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No. 1.

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Northwestern Philatelist

Issued Monthly for Stamp Collectors.

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THE Northwestern Philatelist

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We have purchased a number of fountain pens at a big reduction, and from this date until February 1, will send the NORTHWESTERN PHILATELIST one year and one of these pens for 45 cents.

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These pens are all good and one filling is sufficient for 4,000 words. They have always retailed at 75 cents each but as we bought out all a large wholesale house had, we got them cheap. Money must be sent by postal note. No stamps taken.

The Northwestern Philatelist,
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The Northwestern Philatelist.

VOL. I.

MADISON, WIS., NOVEMBER, 1890.

NO. 1.

SALUTATORY.

QUITE a number of years ago there appeared a small four-page sheet devoted to philately, known as the *North Star Philatelist*. As its numbers grew it was gradually increased in size until in the fall of 1888, having purchased the *Philatelic Fortnightly*, it emerged from its chrysalis and, lo! the *Minnesota Philatelist* was born. This magazine passed through all the vicissitudes known to philatelic journals, until it passed into the hands of one of the present editors, and now it becomes consolidated with the *Philatelic Century*, which was published for a time in 1887, but was discontinued at that time by reason of affairs arising over which its publisher had no control. So as you will see this magazine is not really a novation, but can claim an ancestry back to 1884. We, therefore, at this time present to your consideration the NORTH-WESTERN PHILATELIST.

We shall endeavor to give our readers a magazine second to none, and worth far more than the sum asked for it.

We invite all collectors to look over this initial number, and should its style meet your approval, we should be pleased to receive a postal note for 25 cents, and enroll you as a subscriber.

To those who may wish to advertise, we can say that prompt attention will be paid to all inquiries, both in regard to rates, and also in regard to circulation. This edition will circulate to about 1,500 different collectors and dealers, and an "ad" in such a magazine as this cannot fail to attract.

Thanking those of our friends who have assisted us in the first number, we remain

Very truly yours,

YE EDITORS.

WATERMARKS IN U. S. ENVELOPES.

E. B. CORNWELL.

IN the following article I will endeavor to give the readers of this paper a description of the various watermarks to be found in the envelopes of the United States, which, though it may have some imperfections, is as complete as I can make it, and I trust will be of interest to some of its readers.

All U. S. envelopes, with a very few exceptions, are on *laid* paper, that is, paper watermarked with fine parallel lines having the appearance of being inlaid.

In nearly every issue specimens are found without watermarks, and also on plain wove paper, but these are errors, and as a rule, are rare. Now to proceed with the description.

Beginning with the Nesbitt issue in 1853 the watermark consisted of the letters "P. O. D." immediately above "U. S." in capital letters, 12 mm. high, and continued until the Reay issue in 1874, when the watermark was changed to "U. S. P. O. D." in a fancy monogram 38x55 mm.

This watermark was continued in the Plimpton issue until some time in 1878, when a new issue came out, having, in addition to the monogram watermark, a "star" about 12x12 mm. watermarked in the paper. In the latter part of 1882 the star was replaced by the date "82" in figures 18 mm. high.

This remained in use until the new issue of Oct., 1886, when it was again changed, and now consists simply of the letters "U. S." in monogram 28x35 mm.

In 1876 the Centennial envelopes were issued having a watermark especially prepared for them. It consists of the letters "U. S. C." and date "1876" in fancy monogram.

This watermark is also found in the department envelopes and in the regular issues succeeding the Centennial envelopes. It is supposed that a quantity of the paper bearing this watermark was left in the hands of the manufacturers, who utilized it in this manner.

The P. O. department envelopes and some of the regular issues of 1878 bear a watermark consisting of a straight label with the words "Postal Service" across the face of a monogram of the letters "U. S.:"

Some of the U. S. penalty envelopes have a watermark of the letters "P. O. D." in monogram, measuring 13x28 mm.

This completes the list as far as I am aware of.

In conclusion I wish to say that the envelopes of our country are a very interesting study, and worthy of the attention of all collectors. Many philatelists are making a specialty of collecting entire envelopes only, and the number of collectors is constantly on the increase.

THE NORTHWESTERN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

THE undersigned, noting the fact that in the A. P. A. as it now exists, it is almost impossible for the average collector (especially western) to receive the attention which it is proper and right that he should receive, not only at the conventions, but also, in the interim, have deemed it a suitable time for the organizing of a society in the northwest, for the promotion of social relations between the various collectors scattered throughout this rapidly-growing section of the country. It is not our intention to create a rival society to the A. P. A. or P. S. of A., or be in any way antagonistic to them, but to establish more of a sectional association.

You all know how long it takes to receive any direct results from stamps sent out on the A. P. A. exchange sheets. The writer has had over \$50 worth on their sheets for over a year, without being able to ascertain anything of them, and we have received no exchange sheets since joining. Now by being more closely together we can certainly escape this disagreeable feature in the N. W. P. A., which is only one of the many with which our greatest philatelic body of this country is burdened. Now we know of upwards of 500 collectors, who may be termed advanced, in the states of Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the two Dakotas to whom an exchange sheet promptly sent and returned, would be a benefit. Our plan is to have a yearly convention, dues not over \$1.00 per year, exchange department, library, auctions, etc.

We have therefore decided to call a convention of the collectors in the northwest to meet at Minneapolis, Minn., on Monday, December 29, at 7:30 P. M. If you are a collector, and are willing to

join such a society, send in your name to the secretary, pro tem. After the convention, if you do not wish to join, you are not obliged to, so that all it costs is a two cent stamp to send your name in, also, if you cannot be present in person, send in your proxy vote to some one who will look after your interests, and present any special points which you think it well to incorporate in the constitution.

E. R. ALDRICH, Benson, Minn.

A. E. WILLIAMS, Minneapolis,

GEO. W. ACHARD, Sec'y p. t., Madison, Wis.

H. C. KENDALL, Emmettsburg, Iowa.

A. V. CHAMBERLIN, Milwaukee.

PROOFS AND ESSAYS OF THE UNITED STATES.

H. B. SEAGRAVE.

I PRESUME many of your readers have no idea what Proofs and Essays are, so before I proceed farther, I will explain.

There are two kinds of proofs, die and plate. Die, or hub proofs as they are sometimes called, are impressions taken from the die when first engraved and before the plate has been made.

They are distinguished from the ordinary plate proofs by having large margins, much longer than is possible from a plate. Plate proofs are impressions from the plates that the sheets of stamps are printed from, hence they have but little margin, simply that of which is perforated, in the original.

Most of the die proofs are printed on India paper. Plate proofs are printed on India paper and fine card. Essays are designs for the stamps, supposed to have been submitted to the government and rejected on account of not filling the bill, in the estimation of the officials to whom submitted.

Many of them are as handsome as any stamps ever issued by the United States. Some, it is next to an impossibility to procure, and others owing, no doubt, to the plate or die being in existence can be bought for a mere trifle. A few years ago proofs and essays were things seldom seen even in the finest collections, but now, owing to philatelic influence, in a measure no doubt, such things are more frequently met with. I think that the collecting of these beautiful impressions has received quite an impetus. Of

course, proofs and essays are little dabbled with except by advanced collectors or the specialist who collects U. S. stamps only. The amateur of today has ample to do to collect the regular government issues, unless he possesses the means, enjoyed by a very few. I will mention a few essays in my possession, as it may be a guide to some of your many readers.

1. Large "3" in center, postage above, cents below in lathe work oval, die proof in red, black, blue, brown, and green.
2. Similar design with addition "U. S." Washington to the right in circle, "U. S. Postage" above, "Three cents" below, both on one piece in colors of above,
3. Franklin to the left, "U. S. postage" above. "Three cents" below. India proofs in red, blue and black.
4. Washington to right in niche, inscriptions same as the Franklin above, die proofs, five colors.
5. Washington to left, in lathe work frame, "A, B and C" in corners, die proofs, five colors.
6. Washington to left, "U. S." in upper corners, "3" in lower. Postage above, value below, die proofs in five colors.
7. Washington to left in lathe work, octagon, five colors.
8. Same as third described, but "Albany Office" at sides. Die proofs on India paper, five colors.
9. Washington to left, star in each corner, five colors.
10. Similar to 7th, but smaller, same colors, etc.
11. New York Post Office 5c., large head of Washington, die proofs in five colors.

ODDITIES.

J. R. BOYD.

In all avocations of life paragons of grit, success, inefficiency and carelessness are to be found, but of the two last named, some of Uncle Sam's servants, known to the public as P. M's., and postal clerks, are the most noted.

Not that they do not promptly forward to their proper destinations all mail matter, but, that apparently, little do they seem to care how the postage is paid. Almost anything, affixed to a package, bearing the least possible semblance to a postage stamp will pass muster before a canceling clerk. Now to prove my assertion let us take a view of the oddities now in my possession.

First, here is an envelope bearing on its left upper corner an engraving of the famous Confederate raider, John Morgan. Beneath the engraving is "Col. John Morgan" above "No. 15 Secesh Chain." This envelope bears a Confederate 10c. blue 1863 stamp used as a 2c. U. S. The postmark is very distinct, and I have been informed that the P. M. canceling and forwarding this has been in the service fourteen years.

Then, here is a 2c. bank check, yellow used as U. S. 2c. postage. Next is a 2c. internal revenue that did duty as U. S. postage.

Several envelope stamps cut round and pasted and used on other envelopes, grace the collection.

But the climax is reached in an engraving of the Charleston local, red on thick blue paper, that passed muster before the argus eyed (?) P. M., and after a long journey, reached its destination as though it bore the portrait of the father of his country.

Keep your eyes wide open, boys, and you will be rewarded.

The collecting of these are condemned by some, but most collectors give all such a prominent position in their collections.

FAUNCE'S PENNY POST.

ERA.

The first and only notice which I have seen of this post was published in the *Western Philatelist* for March 1887, and although it was a genuine bona fide local delivery company, it is not generally known of. The post was conducted by A. S. Faunce, an old army man, and who was in no ways philatelically inclined.

In the latter part of 1884 the people of Atlantic City were awakened by a circular of which the following is a copy:

THE MAIL CARRIER.

Mail carrier, A. S. Faunce, respectfully informs the public that he has started a letter delivery to and from the postoffice.

TERMS:

Penny post or by the week, deliveries and collections twice daily. All mail matter entrusted to his care will be delivered with promptness and care. He has located drop boxes at various places from which a collection is made in time for the departure of each mail.

LOCATION OF DROP BOXES.

DRUG STORES.

West's Seaside Pharmacy, Atlantic and Surf avenues.

Sander Bros., Atlantic and Illinois avenues.

Hunter's, Atlantic and Ohio avenues.

Cuskaden's, Atlantic, below Ohio, S. side.

GROCERY STORES.

P. S. Corsan's, Atlantic and Mississippi avenues.

Godfrey's, Atlantic and Georgia avenues.

John Jeffries, between Michigan and Arkansas avenues.

A. J. Peterson, Baltic and R. R. avenues.

Conway's cigar store, Atlantic, below Michigan.

Brooks Haigh's cigar store, Atlantic, below Michigan.

M. Stiles', dry goods store, Arctic and Mississippi.

Beach & Jackson, Boardwalk.

REFERENCES.

We, the subscribers, can cheerfully recommend A. S. Faunce to be honest, sober and trustworthy, and in every way capable for the position.

A. W. IRVING,

C. W. MAXWELL, Mayor,

JAS. THOMPSON,

A. D. CUSKADEN,

W. H. AIKIN, Agt. P. & R. R.

B. L. STEVENS,

J. D. ROBINSON, Chief Police,

EDWARD SILVERS,

SANDER & BRO.,

*At the same time a large number of small cards were circulated giving a list of the boxes and terms, "One cent for each letter or package delivered, or by weekly contract."

This system continued until April, 1885, when the only stamp used by the post were prepared. They are small round tables about the size of a 5-cent piece printed in red on black. The design is penny post in two lines within a circle, outside of which within another circle is "Faunce's Atlantic City." The stamps are scarce and no reprints have been made.

At the same time the number of boxes was increased to twenty, and cards were delivered to customers giving a full list of them, and also announcing "All letters must have my private stamp affixed to insure prompt delivery." About this time cards

containing the dates of each Monday in the month, covering a period of six months, were introduced. Of this, Faunce says: "This card I put on a large card and hung it up in the houses that paid by the week—25c per week on Monday of each week—and punched out the date when paid. He also issued small cards,



which I believe was used in making change. The post was discontinued July 1st, 1887, by the government putting on letter carriers.

In this connection Faunce in a letter (Feb. 27, 1888), says: "If Uncle Sam had not put carriers on, I would have made a good living. I was not on the right side of the fence, being a G. A. R. man, so did not get appointed carrier."

Thus fell one of the last, if not the last, of the local delivery concerns of the U. S.

CINCINNATI NEWS.

BY RECNEPS.

—The many friends of A. N. Spencer will no doubt rejoice with us in his final restoration to health after a long siege of several months' severe illness. He is as enthusiastic a collector as ever, and is again on the lookout for rarities. His collection now numbers nearly 7000 varieties of foreign stamps. In addition to this he has a very fine collection of U. S. stamps in both postage and revenue.

—The Cincinnati Philatelic Society has been taking a long rest since the illness of the president, Mr. Spencer. We hope to see a great revival and awakening in matters pertaining to Philately this coming season.

—Wonder why the A. P. A. does not have a branch in Southwestern Ohio. There are quite a number of old collectors in that section, all of whom would be valuable acquisitions to our great national association. But Cincinnati must record her protest against the discontinuance of the *American Philatelist*. If we must pay for a

journal that records the society's doings, we say, Let us pay for our own journal. We would rather pay \$1.00 for our own than 50 cents for any other stamp journal printed.

—Robert L. Crigler, our worthy Covington member, is a great admirer of U. S. stamps of all kinds. He also thinks much of Kentucky horses. He uses the Staten Island cards for mounting his stamps, and a stepping stone for mounting his horses.

—Mercer, the Cincinnati curiosity dealer, has a great quantity of good stamps in his possession, but he is holding them for a rise. He is as rosy as ever and as keen at a bargain as when he swapped hard tack and bacon on the tented field.

—Our postmaster, Mr. Riley, will no doubt be retired at an early date. He is a relic of the Cleveland administration and will step out to give some good republican a chance. There are a number of enthusiastic stamp collectors among the postal clerks and one of whom we might mention has been a student of philately since 1872.

—We received a call from Mr. Chas. Zimmerman, of Madison, Ind., a few days ago. This young man can see a U. S. stamp a distance of half a mile and, in fact, can give the number of perforations it has. Wish he came oftener. He is an old time A. P. A. member, a druggist and a geniteman in every sense of the word.

F. S. GOLDSBURY.

JUST as we were going to press, we were notified of the death of a brother editor, Mr. Frank S. Goldsbury, of Barre, Vt. Mr. Goldsbury was perhaps best known by his nom de plume of Green Mountain Philatelist, under which title he has been furnishing short articles for a number of philatelic papers. He was, at the time of his death, one of the editors and publishers of the *Yankee Philatelist*. All who have ever had any dealings with him, have characterized him as the embodiment of honesty. His early demise will be a blow to all who knew him.

The West Town locals are the smallest stamp in size ever issued. Bolivar has a stamp which ranks second in this respect.

A striking peculiarity of the 12 pence Canada is the manner in which the value is expressed; twelve pence instead of one shilling.

RECORD OF NEW ISSUES.

R. B. BOGERT.

Austria.—A new series is to be issued with head of the emperor, which will be in relief in the two higher values. 1 kr. grey, 2 kr. pale brown, 3 kr. green, 5 kr. red, 10 kr. blue, 12 kr. deep red, 15 kr. carmine, 20 kr. olive, 24 gray blue, 30 kr. deep brown, 50 kr. violet, 1 gulden deep blue, 2 gulden, deep red. There will also be envelopes, cards, letter cards, and bands, in which the stamps will be in relief and of the same colors as the corresponding adhesives.

Brazil.—The *Ph. R.* illustrates new journal stamps with "Correio," "Journaes" and "E. U. do Brazil," on three scrolls. 10 r. pale blue, 20 green, 50 olive-green, 100 carmine, 200 violet, 300 blue, 500 red, 700 violet 1,000 yellow.

British East Africa.—Some of the English stamps are surcharged "British—East Africa—Company" in three lines, and the value in *Annas* below, and, the Indian stamps have "B. E. A." written across in red ink and the word "India" erased.

Bulgaria.—The 10c. Postal Union card comes now with stamp of the new type.

Columbia.—There is a new 20c. stamp, violet, very similar to the lately issued 2c.

Congo Free State.—High values are expected, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50 francs.

Costa Rica.—The *I. B. J.* illustrates the stamp on new envelopes. The arms in an oval frame inscribed "Correos do Costa Rica" above and value below. 5c., orange, 10c., brown-violet, both on white. There is also a 2c. wrapper, green on yellowish gray, of which the stamp has large figure of value in circle; and two cards with similar stamps, 2c. green and 3c. carmine, both on buff.

Finland.—The 1 and 5 marks are mentioned of the new type, also the 10 and 10 p. post card.

Roumania.—The 5 and 10 bani cards have new stamps which differ slightly from the old one, having the figure of value, in rectangular frame instead of octagonal.

Russia.—There are two three kopec cards for the interior. One is red on buff and the other red and black on buff.

Servia.—There is an official letter card employed at Belgrade; Black inscriptions and blue hand stamp in upper right corner, yellow paper.

Switzerland.—The 5c. cards have the side inscriptions larger and the 10c. card has "VII. 90-720000."

Uruguay.—The 5c violet was surcharged "Provisarios" in red as an essay.

Zanzibar.—The *Stamp News* has some of the current Indian surcharged "Zanzibar" in red with pen and ink, and the word "India" erased.

BY CHIC.

"Nec falsa dicere, nec vera reticere."

—If there is any one thing a writer, but more especially, one writing articles of an editorial nature, should guard against it is the use of the pronoun "I". Our friend Haspel, of Portland, Ore., evidently has not gone far in his literary education, for he frequently errs in this respect.

—It does seem a pity that so many of our western and central collectors allow themselves to be taken in by sending their A. P. A. proxy votes to those whose only aim is seems to be self-aggrandizement. We need the *American Philatelist* as it gives the association a higher standing outside the narrow bounds of the A. P. A.

—A rule should be passed as a by-law, prohibiting any person from holding more than 50 proxies at the most. We believe this to be the only way out of the muss, and certainly, if the A. P. A. is to "live and move and have its being," it must soon wake up from its sleep and strangle the hydra now closely squeezing out its life.

—It is about time that philatelists should find out that the government is not issuing stamps for their especial benefit. We looked over a back number of the *Southern Philatelist* and found a short editorial reflecting on the size of the present issue. The postmaster-general will probably not make any change until the large wholesale houses, and those firms using immense quantities of stamps enter a protest on their size. What makes Luhn kick? Is he a democrat?

—There is one feature in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* which we heartily commend, and that is, their plan of reducing their illustrations of new issues to about one-half the original size. This is a good departure. It is a good thing to illustrate with cuts, but when they are the original size and printed in the original color as in some of the European papers the way to selling counterfeits is made altogether too easy.

—There is a tendency among philatelists toward specialism. We have noticed this growing and one by one we see the collections of certain prominent collectors put on the auction block, but with certain countries missing. The reason for this is apparent. There are now too many stamps for one to even think of obtaining anything like a complete collection, even were he a millionaire, and then a collector early develops a peculiar fancy for certain countries. It is our prediction that in ten years over one one-half of our advanced collectors will be specialists. Remember this prophecy in 1900.

—There is one point upon which the young collector may be advised time and again without taking heed. We refer to the purchase of stamps at less than $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ of their catalogue value. Invariably the y. c. is taken in as they are usually counterfeits. Only a short time ago a beginner came to me with a U. S. of Columbia, 1 peso, 1866, saying he had only paid 10 cents for it of so-and-so. As usual it was a rank forgery

“CLIPPINGS.”

Major Evans.—“What is philately good for?” This question I have often been asked and I have answered, why, it teaches history, geography, and the stamps themselves have a certain money value; it teaches the laying by “for a rainy day.” But when I go to my Island home, I can say it gives you a welcome in foreign lands, it opens its hospitable arms and makes you feel that you are among friends, “and not a stranger in a strange land.”

Reprints.—The following distinctions will make it easy to detect a government reprint of the old U. S. stamps. 1857,—Originals are perforated $15\frac{1}{2}$ and on tinted paper, reprints 12 on white paper. Eagle Stamp.—Originals are unperforated, reprints perforated 12 difference in paper as in 1857 issue. 1861-5.—Originals grilled and also ungrilled; reprints are not grilled. Gum of originals is brownish

while that of reprints is white and cracks. 1869.—Originals were grilled; reprints not so. But some claim originals may be found ungrilled also. However, in any case, a grilled is preferable to an ungrilled variety.

Our Science.—Every collector should strive to know everything possible about each stamp in his collection, and here philatelic literature is of the greatest aid to him. The chief beauty of philately is, that no matter how small a collection, still there is always some novelty in it, but if we are to collect by a set rule, when our collections arrive at a certain period, they will be identical with all our friends.

Postal Cards for Ladies.—The Postmaster-General has made a call for samples of pearl-gray card board to be used in the manufacture of correspondence postal cards for ladies. Wilkinson Bros. & Co., have sub-let the contract to the Whiting Paper Company of Holyoke, Mass., and this firm will make the samples. The cards are to be one-third smaller than the regular cards. The manilla cards, intended only for advertising purposes, will be one-third longer than the regular cards. These cards will be of manilla board.

Wilkinson Bros. & Co., have already furnished samples to the department, but no action has yet been taken on them.

The King of Spain.—The first postage stamps upon which the likeness of a baby was ever printed have arrived. The baby whose portrait appears upon them is the infant King of Spain. Poor little tot! He looks sadly out of his dark eyes as if he were ill and weary, as, indeed, he has been ever since his birth. The baby King is about three years old, and, judging from his picture, is a bright little fellow, nervous and affectionate. The pose shows the face turned toward the right.

The Ledger dispatch was operated by Edward Pigeon.

The 1860-62 issue of Peru have been extensively counterfeited but the wood blocks are so crude as to deceive no active collector.

Confederate stamps are as scarce, if not more so, in the south than in the north. The ground has been pretty thoroughly gone over, and all rarities picked up.

The letters on the obsolete Great Britain stamps were a part of a system designed to prevent forgery. The system was too complicated and expensive to be practical, and it was abandoned.

A GOVERNMENT LOCAL FOR PHILADELPHIA.

[Mr. E. B. Hanes, in the July number of the *Philatelic Monthly*, has the following interesting article.—Ed.]

“A few weeks ago while examining a large lot of U. S. locals on original envelopes, we came to the conclusion that we had found convincing evidence that a stamp that had been long known as a private local was, in reality, issued and used by the U. S. postoffice in Philadelphia. We submitted our evidence and stated our conclusion to several of the large collectors, and men of good judgment, and we have found none to disagree with us, in fact the owner of the finest collection of U. S. locals in existence quickly informed us that he was already very decidedly of the same opinion. The stamp in question, though long classed as a private local, has never been accredited to any individual or firm, all writers acknowledging ignorance on this point. From the evidence we have, it is plain to see, that if they had been more common, their semi-official character could not so long have escaped the close scrutiny of the philatelic student. The first point to attract our attention to the stamp was the inscription, “U. S. P. O.” (United States postoffice),* “Paid 1 cent.” Secondly, we had a number of local letters mailed at the Philadelphia postoffice with the recognized official corner stamps, the eagle and the Franklin, as well as the one in question; they were all used in exactly the same manner and were cancelled with the same cancelling mark, the red star.

The evidence of these envelopes is too plain to be questioned, especially as no one has before offered even a hint as to the origin of this stamp. They were used the same as the New York “U. S. Mail,” and it is high time they were given their proper standing and for Philadelphia to enter the list of American cities whose government postoffice issued an official postage stamp. We could say much more in support of these facts, but our article is already too long for our space and we will refer to the subject again. Suffice to add that the old residents of the city agree with us and that we have proof of a different character than that given—but all to one conclusion.

There are three varieties as follows: Black on blue paper; blue on white paper, and gold on glazed paper.”

*Years ago this stamp was accredited to the Union Square postoffice, of New York city, on the strength of this inscription, but all used specimens bear the Philadelphia cancellation.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

IN issuing this, the initial number of the NORTHWESTERN PHILATELIST, the undersigned feels that an explanation is due to the philatelic public in general, and more especially to those who have in any way aided us in bringing out this paper, for the non-appearance of the *Philatelic Century*, and lack of engraved cover for this issue of the NORTHWESTERN PHILATELIST. Owing to sickness we were unable to bring the paper out on the 25th of September, as advertised, and learning a short time ago, that Mr. George W. Achard, formerly of Minneapolis, but now of this city, was about to issue a stamp journal also, after a number conversations with him on the subject, we finally came to the conclusion that by consolidating the two papers we could give collectors a better journal, and the NORTHWESTERN PHILATELIST is the result.

Owing to the change of name, we were unable to use the engraved cover which we had prepared, and we hope collectors will bear with us until next month, when we will come forth resplendent with one of the finest covers that has ever adorned a stamp journal.

FRANK M. DAVIS.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

—Next month is Christmas month. The NORTHWESTERN PHILATELIST will be out Dec. 1st., with an edition especially prepared for the holiday season, and the circulation will be about double that of this month, so that advertisers will do well to place their notices in this number. With it we also hope to be able to add our newly-designed cover page, which will excel anything of the kind yet attempted.

—On and after January 1st, 1891, our advertising rates will be increased 20 per cent. Our rates as they are now, are lower than those of any paper or magazine of our class. So advertisers wishing to avail themselves of our present rates, must contract before the new year.

—We hope to be able soon to begin an illustrated article on watermarks, that much neglected topic of our science. The contribution will be from the pen of one of philately's best writers; one whom almost all know. Do you want this article? If so, remember to send us a postal note 25 for cents, or you will not receive it, as we are actually tired of "sample copy spongers."

CHEAP STAMPS!

*Costa Rica 1/2 real '63.....	.02
*Western Union '89 frank.....	.02
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*Costa Rica 5c on 2 r.....	.05
*Costa Rica 66-2 real.....	.04
*Shanghai 20 cash '89.....	.04
*Italy 1 Lire Seg.....	.05
*Italy 10 Lire Seg.....	.15
*Iceland '74 sk.....	.10
Reunion 5c on 30c.....	.15
Mauritius 2c on 38c.....	.25

Approval sheets of rare stamps sent on receipt of good reference at 25 per cent. commission. All stamps priced low and no old used up stock.

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I am always ready to buy rare stamps or collections containing many old issues. Small collections made in the last ten years not wanted.

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WHOLESALE.—I am always prepared to send selections of good stamps to dealers at the lowest wholesale rates. My specialty is the stamps of Mexico and Central America, from which countries I import more stamps than any other dealer. Prices low and terms of payment reasonable to parties who can give good references.

AGENTS WANTED.—8 sets of stamps from 1¢ to \$5.00 each, are sent out to agents, and 30 per cent. commission allowed. Send for a trial lot. I have over 2,000 agents' names on my books, so that you may depend on finding a good variety at reasonable prices. No deposit required.

ALBUMS.—I carry a complete line of albums from 20¢ to \$20.00 each. The Popular Album containing spaces for over 3,000 stamps, is the best for small collectors, and can be had at 30¢, 50¢ and 75¢ prepaid. The 75¢ edition is the best album published for less than \$1.50. A full list of our albums and other publications will be found in our new 26 page price list, which will be sent free on application.

ADDRESS BOOK.—Mekeel's Address Book, containing names and addresses of over 3,000 stamp-dealers and collectors in all parts of the world, has just been published and is worth a good deal to any dealer or collector. Book contains 224 pages, and is bound in cloth, post free, \$1.50.

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" 1874 1p carmine	-	-	.60
" 1875 1p brown	-	-	.50
" 1871 1p black	-	-	.25
" 1880 10¢ carmine	-	-	.55
" 1880 10¢ brown	-	-	.25
Nevis, 1884 2½d blue	-	-	.08
" 1889 6d orange	-	-	.22
St. Lucia, 1863 4d blue	-	-	.75
" 1863 5d green	-	-	1.00
" 1882 2d violet	-	-	.40
" 1887 3d blue and green	-	-	.12
" 1887 1½d blue and carmine	-	-	.45
St. Vincent, 1876 1½d vermillion	-	-	.50
" 1889 6d violet	-	-	.22
Tobago, 1843 2½d blue	-	-	.08
" 1882 1s ochre	-	-	.40
" 1886 6d orange	-	-	.20
Turks Island, 1882 2½d red-brown	-	-	.08
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Those desiring to sell at Auction, to the best advantage, will do well to communicate with us. Our charges are reasonable, our auctions well attended, and good prices obtained.

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Correspondence desired with advanced collectors, also with dealers and collectors abroad especially in Asia, Africa and Oceania.

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Our blank approval sheets on bond paper are the most durable in the market. They are printed on four colors of paper, for different values of stamps.

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High prices given for rare stamps and good collections. Also for British Colonial, Central and South American stamps by the 100 or 1,000. Payment in cash, exchange or merchandise of any kind. Especially wanted, United States 3 and 90c stamps. Send list with lowest prices.

