



Supplement to the Western Philatelist,  
JANUARY, 1896.



*Oney K. Castanphen*

# The Western Philatelist.

Devoted to the Interests of Stamp Collecting.

VOL. I.

ST. JOSEPH, MO., JANUARY, 1896.

No. 1.

## Our Gallery of Philatelic Celebrities.

ONEY K. CARSTARPHEN.

Mr. Oney K. Carstarphen, the subject of this sketch, is a native of the state of Missouri, where he was born A. D. 1874. At an early age he removed to Colorado, where he has lived ever since. He is a son of General Carstarphen, some time surveyor general of the state of Colorado, and who has held several public offices in that state. Colorado being a republican state, and General Carstarphen a democrat, shows what high esteem he is held by the people. Oney is a brother of Frank Carstarphen, who was one of the leading lights of 1885-1890, and with Harry Babb published the *Collectors' Review* in that city.

Our friend Oney was a candidate last year for secretary of the P. S. A., but was defeated, owing probably to the work of several Denver collectors who worked against him without any just cause whatever. However, that is neither here nor there. Next year he will be the candidate of the entire west for president of that great society to succeed our young Napoleon, Mr. Kissinger. It is the turn of a western man to have the office, and Mr. Car-

starphen is the best representative of the younger collectors in the entire west. Everyone who knows Oney knows him to be a young man of sterling worth and worthy of a vote from every member who has the interests of the association at heart.

Written for the WESTERN PHILATELIST.

## "One Dollar Columbian."—A Philatelic Romance.

BY J. HENRY THOMAS.

In three parts.—Part I.

"Well, boys, I will tell you a story, a true story at that, in which I'll figure, and, as you are both interested in stamps, you'll hear me with greater pleasure, as a stamp, singularly, figures prominently as well."

The speaker, Mr. William Crane, a prominent citizen of a suburban town a short distance from New York City, but easy of access from there by railroad, was comfortably seated in a huge wicker wood arm chair, with his feet propped upon a stool, on the veranda of his spacious and beautiful country villa, enjoying his cigar, his after dinner smoke, passing away the time before retiring for the night. Near by were seated his two nephews, William, his namesake, and George Crane, his

brother's two sons, of eighteen and sixteen years of age respectively, who had come up from the hot, sweltering and bustling city to spend their vacations. They were great favorites with their uncle, and many a pleasant day did they spend while enjoying his hospitality upon his large and extensive grounds, oft times he joining in their sports.

Both being enthusiastic wheelmen, had taken their bicycles with them, to enjoy an occasional spin on their wheels, the roads in the vicinity having a wide known reputation for their good quality; their uncle being fond of bicycle riding also, took great pleasure in piloting his nephews about, showing them the various interesting scenes and places. One day here to a large lake, with many ice store houses on the banks, where a row around the lake in one of the innumerable boats one could engage for a small fee, and a refreshing dip in the cool water of the lake, which, during the hot days, was quite enjoyable; or again, taking a trip to a mountain near by and climbing to the summit through a dense thickness of various trees, emerging at last to a level spot, to have a highly appreciated bird's eye view of the surrounding country, off in the distance the metropolis could be faintly outlined, while looking downward a river could be seen winding its way seaward, then a screeching of the whistle of a locomotive down below could be heard as the train goes hurrying towards the city; all this made such trips worth going, and always returning with ravenous appetites. This day, at which our story opens, the three had taken a much

longer trip than usual. The distance taxed their energies quite severely, their uncle's more so, on account of his years, so on arriving home, having bathed to refresh themselves and prepared for dinner, having dined, finds them, as aforesaid, seated on the veranda, enjoying the cool, pleasant evening breezes.

A pretty picture they make, as seen there in the dusk. Mr. Crane, tall and portly built, broad shoulder and muscular man, with steel grey hair and flowing mustache, dark eyes and an unflinching, set expression that denoted power to command, as the servant about the villa could well vouch for, although stern, a very affectionate and fascinating man in his ways, and easy and quite pleasant to get along with. The two brothers, deep black hair and eyes, stocky and well built, well proportioned, faces bronzed by the sun, open and frank expressions and appearances, though not to excess, they show good care and training. They were both college students, and were highly liked by their classmates, and stood as high in their studies, while was in the foremost ranks, as they did in athletics, in which they had often defended their college glory against competitors, successful. William, in addition to being editor of the College Organ, with his brother as one of the associate editors, was a writer of no mean ability to the philatelic press, and his many philatelic sketches, notes, articles, etc., were eagerly sought after by philatelic publishers.

*(To be continued.)*

Subscribe for this paper.

## NEW ALASKA MAIL ROUTE.

## It is a Private Enterprise—Miners Pay for the Service.

Port Townsend, Wash., Jan. 8.—James Jackson, an educated Indian, who is to carry the mails from Juneau to Fort Cudahy, on the Yukon River, has arrived on the steamer Willapa. He came down to secure 20 or 30 strong dogs to pull the sledge across the mountains to the Canadian post-office on Forty-Mile Creek. This service is merely a private enterprise, being maintained by miners, who pay 50 cents for each letter. The Canadian Government guarantees \$350 for each of two trips. This is reckoned as being the most hazardous journey. Several miners have lost their lives in trying to make it.

## A Wise Minister.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

The potentate was plainly agitated. "My couriers," said he in angry tones to his Minister of War, "inform me that all is in readiness to squelch the rebels who have dared to question our authority, and yet I find you delaying me advance. If I thought there were any treachery—"

"Have patience, oh Brother of the Sun and Boss of the Moon," replied the Minister in the tones of one who was sure of his ground. "We are but waiting for them to get out a set of postage stamps, which we will rush in and seize, and by the sale of them pay the whole expense of the war."

"Verily," said the admiring monarch, "thou hast a head like a tack."

## Chinese Locals.

A great deal of unnecessary talk has been made about Chinese locals. For my part I prefer to collect them as do many other philatelists. They are oddities, and, beside that, they are very curious and instructive. The main thing is to secure originals; they are hard to get in this country, and especially cancelled varieties.

The writer has been fortunate enough as to secure a large number of these locals, both cancelled and uncanceled. They came direct from China, and therefore cannot be anything but originals.

Some time ago *Mekel's Weekly* contained an article about the locals of Tsen-Tsen. It came out point blank and said no stamps were ever issued from that place, and substantiated its statement by publishing a letter from the postmaster of Tsen-Tsen.

Local stamps have been issued from Tsen-Tsen. They look like the Kew-Kiang stamp. The writer knows that local stamps have been issued from Tsen-Tsen because he has had in his possession a complete set of them cancelled and on the original envelopes. They were secured for him in Tsen-Tsen by an American consul.

If the stamps were never authorized by the Tsen-Tsen authorities, what right had the local postoffice to sell them, and moreover, how could they be put in circulation if their issue had not been authorized?

LOCAL.

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# THE WESTERN PHILATELIST

ISSUED ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

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Will exchange two copies with all publications.

## ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

Copy for ads must be in by the 10th of each month.

NARVON EDWARDS, A. P. P. A. 17.  
Editor and Publisher,  
Box 333. St. Joseph, Missouri.

## INTRODUCTORY.

With this number I make my appearance in the philatelic world as a publisher. The WESTERN PHILATELIST is a new paper under an old name, the original being published by H. C. Beardsley of this city.

I intend to make this magazine a daisy, and to further my aim I would ask the hearty co-operation of all my philatelic brethren.

I know of no such word as fail, and will weather the storm as long as it lasts.

## The Philatelic Directory.

"The Philatelic Directory," which Mr. H. C. Beardsley and the editor of this paper are hard at work upon, will no doubt be the largest and best one of its kind ever published. We are sparing no time and expense to make it a directory that every collector should possess. Send in your order quick and get a five-line exchange notice free and a copy of the book, all for one dollar.

There is a movement on foot to organize a society for the protection of dealers against approval sheet fraud. A good thing. Push it along.

Our gallery of prominent philatelists will be the leading feature of the WESTERN PHILATELIST.

The editor of this paper has applied for membership in the P. S. of A. and the L. of A. P.

If I receive the proper support I shall enlarge the WESTERN PHILATELIST.

What has become of the "Stamp Collectors' Union?"

## The Philatelic Press.

The *Pipestone Philatelist* for January has been reduced to four pages and contains the pictures of two well known collectors.

The *Dixie Philatelist* contains quite a number of interesting little articles.

The *International Philatelist* is getting better and brighter with every issue.

The *Stamp*, of Groveland, Massachusetts, would make a better showing if it was printed on white paper.

Mr. C. H. Holden's auction catalogue has been received. It contains a large number of very choice varieties.

It is said that the *Sucker State Philatelist* has succumbed to the inevitable.

N. G. Wilson's *Missouri Philatelist* has appeared from this city. The printer no doubt had not gotten over his Christmas dinner from the look of the paper. The binding is horrible. In instance the eleventh page is where



should be. The paper is well edited, but there is too much old stuff from other journals.

*Die Post*, of Leipzig, Germany, for December, has reached my table, but as I cannot read the magazine I am unable to give it a review.

The *Internationales Briefmarken-Oftenblatt*, of Hamburg, for November, has been received, but we are unable to review it.

The *Daily Stamp Item*, issued by the Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., of St. Louis, has appeared. It is a three column, four page paper, about the size of Jeweet's *Era* and contains many good items. Long may it live.

I am in receipt of a copy of Jeweet's *Era*. The *Era* is one of the best papers published and is always readable.

Written for the Western Philatelist.

### A Flag Stamp.

BY EVERY PAGET.

A Few Remarks Upon the Advisability of Our Government Issuing One.

The introduction of a resolution by a member of congress to make it imperative that a United States flag must be impressed upon the cover of every school book issued, causes me to wonder why this action is taken, while not one of our postage stamps have such an emblem on them.

This is America! Pure, free, independent America. The object of the worthy congressman is to awaken enthusiasm in the breasts of these American children.

There has oft times been made futile efforts to induce our government to have one or more stamps with the

U. S. flag as the design. Various attempts have been made to convince the proper authorities of the wisdom of such a movement, but such efforts have never been successful.

When the two cent stamp was urged as the proper one, the authorities said, I believe, that it would be almost an impossibility to make a two cent stamp into a flag stamp, but it might be that the five cent stamp could be adapted to the occasion. If I am not mistaken, it was argued by the representatives of our government that to make a good flag stamp out of our commonest stamp would cost far too much money. Owing to the vast number of stamps issued, the revenues of the postoffice department would be still more decreased, attenuated by the extra cost of making such stamp.

There are always two sides to every question. No matter how great the accusation against a party, he always has a defense. As I have said, this is a free country. The stars and stripes have been our national emblem for these many years. Its folds have been shot to threads and stained crimson with blood in defense of the land we love so well. We have been accused of lack of patriotism by our neighbors. When we appeal to our congressmen and government, it seems as if the "lack of funds" stands in the way of demonstrating our patriotism and spreading our flag to every city on this globe. Our flag has always been respected. Only once in the history of this nation was it insulted. That was on the little Isle of Hawaii. We wish to repair the wrong and send "Old Glory" all over the earth. There seems

to be but one way to do it. That is by having our flag grace the face of one or more of our stamps.

It has often been forcibly demonstrated that our kith and kin in foreign countries see very little to remind them of home. Scarcely else than at the Consul's office is "Old Glory" to be seen. In these enlightened times, we should not stand back and meditate. We should act. Had we a Patrick Henry or a Daniel Webster in our land now, we might have our own flag on at least one of our postage stamps. As it is, our poor, weak petitions are like so much water on a sandy desert. When poured on the sands we see it no more. Our congressmen and senators display a very great lack of patriotism when they do not give our plea cognizance. With their aid and co-operation our long cherished hope may become a living reality.

It has been urged that it would be too hard a matter to place our flag in miniature on our stamps. Did not the government issue the difficult set of 1869? Was not the national debt very large then, and has not the process of manufacture received great improvement since then?

The flag stamp is not urged entirely from a philatelic point of view. What matters to us philatelists whether it is a flag stamp or no, so long as it is a stamp, if we are devoid of patriotism? We urge it from a purely patriotic standpoint. We are not beasts or animals, but loyal American citizens.

It has been said a flag stamp could be easily counterfeited. Could not the present issue be dealt with thus wisely? It is strange a stamp could not

be made to equal, if not superior, to the present set.

It is also an undeniable fact that the stamps would have to be somewhat enlarged in size. What of it? Was not our Columbian stamps of large dimensions? The flag stamp need not be quite as large as the two cent Columbian. Some of the public grumbled when the Columbian issue came on. The large size was very much criticized. The smallness of the issue of 1869 also had a great amount of abuse. Did not the whole writing public sorrow when they learned the Columbian issue was to cease? As to their size, I think no objection, serious, can be made.

#### Postmasters' Holidays.

Postmaster-General Wilson has issued the following order in regard to the observance of holidays by postmasters: "Postmasters may observe holidays, January 1, February 22, March 30, July 4, the first Monday in September, known as Labor Day, December 25, and such other days as the President of the United States or the governor in their respective states may designate as fast or thanksgiving days or proclaim specially as holidays. On other occasions their offices can be closed only after permission is obtained therefor from the department, to be applied for through the first assistant postmaster-general. Upon holidays the post office must be open sufficiently to meet fairly the public convenience. Mail must be made up and dispatched as on other days. When a legal holiday falls on a Sunday the following Monday may be observed unless otherwise specially provided for by state authority."



**Notes and Personals.**

The S. of P. hand book is out and is very valuable work.

The Southern Philatelic Association seems to be in a very prosperous condition.

It is reported that the P. S. of A. has been incorporated. If so, it is a very good move.

Bertram J. Bishop, in the *Missouri Philatelist*, says that Herbert C. Beardsley has resigned his position of official editor of the P. S. of A. This is news to H. C. B.

One of the best designs ever prepared for a stamp is that of the unpaid letter stamps of Servia recently issued. It is neat and symmetrical, while the figures and inscriptions express all that is necessary without overloading or otherwise interfering with the appearance of the stamps.

Next year Hungary will celebrate the 1000th anniversary of her existence as a state. That alone is something quite remarkable, but it is still more to note that no intelligence is yet out with regard to a jubilee issue of stamps for the occasion.—*Phil. Era*.

The dark blue 5c Hawaii of the early issue can be distinguished from the later one on whitish paper by an outer line which appears in the lower corners. The ultramarine stamp and the rare dark blue have not this outer line.—*Phil. Era*.

Belgium has a new set of unpaid letter stamps inscribed "A payer te betalen," with numerals of value in center. The name of the country does not appear. The denominations are 5c, green; 10c, red brown; 20c, olive; 50c, bistre; 1 franc, carmine.

**LOOK!**

The "Western Philatelist" and "International Philatelist," both for one year for 30 cents. Regular price, 50 cents.

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[When answering ads, please mention this paper]

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H. C. Beardsley,

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If you are interested as of course you are, or should be, in obtaining a collection that shall be of permanent interest and increasing value, I shall be glad to serve you.

Twenty-four illustrated and descriptive catalogue, sixteenth edition, containing valuable information, sent upon receipt of 4 cents.

**W. F. BISHOP,**

Established 1882. LA GRANGE, ILL.

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Canada, 1868, block of 4, 15c violet, unused,  
O. G. only..... \$1.00  
Canada, 1868, block of 4, 15c, Slate, unused,  
O. G. only..... 1.25  
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O. G. only..... 1.50  
Canada, 1892, 8c, slate, per 100, used..... 2.00  
Canada Registered, 2c, vermilion strip of 3  
U. S., 1893, 1c to 10c, per 5 sets, used..... 2.50  
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Terms cash with order. Remit by P. O. order  
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**H. C. BEARDSLEY,**

A. P. A. 35, P. S. A. 96.

Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

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# The Western Philatelist.

Devoted to the Interests of Stamp Collecting.

VOL. I.

ST. JOSEPH, MO., FEBRUARY, 1896.

No. 2.

Written for the WESTERN PHILATELIST.

## "One Dollar Columbian."—A Philatelic Romance.

BY J. HENRY THOMAS.

In three parts.—Part II.

Their father, Mr. John Crane, was a well-to-do merchant in the city, and deemed it best to give his boys a good education, knowing well how he longed for a college life in his boyhood days, but being one of a large family, and in disagreeable circumstances besides, he had to be content with a public school education, and ere he was sixteen years of age, he was given a situation in a dry goods house, where he worked so industriously and diligently, that he became valued in the good graces of his employer, which meant rapid advancement for him; he worked himself forward to become the head salesman in his line, and when admitted in the firm, as silent partner, till lately, with his brother William, who had accumulated quite a small fortune through judicious real estate speculations, they bought out the surviving members of the firm, and managed the business under the name of Crane Bros.

The venture proved highly successful under the able management of John, and at this time, William placed such

unlimited confidence in his brother's ability, that, though the head of the firm, he seldom went to town to attend the matters of the business, but spent his time mostly at his country residence tending to his affairs, largely real estate matters, from there. Business matters quite frequently required the presence of John in Europe, and in these trips on the Continent he was always on the alert for any new varieties or a new issue of postage stamps that he could obtain for his sons, being very fond and proud of them, and well he had cause to be. He took special delight to note how eagerly and fondly they regarded any new arrivals he brought with him on returning from these trips, and quite of some importance was his aid, for many new additions to their stamp collections, such as completing a set or otherwise, was their father instrumental in obtaining for them, so that their collections were of no mean size and importance, being the envy of their friends, college, Philatelic and otherwise.

Now let us return to the three principles of this story, and we find them comfortably reclining on the veranda of the country villa, enjoying a rest after a day of wearisome but invigor-

ating pleasure. "Uncle William, please tell us a story, you have told us many before, but I'm sure, you can relate more, ere your stock is exhausted, and they are always so interesting," said George.

It was to this, that Uncle William replied, as our story opens.

"Well, boys, is it a story you wish? Well, to oblige you, and as it is still too early for bedtime, though I am somewhat fatigued, after that ride we enjoyed today, I'll tell you one, a true story at that, in which I'll figure, and as you are both interested in stamps, you'll hear me with greater pleasure, as a stamp, singularly, figures prominently as well."

"That would be just what we would enjoy, Uncle William," William said.

They then settled down to hear the narrative their uncle was about to begin, which they knew would interest them, as the many before had done, but quite inquisitive to know how a story of their Uncle's life could be connected with a stamp, but they were soon enlightened.

"It was some forty years ago," Uncle William began, "in the year 1893. I was then somewhat past 21 years of age, and had a position as clerk in a land speculation office. As I recall the time, I can almost see the cozy office situated in one of those high sky scraping buildings, you New York folks to day delight in showing visitors; there were not so many then, as there are to day, however; my desk was placed near a window, much to my delight, as I had a good view from my seat; the Hudson river with the countless number of craft moving up and down the river

all day long; Jersey City on the opposite shore, with its many factories belching forth the smokiest smoke possible from the tall chimneys, each being intent to out do the other, or perhaps trying to blacken the heavens, the Statue of Liberty, standing on her little island down in the New York Bay, proclaiming Liberty to all coming to our shores, and others. Always receiving a cool and refreshing breeze, no matter how hot and sweltering it should be down below in the busy narrow streets. I worked very hard in those days, but through my keen insight in our business and the experience I gained while there, therewith laid the foundation upon which I lately obtained my wealth. Your father then was a mere school boy, and with five others, all sisters we lived with father and mother in upper New York City; I had the distinction of being the eldest, and, as in those days we were not too richly gifted with earthly riches, I had to aid father to support the family, which I manfully did."

*(To be concluded.)*

### Stolen ---A Postoffice.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 10.—When Uncle Sam gets the present weight of affairs of the nation straightened out and can give attention to minor details of the Government, some of the people living in Pocahontas county, will be glad to have him scatter a few hundred bills worded somewhat as follows:

Lost, strayed or stolen—Postoffice known as Top of Alleghany Description: Plain country office, paying a salary of \$4 per annum.

The above-named postoffice has been kidnaped. Prior to 1895, T. J. Williams had been postmaster. Then

changed his residence, leaving W. F. Willifong as deputy. One day last week Williams carried away the entire post-office paraphernalia, and when last heard from he and the postoffice were in Green Bank, ten miles away. Yesterday some of the patrons of the abandoned office were in Monterey making inquiry as to how to proceed to get the office back.

### The Philatelic Press.

Another new one is *The International Stamp*, from St. Paul, Minn. It is published by Eben S. Martin and Leon G. Lambert. This paper takes the place of *The Collector*, the S. of P. official organ, it being denied second class mailing rates by Uncle Sam.

The Boston *Stamp Book* for January has arrived. The *Stamp Book* is without a doubt one of the best philatelic magazines published. The articles, "Notes on United States Envelopes," and "The Market," by Geo. L. Toppan, and "Thirty Years a Philatelist," are the articles of most interest.

N. G. Wilson will not issue a February number of the *Missouri Philatelist*. He wants to hear from Uncle Sam first.

The *Michigan Philatelist* for February has reached my table. It is as interesting as ever. The leading article, "A Philatelic Secret Society," by Bertram J. Bishop, is well written, but his plea for such a society will not cut much ice.

The *Rocky Mountain Stamp* is as usual on time, and well filled with interesting reading. "Popular Stamps at Unpopular Prices," by C. E. Severn, the leading article, is very good.

The Christmas number of *Kissinger's Pensey* arrived the latter part of January. It is as usual full of interesting articles and notes, but he has too much to say about "The Great I Am" of the philatelic world.

After a protracted sleep of over a month, the Lone Star State *Philatelist* again bobs up serenely. It is just as bright as ever, but it is a little late, the issue of Dec. 30 just having been received.

The Springfield *Philatelist* for February is before me, with interesting articles by Chas. E. Severn and J. Henry Thomas, also its share of interesting notes and comments.

The *Southern Philatelist* for January has arrived, and as usual contains many interesting articles.

The *Revista De La Sociedad Filatelica Argentina* for September, October, November and December has arrived. It dwells on the new issues of all the countries, besides giving a very complete account of the Argentine Philatelic Association, illustrating the same with half-tones.

Other papers received were the *Pipestone Philatelist*, *Bee Hive Philatelist*, *Texan Philatelist*, and *Stamp of Groveland*.

Retail price list, No. 34, for January, February and March, of 1896, issued by the Standard Stamp Co., of No. 4 Nicholson Place, St. Louis, Mo., has been received. It is one of the largest and most complete price lists ever issued. If you have not received one, send and get one. A new list will be published in about two weeks.



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ISSUED ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

Subscriptions: To the U. S. and Canada, 25 cents. To foreign countries, 40 cents, payable invariably in advance.

Member P. S. of A. and L. of A. P.

Will exchange two copies with all publications.

## ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

Advertisements payable strictly in advance. Copy for ads must be in by the 10th of each month.

**NARVON EDWARDS, A. P. P. A. 17.**  
Editor and Publisher,  
Box 333. St Joseph, Missouri.

Entered at the Postoffice at St. Joseph, Mo. as second-class matter, February 5, 1896.

## EDITORIALS.

That the WESTERN PHILATELIST will live a long and eventful life is now an assured fact.

On January 21 last the publisher mailed his first number and applied for second class rates.

He was feeling rather blue about the matter until the 5th day of this month, when he was given second class rates, only two weeks and two days after the application was made.

Advertisers and subscribers may now look for the WESTERN PHILATELIST to appear regularly on the 15th of each month, and not later than the 20th.

Collectors who think of subscribing need have no fear that the WESTERN PHILATELIST will not issue twelve numbers.

I intend to issue this paper regularly and solicit the patronage of the advertiser and collector.

I understand that a bill has been introduced in Congress giving every one of 100,000 population or over the right to discontinue the use of the regular issue of U. S. stamps, and issue a set of their liking. It might be a good thing but I doubt it.

Mr. J. Edwards, of 50 Lataur street, Montreal, Canada, is our Canadian agent. Canadian advertisers and collectors will please give him subscriptions and advertisements to this paper. They will receive prompt attention.

Quite a large number of St. Joseph's youngest collectors are making finds in the way of old U. S. original envelopes, and one of them found a large number of unused values.

Contributors to this paper will please write on but one side of the paper and write legibly, so that the compositor may be able to decipher it without aid of a pair of field glasses.

From now on I shall have an article every month from the pen of the well known young writer, Mr. Everybody, of Kansas City, Mo.

There is a movement on foot for the consolidation of the P. S. of A. and S. of P. A good thing. "NIT!"

At the present writing it looks much as if we were going to have a cent letter postage.

How do you like THE WESTERN PHILATELIST? Send in your subscription.

Subscribe now.



ment to the WESTERN PHILATELIST  
[ist, February, 1896.]

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The Publisher.

of the WESTERN PHILATELIST.

### Advice to the Young Collector.

BY EVERY PAGET.

Question "What shall I collect, and why?" has been so long discussed and argued pro and con, that for me, a humble admirer of Miss Timbropiate, to add my little mite might be considered *malo modo*, but, nevertheless, with your kind permission, present my views on the subject from an unbiased standpoint.

An undeniable fact that from the beginning, and for many years thereafter, collectors did not discriminate, but collected all the stamps issued. I do not argue, and I shall not attempt to do so, that at that time the number of stamps issued was so few as to make it a comparatively easy matter to collect the limited field into still smaller divisions. Stamps have been collected from the very day the first one was issued. True, the persons who did collect could not be termed Philatelists, not even stamp collectors, but yet they did collect the stamps well. There is some attraction in these little bits of paper which people — whether Philatelists or not — gather them in. Now, however, the times have changed. There are hundreds and thousands of different stamps on the market, and more are issued each year than the average collector could ordinarily hope to cope with. For this reason mainly, the collector of today is — or was and is — seriously debating

upon the question as to whether or not he will specialize.

Specialism offers an alluring field. Likened to a profession as it were, a careful study of one country will develop much learning of that one particular country, while a Jack-of-all-trades collector would perhaps have a smattering of all and a complete knowledge on none. True, perhaps, in some cases, but not in all. We can see various reasons why we should collect only one country, and dispose of our stamps of the world, and yet, again, if I may be permitted to remark, we may see many reasons why we should not.

Every collector is more or less partial to his own country. We, collectors of the United States, prefer the stamps of the United States over all others, while the collectors of Afghanistan may perhaps take a liking to the peculiar stamps of their own country. Nor can we blame them. It's human nature, and what's more, it's patriotic!

Let us assume that I am a collector living in the United States and move to Afghanistan. In time I may take up the stamps of that country, yet still collect also with undiminished ardor, the stamps of the United States.

To be a general collector requires much forethought and precept. There are so many specimens of exceptional price we can never hope to obtain! Our limited means will not permit it.

Seebecks are to be daily met with, and we have a hard struggle to distinguish as to whether a stamp is really a genuine postage stamp, or whether it is merely a mere heathen label made to dispose of to the seemingly gullible Philatelic public. Again, it is a very

hard matter to decide whether we shall collect used or unused specimens.

The main object of a stamp is to carry mail. Until it has fulfilled that office, in all reality, it is not a postage stamp.

The young collector begins on general collecting, and progresses perhaps until his collection is far up into the thousands, when lo! he sees the utter impossibility of completing a collection of the postage stamps of the world, and

"Draws his mantle around him, and  
Lies down to peaceful dreams."

and ruthlessly sacrifices his stamps of the world when he awakens, one by one, that he may complete, or add to, his favorite country. This may be all well enough, but it seems to me to display a lack of judgment.

I am glad to say I have never yet had cause to regret that I am a general collector. Perhaps I may collect a trifle differently from the other generalists, but I am a general collector, none-the-less.

I am a believer in allowing plenty of latitude. Today and this month I am earnestly studying the stamps of the United States; next month I am studying Canada, and probably Afghanistan the next, and so on. When I have completely gone through my album, a repetition of the practice does much good, and constantly refreshes one's memory.

(To be Concluded.)

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Subscribe at once for THE WESTERN PHILATELIST. Subscription price to U. S. and Canada, 25 cents; foreign, 40 cents.

### Personal and Otherwise.

Bertram J. Bishop, of Wyandotte, Michigan, advises me that he is going to quit the stamp business, as his other work needs his attention.

S. B. Hopkins, the well-known Chicago collector, has moved to St. Louis, where he will associate himself with the Mekeels.

Chas. G. Hart, of Pipestone, Minnesota, announces the Minnesota address book for April 1st.

I hear a P. S. of A. hand-book is in the press and will be out soon.

C. E. N. Howard, secretary of the P. A., has resigned that position on account of the pressure of other business.

H. B. Steele, of New Britain, Connecticut, announces the Connecticut *Philatelist* in the near future.

C. W. Parker contemplates changing the *Weekly Philatelic Star* into a monthly.

A new edition of R. F. Albrecht's *Our Catalogue*, is announced.

The new set of stamps to be issued by France, will be placed on sale at the large postoffices on or about the 1st of June.

*Philatelic Comfort*, by J. S. Dunt, Yarmouth, Maine, and *The Stamp Journal*, by C. P. Rollins, of Newburyport, Mass., have given up the ghost. Uncle Samuel did not care to carry them at second-class rates. "There are other

Mr. L. T. Broadstone, of Superior, Nebraska, has been appointed western agent for THE WESTERN PHILATELIST. Dealers and collectors should send their advertisements and subscriptions to him.

**Hamilton Philatelic Association.**

[Contributed.]

On the evening of November 16, 1895, the collectors of Hamilton, Mo., met and organized a stamp club to be known as the "Hamilton Philatelic Association."

Meetings are held every Saturday night at the homes of different members. An election of officers takes place every two months.

Since the organization of the club, three new members have been admitted, and others want to join in the future. All in the club are very much interested in the work.

The officers and members of the H. A. are as follows:

Minnie Harry, president; Harry Hill, secretary; D. G. McDonald, librarian; Charles Jones, Lewis Allie, Edwin Filmer, Sidney Anderson, Katie Harris.

**The Directory of '96.**

If you have not placed an order for the Philatelic Directory, you should do so at once. Orders are being received daily. Send in your dollar now and get a five line exchange notice free with the book. The work of securing 10,000 names has been a very tedious piece of work, but it is about over now, although new names are coming in daily.

The Directory will be the largest and best one of its kind ever put before the philatelic public. Heed this, and order your book at once from H. C. Edwardsley, box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

Subscribe now for THE WESTERN PHILATELIST.

**LOOK!**

The "Western Philatelist" and "International Philatelist," both for one year for 30 cents. Regular price, 50 cents.

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**MY AGENTS****For Canada**

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50 Latour Street,  
Montreal, Canada.

**For U. S.**

L. T. BROADSTONE,  
Superior, Nebraska.

**Standard Stamp Co.** Business Est. 1885.  
W. Flackskamm, mgr.  
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Why not give US a trial? We have very good Approval Sheets at 25, 33½ and 50 per cent discount; which kind do you want? Our new illustr. 80 pp. Price List is FREE. STANDARD PACKETS are GOOD; every bookseller in the U. S. & Canada sells them. Insist on getting STANDARD Packets.

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In the trade, quality considered.

I do not sell "cheap" stamps of doubtful quality, nor sell at or below cost. "High Grade" stamps that are of increasing value are the kinds I handle. No rubbish bought or sold at any price.

If you are interested, as of course you are, or should be, in obtaining a collection that shall be of permanent interest and increasing value, I shall be glad to serve you.

Twenty-four illustrated and descriptive catalogue, sixteenth edition, containing valuable information, sent upon receipt of 4 cents.

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Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

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# The Western Philatelist.

Devoted to the Interests of Stamp Collecting.

VOL. I.

ST. JOSEPH, MO., MARCH, 1896.

No. 3.

Written for THE WESTERN PHILATELIST.

## "One Dollar Columbian."—A Philatelic Romance.

BY J. HENRY THOMAS.

In Three Parts—Part III.

As I said, I was a little over twenty years of age then, and, as usual, when we attain that age, we look more or less towards the opposite sex for companionship, I had a sweetheart at that time, as fair and beautiful a young lady as one could meet. She was my adored one; in fact, she had grown so deeply into my affections, and I loved her so deeply, that I had promised to make her my wife as soon as my position would warrant it. But, alas! it was not to be. When in her presence, seeing her always-pleasant smiles, and her beautiful, honest eyes, through which her heart spoke her love towards me, I was in the highest ecstasy of glory. She returned my love for her just as intently; and now, as I often look back and recall the many pleasant times we spent together, those days—live them over again I would give anything in my power. But the past is gone; we are mere instruments in the hands of fate, to be buffeted about by her will.

The World's Fair was then at its height of glory in Chicago. My loved one was taken by her parents to see the exhibition, and in the many letters I received from her, I heard of the pleasant time she was enjoying, but anxious to see me again.

I had to be content with my daily working in the busy, hot city, but anxiously looking forward towards my soon meeting her again. This thought was uppermost and always before me. Ah! what joy beyond bounds greeted me, upon receiving her last letter, telling of their leaving for home in a few days. I believe I went about my work that day with a greater vim than ever, so much, in fact, that my employers complimented me on my energy, and held me as an example to the other clerks; but, poor mortals! they didn't know my happiness. It was quite a bulky letter, as she also sent me those engravings of the White City, you boys delight in looking over. I've kept the envelope as received from her to this date, and as soon as we go indoors I'll show you it, as there is a stamp on it, such as I have not as yet seen.

I anxiously awaited the time of her arrival, and counted almost every min-



ute that went by. But in life we were never to meet again. Several days after I received her letter, the newspapers were full, relating of a frightful accident that occurred to a train of cars returning with Chicago World's Fair tourists. Among the injured was my loved one, and a day after she expired in the hospital she was removed to.

Well, boys, it's growing late; let us go inside now, and I will show you the envelope, concluded Uncle William, his voice growing husky, and the brothers thought they saw him bring his handkerchief to his eyes, as he led the way into the library. Going to his desk, he abstracted from one of the drawers there, and placed it before them on the table, a large-sized square envelope, upon which, written in a feminine hand, was the name and address:

MR. WILLIAM CRANE,  
No. 335 West — St.,  
N. Y. City.

But what attracted their attention the most, in the upper right hand corner of the envelope was a One Dollar Columbian stamp, lightly cancelled and in perfect condition, though time had made her mark on the envelope. Ere they could speak, their uncle handed them a photograph of a very pretty young lady, young, handsome, and a face and figure one well would fall in love with, saying: "There is her photograph, she had that taken, while in Chicago, do you think I loved in vain? You may have thought why I have not married, but I promised her, when we parted, to be true to her, and I'm keeping my word, my heart is and has been deaf to any approaches made by any

of the female sex since, you have a history now, boys."

He then took up the photograph, and looking at it for a time, the tears began to stream down his cheeks, at last his emotion got the best of him, and he cried out entreatingly: "Oh, why did God tear her so unmercifully from me Evelyn, my Evelyn, why did you leave me?"

It was all either of the brothers could do to restrain from also weeping. After their uncle had calmed down somewhat, they bid good night and left the room, but once in the recess of their own rooms, both sobbed bitterly and thought of their uncle's misfortune.

Their stay was just as pleasant as before, their uncle doing all to make them have an enjoyable holiday trip, but they never referred to the eventful evening. And so they had to lose the opportunity of obtaining the rare One Dollar Columbian, cancelled, on the original cover at that, the rarity of the day.

THE END.

### Now A Postal Curiosity.

Mrs. J. DuBois of 2532 Davenport street has a letter with a history. It was written by her when a young school girl shortly after the close of the civil war. It was delivered to her mother, to whom it was addressed, in 1893, after being a truant for twenty seven years.

Mrs. DuBois recently showed the envelope and letter to a Bee reporter. The envelope is a long, narrow one with a flap of considerable size. The postage stamp is the old style 3-cent

stamp that was used before the green stamp came into vogue. The handwriting is of a distinctively school girl type, and the letter abounds with phrases that might be expected in a young girl's letter to her mother.

The letter is addressed: "Mrs. A. L. Simonds, Cincinnati, Ohio." The postmark shows that it was mailed in Allegany, N. Y., on June 6, 1866, the same day on which the letter was written. In the lower left-hand corner of the envelope is written, "In haste." It is not thought that the presence of this inscription has caused twenty-seven years's delay in the delivery of the letter, although it is known that postal clerks invariably take a dislike to mail letters so marked.

The letter was advertised in Cincinnati on June 17, 1866. It is marked "advertised and not called for." Where the letter went after that is a mystery which has not been solved and which is not likely to be at this late date. It was evidently by some one, however, for on the back page of the letter was scrawled a "P. S." This looks like the work of a boy and abounds in expressions that a youthful admirer might make use of. Just who the person was, whether he kept it all those years, and how the letter was lost, has not yet been discovered.

Mrs. Dubois was visiting her mother, Mrs. Simonds, in Buchanan, Mich., in the year 1893, when both were amazed by the receipt of the letter. It did not come from the dead letter office, but was inclosed in a plain envelope, and postmarked "Allegany, N. Y." Both were glad that the letter had

finally reached its proper owner, and since that time have been trying to figure out just how the letter spent those twenty-seven years, but the letter keeps its secret closely to itself.—*Omaha (Neb.) Bee.*

## HERE AND THERE.

H. L. Gerding announces the Missouri Address Book for April 10.

We have just received a copy of the Nebraska Blue Book by Messrs. Hopson & Platz, of Omaha. The book should be in the possession of every collector. Send for one, only ten cents.

B. L. Morris, of Bellaire, Ohio, announces the *Philatelic Free Lance* for June 1st. Here's success.

N. G. Wilson advises me that he has secured second-class rates for his paper, *The Missouri Philatelist*, and that the February number will be mailed soon.

Papers received since last issue are Texan Philatelist, Lone Star State Philatelist, American Philatelist and Collector, International Stamp, International Philatelist, Pennsylvania Philatelist, Baby Philatelist, Michigan Philatelist, Evergreen State Philatelist, Philatelic West, The Family Favorite, Rocky Mountain Stamp, Southern Philatelist, Seneca Philatelist, Mekeels Weekly Stamp News, Philatelic Era., Philatelic Paragraph and American Philatelist.

Price lists have been received from A. F. Wicks, of London, Canada. R. B. Waterbury, Ionia, Michigan, and H. J. Frysinger's wholesale list from Baltimore.

# THE WESTERN PHILATELIST

ISSUED ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

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Editor and Publisher,  
Box 333. St. Joseph, Missouri.

Entered at the Postoffice at St. Joseph, Mo. as second-class matter, February 5, 1896.

## EDITORIALS.

Special offer! Send me 15 cents and get the WESTERN PHILATELIST for one year. Regular price 25 cents. This offer will be withdrawn April 15th.

Here we are again.

H. B. Vesey, of Norfolk, Virginia, announces the Virginia Address Book to appear in the near future.

Good manuscript always in demand. Send what you have, and if accepted, will pay a reasonable price for same.

The WESTERN PHILATELIST is an excellent medium for advertisers, just try it, the rates are low and the circulation is large.

Lack of space prevents my giving a review of my esteemed contemporaries.

Merrill's System of Protection against Philatelic Frauds has always sold for 25c, but its originator, A. B. Merrill, of Everett, Mass., is now preparing a special edition for free distribution among the first 2000 who are willing to send him three two-cent stamps and a request for a copy. Mr. Merrill will alternate the pages with those of approved advertisements, and as soon as a sufficient number of the latter are received to pay for producing this edition, the work of printing and mailing will be commenced. The book will be 3x5 inches in size and contain from 80 to 100 pages, and being so constantly in use, will prove an excellent medium for advertisers. Collectors and dealers who desire instruction in this much talked about and highly praised system, which has saved users many dollars in the purchase, sale and exchange of stamps, are strongly advised to file requests for copies, as above, without delay, as it is expected that this edition will be exhausted before our next issue.

There is a little fellow up in Pennsylvania, who had a very big head. He is president of the P. S. of A., and the way he talks you would think he owned the world and had a gold fence around it. Clifford, the dear boy, comes out and says you have to vote for R. W. Ashcroft for president of the P. S. of A. of 1896. How many collectors are going to pay attention to this fellow's small talk.

Kissinger is trying to run things in the P. S. of A. like Tammany runs politics in New York, and the sooner we shake him the better off we will be.

Written for the WESTERN PHILATELIST.

## Some Advice to the Young Collector.

BY EVERT PAGET.

[Continued from last month.]

A prominent collector was once being considered as presidential timber in a certain society. One of the principal objections was, that Jones knew nothing, so to speak, of the stamps outside of the United States, and was not known abroad, yet was a learned and well known specialist of the stamps of our own country. On the other hand, Brown was an all-round collector. He was well up to date; a conservative man, and yet if he did not know of a certain stamp he was frank enough to admit it, but he generally posted himself before the question was asked him a second time.

Perhaps the best method for the general collector is to first collect and complete the regular postage stamps, and then, if he so chooses, take up the varieties, watermarks, errors, etc. Mr. Washington Hesing, the prominent postmaster and Philatelist of Chicago, is a general collector, yet he does not collect water marks, errors, varieties of perforation, shades, etc., yet these latter are well considered under the Philatelic fold.

By all means keep your collection in a blank album. I would advise you to leave off spaces only for the stamps you hope to obtain. It only tends to detract from the appearance of your album if you leave spaces for those rare stamps you can never obtain, and if they are omitted your collection looks sur-

prisingly complete. It can scarcely be considered a deception, as not one person in ten thousand, I dare say, ever enters our pursuit with the intention firmly fixed in their mind of getting a complete collection composed of every stamp ever issued.

In conclusion, allow me to urge you to adopt my specialty. It is: Legitimately cancelled postage stamps, and a general collection.

Legitimately cancelled Seebecks are entitled to almost as much, if not equal right, as any other used stamps. Thus have we done away with these woful banes — Seebecks. 'Tis then true Philately.

Written for the WESTERN PHILATELIST.

## PLATE NUMBERS.

BY EVERY PAGET.

To touch upon a burning, yet much worn subject, is more than one would care to undertake. Yet, I cannot let the matter go by without giving it a gentle reminder.

To begin at the beginning, certainly philately has made wonderful strides in its brief career. First, we were content to collect one single specimen. Then, later, we embraced watermarks, perforations, surcharges, varieties of paper, oddities and what not.

Now we are tempted to collect the stamps from every different plate, which is certainly an absurdity.

As we, collectors of the United States, are naturally most interested in the stamps of our own country, it will not be necessary to go beyond our own confines in this article.

From a speculative point of view, perhaps, it might be well to collect the

whole strip of stamps next to the numbers, so that when prices advance, we can sell them one at a time until nothing but the plate number is left. And in all likelihood the plate number will be valueless by that time.

But as true philatelists we are not to look to the speculative side. It should be our aim to do all in our power to discourage speculators. They are vampires, so to speak, sucking the very life-blood from our body, and we should do all in our power to down them.

Speculation has perhaps done more to injure philately than any one single thing.

Parties seem to be attempting to corner every available stamp with the hope of obtaining fabulous prices later on. But just permit me to repeat an expression I heard not long since, and which expression has set me to thinking. A certain philatelist, whose stampic career began in the 60's, made the following remark: "I have sold my entire collection of United States stamps at a good price, and I do not intend to collect them again, at least not yet. Some day we will get an administration that will re-issue every stamp ever made, and when this happens prices will take a drop downward, and it will be a very long time before they recover again."

But to return to plate numbers. I must most emphatically put myself upon record as opposing their adoption. I am ever ready and willing to listen to arguments pro and con, but can we really attach any philatelic significance to plate numbers? What good are they to a stamp collector?

I approve of some of the fine philatelic points, but, as before stated, am certainly not in sympathy with the collection of plate numbers. It is not without giving the matter considerable attention have I attempted to express my views on this subject.

In the first place the utter absurdity of getting a complete collection precludes adoption. Is not the field narrow enough? Do very many of us hope to get a complete collection even now? What will our chances be when we attempt to further divide it into a multitude of classes. I say, practically nil.

The philatelic public seems prone to adopt a new "fad" without due deliberation. There is, to me, certainly nothing philatelic in the collection of plate numbers, and I cannot see a single logical reason why we should collect them.

On the other hand, I can see a number of reasons why we should not collect them.

I can term the matter of collecting plate numbers a fad, and as such I will continue to call it until I am convinced of my error.

Let us be philatelists. Let us collect stamps. Not cards, door knobs, Indians relics, etc., and call them stamps. But stamps. Nothing but stamps.

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Auction catalogues from W. F. Gregory, of New York City, Judson Burton, and the H. N. Bullard Stamp Co., of Amherst Mass., have been received.



**BY THE WAY.**

J. H. BEATTIE.

An article on the ribbed paper of United States Stamps opens the February Eastern Philatelist. "Indexing and Binding," by E. A. Tayman, should be read by every collector of philatelic literature. "Counterfeits I have seen," by the authority S. B. Hopkins, "Chats with B. N. A. Stamps," with several minor articles, and editorials, complete the number.

Charles W. Greaving has discontinued the publication of the Stamp as a monthly. He informs us that it will appear occasionally as a price-list, and containing a few notes.

The 1896 issue of Nicaragua is out. It consists of general, official, unpaid and officially sealed stamps, twenty-six in all.

Two St. Louis stamps recently brought \$140 at auction.

Uruguay has recently issued a set of engraved stamps.

The S. S. S. S. is being kept busy printing speculative issues. The countries speculating are Mexico and Western Australia.

The Catalogue for Advanced Collectors is still running in the American Journal of Philately, and treats for the most part of Siam and Sierra Leone. Of the most interesting articles, may be mentioned one on Bank Stamps, by L. H. Brown, and two on the stamps of Belgium, while the list of auction sales, the chronicle and society reports finish the number.

**The Book of 96.**

The work on the Philatelic Directory is now about completed and part of it will be ready to go to press in a few days. The book will be the largest and best of its kind ever published, and one that every collector, dealer and publisher, should have. You should secure advertising space in it at once. Address, H. C. Beardsley, Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

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