

# The Witch City Philatelist

Vol. I.

SALEM, MASS., JULY, 1887.

No. 1.

## Newspaper and Periodical Stamps

BY AUGUST.

The Newspaper and Periodical stamps are only used when papers are sent from the place of their publication in large quantities or bulk. The stamps are attached to the stub of the receipt which the postmaster gives the publisher. Postmasters are required to return to the Department immediately upon the expiration of each quarter, the stubs of all receipts given for newspapers and periodical postage collected during the quarter, and to enclose in the same package a full statement of all second class postage collected during the quarter. The following is an article from the postal laws Viz. From 3232 artical 5. A sufficient amount of special adhesive stamp known as newspaper and periodical stamps, to correspond with the amount of postage collected, must be affixed to the stub of the receipts at the time of the mailing of each issue of the paper, and at once effectually canceled. A failure to so attach each stamp will subject the offender to the penalties prescribed by law for embezzlement. Ordinary or postage-due stamps cannot be used for such matter nor can the newspaper and periodical stamps be used for any other purpose: and, *under no circumstances whatever are they to be furnished to the public, or sold, or loaned to other postmasters, or removed from the stubs after cancellation.*

The following is an answer to a letter addressed to the Third Ass't P. M. general, inquiring if the stamps could be obtained from him.

Washington, Dec. 17, 1885.

Mr. —

Sir.:

Your request for certain postage stamps having been referred to this office, I have to inform you in reply that this Department in not provided with any means wherewith it can supply the stamps named,

Very Respectfully,

A. D. Hazen,

Third Ass't P. M. Gen'l.

## The First Stamp of New Caledonia.

The first stamp of New Caledonia was issued in 1860, bearing the profile of Napoleon 3rd printed in black with words "Nic Caledonie" at the top and "10c. Postes 10c." at bottom. It was a very roughly engraved stamp and was the work of a member of the New Caledonian Garrison. The sheet consisted of fifty stamps each one seperately drawn, and consequently each one different. Their employment was stopped by the Parisian post-office as soon as it heard of their being in use. Original copies are very scarce but the stones from which they were printed having been preserved by relatives of the engraver, reprints of the entire sheet have been obtained.

## SHORT NOTES

Envelopes were in use before postage stamps. They were used in France as early as the 16th century. There are many philatelists that collect only envelopes, another will make a speciality of postal-cards and another of resumes. In collecting envelopes the best way is to keep them entire so as to have the different sizes, water-marks, etc., while if only the stamp is preserved there is no means of determining these.

The stamp of the largest denomination was the \$5,000,00 revenue, which was used to stamp \$10,000,000 railway bonds. This stamp was two inches wide and three inches long.

### Reprints.

Have you seen the new one-cent stamp?

We have seen the new one-cent stamp.

What do you think of it?

We don't think much of it.—It is as much as one can expect for 1 cent though.

Exchangers please send two copies.

Commencing with the next number we shall publish all the names that have been sent us for our directory. As we did not receive sufficient support enough, we are obliged to do this. Publishers and dealers will please send samples to them, as they have proven themselves live collectors by sending the necessary fee.

The subscription list of the WITCH CITY COLLECTOR will be transferred to this paper.

Now for a new two-cent stamp.

Hope it will be better than its little brother.

S. Allen Taylor has reached the end of his rope,

In selling eight triangular Cape of Good Hope.

These stamps were sold for only a dime,  
And a great many collectors(?) were fooled every time.

Now he has gone we know not where,

And furthermore we do not care.

But if another person attempts to fill his place,

Uncle Sam will promptly attend to his case

G. H. Richmond's American Philatelic Press Directory is a good one and meets a long felt want.

Where is the WITCH CITY COLLECTOR?

It has retired from the race.

Where is the WITCH CITY PHILATELIST?

It has come to take its place.

We have many notes of interest for the next number.

### Salem Philatelic Society

#### First Meeting

A meeting of stamp collectors of Salem for the purpose of forming a philatelic society, for Salem and vicinity, was held Friday, June 1, at 405 Washington Street. There were sixteen collectors present. The meeting was called to order at 8.15, Mr. L. P. Richardson nominated Dr. J. Robbins for Chairman, Mr. Richardson was also nominated Secretary pro tem, and the usual formalities were gone through with and the resolve to form a society was passed by a unanimous vote, and a committee of five was temporarily chosen to draw up the Constitution and By-Laws, and to report the same at the next meeting. The rest of the evening was spent in exchanging and discussing stamps.

#### Second Meeting

This meeting was held June 24, at the office of Dr. Robbins. There were about the same number present as at the last meeting. The Constitution was read and a few amendments made. It was then moved and seconded that this Constitution should be adopted, which was decided by a unanimous vote. The following officers were then elected: President, Dr. Robbins; Vice President and Counterfeit Detector, F. P. Richardson; Secretary, P. S. Johnson; Treasurer, F. Robbins. The President then appointed the following executive committee: Messrs. Pettin-gill, Davis, Morse, Bates and Decker. The admission fee was fixed at twenty-five cents, and the quarterly dues at ten cents. The business being over the meeting was adjourned and the remainder of the time was spent as before. The next meeting according to the Constitution was fixed at two weeks from the above date.

P. S. JOHNSON, Sec.

## The Witch City Philatelist

Official organ of

### The Salem Philatelic Society.

FRED. C. T. DAVIS, { Editors and Publishers.  
P. S. JOHNSON, }

Salem, Essex Co., Mass., U.S.A.

Address all business letters to P. S. Johnson.

#### SUBSCRIPTION,

25 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

Foreign Countries, 35 Cts.

(Send low values)

#### ADVERTISING RATES

1 inch 45c. 1/2 col. \$1.50; 1 col. \$2.50; 1 page \$4.00

Discount on standing "ads."

Advertisements strictly cash, no trade.

Mailed on or before the 15th of each month.

All matter must be in by the 5th of each month to insure insertion in next number

Vol. I. JULY, 1887. No. 1.

Entered at Salem Post Office as second class matter.

### Editorial.

After an absence of several months we come once more before the stamp collecting public. In future we shall appear regularly and punctually, as there are more hands to do our work. Having taken Mr. P. S. Johnson the well known stamp collector and dealer, into partnership, all communications on business should be addressed to him. It will be noticed that we have changed the name of our paper, it will be devoted only to the science of philately. No pains will be spared to secure bright and interesting articles for our readers, and we can assure them that they will get their money's worth. As we have changed our name, we have thought it best to commence a new volume. With fewer irons in the fire, we shall be more able to fully attend to the science of stamp collecting. This science of Philately is daily assuming increasing accuracy and proportion, and has already reached a high pinnacle of fame. As stated, Mr. Johnson will attend to all business transactions, but nevertheless I shall be pleased to hear from any of my friends.

Yours philatelically,  
FRED. C. T. DAVIS.

## The Texas Stamp

is an 8 page monthly stamp journal  
Subscription only 15 cents per year.  
Advertising rates, 50 cts per inch.  
Circulation 1,500.

THOS. P. MARTIN, JR., Fort Worth, Tex.

### FREE! FREE!! FREE!!!

You can make from \$3 to \$25 a day making or selling the Acme Ink Eraser. Costs 3cts a bottle to make and sells for 25 cts. For only 25 cts. we will send receipt and full directions for manufacturing and selling the Acme Ink Eraser, and will send you a choice book absolutely free. Address an ounce

W. W. McINTIRE, Wooster, Ohio

## The Mohawk Standard

Enlarged and improved. Subscription 25 cents per year, with a world renowned Herkimer Co. Quartz Crystal FREE.

Under new management no pains will be spared to make the STANDARD the best paper out. SMITH & KLOCK, Delta, N.Y.

## The Philatelic Review.

is a monthly magazine for stamp collectors. Send for sample copy. To advertisers we guarantee a circulation of 12,500 to 15,000 per annum. A trial advertisement will convince you of its merits.

### Philatetical Publishing Co.

Box 431.

Rock Island, Ill.

## COLLECTORS' COMPANION

Devoted to Coins, Tags, Stamps, Curiosities, Etc., Etc. Advertising rates Low.

Subscription 25 cts. per year.

Send for sample copy.

### JAMES G. McBRIDE

PAWNEE CITY. - NEBRASKA.

## BAY STATE COLLECTOR

A monthly paper published in the interest of stamp, coin and tag collectors. Exchange column and Collectors' Directory, free to subscribers. 25 cents per year. Sample copy free, if you mention this paper. W. E. BILLINGS, Box 583, Marlboro, Mass.

### SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

A Triangular Newfoundland and my cheap price list, 15c. set of Alsace and Lorraine 7 var. post free 30c. All stamps from my list warranted genuine. F. O. CREED, 6 Smith St., Halifax, N.S.

Always mention this paper when answering advertisements.

**PHILATELIC PAPERS WANTED**

Collectors' Companion, Vol. 1, Nos. 10 and 11. Empire State Philatelist, Vol. 1, No. 5; Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 5, 6 and 7. Hermes, Vol. 1, Nos. 3, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Toronto Philatelic Journal, Vol. 1, Nos. 4, 5, 10 and 11. Granite State Philatelist, Vol. 1, Nos. 5 and 10; Vol. 2, Nos. 4 and 11. Mohawk Standard, Vol. 1, Nos. 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The Philatelist (C. J. Abbott), Vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4; Vol. 2, Nos. 2 and 3. Empire City Philatelist, Vol. 1, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 10; Vol. 2, Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. American Philatelic Guide, Vol. 1, Nos. 11 and 12. Stamp World, Vol. 2, Nos. 2 and 3; Vol. 3, Nos. 2 and 7. New Jersey Philatelist, Vol. 1, Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

Any one having any of the above papers, will please write to me. I have about 300 philatelic, coin and curiosity papers to exchange. Collections of stamps bought.

O. A. DALE, BOX 261, Georgetown, Ma.s.

**MEXICAN STAMPS**

I have the finest lot of Mexican Stamps in the south-west. I offer in packets

No. 1	20 mixed, 10 varieties,	\$ 25
" 2	15 " 15 "	30
" 3	50 " . . . . .	50
" 4	5 varieties Revenue, (rare)	1 50

The 5 packets containing 100 stamps, price postpaid, \$2.50.

THOS. P. MARTIN, Jr.  
FORT WORTH, TEX.

C.D.Reimers.

F.H.Copp.

**Oak Hill Stamp Co.**

Box 836. Rock Island, Ill.

Approval Sheets sent to responsible collectors on receipt of 2 stamps and good reference.

**PRICE LIST FOR STAMPS.**

N.B. Watch this space next month for some bargains.

**Just what Coin Collectors want.**

A vestpocket book containing the Technical Terms and Definitions of Coins and Medals, also Price List of U. S. Copper Coins, postpaid 10cts.

**GEORGE R. MERRILL**

65 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

**JOS. H. M. EDWARDS**  
PHARMACIST

124 Essex St., cor. Washington Sq.  
SALEM, MASS.

Physicians prescriptions carefully compounded.

**PIGNICS**

For the Picnic season we offer a great variety of desirable goods

**ORANGES, LEMONS,  
FRUIT SYRUPS  
AND LIME JUICE,  
CRACKERS** of all sorts in small tins.

**SARDINES, DEVILED HAM,  
LUNCH HAM, TONGUE,  
CHICKEN AND TURKEY,  
ARMOR'S WHOLE ROLLED  
TONGUES,**

**Whole Boneless Hams, in Tins  
ready for use.**

**California and Native Canned  
Fruits**

**I.P. HARRIS & CO.**

**Wm. G. Webber  
& Co.**

The System of selling every article at a small profit, but of a thoroughly reliable quality, is a ruling principle of this firm.

**CARPETS**

**MADE AND PUT DOWN FOR  
NOTHING DURING  
JULY.**

**Essex & Washington Streets  
SALEM, MASS.**

# ➤ The Witch City Philatelist ◀

Vol. I.

SALEM, MASS., AUGUST, 1887.

No. 2.

## The Stamps of Persia.

UNCLE DUDLEY.

Stamps were first issued by Persia in 1871.

The stamps that I shall speak about more generally are the recent issues. These issues contain some of the handsomest stamps we have. The 5 fr. and 10 fr. have excellent portraits of the Shah upon them.

The next issue, in 1885, contains five very fair looking stamps, the first three being the best looking of the set. I have in my collection two stamps of Persia, that I have never seen catalogued. They are stamps used by the Post Office Department, at Teheran, only in sending official letters. The stamps I refer to have no value, and are round and unperforated. I will describe them as best I can.

The first is printed in black on scarlet paper; around the outer edge are a number of Persian characters; in the center are the lion and the sun, just above which is a crown; around this in a circle is printed "Direction General Des Postes Persanes Teheran." The other is the same only on a sort of slate colored paper.

These were presented to me by the late U. S. Minister to Persia.

## What the French think of their Post-Cards.

The economy in money is perhaps inconsiderable, for one who is often writing; but the economy of time is really important. The shortest letter requires a number of senseless and time-consuming formalities. Custom requires it to begin with certain exaggerated forms of politeness and to close with a salutation as hypocritical as it is humble; then you have to fold up your letter, place it in the envelope, seal it, stamp it and so forth. This is a deal of trouble for one who has only a couple of words to say. With the post-card all this drops out; you write two lines at the back and then address on the front and your letter is ready for post.—*Le Journal des Debats.*

## Salem Philatelic Society.

### Third Meeting.

The third meeting was held July 8th at the office of Mr. Richardson. The meeting was called to order at 8.30 p.m., there being eight present.

The initiation fees with a few exceptions of those who were present were paid.

It was then moved and seconded that these meetings be postponed during the summer months, until September 9, when the next was to be held at the office of Dr. Robbins, at 8.15 p. m.

P. S. Johnson, the secretary, was requested to write an essay on the first stamps of the U. S. to be read at the next meeting.

It was then moved, seconded and adopted by a unanimous vote that the meeting be adjourned, and the rest of the evening was spent in the usual manner.

P. S. JOHNSON, Sec.

## United States Postal Cards.

The postal card came into use in this country by an Act of Congress, in 1872. The estimated number required for the first twelve months, was 100,000,000, but 11,000,000 more were actually used. The following table shows the number of cards issued by the Department each year since their adoption.

For the year ending June 30, 1873, two months only	31,094,000
Year ending June 30, 1874.	91,079,000
" " " 30, 1875.	107,616,000
" " " 30, 1876.	150,000,000
" " " 30, 1877.	170,000,000
" " " 30, 1878.	200,630,000
" " " 30, 1879.	221,717,000
" " " 30, 1880.	269,754,000
" " " 30, 1881.	308,996,000
" " " 30, 1882.	351,498,000
" " " 30, 1883.	379,516,750
" " " 30, 1884.	362,876,750
" " " 30, 1885.	339,416,500
" " " 30, 1886.	355,648,000

Total number cards issued 3,339,922,000

Total value of cards \$33,399,220



## DIRECTORY.

**Publishers and dealers will confer a favor on us by sending samples, etc., to the parties named below. We guarantee that they are active collectors.**

### STAMPS.

David Cobb, Hingham, Mass.  
Geo. W. Rode, 49 Fifth Ave., Pittsburg, Pa.  
H. L. Andrews, Woburn, Mass.  
M. H. Colton, Woburn, Mass.  
Edw. B. Waite, West Newton, Mass.  
J. E. Hartman, 1435 State Street, Chicago, Ill.  
Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.  
W. R. Frazer, Box 569, Altoona, Pa.  
Frank H. Childs, Peabody, Mass.  
E. J. Stebbins, Adrian, Mich.  
L. S. Smith, Box 713, Los Angeles, Cal.  
Ulysses Clark, Pipestone, Minn.

### COINS.

W. H. Steadman, Millinburg, Pa.  
Frank P. Dyer, Hingham, Mass.  
John Baumgardner, Box 800, Ann Arbor, Mich.  
Geo. W. Rode, 49 Fifth Ave., Pittsburg, Pa.  
Edw. P. Waite, West Newton, Mass.  
Wm. A. Downes, 111 East 87th St. N. Y. City.  
Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

### AUTOGRAPHS.

Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

### FOSSILS.

M. Braverman, Visalia, Cal.  
Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

### MINERALS.

Mrs. G. F. Ware, Winnepeg City, Minn.  
M. Braverman, Visalia, Cal.  
Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

### TAGS.

Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

### INDIAN RELICS.

John Baumgardner, Box 860, Ann Arbor, Mich.  
M. Braverman, Visalia, Cal.  
Jas. G. McBride, Pawnee City, Neb.  
Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

### POSTMARKS.

Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

### NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS.

E. J. Stebbins, Adrian, Mich.

## Surcharges.

Denver, Col. is well represented by Philatelic papers. *The Stamp* is a model journal, the *Collectors Review* is fast improving and the *Stamp Record* seems to be prosperous. We wish them piles of success.

If you want to faint right off, read some of the puns in the April *Commentator*.

The author thereof should be punished immediately.

We wish success to our *Canadian contemporary*, the *Useful Instructor*.

The U. S. Postage Due stamps were issued in 1879. France issued unpaid letter stamps in 1859, being the first country to use them. Italy, Bavaria, Baden and Turkey followed in 1863, and U.S. of Columbia in 1865. In all, ten countries used them before the United States.

*Trade & Traffic* has opened a Philatelic department under the management of Mr. F. K. Rome, of Hudson, N. Y. No. 3 presents a good appearance.

Chicago may well be proud of the *Western Philatelist* and the *Stamp Collectors Figaro*. The former reaches us regularly but we have only seen one copy of Brother Voute's journal. Please "put us on the list."

The number of Newspaper and Periodical stamps issued in the years 1882-83-84-85-86 were 12,335,505 with a total value of \$8,423,480.50. Of this number there were 44,178 stamps of the \$60.00 denomination issued.

The *Mohawk Standard* comes to us "on time" every month.

Pittsburg, Pa. has an able philatelic and curiosity representative in the *Eclipse*. It presents a very handsome appearance in its blue covers.

A marked improvement has been made in the *Philatelic Science*. Keep it up friend Dale.

Hubbard's Premium Coin List for 1887 is the neatest we have yet seen and is well worth the price asked, ten cents. John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

Our Canadian Contemporary, the *Halifax Philatelist* has not yet been seen at this office. Please send us a copy so we can see what you are like.

Ignaz Stauffer, the well known stamp dealer of Pittsburg, Pa. has removed to Mansfield Valley in the same State.

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Vol 1. AUGUST, 1887. No. 2.

Entered at Salem Post Office as second class matter.

CIRCULATION 1,000

### Worth Reading

Addressing a party of business men at Bridgeport, Conn. the other day. P. T. Barnum said: "You do not any of you advertise enough. You ought to use printers ink every day. You are asleep, and want your business to run itself. Standing advertisements in a paper commands confidence. The man, who for a year lives in one community and leads a reputable life, even though he be of moderate ability will grow in the confidence and esteem of his fellows. On the same principle a newspaper advertisement becomes familiar in the eyes of the reader. It may seldom be read, still it makes the name and business of the man familiar, and its presence in the column of a paper inspires confidence in the stability of its enterprise."

### FOR SALE

A fine triple silver plated B flat Cornet, finely engraved, in a handsomely carved black walnut case, also an Arban's instruction book, cost \$50, Price \$25. Cornet has only been used one month.

#### A RARE CHANCE

### O. A. DALE

Georgetown, Mass.

Reference WITCH CITY PHILATELIST

## The Stamp Collector's Figaro

THE BEST 16 PAGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Published in the interest of Philately.

50 CENTS PER YEAR.

5 CENTS PER COPY.

Advertising rates will be made known upon application.

ONE SAMPLE COPY FREE

If you mention this paper.

Exchange department FREE to Subscribers.

Address:

E. W. VOUTE, Publisher

307 Webster Avenue, - - - Chicago, Ill.

CHAS. H. KEZAR JOHN E. GRAHAM

## CHAS. H. KEZAR & CO.

(Successors to F. W. Lucas & Co.)

Dealers in

## Boots, Shoes & Rubbers

Measured work a specialty

186 Essex St., SALEM, MASS.

Packet A. 25 varieties stamps, Honduras, Chili, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and others 25 cents. Approval sheets a specialty.  
W. ERNEST HORTON FOXBORO, MASS.

### Here we are at Last

Right where they sell 100 varieties of fine stamps for 12 cents. Send stamp for new list.

C. W. BENNETT,

539 Delaware St. Kansas, City, Mo.

**Just what Coin Collectors want.**

A vestpocket book containing the Technical Terms and Definitions of Coins and Medals, also Price List of U. S. Copper Coins, postpaid 10cts.

**GEORGE R. MERRILL**

68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

**The Mohawk Standard**

Enlarged and improved. Subscription 25 cents per year, with a world renowned Herkimer Co. Quartz Crystal FREE.

Under new management no pains will be spared to make the STANDARD the best paper out. SMITH & KLOCK, Delta, N.Y.

**STAMP PAPERS**

I have about 1,000 stamp papers, which I will sell cheap to get rid of them.

5 all different for 10 cents,  
10 " " " 20 "  
15 " " " 25 "

All post paid. Send at once before all are gone.

Address WALTER E. BILLINGS, Marlboro, Mass.

**C. H. & J. PRICE****PHARMACEUTISTS**

No. 226 Essex Street  
SALEM, MASS.

**STAMP COLLECTORS**

Send 25 cts. for a year's subscription to the ECLIPSE, an eight page monthly with cover, (regular price 35c.) and receive 25 varieties of Foreign Stamps FREE.

**ECLIPSE PUBLISHING CO.,**  
6216 Station St., East End, Pittsburg, Pa.

**THOMAS B. NICHOLS****REGISTERED PHARMACIST**

178 Essex St. cor, Essex Place  
SALEM, MASS.

Use Nichols' Saponaceous Tooth Powder

**WANTED!** Everybody to send 10 cents for the *Agents' World* four months on trial, and have their name inserted in the *Agents' Directory*, from which they will receive hundreds of samples, circulars, etc., and piles of good reading matter FREE. **AGENTS' WORLD PUBLISHING CO., Passumpsic, Vt.**

**15c.** if you subscribe now for this paper. Dont wait.

**Harold R. Miller****Importing Stationer**

—And Dealer in—

**FOREIGN STAMPS**

**P.O.Box 31. LIMA, PERU, S.A.**

Send approval sheets of varieties from Peru and South America on receipt of \$5 deposit or good Lima reference.

South American stamps, used, 20-25 sorts many rare included, \$1.00 per hundred.

All unused cards, envelopes, bands and stamps of Uruguay, Argentine, Chili, Ecuador and Colombia forwarded at 25 per cent. above face value. All postage extra and cash in advance.

Consignments of rarities, such as old issues, surcharges, provisionals, errors, rare varieties, and the newest issues, high values, etc., solicited from foreign dealers. Forward an approval sheet; good exchange guaranteed.

Arequipas and surcharges and other rarities always in stock,

*Note*—Stamp papers kindly insert 3 times  $\frac{1}{4}$  page, and send bill. Payment by return mail guaranteed.

**Wm. G. Webber  
& Co.  
CARPETS**

**AUTUMN STYLES**

MONDAY, AUG. 15, 1887, we shall make special display of New Fall Patterns Carpetings including a superb Stock of the Celebrated

**LOWELL BRUSSELS & EX SUPER WOOLS**

We offer every piece of goods that was in our stock previous to Aug. 1, at the lowest price ever named, and make and lay the same for nothing.

Many of the patterns are out of loom, we cannot duplicate, hence the above offer.

**Endicott Buildings, SALEM.**



# ➤ The Witch City Philatelist ◀

Vol. 1.

SALEM, MASS., SEPTEMBER, 1887.

No. 3.

## Second Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association.

The Second Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association was held at the Tremont House, Chicago, Ill., at 10.30 a.m., on Monday, August 8th, and continued its session through three days. The whole number present or represented by proxy was 184.

The morning of the first day was taken up with the examining of the proxies by the Committee on Credentials; the afternoon by the reports of the Committees on Standing Rules and Finance, the Secretary the Superintendent of Exchange and the Purchasing Agent, and the reading of various communications; the evening session of the same day was occupied by the address of President Tiffany and the report of Mr. E. B. Sterling as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, with the reading of a communication from the Librarian, and an invitation for the convention to hold its next meeting at St. Louis.

At the first session of Tuesday, Aug. 9th, committees were appointed to draw up resolutions respecting the inventor of adhesive postage stamps, on adopting some badge or device for the Association, and to see about photographing the constitution. Reports were read from the Treasurer, showing a balance of \$88.00 on hand, from the Committee on the Library on whose recommendation \$25.00 was appropriated for binding volumes of magazines, etc., and from the Committee on the Exchange Department. *Boston* was decided upon as the next place of meeting.

Tuesday evening the convention listened to the reports of Committees on Exchanges and Purchasing Departments on Branch Societies, on the Convention Photograph, on the Badge of the Association, on the Finance Committee, the Committee on the Official Journal and that on the Constitution and By-Laws. The most important changes were as follows: dues payable semi-annually and are \$1.00 per year for non-voters under 17 years of age. Two assistants are given the Purchasing Agent, and Counterfeit Detector is appointed to examine the stamps sent to the Exchange Department. A Library Board of 3 is appointed in place of an Editor who conducts an Official Journal for the Association. This may be subscribed to for

(50 cents) per annum by outsiders, and may be advertised in at the rate of 75 cts. per inch for non-members, 50 cents for members. The revised Constitution was ordered printed, and the resignation of the *Western Philatelists'* proposition of official organ was accepted.

At 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the members of the Association sat down to a banquet tendered them by the Chicago Philatelic Society, which was heartily enjoyed by all present.

On Wednesday the convention was photographed as a group. Copies may be procured of Secretary at \$1.50 each. After assembling, a resolution in favor of Mr. Chalmers as inventor of adhesive postage stamps was passed, and after the transaction of business of minor importance the convention adjourned.

## Punched Spanish Stamps.

Many of the Spanish postage stamps exist with a hole punched in them. These specimens formed part of the remainders of their respective series, on hand when they were withdrawn, to be succeeded by a new set. The obliterating mark was made by order of the authorities, to prevent their being used for payment of postage, consequently the remainder were sold to dealers.

The total receipts of the U. S. Post Office Department in 1886 were \$4,945,668.21, in 1886 the receipts were \$52,699,493.68.

During the year 1886 there were 16,164 magazines, pamphlets, illustrated papers, picture cards, &c., which could not be restored to the owners, distributed among the committees of the various hospitals, asylums and other charitable institutions in the District of Columbia, by order of the Post Master General.

It is astonishing how many "stamp" papers there are in existence at the present time. Just think what a few there were five years ago.

## Watermarks.

We had a very pleasant call last month from Messrs. O. A. Dale and F. D. Donoghue, the well known stamp dealers, of Georgetown, Mass., and we enjoyed the visit very much. We are always glad to welcome any of our philatelic friends.

Our subscription price has been reduced to 15 cents for a short time *only*. All should take advantage of this offer, as we shall not make another reduction after we enlarge, which will be in a short time.

The six States having the largest number of post offices, are as follows: Pennsylvania, 4,001; New York, 3,215; Ohio, 2,763; Virginia, 2,281; Illinois, 2,229; Missouri, 2,057.

Two million postal cards are printed daily, at present.

There are postmasters in the U. S. whose salaries are not particularly extravagant. The total number of postmasters receiving less than \$1,000 per annum is 50,582, and of these 37,269 receive less than \$200. There are 26,044 in the two grades paying less than \$20 per quarter. Of the 50,572 offices which are included in this table, 48,003 pay between \$400 and \$520, per annum, and more than one-half of the rest pay less than \$100 per year.

A new post office in Virginia is named Malaria.

Among the curiosities which have been pointed out to visitors lately in Washington are twelve sacks of smuggled jewelry, from South Boston. The jewelry was found carefully wrapped in newspapers, and was forwarded to the Dead-letter Office for disposal.

Mr. A. Howard Noyes, the well known stamp dealer of Haverhill, Mass. is traveling through the West in the interest of Burrowes Screen Co., of Portland, Me.

Probably the largest and finest collection of stamps in New England is owned by Mr. Wm. H. Page, of Haverhill, Mass. It consists of mostly unused specimens. The collection of U. S. adhesives is complete, in unused condition, and contains all the large values of State Department. Mr. Page trades largely with English dealers. Besides his regular collection he has all the proofs of U. S. adhesives mounted on a large card, in the form of the Capitol, at Washington; this surrounded by a huge gilt frame, is hung in the hall at Mr. Page's residence, in Bradford.

## The Philatelic Press.

The initial number of the *Buckeye State Collector* is before us. It has a department devoted to philately and the items are quite interesting, but it strikes us as very queer that brother Smith can make such a large and neatly printed paper pay, when the price per page for advertisements is only \$2.00, and each page contains over fifteen inches of space. Perhaps he is only doing it for the fun of the thing, however.

The *Southern Collector*, of Tuskegee, Ala., has transferred its subscription list to the *Buckeye State Collector*, and one more philatelic editor has laid his pen aside.

Where is the *Philatelic Fortnightly* and the *Chariton Gazette*? We haven't seen either of them for some time.

Beginning September 1st, the *Curiosity World* will be issued as a semi-monthly sheet. This is the largest paper devoted to philately that has undertaken to issue two copies monthly and the venture will no doubt prove a success.

One of our most interesting exchanges is the *Corona News-Letter* of Corona, N. J. Although not devoted to our hobby, still it contains many items of interest to the general public.

We think another column or so could be added to the philatelic department of the *Agassiz Companion* without much effort on the part of its editor. Our hobby deserves more space in such a large and excellent paper and we trust brother Plank will take the hint.

The *Philatelic Gazette* for July comes out in a new coat, and presents a very neat appearance.

Messrs. McBride and Weber, of Pawnee City, Neb. have changed the name of their paper. It is now called the *Collectors Aid*. May success be theirs.

A new paper from Paris, Texas, sailing under the high sounding name of the "*Texas Philatelic Journal*" comes into our office just as we are going to press. Its editor is Edgar T. Neville, formerly one of the proprietors of the defunct *Texas Philatelist*. Its four pages contains several rank typographical errors, but it may improve and get a few subscribers if better paper is used. Anyway, we hope it has come to stay.

## The Witch City Philatelist.

Official organ of

### The Salem Philatelic Society.

FRED. C. T. DAVIS, { Editors and Publishers.  
P. S. JOHNSON, }

Salem, Essex Co., Mass., U.S.A.

Address all business letters to P. S. Johnson.

#### SUBSCRIPTION,

**25 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.**

Foreign Countries, 35 Cts.

(Send low values)

#### ADVERTISING RATES

1 inch 45c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  col. \$1.50; 1 col. \$2.50; 1 page \$4.00

Discount on standing "ads."

Advertisements strictly cash, no trade.

Mailed on or before the 15th of each month.

All matter must be in by the 5th of each month to insure insertion in next number

**Vol 1. SEPTEMBER, 1887. No. 3.**

Entered at Salem Post Office as second class matter.

**CIRCULATION 1,000**

We rather guess that there will be no more bogus stamps sent out from this city by the wholesale, from present appearances although there may be a few smuggled out on the sly along with "genuine" stamps.

In the death of Mr. L. W. Durbin, of Philadelphia, the well known stamp importer and dealer, philately has lost one of its firmest supporters and admirers.

He was always perfectly honest in his dealings. His catalogues were among the best and always accurate and cheap.

The many offices he held during his career testifies that he was held in high esteem by all who knew him. But he has gone to a better world and has reaped the reward he so richly deserves.

## The Stamp Collector's Figaro

THE BEST 16 PAGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Published in the interest of Philately.

**50 CENTS PER YEAR.**

**5 CENTS PER COPY.**

Advertising rates will be made known upon application.

**ONE SAMPLE COPY FREE**

If you mention this paper.

Exchange department FREE to Subscribers.

Address:

**E. W. VOUTE, Publisher**

**307 Webster Avenue, - - - Chicago, Ill.**

CHAS. H. KEZAR. JOHN E. GRAHAM

## CHAS. H. KEZAR & CO.

(Successors to F. W. Lucas & Co.)

Dealers in

## Boots, Shoes & Rubbers

Measured work a specialty

**186 Essex St., SALEM, MASS.**

## THE PHILATELIC TIMES.

Is a 4 page monthly devoted to Philately Sub-  
scription price, 25 cents per annum. Advertising  
rates, 40 cents per inch.

**C. W. BENNETT,**

**539 Delaware St. Kansas, City, Mo.**

**RUBBER STAMP** with your name in Fancy Type, 25 Visiting Cards, and INDIA INK to mark Linen, only 25 c. (stamps) Book of 2,000 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. **THALMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.**

**WANTED!** Everybody to send 10 cents for the *Agents' World* four months on trial, and have their name inserted in the *Agents' Directory*, from which they will receive hundreds of samples, circulars, etc., and piles of good reading matter FREE. **AGENTS' WORLD PUBLISHING CO., Passumpsic, Vt.**

**15c.** if you subscribe now for this paper  
Don't wait.

## The Mohawk Standard

Enlarged and improved. Subscription 25 cents per year, with a world renowned Herkimer Co. Quartz Crystal FREE.

Under new management no pains will be spared to make the STANDARD the best paper out. SMITH & KLOCK, Delta, N.Y.

## STAMP PAPERS

I have about 1,000 stamp papers, which I will sell cheap to get rid of them.

5 all different for 10 cents,  
10 " " " 20 "  
15 " " " 25 "

All post paid. Send at once before all are gone.

Address WALTER E. BILLINGS, Marlboro, Mass.

## Just what Coin Collectors want.

A vestpocket book containing the Technical Terms and Definitions of Coins and Medals, also Price List of U. S. Copper Coins, postpaid 10cts.

**GEORGE R. MERRILL**

68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

## THOMAS B. NICHOLS

REGISTERED PHARMACIST

178 Essex St. cor, Essex Place

SALEM, MASS.

Use Nichols' Saponaceous Tooth Powder

**AGENTS WANTED** to sell stamps from our approval sheets 25 per cent commission.

40 varieties of United States stamps including old issues, many departments, envelopes and revenues for 25 cents.

**JONES BROS.,**

COLDWATER, KANSAS.

## COINS. COINS.

I can supply old U. S. cents at one-half other dealers prices. 100 mixed dates and varieties, price \$3.00. Postage extra.

Will exchange coins for Philatelic papers.

Send me your lists of papers.

**O. A. DALE**

Georgetown, Mass.

## Harold R. Miller

## Importing Stationer

—And Dealer in—

## FOREIGN STAMPS

P.O.Box 31. LIMA, PERU, S.A.

Send approval sheets of varieties from Peru and South America on receipt of \$5 deposit or good Lima reference.

South American stamps, used, 20-25 sorts many rare included, \$1.00 per hundred.

All unused cards, envelopes, bands and stamps of Uruguay, Argentine, Chili, Ecuador and Colombia forwarded at 25 per cent. above face value. All postage extra and cash in advance.

Consignments of rarities, such as old issues, surcharges, provisionals, errors, rare varieties, and the newest issues, high values, etc., solicited from foreign dealers. Forward an approval sheet; good exchange guaranteed.

Arequipas and surcharges and other rarities always in stock.

*Note*—Stamp papers kindly insert 3 times  $\frac{1}{4}$  page, and send bill. Payment by return mail guaranteed.

**Wm. Webber  
& Co.  
SCHOOL SHOES**

The increasing business in our Shoe Department is a sure indication that the public are appreciating our efforts to furnish Reliable Shoes at a slight advance in cost from the production.

This week we are making special low prices on Children's School Shoes. You will notice the low prices. You will have to call and examine the goods to get a correct idea of the values.

ON SECOND FLOOR, TAKE ELEVATOR.

Essex & Washington Sts., SALEM.

# ➤ The Witch City Philatelist ◀

Vol. 1.

SALEM, MASS., OCTOBER, 1887.

No. 4.

## The Postal Museum at Berlin.

For a number of years the postal dept. of the German Empire has been collecting objects and systematically arranging used in or connected with the postal and telegraph service. This collection is exhibited in the buildings of the Central Post Office in Berlin. From a modest beginning it has, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of the German postal administration evinced in the undertaking by state and city authorities, corporations, and private persons and by the contributions of various gifts, attained to a high degree of completeness and perfection. Nowhere, so far as known, is there a collection of objects, which in point of completeness and careful arrangement can sustain a comparison with the one in Berlin. The collection as it is at present, affords to the intelligent visitor a faithful picture of the means of communication and locomotion from the days of their infancy, in the times of the ancient Egyptians, Assyrians and Persians up to the present state of high development. The collection is divided into the following groups.

1. Models and drawings of post offices.
2. Models and drawings of conveyances.
3. Uniforms. 4. implements, books and maps. 5. Equipments of the field post.
6. Collection of postage stamps (numbering on January 1. 1882, 5,208 kinds.)
7. Historical division. 8. Postal arrangements in foreign countries.

To show how greatly this museum has been enriched since its establishment in 1876, it needs only be mentioned that the first catalogue issued in 1878 contained 51 pages, whereas that of 1883 the last issue extends over 161 pages, and that the exhibition for which in 1876 one hall and an adjacent room were sufficient, now requires seventeen halls and rooms, and forms one of the attractions of the German Capitol. It must be remembered that on the amalgamation of the postal and telegraph services of Germany the official collection of telegraph apparatus previously exhibited in the general telegraph office was removed to the postal museum.

## Salem Philatelic Society.

### Fourth Meeting.

This meeting was held at the office of Dr. Robbins. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The essay which was to be read by P. S. Johnson the Secretary was read. A vote of thanks was then tendered Mr. Johnson for his essay and also to Mr. Bates for printing copies of the Constitution.

It was moved and seconded that Dr. Robbins write an essay on the stamps of any country, the same to be chosen by himself and to be read at the next meeting. Motion carried. It was moved and approved that the Secretary keep a book for the purpose of copying the essays read at the meetings of the Society, Carried. Also for the Secretary to examine the different stamp papers and to subscribe to two or more of the best. Carried. Mr. Durbin's death was mentioned. It was then moved, seconded and adopted by a unanimous vote that the meeting be adjourned and the rest of the evening was spent in the usual manner. The next meeting to be held at Mr. Richardson's office.

### Fifth Meeting.

Owing to Mr. Richardson being called away suddenly, the meeting was held at Dr. Robbins' office instead of Mr. Richardson's, as stated.

The only business to come before the meeting was the resolution whether or no the society should subscribe to the "Philatelic Journal of America" and the "Stamp Collectors Figaro." These papers have been chosen as the best by the Secretary. It was moved and seconded that the society subscribe to said papers and the sum of \$1.00 was appropriated for this purpose from the society's funds. The essay which was to have been read by Dr. Robbins was postponed until the next meeting, the same to be held at Mr. Richardson's office, Oct. 7th. The meeting was then adjourned.

P. S. JOHNSON,

Secretary.



### Our Philatelic Contemporaries.

The *Eclipse* of Pittsburg, Pa, and the *Collector* of Easton, Md., have consolidated. It is published by G. D. Morris, of the former city, but Haddaway Bros., of Easton control it, and all communications should be addressed to them. No. 3 presents a fine appearance.

The *Youth's Leisure Hour* is a new one from Boonville, N. Y. The initial number is a good one. Franklin P. Johnson is the publisher.

A new stamp paper is announced from Brooklyn, N. Y. Exchanges please send copies to Henry Fox, 829 Myrtle Avenue. Mr. Fox is also about to issue a stamp album.

The long looked for "*Golden Moments*" of L. H. Patterson will appear "right away", we are informed. It will be published in this city.

W. E. Skinner of "*Agassiz Companion*" fame is perambulating through the country under the title of "Professor of Mesmerism." Perhaps a few of those who have been defrauded by him would like to have him in their clutches. The "mesmerism" would then be on the other side. At least "thems our sentiments."

### To Advertisers.

Look at this offer: We will accept one dollar in payment for an inch advertisement in this paper for three months, until November 25. No ads. received at that price after said date. We have a *guaranteed* subscription list of over 260 and more are coming in every day, then we send out hundreds of sample copies to live collectors. Send at once and secure a good position in the paper. All ads. at this price will be inserted for three months commencing with our large Christmas number, a large edition of which will be issued. Mail your letters so they will *reach* this office Nov. 25 or before.

Commencing with the next number we shall open a Stamp Collectors Directory in these columns. Names will be inserted once for ten cents, three times for twenty five cents. This directory will be the means of your receiving many sample copies, price lists and catalogues.

### A Word to Philatelists.

We have received many compliments, both from the philatelic press and by mail praising our paper highly. We have also obtained a large number of subscribers during the last two months, and still they come. We wish to state right here that this paper will appear promptly each month, unless some unforeseen obstacle prevents, in which case, we *guarantee to refund* all subscriptions. Being desirous of presenting our readers with a great deal more reading matter than we can now do in our comparatively small space, we shall enlarge to eight pages just as soon as we obtain one hundred more subscribers, and to secure them we make the following liberal offer:

Any person sending us fifteen cents will receive a full year's subscription to this paper and stand a good chance of getting one of the prizes named below. All subscriptions must be mailed so as to reach this office on or before November 25. None will be received after that date under twenty-five cents. Everyone helps, so don't be afraid to send at once as we guarantee you to receive twelve numbers or refund your money. You are also liable to secure a prize. The names and addresses of the lucky ones will be printed in the December number.

The first subscriber will receive an unused Holkar stamp, one-half anna purple, catalogued by Scott at ten cents.

The fifth, a Turk's Island one penny, red, catalogued at ten cents.

The fifteenth, any stamp catalogued at twenty five cents which the lucky subscriber may name.

The twenty fifth, an 8c. registered Canada, catalogued at forty cents.

The thirty fifth, a 15c. Agriculture, unused, catalogued at sixty cents.

The fiftieth, a complete set of War Department stamps, 11 varieties, unused, valued at one dollar.

The seventy fifth, an International Stamp Album, finely bound and valued at two dollars.

The one hundredth, will receive a set of unused Agriculture Department Stamps, catalogued at three dollars and a half.

Please bear in mind that after November 25th the subscription price will be 25 cents.

## The Witch City Philatelist.

Official organ of

### The Salem Philatelic Society.

FRED. C. T. DAVIS, } Editors and Publishers.  
P. S. JOHNSON, }

Box 288.

Salem, Essex Co., Mass., U.S.A.

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Mailed on or before the 15th of each month.

All matter must be in by the 5th of each month to insure insertion in next number.

Vol. I. OCTOBER, 1887. No. 4.

Entered at Salem Post Office as second class matter.

CIRCULATION 1,500

Our paper next month will be more interesting.

Don't fail to subscribe and get the benefit of our exchange column, which will be opened in our December number.

We intended having a Chronicle of new issues in this number but the copy reached this office to late.

Two interesting articles will appear in this paper soon, one by P. S. Johnson, Sec., on the stamps of this country and another by Dr. Robbins, President of the Salem Philatelic Society.

Genuine triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps are printed on rather thin grayish paper and watermarked with an anchor. The counterfeits are on thick, hard white paper, unwatermarked. The genuine set of eight stamps would be difficult to get together for \$200.00. Counterfeits are advertised at 10 cents per set. *Philatelic Monthly*.

## PLEASE DON'T

read this advertisement. You might gain something by it. I am selling heavy gold-plated scarf pins for *only* thirty cents. These are regular dollar pins and I *guarantee satisfaction*. Miniature designs of the following: Revolver, anchor and rope, dog, lady's boot, head of deer (eyes set with red rubies,) head of horse, (ditto,) also rhine stone pins set in gold. You can sell these pins to your friends for \$1.00 each. Special rates per dozen. Try *one*. FRED. C. T. DAVIS, Box 21, SALEM, MASS.

**R. RAUM BOYLE, A. M., M. D.,**  
Office: 1432 N. Second St.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

GRADUATE of "Jefferson Medical College."  
The great SPECIALIST on DISEASES of the

## Lungs, Liver and Stomach

All diseases, both of ADULTS & CHILDREN treated by Mail successfully. There is still **hope for Consumptives!** I have cured and am curing many! I have practice in Philadelphia. That **guarantees** skill and experience, for Quacks are **not** allowed there. If, having studied your case, I find there is **no hope** for you, I **return** your money. My first and **only** charge in \$1.00 (one dollar.) Send **full** description of **any** case, with my moderate fee, and, if there is the **least** chance left, you will speedily **regain Health**.

**U. S. LOCALS** 5 var. 6 cts 10 var. 15cts.  
15 var. 25c. Agents wanted.

Terms and list on receipt of stamp. References will be required. All stamps genuine. DENVER STAMP BAZAAR, Room 18, Batterie Block, Larimer Street, DENVER, COLORADO. Wholesale and Retail Dealers.

## Just what Coin Collectors want.

A vestpocket book containing the Technical Terms and Definitions of Coins and Medals, also Price List of U. S. Copper Coins, postpaid 10cts.

**GEORGE R. MERRILL**

68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

**WANTED!** Everybody to send 10 cents for the *Agents' World* four months on *trial*, and have their name inserted in the Agents' Directory, from which they will receive hundreds of samples, circulars, etc., and piles of good reading matter FREE. AGENTS' WORLD PUBLISHING CO., Passumpsic, Vt.

**15c.** if you subscribe for this paper before Nov. 25. Dont wait.

**STAMPS** Agents Wanted.  
 100 Spain 14c. 100 all  
 different 10c. 100 finely  
 mixed 4c. 3 Heli-  
 goland (env.) 7c. 7 Hamburg (env.) 10c. Fine  
 approval sheets at 30 per cent commission.

Foreign Correspondents desired. Agents wanted in every city and town. The first person to answer this advertisement will receive a stamp catalogued by Scott at 25 cents. Every stamp warranted.

P. S. JOHNSON

26 Winter Street

Box 288. SALEM, MASS.

## The Stamp Collector's Figaro

THE BEST 24 PAGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Published in the interest of Philately.

**35 CENTS PER YEAR.**

**5 CENTS PER COPY.**

Advertising rates will be made known upon application.

**ONE SAMPLE COPY FREE**

If you mention this paper.

Exchange department FREE to Subscribers.

Address:

E. W. VOUTE, Publisher

307 Webster Avenue, - - - Chicago, Ill.

**RUBBER STAMP** with your name in Fancy Type. 25 Visiting Cards, and INDIA INK to mark Linen, only 25 c. (stamps) Book of 2,000 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. THALMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, BALTIMORE MARYLAND.

**THOMAS B. NICHOLS**

**REGISTERED PHARMACIST**

178 Essex St. cor, Essex Place  
 SALEM, MASS.

Use Nichols' Saponaceous Tooth Powder

All the latest and most popular music at

**EMILIO'S**

287 Essex St., Salem, Mass.

**Harold R. Miller**

Bellbrook, North Finchley,

LONDON, ENGLAND.

Consignments of foreign stamps solicited from dealers and collectors for cash or exchange.

Principally desired from all foreign parts except U. S. and Europe. No less value than \$3.00 need be sent.

SEND REGISTERED.

**Wing Webber  
& Co.**

**BOOTS and SHOES**

for Ladies and Children

A. F. SMITH'S BOOTS

**\$2.29 a pair**

Usual price \$3

ENDICOTT BUILDINGS  
 SALEM.

# ⇒ The Witch City Philatelist ⇐

Vol. I.

SALEM, MASS., NOVEMBER, 1887.

No. 5.

## Salem Philatelic Society.

### Sixth Meeting.

Meeting was held Oct. 7, at 8.15 P. M. There were ten members present. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read, and approved.

Two new members were enrolled. Dr. Robbins, the president, being unwell, and forced to be absent the essay to be read by him was again postponed. Mr. Richardson, the Vice President, was requested to write an essay to be read at some future meeting.

The Vice President remarked upon the prosperity of the society.

It was voted that the secretary subscribe to the "Quaker City Philatelist", and the "Western Philatelist," the necessary funds were appropriated for that purpose. It was moved and seconded that ladies be admitted.

The meeting was then adjourned.

### Seventh Meeting.

This meeting was held at Mr. Richardson's office at the usual hour.

Two new members were enrolled.

The only business to come before the meeting was Mr. Johnson's, the secretary's resignation, owing to lack of time on his part to attend to the duties.

His resignation was accepted, and the vice president, the president being absent, thanked him for attending to his duties so admirably, and expressed his regret. Mr. W. H. Pettingell was elected his successor. The meeting was then adjourned.

W. H. PETTINGELL, Secretary.

## The first stamps of the United States and early post masters.

P. S. JOHNSON.

The first stamp issued in the U. S. was in New York in 1842. These stamps were issued by order of the government at expense of the postmaster.

Previous to the issuing of this stamp and up to the more recent date of 1863 the rates of postage were based upon the distance over which the mails were conveyed.

In 1846, these rates were, not exceeding 300 miles, three cents, exceeding 300 miles, ten cents.

In 1857 the rates were reduced to three cents for distances not exceeding 3000 miles.

The use of postage stamps was first authorized by an Act of Congress approved on the 3d of March, 1847, and the use of stamps for the pre-payment of postage was made compulsory on June 1, 1856.

In 1833 a rate of postage was established which was fixed at three cents without regard to distances, and in 1883 the government being satisfied with the surplus income from the postal revenues reduced the rate to two cents. Owing to its liberality the U. S. government lost in the year 1884 the sum of \$5,204,484.12.

But by the cheapened rates it ought soon, owing to the stimulus to correspondence by reducing the rates, to make up this deficiency in a few years.

In the English Colonies which subsequently became the U. S. a postal system was projected as early as 1692 but owing to the thinness of the population it was not organized until 1710, 18 years after.

By Act of Parliament of that year, the Post Master General of the colonies was "to keep his chief letter office at New York and other chief offices at some convenient place or places in other of her majesty's provinces or colonies in America".

The revenue for some years was very small. In 1753 Benjamin Franklin was appointed deputy postmaster general for the colonies and was guaranteed the sum of £600 per annum, for the salary of himself and his assistant.

He remodelled and extended the opera-

tions of the office and in a few years greatly increased its revenues. He startled the people of the colonies in 1760 by proposing to run a stage wagon to carry mail from Philadelphia to Boston once a week starting from each city on Monday morning and reaching its destination Saturday night. He was removed by the home dep't in 1774 while in England. On July 26, 1775, the American Congress having assumed control of the direction of the Post Offices, re-appointed Franklin to his former post.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### Notes.

Haddaway Bros. of Easton, Md., announce that their philatelic pamphlet will not be issued owing to a "pied" form.

The Salem society is prospering and philately is "booming" here at present. Every member is a reader of this paper, and dealers should give us *one* trial. Send us 30 cents for an inch ad. in our large Christmas Number, or \$3.50 for page. Send before Dec. 1.

We assume this month the entire subscription list of the *Philatelic Science*.

Every subscriber to this paper is entitled to use our exchange columns.

We would call the attention of every true Philatelist to the advertisement of F. C. T. Davis on the third page.

See what we look like next month!

### Stamp Collector's Directory.

**Names inserted once for 10 cents, three times for 25 cents. Subscribers' names inserted one time free, when requested.**

Mat Lennon, Jr., Box 38, Gilroy, Cal.

H. Mathews, Box 578 Halifax, N. S.

Charles L. Hutchinson, Box 259, Newtonville, Mass.

W. A. Downes, 297 Broadway, New York City.

A. G. Bishop, Box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Phil. S. Bormey, Little Sioux, Iowa.

Ulysses Clark, Pipestone, Minn.

Oliver Thayer, 2d, Box 75, Salem, Mass.

Roger S. Howe, Georgetown, Mass.

### Review.

*Common Sense* has improved much of late.

We want to see: *The Stamp Record*, *Useful Instructor* and the new *American Philatelist* awfully.

We also desire exchanges to send two copies, as we do, whether large or small.

The October number of *Quaker City Philatelist* is the best we have seen of that paper. In our estimation it is one of the best philatelic papers extant.

Brother Voute must be prospering. He has enlarged the *Figaro* to 24 pages and reduced his subscription price to 35 cents. Those who fail to subscribe to such a magazine at that price, don't know a good thing when they see it and can not be classed as true *philatelists*.

The *Philatelic Fortnightly* has taken a brace and its last two numbers are excellent.

Our large and esteemed contemporary, the *Philatelic Journal of America*, is considered by the Salem Philatelic Society the best paper published in the interest of stamp collectors, and the members of the same are very good judges of the merits of a journal.

Papers received since our last issue are: *Western Philatelist*, *Philatelic Journal of America*, *Figaro*, *Q. C. Philatelist*, *Mohawk Standard*, *Philatelic Fortnightly*, *Youths Leisure Hour*, *Amateur Collector*, *Curiosity World*, *Keystone State Philatelist*, *International Philatelic Advertiser*, *Collectors Aid*, *Buckeye State Collector*, *Youths Friend*, *Common Sense*, *Collectors Review*, *The Stamp*, *The Collector*, *Agent's World*, *Old Curiosity Shop*, *Youths Ledger*, *Plain Talk* and a few others. Thanks. Come again.

We have received from Mr. Patrick Chalmers a pamphlet showing how the claim of James Chalmers as inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp has been recognized by all the principal societies of Europe and the United States. The Salem society at the last meeting decided in favor of Chalmers, to whom all honor belongs, in our humble opinion.



# The Witch City Philatelist.

Official organ of

## The Salem Philatelic Society.

FRED. C. T. DAVIS, }  
P. S. JOHNSON, } Editors and Publishers.

Box 288.

Salem, Essex Co., Mass., U.S.A.

Address all business letters to P. S. Johnson.

### SUBSCRIPTION,

**25 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.**

Foreign Countries, 35 Cts.

(Send low values)

### ADVERTISING RATES

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Discount on standing "ads."

Advertisements strictly cash, no trade.

Mailed on or before the 15th of each month.

All matter must be in by the 5th of each month to insure insertion in next number.

Vol. I. NOVEMBER, 1887. No. 5.

Entered at Salem Post Office as second class matter.

**CIRCULATION 1,500**

## Exchanges.

*Free to Subscribers.*

Mrs. G. F. Ware, Winnebago, City, Minn. would like to exchange minerals. Write first.

U. S. Revenu. Document. Match. Medicine. Proprietary Playing Card. U. S. and Foreign postage stamps, to exchange for others of same not in my collection. Philatelic papers to exchange for others or for stamps.

B. G. A. P. O. Box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A pair of Barney & Berry's Strap Roller Skates (new) to exchange for an International Stamp Album and Stamps. Geo. R. Merrill, Detroit, Mich., 68 Williams Ave. Also Michigan Coral for Stamps.

I will give a year's subscription to the *Witch City Philatelist* and four different philatelic papers for every copy in good condition of any of the following stamp albums: Excelsior, World, Philatelists or Willards. Write first stating edition and condition. Stamps, tags, birds eggs and philatelic literature for stamp albums.

ULYSSES CLARK. Pipestone, Minn.

My **STAMP COLLECTORS DIRECTORY** will be the largest, and best ever attempted. The pages will be as large as those of the *WITCH CITY PHILATELIST* and will be printed on the same stock and by the same printer, — a guarantee of good work. Heavy colored cover and many pages. I want your name and will give you a written guarantee that the directory will be issued.

Send 25 cents (silver) with your name and we will insert it, or send 10 cents (silver) as a guarantee and promise to pay fifteen more on publication of the book, just as you like. You will get a sample of every stamp paper published, for we shall send a copy to every publisher. You will also get many price lists from dealers. Don't miss the chance, but send now. Advertising rates, 40 cents per inch, half in advance, the rest on publication. Once more, *I guarantee that this directory will be issued.*

F. C. T. Davis, Box 21, Salem, Mass.

Publisher of the *Witch City Philatelist*.

N. B. Any paper inserting above, and calling attention to the adv. will receive by mail, a receipt for equivalent in the Directory.

## Just what Coin Collectors want.

A vestpocket book containing the Technical Terms and Definitions of Coins and Medals, also Price List of U. S. Copper Coins, postpaid 10cts.

**GEORGE R. MERRILL,**

68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

## BOYS AND GIRLS!

Send for a copy of *The Youth's Leisure Hour*, a 12 page, Monthly Magazine devoted to Youth. Among its contributors are: Will M. Clemens, Beth Day, Guy Reano, Mrs. W. E. Smith, and many other well known writers. 35 cents a year, 20 cents for six months. Advertisements 5 cents per line, 50 cents per inch. F. C. Johnson, Boonville, N. Y.

## 15 Curiosities.

Including fine Indian arrow heads, war relics, sea curiosities, alligator teeth, fine quartz crystals etc. etc., with my 14 page price list, a lot of special offers and sample copy of "Common Sense", a large 8 page, 24 column, collectors paper, all for 25 cents. Send at once.

F. A. Thomas, Pub., Mexico, N. Y.

## WANTED!

Everybody to send 10 cents for the *Agents' World* four months on trial, and have their name inserted in the *Agents' Directory*, from which they will receive hundreds of samples, circulars, etc., and piles of good reading matter FREE. **AGENTS' WORLD PUBLISHING CO.**, Passumpsic, Vt.

## STAMP PAPERS

and Magazines, 15c. per dozen, postpaid.

F. C. T. DAVIS, Box 21, Salem, Mass.

## Revolver Scarf Pins

30c. each, post paid. F. C. T.

DAVIS, Salem, Mass.

**WE GUARANTEE** you to receive over 500 Samples, Books, Circulars, Letters and Papers FREE, from firms all over the U. S. and Canada, if you have 20c. to have your name in Agents' Name Directory. Address at once, ALLEN & CO., Kennebec, N. Y.

"Allen & Co. circular mailing agency and publishers of the agent's name directory, are perfectly reliable and will do as they agree." Agents' Star. PUBLISHERS inserting given 1112 agents names just out.

**Stamps for Beginners.** Sheets on approval at 33

per cent commission. 10 revenue stamps, 1c. to to \$1.00, for only 15c. Mixed stamps 5c. per 100, 25 rare 5c. Albums 25c to \$5.00 Also Marine Curiosities, 10 minerals 25c., 10 fossils 25c. 10 shells 25c. List 2c.—with a fine specimen 10c. D. H. EATON, Woburn, Mass.

### The Mohawk Standard

Enlarged and improved. Subscription 25 cents per year, with a world renowned Herkimer Co. Quartz Crystal FREE.

Under new management no pains will be spared to make the STANDARD the best paper out. SMITH & KLOCK, Delta, N. Y.

### The Stamp Collector's Figaro

THE BEST 24 PAGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Published in the interest of Philately.

**35 CENTS PER YEAR.**

**5 CENTS PER COPY.**

Advertising rates will be made known upon application.

**ONE SAMPLE COPY FREE**

If you mention this paper.

Exchange department FREE to Subscribers.

Address:

**E. W. VOUTE, Publisher**

307 Webster Avenue, - - - Chicago, Ill.

### Postage Stamp Albums

from 25 cts. upwards

At the New and Elegant Book Department of

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220 ESSEX STREET

SALEM, MASS.

**RUBBER STAMP** with your name in Fancy Type. 25 Visiting Cards, and INDIA INK to mark Lioen, only 25 c. (stamps) Book of 2,000 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. THALMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, BALTIMORE MARYLAND.

**R. RAUM BOYLE, A. M., M. D.,**  
Office: 1432 N. Second St.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

**GRADUATE** of "Jefferson Medical College." The great **SPECIALIST** on **DISEASES** of the

### Lungs, Liver and Stomach

All diseases, both of **ADULTS & CHILDREN** treated by **Mail** successfully. There is still **hope** for **Consumptives!** I have **cured** and **am curing** many! I have practice in Philadelphia. That **guarantees** skill and experience, for **Quacks** are **not** allowed there. If, having studied your case, I find there is **no hope** for you, I **return** your money. My first and **only** charge is \$1.00 (one dollar.) Send **full** description of **any** case, with my moderate fee, and, if there is the **least** chance left, you will **speedily regain Health.**

### I WANT AGENTS

To sell stamps from my sheet at 25 per cent commission. References required. Enclose stamp for reply. L. C. RICHARDSON, LAWRENCE, MASS.

**Wm. Webber & Co.**

### LADIES

GENUINE

### FOSTER KID GLOVES

at lower prices than anywhere else.

Essex and Washington Streets  
SALEM.

# ➤ The Witch City Philatelist ◀

Vol. I.

SALEM, MASS., DECEMBER, 1887.

No. 6.

## The first stamps of the United States and early post-masters.

P. S. JOHNSON.

(Continued.)

Shortly after, when Franklin was sent as ambassador to France, his son-in-law Richard Bache was made post-master-general in November, 1775. We all know what great good Franklin did in his mission to France; how he secured aid and helped to establish our independence. When ever you lick the back of a one cent stamp think how he was among the first to establish an efficient postal system in this country and the designers therefore have placed him rightly on the first stamp.

The first general issue of postage stamps was in 1847, consisting of two varieties, a 5c. and 10c., both with the head of Washington in the centre and brown and black respectively. The former is the more common of the two, a good used specimen being worth about 25 cts., unused about 50 cts. The latter is much more scarce, a used specimen being worth about \$1.00 and an unused about \$2.50. The next issue was four years after, in 1851, consisting of a set of five, all unperforated and of the following values:

1c. blue, head of Franklin; 3c. red, head of Washington; 5c., brown, head of Jefferson; 10c., green, head of Washington; 12c., black, head of Washington. The 5c. is the scarcest of the set, the 12c., coming next in value.

The next issue was in 1856-57 including all the stamps of the previous issue, only perforated instead of unperforated, with the addition of the 24c. and 30c., the former having the head of Washington and the latter bearing the head of Franklin. There was also a change made in the 5c. brown in 1856. It was printed the same as before, only perforated. In 1857, the plate becoming injured, it was found necessary to turn off the ornamental work on the top and bottom. This of course makes the stamp printed from the uninjured plate much more scarce.

There was also issued the same stamp before the plate was trimmed, printed in a reddish brown; this is very scarce.

The next issue was in 1860, it being a 90c., stamp, blue, to go with this set. It bore upon it the head of Washington in a square frame.

The next issue consisted of a somewhat

similar design, having "U. S." and the value in lower corners; the denominations were the same but the colors were somewhat altered.

Issues soon followed in 1862, '63, '66, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '75, '82, '83, '86 and '87, the last mentioned being a one cent stamp very much resembling the old one. The centre of the stamp consists of a profile bust of Franklin (after the original by Caracci) looking to the left in an oval disk. The color of the stamp is ultramarine blue. This stamp completes the set of which the 2c., 4c. and 5c., form the remainder.

I think our government may compliment itself on the appearance of its stamps in general, and hope it will keep up to its standard in future.

## SALEM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

### Eighth Meeting.

Held Nov. 4th, in Dr. Robbins' office at 8.15 P. M. Minutes read and approved. Mr. Pettingell having refused to accept the Secretaryship owing to a lack of time, Mr. Richardson asked Mr. Johnson if he would not reconsider his resignation and take the position once more.

He accepted on condition that if he at any time found that the duties of Secretary were encroaching on his time, he would be allowed to resign. This was carried by an unanimous vote, and he was requested to assume the duties immediately.

The new issue of Siam was shown, also the set of Oct., 1887, envelopes.

Meeting was adjourned at 9.30. Next meeting to be held at same hour in Mr. Richardson's.

### Ninth Meeting.

Meeting held at Mr. Richardson's office. Seven members present.

Minutes of preceding meeting read and approved.

As there was no business to come before the meeting the members were entertained by looking at Dr. Robbins's fine collection of stamps, including many rare and valuable ones.

Meeting adjourned at 9.15 P. M.

Next meeting at Dr. Robbins' office.

P. S. JOHNSON, Sec't.

### Transatlantic Mails.

Mr. Hamilton Heaton, member of Parliament, who is advocating a universal penny post, has addressed a letter to the postmaster-general of Great Britain, from which it appears that a penny post could be established between Great Britain and America even without any increase in the volume of correspondence. His letter shows that, in the year ending Dec. 31, 1879, there were dispatched from the United Kingdom to the United States 116,444 pounds of letters and 1,631,908 pounds of newspapers and other articles. During the year ending the 30th of September, 1886, no less than 337,855 pounds of letters and 2,880,625 pounds of newspapers and other articles were dispatched, so that the quantity of mail has more than doubled in those 10 years. Now the total sum paid for the sea conveyance of all mails sent to New York in the year ending Sept. 30, 1886 was £99,927. This year the cost under the new arrangement will be £80,000, but the income will be as follows:

From letters (reckoning 35 to the pound)..... £122,487  
From newspapers..... 57,636

£180,123  
Add for foreign mails..... 17,856

Total income..... £197,979

As against an expenditure of £80,000, showing a profit of £117,979. An increase being certain in this as in former years, Mr. Heaton takes the actual profit roundly as £120,000. From this £20,000 may fairly be deducted as the cost of taking the mails to Cork and putting them on board the steamers, so that the net profit becomes £100,000. Now, if the 337,855 pounds of letter mail carried for 1d. instead of 2½d. per half-ounce (again reckoning 35 to the pound), they would yield only £49,428 of income, a decrease of £73,059, so that there would still be a profit of £26,941. But, of course, that calculation assumes that the number of letters would not increase, whereas they would not improbably multiply tenfold.

We have seen the new three cent stamp; it is a beauty compared with the old.

The new issue of Newfoundland is out; the ½ cent vermilion, dogs head in circle, poorly engraved; the 1 cent green, same as old; change of color; 10 cent black, ship sailing.

Portugal, 20 reis, lake, head in circle; 25 reis, violet, same design. used for telegraph also.

### A Resolution.

*Adopted by the National Philatelic Society of the City of New York.*

WHEREAS, it is reported that certain stamp dealers and others have petitioned the United States Postoffice Department to reprint some of its obsolete postal issues, and

WHEREAS, this reprinting and reproducing (being ostensibly for the aid of collectors) are entirely uncalled for by any Philatelic Student worthy of the name, but can only result mischievously and to the detriment of those engaged in preserving original specimens of rare and obsolete stamps and envelopes, and

WHEREAS, such reprinting would lower the United States to the level of such governments as Antiöquia, Baden, Bergedorf, Roman States, etc., whose officials have adopted this means of increasing their revenue, and

WHEREAS, this Society put itself on record against reprinting of obsolete issues on the 19th of May, 1875, at the time of the first reprinting of United States stamps,

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that The National Philatelic Society strongly protests against all reprinting by the United States Postoffice Department, as tending to throw discredit on collections already formed, and as destroying the interest and pleasure which all true collectors feel in gathering the postage stamps of the different governments.

JOSEPH RECHERT, PRESIDENT.  
W. A. WARNER, SECRETARY.

Adopted, Nov. 23, 1887.

### The Japanese Postal System.

The rate of postage in Japan is the equivalent of two cents.

They have letter-carriers and money-orders, and a registered letter system.

There is no such thing in Japan as civil service reform.

Members of the Cabinet appoint their subordinates, and they are promoted by private arrangement—not by competitive examinations. Letter-carriers are divided into three grades, and are paid from seven to fifteen dollars a month. They work about fourteen hours a day.

There were employed in the whole department three years ago 9370 men. Now there are a number more. There are but six first-class post offices.

Japan stands fifteenth among the nations of the world in the number of post-offices.

### The Country Postmaster.

A young lady living in southern Vermont lately came to Cambridge on a visit.

Soon after her arrival the postmaster presented her with a letter with a 2 cent due stamp on it.

In less than a week this was repeated, and the postmaster remarked as he delivered the letter: "This is no love letter. Miss—?" The family were amused, and the lady wrote to her friend and told him the postman's words.

It was soon learned that in the town where this young lady resides there had lately been a change of postmasters, an influential democrat having been appointed to the office.

The new incumbent found his supply of two cent stamps nearly exhausted, and in dismay overhauled his supplies and found some two cent overdue stamps which he proceeded to sell and apply himself, after the manner of country postmasters.

Not only had the friend of this young lady a supply of these stamps, but a majority of the people of the village were similarly supplied.

### Drawbacks of the Special Delivery.

A night or so ago, when the frost struck here for the first time and killed the tobacco plants in the adjoining counties, Gen. Hazen was awakened from his slumbers. It was 1.30 o'clock A. M., and the servants could not be aroused, so he had to raise the window and put his head out and inquire who was there. A messenger boy answered that he had a letter for him with a special delivery stamp on it. Gen. Hazen had to get up and go down after the letter, and to his utter disgust he found it was from a little postmaster who wanted \$20 worth of stamps immediately. But this was not his only trouble. Only a night or so ago, as he was going to tea, he got a letter with a special delivery stamp on it asking for 1,000,000 postal cards. A senator called upon him the other day to complain about the special-delivery stamp, saying that he had been awakened at 2 o'clock in the morning by a post-office messenger with a letter. He opened it, and it was from an office-seeker, who asked him to hurry up that appointment. The senator said he "wanted the blamed stamps stopped."—*Washington Star*.

### Notes.

A merry Christmas to all!

Try our "Stamp Collectors Directory." It will pay you. Also read the advertisement of F. C. T. Davis in this number if you want a copy of each and every paper published in the interest of philately.

Mr. Seagrave is a fit candidate for treasurer of the A. P. A.

"The D. S. C. L. is small, numbering only nine members, but there is not a member in it who is not an "enthusiast" and a "rustler." That's about the size of it here in Salem. Our Society is all the time rustling for good stamps and the members generally get there, too.

U. S. Department specimen stamps have been cancelled and sold as genuine by unprincipled dealers. Look out for them.

Subscribers' names did not pour in so fast as we expected during the past month, and we cannot account for it, for we made a good and liberal offer. Those who did send before November 25th waited until the last moment and then sent in their subscription, hoping to be the lucky one to get one of the big prizes we offered. By thus waiting, over twenty names reached us after the time had expired. For instance, one subscriber away out in California mailed his letter Nov. 22d and stated that he hoped he would draw one of the prizes. As a result of his delay, we did not receive his letter until the 29th for it takes exactly one week for the mail to go across the continent and therefore his "hopes" are dashed to the ground. Other letters from some of the Western States and coasts also, arrived too late. The names of the lucky ones whose letters reached us before the limited time are as follows:

Harry Felton, 20 Winthrop St. Salem, Mass.

F. A. Peters, Box 328, Lancaster, Pa.,  
Bulkeley Wells, 2595 Washington St. Roxbury, Mass.

We have decided to reduce our subscription price to fifteen cents. Every subscriber can have his name inserted once in our "Stamp Collectors Directory" free of charge and can also have an exchange notice inserted as often as desired.



## Among Our Exchanges.

And still the *Western Philatelist* continues to improve.

The *American Exchange and Mart* is the best paper devoted to the exchange of stamps, coins and curiosities we have yet seen.

In future, that bright and newsy journal, the *Stamp Collectors' Figaro*, will be issued on the first day of each month. This paper might well be called the "Pride of Philately".

The *Exchangers' Monthly* is always a welcome visitor to this office.

According to some of our contemporaries, the *Philatelic Journal of Ohio* appeared last October. We would like to see it very much, as quite a number of papers stated in their respective issues for November that the aforesaid journal would not be published. Please relieve our suspense.

The November *Stamp* contains many things of interest. Its articles on "Men of Stamp" are excellent and very interesting.

We wish the *Curiosity World* would come oftener.

The *Keystone State Philatelist*. Where is it? We haven't seen you since your double number, August-September. Please show up if in existence.

Altoona's old and reliable journal, the *Philatelic Gazette*, has commenced its fourth volume. Few papers have met with success like this.

Bro. Smith, accept our congratulations on the appearance of your paper. May the *Buckeye State Collector* long live and prosper.

*Our Monthly Visitor*, of Fitchburg, Mass., has discontinued its philatelic department.

The new *American Philatelist* has not yet arrived in Salem. Please let us see what you are like.

A frightful appearance is presented by the *Collectors Aid* for October. You must have had a cyclone out your way, friend McBride?

We dwell in the hope of seeing a copy of the *Toronto Philatelic Journal* soon and trust it will be as good as in the palmy days of 1885-86.

*Plain Talk's* uncalled for attack on the publisher of the *Old Curiosity Shop* is as mean as it is disgraceful. Such attempts on the part of a large journal to crush a weaker contemporary, should be put down by the philatelic press. Just as if any publication is not liable to have at least one or two typographical errors an issue. We would advise *Plain Talk* to tell fewer lies itself in its lines on "Profitable Philatelic Points", which are of no more use to the stamp collecting public than any other silly article their paper contains.

We have received the following papers since our last issue. We extend our thanks to the publishers for their kindness and trust we will receive them regularly.—*Boys' Globe, Le Courier du Timbrophile, Quaker City Philatelist, Our Monthly Visitor, Young Geologist, Western Philatelist, Mohawk Standard, Curiosity World, Collectors' Review, Stamp, Buckeye State Collector, Philatelic Herald, Youths' Leisure Hour, Philatelic Fortnightly, Stamp Collectors' Figaro, Youths' Friend, Business Guide, General-Anzeiger-fur-Philatelic, Youths' Ledger, Philatelic Journal of America, Erdball Mercur, Niagara Falls Philatelist, Amateur Collector, International Philatelic Advertiser, Collectors' Aid, Common Sense, The Collector, Agents' World, Old Curiosity Shop, New South, Coronet News Letter.*

## Publications Received.

From the Western Philatelic Pub. Co., Chicago.—President Tiffany's address at the Convention of the A. P. A. Every philatelist should have one for reference. Price 10 cents; to be had of the publishers.

From Messrs. R. R. Bogert & Co., New York.—Catalogue of their third Auction Sale, held Dec. 9th

From the Quaker City Philatelic Pub. Co.—Their "Philatelic Encyclopaedia," a valuable pamphlet of much merit. It should be in the hands of every stamp collector. Price 10 cents; sold by the publishers.

From W. F. Greany, San Francisco: His latest catalogue of stamps, coins and curiosities. We are much surprised at the cheapness of some articles mentioned in the same.

We desire to express our thanks for the above mentioned publications. Any book, pamphlet or catalogue sent us will be reviewed.

# The Witch City Philatelist.

Official organ of

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Vol 1. DECEMBER, 1887. No. 6.

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CIRCULATION 1,500

Our advertising columns are crowded this issue. Among other reliable dealers who patronize us are C. F. Rothfuchs, F. E. P. Lynde and the Neville Stamp Co. We would advise our readers to read every advertisement in this number as we notice some good bargains offered by the different dealers.

The first two (and only) numbers of the *Witch City Collector*, published during January and February of this year, and now very rare, can be had by addressing Fred C. T. Davis of this city. Price only 10 cents for the two numbers. Copies are now rare and these will go fast, so send at once.

The *Figaro* for October says: "Something came to us through the mail. We don't know what it may be for it makes no explanation. It is entitled 'A supplement to the Philatelic Courier for June.' It consists solely of 'ads.' without two lines of reading matter".

We had the same experience, and although we should like to see the "Philatelic Courier" itself, still we are much obliged to *somebody* for sending the "supplement", for we got quite a number of good names therefrom.

# C. F. Rothfuchs

359 1/2 PENN AVE.,

WASHINGTON, - D. C.

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

## U. S. and FOREIGN

# STAMPS

Complete sets of all U.S. Dept. Stamps

Complete sets of U. S. Periodical Stamps

Large Assortment of Entire U. S.

Envelopes and over 5,000 varieties of Foreign Postage

Stamps always in Stock.

### United States Department Stamps.

	PRICE FOR	NEW.	USED.
Agriculture,	8 varieties	\$2 75	\$
Interior,	8 "	50	40
Navy,	7 "	1 75	65
Post Office,	7 "	1 00	50
State,	7 "	2 00	
Treasury,	7 "	55	18
War,	7 "	50	35

### Foreign Stamps.

Onba,	20 var.		30
Deccan envelopes.	2 "	20	
Dominican Rep., 1880	9 "		1 20
Egypt Official,	15 "	25	
French Colonies,	17 "		50
Guadeloupe,	7 "		1 00
Guatemala, 1882	5 "	25	
Mexico, 1874. 5 to 100c.	6 "	50	
Nicaragua, 1867-78,	4 "	50	20
" 1882	6 "	90	35
Prince Edward Island,	9 "	40	
Stellaland, 3, 4, 6d, 1s,	4 "	1 50	
Spain,	50 "		50

Packet of United States Stamps 25 varieties including War, Treasury, Post Office and Interior Departments. Price, 25 cents.

2 cents extra with all orders under 50 cents

**Retail Price List of U. S. and Foreign Stamps for Collectors and Wholesale List furnished Dealers on application.**

Correspondence in English and German only.

My **STAMP COLLECTORS DIRECTORY** will be the largest and best ever attempted. The pages will be as large as those of the **WITCH CITY PHILATELIST** and will be printed on the same stock and by the same printer—a guarantee of good work. Heavy colored cover and many pages. I want your name and will give you a written guarantee that the directory will be issued.

Send 25 cents (silver) with your name and we will insert it, or send 10 cents (silver) as a guarantee and promise to pay fifteen more on publication of the book, just as you like. You will get a sample of every stamp paper published, for we shall send a copy to every publisher. You will also get many price lists from dealers. Don't miss the chance, but send now. Advertising rates, 40 cents per inch, half in advance, the rest on publication. Once more, *I guarantee that this directory will be issued.*

F. C. T. DAVIS, Box 21, Salem Mass.  
 Publisher of the *Witch City Philatelist*.  
 N. B. Any paper inserting above, and calling attention to the adv. will receive by mail, a receipt for equivalent in the Directory.

**R. RAUM BOYLE, A. M., M. D.,**  
 Office: 1432 N. Second St.,  
 Philadelphia, Pa.

**GRADUATE** of "Jefferson Medical College."  
 The great **SPECIALIST** on **DISEASES** of the

## Lungs, Liver and Stomach

All diseases, both of **ADULTS & CHILDREN** treated by **Mail** successfully. There is still **hope** for **Consumptives!** I have cured and **am curing** many! I have practice in Philadelphia. That **guarantees** skill and experience, for **Quacks** are **not** allowed there. If, having studied your case, I find there is **no hope** for you, I **return** your money. My first and **only** charge is \$1.00 (one dollar.) Send **full** description of **any** case, with my moderate fee, and, if there is the **least** chance left, you will speedily **regain Health.**

**STAMP** Albums. Scott's International. Boards, only \$1.40. Cloth, \$2.35, postpaid. 100 stamps including Siam, with each. Agents wanted at a good commission. Large 12 page price list **FREE.** 10 unused foreign stamps 15c. 4 varieties Sweden (official) 5c. All stamps warranted genuine. F. S. SHEPARD 21 Williams Street, SALEM, MASS.

**STAMPS** 7 Alsace and Lorraine the complete set unused 16 cents postpaid. P. S. JOHNSON, Box 285, SALEM, MASS.

**AGENTS WANTED** Good Commission **STAMPS** Bought, Sold and Exchanged. **JAMES F. STICKLES & Co.** 103 Norman Ave., BROOKLYN, N. Y.

**STAMP PAPERS** and Magazines, 15 cents per dozen, postpaid. F. C. T. DAVIS, Box 21, SALEM, MASS.

**Revolver Scarf Pins** 30 cents each, postpaid F. C. T. DAVIS, Box 21, SALEM, MASS.

## Postage Stamp Albums

from 25 cts. upwards

At the New and Elegant Book  
 Department of

**Merrill AND Mackintire**

220 ESSEX STREET

SALEM, MASS.

## SOLID GOLD WATCH FREE.

To introduce our Fine Rubber Stamps at once we make this unparalleled offer. The person telling us the place in the Bible where the word "Gold" is first found, before Jan. 1, 1888, will receive a Lady's Solid Gold Watch worth \$20.00. If there be more than one correct answer, the second will receive a Solid Gold Ring. The next 24 will each receive one of our Line Name Stamps in Script Type, Ink and Pad. You must in every case inclose 10 cts. in Silver to pay Postage and Packing. To each person answering this Adv. will also receive free a lot of Scrap Pictures, Cards, &c. Address at once.

## EASTERN RUBBER STAMP Co.

P.O. Box 43, Hurlock, Md.

### BARGAINS

15c U. S. envelopes, entire, unused, . . . . .	25 cts.
10c " 1869 used, . . . . .	20 "
12c " " unused, . . . . .	45 "
8 depts; 1861, 1c; 1863, 2c; 1870, 15c & 20c all	15 "
100 varieties good stamps . . . . .	10 "
100 " extra " . . . . .	25 "
100 finely mixed . . . . .	5 "

ALL POSTPAID

F. P. HORTON, FOXBORO, MASS.

**32** page songster, sample tin tags, and my price list for only 3 cents.

HARRY B. WILBER,

Cambridgeboro, Pa.



**STAMPS & COINS**

WM. P. BROWN,

114 NASSAU ST NYC

ESTABLISHED 1850.

Send 10c for Complete

price Catalogue of 6500

stamps and Coin list.



Good Collections Bought for Cash.

**Connecticut Cents** wanted in large or small lots.

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46 West Newton St., BOSTON, MASS.

Collector and Dealer in

**Connecticut Cents.**

**HARRY B. WILBER**

34 Main Street. CAMBRIDGEBORO, PENN.

—Dealer in—

**Tin and Paper Tobacco Tags, and also in Postage Stamps.**

50 unused, rare, genuine tin tags all diff.	12c
100 " " " "	20c
300 " " " "	60c
50 " " paper	8c
100 " " " "	15c
300 " " " "	40c
100 " " " mixed	10c
1000 " " " "	85c

**STAMPS.**

Antigua 1882 1/2 p. ....	1c	*Heligoland p. ....	3c
*Baden 1868 1 kr. ....	5c	*Luxemburg 1 c. ....	1c
Brazil 200 p. ....	2c	*Monaco 2 p. ....	3c
Canada 3 c. ....	1c	New Foundland 3 c. ....	2c
Confed. States 10 c. ....	1c	Natal 1 p. ....	2c
Egypt 1 val. ....	1c	*Peru 10 c. ....	5c
*Gibraltar 1/2 p. ....	5c	Sandwich is. 2 c. ....	1c
*Grenada 1/2 p. ....	5c	U. S. 5c, 3, 2c. ....	2c
*Guatemala 1 c. ....	4c	Western Australia 1/2 p. ....	4c

\* Unused.

**APPROVAL SHEETS** of scarce U. S. and Foreign Stamps sent to all parties who promise to return in 10 days. 25 per cent com. allowed to agents.

Our prices are as cheap as genuine stamps can be sold.

**SPECIAL SHEETS OF VERY RARE**

U. S. and Foreign stamps sent to all parties furnishing good reference or deposit or to all A.P.A. members without reference or deposit.

Liberal Discounts allowed on good sales.

—BARGAINS—

U. S.	1851	12c. black,	price	65c
"	1857	24c. lilac,	"	50c
"	1861	12c. black	"	9c
"	1861	24c. lilac	"	12c
"	1861	90c. blue	"	94c
"	1869	6c. blue	"	16c
"	1869	12c. green	"	20c
"	1869	20c. orange	"	94c
"	1871	7c. orange	"	14c
"	1871	12c. purple	"	5c
"	1871	24c. purple	"	30c
"	1871	90c. carmine	"	10c
"	1870	7c. env. entire	"	40c

Remit in cash or postal note, (no stamps)

**COOPER & DEMPSEY**

Towson. - Maryland.

N.B.—Don't forget to send for sheet.

**GREAT REDUCTION!**

The Imperial **PEN** and Pencil Stamp Reduced from \$1.00 to only 50 cts. with Ink.

Get one, they make a nice linen marker.

The Collector's Stamp 1 to 5 lines with Ink and Pads only 33 cts.

SOON TO BE ADVANCED TO 50 CENTS.

Send quick if you want one at this low price.

**SEND FOR CIRCULARS. AGENTS WANTED**

Big Profits.

**R. W. FORD,**

BRISTOL, - - - CONN.

Mention this Paper.

**F. E. P. LYNDE**

—DEALER IN—

**FOREIGN STAMPS**

P.O. Box. 106

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

I have a Very Fine Assortment of PERSIA now on hand, also send out fine approval sheets at 25 per cent commission on receipt of cash deposit or A I reference. I also make a specialty of procuring stamps for collectors on order if I have not got them in stock. Address as above.





# → The Witch City Philatelist ←

Vol. I.

SALEM, MASS., JANUARY, 1888.

No. 7

## The Stamps of Iceland.

J. W. HALSEY

Iceland is an island in the Atlantic Ocean, east of Greenland and northwest of the Faroe Islands. It was early settled by the vikings of Yore, and has been under the Danish rule since the year 1387, or exactly four centuries.

This island has an area of 39,543 square miles, with a total population of about 75,000 inhabitants. As the island consists mostly of extinct volcanoes and lava beds a large portion is uninhabitable and only along the coast and a few spots elsewhere are peopled.

Reikjdvik is the capital, is situated on the coast and has a population of about 15,000 people.

Reikjdvik is a considerable collection of huts; the men lay about, smoke, and let the women tend to the household affairs; the huts of most are filthy and dirty. There are a few who make some show of progress and culture.

Two papers are issued monthly and a public library is in use. Reikjdvik on a general plan, is dull, dirty and uninteresting to the visitor.

The first series of postage stamps issued by Iceland were five in number. The design is almost the same as Denmark stamps, being as follows: a small circle enclosing the numeral in centre and surrounded by a crown and wreath; the whole in a double lined oval in which are the words "Island" "Posterin 2 sk." and, in each corner of stamp, a small triangle and a square enclosing the whole completes the design. The values and colors are: 2 shillings, blue; 1 s., grey; 4 s., carmine; 8 s., brown; and 16 s., yellow.

In 1866 the wording was slightly changed; "aur" appeared in place of the abbreviation "sk." This set consisted of six varieties. Five new values were added; the colors and values are: 5 a., blue; 6 a., grey; 10 a., carmine; 16 a., brown; 20 a., violet; and 40 a., green.

In 1882, four more stamps of the same design were issued, with one new value, as follows: 3 a., yellow; 5 a., green; 20 a., blue; 40 a., lilac. This is the last general issue that has appeared up to date.

The official stamps are seven in number and were issued in 1873 '76 '78 '82; the design is somewhat as follows:

The numeral in a shield, with crown above, enclosed in a square, with triangles outlined in corners, and a groundwork of vertical lines; above, in oblong, "island," below "10 aur;" at the observers left "pjo-rustie"; on his right "postfrim" and small oval in each corner completed the design.

The values and colors of these seven varieties of official stamps are 4 s., green; 8 s., mauve; 10 aur blue; 16 a. carmine; 20 a., green; 5 a., brown; and 3 a., yellow. These with the general issue make thirty-two varieties and all can be obtained for a small outlay.

## SALEM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

### Tenth Meeting.

Held at Dr. Robbins' office. Nine present. Minutes read and approved. No business came before the meeting. Some sheets exhibited by the Secretary. Meeting adjourned at 9.45 P.M. Next meeting at Mr. Richardson's office.

### Eleventh Meeting.

Held at Mr. Richardson's office; on quorum; Adjourned to Dec. 30th, at 8.15 P.M. in Dr. Robbins' office.

### Twelfth Meeting

Held at Dr. Robbins' office. Seven present. Motioned that the society make some arrangement for the printing of Postal Cards. Dropped.

Suggested that the society advertise in one of the daily papers in order to reach a few collectors that may not have heard of the Society. Objected.

Moved and carried that an advertisement be placed in the "Official Organ" for the purpose of increasing the membership.

Two prizes offered for the best essay on stamps written by any member of the society.

Prizes as follows: 1 Peseta, black. Porto Rico, surcharged with paraphe, and U. S. 1847 5 and 10 cents. Carried by a unanimous vote that prizes be accepted. Meeting adjourned at 9.20 P. M. Next to be held in Mr. Richardson's office Jan. 13, 1888.

P. S. JOHNSON, Sec.

### Notes.

Adhesive stamps were used in Holland in 1600; in Spain in 1500 and in America in 1765.

We received a very pleasant call from Mr. W. H. Goodrich, of Fitchburg, Mass., a few days ago, and we desire all philatelists to come and see us whenever business or pleasure brings them near the "city of witches."

Are you a philatelist? If you are, why don't you send in your subscription at once? We are here to stay, and don't you forget it. If we are obliged to suspend you will get your money back, but, judging from appearances, it will be a long time yet before the WITCH CITY PHILATELIST joins the long list of philatelic papers that have given up publication.

Any one sending 25 cents for a year's subscription to this paper, will receive a complete set of Alsace and Lorraine stamps, *unused*; anyone sending 15 cents for a year's subscription, will receive the 1887 issue of Newfoundland stamps, *unused*, values  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 cent. Send in an exchange at the same time and we will insert it free.

We have received a letter from the secretary of a certain Philatelic Society asking us to correct a statement made in our November number to the effect that the claim of James Chalmers as the inventor of the adhesive postage stamps has been recognized by all the principal societies of the United States and Europe. Said paragraph read as follows:

"We have received from Mr. Patrick Chalmers a pamphlet showing how the claim of James Chalmers as inventor of the adhesive postage stamp has been recognized by all the principal societies of Europe and the United States."

Now, we wish to say that the pamphlet alluded to *did* say that the majority of the societies in this and the old country have favored Chalmers. But our friend misunderstood the meaning of the afore mentioned statement. We did not mean to say *ourselves* that *all* the *leading* societies had recognized it, for it is not so. We merely said that the *pamphlet* stated how the claim of Chalmers had been recognized by all the *leading* societies. That is not saying that we think so, for we know very well that the New York Philatelic Society, the Quaker City Philatelic Society, the Internationaler Philatelisten Verein, also

one or two others of some note, have not admitted the claim. But we *do* say, and will stick to it, that a very large majority of both large and small societies, in this and other countries, have conceded that Chalmers' right to all honors concerning the invention of the adhesive stamp is undisputable.

We admit that the book sent us by Mr. Patrick Chalmers is not quite correct. It should have said that *nearly* all of the principal societies had recognized the claim,—not *all* of them, for the three societies mentioned above are among the largest in existence, especially the "Internationaler Philatelisten Verein," but our friend, the secretary, will no doubt admit that he cannot possibly name a majority of the leading societies—or of the smaller ones, for that matter—that have not given James Chalmers full credit for what he deserves, namely, the honor of inventing the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

### A Fraud Exposed.

There seems to be quite a kick among philatelists in regard to those 1870 3 cent stamps, changed from green to blue. For the information of the philatelic public we will state right here that W. E. Skinner, of Lynn, Mass.—famous in philatelic annals as a "dead-beat," and formerly the publisher of the "Agassiz Association Journal"—changed a large number of these stamps from their original color to blue, as far back as 1885. We get our knowledge from a reliable party and know that the above statement is true. We hope this explanation of the origin of the 3 c. blue (?) stamp will serve to show all those interested in stamp collecting that the same is nothing more or less than a fraud and we would ask, as a favor, that the publishers of *all* papers devoted to our hobby, re-print this statement in their respective journals, in order that all philatelists may know that this chemically changed postage stamp is one of the most successful frauds ever foisted on a credulous public.

### Stamp Collector's Directory.

**Names inserted once for 10 cents, three times for 25 cents. Subscribers' names inserted one time free, when requested.**

- I. J. Hull, St. Catharines, Ont.  
 A. H. Beers, 600 E. Pratt St Baltimore, Md.  
 Frank Zinkie, 519 Aurora Ave., Aurora, Ill.  
 Harry Felton, 20 Winthrop St., Salem, Mass.  
 P. F. O'Keefe, Mansfield Valley, Pa.  
 H. P. Simpson, Tuskegee, Ala.

## The Witch City Philatelist.

Official organ of

## The Salem Philatelic Society.

FRED C. T. DAVIS, { Editors and Publishers,  
P. S. JOHNSON, }

Box 288.

Salem, Essex Co., Mass., U.S.A.

Address all business letters to P. S. Johnson.

## SUBSCRIPTION,

15 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

Foreign Countries, 30 Cts.

(Send low values)

## ADVERTISING RATES

1 inch 45c. 1/2 col. \$1.50; 1 col. \$2.50; 1 page \$4.00

1/2" Discount on standing "ads."

Advertisements strictly cash, no trade.

Mailed on or before the 15th of each month.

All matter must be in by the 5th of each month  
to insure insertion in next number.

Vol 1. JANUARY, 1888. No. 7.

Entered at Salem Post Office as second class  
matter.

CIRCULATION 1,500

A new addition to the ranks is the *Charleston Philatelist*, published quarterly. It greatly resembles the P. J. of Ohio and the Texas Philatelic Journal.

Whew! Ain't they getting thick! Now comes the *Eastern Philatelist* from Fitchburg, Mass., and we can truly say that in point of typographical neatness and contents, this new addition to the ranks of philatelic literature is most welcome, indeed. Its eight pages are brim full of interesting matter and its covers are very handsome. We hope it will long stay with us.

Papers received: *Corona News Letter*, *New South*, *P. J. of Ohio*, *Western Philatelist*, *P. J. of America*, *Figaro*, *Q. C. Philatelist*, *Mohawk Standard*, *Philatelic World*, *Youth's Leisure Hour*, *Curiosity World*, *Collectors Aid*, *Buckeye State Collector*, *Youth's Friend*, *Common Sense*, *Collectors Review*, *Amateur World*, *Herdman's Miscellany*, *Golden Hours*, *Philatelic Herald*, *Charleston Philatelist*, *Progressive Youth*, *The Monitor*, *Le Timbre Poste*, *Eastern Philatelist*, *Le Courrier Du Timbrophile*, *The Echo*, *Niagara Falls Philatelist*, *Monthly Gem*, *Young Geologist* and *Hawkeye State Collector*.  
Many thanks.

## C. F. Rothfuchs

359 1/2 PENN AVE.,

WASHINGTON, - D.C.

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

U. S. and FOREIGN  
STAMPS

Complete sets of U.S. Dept. Stamps

Complete sets of U. S. Periodical Stamps

Large Assortment of Entire U. S.  
Envelopes and over 5,000 varieties  
of Foreign Postage  
Stamps always in  
Stock.

## United States Department Stamps.

	PRICE FOR	NEW	USED
	8 varieties	\$2 75	\$
Agriculture,	"	50	40
Interior,	"	75	65
Navy,	"	1 00	50
Post Office,	"	2 00	
State,	"	55	18
Treasury	"	50	35
War	"		

## Foreign Stamps

Cuba,	20 var.		30
Decan envelopes,	2 "	20	
Dominican Rep., 1880	9 "		1 20
Egypt Official,	15 "	25	
French Colonies	17 "		50
Guadeloupe,	7 "		1 00
Guatemala, 1882	5 "	25	
Mexico, 1874, 5 to 100c.	6 "	50	
Nicaragua, 1867-78,	4 "	50	20
" 1882	6 "	90	35
Prince Edward Island,	9 "	40	
Stellaland, 3,4, 6d, 1s.	4 "	1 50	
Spain,	50 "		50

Packet of United States Stamps 25 varieties  
including War, Treasury, Post Office and Inter-  
for Departments. Price 25 cents.

2 cents extra with all orders under 50 cents,

Retail Price List of U. S. and Foreign  
Stamps for Collectors  
and Wholesale List  
furnished Dealers on application.

Correspondence in English and  
German only.

## The "Pug Dog" Watch Charm.

This watch charm is an exact duplicate of a little pug dog, with two gleaming red eyes. It is heavily plated with the best 18K. rolled gold and *guaranteed* to be the same charm for which other dealers and jewellers get \$1.25. Price of "Pug Dog" Watch Charm, only 55 cents, (postal note) post paid. Very unique. Address, Fred C. T. Davis, Box 21, Salem, Mass.

## Connecticut Cents

wanted in large or small lots.

DR. THOMAS HALL

46 West Newton St., BOSTON, MASS.

Collector and Dealer in

Connecticut Cents

## RUBBER STAMP

with your name in Fancy Type. 25 Visiting Cards, and INDIA INK to mark Linen, only 25c., (stamps.) Book of 2,000 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big Pay.

THALMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY,  
BALTIMORE, MD.

My STAMP COLLECTORS DIRECTORY will be the largest and best ever attempted. The pages will be as large as those of the WITCH CITY PHILATELIST and will be printed on the same stock and by the same printer.—a guarantee of good work. Heavy colored cover and many pages. I want your name and will give you a written guarantee that the directory will be issued.

Send 25 cents (silver) with your name and we will insert it, or send 10 cents (silver) as a guarantee and promise to pay fifteen more on publication of the book, just as you like. You will get a sample of every stamp paper published, for we shall send a copy to every publisher. You will also get many price lists from dealers. Don't miss the chance, but send now. Advertising rates, 40 cents per inch, half in advance, the rest on publication. Once more, *I guarantee that this directory will be issued.*

F. C. T. Davis, Box 21, Salem Mass.  
Publisher of the *Witch City Philatelist*.  
N. B. Any paper inserting above, and calling attention to the adv. will receive by mail, a receipt for equivalent in the Directory.

## Postage Stamp Albums

from 25 cts. upwards

At the New and Elegant Book  
Department of

Merrill & Mackintire

220 ESSEX STREET

SALEM, MASS.

## Revolver Scarf Pins

30 cents each, post paid F. C. T.

DAVIS, Box 21, SALEM, MASS.

For a philatelist to say that he does not read the NIAGARA FALLS PHILATELIST is to admit he is "behind the times."

Sample copy FREE.

The Niagara Falls Publishing Co.  
Niagara Falls, South, Ont., Canada

## Just what Coin Collectors want.

A vest pocket book containing the Technical Terms and Definitions of Coins and Medals, also Price List of U. S. Copper Coins, postpaid 10c.

GEORGE R. MERRILL,

63 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

## 15 Curiosities

Including fine Indian arrow heads, war relics, sea curiosities, alligator teeth, fine quartz crystals, etc., etc., with my 14 page price list, a lot of special offers and sample copy of "Common Sense" a large 8 page, 24 column, collectors paper, all for 25c. Send at once. F. A. THOMAS, Publisher, MEXICO, N. Y.

Wing Weeber  
& Co.

—OUR—  
SPRING IMPORTATIONS  
—OF—

Hamburgs,  
French Challies  
and Sattens.

Now ready for examination.

Essex and Washington Streets  
SALEM.



# → The Witch City Philatelist ←

Vol. I.

SALEM, MASS., FEBRUARY, 1888.

No. 8

## Salem Philatelic Society.

### 13th Meeting.

No quorum as it was very stormy; adjourned till Jan. 27 in Mr. Richardson's office.

P. S. JOHNSON, *Sec.*

### 14th Meeting.

Held in Mr. Richardson's office; seven present. A very interesting meeting was held. Another member enrolled. Talk was made of sending to several foreign post offices for the purpose of buying the stamps of the country at face value.

Adjourned at 9.30 P. M. Next meeting in Dr. Robbins' office, Feb. 10.

F. L. DECKER, *Sec., pro tem.*

*The Lawrence Philatelic Society* held its 3d meeting Jan. 31 at 8 P. M. at the residence of the President A. E. Heald.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Vice. President and Treasurer and Librarian were elected. Vice President, L. C. Richardson, Treasurer, J. W. Fulton, and Librarian, Wm. A. Stuart.

This society is prospering, numbering about 30 members, and has good material to work with as there are several A. P. A. members in the society. May it prosper be our wish.

There are at present 54,800 persons in the permanent employ of the postal service in the United Kingdom, and of these 3,767 are females. The number partially connected with the post offices, etc., is 47,000, including 15,800 females. There are also 3,356 in receipt of pensions from the department.

The New York Post Office publishes statistics with regard to the circulation of letters, newspapers, etc., throughout the globe, according to which the number of letters exchanged annually is 5,845 millions, of postcards 1,077 millions, of printed matter 4,600 millions; and of patterns 104 millions. This gives an average of about five letters and postcards per annum for each inhabitant of the globe, the continent in which the proportion is highest being Australia where it reaches 24 letters, etc., per head, as against only 14 per head in Europe, and less than one-half per head in Asia.

## How to collect Stamps.

HENRY FOX.

There are many thousand stamp collectors in the United States and throughout the World, but judging from the collections we have seen, we are inclined to think there are but few which really present a nice appearance and which prove of intellectual benefit to the owner.

We grant that philately may be figuratively termed a school, and that the studies involved become a pleasant enchantment leading to increase the energy of a live collector, who thus attains much information in the form of a pleasure. But the poor looking collection full of torn and dirty specimens can be of little interest or benefit to any one.

We always advise beginners to be particular in the choice of an album; there are books printed which but poorly serve the purpose, and rather help to discourage a novice.

A small volume, neatly bound, and printed on heavy paper, with spaces provided for stamps most generally found in collections numbering below 1,500, would do well for a commencement, and would inspire more zeal than a large book in which 1000 stamps would almost be lost.

A few good specimens no matter how common, if neatly arranged and placed with care, will prove of interest. The result is that the owner will frequently look over his collection and thereby familiarizing himself with the appearance of the many different stamps, will soon be able to distinguish the issues of all the governments, and here is where no end of information begins.

## Publications Received.

We have received the following since our last issue: Publishers will please accept our thanks. Everything sent us will be reviewed.

From Acme Stamp Co., Box 535, New Haven, Conn.—Feb., 1888, catalogue of postage stamps. The prices are very reasonable.

From Mr. C. D. Smith, Delta, N. Y.—A catalogue of all U. S. and Foreign stamps for sale by him. Some fine stamps are offered at less than standard prices.

From Mr. J. J. Casey, 42 E. 112th St., N. Y.—Catalogue of his 14th Auction Sale of stamps.



### Philatelic Notes.

What has become of the New England Philatelic Union, organized Aug. 28th., 1886?

The first issue of stamps of the Hawaiian Islands have been reprinted by the government and are sold to collectors.

Why don't you subscribe now? Only 15 cents a year. You get the benefit of our Stamp Collectors' Directory and can have an exchange inserted every other month, if desired. Think it over and send your money where you will get a good return for it. We have some excellent articles in preparation which will soon be published. We give you good stock, good printing and a good paper. What more do you want for the money?

When the supply of low denomination stamps gives out in Mexico, they take a higher denomination and carve it into desirable fractions, which are sold for whole stamps.

The native states of India number 2156, nearly all of which have issued local stamps. Woe to the collectors of locals!

The three cent stamp green, 1870 issue, has been issued until within a few months ago, when the color was changed to red.

The first two stamps of the general issue of the U. S. sold by the government, were bought by Hon. Henry Shaw of New York.

The first postage stamps issued with watermarks were the 1855 issue of Spain.

The statement has been published that the Government loses annually from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 by stamps being washed and used a second time. The story however, according to Postmaster Pierson of New York, is without foundation.

In 1683, Penn. tried to establish a postal system; Mass. in 1890 and Virginia about 1700.

Postal Telegraphy, which is under the consideration of the present Congress, if authorized will create a new set of stamps. What will they be called?

The sales of letter sheet envelopes during the last fiscal year, amounted to 3,500,000 in number.

On Oct. 20th, counterfeit postal cards were discovered in Pittsburg that are so skillfully executed that their detection is very difficult. This is believed to be the first attempt made to put spurious cards in circulation.

The smallest country in Europe using its own stamps is Moresnet. It is about 2½ square miles in size.

### Among our Exchanges.

Another newcomer is the *Philatelic News*, from Cambridgeboro, Penn. Mr. Harry B. Wilber is the publisher. We hope it will succeed.

Commencing with No. 7, the *Niagara Falls Philatelist* will change its name to the *British American Philatelic Advertiser*. According to promises, we expect it will be a "barrier."

The *Young Geologist* is a bright little paper from Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Vol. 1, No. 1 of the *Hawkeye State Collector* is received. There is room for improvement, friends.

A very creditable journal is our friend the *Mohawk Standard* for December and January (double number). This paper has nearly reached the end of its second volume.

### Exchanges.

*Free to subscribers. Limited to 40 words.*

15 foreign stamps or 20 postmarks, for every curiosity paper or any two of the following, present issue, adhesive stamps; 6 c., 7 c., 12 c., 24 c., or 30 c. Alabama curios for exchange. H. P. Simpson, Tuskegee, Ala.

Wanted: Revenue stamps. Small collections bought for cash. Write first, Nos. 1 and 2 of the *Witch City Collector*, the only numbers published, now very scarce, for 25 revenue stamps, any kind. F. C. T. Davis, Salem, Mass.

List of wants: *Keystone State Philatelic Gazette*, Nos. 3 and 4. *K. S. and Coin Gazette*, Nos. 5, 6, 7, 14. Altoona, Pa.; *Curiosity World*, 1, 3, 8 and 12; *Western Philatelist*, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; *P. 7 of America*, any numbers of Vol. 2. Would be pleased to have your prices on any of the above you have for exchange. Geo. W. Rode, Hazlewood Ave., Pittsburg, Penn.

I will give 10 different postmarks for every stamp not in my collection; not less than 10 taken. Also, a "Little Giant" self-inking rubber stamp, for foreign stamps. All letters answered. L. J. Hull, St. Catharines, Ont., Canada.

Send for a list of what I have to exchange for curios, minerals, curiosities and amateur publications. Send ten cents for a large package of choice reading matter. A. H. Beers, 600 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, Md.

## The Witch City Philatelist.

Official organ of

The Salem Philatelic Society.

FRED. C. T. DAVIS, { Editors and Publishers.  
P. S. JOHNSON, }

Salem, Essex Co., Mass., U.S.A.

SUBSCRIPTION,  
15 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

Foreign Countries, 30 Cts

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ADVERTISING RATES

1 inch 30c. 1/2 col. \$1.00; 1 col. \$1.75; 1 page \$3.50

☞ Discount on standing "ads."

Advertisements strictly cash, no trade

Vol 1. FEBRUARY, 1888. No. 8.

Entered at Salem Post Office as second class  
matter.

CIRCULATION 1,500

We have a few words to say to publishers who exchange with us. In future, no paper will be placed on our exchange list if we do not receive *two* copies every month. We send two copies of the W. C. P. to each and every paper on our list and we expect the same number in return. We are glad to say that the majority of publishers do send two papers, but there are several philatelic and other journals that we only get one copy of. If we are not interesting enough in your estimation to be worthy of the same number of copies we send you, kindly *scratch us off your books*. A word to the wise is sufficient.

We have received the following during January:

*Charleston Philatelist, The Rising Age, International Philatelic Advertiser, Figaro, Le Courier Du Timbrophile, The Midget, Young Geologist, Union Advertiser, Western Newsmen, L' Union des Timbrophiles, Philatelic News, Peoples Press, Philatelic World, Ladies' Home Visitor, Hawkeye State Collector, Peabody Reporter, Beverly Citizen, Collector's Review, Halifax Philatelist, Youths' Friend, Calmar Exchange, Collectors' Illustrated Magazine, Plain Talk, Exchanges' Monthly, Badger State Philatelist, Curiosity World, Quaker City Philatelist, International Collector, P. Z. of America, Philatelic Herald, Das Postwertzeichen, Collectors' Star, The Cricket, Monthly Gem, Monitor, Corona News Letter.* Many thanks. Come again.

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