

Brawford 2457(4)
TION MAILED BY P. E. A. CONRAD

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Vol. 1,



No. 5.

THE MAIL BAG.

An Amateur for Young People.

DECEMBER, 1896.

PUBLISHED AT

917 East Capitol St.,

Washington, D. C..

BY

ALBERT O. PENNEY.

HAPPY NEW-YEAR!



SWARTLEY'S ADJUSTABLE BOOT
GUARANTEES
COMFORT, EASE,
and Perfection of Fit.

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HAPPY NEW-YEAR!

APPROVAL SHEETS.

I make a specialty of approval sheets for beginners and young collectors,

My stamps are priced in many cases below catalog price, and I also allow a

DISCOUNT OF 50 PER CENT.

To all sending for same during the months of December and January and giving good reference I will give

**a genuine Confederate States stamp
or 25 varieties of good foreign.**

Send a 2c stamp and receive 30 varieties of good foreign by return mail.

The following are some fine bargains:

20 varieties of fine U. S.	15c.
2c Interior Dept. unused	6c.
3c "	4c.
6c "	11c.
U. S. Postal Service black	4c.

C. J. PARKINSON,

1003 O Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

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AUTOGRAPH COLLECTING.

By "Alan Adalo."

"All the great men are dying off", is a common saying of modern times. Is that true, and is that the reason for the loss of interest in the collection of autographs, or is the amassing of "tin tags" and cigarette cards more engrossing?

Autograph collecting, as a means of education, deserves to rank with philately. If the possession of a peculiar stamp makes one wish to know more of the country issuing it, so an autograph of a distinguished man arouses an interest in him. If the autograph be appended to a brief note, or sentiment, showing something of the inner nature of the man, it is still more valuable, and if, by rare good fortune, the paper is of historic importance, it becomes almost priceless.

There is room to mention only one col-

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lection seen by the writer, that of a little girl who has, among others, the signatures of President and Mrs. Cleveland and the entire cabinet. Even now, since the death of Gresham, this has a financial value which will increase with years.

Now, a few hints to youthful collectors. Write a frank, courteous letter to the person whose autograph you desire, telling him who you are and your age (that he may know you are not a professional) and why you especially wish for his signature. If you admire anything **he** has done say so simply and sincerely. Don't gush. Be brief, for his time is valuable, and, above all, send a stamp for reply. A distinguished judge once said to a friend of the writer, as he cast aside a request for an autograph, "If that person had sent a stamped, self-addressed envelope I should have been glad to grant his request". Why? It would have saved so much time. A word to the wise is sufficient. Subscribe. Only 12c.

THE MAIL BAG.

Written expressly for the Mail Bag by "Fatty".

DO YOU KNOW

That the United Amateur Press Association is on the boom and its membership is increasing each week and that election time is nearly here?

That if you want to vote, your dues must be paid up and that if you have not already paid them you had better do so at once?

That the "Popular" ticket is the one to vote and that the Sec'y will send you a copy of it on application?

That the membership would be twice as large if you would go see your friend and get him to join and that it is your duty to do that very thing?

That the National Amateur Press Association wants the U. A. P. A. to consolidate with them and that the former is twenty years old while the latter is only a little over a year old and that it seems queer for an old association like the N. A. P. A. to want such a young one to consolidate with them?



THE MAIL BAG.

That the U. A. P. A. is not going to consolidate with the N. A. P. A. for the reason that the U. A. P. A. will be the strongest association of its kind in the world in about a year or two---perhaps less time than that?

Points on "HOW TO VOTE" at the U. A. P. A. Election
in December.

Ed. H. Weigel	for President.
Ira Reely	for 1st Vice-President.
Kurt Neitzke	for 2nd Vice-President.
Geo. A. Alderman	for Secretary.
Donat J. Lefebvre	for Treasurer.
Frank E. Merritt Jr.	for Official Editor.
"Bits and Chips"	for Official Organ.
Miss Mame Weigel	
	for Chairman of Credential Committee.
Chas. W. Heins,	
G. Washington Darragh,	
C. Friedrich	for Trustees.
Will C. Price	for Chief of Reviews.

If you vote this the "Popular Ticket", success to the U. A. P. A. is assured.

 Read the advertising pages. 

THE MAIL BAG.

STRAY NOTES

By Various Amateurs.

Messrs. Hazelton and Smallcan don't hesitate to call "The Mail Bag" hard names even though their paper "The Club Echo" is made up of a great deal of plate matter, while the former can boast of its being entirely original (except the soliloquy in this number), its contents being especially prepared for it by able writers. Verily, "The Club Echo" has no room to talk.

Herbert Stratton is going to retire from clubdom and Messrs. Farr and Campbell will now reoccupy their old places on the Budget. A handsome sheet will undoubtedly be forth-coming.

We understand that Will F. Hollinger owes the editor of the Mail Bag \$1.75, and the editor of the Journalist \$2.25. Has he victimized any one else?

Mr. John B. Leach announces that the Rambler will reappear January 1, with 8 or 9 pages but more of them. Success to the old man.

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SOLILOQUY.

To advertise or not to advertise---
That is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in a business man to
suffer
The loss and slowness of unbought bar-
gains,
Or, by advertising, sell them,
There's the nightmare of neglected op-
portunity---
Of space unoccupied
That might enrich the merchant's pocket
By emptying his plethoric shelves---
All these and other things to prize,
Should lead the wise to advertise.

Don't waste **WRITING** the address
time by at the top
of your letters when you can get

100 finely printed letterheads and
100 finely printed envelopes for
ONLY \$1.00, POST PAID.

Address the publisher of M. B.

THE MAIL BAG.

THE :: MAIL :: BAG.

A monthly for young people.

Albert O. Penney, Editor and Publisher.

Subscription price, 12c per year.

Advertising rates, 5c per in., 15c per page.

Address all mail and exchanges to

ALBERT O. PENNEY,

917 East Capitol Street.

Washington, D. C.

EDITORIAL.

For various good reasons, the Mail Bag has lain dormant during the past four months. Now, however, by very hard work, we have succeeded in issuing it once more, and we think it is here to stay. Having secured the services of several very popular writers we trust that the reading matter hereinafter contained in the Mail Bag will be of the character in greatest demand among amateurs and clubites, and we further trust that, if said reading matter pleases you, you will be honest enough to give a substantial expression of your opinion in the shape of twelve cents.

Note: the soliloquy on the opposite page is not original, it being taken from an advertising paper.

A REPLY TO "CLUB ECHO".**By John H. Campbell, Jr.**

Editors Hazelton and Smallcan of "The Club Echo" seem to get into a buff quite easily, judging from the October (no. 4) issue of their paper. It was this way.

When their eyes met a fact, to the effect that "The Club Echo" had been suspended, in the August (no. 4) issue of "The Mail Bag"---a note penned by Will F. Hollinger under the nom de plume of "Up-to-date"---they did n't like it, perhaps because they preferred having the truth suppressed when it came to them and their paper, and they said some very idiotic things about "The Mail Bag", which it is the purpose of this article to answer.

As to "The Club Echo", its initial number made its appearance wretchedly printed on a cheap, poor quality of paper which lacked in quantity as well, and was shortly followed by another issue, dated March 16, 1896, of the same character.

From that time until September, during which "The Mail Bag" was published regularly, the paper, an advocate of

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temperance, failed to appear, when once more it was launched upon the uncertain seas of amateur journalism, to give it due credit, much improved upon.

Well, then, was it untrue or was it wrong on the part of "The Mail Bag" to say, after its New Hampshire contemporary had not been seen for almost five months, that "The Club Echo" had been suspended?

"The Mail Bag" is not given to making disparaging remarks about any thing or any body unless there are good reasons for it. It wishes to be friendly towards all, but it can not altogether suppress its opinions, nor will it remain idle if some one takes to attacking it. It endeavors to interest and to please its readers, and to publish as much up-to-date club and a. j. news as possible, and that is why that assertion about "The Club Echo" being suspended appeared in it, and not as a slur at that paper, for it never felt unfriendly toward same until now.

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1000 mixed foreign stamps
many

good but torn specimens, postpaid 38c.
500 like above 23c.

25 different amateur papers 9c.

50 varieties only 16c. 100 varieties, many
good papers only 35c.

Your ad of 40 words in "Boomer", also
that paper for one year 15c.

Package of amateur papers etc. 3c.

Circulars mailed 8c per 100; for ad space
or printing.

H. KONWISER, 36 Barbara St., Newark, N. J.

SINCE printing the editorial the Editor has decided that he had better discontinue the Mail Bag. It is pretty hard on a fellow to work on a paper from three o'clock to half past five, and then study from six to (very often) after ten, especially when he has to squeeze out enough time to do job printing and answer correspondence. It is impossible for me to issue a creditable sheet on time and so I have decided to drop it. I sincerely thank the editors who have exchanged with me, the contributors to, and advertisers in, my paper, and many other friends of Mail Bag for their warm support.

Very gratefully yours,
ALBERT OWEN PENNEY.

BATTLE OF TOURS.

By Wm. Clarence Farr.

From the death of Mahomet, in 632 A. D., to the Battle of Tours, in 732, was just 100 years. In that century Christianity was in greater danger than any other time in its history.

For during that time the Saracens had conquered all of the northwestern part of Asia, Northern Africa and Spain, and were besieging Constantinople in the East. They had crossed the Pyrenees and were advancing to conquer France and the West.

If my readers will look at the map of the Roman Empire they will see that the Saracens had succeeded in establishing the Mohammedan religion in two thirds of the Empire.

They had over run all of Southern France and were advancing to take Rome in Italy. But Charles Martel, leader of Christian army, suddenly came face to face with the conquering foes, between

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the towns of Poitiers and Tours.

The first six days of the battle the Saracens had the advantage, by the numbers and activity of their light horsemen. But when they came to mingle in close combat with the warriors of North, who were stronger in person than the Saracens, they were hard pressed. On the seventh and last day, the Saracens began to lose ground while the Franks, fighting for their homes and religion, pressed them hotly. At last the Saracens retreated to their entrenched camp leaving over three hundred thousand dead on the field, among whom was their leader Abderame. That night the Saracens being without a leader, each tribe retreated hastily to the border leaving their rich spoils to fall into the hands of the Christians. Had the Saracens won the battle the whole history of Europe would have been changed and Christianity swept from the face of the earth.

Therefore the Battle of Tours may be justly reckoned as one of the most decisive battles of the world.

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YOUR NAME and ADDRESS

printed on 100 white envelopes, No.
6, for only 25c. post paid. . . .

Herbert Parker
HERBERT PARKER,

1590 Locust St., Dubuque, Ia.

A paper that will please you.

Sample free.

News Letter, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

250 CIRCULARS or small papers mailed on trial for only 10c. Will x mailing 100.
Fireside Philatelic Co., Mile Run, Pa.

BOYS! a 5c novel or story paper, 100 foreign & U. S. stamps, a roll of papers, & all the latest circulars for 4c. Circulars mailed or distributed 10c per 100, 70c per 1000. X 100. **J. C. GORMAN, A. M. A. 136, Mahanoy City, Pa.**

Pub. Insert this and above for mailing 250.

SEND for sample, its free.

Kentucky Philatelist, Hodgenville, Ky.

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containing stories,
stamp news and

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