

The Stamp Item.

VOL. I.

MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL, 1890.

NO. 1.

THE STAMPS OF HELIGOLAND.

The stamps of the little island of Heligoland are both unique and pretty. They are all printed in two colors except the envelopes and news-paper wrappers. The island itself has an area of about five square miles and a population of about 2000. So it can be seen that they are seldom used, and are issued principally for collectors. Never-the-less they are pretty and cheap, and are so much better than much of the stuff now collected, that they are well worthy of a place in a collection.

In 1867 four stamps were issued. They are as follows:-

Profile embossed head in white of Queen Victoria to left, numerals of value in corners, "Heligoland" at sides, "Schillings" at top and bottom. Colors alternating at inner and outer frames.

Issued 1867—

$\frac{1}{2}$ Schilling, rose and green, 1 Sch., rose and green.

2 " " " " 6 " " " "

In 1871 these stamps were issued perforated, and in 1873, four new stamps, of three values, were issued.

Issued 1871.

$\frac{1}{2}$ Sch. Rose and Green. 1 Sch. Rose and Green.

2 " " " " 6 " " " "

Issued 1873.

$\frac{1}{4}$ Sch. Rose and Green. $\frac{3}{4}$ Sch. Rose and Green.

$\frac{1}{4}$ " " " " $1\frac{1}{2}$ " " " "

But these plates must have been made of soft steel, or else the inhabitants (?) got tired of the stamps, for two years later, in 1875 a new issue was gotten out. The design is entirely different, having:- Profile bust, embossed in white, of Queen Victoria to left in oval frame. Numerals of value at side, "Heligo-

land" above, "Farthings" and "Pfennigs" below on garter. Perforated.

Issued 1875.

1 pfennig, green and rose.	2 pf. green and rose.
5 " " " " "	10 " " " "
25 " " " " "	50 " " " "

But the postal service seems to have been progressive, for the next year two values, of different design, were placed on sale. The design is;- Arms in their proper colors in centre, "Heligoland" above, numerals of value at sides, "Farthings" and "Pfennigs" below. Perforated.

3 pfennig, rose and green. 20 pfennig, rose and green.

But the good people of Heligoland did not wish to go to the trouble of compounding stamps, so in 1879 two more stamps were issued. The designs are different from each other. The first is as follows:-

Numeral, covered in part by a ribbon in centre. "Heligoland" above, "Sh" at left and "ing" at right below. Perforated.

The second is;-

Arms bearing numeral of value in centre. "Sh" and "ing" at sides, "Heligoland" below. Perforated.

1 mark, green, rose and black.

5 marks, " " "

Envelope Stamps, Wrappers, and Postals.

Stamp of the type of 1875 embossed in the upper right-hand corner of a white wove envelope, $5\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Issued 1875.

10 pfennig, $1\frac{1}{2}$ pence, rose.

Surcharged in black, with a new value on stamp and "Union Postal Universal - Heligoland" along top of the envelope.

20 pf, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, rose, on 10 pf, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

WRAPPERS.

Crowned shield, with name in arch above, and value on right, n. below, typographed on bands of white wove paper, $13\frac{1}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches, with a double line of color around the margin.

3 pf., 2 far. green. 5 pf., 3 far., brown-red.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ pence, 10 pfennig, deep blue.

POSTAL.

Type of 1875, in upper right-hand corner of the card. Probably issued in 1875 or 1876.

3 farthings, 5 pfennig, green.

Chronicle.

We are indebted to the Philatelic Journal of America for the information from which we compile our chronicle.

BAMRA.—This Indian state has issued two type-set stamps having no design, only the words "Bamra—postage" in two lines in English with two lines of native characters below; black on colored paper. Unperforated

Adhesive— 4 annas, yellow paper. 8 annas, rose paper.

BRAZIL.—The new 100 reis of following design has been received—Arms in centre, "E. U. Do Brazil" above, "Correo-100 Reis" at top and bottom: perforated.

The unpaid letter stamps are:-

Numerals of value in centre, "Taxa-Devida" above and below, "Correos-Brazil" at top and bottom.

Postage - 100 reis, lake on coated paper.

Unpaid - 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 300, 500, 700, 1000 reis, vermillion.

BRITISH GUIANA.—High values of the surcharged revenues have been issued.

Postage - 1 dollar, green and black. 2 doll. green and black.

THE STAMP ITEM.

MEMPHIS, TENN.,

APRIL, 1890.

Paul W. Prutzman, Editor and Publisher.

344 ORLEANS STREET.

TELEPHONE 800.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, 15 CENTS A YEAR.

Advertising Rates.

Each insertion.		Three insertions.	
$\frac{1}{2}$ inch.	\$.15	$\frac{1}{2}$ inch.	\$.40
1 inch.	.25	1 inch.	.70
2 inches.	.45	2 inches.	1.25
One page.	.90	One page.	2.50

Issued on the fifteenth day of each month. Any manuscript thankfully received. We will exchange two copies a month with other papers.

3 dollars, green and black. 4 doll. green and black.

5 dollars, green and black.

COLOMBIA. - New ten-cent stamp:- Arms above, numerals of value at sides below, "Centavos - Republica De Colombia" in two lines below. Perforated.

Postage - 10 centavos, brown on yellow paper.

GREAT BRITAIN. - New ten-pence:- Profile bust to left of the Queen in centre, numerals of value at sides, "Postage" above, "& Revenue" below, head and inner frame lilac, outer frame red.

Adhesive. - 10 pence, red and lilac.

GUATAMALA - Three new stamps have been issued. A ten-cent with posthorn and "U. P. U." in centre, "Guatamala" above, "Diez Centavos" below, numerals of value at sides. Also a five-cent without letters in posthorn. Also a two-cent. Large numeral of value in centre, "Centavos" above and below, "Guatamala" at sides.

Envelopes.-5 cent's. blue on white. 10 cent's. red on white.

Wrappers.-2 centavos chocolate on manilla

PHILIPPINES-The new series, same type as Spain, has been issued. The newspaper have "Filipinas Impresos" above, and the regular postage only "Filipinas".

Newspaper- $\frac{1}{2}$ de centavo, brown. 1 mil de peso, dark violet.

2 mil de peso, dark violet. 5 " " "

Postage-2c de peso, red brown. 2 4-8c de peso, blue.

5c " dark blue. 5c " bronze green.

8c " yellow green. 10 " blue green.

10 4-8c " green 20 " rose.

25c " bistre.

PORTO RICO.- The new series, same type as Spain, is in use here.

Postage- $\frac{1}{2}$ mil de peso, black. 1 mil de peso, green blue.

2 " rose. 4 " bronze green.

6 " brown. 7 " bistre.

1 cent de peso, buff. 2 cent de peso, dark violet.

3 " dark blue. 5 " bistre.

8 " blue. 10 " rose.

20 " vermillion. 40 " orange.

80 " yellow green.

ROUMANIA- Head to left in centre, "Roumania" above, value below, numerals in corners. Perforated.

Adhesive-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ban $\frac{1}{2}$, carmine, 3 violet, 5 emerald green, 10 red, 15 chocolate, 25 blue.

SANTANDER-New five and ten centavos are announced.

Adhesive-5 centavos, dark red. 10 centavos, lilac.

Victoria-A new stamp has been issued here. Queen's head in centre, "Victoria" above, "Stamp Duty-One Penny" in two lines below. Perforated.

Adhesive-1 penny, red brown.

Editorial.

There is a good deal of "kicking" being done about the new stamps of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Salvador which are being manufactured by the Hamilton-Seebeck Engraving Company. If the Central American states, which are by no means rich, wish to save money by having their stamps made for nothing they are privileged to do so. Stamps are issued to put on letters to show that the postage has been paid, not to put in collections.

As to the remainders:- Why is the naughty H. S. Co. any worse than the dealers who buy remainders. The H. S. Co. pays for them in printing, the dealers in cash. Some may argue that reprints will be made; and undoubtedly they will. But do not all American dealers catalogue the reprints of U. S. Locals? Besides this, if collectors do not wish to buy these stamps they are not compelled to do so.

If we mistake not the trouble with the dealers is that they are afraid that the H. S. Co. will get away with part of their business and so they raise a howl.

There is something funny about those stamps of Sedang. Before they came into general use (?) one of our leading journals stated that the set would retail for \$2.50. The first set that I saw was marked 35c. This was a falling off. But lately a dealer had this advertisement in one of our great juvenile papers; "7 varieties Sedang, unused, RARE, for 15 cents". Yes, the stamps of Sedang are rare.

Where has the Philatelic Midget gone? Of all the badly printed sheets it was the worst with One Dime a close second. We never saw but one number of One Dime and that we mounted in a collection of curiosities.

A Curious Stamp.

Here is a question for you learned philatelists. By what country issued, of what use, and of what value (if any) is a stamp which answers to the following description?

Ground of heavy network. "V. R." in large monogram below with the English crown above and plate letters "M-A" in upper corners. No inscription. The whole enclosed in a double-lined frame. Impression 19 by 22½ Mm., typographed in black on white wove paper, unperforated.

Any one who knows anything about this stamp will confer on me a great favor by writing to THE STAMP ITEM, 344 Orleans St., Memphis, Tenn.

Something New.

The latest thing in the novelty line is philatelic ink. This is made by putting the common two-cent stamps in ammonia. The fluid produced is red and writes nearly as dark as the stamp.

Sr. Vincente Urrutra O., of Quito, Ecuador, sends us specimens of a new counterfeit of the one real stamp of 1865, printed in both buff and green; it is an excellent imitation and great care should be taken in purchasing these stamps.

Sr. Urrutra writes that these counterfeits have only recently made their appearance in that city, and that he has not yet ascertained their source.

Counterfeit Bremen Stamps.

What are the stamps of Bremen that have been quoted in this country for years at 10c each, unused? These same stamps sell at from 40c to \$2 each in Europe. Those who hold that a reprint is as good as an original, probably call them reprints. But as no reprints of the Bremen stamps have been made these stamps are probably counterfeits.

Notes and Comments.

When the new two-cent stamps were placed on sale here the papers criticised them severely. But in our humble opinion the new two-cent stamp is far prettier than the one we had before.

The paste with which postage stamps are gummed is made from starch, or rather its dextrine, which is first boiled and then acted on chemically, forming a clear, smooth, slightly sweet mixture. It is perfectly harmless as has been ascertained by an eminent chemist. Thus it may be seen that any absurd rumor about the poisonous or unclean properties of postage-stamps is utterly without foundation.

Stamps are counted more than seventeen times in the process of manufacture, the first being directly after printing and the last just before tying up into packages.

The P. J. A. has come to hand. We consider it the best paper now published in the interest of Philately. It contains a very full chronicle.

We see that Bluett and Co., stamp dealers, of Fishmonger's Alley, London, have recovered £250 from the proprietors of the Philatelic Record, for libel.

The new speculative stamps for Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador are out. The designs are intricate but not very pretty.

Mr. R. Wormley, an advanced collector of this city, has lately discovered an envelope stamp for a Confederate P. O. It is so much like the common paid stamp used during the war that Mr. Wormley has doubts as to its being a real stamp. The postmark was "Canton, Mo."

The new stamps for the C. A. states are very fanciful. The designs are compact and have a great deal in them, giving them the appearance of the Centennial stamps of N. S. Wales. Those from Australia are prettier than the other two.

The Stamp Item.

VOL. 1.

MEMPHIS, TENN., MAY, 1890.

NO. 2.

THE STAMPS OF HOLLAND.

To the young collector who has an International album, Holland is the country which holds out the greatest advantages for a special collection. It occupies only one page in the album, nearly all the stamps are pretty, and all of them are cheap, making a very attractive specialty. Beside this, the different issues are all well known, making the stamps easy to arrange, and there are no envelopes to puzzle the beginner as to paper, size and watermark. And when the page is complete it will be an ornament to his collection.

So for the benefit of any of our readers who may have any interest in these stamps, we will endeavor to chronicle them to the best of our ability.

The Dutch currency is:- One gulden = 100 cents = [40 cents]. The prices given are Scott's.

1852- In this year the initial issue of four values was gotten out from Utrecht.

Profile bust of King Wm. to right in oval frame, "Post Zegel" above, "5-C" in lower corners. The engraving is *taille douce*, impression 18 by 21mm. in color on white wove paper, watermarked with a posthorn. Imperforate.

5cents blue	3.	5cents light blue	5.
10cents red brown	5.	15cents orange	10.

1864- The inhabitants of Holland had not yet learned to issue stamps every year, so not until 1864 was a new issue made.

Large profile to right of King William in oval. Value in upper corners, "Post Zegel" below. Impression 17½ by 21mm. col-

ored on white wove paper, perforated.

5 cents deep blue	3.	10 cents red brown	2.
15 cents orange yellow, orange			10.

1867-70. This is by far the prettiest issue of all as the design is pretty and the colors bright.

Profile of the King to right in circle, "Nederland" above, value below. Engraved, impression $17\frac{1}{2}$ by 21 mm. in color on white wove paper.

1867-68. Perf. 12.

5 cents blue(1868)	1.	10 carmine	1.	15 chestnut[1868]	5.
20 deep green	4.	25 violet	5.	50 gold	10.

1869. Perf. $10\frac{1}{2}$.

5 blue.	10 carmine.	20 deep green.
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1870. Perf. 14.

5 cents blue	1.	10 carmine	1.	15 chestnut	5.
20 deep green	5.	25 violet.		50 gold.	

1869-71. But taste in the stamp line seems to have degenerated, for in 1869 this issue was put into use.

Arms and wreath in circle in centre, name above, value below. Impression $18\frac{1}{2}$ by 23 mm., typographed in color on white wove.

1869. Perf. 14. 1 black 5. 1 green 1.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ rose 1. 2 brownish yellow 2.

1870-71. Perf. 13. 1-2 brown (1871) 1. 1 green 1.

1 1-2 rose. 4. 2 ochre yellow 2. 2 1-2 mauve 3.

1872. But this issue was of low values, so a new issue, of two types, was made.

Type one: Profile of King to left, name above, value below.

Type two: Profile to left in centre, value above, name below.

In type two the head and inner circle are in blue, the rest in rose. Typographed in color on white wove paper.

1872 Perf. 12 to 14. 5 cents blue 1.

10 carmine	1.	20 green	1.	2.50 gl. blue & 10 c 15.
1873.		15 brown	1.	
1874.		50 stone	1.	
1875.		12½ gray	1.	25 violet 1.

But the last issue of small values had probably worn out their plates and so the post-office had a new set made which is a slight improvement on the old set.

Large numeral of value in centre, name on tablet above, word "cent" below, numerals in corners. Typographed in color on white wove paper.

Dec. 1876.	Perf 12 to 13.		½ rose	1.
1 green	1.	2 yellow	1.	2½ mauve 1.

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.

1870. Large numeral of value in centre, "Te Betalen" above, "Port" below. Typographed on colored wove paper.

1870. Perf. 13. 5 brown on buff 5. 10 violet on blue 3.

1881-7. Numeral of value and word "cent" in black, or the words "Een Gulden" in carmine in centre, rest of stamp blue. Words same. Typographed on white wove paper.

1881. Perf 11½ or 12. 1 - 2, 1 1-2 - 2, 2 1-2 - 3, 12 1-2 - 8, 15 - 8, 20 - 15, 25 - 10; all in blue and black. 1 gl. carmine and blue.

1887. 5 blue and black 2. 10 blue and black 5.

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

1876. Type of 1872 in upper right hand corner of envelope. 5 blue on white. 2. 12½ gray on white. 5.

CHRONICLE.

ARGENTINE.-"Republica-Correos Y Telegrafos-Argentina" around head, value below. Also two not yet issued.

Postage- 2 centavos, lilac. 60 centavos, black.

Wrapper- 4 centavos, red on manilla.

Con. page 6.

THE STAMP ITEM.

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Paul W. Prutzman, Editor and Publisher.

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Issued on the fifteenth day of each month. Any manuscript thankfully received. We will exchange two copies a month with other papers.

EDITORIAL.

The rate at which surcharges are gaining a foothold among collectors is astonishing. Over one third of the stamps issued last year were surcharged, and this is a sure sign that they are in demand. The man who invented over-printing for stamps, though he provided a new source of revenue for many postmasters, did Philately a great hurt. These stamps have very seldom any philatelic value, as they are always of doubtful origin unless bought directly from the post-offices. Most surcharges are so easily imitated that any boy could flood the market with counterfeits.

Then to the true collector these stamps can have no value, as the surcharge hides any curious or beautiful design.

In the P. J. A. for April we see this note:-"The J. W. Scott Co., Limited, has issued a catalogue in which it has attempted to revolutionize stamp collecting by purposely omitting to catalogue certain classes of stamps which everyone does and will collect."

This plainly refers to the surcharge. Just below this paragraph appears:- "If a person wishes to print '2 cents' on a U. S. 3-cent stamp he may send it through the mail. If a dealer chooses to have his agents in a foreign country do the same thing with the stamps of that country, he may. P. S. — Some of them do." Does not this last, from the best stamp paper in America, go far to prove that surcharges are often mere fabrications? Yet this same paper says that everyone does and will collect them. If all our chroniclers would follow the example of the Scott Co., they, with the aid of the Philatelic press, could soon put a stop to the collecting of these stamps. Surcharges will probably be collected as long as the present advanced collectors 'rule the roost', but let us hope that when the rising generation will have become men, the surcharge which fills our albums and empties our purses will not be in sight.

Beware!

Do Not Allow Yourselves to be Cheated by Unprincipled Counterfeiters.

There is a man in Boston by the name of J. T. McFarland from 4 Warrenton Street, who is advertising counterfeits. It is not to be expected that these prices would deceive an experienced collector, it is the boys who will get bit. Counterfeiting has gone on long enough, and if the government will not put a stop to it the Philatelic press should do it.

In the beginning of Mc Farland's list there is a notice to this effect:- "We deal in cancelled stamps for collecting purposes only, and none of them, unless they are purchased directly from foreign post-offices are in any case guaranteed or warranted." But this is a poor pretence of saying that the stamps were not genuine: very few would understand it to mean that way.

In the list of packets he offers 250 U. S. Locals including the Brattleboro, New Haven, St. Louis and others for 25 cents.

This is a sample of the prices in the list.

Look out for him!

Chronicle (con.)

BRAZIL.—Same design as last 100 reis.

Postage—10 reis, light blue, 20 green, 50 olive green, 100 reis, crimson, 200 purple, 300 dark blue, 500 red brown 700 violet, 1000 yellow.

COLOMBIA - Santander—Arms, surrounded by "Republica De Colombia-Departamento De Santander", "Correos" in corners above, "5 centavos" in lower corners.

Ten cent-Arms in centre, surrounded by "Departamento De Santander", "Republica De Colombia" above, "Correos - 10 centavos" below.

Postage- 5 centavos, red. 10 centavos, purple.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—Similar to issue of 1885.

Envelopes—5 cent. blue on white. 10 cent. orange on white.

Wrappers—2 c. red on manilla. 3 c. orange on manilla.

EGYPT.—Envelopes. 5 mill. rose on cream. 5 m. rose on blue.

HONDURAS.—New issue, printed in pale yellow and surcharged "Official" in red.

Official—1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75 cent, 1 peso, pale yellow.

JAMAICA.—Regular issues printed in new colors and surcharged "Official" in black.

Official— $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, green, 1 rose, 2 pence, grey.

NICARAGUA.—All values of the new issue printed in blue with surcharge "Franqueo-Official" in two lines.

1, 2, fifty cent., one, two, five, and ten pesos, ultramarine.

VICTORIA.—Envelope like 1885 1 p. red brown on laid paper.

Another Curiosity.

A stamp which is unique if not pretty.

What is it?

One day as a friend of mine was walking down Monroe street he saw an envelope lying on the sidewalk. He picked it up and found a stamp of a curious design impressed in the corner. The envelope when found was a small, white one, addressed to Seabrook and Co., near who's store it was picked up. It had been sealed and opened, but bore no postmark. The stamp looks a little like this:

Mortar and pestle on vertically lined ground, on empanelled shield in centre, "Experto Crede" in white letters on straight colored band above, "Nihii Sine Labore" in white letters on curved colored band below; the whole on horizontally lined ground and enclosed in a line meant to represent the perforations. The stamp is cancelled with seven bars of different lengths forming a circle. Plate impression 18½ by 23 mm. in red brown on white paper.

A Collector.

Differences in Stamps.

Points which often distinguish between rare and common stamps.

Stamps have their differences as well as their similarities. The varieties of the U. S. envelopes are so well known that we will speak of the only one which is not often observed.

If you look at the two-cent envelopes of this date you possibly may notice that in one the point of the profile points to the third notch of the inner frame, while in others it points to the second. The second is worth almost nothing, the first fifty cents.

In the U. S. five cent of 1887, some have the ground-work inside the inner circle at the left above the head, of parallel lines, while in others it is crossed up and down, forming a net-work.

Notes and Comments.

Since our last issue we have seen Mr. Wormley. He says that we were mistaken when we said that he had doubts as to the authenticity of the stamp which he discovered. Also that the postmark was Canton, Miss. instead of Mo. We spent some time in looking over Mr. Wormley's collection; we could have spent as many hours as we spent minutes, but our time was limited. Mr. Wormley has been collecting for many years, and his collection is worth hundreds, if not thousands of dollars. In the Confederate States it is one of the finest in existence; it contains two varieties of the Canton local, a five, a ten, and an envelope with two impressions of the five.

Who has ever been gulled by a seller of Hamburg locals? We got a set once to see what they looked like. The set was advertised to be complete with 116 varieties, so we thought it rather peculiar to get 150 varieties as we did.

How many have ever noticed on the stamps of Spain and several of her colonies, that the name or initials of the engraver are placed in minute letters on the dark underside of the profile? In the stamps of Cuba, issues from 1876 to '79 the letters are "J. B.", from '80 to '90 "Julia". In Porto Rico from '77 to '80 the letters are "J. B.", and from '80 to '90, with the exception of '82-4, the name is "Julia". In the Phillipine Islands of '80-82 and in Spain the issues of '73 and '78-82, all the stamps [are] marked "Julia".

We think that the philatelic papers of today contain too much on people and not enough on stamps; that is the trouble with the American Philatelist, it contains the reports of the A. P. A. and of several of its branches, which do not interest one reader out of a hundred. The A. J. P. contains more articles on stamps, and the P. J. A. more philatelic news, than any two papers in America.

The Stamp Item.

VOL. 1.

MEMPHIS, TENN., JUNE, 1890.

NO. 2.

A COLLECTOR'S EXPERIENCES.

Stamp collecting is indeed a science. It is a pursuit that adds more to the life of the collector than any other of his pleasures. It is a craze, a fever. But there are times when the fever abates, times when the once loved collection becomes a thing of little value, a discarded friend. This is when the boy's mind melts with some new and novel food to work on, when some other pastime holds supremacy.

One may forever weary of baseball, swimming, fishing and the like, but of his collection, never. The fever will return, it will surely come back with ever increasing power, and with each stage of the collector aging, and each time becoming more advanced until at last the toy becomes a study, the pastime a science.

I well remember when I made my first collection. I was sent to a boarding school at some distance from my home. My holidays were few and far between as is always the case. How vividly I recall the memory of my collection while at school. How eagerly I looked forward to that album, and how my first night at home would be divided between it and my friends I well remember.

As a boy I was a collector, not of stamps, but of nearly everything else, but I devoted myself principally to tobacco tags. I did not stand alone in my devotion to my earliest hobby. I had many companions and we had the true collector's ardor. We even searched the alleys near grocery stores, as expectantly as the philatelist looks over an "old hair trunk" full of letters. We went so far as to waylay travelling men in order to get the tags off

of new brands of tobacco which they carried as samples.

I come to the strangest thing after all. We had a tag currency of which the "Climax" was the basis, and from this the values gradually increased until very rare specimens were reached which were worth thirty "Climaxes". At auction sales, however, fancy prices were realized. "Auction sales" I hear someone exclaim. Yes, we had auction sales, just as they are held today by dealers in stamps. You see "history repeats itself", "men are only boys grown tall".

Myself with two or three companions practically controlled the tag market. We fixed prices and decided what should be collected and what should not. For a long time we refused to collect paper tags. At last we held a little conclave and for several of the following days we quietly secured all the paper tags obtainable. Then the fiat went forth that they should be collected. And then our time came. We had created a value for a thing which was previously worthless. This was financeering with a vengeance.

And so I went on until stamps captured me and I made my first collection, but of that I have spoken, so that the ending brings me back to the beginning.

WALTER D. BOTTO.

The Official Seals.

Though the "officially sealed", and "registered" labels are given places in all albums and admitted to nearly all the largest collections, yet they are not stamps, either postal or fiscal. They have no indication of value, they do not prepay postage, and in fact they have none of the characteristics of postage stamps.

I have before me as I write a small yellow label used to put on letters returned to the post-office by the carrier. It is a type-set slip printed in black on yellow paper, and as everyone has prob-

ably seen one it will be useless to describe it.

A philatelist would not call it a stamp, yet why is it not as good as the officially sealed label that is used in almost the same way?

Lively Postage Stamps.

It is pleasant to think that the familiar saying, "Wonders will never cease," is literally true. Life would hardly be worth living if we could no longer be surprised. As it is, the very simplest and most every-day object, even a postage-stamp, will sometimes present itself in a novel and startling aspect. The Philadelphia Press has a story in point.

A Georgia man, Mr. Evans, stood in the Girard Cafe preparing to mail a letter, and had just moistened two one-cent stamps when they slipped from his fingers and fluttered to the floor. Mr. Evans, who is a portly man, looked at them in disgust, and then stooped to pick them up.

Before he could put his fingers on them, however, they began to move slowly away from him along the floor. He drew back and gazed at the spectacle in natural astonishment. He ran his fingers through his hair and pinched his ears to make sure that he was awake, and all the while the postage stamps were gliding along the floor. When they reached the side of the room they began slowly to ascend the wall.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Evans is not given to drink, but according to the Press he hastened to the bartender at this point and begged him to feel his pulse. When he returned the stamps were half way to the ceiling, and still gliding upward.

Happily for Mr. Evans's sanity, the bits of blue paper just then altered their course and began to descend, and were soon within reach of his hand. Then the mystery was explained. The moistened stamps had fallen on a fly's back, and stuck to the insect, which naturally enough started off with them.

THE STAMP ITEM.

MEMPHIS, TENN.,

JUNE, 1890.

Paul W. Prutzman, Editor and Publisher.

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Issued on the fifteenth day of each month. Any manuscript thankfully received. We wish to exchange with all other papers.

EDITORIAL.

Mr. E. W. Voute's policy in indiscriminately slandering every person against whom he may have a personal grievance, is one which is sure to make the paper through the medium of whose columns he vents his spleen, unpopular with a collecting public. If Mr. Massoth wishes to spoil his paper as a paying investment, the way for him to do it is to engage Mr. Voute in the editorial department and not prohibit such libelous articles as that gentleman is in the habit of writing for publication.

In the March number of the Stamp Collector's Figaro Mr. Voute goes for Mr. J. R. Hooper in a way which is ungentlemanly to say the least. The paragraph abounds in such expressions as "philatelic outcast", "unmitigated ass" &c.

In the beginning Mr. Voute says "I sympathize even with Wolseifer when Bluffer Hooper gets his blackmailing port-holes at him." This sentence is a curiosity in itself. We have endeavored to keep up with the current uses of words, but this is a new one and has escaped our notice.

In the next sentence Mr. Voute uses a slang expression, a thing which we would think no man having the education which he evidently has, as the article referred to attests, would be guilty of. He then goes on to say, "This philatelic outcast is a travelling disgrace to the morals of American citizens." If we may judge from the tone of Mr. Voute's writing, the American citizens are hardly good enough to be disgraced by even J. R. Hooper.

Mr. Voute probably intended the article to be witty, in that respect it was a dismal failure, the language was disgustingly abusive, and the tone of the whole article was such as is more likely to bring the *Figaro* into disrepute than John R. Hooper "the entire opposition party".

A Curious Spanish Stamp.

A stamp of which few people know the history is the Spanish stamp of 1869, blue on white paper, with the inscription "Carilla Postal de Espana" or in english "Mail route Map of Spain". Used specimens of this stamp are very scarce as they were in use only six months.

A lithographer and printer by the name of Diego Castell Fernandez worked for twelve years on a postal map of Spain and also wrote a book on the subject. This book was such a complete guide that the government authorized its use in the public schools and allowed it to be carried through the post free. In order to use the privilege Sr. Castell made this stamp.

It was only in use between January 1 and June 30, 1869, and only such specimens as were canceled between those dates should be collected. There is also another variety printed in black on blue paper, but philatelists think that this was printed on the title page of Sr. Castell's work and that someone cut them out and sold them as stamps.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

The finest exhibition of stamps for several years was held in London last month. It was opened by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on May 19th and remained open until the evening of the 26th. It was visited by nearly all the philatelists of London and many of the general public, but few Americans were there. The gems were the two post-office Mauritius and a pair of the two-cent first issue British Guiana. There were many stamps of Afghanistan, Cashmere, the native Indian states and New South Wales, there being over 1600 Sidney Views, and a proportionate number of the Laureated issues. Besides these a complete series of the early Philippines, unsevered and also made up sheets, made up sheets of the first issue of Tasmania and the second Queen on throne, the smaller plates of the native engraved Mauritius, the Swiss Rayons I. and II., Orts-poste and Poste-locale, the entire first issue of Bolivia and a collection of the stamps, envelopes, and postcards of Japan, including all known varieties.

There were many great rarities in single stamps. In class two there were several good collections containing some great rarities.

In class III. for entire envelopes there was a complete series of the U. S., a valuable lot of Mauritius and sets of Austria, Germany, the German states, Russia, Poland and Finland. There was a good collection of post-cards of Japan in class IV., and a number of rare stamps in class V. Class VI., literature, was submitted to the judges only.

In class VII., albums, many designs were shown for mounting stamps. There were also many good curiosities in class VIII.

A collection sent by the Government of New South Wales was delayed and did not arrive in time. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., Waterlow and Son, and Blades, East and Blades, printers of stamps of England, Borneo and Liberia lent proofs and designs.

Notices.

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To DEALERS:- We will take good Mexican stamps at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent discount from Scott's standard catalogue prices in payment for advertising space in this paper.

OUR COLUMNS are always open for a free discussion of the questions of the day. We hope that the young collectors who hang back from expressing their opinions in the larger journals will come forward and speak freely on any subject upon which they wish to be enlightened or to enlighten others.

WE WISH that our readers would help the cause of philately by giving to others the knowledge which they possess. Almost every collector has items of interest, reminiscences and the like which others would be glad to hear. It would not take long to write these things and send them to some stamp paper.

The Corwin Auction Sale.

The first Corwin auction sale was held in the rooms of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd., on Monday, May 19th. The weather was bad and the attendance small, but the prices obtained good.

Following are some of the prices gotten for Confederate locals.

Athens, 5c purple, used,	\$15.10
Charleston, 5c blue, used on envelope,	7.50
Lenoir, 5c blue and orange, used,	40.00
Maupeis, 2c blue, used,	5.75
“ 5c red, used,	5.50
“ 5c dark red, used,	6.00
Mobile, 2c black, unused,	27.00
Nashville, 5c brown, used pair,	19.00
New Orleans, 2c blue, used pair, one printed on each side	27.

Notes and Comments.

OVER one-half of the stamps used yearly are made in New York.

THE three largest collections of stamps are owned by the French Government, Sir Phillip Ferrari, and Baron Rothschild.

THERE are counterfeits of the stamps of Afghanistan abroad. They were made by one Hafez Hamed and sold in Paris.

THE set of Mexican stamps, 1864, engraved, seems to have no settled price. Scott catalogues it 65 cents: we have seen it advertised at prices ranging from five cents to \$1.25.

JOHN Palmer of the Strand, London, has probably the largest collection of counterfeit stamps in the world. But Mr. Palmer's knowledge of stamps is very limited as the collection of one million contains many genuine stamps wrongly classed.

"CHEAP John's New Stamps" seem to be exciting considerable comment. The same article under that name appears in the American Journal of Philately, the Philatelic Journal of America and the Southern Philatelist for May, and by the time a collector has read each paper through it begins to grow a little monotonous.

Press Notes.

THE Post Card is peculiar, but the news is always fresh.

THE Rhode Island Philatelist is very fast improving.

THE A. J. P. is not as good as it was a year ago.

MEKEEL ought to make money out of his paper.

Supposed to be Funny.

JINKS:- Heard about the latest bargain sale? Wanamaker sells thirteen two cent stamps for a cent and a quarter.

JENKS:- He can't do it.

JINKS:- Why, a cent and a quarter is twenty six cents, isn't it?

Hurrah for Wanamaker!

The Stamp Item.

Vol. 1.

MEMPHIS, TENN., JULY, 1890.

No. 4.

THE MEMPHIS LOCALS And What Became of the Plates from which They Were Printed.

Of all the stamps which are of interest to the collector who is willing to study his stamps, the Confederate locals issued by the different Southern cities during the first years of the late war are the most interesting, and among these are the five stamps issued by Memphis during the time that Mr. M. C. Galloway was Postmaster here.

I was told by a collector of this city that the stamps had a history and he advised me to see Mr. Galloway, who still lives here. So acting on this advice I visited Mr. Galloway at his home. He kindly consented to tell me what he knew concerning the stamps, which he said was very little.

Mr. Galloway himself had the designing of the stamps, which were engraved on copper as our stamps are on steel, and printed by Mr. Hutton, a printer of this city. The adhesives are of two values, printed one hundred to the sheet and unperforated. The values are, 2 cents blue, 5 cents red and 5 cents red on envelope. Mr. Wormley has the first two on both white and brown paper, making five varieties in all.

When the thousands of spectators who crowded the bluff anxiously awaiting the outcome of the battle raging below them saw the Confederate gunboats turn slowly away and leave the Federals in possession of the city they were thunder-struck. People began to leave in great numbers. Mr. Galloway closed the post-office and left the plates in it. But before the soldiers entered

the city, Mr. Hutton, the printer, entered the post-office and took away the plates. They were carried to Zimmerman's bath house and hid in an old cistern until they should be needed.

But the plates were never needed as the war was soon over and the stamps were not then valuable enough to be worth reprinting. Fortunately for the collectors who do not believe in reprinting the cistern was filled up and the plates covered. There they have been for the last twenty five years, and there they are likely to stay, as they are probably rendered useless by corrosion.

POSTMAN.

The First Stamps.

The following clipping was presented to us by Mr. Julian Speed. The stamps referred to are probably revenues as postage stamps were not known until over 140 years after, in 1840. William of Orange and his wife Mary, daughter of James, Duke of York, came to the throne of England in February, 1689, Mary died in 1694 and William eight years later, in 1702.

"In the year 21, William and Mary, king and queen of England, instituted the stamp and had only the five and six cent stamps. But now the issues are varied and numerous and are used on nearly every legal document."

Probably the largest letter ever sent through any post-office was mailed recently in Australia. It weighed 238 ounces, and the value of the postage stamps on it amounted to fifty five dollars.

The Curiosity Collector is as good as ever.

The bound copies of Volume II. of the Post Card which the paper is sending to its exchanges, are very neat.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

The following is the list of medals given to exhibitors at the above exhibition, the account of which we printed last month.

Gold medals were given to M. F. Castle, N. South Wales, Earl of Kingston, Great Britain, D. Garth, India and Ceylon, Louis Blanchard, Cantonal Swiss, Gilbert Harrison, U. S.

The first was an extra gold medal. Extra silver medals were given to E. and A. W. Chambers, Barbados and Nevis, H. H. Townsend, Great Britain, C. Coleman, Canada, Gov. New South Wales, two stands, Gov. of Tasmania, sheets, Perkins, Bacon and Co., miscellaneous.

Silver medals to Gilbert Harrison, Afghanistan, E. B. Luard, British Guiana, F. DeCoppet, Bolivia and Ecuador, W. Krapp, Roumania and Moldo-Wallachia, W. Rutley, curiosities, E. R. Hawkins, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, T. Maycock, the same, Pearson Hill, 4900 unused adhesives, W. Hughes, 2900 unused, L. Schwartz, Austrian envelopes, Pearson Hill, curiosities.

Extra bronze medals were given to W. Cowlands, designs for arranging single stamps alphabetically, H. Haslett, Mulready caricatures and proofs, Blades, East and Blades, complete Borneo and Liberia, Waterlow Sons, Ltd., British Guiana &c.

Bronze medals were given to G. Waitfield, Dr. Mallman, U. S. Locals, L. Gibb, Spain complete, J. Wickham Jones, B. P. Rodd, C. Neville Biggs, E. Ransom, A. DeWorms, Mrs. W. Gregory, Mrs. A. Potts, Moritz Schuch, A. Graves, A. Keily, J. A. Tillcard, H. Stafford Smith, collection of 10000, W. Lincoln, M. Giwelb, Pearson Hill, J. B. Moens, and F. Corder and J. Petritz. The exhibition was a decided success financially, and a triumph philatelically speaking.

THE STAMP ITEM.

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Paul W. Prutzman, Editor and Publisher.

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stamp paper.

ENTERED IN THE POST-OFFICE AT MEMPHIS, TENN., AS SECOND CLASS
MAIL MATTER.

EDITORIAL.

The thing of greatest interest at present to collectors, and especially to A. P. A. members, is the coming convention and election of officers of the A. P. A. for next year, to be held in New York city on the 4th of August. The ticket nominated by the P. J. A. is as follows.

President- John K. Tiffany, of St. Louis.

Vice president- P. M. Wolseiffer, of Chicago.

Treasurer- Charles Gregory, of New York.

Secretary- Millard F. Walton, of Philadelphia.

International Secretary- Joseph Rechert, of Hoboken, N. J.

This is the same as most all of the other papers have nominated, excepting that Mr. C. B. Corwin was named for Vice-president.

ent. The constitution of the A. P. A. requires that no two officers shall be from the same state. This would prevent Mr. Corwin, who lives in New Jersey and does business in New York, from being elected unless he receives more votes than either Mr. Rechert or Mr. Gregory, which is not at all likely.

Mr. Corwin wants the office, however, and wants it pretty bad, and he has been doing some electioneering. Mr. J. W. Scott receives the votes as they come in on postal cards, and as he gets them he shows them to Mr. Corwin, thus giving him an advantage. So Mr. Corwin, after finding out who voted for him and who did not, took to punching up those who did not, to the extent of writing to one party, suggesting that if he made a mistake in his vote there was still ample time to change it. This kind of business ought to be sat down on, and so ought Messrs. Scott and Corwin.

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The article on another page entitled "The Engraving of Stamps" is reduced from one of the same name in the Philatelic Journal of America for November, 1887, which was written by Mr. L. S. Morton.

Take Notice:- On and after this, the thirtieth day of July, 1890, the **STAMP ITEM** will be published on the thirtieth day of each month, instead of on the fifteenth as heretofore.

THE ENGRAVING OF STAMPS.

A large part of the stamps now in existence are steel engraved, as nearly all countries formerly used this method of making their stamps, but many countries which started out in this way now use either lithographs or wood cuts. The danger of counterfeiting was the cause of engraving on steel being formerly made use of by a majority of the stamp issuing countries, and the cost of production is the reason they now use wood cuts.

Most steel engraved stamps are made by De la Rue and Co. of London, or in the U. S. Mexico manufactured her last four issues. Bolivia made her first issue by steel engraving. The embossed adhesives of Peru are made in endless strips on a machine called the Lequoc, in which the pulp was put in at one end and the finished stamps came out at the other, something like the new patent ice-cream freezers. The stamps of Colombia are lithographs, while those of Brazil issued during the last seven years are native steel engravings;

Engraving on copper, which is much the same as on steel, was used in Mauritius and the Phillipine Islands. Cashmere is the only country which ever engraved on ivory. A great many of the stamps of the British Colonies are printed from one die and the name and value set up in type and added afterward, often out of place. The French stamps since 1876, the French colonials since 1880 and many British colonials have a whole set printed from one wood cut and the value added afterward. About 1860 the stamps of England were printed on glazed paper, [not glazed or enamelled].

There are many type-set stamps, among which are the early stamps of Shanghai, British Guiana provisionals, and many locals. The stamps of Corrientes are wood cuts.

HELIGOLAND.

Why this great lowl over Heligoland. Lord Salisbury made a good bargain when he gave that island to Germany. In return for a little piece of land not a mile square England got an immense tract in East Africa, one of the richest countries on the globe.

Heligoland is a little island in the North Sea, a mile and a half long and a half mile wide, with 2001 inhabitants. Early in the century when it passed from Denmark to England the island was much larger, for it has been steadily shrinking under the action of the waves and must soon disappear.

There is but one town in the island, one part of which is 170 feet higher than the other. This distance is divided into 213 steps, which have to be climbed to go from one part of the town to the other. The inhabitants are principally pilots and fishermen. At a certain time in the year, immense flocks of birds fly over the island, and the people catch thousands of them in nets. The island is composed principally of sandstone with a thin layer of fertile earth above, and small crops of wheat, oats and rye are grown.

The inhabitants are very fond of sleep and do not work much. They are Frisians and speak German and English. The stamps which are issued in such quantities are seldom used there but are sold to dealers all over the world. The change in government will probably produce a change in the stamps, and the boys who buy the stamps of Heligoland will no longer get beautiful little red and green pictures of Queen Victoria.

We have received the catalogue of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co.'s 101st. auction sale, the stamps being the property of Mr. H. S. Mack, to be held at 44 West 14th street, N. Y., on Aug. 5.

Notes and Comments.

MR. C. T. BARNUM, the great showman, has received letters from Siam, Australia and England addressed simply to "Mr. Barnum, America."

THE SCOTT STAMP AND COIN Co. intend to start a branch office here this fall. It is to be in the hands of Mr. R. M. Mansford, a leading stationer.

MR. WORMLEY is corresponding with the postmaster of Canton, Mo., and he promises us the history of the curious stamps issued by that city very soon.

MR. S. TWING, postmaster at Chester Cross Roads, Ohio, has received a check drawn in his favor from the government for one cent in settlement of his accounts.

A POSTAGE STAMP was recently found by a Connecticut physician in the ear of a little patient and on its removal a severe pain from which the child had suffered, and which caused the visit to the doctor, disappeared.

"E. C." WRITES TO THE EDITOR of the New York Times as follows under the title "Where stamps are Collected."

Paragraphs are often published and the question asked as to what becomes of old stamps and why they are collected. Here is a statement, the truth of which is beyond a doubt. In Locarno, Switzerland, exists an orphan asylum for girls which in 1888 received over a million of stamps. The children were made to sort them in packages of one hundred and they sold for £24. Quite an item in a country where money is worth more than in America. A circular issued by the directors of the asylum states that the best and rarest stamps are sold to collectors whose number is millions: the others are used for decorative work. In 1888 the stamps produced £260.