also matter of interest to those not interested in our hobby. Published by H. E. Deats, Flemington, N. J.—Price 25 cents per year.

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

The Canadian Philatelist for December contains an interesting article "Why are we Philatelists" by J. C., The Canadian Stamp Catalogue installment, and a report of The Philatelic Society of Canada together with a membership list of 211. L. M. Staebler publisher, 984 Richmond St., London, Ont. Canada.—15 cents per year.

The Philatelic World for December mentions the new issues and reminds us that the work on U. S. envelopes compiled by the committee of the National Philatelic Society is nearly ready for delivery. The price will be about \$ 3.00 and will be supplied by the publishers of *The Philatelic World*, R. R. Bogert & Co., Room 37, Tribune Building, New York N. Y.

The *Quaker City Philatelist* for Jan. contains extracts from Post-Master-General Wanamaker's Annual Report, Chronicle by R. R. Bogert, Foreign Philatelic Notes by Bonumita, reports from various Philatelic Societies, Auction Sale List and some other readable matter. Published by Quaker City Philatelic Publishing Co., Limited, Box 36, Philadelphia, Pa. Price 25 cents per year.

The Philatelic Era for December contains a yarn by A. F. Ewfacts "My first passion" in five chapters, New Forgeries by Chas. J. Phillips, and an article The Philatelic Society of America. This magazine is in its fifth volume and its publisher deserves the support of all good philatelists and collectors. They will find its pages replete with matter interesting to such readers. W. W. Jewett Editor and Publisher, 502 Congress St. Portland Me.—Price 25 cents per year.

Mr. A. B. Merrill sends a complimentary copy of his book entitled *Alphabetical List of Advertised Philatelic Frauds* for which we return many thanks. We are sorry to see the name of one of our young friends in it which *must* be there by mistake. We pledge our word for it and hope the error will be corrected. It is surely a bad enough thing for the guilty ones to be published as frauds but how much worse it is for innocent young men to be branded by the careless use of printers ink. We wonder if there are not other names on that list that do not belong there. Publishers of Fraud Lists cannot be too careful. A. B. Merrill publisher, Box 445, Everett, Mass.—Price 25 cents.

The Literary board of the A. P. A. deserve great praise for their efforts to supply a paper so full of good solid articles of interest to philatelists. *The American Philatelist* for December contains a continuation of An Epitome of American Auction Sales by H. C. Beardley, Stamps of the Russian Empire from *Ill. Bfm. Journal*, A short Account of the Postal Union from its Commencement by Geo. Marshall, United States Philatelic Notes by Robert Stockwell Hatcher, which are especially readable. The Chronicle of New Issues by Wm. C. Stone and a large amount of good reports, editorials etc. The January number is also full of good things. Among them we find A Salutory Law, A Collection of Postage Stamps and Correspondence. S. B. Braht and Samuel Leland Business M'g'rs, P. O. Drawer 651, Chicago, Ill.—Price 50 cents per year.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

—DEPARTMENT.—

G. Stewart Dickinson, President, 7 Cedar St. Worcester Mass.

A. C. Woodward, Vice President, 883 Main St. Worcester Mass.

E. H. Marble, Secretary, Box 641 Worcester Mass.

Walter L. Brown, Treasurer, 3 Norwood St. Worcester Mass.

All communications for the association should be sent to the Secretary.

—oſo—

Unless more of the members come out to the meetings in the future it would be better to disband than for three or four men to try to carry all the honors upon their already heavily burdened shoulders. Some things in the constitution need to be doctored if the same condition of things is to continue, but it is necessary that six members be present at a meeting in order to make any amendments. It appears that we have a constitution several sizes larger than the association. B.

SEEBECK ISSUES.

Every little while we read "without any Seebeck issues" in a dealers 'ad.' I doubt if many of our readers know the meaning of this and I will give briefly the facts. During the month of March 1889 negotiations were carried on between Mr. N. F. Seebeck, representing a bank note company of New York City, and several South American governments. These ended March 29 with a contract giving to Mr. Seebeck and the Hamilton Bank Note Co. almost unlimited control over the stamps of Salvador and other South American governments.

A yearly design was called for. All remainders and reprints were to be sold by the company to stamp dealers or collectors at the close of each years service (the price to be governed by the company.)

What did it mean to Philatelists? Simply this. The face value of the Salvador set was during its use by the government \$ 2.16 adhesives, \$.68 envelopes, \$.46-2 wrappers, \$.15 cents post cards; \$ 3.45 total face value. Without the cards this set can be purchased for 90 cents or even less.

To those who are making a specialty of these countries a years time will make just about 75 per cent discount. The stamps issued April 1 1891 will in all probability be valued at about 25 per cent of the present selling price, one month (or as soon as the dealers can get hold of them) after April 1, 1892. The early bird does catch the worm in this case. M.

The pair of United States of Columbia 20 cent red and 50 cent blue error for which was offered \$ 250.00 has been proved to be counterfeit. So closely were the originals counterfeited that the deception was nearly successful. They were sent to Mr. Gremmel and exhibited as a great rarity until the true value was found out. M.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

The 2 cent rose Hong Kong Jubilee stamps were in use only three days and only fifty cents worth were sold to any one person, so they promise to become quite scarce in the near future.

The letter sheets as some of our readers are aware display serial numbers from 1 to 5, while those first issued had no series number on them. Hence we have six varieties up to date.

Two minor varieties of the 2 cent U. S. wrapper 1864 exist. One in which the O in post has its normal position and the other where the O is slightly slanting backwards as though suffering from the effects of rheumatism.

It is difficult to understand why the government should issue so many of the stamps in the same color in the same set, as in the 1861-66 series, where the 2 cent, 12 cent and 15 cent were all sent out in black. Of course the mourning color was appropriate in the 15 cent Lincoln but the 2 cent is certainly made one of our homeliest stamps by its sombre tint, as the proofs in other colors show what an improvement a different tint would have made in it.

The stamps of Corea are a bare faced humbug, only intended to deceive collectors. They were prepared in Berlin and the entire stock was purchased by a Hamburg dealer, who disposes of them at a good profit. Their existence is denied by the Corea agent in New York and they certainly never saw the country whose name they bear. So long as the International Album spaces them, of course collectors will continue to buy, for cheapness certainly is somewhat in their favor.

The colors of the U. S. department stamps were taken from the 1870 issue with color deepened in most cases. As the colors of some of that issue were duplicates, as the 2 cent and 10 cent, also 12 cent 24 cent, the eleven varieties were reduced to nine for the official uses. Agriculture was given its color appropriate to the golden grain. War had its gory red. Justice was arrayed in purple robes. Navy reflected the deep blue sea. Post Office showed its practice black, Treasury displayed a copper colored hue, while the other departments divided up the other colors as were most appropriate to them.

In the 1869 issue of U. S. the two most commonly used values, 3 cent and 6 cent were both printed in blue and naturally many mistakes were made by people who depended on the color of the stamps to indicate its value. This was one of the reasons perhaps for the withdrawal of the set. The same mistake was made some twenty years later when the colors of the 2 cent and 4 cent were both green causing the same confusion to some. This error was carefully guarded against in the 1890 set where all the values are sharply different colors, especially the lower values. The first specimens of the 1890 issue were printed on much thinner and poorer paper than those issued later. G. S. DICKINSON.



Sample copy of "Missouri Philatelist" free. Collectors send for large retail list. Dealers and those wishing to go into the stamp business, send for wholesale list. U. S. and Foreign stamps wanted for cash or exchange. Stamp collections bought. No rubbish in the following. All genuine specimens containing many rarities. 100 stamps, all diff. 25c 150 stamps, all diff. 50c. 200 stamps, all diff. \$1. 300 stamps, all diff. \$2. 500 stamps, all diff. \$4. 1,000 stamps, all diff. \$10. Elegant large album with the 500 and 1,000 packets.

CONRATH STAMP & PUB. CO.

1234 LaSalle St., St. Louis, Mo.



We are aware that several bad typographical errors appear in this and previous issues but these are due to the hurried proof reading and unavoidable rush which our small allowance of spare time makes necessary.

W. L. B.

A few people have an idea that the WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST is the property of the Association. The three men whose names appear in the publishers notice are the sole owners, doing all the work and standing all the expense. We allot a department to the Association for its announcements which can be replaced by other matter if not needed by the Association. We return thanks to the friends who have aided us by contributions and beg a continuance of such favors. Variety is necessary to make a readable paper so the publishers don't care to devote too much space to their own notions.

B.

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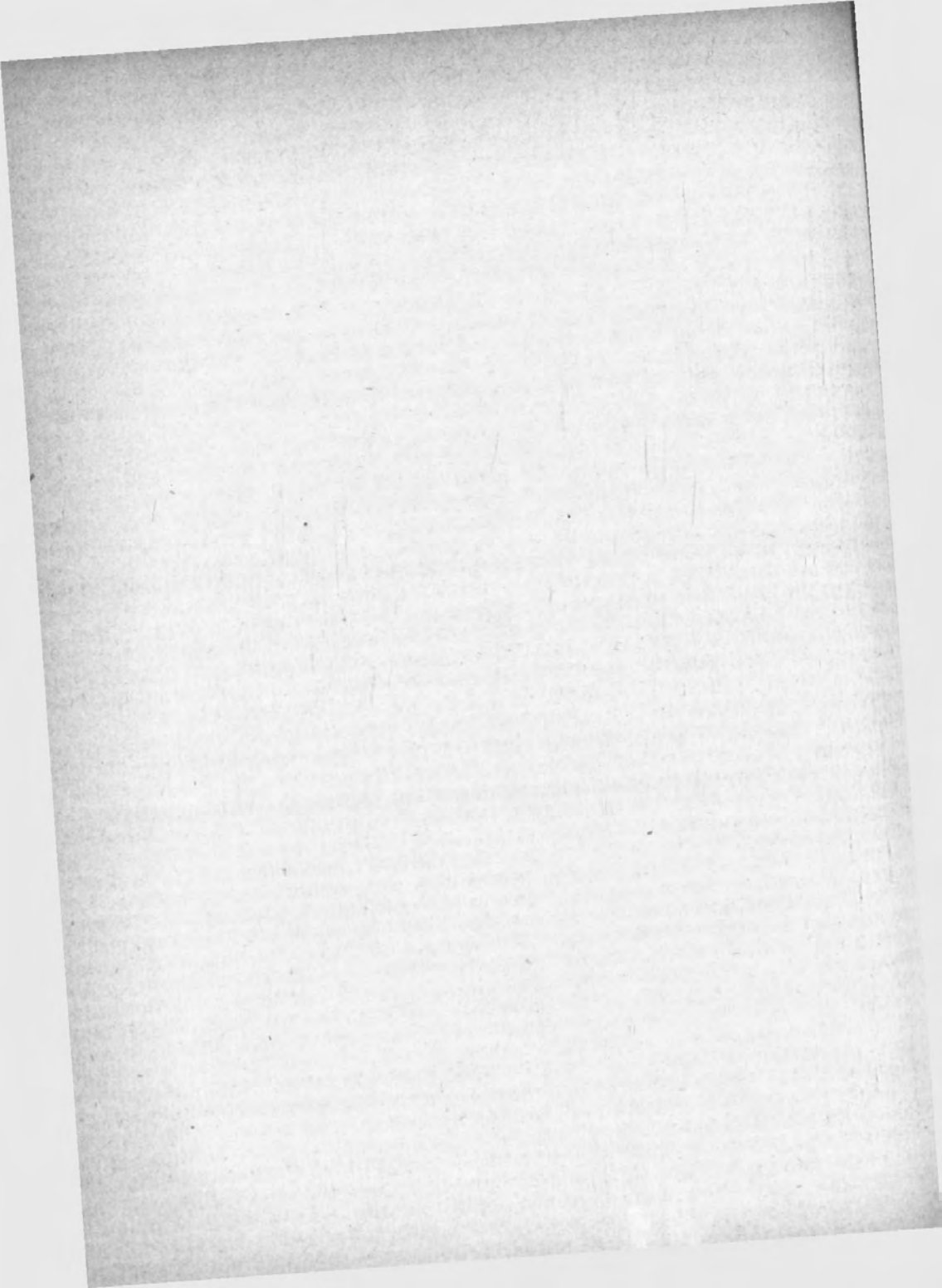
Frederick Forehand 18 Mill St. Worcester Mass. desires exchange correspondence with advanced collectors.

THE KILBY STAMP PACKETS

PACKET NO.	Contains	Price	25 cts.
1.	25 U. S. Postage Stamps.	" "	25 cts.
" 2.	25 U. S. Revenue	" "	25 "
" 3.	20 Match, Medicine & Playing Card Stamps.	" "	25 "
" 4.	100 Foreign Postage.	" "	25 "
" 5.	20 Unused Foreign.	" "	25 "
" 6.	10 Department inc'd'g Interior, P. O. & War.	" "	25 "

The above packets contain no duplicates, and are guaranteed to catalogue, two to four times the price. The six packets will be sent post paid on receipt of \$1.25

A. C. WOODWARD, 883 MAIN ST. WORCESTER, MASS.



FEBRUARY • NUMBER

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

A Monthly Magazine

Devoted to Stamp Collecting.

VOLUME 1.

NUMBER 5.

* FEBRUARY 1892 *

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G. Stewart Dickinson Walter L. Brown
A. C. Woodward
PUBLISHERS 883 Main St. Worcester Mass.

THE CURRENT ISSUE OF SAMOA STAMPS.

ALTHOUGH these labels were duly chronicled upon their appearance by all the leading stamp journals of Europe and of this country as though they were regular postage stamps and could be used to frank letters we have never had any reason to believe that they were any better than the first issue whose utter uselessness has been clearly shown.

It has been however so positively asserted that they had franked letters to foreign countries that we deemed it our duty to show that such was not the case well knowing that it was impossible for them to do so under the state of affairs existing in that group of islands. We therefore wrote to the U. S. Consul General at Apia for explicit information concerning these alleged "stamps" feeling quite sure that our opinion of them would be confirmed and the reply received from that official shows we were right. It is as follows:

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
APIA, SAMOA, May 5, 1888.

Messrs Mann and Kendig
Publishers of Philatelic Gazette
Altoona Pa.

Sirs,

In reply to your letter of enquiry relating to the stamps issued under the name of "Samoa postage" I would state that you are correct in the position assumed by you viz: that these stamps do not pay postage to foreign countries but that the money with which to buy the proper stamps is enclosed with the letters.

The stamps were printed upon the sole responsibility of the local postmaster. Prior to the recent German action here he acted under the municipal government of Apia which by a convention between King Malietoa and the three treaty powers, the United States, England and Germany was intrusted to a board composed of the consular and associate representatives of those powers. The German authorities have now taken over the control of the municipality as they have of the whole group, but have allowed the postmaster to continue in office. Previous to the declaration of war against Malietoa negotiations were begun looking to the admission of Samoa into the Postal Union but unsuccessfully.

There is no possibility that this will be done until after the establishment of a recognized government, the present government not being recognized by the United States or England. There is no local postage here but the postmaster forwards letters about the island as opportunity offers. I have sent the stamps and money you enclose to the postmaster with the request that he send you the equivalent in Samoa stamps after paying postage.

I am Sirs

Yours respectfully

Harold Marsh Sewall, Consul General

The envelope in which the above was enclosed bore two six penny Samoa stamps placed there by the postmaster himself and duly cancelled. As these were put on only for ornament it was of course necessary to have something to pay postage and a U. S. 10 cent stamp (it being a double letter) was therefore affixed for that purpose, this stamp having been enclosed by us to the Consul General. While it is shown beyond a doubt that these stamps do not frank letters to any foreign country it is equally clear that they do not pay postage within the limits of those islands for the letter just quoted states that there is no local postal service but that the postmaster forwards letters as opportunity offers. So that for all practical purposes the stamps are of no more account than Jimmy Jay's Locals.

What then are these Samoa stamps good for? That question is easily answered. They are good to sell to innocent and confiding collectors who take it for granted that everything of the kind catalogued and sold by our large and respectable dealers is all right. Collectors cannot be expected to investigate the origin of the stamps offered them and the large dealers are quite well aware of that fact and act accordingly. They publish nearly all the leading stamp journals and these, as every reader of them knows, always chronicle and thereby endorse everything that comes to these owners in the shape of a new issue or a new surcharge and the insignificant collector or stamp paper that raises an objection or asks a hearing is laughed out of court.

No one knows better than the postmaster at Samoa that his stamps are of no possible use and no one knows better than he that it is a profitable business for him to make and sell them. He knows how to work his little game so as to make them seem like real stamps and make ignorant people believe they are of some account when placed on a letter.

On every letter he sends away he puts at least one of his stamps and cancels it with his postmark and these "used" specimens are then held up by the dealer to the doubting collector who is thereby convinced that he was an idiot to suspect them. *The Philatelic Gazette.*

AN HOUR WITH MR. TIFFANY.

ON the afternoon of January 28th the writer had the pleasure of meeting Mr. John K. Tiffany, who is here on a visit to his Eastern home, and enjoyed an hour's conversation upon various philatelic topics. It goes without saying that Mr. Tiffany can talk and interestingly too about stamp matters. Mr. Tiffany and the other members of the Official Board of the A. P. A. have been at work upon the incorporation of the association and at a meeting in New York on January 20th completed the incorporation of the society, as a joint stock company under the laws of the state of West Virginia. Each member hereafter will be a stock holder, and the shares are put at the low value of \$1.00 each to enable collectors to join by the payment of this nominal initiation fee. The capital thus raised is to be held as a guarantee for the obligations of the association. The shares are thus full paid and subject to no assessments except the annual dues and are to be surrendered upon resignation.

The direct benefits of incorporation are that members will no longer be individually responsible for the debts of the association and the officers will be relieved from personal responsibility in case undesirable members have to be dropped for misdemeanors. Any suits for debts or damages will hereafter have to be brought against the association and not individual members. The advantages of incorporation are therefore apparent.

The association chooses to incorporate under the laws of West Virginia because the annual conventions or meetings can under these laws be held outside of that state and its directors be residents of any state. Many collectors who were financially responsible have not cared heretofore to belong to an unincorporated body for whose undertakings they might be held personally responsible.

Speaking of the collection of philatelic literature Mr. Tiffany said that he lacked something less than two hundred numbers of all the papers published in the United States and these are of the most unimportant ones; that probably more papers are issued in the United States than in all the rest of the world but that a large number of them are unimportant as far as any philatelic value goes. No mention was made of the comparative value of American papers, but some of the European ones characterized as the best and most scientific were said to be too deep for the beginners. *Le Timbre Poste* was especially mentioned as perhaps the best French journal as it undoubtedly publishes the most complete chronicle and good solid articles and probably is entitled to the first rank as it is the oldest paper having been published twenty seven years without missing a single number. *Le Collectionneur de Timbres Post* and *L' Echo de la Timbrologie* are also leading French papers. Stanley Gibbons *Monthly Journal* and the *Philatelic Record* cater to the more profound collectors, the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Mr. Wm. Brown's paper was mentioned as especially good for all classes of collectors.

Mr. Tiffany spoke kindly of many of the prominent collectors with whom he was intimate relating many interesting personal experiences. In speaking of his experiences in collecting philatelic literature he said that old European papers were very hard to obtain as their publishers especially in Germany do not seem to keep any back numbers and German collectors seem to have the trait of "get and keep," and even after they have given up collecting. It is even difficult to find out what they have and often neither love nor money will induce them to part with what is worthless to them except they feel they have it.

Some interesting experiences of researches in out of the way post offices in search of odd lots in stamped envelopes were narrated and the tendency of fossil postmasters to imagine such enquiries were instigated by government detectives and the difficulty often of making the collectors wants understood. The reaction which sometimes took place when the suspicion of being investigated was removed had several times resulted in the finding of "old stock" that had never been turned in which was as gladly parted with at face value as it was welcome to the searcher. Most of these reminiscences were related of obscure Western towns but not a great many years ago a veteran was found down on Cape Cod who refused to part with a box of envelopes until another of the same size and denomination (but of more mod-

ern make) could be procured from Boston for fear some regular customer would want "that kind."

As Mr. Tiffany was not here on a stamp trip he had little with him to show in the stamp line. A few blocks among which were four one penny Cape of Good Hope and the same number of the two pence used as four pence and eight pence besides being interesting in themselves served as a text for some remarks upon various fads and fashions of collecting which we hope to be able sometime to offer our readers.

W. L. B.

THE UNPERFORATED STAMPS OF 1870.

DURING a recent chat with Mr. Tiffany our conversation happened to turn upon oddities and we learned, a thing which we already suspected, that many so called oddities are really manufactured ones. By thorough search through the sheets of stamps at a postoffice one who is so favored can often find oddities or the material for making them.

Mr. Tiffany told us that through his acquaintance with the postmaster of his own city, St. Louis, he often had the privilege of looking over the stock on hand and at one time run across several sheets of one of the minor values of the 1870 issue adhesives which had a very wide margin around the two sides of the stamps in one of the upper corners of the sheets. Having unusual privileges he was permitted to take home several of the corner stamps of the sheets by paying the face value of them. These stamps were a source of considerable fun after he had altered them a little. He took a piece of steel with a smooth straight edge and a very sharp knife and trimmed the stamp just as near the edge of the perforations as he dared to on two sides and made the wide margins of a width to compare with it. The trimmed stamp he sent to a gentleman who acknowledged the receipt of the the oddity and made mention of it in his catalogue. A little while after Mr. Tiffany sent him the trimmings of the stamp which exactly fitted around the stamp and the gentleman admitted the joke.

Many of the stamps which are doctored in this way are often trimmed so close to the perforations that the traces of the perforations can be detected by the use of a good magnifying glass which the eye would fail to notice without its aid.

Speaking of odd perforations Mr. Tiffany said that he had a stamp, which the stamp clerk at the post office had saved out for him, which shows a line of perforations diagonally across the stamp. This oddity was made by the corner of one of the sheets of stamps becoming folded over in some way and not being noticed by the person who fed the perforating machine. The crease was removed by first soaking the gum from the back of the stamp and then by running it between hot rollers when moist. So successful was this operation that it would take a sharp eye to discover the crease and Mr. Tiffany has a stamp which is a puzzle to all who look at it.

W. L. B.

—While here in the city Mr. Deats mentioned that already three distinct varieties of paper were found in the new post cards. Who can say ten?

•THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST.♦

—DEVOTED TO—

OUR HOBBY.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

WALTER L. BROWN 3 Norwood St. G. STEWART DICKINSON 7 Cedar St.
A. C. WOODWARD 883 Main St.

This is a notion of ours and will be sent to all who care enough about it to send twelve one cent stamps for postage.

We will exchange with all who wish to place our address upon their list. Two copies will be appreciated as one copy will be placed on file in the association library.

Small exchange notices will be inserted on the last page for members of the association at the rate of fifteen cents for five lines.

Our friends will kindly send us any sketches, news or notes of interest to our hobby or association and receive our thanks for the same in advance.

Address: THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,
883 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

REVIEW.

As we go to press we must acknowledge the receipt of a file of the *Empire State Stamp Journal and Brooklyn Philatelist* from the publishers. Many thanks friend Ashcroft!

The Eagle Philatelist publishes an account of Roy Farrell Greene with his portrait as number four of the "Philatelic Gallery," "Philatelic Organizations" by Jack and notes by the editor and several pages of other matter complete the number. Published at 31 No. 1st. Street, Kansas City, Kansas.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain for January appears with a very fine half-tone picture of Mr. Wm. T. Wilson for a frontispiece. The best features of this number are very readable editorial notes and leading articles "Stamp Collecting in Italy," "A Pennyworth of Palmer," "Leading London Dealers" in which Mr. Wilson is well done, and "Alleged Stamp Forgeries" are full of interest. "American Notes" are concise bits of news from this side of the 'big pond.' The chronicle of New Issues reminds the general collector that he must hustle to keep his collection up to date. It is very thorough. *The Philatelic Review of Reviews*, issued as a supplement to *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, for the first time with this number, is a very readable review of the stamp papers and philatelic news of the world, in which extracts and short paragraphs from the best things in each paper are printed and in which the papers are reviewed impartially. It is a valuable addition to the paper for the subscribers especially. Wm. Brown publisher, 139 Castle St., Salisbury, England.—Price 3s. 6d. per year.

REVIEW.

The Quaker City Philatelist begins its seventh volume with the January number. It contains an extract from Postmaster-General Wanamaker's annual report "American Mails under the American Flag" and "Foreign Philatelic Notes" by Bonumita are of interest. The Quaker City Philatelic Pub. Co., Limited, Box 36, Philadelphia.—Price 25 cents per year.

The Philatelic Monthly and World always comes on time a thing which we admire in a monthly paper. "Portraits of Washington" is a brief note of especial interest to collectors of U. S. Stamps. We should like to see the other portraits and designs of our stamps treated in the same way. Bogert & Durbin Co. publishers, Philadelphia, Pa.—Price 25 cents per year.

The Coin and Stamp appears for January, as Vol. 1 No. 1, in a neat form of twelve pages and cover. "Scientific Numismatics" by Ophir R. Burns, "Before the Day of Stamp" by B. T. Selby and "Philatelic Notes" are very good. The various coin and stamp notes are well done. Dr. J. B. Breeding publisher, 231 E. Houston St., San Antonio, Texas.—50 cents per year.

The Philatelic Era appears enlarged in size with the January number. It is now a solid and well made up little magazine. "The Stamps We Cherish Most" by Strebor, "Stamp Collecting as an Investment" by E. S. Luther, and "About that American" by "Error" from *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* make entertaining reading. Several pages of interesting notes add materially to its philatelic value. W. W. Jewett publisher, Portland Me.—Price 35 cents per year.

The American Philatelist begins the new year with several pages of valuable philatelic matter. The "Editorial Comment" is perhaps the most interesting part of this number "An Epitome of American Auction Sales" by H. C. Beardsley, "A Salutary Law," "A Collection of Postage Stamps" from the *Ill. London News*, which gives an account of the Tapling collection, and "The First Issue of Stamped Envelopes of Oldenberg" from *Ill. Bfm. Journal* are the best things in it. S. B. Bradt and Samuel Leland M'g'rs., 93 Wash Ave., Chicago, Ill.—Price 50 cents per year.

The Philatelic Journal of America for January appears with an index to the previous (Vol. 7.) Besides the well arranged chronicle of New Issues by Mr. W. C. Stone, "Notes on Counterfeits, Reprints and Oddities" taken from contemporary issues of the leading stamp journals are of interest to general collectors. "A New Aspect of an Old Question" by Edw. B. Evans and "A Trip to Mexico," which is embellished by photo-gravure illustrations, by C. H. Mekeel, "The Stamps of Victoria" by David H. Hill, "Stamp Notes" by the editor and "What to Collect" by Crawford all go to make up a very interesting number of this valuable magazine. C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., St. Louis, Mo.—Price 50 cents per year.

THE WOR. CO. PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

On Monday evening, January 25 1892, the 19th regular meeting of the Worcester County Philatelic Association was held at the home of our president Mr. Dickinson. The regular business was laid aside and the meeting was made a social one. We were honored by the presence of Mr. H. E. Deats of Flemington N. J. Mr. Roney of Lincoln St, and Mr. W. L. Shepard of Southbridge also made us a call.

Mr. Deats spoke of his route from Flemington to Providence, Worcester and Boston and general philatelic matters. He kindly took the rubber bands from his package and showed us proofs and essays till we were almost dizzy and wondered if there could be other worlds to conquer in that line. The sheets passed around the table for an hour or two and Mr. Deats talked interestingly about them all the while.

There were many uniques in essays, proofs, medallions, and designs in many shades and tints some of which seemed to us far better and prettier than some of the designs and colors that were selected for stamps in their stead. Many curious things were shown such as folded stamps and essays on gold-beaters skin and we all enjoyed the treat very much. Mr. Deats spoke of his collections of stamps and philatelic literature in particular. He has twenty-five thousand duplicates of philatelic papers for exchange purposes and has a printed list of his wants. Mr. Deats also showed us ten or twelve membership cards of as many different societies of which he is a member.

Mr. Dickinson had the table covered with rare old volumes of philatelic papers, and catalogues old and new, among them were several bound volumes of old English journals, early volumes of the *Am. Journal of Philately* and the Worcester paper, the *Stamp Reporter*, published by E. A. Welch in April, 1879.

His collection of rare stamps on the entire envelopes, the entire sheets of Providence and American Letter Mail Co. and files of the recent publications made a display of matter that would require a week to make a thorough inspection of. Among his recent acquisitions are a 30 sen slate, Japan, wove paper, issue of 1872, a fine copy on the entire envelope; an unsevered pair of perforated 3 peace Canada on letter cover dated April 4, 1858; also a fine 10 cent Nova Scotia on cover postmarked Nov. 30, 1861; and a 2d rose Prince Edward Island with large perforations, on letter written March 26 1864; also envelopes showing the Hong Kong Jubilee stamps and new issues of Persia. All the above are in fine condition and make desirable additions to his collection.

Mr. Dickinson makes almost weekly trips to Boston meeting many of the "Hub" collectors and dealers and comes home loaded with bits of news pertaining to philatelic matters and sometimes material for his collections.

The next meeting of the association will be with Mr. Fred Forehand at his home at No. 18 Mill St. City, Feb'y 9th 1892.

W. L. B.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

The collection of entire envelopes has lately taken a boom around here and several collectors are retaining all they can obtain in that condition.

Scott in his 52d edition catalog omits the two varieties of Westtown; the Hale with surcharge; Worcester in black, and the large perforated Prince Edward Island.

A curious typographical error occurs in Evans' catalog edition of 1890, page 236, where he speaks of Siam. The printer has left out the title word Siam altogether and the text reads as though the matter was a continuation of the article on Sarawak which of course is ridiculous.

The carelessness of the postal card printers has become almost proverbial, but the summit in this direction was apparently reached in the St. Louis post office where, Mr. Tiffany tells us, several bunches of cards were lately sold which were entirely blank. The purchasers promptly returned them and as they had no printing at all on them, their value even as oddities would not take a very high rank.

Mekeel's claim that his *Philatelic Journal* is the largest, oldest and most regular stamp paper published is only one third correct it seems to me. *The Philatelic Monthly* had issued 121 numbers before the *Journal* had appeared once, while for regularity the *Monthly* easily takes the lead, as a fifteen years subscription abundantly proves. Mekeel may claim the largest publication without fear of contradiction and this may be some consolation to him perhaps.

We recently obtained a copy of the well known Mercantile Library stamps stuck on the inside of the 2 cent black 1864 wrapper, with the usual printed instructions in regard to obtaining and returning books belonging to that institution. These stamps have been so often described that no further mention of them is needed especially as they are of no philatelic value; but copies are rarely met with at present, on the original wrapper, and the whole scheme seems to have been extremely convenient to all the patrons of the library.

Right here we would like to urge the adoption of a reform in the spelling of the names of three stamp issuing countries. We refer to Servia, Roumania and Wurtemberg. There is no reason why the name as spelled on their stamps should not be followed in their nomenclature especially as the change from present designations is so slight. The improvements we suggest are simply to call Servia, Serbia; Roumania, Romania; and Wurtemberg, Wurttemberg. This reform while not strictly philatelic would be the first step towards the gradual uniformity of all geographical names.

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We wish to mention the fact that numbers 1 and 2 of this paper are all gone and that those who care to keep a complete file will do well to keep them as they appear. Without wishing to brag at all we might say that we intend to make each succeeding number better than the preceding one and we invite our philatelic friends to aid us with contributions of stamp notes and philatelic studies,



Sample copy of "Missouri Philatelist" free. Collectors send for large retail list. Dealers and those wishing to go into the stamp business, send for wholesale list. U. S. and Foreign stamps wanted for cash or exchange. Stamp collections bought. No rubbish in the following. All genuine specimens containing many rarities. 100 stamps, all diff. 25c to 150 stamps, all diff. 50c. 200 stamps, all diff. \$1. 300 stamps, all diff. \$2. 500 stamps, all diff. \$4. 1,000 stamps, all diff. \$10. Elegant large album with the 500 and 1,000 packets.

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We can supply good approval sheets double or single at the low rate of \$3.25 per 1000 single sheet, and \$4.25 per 1000 for the double folded sheets. For lots of 100 prices are in the same ratio. For printing instructions and a small business card on back we charge 75 cents per 100 or more.

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2.	25 U. S. Revenue	" "	25 "
3.	20 Match, Medicine & Playing Card Stamps.	" "	25 "
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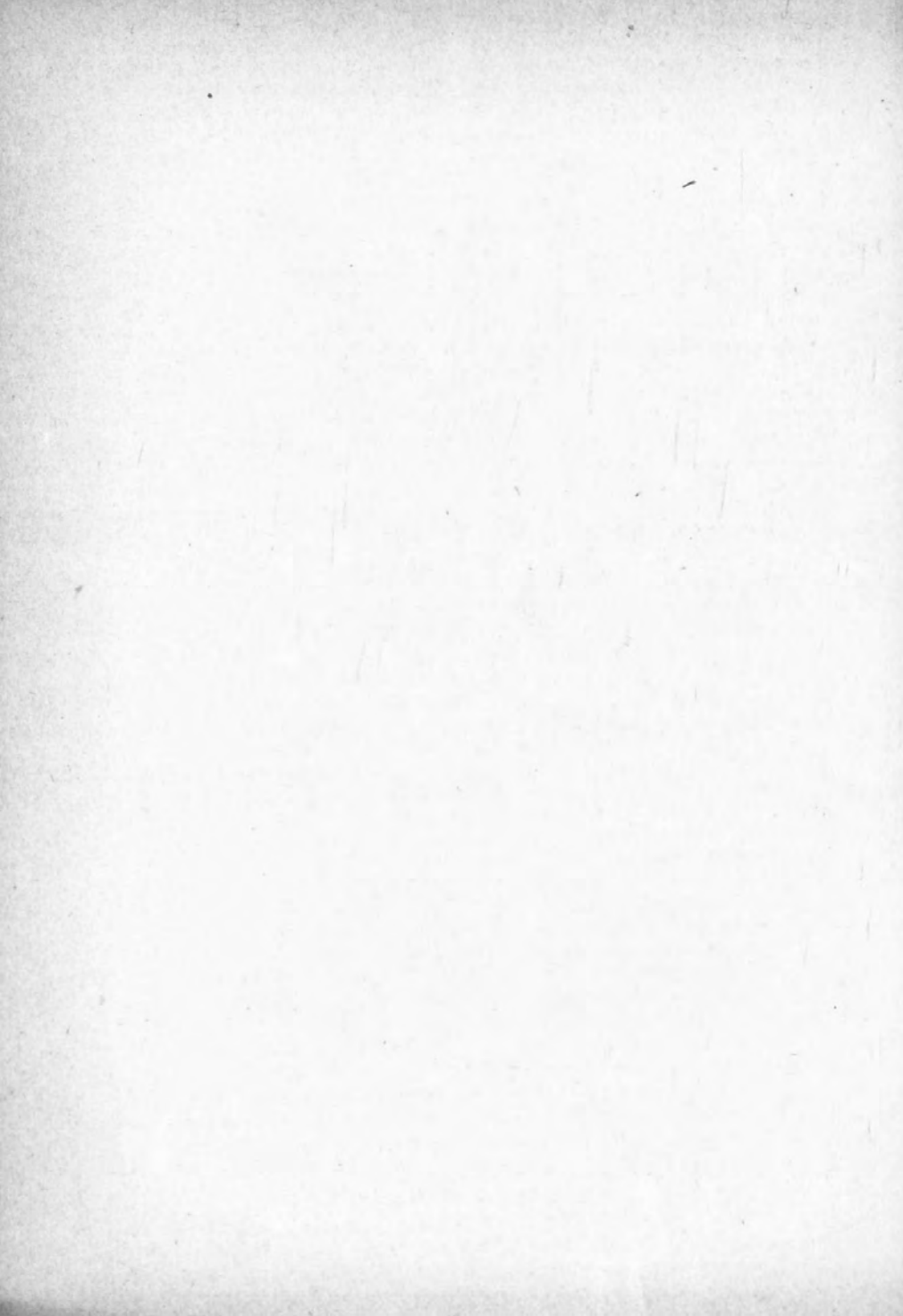
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MARCH NUMBER.

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A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Devoted to Stamp Collecting.

VOLUME 1. NUMBER 6.

— MARCH, 1892 —

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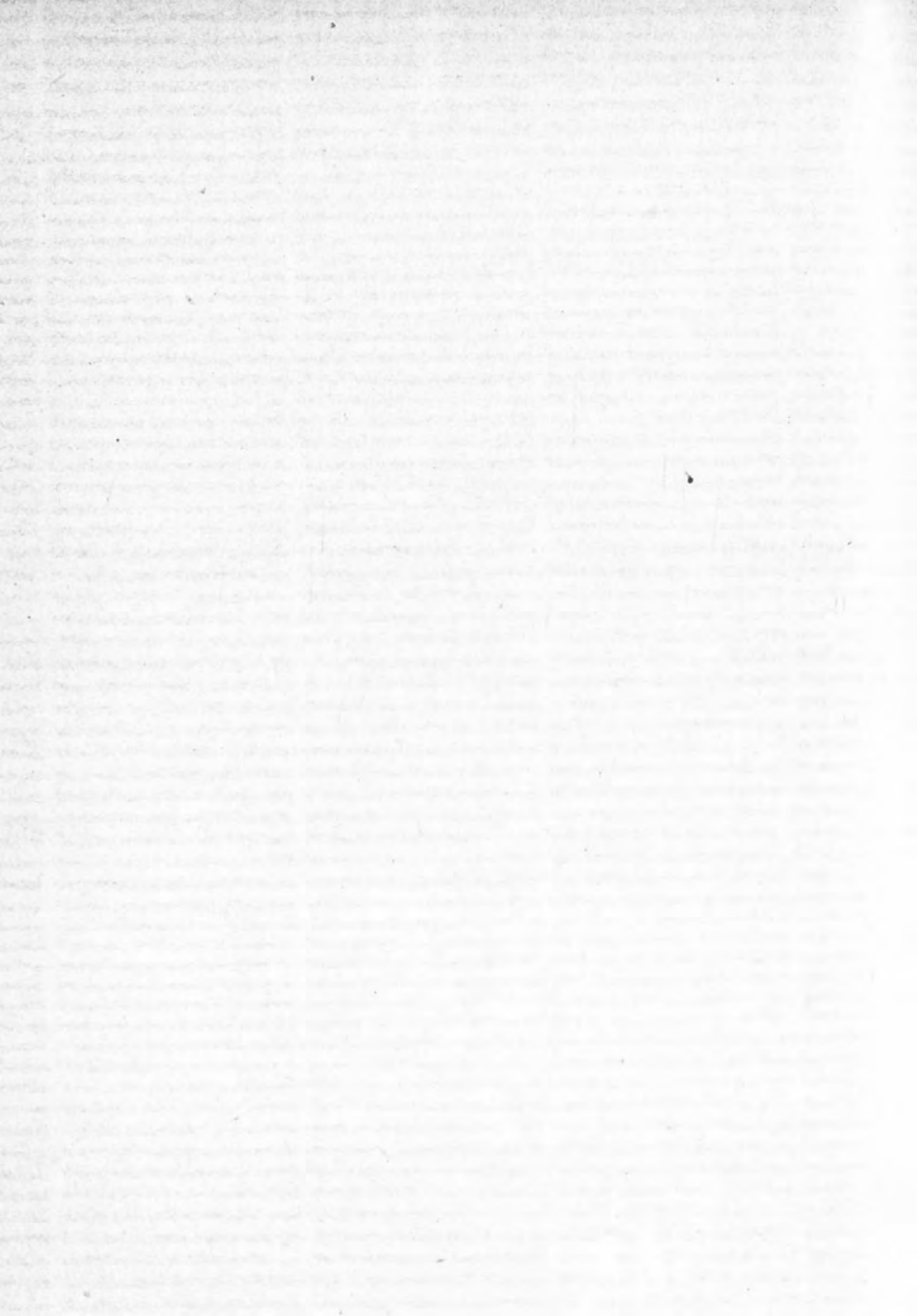
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PHILATELIC REMINISCENCES.

BY WM. P. BROWN.

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The fashion came into vogue of selling a collection at auction, and prices advanced so rapidly that many of those who sold out were so encouraged by the returns, that they commenced collecting again at once.

At this time there were a few collectors, in an unscientific way, of postage stamps scattered throughout the country. Mr. Preble of Portland, Maine, had for several years been saving odd looking stamps, and had even sent to Australia and other places for stamps for his collection. But no salable value was attached to them, and collecting was regarded merely as a whim. About the year 1859 a new impetus was given to the mania, by its becoming fashionable among the pleasure seekers of Paris to gather in the parks and exchange stamps, which soon had its echo in New York. The old Post Office was at the corner of Liberty and Nassau Streets, and to the vexation of the watchman, knots of men and boys would gather in the lobbies and trade, sometimes stamp for stamp, and sometimes quite a number were given for one.

Shortly after this collectors began to offer money in lieu of stamps, and this made way for the stamp dealers, and the regulation of prices. The first dealer in the United States was John Bailey, who then kept coins and candy, and thought stamps would work well with them. The fashion then was to drive a tack through the stamp into a board so that they would not blow away. At this time the writer, who then also kept a coin stand on the Park railing, was urged to enter the stamp business, but it looked too ridiculous to consider, yet there was evidently money in it; so with hesitating steps he went up to Dr. Bond, in Grand Street, one of his patrons who had large frames of coins hanging up in his office, and who had so many stamps pulled off waiting for a buyer. About a hundred were counted out and the

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Shortly after this collectors began to offer money in lieu of stamps, and this made way for the stamp dealers, and the regulation of prices. The first dealer in the United States was John Bailey, who then kept coins and candy, and thought stamps would work well with them. The fashion then was to drive a tack through the stamp into a board so that they would not blow away. At this time the writer, who then also kept a coin stand on the Park railing, was urged to enter the stamp business, but it looked too ridiculous to consider, yet there was evidently money in it, so with hesitating steps he went up to Dr. Bond, in Grand Street, one of his patrons who had large frames of coins hanging up in his office, and who had some stamps pulled off waiting for a buyer. About a hundred were counted out and the

price asked was a cent each. It seemed absurd, but the Doctor was inflexible, and the price was paid.

The next morning they were all tacked on boards and marked at a uniform price of three cents each. This may seem to the reader an exorbitant profit, but he must consider that the highest expectation was that enough would be sold to get the cost back, and the rest thrown away. Soon a boy came along and said, Hello, Brown, you've got some stamps, haven't you? But, said he, you have got some of them priced too low, those Ceylons and some of the others ought to be ten cents each. Anything to accommodate, so up went the price. A few minutes later two gentlemen stopped, and one said to the other, those Ceylons are a beautiful stamp. Yes, he replied, I guess I will take those two Ceylon's, and twenty cents was paid for what cost two cents. From that moment I was a full-fledged stamp dealer. Soon another boy came and bought two or three at three cents each, and a little while after returned holding out a quarter, and said: Do you see that? Yes, what of it? That is what I got down at the Post Office for the blue Canada stamp I bought of you for three cents! Whew! that wouldn't do, and I at once became a collector, and no one could get anything from me until I had two of them, keeping the collection to study and talk on.

Those were the days when post office 10's of 1847 were brought around by the hatful at 2 or 3 cents each. Brazil stamps were refused altogether as being cut out of the corners of old bank notes, an old Sydney view was a riddle that no one could make out, Brattleboro's, St. Louis' and Reunions were unheard of. The highest price for any stamp was a dollar, among which were classed the large 5c. New York, the 90c. of 1857, and the 2½c. black of Colombia.

About this time Mr. Walter, a coin collector, whose father dealt in dress trimmings, came around with a fine collection of spool labels, which he took delight in exhibiting, as fully equal both in appearance and interest to stamps. He sang a different tune, however, when a few years after he sent one some sets of U. S. stamps to the Postmaster at Madrid, requesting him to exchange them for Spanish stamps, and received three complete sets of all the dated issues of Spain and Philippine Islands in beautiful unused condition.

In the following summer season, however, the excitement all died away, none would look at stamps at all. The writer went to his predecessor, John Bailey, and said: How are you making out, don't you find the coin business very dull? Yes, he replied, I am doing nothing in coins, only in stamps. Stamps! you don't mean to say anyone is buying them? Yes, I have two or three customers yet. Well, will you buy mine? Yes, if price is low enough. They were immediately brought and stock and collection sold at the first offer on the supposition that the business had, like the South sea bubble collapsed.

But as the cold weather set in and the boys returned from the country, the business again became lively, and of course the writer had to drop into line the second time, a sadder and wiser man. This was about the year 1860, and now commenced the increase of dealers. There was Tom Williams from Smyrna, J. Walter Scott from London, James Brennan, a letter carrier in the employ of George Hussey, Trifet started up in Boston, S. Allen Taylor in Albany, Nutter in Montreal, and others all over the country. Shortly after this Brennan, who had a withered arm, and was not strong enough to bear the winter weather out doors, obtained, through influence, a stairway opposite the Post Office and opened a stamp store.

The writer realized the situation at once, and tried to wake the stamp dealers to some sort of co-operation to keep their trade from being lost, but in vain. Brennan held the fort and did the business. An interview was had with him complaining that he sold stamps too cheap, making nothing himself and spoiling the trade for the other dealers. Just stay here a little while, said he, and see if I am selling too cheap. The next buyer was a German who wanted some stamps of that country, and purchased a large number of Thurnn Taxi stamps, for which he was charged five cents each. As we considered them as rubbish, well sold at a cent or two each, the complainant had nothing more to say.

Soon the Yankee trading element shone out, and exchanges and importations commenced from all quarters of the globe. Mr. McMannus, a clerk in the Custom House, imported a lot of Modena, Parma, Sicily and Romagna sets which he sold readily at \$7 per set until someone else got them also. Then spread the flood of counterfeits from the presses of Taylor and the Hamburg dealers, and the locals of Hussey, stamp journals, catalogues and albums followed each other in rapid succession, and one New York dealer is said to have reached the height of his ambition in clearing \$100,000 in the business. But easy got, easy lost, and Wall Street gobbled it up in much less time than it took to make it.

There is a fascination in the stamp trade which is lacking in many other lines, which comes from the constant increase in values. Take my own catalogue of 1868, where the Brattleboro was priced at \$1, and now sells for \$150, and many other stamps in like proportion, and the question often comes up, Where will it end? Once the highest price for any stamp was \$1, now some are valued at towards \$1000 each. Will this continue at the same proportion of increase till some are worth \$1,000,000, or is there coming an era in which the hobby will fall into desuetude?

STUDY OF THE THREE CENT 1853 AND 1857.

Taking the description from Mr. Tiffanay's work we have "Bust of Washington to left, in oval surrounded by a frame of colorless lines forming diamonds, on

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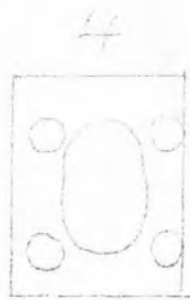
solid ground, rosettes at the four angles. Solid colored labels at top and bottom, 'U. S. POSTAGE' above, 'THREE CENTS' below, in colorless Roman capitals. The whole surrounded by a colored line forming a rectangle. Plate impression 20 x 25 m. m. Color, white paper; 3 cents, in shades of brick and rose red."

The design, as shown in some of the specimens, was very regular in its proportions, symmetric and well drawn. Yet by the process used in making the different plates, the inner design is not given its proper position within the outer rectangle,—the rosettes cutting or being cut by the vertical lines. In the different specimens shown with this, some of these varieties, or rather false die imprints, are very distinct.

But first let me give the method of making this plate. Using the excellent work before referred to as a basis, I would by means of these two plates, No. 1 and No. 2, (as in blue print diagrams), indicate the nature of the work. The inner or bust die having been engraved upon steel and properly hardened, it is given to the die or plate sinker, who first rules or lines his plate to give him his position.

This ruling is supposed to be by parallel vertical lines in pairs of 20 m. m., apart 1 m. m. between each pair. The horizontal lines are in pairs 25 m. m. apart, 8-10 m. m. between each pair. The lines were evidently first located by register marks at the right of the vertical line, but here begins our varieties. These register marks did not register, and our frame lines are above or below, to the right or left on the plate. Instead of mitre corners we have corners similar to those shown in Figure 3.

Having located the rectangle, the die sinker uses his impression or male die, and by powerful pressure *rocked* the imprint upon the plate, and we here come to what might be considered cause number two. The rocking process being so largely dependent upon man, it was liable to be heavy or faint, in places, while the position of it within the rectangle, being manual skill, was not always exact. This in reality was the least cause of variety. Taking all this into consideration we may be obliged to admit that every die impressed was a *variety*, yet these falsities are not worthy of mention as compared to the varieties of some other falsities. All of the double die stamps are liable to false registration. The 1869 and 1875 issues are very much in fault in this respect. The double color envelopes the same. Even by means of our present improved processes we find *errors*. How much more so shall the older methods be found full of varieties. Were we to stop our examination here we should miss the most important work. The rectangle die of itself shows five distinct varieties of the unperforate 1853 issue, and these are the varieties we shall explain. I have for convenience marked these; "A" line all around, "B" none at left, "C" none right, "D" double line at left, "E" double line at right, and in 1000 stamps examined I find the comparative number "A"=983, "B"=19,



Worcester Co Phil.

"C"=22, "D"=6, "E"=1, or "A" value of 1 cent. "B" 15 cents, "C" 25 cents, "D" \$1.00, and "E" \$5.00, approximately. This latter variety is not mentioned by any of the catalogues I have yet seen.

The 1857 perforate 3 cent also has five varieties. "A" with line all around "B" line at sides, "C" two at right, "D" two at left, and "E" two both sides. The comparative variety of these is; "A"=10, "B"=966, "C"=8, "D"=10, and "E"=4 to every thousand.

In referring to these as *the* varieties, I do not mean to infer that no others are to be found. Others are noticed by several writers, but are in reality varieties of those mentioned. The vertical lines may stop opposite the nose, chin, top of bust, or be split up or blurred. One specimen I have has three very distinct lines about one-third of the way up, merging into two at the bottom. Another has one solid broad line, about twice the width of the ordinary ones. Evidently two lines so close to each other as to take ink as one.

The register marks referred to are in themselves a study. I find them varying in position about 5 m. m; most of them however being outside the vertical line, and within 3 m. m. of bottom horizontal line. That the lines were not continuous is shown by a corner of four in which the mitres show in this form; (No. 5 of blue print.)

A close examination of your collection will probably disclose the fact that out of all the 3 cent stamps of these two issues, about 95 per cent. are more or less out of true, and might be classed with the representation Fig. 4.

Of the color varieties I do not wish to enlarge. Many a collection shows three well defined shades, a light rose red, a deep rose, quite bright, and a dull brown. Atmospheric changes have given to some stamps a very dark brown, merging with rusty black.

M.

THE PHILATELIC PRESS.

While the Philatelic press of to-day may keep up the standard of excellency set by the papers of the last decade, yet we think there is room for a great improvement in several ways. Many of our papers of to-day as well as those of previous years are styled "*The Philatelic*" so and so or "The——Philatelist," yet what is there philatelic in a good many of them? In a large number of the so-called philatelic papers you seldom see anything of Philatelic interest, and yet, the youthful publishers (some are very youthful) should be encouraged, for often a poorly printed and miserably edited sheet turns out to be a germ of something better, especially if the young lads have that stick-to-it-iveness which we know some of them have.

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These young fellows need experience, kindly advice and assistance from those more advanced in this line of work and less of those sit-down-on-them-hard "items" which some careless editors shower upon them.

Some neatly printed philatelic papers show what money and a good printer can do, also what the publishers have for sale in the philatelic line on every page. Of course we believe in every man minding his own business, but to advertise a sheet at 25 or 50 cents per year as a philatelic paper when the only things philatelic about it are the advertisements of the publishers, is no joke on the pocketbooks of unsuspecting subscribers.

"Filling" in a philatelic paper is well enough if it is of the right kind, but a subscriber to six or a dozen different papers begins to appreciate the value of extended reports of several societies, copied articles, and news rehashed, which then ceases to be news.

Our philatelic literature is good. The only complaint that can be made is that there is not enough of it. There are many articles printed in the stamp papers which have no bearing on our hobby and which ought to have been carefully deposited among the waste paper under the editor's desk. We like a good "yarn" especially if it teaches something in regard to philately, but the writers of some yarns might spend their time to better advantage in making short studies of some kind pertaining to the hobby, using the magnifying glass perhaps. Color studies, perforations, designs and designers, portraits and many other subjects are not yet too well done and are always interesting.

There are many columns of notes and comments in the Philatelic press which bear the imposing title of "editorial," yet there are many of those papers which never print an editorial. Notes and comment, if bright and lively, are desirable departments in a philatelic paper and we approve of them, (our approval is of course of great importance,) and enjoy the reading of them. There are very few opportunities for an editor of a philatelic paper to write an editorial and very few editors capable of writing a good one. The writer must admit that he don't know what would make a good one or how to write one.

Although more papers devoted to the study of stamps (a statement which may be open to dispute) are published in the United States than in Europe and perhaps in all the rest of the world, yet we think England, France and Germany send out more really philatelic papers than the "States." The articles in these foreign papers are philatelic, and though perhaps too deep for some readers and uninteresting to others, are none the less good studies which make literature valuable. The typography of the English and Canadian papers is neat, but can be recognized at a glance by a printer. The English print looks peculiar to an American printer, it is heavier or blacker than ours and it seems not so modern, yet it is almost always

well done, being professional work. A good deal of the printing done on the philatelic papers of this country, even though professional, is very poor, and we are not sorry that some of the amateur work often excels, for amateur printers are often thought to be "not in it." We admire fine printing, and a number of our fine journals are beautiful examples of the printers art. Some of the boys labor under great disadvantages in publishing their papers. their outfit may be small and their purses smaller (which means poor quality of paper, but why fling "miserably printed sheets" at them? If we want to see better things from the boys, let's set a good example, and give them a kind word and a lift if we can.

"On time" is a good motto for a paper, and one has a feeling of satisfaction to receive a paper regularly on the same day of each month. It gives a reliable tone to a paper and its publishers gain the confidence of the subscribers. If good "MSS." or copy comes to the printer in good volume, the paper ought to be out on time, but for an amateur printer who has other irons in the fire and besides earning his daily bread, there is a little room for excusing his irregularity.

In arranging a recent addition to our library of philatelic papers, we were greatly annoyed at the difference in size which some papers show in the same volume. Number one of a paper we find several inches larger each way than number two, or visa versa, or the papers of the volume would run along evenly for five or six numbers, then would come a number of the proportions of a table cover, and the next number following would be of the normal size. For binding or filing away this number of the volume was a nuisance. We found several papers of ugly proportions which we hope publishers will avoid. We would not care to see all papers of the same size for that would be monotonous, but we think that a good thing for publishers to adopt would be a scale of standard measurements for philatelic papers.

W. L. B.

THE WAY SOME OF OUR COLLECTIONS ARE MOUNTED.

Of course we have all made various changes in the arrangement of our collections and will probably make many more before we are through with them, but at the present time, we each think that we have discovered the best way to mount our stamps and will stick to it until we think of a better way.

To begin with Mr. Dickinson's collection is proper, for he has probably been a stamp collector continually for a longer term of years than any one of us. His collection of stamps on entire envelopes and covers are very hard to arrange, but he has them classified by countries and keeps them in two or three shirt cartons, while his detached adhesives are mounted in a fine single volume of the latest edition of Scott's International Postage Stamp Album.

Mr. A. C. Woodward, gave the contract for his albums to a blank-book manufacturer, with very satisfactory results. He has eight books 9 x 12 inches in size, the leaves of which are of a fine heavy laid paper. His United States stamps are classified as postage adhesives and envelopes (cut), document, match, medicine and playing card stamps, using a book for those that seem to him to group together the best, and his foreign stamps are also well classified in the proper books. At last accounts Mr. Woodward was casting about for more books which, when got, will not long remain empty.

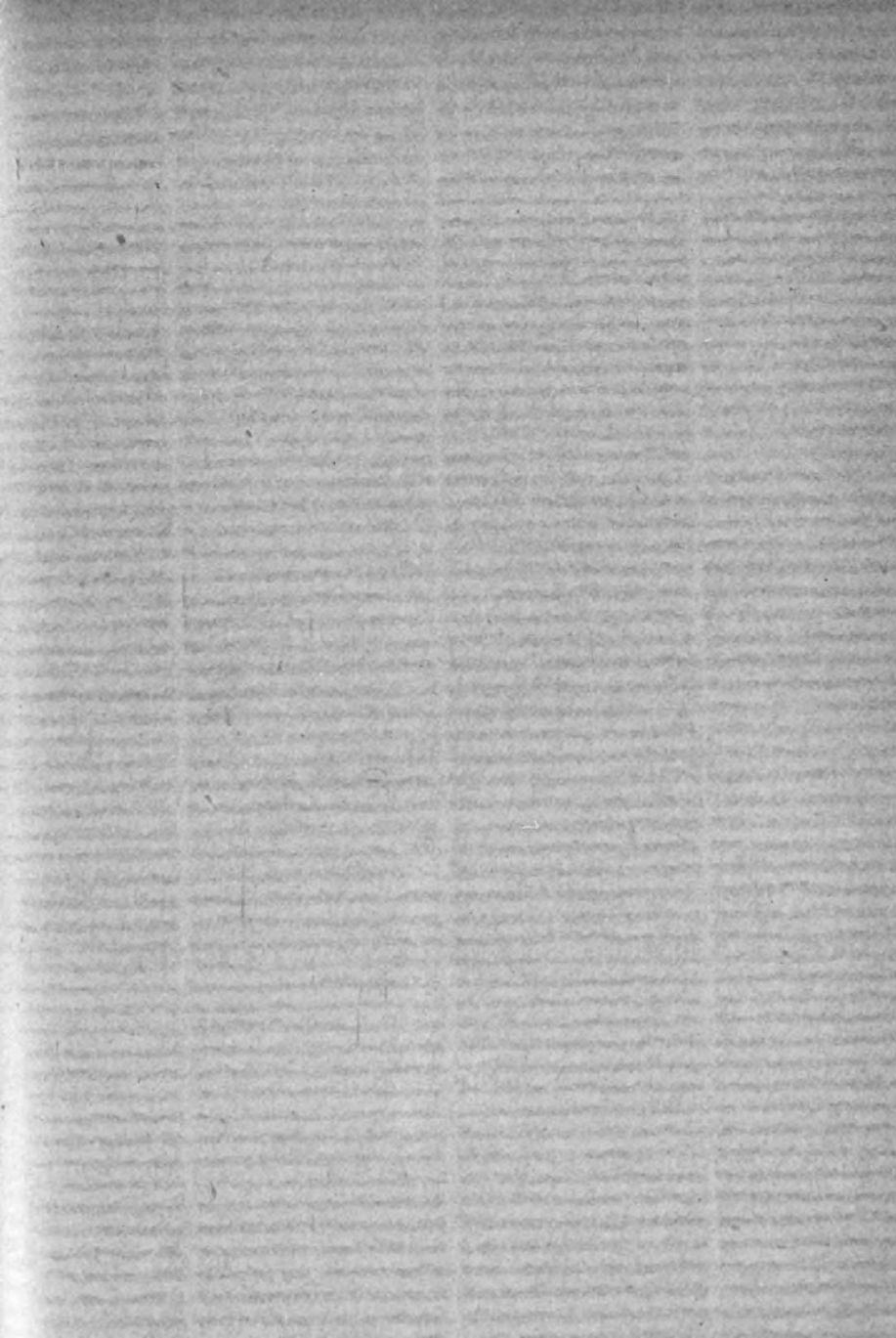
Mr. Frederick Forehand's collection is neatly arranged in a book whose makeup is copied from the Staten Island Society's album, but which is made a little smaller, to fit a certain fine receptacle, a cabinet in oak, which Mr. Forehand has had made for it. The leaves are of heavy pink, tinted bristol board, with verticle and horizontal lines of light brown, marking off the pages in small squares about 1-8 inch square. Thus it is very easy to space his stamps by lining them and counting squares. It has a very pretty binding and the book is already full.

Walter L. Brown has arranged his collection of U. S. stamps on 12-ply cards 8½ x 13 inches in size. Each card has a fancy border printed in red ink, in which there is a break at the center of the top line and "U. S. A." inserted. His collection of foreign stamps is mounted on cards of the same size, but of a lighter weight, 6 ply card, and with the border printed in brown ink and a break in the top line of the border, where the name of the country may be inserted. These cards are kept in four cloth-covered boxes of heavy cardboard 9 x 13¼ x 4 inches, the ends of which fall down on a hinge, when the covers are removed. The covers close over the boxes telescope fashion and are of the same depth as the box. This makes a collection not easily portable unless by a truckman's assistance.

Mr. E. H. Marble also mounts his collections, entire envelopes and adhesives, on cards 12½ x 16 inches, and has a portfolio to keep them in. Mr. Marble selected a large size for his cards as being a more convenient form for mounting his entire envelopes, and also just as practical as any size for adhesives.

Mr. Geo. Edwin Marble, whose active interest in stamps makes his father take quite a lively pace to keep up with him, devotes his attention to a large scrap album about 9 x 12 inches, with leaves of heavy manilla paper. His stamps are nearly all neatly arranged and the book well filled.

Mr. Edwin S. Phelps has most of the spaces of a large "Scott International" filled that are worth filling, and can say with a great deal of satisfaction that his valuable collection does not stand him a cent out of pocket. He has been a very successful trader and picked up a great many varieties practically at no cost.



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WORCESTER, MASS., APRIL, 1892.

MONTHLY.

A TRIP TO PROVIDENCE.

IT was with great pleasure that the writer attended the annual meeting of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society held at Tillinghast's Parlors, Providence R.I., Feb'y 8th, 1892. The first order of business was in doing justice to an elegant supper to which about twenty members sat down. After finishing this very difficult feat, the next in order was the election of officers for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were unanimously elected: President, Harris W. Brown; Vice President, Frank C. Smith; Treasurer, Chas. G. Calder; Sec'y, John B. Calder. After this occurred a very lively auction sale, many of the stamps bringing full catalogue price, especially the United States, notably the rare 5 cent Providence which brought \$4.50.

The Rhode Island members generally are the happy possessers of very fine collections and may be strictly called advanced collectors. It was the great privilege of the writer to inspect the collections of Messrs Olney and Wood, and it was indeed a great philatelic treat for I here found many valuable rarities among which were two entire sheets of the Providence, in fine condition, which in this condition are very seldom found and which are now held at \$50. value by dealers and are constantly rising in value. There were also noticed the two varieties of Baltimore, both short and long rays, also the 3 cent New York light blue on glazed paper, on the original envelope, which is quite unique, also the 5 cent St. Louis and the higher values of State Department unused and with original gum. Both of these gentlemen possess collections numbering from 10 to 15 thousand varieties and are about as fine collections as the writer has ever seen. They were very complete in United States and early issues of foreign postage, many stamps being worth dollars.

These collections are mounted in blank albums which I think are coming into use more and more every year, for while it gives a collector a chance to arrange his stamps to suit himself, the effect is much better. In fact the advanced collectors are almost wholly discarding the printed albums and in all probability it is a question of time before the advanced collectors will use the blank album altogether.

The Rhode Island Society, in the near future, will receive a fraternal visit from the Boston and Worcester societies and it is hoped that every member of our local society will make a great effort to be present, for the people of Rhode Island are very hospitable and the visitors will be assured of a good time, one of the features being an auction sale. The Rhode Island Society at the present time numbers about twenty-nine members, and they are a lot of very courteous gentlemen, well up in philately, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the society will continue to increase and flourish and make great strides in the cause of philately.

THE CHANCE WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

PERHAPS some of your readers would be pleased to hear how a "strike in stamps" is sometimes found. I will tell them of one of mine. Hearing, through a friend, of a large firm that had just failed (and supposing they must have a lot of old papers filed away (for they had been in business some thirty-five years) I made an attempt to buy but failed. Then I sent another party not a "stamp crank" to buy, for old paper, all they had to sell. *And he got it!* It consisted of some over 1300 pounds and contained old blank books, stubs, checks, all kinds of account books, papers, bills insurance papers, contracts, invoices and revenue receipts (clearing-house reports,) newspapers, letters and dirt of all kinds.

I paid a good price for such stuff and the party I thought of was well pleased. So was I! After several days of time I put into it I succeeded in 'sorting' it, and found I had a very good assortment of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, issues of U. S. revenues, some postage and envelopes, in total as follows: revenues 5,632, postage 327, checks 6,423, (stamps printed on face of check) postal cards of the 1st 2nd, and 3rd issues 4,065.

Now my young friends, who wish to be in it, keep an eye on your friends and relatives who have been in business for forty years or over, for they may fail some day and give you a chance of a lifetime.

C. H. P. R.

—Perhaps all you philatelists are not as fortunate as I. You see my friends remembered me with a valentine from which I will quote for you a verse. The sender must have known me.

'Twas deep within the night's dark watches
Where thick the shadows fell;
A man who sought a "postage" stamp
Dared ring a Druggist's bell;
The Druggist, though he slumbered sound,
Was very soon on deck;
And then that fellow got that stamp,
With both feet on his neck.

C. H. P. R.

—c8o—

THE EMBOSSED STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN an article on "The Embossed Stamps of the United States" by Alvah Davison, in Mc. Lean's Stamp Collectors Guide, of 1889, I find this sentence: "Many are of the opinion that there is no need of collecting the different sizes of embossing, but with all due respect to their opinion I beg, most emphatically, to disagree with them. If the one and three cent of the 1857 issue with outer lines and five cent 1857 with ornaments, are collectable, then I think the various sizes of embossing most assuredly are as the first are but slightly different from the more common stamps of the same values, and if these slight variations make them worthy of collecting, why shouldn't the difference in the size of the embossing do the same?"

This article is we believe the first extended notice given these interesting specimens of the U. S. P. O. D. J. Walter Scott recently read a paper before The Philatelic Society of New York upon the same subject. First admitting that even to his philatelic mind so slight a difference would, when first introduced have been worthy of more than a passing notice. He gives a reference list of 24 grilles of the 1867-68 issue. Referring to the 1869 and 1870 issues, the gradually decreasing effect of the grille and its abandonment by the government: "The value of these grilles philatelically is gradually increasing as postally the value gradually decreased. One of the 1867 3 cent red is grilled so heavily that the punctures sever the paper while a sheet of 6 cent rose 1870 has the form of the grilled (?) space outlined but not enough to even break the gum.

The better class of these stamps are gradually increasing in value and it is certainly money well invested for collectors to add them, as far as possible, to their albums. Comparative values as indicated by the catalogues of 1888 and 1892 make the 1870 issue worth \$12.25 and \$40.00."

And in this connection let us say a word about catalogue values. Those who have followed the values set by auction sales will wonder why the catalogues vary so largely. "Post Obitum, \$5.00 says a catalogue. The three officially sealed for \$4.50 advertises a dealer, and backs it up with "not bargain sale but regular prices." Reserve price at Roger's sale \$4.00.

1857, 1 cent blue \$.15 unused, \$.08 used says catalogue. \$.15 and \$.06 says this same dealer. Numbers of the same stamp can be seen on sheets and selling at 6 to 8 cents unused by the ten. They cannot be classed with the 15 cent stamps. The 12 cent black of same issue is another stamp of doubtful value. I think as many of this as of the 10 cent are sent out, yet it is catalogued at 50 cents more both used and unused. Why should the 3 cent 1857 with outer line be \$.35 when the commoner 3 cent is valued at \$.01? Surely they are not found in that proportion. Certainly 20 to 25 cents ought to purchase the stamp of any dealer regardless of catalogue.

M.

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A STRAIGHT TIP.

As all collectors of stamps and envelopes, or other matter pertaining thereto are often misled by the "news" published from time to time in numerous philatelic papers of "different dealers" perhaps it would be well to give your readers a little straight information.

1st. As you are often informed that you can obtain any of the Dep't stamps (specimens of course) newspaper stamps or others of the various issues on application to the Postmaster General, or one of his assistants, by enclosing the face value of same, with ten cents extra to pay registration fee. I would say to all interested that the P. O. Department does not sell or give away any stamps of the Dep't or any other kind (specimens or not) except the current issues.

2nd. Newspaper and periodical stamps are not permitted on any pretext to pass beyond

the custody of the Post office officials. To be sure some of the older ones are obtainable from dealers, but under no circumstances from the Post Office Department. Another point many seem not to know. I have met lots of stamp collectors who thought, that it obliged to, they could at any time redeem what unused postage stamps they might have laid away, at the post office or exchange them for stamps of the current issue for use postally, and have so considered \$25.00 or \$50.00 or more in unused stamps as good as so much money laid by. If the stamps are of good value it is a better investment to lay them away but not for redemption. The post office department does not redeem any postage stamps or postal cards, cut envelope stamps, or exchange any of above for other stamps of any value or issue.

The above may be of interest to some and save them lots of correspondence and waste of time. I give you the information, for the readers of the Worcester County Philatelist, herein contained as I have it over the signature of the 3rd. ass't P. M. General, A. D. Hazen.
C. H. P. R.



THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC CLUB.

AS an incentive to all 'advanced' collectors to look out for their laurels I would inform them they must be up and moving, or they will soon be outdone by their Juniors, who will soon grow up filled with philatelic learning and no small amount of experience. It has come to my knowledge that here, right under our nose, while we have to a certain extent been sleeping, that there has been formed a "Junior Philatelic Club" of Worcester, composed of the school boys only, which has already a membership of 15 or 16 and is still growing. They charge an entrance fee, also a monthly assessment and are in a fair way to make a good prosperous club as they advance in age and philately. Let us wish them good cheer and good success and all lend them a good word and helping hand. C. H. P. R.

—All communications or papers intended for the Junior Philatelic Club should be addressed to them in care of Mr. C. H. P. Roney, 161 Lincoln St., Worcester, Mass. B.



SOME RARE STAMPS,

A well known Boston dealer has in a large frame specimens of the postmasters' stamps issued from 1845 to 1847. Among others we noticed specimens of the 5 cent and 10 cent St. Louis; the Baltimore Buchanan issued by the afterwards president while postmaster in that city. Fine specimens of the Brattleboro and New York also adorn the frame, while last but by no means least we may see a Millbury, looking more roughly designed than the rest, but worth perhaps more than any other in the case. Less than a dozen specimens of this stamp are known, and only three of them are on the original envelope. It is seldom that so many rare stamps are contained so near together where they can be examined by all interested, but possessed by so few.
G. S. D.

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST.

—DEVOTED TO—

OUR HOBBY.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

WALTER L. BROWN 45 May St. G. STEWART DICKINSON 7 Cedar St.
A. C. WOODWARD 88 1/2 Main St.

This is a notion of ours and will be sent to all who care enough about it to send twelve one cent stamps for postage.

We will exchange with all who wish to place our address upon their list. Two copies will be appreciated.

Small exchange notices will be inserted on the last page for members of the association at the rate of fifteen cents for five lines.

Our friends will kindly send us any sketches, news or notes of interest to our hobby or association and receive our thanks for the same in advance.

Address: THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,
88 1/2 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

NOTES.

Sunday April 3rd we had a call from Mr. Alvah Davison and although feeling ill Mr. D. entertained us very pleasantly with a general talk on philatelic topics. What he told us would fill several pages of the WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST and make very entertaining and instructive reading. We regret that we cannot present it.

Being behind hand is a bad fault which we do not approve of but pulling tacks, and moving the household goods of the editor, printer and secretary of this paper must stand as an excuse this time whatever excuses we may have in the future for like faults. Any one who has had such obstacles to contend with may kindly sympathize. Others need not because they can't.

We can offer no inducements to philatelic writers because we receive no income from our paper. Everything is expense to us and our work is done for nothing. Thanks is all we give and all we ask is thanks. We had one issue printed at a professional office at an expense of at least 15 cents for each copy of the paper and although our hobby is small it is expensive. But we enjoy it.

We extend our thanks for all favors past, present and future and hope with the extension of such favors to make the future a long one. Our contemporaries received us in a friendly way and have said many kind words of encouragement and appreciation for which we are also thankful. One said "The cover on The Worcester County Philatelist has evidently come to stay." We have no room to reprint other favors. We think that altogether they would more than fill one number of the WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST.

We are glad to note another little boom to Philately among our near by friends. This time it is in Whitinsville and we have information that the stirring influences of the hobby have taken hold of fifteen or twenty of the younger villagers. They are doing considerable trading in stamps and we expect soon to hear of a philatelic club among them. Mr. Morton H. Carr and Mr. Newell W. Wood are prominent. We wish them lots of philatelic pleasure and hope that their hobby will live long with them.

Being printer, editor and secretary our spare time is fully occupied so that some things are neglected about the make up of the paper. One of them is the contributed articles. So let our philatelic friends help us out in this respect and send in whatever they may have in mind. And let some of our leaders in the cause remember that if we had more time to pester them with requests for articles we would do it. We want at least one good article from each of them before we die to help make this strictly a literary philatelic paper. Our ambition is to make a good thing of it and a volume worth keeping.

A great deal is being said just now about the "Seebeck Issues." Some notices we read are very bitter against them and handle the subject of collecting these stamps, without gloves. A fine lot recently received from Mr. Gremmel has convinced us that they are collectable and also desirable for they are certainly very pretty and may serve to brighten the appearance of a collection especially if sandwiched in between the homely Mexican and detestable U. S. of Columbia stamps. Speaking of what is collectable and what is not collectable must it seem be a question of vital importance to some collectors and to the hobby. But with no intention of giving advice we might say that it would be well for those who do not like "Seebeck Issues," revenues, oddities etc. to let what they don't like alone and collect what they do like. Most men have a hobby and if it pleases one man to collect certain things why not hold our peace and let him collect them. Our notions should be no guide to him or his hobby.

Our friend Mr. Wm. P. Brown evidently put up a job on the postal service clerks in the New York and Worcester post offices. They at least had the privilege of seeing the ghost of Andrew Jackson very thoroughly represented upon a registered envelope sent to Mr. Dickinson whom we happened to find showing it to several acquaintances just as he had taken it from the office. The postage and registration fees were paid in full upon the face of the envelope with six two cent black, Jackson, 1863-'68 and each one postmarked. The knight of the ink pad and cancelling mallet evidently thought he had struck something prehistoric for we have evidence that he stopped to look at it and turned it over for on the back Mr. Brown paid the man for his trouble and threw himself too, for it was literally plastered with halves, quarters, sections and fragments of the same kind of postage and each individual piece showed proof of the man's spite against that man of the black two-centers for he blackened the eye of each piece more than thoroughly. We would advise those of the fair sex, mentioned by our contemporaries, who dislike "those horrid red things" for their mourning envelopes to send to Mr. Wm. P. Brown for a supply of the black kind for he can evidently supply a million.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

A 2 cent albino 1887 issue stamped envelope was lately obtained at the local post office among a bunch of their colored brethren.

The demand for used specimens of the 3c and 6c current issue U. S. is so great that dealers find it hard to fill orders at all times.

Mr. Tiffany's library of philatelic literature is beyond a doubt the best in the world. It contains upwards of 10,000 pieces, and is kept close to date.

Two flag of truce envelopes sent by southern prisoners to their friends on the other side during the war are among the interesting late additions to our collection of whole envelopes.

Mr. Hale of Hale's Penny Post fame which issued stamps in 1843-'44 is still alive in Boston and although of rather feeble intellect still retains many anecdotes of his struggles with the government in those days which resulted in the reduction of postage in 1845.

We have lately added to our collection a number of albinos and oddities in the U. S. envelope line. These specimens, some without color and others with the embossing in the most fantastic places, make us wonder sometimes whether these mistrikes are as accidental as some authorities would make us believe.

The large and valuable collection of Mr. Deats is kept in the vaults of a safe deposit company at Trenton, as it is unsafe to be contained at his home in Flemington. As the owner informs us that he has seen it scarcely more than once in two years, it seems to be a case where the \$10.00 on collection is both metaphorically and literally "out of sight."

Nothing makes the cancelling clerks more angry with the world than to get hold of a letter with a large number of stamps on it. We lately received an envelope that was pre-paid with 36 two cent stamps of the 1863 issue, and our readers may well calculate the amount of swearing it caused some poor overworked clerk who cancelled all of them.

Watson's postal catalog mentions 16 varieties of cards and 25 letter sheets issued before January 1, 1892, by the U. S. P. O. D. If the serial numbers of the letter sheets continue to increase every year catalogs of the future may do well to economize space by stating that serial numbers run from a to z with the perforations as cross as ever whether right or left.

One of the most interesting entire sheets in my collection is that of the American Letter Mail Co. issued in 1884. It consists of 20 stamps in four rows of five each and while not held at a very high price at present will doubtless rapidly become scarce. The original plate is in the hands of a well known dealer, who asserts however that it will not be used for reprinting.

The long delayed cloth bound edition of Scott's 52d edition catalog has at last appeared and presents quite an impressive appearance. The contrast between Kline's first manual of 1862 and this latest production is so marked that no better proof of philately's steady improvement need to be produced. Every other page is ruled blank so that any private additions or corrections can easily be made.

A local collector has in his possession a used 24 cent unperforated 1856 issue U. S. which was taken from a letter sent in 1857 from New York to the Bahamas. There can be no doubt as to the genuineness of this specimen as he has preserved the original cover from which the stamps were taken. Mr. Tiffany says, in regard to this value, in his work on U. S. adhesives that the rarity of the specimens known prevents an extended description of this stamp.

The Stamp Collector's Companion of Mr. Tiffany is, to an inexperienced collector, one of the hardest works to find any special paper wanted that has been issued. Its cost was more than \$125.00 and its sales have never paid more than half the expense of printing. In defence of his work Mr. Tiffany informs us that an index was intended to be included, but this handy help was evidently forgotten. A new edition of this book is being agitated among some of the leading philatelists.

The present system of prepaying newspapers and periodicals by stamps in proportion to weight brings to mind memories of the time before 1875 when the newspaper postage was collected every quarter. What an immense amount of work this made the clerks of some offices every three months may well be imagined. Mistakes very often occurred which caused vexatious delays and no wonder the present system was almost forced into adoption as in fact it should have been in use many years before 1875.

In Pemberton's Handbook for 1878 we read that through the stupidity of the Singalese officials the entire stock of Ceylon envelopes was destroyed and that hereafter specimens could only be obtained when large collections were broken up. History as usual repeated itself when in 1881 the remainders of the old issues of U. S. postage were destroyed in New York. Although thousands of miles apart the same spirit of destruction seemed to prevail and the vacant places in our albums speak louder than words in condemnation of this wanton vandalism.

While the collection of foreign stamped envelopes is not very much pursued in this country still there are many very pretty designs among the rest. Most governments do not go into the stationery business so much as the United States and Great Britain. One of the neatest foreign envelopes to our mind is the Egyptian in which the Pyramids and Sphinx stand out in bold relief in the corners of a note size envelope. Most of these are sold cut by dealers, but we advocate keeping entire as far as possible, as many peculiarities are lost when the stamp is cut square.

As an example of philatelic arithmetic we would ask our readers to discuss the following problem. *The American Journal of Philately* issued monthly from March 1868 to January 1879, 130 numbers, and from January 1879 to January 1886, 28 quarterly numbers. In the second series from February 1888 to January 1892 the same paper published, monthly, 48 numbers or a grand total of 206 numbers. *The Philatelic Monthly* issued from February 1875 to January 1892, monthly, 203 numbers. The question is now which has really published the most numbers and is therefore the older paper. G. S. DICKINSON.



Sample copy of "Missouri Philatelist" free. Collectors send for large retail list. Dealers and those wishing to go into the stamp business, send for wholesale list. U. S. and Foreign stamps wanted for cash or exchange. Stamp collections bought. No rubbish in the following. All genuine specimens containing many rarities. 100 stamps, all diff. 25c. 150 stamps, all diff. 50c. 200 stamps, all diff. \$1. 300 stamps, all diff. \$2. 500 stamps, all diff. \$4. 1,000 stamps, all diff. \$10. Elegant large album with the 500 and 1,000 packets.

CONRATH STAMP & PUB. CO.

1334 LaSalle St., St. Louis, Mo.



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Edwin H. Marble, 6 Ely St., Worcester, Mass. desires correspondence with U. S. collectors of philatelic literature and stamps.

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We can supply good approval sheets double or single at the low rate of \$3.25 per 1000 single sheet, and \$4.25 per 1000 for the double folded sheets. For lots of 100 prices are in the same ratio. For printing instructions and a small business card on back we charge 75 cents per 100 or more.

THE PHILATELIST PRINTING CO.,

883 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

THE KILBY STAMP PACKETS

PACKET NO.	Contains	Price
1.	25 U. S. Postage Stamps.	25 cts.
2.	25 U. S. Revenue	25 "
3.	20 Match, Medicine & Playing Card Stamps.	25 "
4.	100 Foreign Postage.	25 "
5.	20 Unused Foreign.	25 "
6.	10 Department inc'd'g Interior, P. O. & War.	25 "

The above packets contain no duplicates, and are guaranteed to catalogue, two to four times the price. The six packets will be sent post paid on receipt of \$1.25

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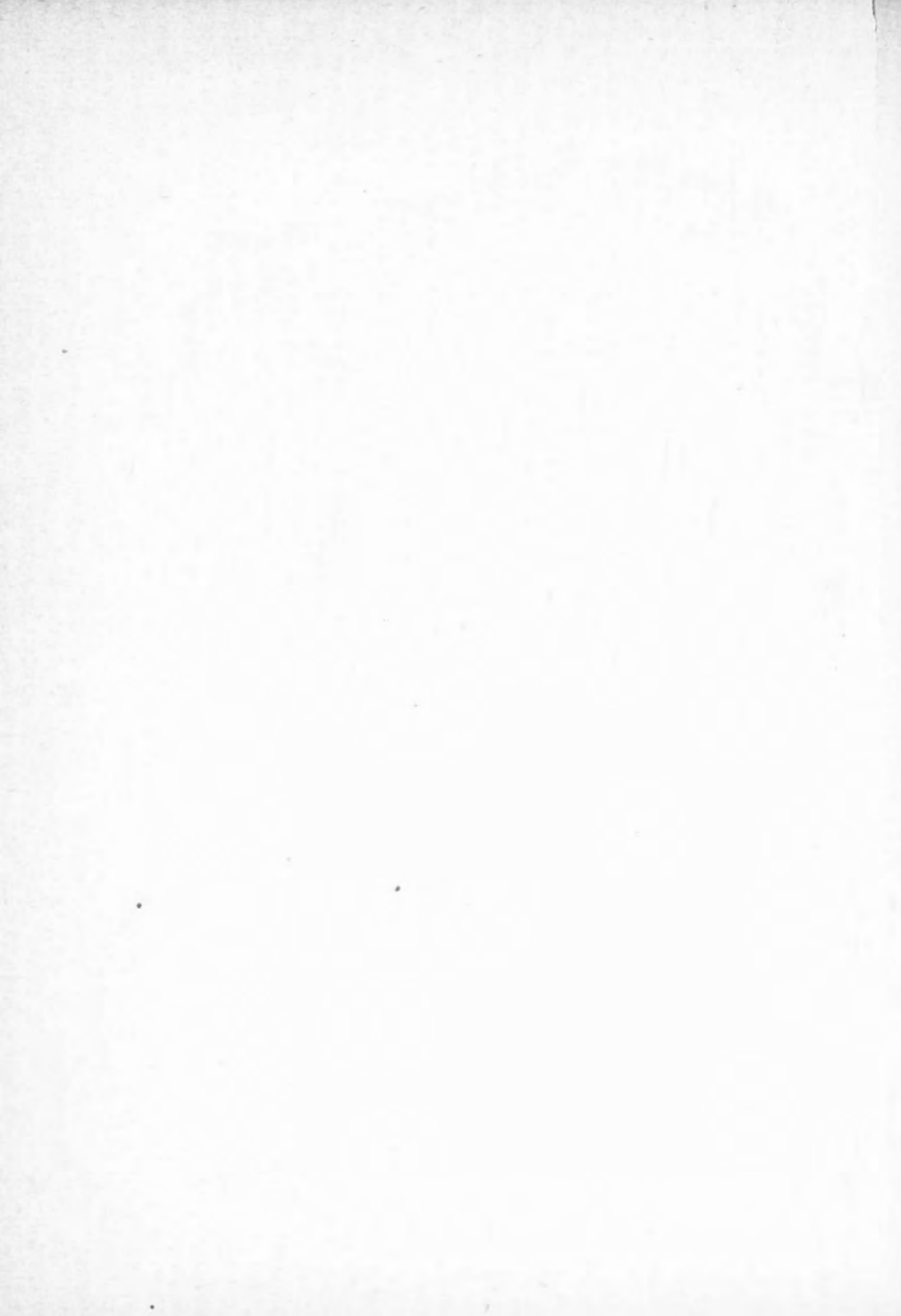
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A. C. WOODWARD, 883 MAIN ST. WORCESTER, MASS.



AUGUST NUMBER

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

A Monthly Magazine

Devoted to Stamp Collecting.

VOLUME 1.

NUMBER 8.

AUGUST 1892

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G. Stewart Dickinson Walter L. Brown
A. C. Woodward
PUBLISHERS 833 Main St. Worcester Mass.

THE WORCESTER
COUNTY
PHILATELIST.

VOL. I. NO. 8.

WORCESTER, MASS., AUGUST, 1892.

MONTHLY.

ATLANTIS.

HEARING that a stock company was about to be arranged to get funds to raise the British Erigate Hussar (sunk in the east river in 1760) and said to contain nearly two million of dollars) I determined if possible to steal a march, if not the money, and get one good glimpse of the old hull previous to the commencement of operations.

Having, a few years previous, been identified with submarine work in the ship *Glyphic*, which sank off Gibraltar, I of course felt myself thoroughly competent to perform the task of looking at this ship if nothing more. I accordingly repaired to my friends Messrs Seawell & Co., dealers in sub-marine supplies, and they hastily fitted me out with an apparatus, the most perfect of any in existence as it required no manipulations by a second party, and I left Horse Neck very early one morning, adjusted my armor quietly and took sight at the old buoy, which is directly over the ship. I was well provided with all necessary appliances for beholding the leviathan of the vasty deep. I was furnished with an electric lamp of one hundred candle power and a curiously constructed breathing pipe that would reel from a bobin on the surface, the deeper I sank, and recoil as I came up again. I was armed with a sharp steel prod securely attached to my belt. I gave one last look around me and quickly slid down the oozy bank into old ocean.

The water gave me a sudden chill, which grew less cold the deeper I descended. In going down I struck a snag which came near unsettling me but I quickly recovered myself and in a twinkling I struck the bottom of the muddy river. I perceived at once that the current was setting strongly toward the sound and I made a desperate struggle to keep my footing and caught a post to save myself which proved to be a rotten knee of the old ship itself. It instantly gave way making a loud gurgling sound and I was violently thrown upon my face and ere I was aware I was rapidly propelled down stream with no power of resistance I became partially unconscious and seemed to be flying through the water at a rapid rate, while fantastic looking creatures glared at me with their glassy bulging eyes.

Of a sudden I heard a loud rushing of the water and I became aware that a steamer had passed over me on its way to the metropolis. As I was being carried on by the tide I was at ease with all the world except for my dear family. What would become of little Katie whose kisses were warm upon my lips and my blessed wife whom I might never see again?

My life passed in swift review before me and I weighed all the good I had done against the bad but I will not tell which preponderated. A sleepy sensation came over me and I fell to dozing, when suddenly a sickly warm feeling spread over me and I knew I was approaching the Gulf Stream. Not caring to be swept into the Arctic regions I roused myself and attempted to stay my progress but the swift current carried me on.

I soon encountered a school of dog fish who punched me severely with their cold noses evidently baffled as to what manner of creature I was and just as I was drifting away from them I espied a monster man eating shark fanning himself directly in my pathway as if in dreamy contemplation of me. No sooner had he turned his huge body around than a terrific battle ensued between him and the hungry dog fish. The water was churned to foam and dyed with blood and in trying to escape I rose to the surface and was hurled with great force against what I took to be a granite boulder. I scrambled around it and hid myself in a clump of sea weeds hanging to its side and lay in my hiding place several minutes. On peering round presently I saw that the blood thirsty sharks had disappeared and I cast about myself and found this stone to be solid masonry on top reaching far down into the depths of the sea. On tearing away the sea ferns where I had been hidden I found a window nearly choked up with debris and moss. I labored with my prod awhile and cleared away the obstructions which revealed a spiral staircase running down through the mammoth tower. I at once threw myself into the open window and after a long and slippery journey I reached the bottom of this colossal structure, which must have been at least one thousand feet high.

Here my air coil was becoming exhausted and I unme lately threw on my reserve and all was well again. I also replenished my lamp with air from my lungs and the flame grew steadier. I was filled with wonder as to where I was and what would be the outcome of these strange happenings. The question I could not decide was whether I had been drowned and was in spirit land or in the flesh. I was in a dilemma. I at last made a tremendous effort and pushed my way out of the tower and discovered that I was in the corner of a park of a once beautiful city. Stately some warehouses were standing on every side and glittering signs in unknown tongues were hanging pendent on building fronts and although old Neptune had thrown his conquering yoke over all this splendor I could still see luxurious abiding places of earth's greatest sons of men.

The statues once so magnificent were changed as if were to ebony as they had become discolored by the action of the sea water. On looking beyond the town I observed a massive building and quietly wended my way thither and found myself at the door of a capacious wine vault. Casks were ranged in rows thro' its entire length and I exclaimed aloud 'here must be old wine from the choicest vintages well improved by age.' My eyes fell on what I at once knew were revenue or tax stamps of that period still adhering to their heads. Their colors still remained intact. Some of them were watermarked though impervious to that fluid. Many of them were on violet paper covered with strange inscriptions in all colors and of all denominations and nearly all were grilled.

I hastened to an elegant office near by and to my horror discovered the imprint of several skeletons on the flagging. As I opened the door two large green boxes came floating round the room. I at once knew that they must contain treasures but was admonished by my breathing pipe that my stay must be short. I tied the boxes securely together, towed them from their prison house, kicked the heavy leaden sashes from my feet and clutching the boxes rapidly rose to the surface.

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

Thick fleecy clouds covered the sky and the prospect of my deliverance did not look very flattering. I quickly scanned the horizon and discovered a faint puff of smoke in the east. I put my helmet on my prod and made ready to use it as a signal of distress and within twenty minutes a steam tug approached and took me and my boxes on board. Some palatable food was given me which I eagerly devoured having been three days destitute of it. The tug left me at New Bedford. From thence I hurried to New York and met Messrs Seawell & Co. and we together with my boxes were taken to the office of Dr. Curio, the archiologist and professor of anthropology, and with closed doors the boxes were opened.

When the cover of the first box was lifted my friend the Doctor exclaimed in a loud voice "Great God, Atlantis is no longer a myth but a stern reality!" The first box opened was found filled with government stamps perforated and gummed. They were of every conceivable color and texture. One large package contained stamps in denomination to our money of fifty dollars each. A fine portrait of Athanes, King of Greece, with the Golden Fleece beneath the face. The stamps of Atlantis had engraved on them the world on the shoulders of old Atlas and a golden border. These stamps were pinked but not perforated. In those days it seems that everything eatable, drinkable and wearable was stamped. Lawyers were required to stamp their briefs. Doctors had their prescriptions stamped and in heraldry coats of arms must be heavily stamped in the royal colors, orange gold and green. In fact every industry in the arts and sciences was taxed and the ruling sovereign derived princely revenues from the sale of all the different stamps.

In one corner was found a metallic box on the cover of which was written in Sanscrit "The property of Aclimus Pontius, containing specimens of all stamps issued up to date, 4000 years before the Christian era." And snugly tucked away were found stamps with the image of Sesostris of Egypt printed thereon from engraved plates. These were of the 12th dynasty. They were perforated with long slots and were triangular in shape. A few were found from Ethiopia with very rude engraving on them, in unsevered pairs and strips. This Aclimus Pontius had been a diligent collector of stamps from all countries of the then known world. Being, as we learned a prince of Atlantis (heir apparent to the throne) he had unusual facilities in that line. The stamps from Egypt were directly (as we learned from reading a slip) from Sesostris, son of the great Pharaoh who began the building of the Cheops Pyramid, while those from Ethiopia were from Queen Amensa's mother, an aged lady living in luxury in that far off country.

Those from China were from the fair hand of the Emperor's daughter, a princess, who it appears from a letter found was betrothed to Aclimus. The Chinese stamps were on silk of the reign of Formosa dating back nine thousand years B.C. There were also four specimens from the Druids before they embarked for the English coast.

And now said Dr. Curio as he raised himself to his full height we will conclude our examination for the present. This is glory enough for one day. We have demonstrated the fact that Atlantis did exist and that the study of philately is not a new thing under the sun

but is as hoary with age as the planet itself and we shall await the full developement of the science in mercantile and industrial pursuits till we meet the last stamp of Divine approval.

NOAH.

—o8o—
REVIEW.

From Mr. W. A. H. Connor we receive a very neat little catalogue of A Most Complete Collection of Entire U. S. Envelopes to be sold at auction at 646 Market St. San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 3, 1892. This sale is catalogued by the owner, Mr. Connor.—Free.

The S. B. Bradt Company sent out early a neat catalogue of their Seventh Sale. In it are offered some good things in United States stamps and foreign also. Sale is in Chicago, Sept. 14, 1892. For free catalogue address the S. B. Bradt Comp'y, 132 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

The Post Office for August has a good report of the 7th annual A. P. A. convention including pictures of some of the prominent members who were present, also a cut of the International Hotel. Published by Post Office Pub. Co. 80 Nassau St., New York.—Price 35 cents per year.

The Chicago Stamp News for August contains two half tone pictures of the members of the firm who publish it, Mr. Bradt and Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer. These pictures precede a short history of The Leading Chicago Stamp Firm which is well worth reading. Free to all interested. Published by the S. B. Bradt Comp'y, Chicago.

The Long Island Philatelist for July has several pages of short notes of more or less interest to the general reader; also a chapter of a serial entitled Bob Crane, Stamp Detective by Mr. R. W. Ashcroft and Stamp Literature as an Investment by Oscar Jannasch. Published by Ashcroft and Ogden, Box 314, Woodhaven, N. Y.—Price 25 cents per year.

The Florida Philatelist, a new one from "the land of flowers, for August gives us a discussion of "Philately as a Science" by Guido Fawkes, "The Postage Stamps of Johore" by P. M. Heinsberger, "My Find" by A. M. Criggs and a pretty poetic compliment to the paper, entitled "The Florida Philatelist" by Roy F. Greene. Published by the D. E. Hazen Stamp & Pub. Co., Thonotosassa, Florida.—Price 25 cents per year.

ROGERS' PRICED CATALOGUE of the market values of the postage stamps of the United States comes to us in very neat form of suitable size to carry in the pocket. It contains the market prices of the stamps, listed both used and unused and in unsevered pairs, as nearly correct as Mr. Rogers' ample experience as a stamp broker makes possible to determine. Therein are also priced the recognized varieties of the regular government issues. A ruled column for keeping an account of what each stamp costs the collector also ruled spaces where the market values of the same stamps for 1893, '94 and '95 may be inserted makes the work very valuable as a book of reference. It also contains a ruled space where the collector may check the stamps he has or may wish to secure. The book is altogether neat and pretty and makes a very valuable work of reference. Published by Albert R. Rogers, 75 Maiden Lane, New York, N. Y.—Price \$1.00.

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

•THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST. •

—DEVOTED TO—

OUR HOBBY.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

WALTER L. BROWN 45 May St. G. STEWART DICKINSON 7 Cedar St.
A. C. WOODWARD 883 Main St.

This is a notion of ours and will be sent to all who care enough about it to send twelve one cent stamps for postage.

We will exchange with all who wish to place our address upon their list. Two copies will be appreciated.

Small exchange notices will be inserted on the last page for members of the association at the rate of fifteen cents for five lines.

Our friends will kindly send us any sketches, news or notes of interest to our hobby or association and receive our thanks for the same in advance.

Address: THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,
883 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

NOTES.

The recent catalogues give the set of high value State Department stamps quite a boost as far as prices go. From \$40. to \$60. The \$5.00 State Dept. is now quoted at \$30.00. We recently saw a set of these stamps which were bought in Germany at the low price of 1 mark (24 cents) but they are counterfeit or only a good facsimile.

Mr. Dickinson showed us some gems from a new lot of stamps, upon entire envelopes, he has just received. Among them some rare Confederate Locals and Native Indian States stamps in pairs. Among a few papers we noticed a copy of the *Illustrated Briefmarken Journal* which is a gem of neatness and of the printers art. It has initial letters to articles printed in two colors and illustrations of stamps printed in the correct colors in which they were issued. Some illustrations of the Periodical, State Dept., high values, and the \$5000 Internal Revenue stamps on some leaves of Moens' Catalogue were good.

The warm days of early Summer seemed to call upon the editor and printer to lay aside the pen and composing stick and devote his attention to Nature's charms. In fact Mrs. Brown "put her foot down" and laid claim to some of our attention also, so the WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST has been taking a rest for the past few months. We wish to extend thanks to all who have kindly continued to send us copies of their papers as exchange

favours. We may not be able to make equivalent return for such favours but we will do all we can towards that end. The future regularity of the WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST will depend upon the amount of time which the editor can spare outside of his hours of business.

B.

—oſo—

NOTES FROM THE U. S. POSTAL GUIDE.

We gather some interesting notes amongst the "Don'ts."

Don't write on the envelope "In haste," "Care of postmaster," etc. It does no good and tends to confuse in the rapid handling of mail matter.

Don't trust to the fact that you are an "old resident," "well known citizen" etc. but have your letters addressed in full.

Don't, when you fail to receive an expected letter, charge the postal service with its loss until you have learned from your correspondent all the facts in regard to its mailing, contents etc.

Don't mail any letter unless your address, with request to return, is upon the face of the envelope so that in case of non delivery it will be returned directly to you.

These four are amongst the most important "don'ts" we know of and are perhaps the cause of more than two thirds of the grievances letter writers and receivers have.

* * *

Does the Post Office Department cost anything? Is it so very expensive to maintain? Such was the question asked by an intelligent gentleman of one of the officials. The gentleman received for an answer one of the guides and was asked to turn to page 56. Contracts were to be entered into by the Dep't for supplies and bids for one years use called for "21000 dozen lead pencils, 1200 dozen quarts of ink, 600 dozen quarts of mucilage, 25000 inking pads, 25000 postmarking stamps, 30000 pounds of cancelling ink, 13000 dozen pens, and 200,000,000 facing slips." Just a few of over 300 different articles called for.

* * *

"Uncle Sam" has found the ladies pretty good post tenders. He has 6,535 postmistresses. In Alaska there is 1, Rhode Island claims 10, Utah 52, Massachusetts 75, New York 243 and Pennsylvania 463.

* * *

Almost 40 per cent more postal cards were called for in February 1892 than in February 1891, 28½ thousand of the large size cards being called for.

* * *

In 1879 the Post Office Dep't. paid \$23,877 for "special facility service," 1885 called for \$250,000 and 1891 \$29,565. The result is that, taking all things into consideration, we have in the United States as complete and expeditious mail service as any in the world. A letter from a business concern in Charleston S. C. mailed at 6 P. M. Monday was into the box (Worcester, Mass.) of the writer of this article Wednesday morning before 7 o'clock.

The postal car service and transhipment in New York City being complete in every detail as far as possible.



One hundred cancelling and postmarking machines have been rented and the record they make is so far ahead of hand work, that with careful experiments to perfect them, that we look to their general adoption in all first class offices. 30,000 pieces of miscellaneous mail matter per hour has been cancelled and postmasked with only two errors. A machine recently shown in New York City, governed in its action by electricity, has a capacity of 25,000 to 30,000 pieces. It has yet to be tested in actual practice. M.



A DAY'S OUTING IN THOMPSON TOWN.

WHILE taking a day's outing in Thompson, Connecticut, the writer attempted to do the postmaster for things collectable but found nothing in his stock except the common low values of the current stamps and stamped envelopes. Our call on the postmaster was not entirely without interest however for we enjoyed the privilege of watching him open and distribute the morning mail. He told us something about the making of stamped envelopes which we did not know and perhaps some of our readers may not be acquainted with the process of their manufacture.

The amount of paper required to make the desired number of envelopes is placed on the table of this self feeding machine and it takes one sheet at a time and does the work of cutting, gumming, folding, embossing and printing the stamp, and counting, leaving the 25th envelope projecting about a half inch beyond the others, as the envelopes come out all counted and ready for the band. It is thus an easy matter for the attendant at the machine to pick up the envelopes in bunches of twenty-five and put the band around them.

We also had an opportunity of ransacking a baker's dozen of old trunks which were stored away close under the roof of the house of our friend. There were a number of "old hair trunks among them, one of which we brought home as a philatelic curio because it did not contain stamps, but contrary to the usual custom we passed them and found our "find" in the others. We secured several good stamped envelopes of the early one and three cent issues and adhesives almost without number. There were also grilled stamps of the 1870 issues and several good foreign from India, Hong Kong and France which we saved on the entire envelope.

We believe that close under some other roofs of the homes of the wealthy old residents of grand old Thompson Town may be found philatelic treasures that would gladden the heart of any collector. And even the mail of every day might interest some of us for a large number of letters from foreign lands come to town in the mail of some of the summer residents from their friends abroad. The boy who could get the freedom of the attacks of the town, in a philatelic way, might bring forth some rich treasures.

Even without our find our of stamps our days outing in Thompson Town was very enjoy-

able. We enjoyed our walks thro' the silent streets with only the great old elms for our companions and we had the pleasure of meeting the school teacher of "district number 4," and of taking a photograph of her three dozen scholars and the schoolhouse by the road. And the large estates and private parks with fine mansions, old and new, standing on the higher ground like sentinels watching the surrounding wooded hills speak for themselves of the refinement of the town.

W. L. B.

—oſo—
PHILATELIC NOTES.

Strange stories of happenings at the recent A. P. A. convention are floating around that are very funny to hear by word of mouth but hardly proper to print. No doubt they will all get abroad even if they are good enough to keep.

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We regret the fact that we were not at home when Mr. Wm. C. Stone, of Springfield, called. We are sorry that we did not meet the gentleman for we always learn something by acquaintance with the old time philatelists and consider it a great treat to meet them.

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We have had the pleasure of meeting the genial president of the A. P. A., Mr. John K. Tiffany, several times of late as he has been spending a part of his vacation in this city with his mother. * His stamp talks and conversation about the A. P. A. convention have been very entertaining to the writer.

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Our friend, and co-worker on the PHILATELIST, Mr. A. C. Woodward has just returned from his vacation trip to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, where he spent some time in looking up stamps and stamp collectors. He succeeded in finding a collector who had in his collection some rare Nova Scotia and Canadian stamps. The gentleman informed him that he had never bought a stamp for his collection but had picked them up or had traded for them.

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The latest neat thing from R. F. Albrecht & Co. is a small book, vest pocket size, being a "complete catalogue of all postage stamps and envelopes of the United States, including all governmental issues and local stamps of the Confederate States. A reference list giving date of issue, value (used and unused) and necessary description to distinguish every known stamp of above countries." It is issued under date of August 1892 and can be had of the publishers at 30 Nassau St., New York.

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We have the pleasure to announce the call of another philatelic friend, an old timer who perhaps may be remembered by some, Mr. Frank S. C. Wicks, now of the Meadville Theological Seminary. He is not now a collector of stamps, having lost his courage at the Peekskill Academy where his valuable collection was stolen. His specialty was the British Colonies of which he had a very fine collection of unused stamps, considering art rather than rarity in his selections.

W. L. B.



Sample copy of "Missouri Philatelist" free. Collectors send for large retail list. Dealers and those wishing to go into the stamp business, send for wholesale list. U. S. and Foreign stamps wanted for cash or exchange. Stamp collections bought. No rubbish in the following. All genuine specimens containing many rarities. 100 stamps, all diff. 25c 150 stamps, all diff. 50c. 300 stamps, all diff. \$1. 500 stamps, all diff. \$1. 500 stamps, all diff. \$10. Elegant large album with the 500 and 1,000 packets.

CONNATH STAMP & PUB. CO.

1234 LaSalle St.,

St. Louis, Mo.



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THE KILBY STAMP PACKETS

PACKET NO.	Contains	Price	25 Cts.
1.	25 U. S. Postage Stamps.	" "	" "
" "	2. " 25 U. S. Revenue	" "	" 25 "
" "	3. " 20 Match, Medicine & Playing Card Stamps.	" "	" 25 "
" "	4. " 100 Foreign Postage.	" "	" 25 "
" "	5. " 20 Unused Foreign.	" "	" 25 "
" "	6. " 10 Department inc'd'g Interior, P. O. & War.	" "	" 25 "

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SEPT.-OCT. NUMBER

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

A Monthly Magazine

Devoted to Stamp Collecting.

VOLUME 1.

NUMBER 9.

* SEPT.-OCT. 1892 *

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G. Stewart Dickinson Walter L. Brown
A. C. Woodward
PUBLISHERS 893 Main St. Worcester Mass.

THE WORCESTER
-COUNTY- PHILATELIST.

VOL. 1. NO. 9. WORCESTER, MASS., SEPT.-OCTO. 1892. MONTHLY

WHAT SHALL I COLLECT?

BY CLEVE SCOTT.

At the request of the editor of this journal I will write you on the above subject. After thinking it over and experimenting with this that and the other I have come to think that "U. S. stamps are what we U. S. people should collect." I have collected foreign and U. S. stamps, in fact both together, and gave it up as a bad job. In the first place "a true adherer of his native country understands his own country's stamps best," he knows where they are, he knows that "counterfeiting of Uncle Sam's stamps has not occurred in 20 years" with this wide exclamation it suggests to me that "U. S. stamps afford a better field for collecting than any other country." We can roam through our old treasures of antiquity, such as cases, trunks etc. used by our ancestors, and in these can be found treasures of our U. S. stamp engravers art.

I don't mean to trace this to the novice's mind so far that he thinks he can enter any old hair trunk or case and easily pick up an envelope containing a N. Y. 5 cent black of '45 or an 1869 90 cent stamp. No! No! We cannot pick up these philatelic rarities which command such a neat advance, as the years glide by. Perchance we run across rarities we all strive to possess, but remember that "rarity also depends on the law of supply and demand" and not the "law of plenty and demand" by no means.

As the philatelist starts on his career he generally collects what he can get, (I know it from the past) he may be duped to the tune of 10 cents for a Hamburg Local or a common German stamp or perchance he would reluctantly refuse to give 50 cents for an 1851 5¢ brown, at any rate the U. S. stamp far surpasses those of any other stamp issuing countries.

After getting together a mighty host of stamps of every country he (the novice) is in a dilemma. He cannot pick out those old English Locals or German state stamps. He gets disgusted with his lot of stamps but when he meets the beaming face of George Washington on the 3¢ green or old Benjamin Franklin he understands what it suggests. It says Benjamin Franklin, the great inventor of electricity, the maker of the printing press and the first postmaster general of the United States, it is a U. S. stamp. Washington, the father of our country, the man who saved the United States from the governing hand of Great Britain. He knows this too well, even from his history which he studies at school to the 3¢ green which he so reluctantly sticks on the letter to his best girl. He can appreciate the sights of his countrymen, it rehearses old events in the history of our country, it "arouses an old patriotic enthusiasm in his veins" to collect the stamps of the United States of America we all know so well.

SOME OF THE COLLECTORS OF PORTLAND, OREGON.

BY ONE OF THEM.

Mr. Alfred Greenebaum is connected with the extensive carpet house of Walters Bros., and is one of the leading "phil's" of Portland. He collects a little of everything but prefers United States stamps. He has a fine collection and is especially strong in German States. Alf is quite a society leader also, and is a member of the Oregon Nat'l Guards. He has his collection mounted in four albums.

Mr. Harry Dore is "the printer," and conducts a large and prosperous establishment on Front St. He is a general collector and has a very good collection. He is also a shell collector and is "way up" in them, being a correspondent of the Smithsonian Institute and several other scientific bodies.

Mr. L. E. Swetland is the "sweet" collector of Portland, being interested with his father in the candy manufacturing business. L. E. is a very genial fellow and is always pleased to see collectors and talk stamps.

Mr. Lomler is our most learned and scientific collector, having collected since way back in the sixties. He was a particular friend and correspondent of the late Mr. Pemberton. Mr. Lomler has an extensive collection and is an expert on counterfeits.

Mr. Lombard, Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Hagner, Mr. Aurbach and Mr. Guthman are others of the leading collectors. We have a branch of the W. P. U. here and are doing good for the cause.

—oſo—
FROM THE NEWSPAPERS.

WORCESTER POST-OFFICE.

New Stamp-Cancelling Machine in Working Order.

The new stamp-cancelling machine at the Worcester Post-Office was started up at 3:35 yesterday afternoon, and the working is approved by all. The capacity of the machine is 300 cancellations a minute, while a man's maximum work in that direction is only 125, which he cannot follow but a short time. The quickest hand cancellation in the Worcester office, on record, is 500 postals in less than four minutes.

The machine stands 2½ feet high and is run by a half horse-power Eddy electric motor taking the power from storage batteries. C. H. Page did all the electrical work in a highly satisfactory manner. The stamps are not only cancelled, but the postmark is made at the same time. The general public can tell whether the cancellations were made by hand or machine by observing a number of horizontal lines running from the postmark to the stamp. This is the machine work.—*The Daily Spy*.

POSTOFFICE NOTES.

Weighing the Mails—Two More Cancelling Machines Coming.

Since the weighing of the mails at the postoffice commenced, it has been found that on an average about four tons of mail matter is handled daily. The weighing for the first four days of the week resulted as follows: Monday received 3063 pounds, sent 4104; Tuesday received 3207, sent out 3320; Wednesday received 4596, sent out 3460; Thursday received 4503, sent out 4353.

The cancelling machine has been found unable to do all the work in that line for the postoffice and Postmaster Greene has ordered two more, which are expected soon.

Worcester Telegram.

GOOD-BY GEORGE.

The Father of His Country Takes a Back Seat Before the Discoverer.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—From and after the 1st of January next, the face of George Washington will in all probability disappear from the face of postage stamps and the illustrious face of Columbus and his discovery of America will take its place. Postmaster-General Wanamaker, yesterday, signed an agreement with the National Bank Note Co. of New York to supply the stamps. The denominations have not all been definitely decided upon; but probably the new stamps will embrace all the present denominations, and perhaps some others. In size the new stamps will be the same length as those now in use but much broader:—at least double the present width, so as to give room for the pictures with which they are to be embellished. The chief object of the change is, of course, to stimulate interest in the world's fair at home and abroad.

Worcester Telegram.



CUTS OF COINS.

E. F. Gambs, the coin and stamp dealer of this city, has been called upon by an agent of the secret service division of the Treasury Department and ordered to surrender at once all cuts of old American coins in his keeping and discontinue their use after he has disposed of his present catalogue and stationery now on hand. The cuts were used in illustrating his coin catalogue, and acted merely as a guide. The new law forbids the making of any illustrations or wood engravings of any coins that were ever used by the United States Government.

San Francisco Chronicle, Oct. 4, '92.

For the paper which contained the note above and the article following we extend thanks to Mr. E. F. Gambs, the well known stamp and coin dealer of San Francisco. We found the article of interest to ourselves and so present it.

B.

HENNIKER HEATON.

A WELL-KNOWN ADVOCATE OF CHEAP POSTAGE.

The Effect Postal Reforms Would Have Upon English Speaking Nations.

J. Henniker Heaton, sometimes familiarly called the "Postmaster-General of England," and who is known throughout the world as an advocate of cheaper international postage, arrived in this city yesterday and is the guest of the Palace. Mr. Heaton has represented the historic town of Canterbury in the British House of Commons for ten years, and during that time has introduced and carried through no less than forty measures affecting the postal system of the British Empire. In 1886 he introduced the historic motion of universal or world-wide penny postage, and though defeated, succeeded in obtaining the votes of no less than 142 members in a House of 340 for his proposal.

As a result of the experience gained on that occasion Mr. Heaton limited his demand to penny postage for the English-speaking world, and it is in support of this project that he is making his present visit to America. When interviewed on the subject last night Mr. Heaton said:

"It seems to me that no one who will stop to give the subject serious consideration can hesitate for a moment in declaring for cheaper rate of postage between English-speaking nations. A letter may be sent across this continent for 2 cents, but if the writer desires to send a similar communication across the ocean, although the distance is less, he is charged 5 cents for its transportation. Five cents may not seem a very great sum, but I assure you it is a tax upon knowledge and information.

"People in authority in both England and the United States are in sympathy with the scheme, but it will require time and plenty of hard work to bring the thing about. I have received every assurance of support from your Postmaster-General and other officials at Washington, and I hope the coming year will see the matter an accomplished fact.

"It seems that it should be obvious to every mind that by the supply of a cheap, rapid and trustworthy method of communication, not only people of high and low degree will enjoy a means of continuous intercourse with absent friends, not only will works of charity be facilitated, sympathies enlarged and unity of feeling promoted, but, in addition, an incalculable stimulus will be given to trade and industry of every kind and degree.

"I might also say that I can think of no measure that would wield such a humanizing influence as this very system of cheap postage. We may fairly assume that two peoples in constant communication with one another, exchanging daily tens of thousands of letters on business and on social and political events, must be less ready to quarrel than two which remain as nature placed them, in savage isolation.

"It is no uncommon thing, though, when arguments fail for opponents to try to ruin a cause by imputing motives of personal aggrandizement to its advocates. One must bear

•THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST. •

—DEVOTED TO—

OUR HOBBY.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

WALTER L. BROWN 45 May St. G. STEWART DICKINSON 7 Cedar St.

A. C. WOODWARD 883 Main St.

This is a notion of ours and will be sent to all who care enough about it to send twelve one cent stamps for postage.

We will exchange with all who wish to place our address upon their list. Two copies will be appreciated.

Small exchange notices will be inserted on the last page for members of the association at the rate of fifteen cents for five lines.

Our friends will kindly send us any sketches, news or notes of interest to our hobby or association and receive our thanks for the same in advance.

Address: THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,
883 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

with that and trust to the common sense of the people at large to weigh the charges at their full value. I stand as a reformer, one who seeks to put into practical work a scheme which will benefit the whole English-speaking world, and as such I become the target for the envious shafts of carpers."

Besides his interest in postal matters, Mr. Heaton has achieved considerable distinction. He was one of the founders of the well-known *Australian Town and Country Journal*, one of the foremost papers of the great island continent. He is also the author of the "Dictionary of Australian History and Australian Worthies," which is a standard book of reference.

San Francisco Chronicle, Oct. 4, '92.

—o§o—

NOTES.

Mr. Albert R. Rogers, the enterprising stamp broker of New York City is about to publish a book which should receive the support of every stamp collector. Every stamp collector should own a copy of the book. The book will be the "American Philatelic Blue Book" in which collectors can have their name and address inserted free of charge. This book will be of great value to collectors as it will contain much desirable information, about them, such as age, occupation, size of collection, etc. For 'prospectus' send request and address to A. R. Rogers, 75 Maiden Lane, New York, N. Y. The price of the book will be \$1. and if it is of the same quality as all the works of art that Mr. Rogers has published, in the philatelic line, it will be more than worth the price.

B.

THE NEW HAVEN STAMP.

Soon after Mr. Sterling discovered his New Haven "postmasters stamp" he very kindly wrote the following letter to editor and with it sent a very fine tracing of the original 'find.' We intended to print an edition of the WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST immediately and issue with it copies of the tracing as an illustration of the article; but within a few days of its receipt and before we could get our material into type an article on the same subject appeared in one of the older papers, which seemed "to take the wind out of our sails," — to speak. We therefore let it rest and have kept the tracing where we could admire it; but of late we have seen so many short notes in regard to it in various papers, some of which give a very 'small' idea of the value of the New Haven stamp that we decided to print the letter as we received it. One paper seemed to convey the idea, to its readers, that \$10.00 was an outrageously high value for the stamp while, in fact, Mr. Sterling is said to have an offer of \$2000.00 for it, but as he considers it worth \$3000.00 is still holding it. May he get the price! Some one has said that the lot which contained the rare New Haven stamp was secured by Mr. Sterling at an expense of 10 cents which of course makes the acquirement of it all the more interesting.

Trenton, New Jersey, June 16, 1892.

Mr. Walter L. Brown,
Worcester, Mass.

My Dear Sir:

As you are deeply interested in getting up a good paper that reaches advanced collectors I send you with pleasure a tracing of an absolutely perfect entire used New Haven Conn. 5 cent red on a light blue envelope that I have just discovered and it is not yet chronicled in any of the papers.

It is without question the only known original entire so far discovered, and I come by it through the purchase at auction of a collection of autographs belonging to the late Dr. James H. Caoster of Washington, D. C. whose collection was sold by the "Ex." of Philadelphia, May 11th and 12th. I purchased about half of the sale and have been employed for the past month getting the letters and documents in shape to sell and only discovered this last evening while looking through a lot of letters etc. of prof. Benjamin Silliman of Yale College, New Haven. The letter in question is dated New Haven, Octo. 20th 1845 and is in fine state of preservation as also the envelope and everything connected therewith. I have made you a careful tracing which will be of some interest to the members of your club.

It will be for sale but as it is unique beyond doubt I expect a good sum for it. W. P. Brown discovered the only known cut original in 1871 and none has ever been found since to my knowledge. E. A. Mitchell reprinted thirty copies in various inks and turned them over to collectors. Such copies now sell for \$25.00 to \$100.00 each, the cut stamp has been rated at \$500.00 and none to be had while I have the only entire stamp in existence.

This will be new for us Philatelists for some time to come and you can congratulate yourself that you have a tracing of the same.

With kind regards I remain, Respectfully,
E. B. Sterling, agt.

—*o*—
REVIEW.

Messrs Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert have a new book of value to collectors of U. S. stamps.

It is not generally known even here in our own city that Mr. Arthur Eklund issued the third number of *The Eastern Stamp*. Collectors of stamp papers can place this number on their list of wants.

The Detroit Philatelist for September shows marked improvement over previous numbers which were good from the start. Printing, make up and quality of its contents are of the best and lead the paper into the first rank.

The American Philatelist, for September, has Mr. Tiffany's Annual Address and a complete stenographic report of the convention and a column or two of interesting editorials about a few of the members who were present at the convention.

The Bogert and Durbin Comp'y are to be complimented upon their success in publishing so neat and useful a list as their price Catalogue of Match, Medicine and Playing Card Stamps and every collector of those stamps should spend five cents and own a copy.

From *The American Journal of Philately* on the Hawaiian Islands we get this: "5 cent on 13 cent vermilion, black surcharge. We have met with several cancelled copies of this variety which, of late, compilers seem to have ignored, although about 30 years ago mention of it is to be found in Gray's catalogue which states that stamps with this surcharge were sold at the post office as 5 cent stamps." The above description refers to the 13 cent combination stamp of Hawaiian Islands and the United States.

The Philatelic Era in an editorial in the August number states that "it is a positive fact that the United States is to have a set of Jubilee Stamps issued in honor of Columbus and the discovery of America." "We noted dispatches from Washington stating that the much desired set would be issued. It is understood that the issue is to be put on sale January 1st 1893 and sold for one year, when the present issue will again return to use. The designs are to be of an historical nature and the 2 cent stamp will probably bear the head of Columbus." Mr. E. S. Luther's article "The Proposed Columbian Exposition Stamps" gives several good hints for subjects to place on the new set of stamps, but we fear some of them would make too full a design for a postage stamp.

A September number of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* contains A Souvenir of the 7th Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association in the form of a reproduction of the large photograph of the members present at the convention. There is also an interesting cut on an inside page, being a reproduction of the new cover of the Stanley Gibbons *Monthly Journal* on which appears likenesses of the principal collectors of the world arranged as a border to the page, and at the bottom a picture representing the front of the Stanley Gibbons shop at 435 Strand.

* * *

According to the "Calendar" of *The Philatelic Journal of America* the United States stamp of the Worcester Postmaster was issued on Friday, Sept. 2, 1846, and the United States Carrier stamp, head of Franklin, was issued on Thursday, Sept. 29, 1851. There are a number of good things in the September issue. First of all Mr. Tiffany's address and Notes About Little Known Stamps, such as Magdalena, Marion Va., etc. very interestingly suggest a good field for study. The thorough articles on counterfeits which appear in every number are also very valuable to collectors of Spanish stamps. Mr. Tiffany's article on Spanish Counterfeits, Issue of 1853, is very comprehensive and tells what was found in the collection of "The Spaniard" who was recently arrested.

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In *The Eastern Philatelist* we read: That the contract for printing the 12,000,000 new return postal cards of 1 cent denomination for domestic use and 2 cent for foreign correspondence has been awarded to Al. Daggett.

That Mr. George Vanderbilt has really a nice collection of postage stamps. This came out the other day when an inventory of the gentleman's museum was made.

That counterfeit grills of U. S. stamps are quite abundant especially among the rare 1870 issues. The counterfeit grill is very distinct while on the majority of genuine grills it is indistinct.

That next to the Tapling collection the one owned by M. P. Castle is given next rank as the largest and best.

* * *

"Stamp Design" in the September number of *The Stamp* suggests a subject for interesting research which if done thoroughly and systematically and if well written would make a book of great value for philatelists. Among the Newsy Notes we read "whilst at the A. P. A. convention, some one stole from the place of business of J. D. Rice, of Trenton New Jersey, a book containing his duplicates of U. S. stamps and the best part of his collection, which consisted of complete sets of department stamps in both used and unused condition. The latter were mounted on Staten Island sheets while the duplicates were in a Stanley Gibbons' duplicate album." If the above news is true we extend the sympathy of all Worcester collectors to Mr. Rice and hope that his very valuable collections may be restored. It is very discouraging to lose so much in value of that which is almost unobtainable.



Sample copy of "Missouri Philatelist" free.
 Collectors send for large retail list. Dealers
 and those wishing to go into the stamp busi-
 ness, send for wholesale list. U. S. and For-
 eign stamps wanted for cash or exchange.
 Stamp collections bought. No rubbish in the
 following. All genuine specimens contain-
 ing many rarities. 100 stamps, all diff. 25c
 150 stamps, all diff. 50c. 300 stamps, all diff.
 \$1. 500 stamps, all diff. \$2. 1,000 stamps, all
 diff. \$4. 1,000 stamps, all diff. \$15. Elegant
 large album with the 500 and 1,000 packets.
GONNATH STAMP & PUB. CO.
 1234 LaSalle St., St. Louis, Mo.



EXCHANGE NOTICES

G. S. DICKINSON 7 Cedar St. Worcester Mass. desires to exchange or purchase old philatelic papers or stamps on original envelopes not in his collection. Special attention paid to proofs, oddities and entire envelopes.

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Frederick Forchand 18 Mill St. Worcester Mass. desires exchange correspondence with advanced collectors.

Edwin H. Marble, 6 Ely St., Worcester, Mass. desires correspondence with U. S. collectors of philatelic literature and stamps.

BLANK APPROVAL SHEETS!

We can supply good approval sheets double or single at the low rate of \$3.25 per 1000 single sheet, and \$4.25 per 1000 for the double folded sheets. For lots of 100 prices are in the same ratio. For printing instructions and a small business card on back we charge 75 cents per 100 or more.

THE PHILATELIST PRINTING CO.,

883 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

THE KILBY STAMP PACKETS

PACKET NO.	Contains	Price	
1.	25 U. S. Postage Stamps.	25 cts.	
" "	2. " 25 U. S. Revenue "	" "	25 "
" "	3. " 20 Match, Medicine & Playing Card Stamps.	" "	25 "
" "	4. " 100 Foreign Postage.	" "	25 "
" "	5. " 20 Unused Foreign.	" "	25 "
" "	6. " 10 Department inc'd'g Interior, P. O. & War.	" "	25 "

The above packets contain no duplicates, and are guaranteed to catalogue, two to four times the price. The six packets will be sent post paid on receipt of \$1.25

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 Stamp collections bought. No rubbish in the
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 150 stamps, all diff. 50c. 300 stamps, all diff.
 \$1. 300 stamps, all diff. \$2. 500 stamps, all
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THE WORCESTER
→COUNTY← PHILATELIST.

VOL. 1. NO. 12.

WORCESTER, MASS., DECEMBER, 1893.

MONTHLY

THE DOCUMENT REVENUE STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES.

—
BY DR. BARTHLET,
—

In the first place allow me to take you back to the very beginning of revenue taxation within the boundaries of our much loved country.

Perhaps many of you are not aware that our own little state, or rather the Province of Massachusetts Bay was the first to place a duty taxation and to issue stamps, or rather, stamped paper.

Well, such is the case, and pursuant to the act passed by the Province of Massachusetts Bay on Jan., 8th., 1755, a set of four values of stamped paper were issued.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d was the lowest value and was printed in red upon various sizes of paper and used as a receipt for duty on newspaper paper.

The three other values were the 2d, 3d and 4d which were not printed in color as the $\frac{1}{2}$ d but were embossed in the paper. These were used for legal documents of nearly every kind. I will not attempt to describe these stamped sheets minutely as they are exceedingly rare and I have no specimens to exhibit; but will refer to them later on.

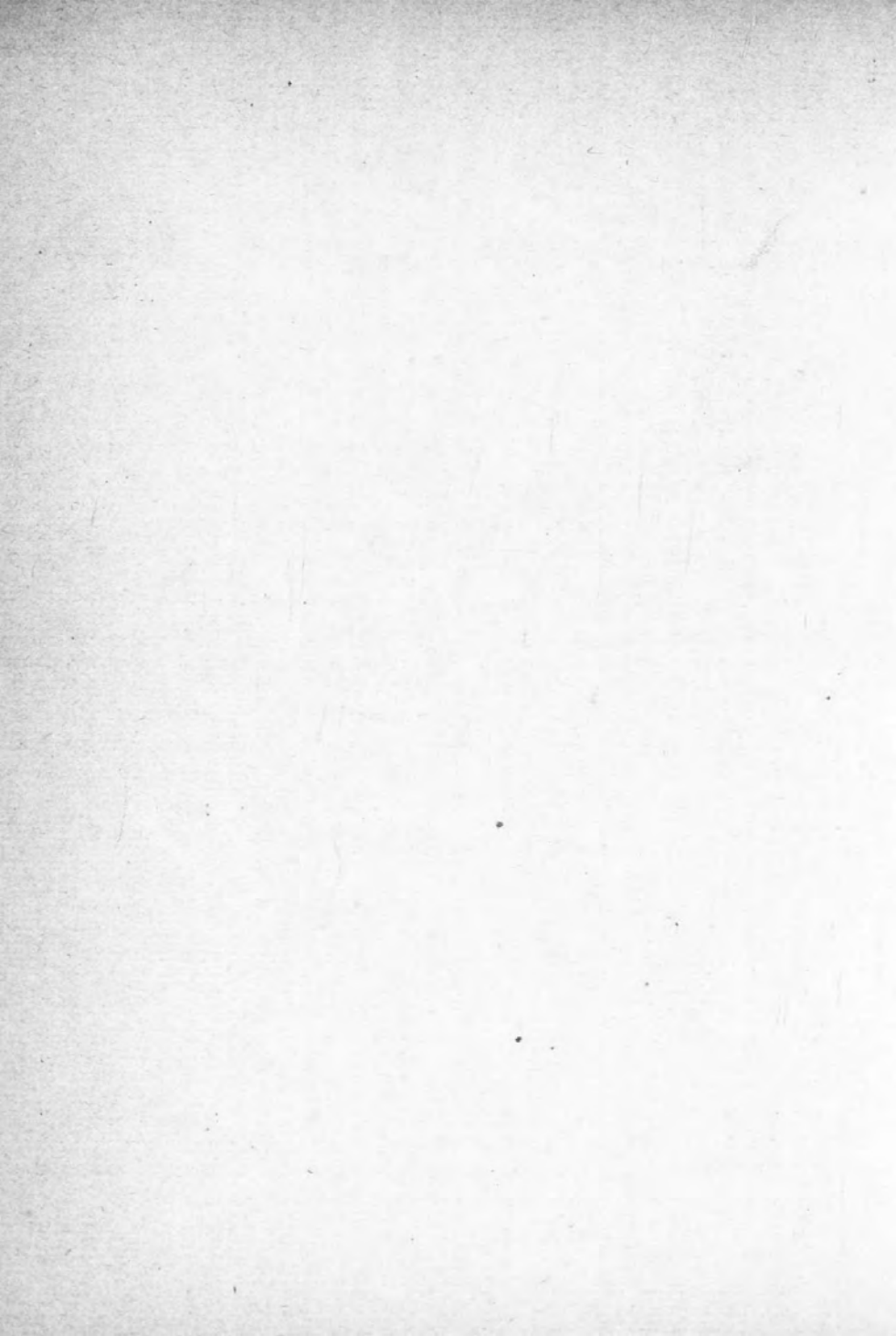
The colony of New York issued a set of two values nearly two years later. This was followed by a set issued on Mar., 22d., 1765 by the British Government for service in America. This set remained in use until the independence of the United States was established.

The first issue of the U. S. was by the general government on July 6th., 1797 consisting of 8 values. These were also embossed in the paper and without color. Under the stamp was also embossed the name of the state in which the paper was used, there being 14 states in all.

On March, 3d., 1801 the second issue appeared which was exactly the same as the first with the exception that the name of the state was omitted and a second embossed stamp placed under the other.

The first, or upper embossed stamp has the value expressed in words while in the second, the value is expressed in Roman letters and the abbreviation Com. Rev. U. S. meaning; Commercial Revenue Confederate States.

In 1802 all stamp duty ceased but was taken up again in 1813 and another set was issued covering about the same ground. After various acts and amendments of congress the stamp duty ceased again in 1824 and nothing more was heard of it until 1862. These stamped papers would be of great interest to collectors as they really teach more of the history of our country than any other stamp but their scarcity prevents us from having the opportunity to study them.



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THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

I will now try and say a few words about the stamps commonly called Document Revenues which would be more correctly named War Tax Revenues as they were issued solely for the purpose of raising funds to meet the increased expenses caused by the War of the Rebellion into which our country had suddenly been plunged.

It was in the month of June 1862 that a bill passed the 37th Congress providing for the taxation of various occupations and professions and ordered the issuance of stamps to comply with the bill.

A large number of these occupations etc. were taxed in the form of License of which I will say nothing here. The bill also levied a tax upon certain business papers payable by affixing a stamp to the paper. This is where we get our term, Document Revenues.

The bill as originally passed was to go into effect on the 1st. of October of the same year (1862), which was about 3 months later, but the same congress found it would be necessary to extend the time as it was impossible to make appointments necessary in so short a time and it was also impossible to get the stamps prepared, consequently on the 14th. of July the original bill was amended to the effect that documents would not be void for lack of stamps until Jan. 1st., 1863 and that no part of the act should be held to take effect until Sept. 1st., 1862. The time was short and the contract for furnishing the stamps was at once let to Butler & Carpenter of Philadelphia. They hastily prepared the dies and printed the stamps but time was up much too soon for them. What stamps they had prepared were issued to the public in an unperforated condition. This however, does not include all values but only such as they had at that time prepared.

After the first great rush the perforating machine was employed but the first supply was not sufficient to last long and the perforators being slow the stamps were sent out only part perforated.

This does not apply to all the part perforated stamps that exist for some of our large purchasers of stamps for convenience requested that the stamps be issued to them in that condition. For instance: the 2¢ blue Bank Checks which are quite common.

After the second rush the perforators had more time and the entire set was finished fully perforated. This set of stamps was issued in 31 values ranging in value from 1¢ to \$2.00, the lower values being small and the size increased with the increase of face value. Each stamp has the head of Washington in the center and the words or abbreviations of U. S. Internal Revenue, also the name of the business paper upon which the stamp was to be used. As you are all familiar with these stamps I will not tire you by describing them farther but will say a few words about the names of the business papers which appear on the stamps. The ones enumerated in the schedule are: Agreements, Bank Checks, Bills of Exchange whether inland or foreign, Bills of Lading, Express, Receipts, Telegrams, Papers of Entry, Bonds, Certificates, Charters, Contracts, Conveyances, Life Insurances, Insurances in General, Leases, Manifests, Mortgages, Passage Tickets, Power of Attorneys, Probate Papers, Protests, Warehouse Receipts & Writs.

As Agreement is the first mentioned on the list I will consider that first. One stamp, 5¢ red, was issued bearing that name. The word Contract is only an other name for agree- and as to why the government used this name on the 10¢ blue is beyond my comprehension.

There were two adhesive stamps issued for use on Bank Checks both of the 2¢ value, one printed in blue, the other in orange.

The 10¢ blue was the only stamp used on Bills of Lading.

For Bonds there were two stamps issued: the 25¢ red under the name of Bond and the 50¢ blue as Surety Bond.

There were four values prepared for Certificates: 2, 5, 10 and 25¢. The 2¢ being printed in orange and in blue, the 5¢ in red, the 10¢ in blue and the 25¢ in red.

These stamps were used on all kinds of certificates as Certificates of Manage, Certificates of Profit, Memoranda showing interests in property accumulations of any Incorporated Co.

For the conveyance of real estate & other chattels by deed there were 5 values issued; 50¢ blue, \$1.00 red, \$2.00 red, \$5.00 red, \$10.00 green and \$20.00 orange.

For Charters there was the \$3.00 green, \$5.00 red and \$10.00 green.

Express Companies used on their receipts & packages, 1¢ red, 2¢ blue, 2¢ orange & 5¢ red.

Papers for Entry of Goods had 3 values issued: 25¢ red, 50¢ blue & \$1.00 red.

There were 12 stamps issued for each the Bills of Inland and Bills of Foreign Exchange. Those for Inland Exchange were 4¢ brown, 5¢ red, 6¢ orange, 10¢ blue, 15¢ brown, 30¢ lilac, 40¢ brown, 60¢ orange, \$1.00 red, \$1.50 blue, \$2.50 lilac & \$3.50 blue. Those for Foreign Exchange were the 3c green, 5c red, 10c blue, 15c brown, 30c lilac, 50c blue, 70c green, \$1.00 red, \$1.30 orange, \$1.60 green and \$1.90 mauve.

The 25c red is the only value for Insurance in general while Life Insurance has 3 values: 25c red, 50c blue and \$1.00 red.

For Leases there are the 50c blue and \$1.00 red

Eight values for Mortgage Papers: 50c blue, \$1.00 red, \$2.00 red, \$5.00 red, \$10.00 green, \$15.00 blue, \$20.00 orange and \$25.00 red.

Papers for Manifests have 3 values: \$1.00 red, \$3.00 green and \$5.00 red. The Manifest stamps were used on papers of that name used in connection with the shipping marine.

They were originally issued only to the sea board cities and were not generally broad cast as were the Exchange stamps. This accounts for their scarcity.

All "Writs" or the first papers issued for legal proceedings should bear one of the 25c Original Process stamps.

The 10c blue, 25c red & \$1.00 red are the 3 values for papers showing Power of Attorney.

For Passage Tickets two values were issued: 50c blue and \$1.00 red. These stamps were used by vessels on tickets from the U. S. to foreign ports especially British N. America. Tickets less than \$30.00 called for a 50c stamp and over \$30.00 a \$1.00 stamp was used.

Six rates were fixed on Probate papers: 50c blue, \$1.00 red, \$2.00 red, \$5.00 red, \$10.00 green and \$20.00 orange.

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

Telegraph Companies were obliged to stamp their blank forms used by the Company. The two values issued were the 1c red and 3c green.

One stamp was used for Warehouse Receipts, the 25c red.

Protest Notices on checks and drafts required a 25c Protest stamp.

There were 3 values issued as U. S. Int. Rev.: 2c orange, \$50.00 green and \$200.00 green and red which were to be used on such papers as there were no stamps especially printed for. The 2c was much used on R. R. tickets and receipts.

This ends the list of the first issue of document stamps numbering 88 varieties as I have described them.

As might naturally be expected one of the first changes to be made in the law was with reference to the use of the particular kind of stamp on each kind of paper. The law provided under penalty of \$50.00 and the voidance of the document that a stamp bearing the name of the particular instrument on its face should not be used upon any other instrument of different purport. Such a law required the immediate circulation of vast quantities of stamps and the tying up of large amounts of money and other inconveniences. Hence on Dec. 5th. 1862 that portion of the act was repealed to the effect that no document should be held invalid for want of any particular kind of stamp with the proviso that this exemption should not be held to apply to articles requiring a Proprietary stamp. Therefore we can find almost any kind of stamp upon almost any kind of taxed articles.

I have not yet mentioned the Playing Card or Property stamps as they cannot rightfully be classed with the document revenues.

In the Stamp Tax Bill it was further ordered that on and after the 1st. of Aug., 1862 no person should sell or make medicine or medicinal preparations (other than physicians prescriptions) perfumery, cosmetics or playing cards without placing upon the package or bottle a stamp of specified value. Here in the first issue we have 6 values & 7 varieties of Prop. stamps used on medicine, etc: the 1c red, 2c blue, 2c orange, 3c green, 4c violet 5c red & 10c blue and 6 values and 7 varieties of the Playing card stamps as follows: 1c red, 2c blue, 2c orange, 3c green, 4c violet, 5c red and 10c blue.

Now let me return to the stamps themselves for it is the stamps with the various varieties that are most interesting to us.

As you all know I am somewhat of a crank on paper varieties in postage stamps and I am also interested in paper varieties in Revenue stamps. All the unperforated and part perforated stamps were printed on thin hard or thick hard paper or in other words the same qualities of paper that the 1861-2 issue of postage stamps were printed upon. Any imperforated or part perforated stamps that you might see not on these two varieties of paper you can be sure the perforations have been clipped off.

The perforated stamps were also issued on these two varieties of paper and later on the thin soft and thick soft papers. Some of the varieties are found on silk paper, or paper showing small silk threads. When they were issued thus I cannot say but cancellation on

all the specimens I have in my collection are either in 1870 or 1871. I would assume that stamps on silk paper were first issued in 1869 or 1870. I have found a few of the document revenues an extra heavy hard paper and also extra heavy soft paper, but as they are seldom met with I can say but little about them.

There is another very notable fact in regard to the imperforate and part perforate stamps that will help much in determining whether or not the stamp has been clipped and that is the color. The shades of each value are nearly uniform so that if you have a 1 cent red that you are sure is all right you can compare with it any other of the 1 cent values and see if the shade coincides and in that way help to satisfy yourself of its genuineness.

Nearly all of the values and varieties of the perforated set are printed in two or more distinct shades. I particularly call your attention to those printed in red and blue. The first printing of the red stamps were of a dull red color while the later printings have lightened up until we have almost an orange vermilion. In my collection I have tried to get sets of uniform shades as far as possible while I have other sets of shades forming.

The first printing of the blue stamps were a light dull shade while the later printings are brighter and deeper. Some of the blue stamps were printed in ultramarine which is a distinct shade and worthy a place in any collection.

Owing to numerous shades of the \$2.50 Inland Exchange I have become quite an enthusiast on collecting them. I have two pages of this stamp in twenty-four distinct shades. The 4 and 30 cent and \$1.90 can be found in about the same variety of shades but they are somewhat scarcer.

There are a great number of varieties in the oddity line of which it would be impossible for me to say much. The most common are those showing two or more rows of perforations known as double perforated and those showing a crease across the stamp caused by the paper being creased and folded under before the stamps were printed.

To return to the stamp act again, I desire to say that it was not until June 30th 1864 that a tax was levied upon matches and photographs. This act also provided that proprietors of articles might at their discretion furnish the government with dies or designs for stamps for their own use such dies or designs to be subject to the approval of the commissioners. From that portion of the act sprung numerous match, medicine, perfumery, playing cards and canned fruit stamps.

From the very beginning of this stamp tax there were dissatisfactions and repeals of the imposed tax and at the sitting of almost every congress from that date some taxed paper or article was placed on the free list. At the sitting of the 47th congress, March 3rd, 1883, the tax on bank checks, matches, perfumery and proprietary medicines was repealed.

Several of the match companies and medicine establishments in using the proprietary stamps surcharged them with their name or initials and these make numerous interesting varieties.

The tax on bank checks and drafts caused the issuance of bank checks with the stamps

printed upon them which is termed stamped paper, and is similar to that of the Rebellion period. They hold the same relation to the revenue stamp as the stamped envelopes do to postage stamps. There are four series: New York with seven dies, Philadelphia with four dies, Boston with two dies and St. Louis with one die.

The dates of issue of the document revenue stamps are as follows: First issue, 1862; Second issue, 1871; Third issue, 1872; Fourth issue, 1874; Fifth issue, 1875. The proprietary stamps were issued as follows: First issue, 1871; Second issue, 1874; Third issue, 1878; Fourth issue, 1879 (rouletted.)—Paper read before the Springfield Stamp Club.

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UNITED STATES STAMPS OF 1851-57.

BY SAMOA.

There are few stamps that are as interesting or give me as much pleasure as the early issues of the United States postage stamps. They afford one of the greatest fields for research and study, and many varieties can be found that are attractive and very interesting to the specialist. Let us turn our attention for a little while to the stamps issued during the period from 1851 to 1857, and take a glimpse at a few of the many varieties that exist which are worthy of space in any collection.

1 Cent blue, Franklin.

In the 1 cent, blue, stamp we have the stamp printed from the new and perfect plate showing all the fine lines in the ornamental scroll work around the oval containing the bust of Franklin. Stamps printed from this plate in a worn condition have a blurred appearance and the fine ornamental lines are somewhat broken and less distinct. After the plate became worn it went through a retouching process wherein the line work was made heavier and caused the ends of the scrolls to have an unfinished appearance.

The words 'broken circle' are often used in describing the variety where the circular line over the word 'postage' is broken. These stamps are found with the line broken at top and not at the bottom; broken at the bottom and not at the top; and broken both top and bottom.

Of the variety where the line is broken both top and bottom there are several varieties. Those showing full and complete ornaments at sides; those where the tip of the side ornaments are removed; and those where the scroll work has been cut off all the way around giving the stamp a bare unfinished appearance.

3 Cent, red, Washington.

I will not attempt to enumerate the varieties found in the 3 cent red for space will not allow it and the collector will enjoy his stamps the more if he will study them out for himself. I will only say that there are upwards of 250 varieties all of much interest and worthy of study.

THE WORCESTER CO. PHILATELIST.

•THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST.♦

—DEVOTED TO—

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G. STEWART DICKINSON } Associate Editors.
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Address: THE WORCESTER COUNTY PHILATELIST,

16 Front St., Worcester, Mass.

5 Cent, brown, Jefferson.

The 5 cent brown like the 1 cent blue was printed from a perfect new plate and is a very pretty stamp. Stamps printed from the plate after it became worn are not of a uniform shading throughout and the fine line running around the stamp is almost invisible. The plate was then retouched causing the stamp to have a heavier and darker appearance and the fine line around the stamp is twice as heavy as the first printing.

There are several varieties where the ornamental projections at the top and bottom of the stamps are removed. Some have the projections entirely removed while others show it only partly removed. These varieties are found in both the first plate and retouched plate.

10 Cent, green, Washington.

There are a large number of varieties of the 10 cent green stamp. Those printed from the new and perfect plate are quite rare showing all the fine ornamental lines.

The stamps printed from the worn plate are best distinguished by the ornamental lines around the "x's" in the upper corners which have a blurred appearance. The retouching of this plate I am not sure of but I presume it was retouched although I have not seen any marked variations in the strength of the lines.

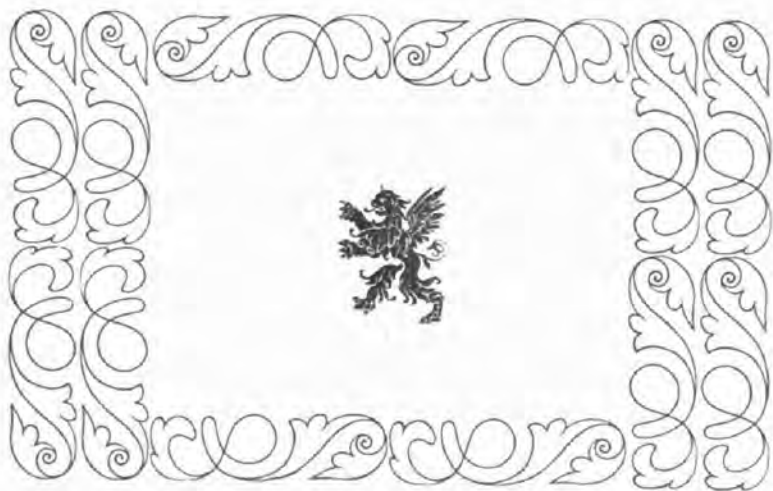
The fine line over the words 'U. S. Postage' is missing in the commoner varieties. The line under the words 'Ten Cents' is missing in some cases also. The ornamental scrolls turning under at the lower corners are found complete, partly erased and entirely missing. The ornaments at the sides are found full in some stamps and partially erased in others. Stamps of the 10 cent value can be found in all combinations of the above mentioned variations.

12 Cent, black, Washington.

Of the 12 cent black there are two varieties. The new complete plate with a fine line around the stamp, and the retouched plate where this line is made heavier and is more prominent.

Higher Values.

Of these I can say nothing as they are not common enough to permit of much study. Besides the varieties mentioned above there are numerous varieties of shade and color and nearly all of the varieties can be found in both the perforated and unperforated stamps.



1896.

Messrs. COOPER & COOK, Dear Sirs:

Inclosed find 25 cents for which please send the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLECTOR for one year to the following address.

Refused 2d class rates.