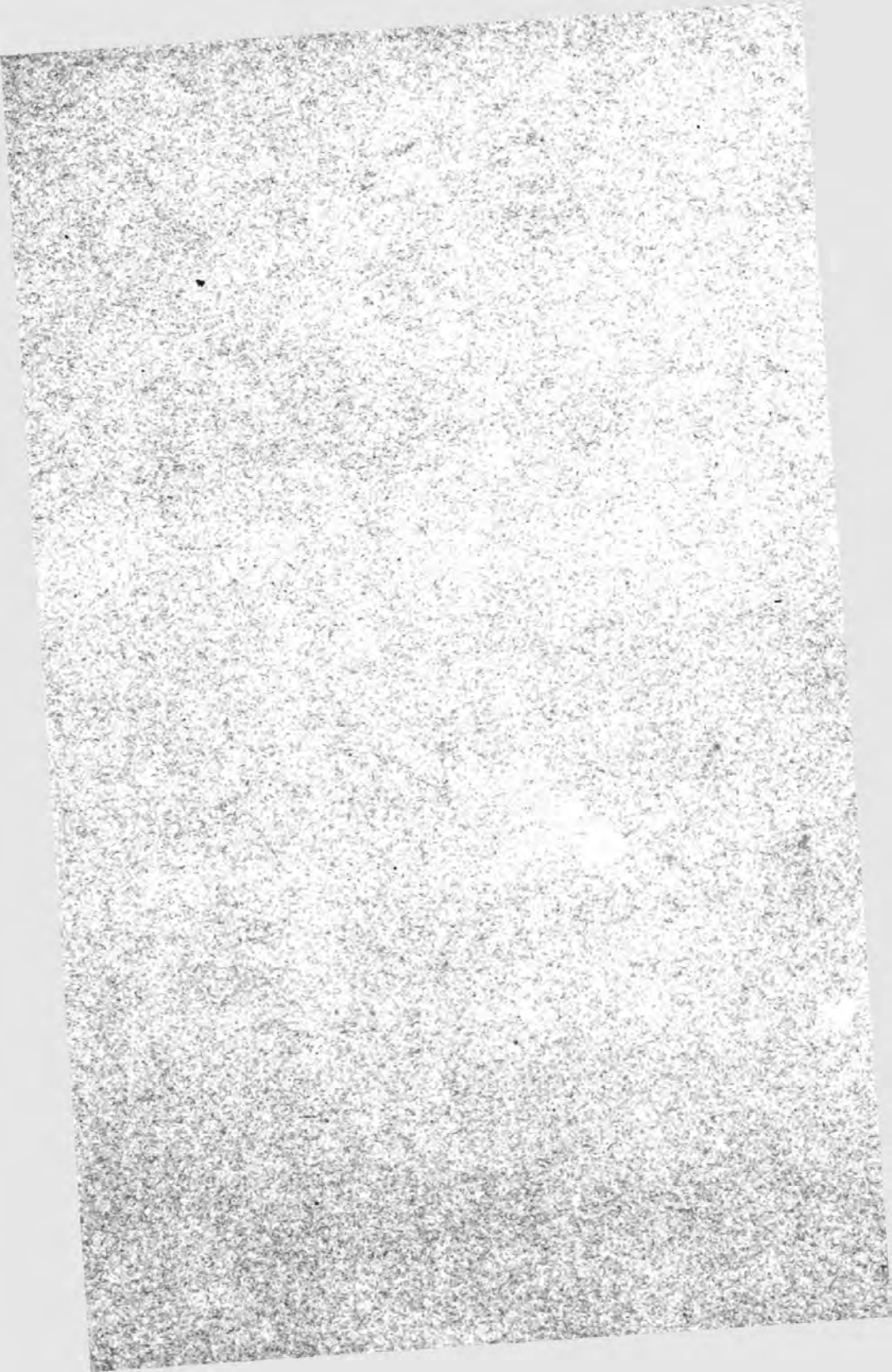


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VOL. I.

NO. 1.

THE...

COLLECTOR'S

COMPANION.

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PUBLISHED BY

THE GLOBE STAMP & PUB. CO.,

73 4th. Ave.,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

THE
Collector's Companion.

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All other countries 40 " " "

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—THE—
COLLECTOR'S COMPANION,

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. I. No. 1.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., FEB., 1894.

WHOLE No. 1.

United States Postal Service.

—
FIRST PAPER.
—

Before 1639 postal facilities in the American colonies were simply those afforded by personal accommodations among the colonists.

Letters coming from across the sea were usually delivered on board the ship, into the hands of the person for whom it was intended, families sending some member on board to find out if there was any mail for them. If letters were not called for they were taken on land to some store and spread out on a table to await an owner, while outside a poster was placed containing the names of those to whom the various parcels belonged.

People who lived some distance away, when calling for their own letters, also took along all letters which belonged to neighbors. From this the habit gradually grew to at once leaving all mail on shore, and such parcels as belonged in the interior of the colonies, immediately sent to some fixed inland town, from where the people in those parts

could more comfortably receive their mail.

The reader must remember that it was not an every day affair to receive mail, ships visited the early colonists very seldom, therefore was it possible to carry on this system.

As the settlements grew in number and magnitude, it became usual to leave letters directed to each one at the inn most frequented by the inhabitants of that settlement.

Thus several years before there was a post-office or a post-rider in the colonies, a rude, slow, unsafe but friendly system of delivery had sprung up, and long after the establishment of a post-office, this neighborly method continued to be the main dependence of the people for the transportation of letters for short distances.

In 1639 Massachusetts undertook the establishment of a legalized postal system, the general court issuing the following:

“It is ordered that notice be given that Richard Fairbanks, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters which are brought from beyond the seas, or are to be

sent thither, to be left with him, and he is to take care that they are delivered or sent according to the directions, and he is allowed for every letter a penny, and he must answer all mis-carriages through his own neglect in this kind."

In other colonies the law of 1657 required every planter to provide a messenger to convey the dispatches as they arrived, to the next neighbor and so on, on pain of forfeiting a hogshead of tobacco for default.

A few years after, the government of New York established a monthly mail to Boston, which continued for thirty years, when it was changed to a fortnightly one. The route lay through Saybrook and Hartford, and the mail for these places being also taken along, decided the authorities in 1673 to charge three pence a mile for postage.

During July, 1683, Wm. Penn issued an order for the establishment of a post-office in Pennsylvania, and that a weekly mail should be carried between Philadelphia and Maryland, the postage to be 6d on every letter under a certain weight. This was carried on until 1692 when Thomas Neale was empowered to take charge of the postal department of the colonies.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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Philatelic Talks.

I will begin by saying that for nearly six years, I have been an ardent stamp collector, and as year by year rolls by, my love for philately increases.

The first stamps I ever bought were in a 5 cent packet, containing some twenty-five varieties. I have a few of the very ones in my album now, and although they are of the cheapest kind, am afraid it would take quite a sum to make me part with them. I began collecting at the same time as several of my school friends, we all having been struck by the "craze."

Since those happy school days we have been scattered all over the great United States, and to-day I know the address of but one of them, however with whom I carry on a lively correspondence, he still continuing to love his album. Such is life. You make friends while young, grow up to manhood and womanhood, are separated and soon lost to one another in this busy life, but the memory of those child-hood days are never forgotten.

One thing a collector should never do is, to mar the looks of his album by placing in it torn or badly defaced stamps. Wait until you can get a good specimen and even if it should cost you a little more, you are making a far better bargain than by buying the torn and daubed up ones. Keep in mind that the greatest

number of varieties does not necessarily make the best collection. It is according to how complete it is, and in what condition.

A collector spending a certain amount of cash for stamps all of one country, will have a much better collection than one who spends a similar amount for stamps issued by five or six different nations.

Never let a counterfeit find rest in your collection, as it is a shame mark against you.

Patronize a dealer that is fair in all his dealings and stick to him, as you will gain more in that way than by trying selections from everybody.

I have tried to give the younger collectors a few hints by which they could profit, and I hope as the summer comes on, that no one will forsake his or her album, but continue faithfully to walk the pleasant philatelic path.

A. WESLEY HOLMES.

The government of the United States has again issued a proclamation calling for CONTRACTORS to bid for the printing of postage stamps for the ensuing year, the successful bidders to furnish the design and color. There is no statement that could be made which shows the unhappy way those in control of our affairs at Washington have of blundering and producing stamps and everything else which is anything but well designed or of a beautiful character. Our money, our greenbacks, our stamps, our public build-

ings, are recklessly and ignorantly designed by worthy gentlemen who are designers from a political standpoint alone; or if not, they are directed by someone whose ideas of art are gained on the stump in the interior of Kentucky or on the prairies of Illinois. The stamps of the United States are one unbroken line of badly designed labels. They are the result of official ignorance. They are the exposition of the fallacious doctrine that whoever is in power, and whoever has his own opinion of what is pretty, has the right to direct and have executed for the great public that which proves to be offensive to those who do study and live to know that which constitutes an elegant design. After years of hard work, the Society of American Architects have succeeded in getting a bill through our Congress, which hereafter places the competition for our public buildings in the hands of the architects of the country at large, rather than to leave it in the hands of one overworked official in Washington, as has heretofore been done, with unhappy results. Why cannot the great body of philatelists, greater by far and as influential as any body of architects, start a national movement, the ultimate end of which shall be to have the designing of postage stamps given into the hands of the artists of our country, and from these designs have a beautiful one chosen by a competent committee. It is not an idle

(CONCLUDED ON 5th. PAGE.)

THE Collector's Companion.

Published monthly in the interest of
Stamp Collecting.

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73 4th. Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

EDITORIALS.

We had intended to make our initial bow with sixteen pages and cover, but were unable to do so on account of lack of time.

The circulation of our next number will be 1500 or 2000 copies. All dealers who will contract for space now will be allowed 20 per cent discount from advertising rates.

We have just received from C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Pub., Co. an interesting little pamphlet entitled "A Stamp Collector's Souvenir," containing some thirty pictures of prominent collectors with a history of each ones collecting career, newsy notes and short articles. The last twenty pages are devoted to the firms advertisements.

We also acknowledge receipt of

catalogue of B. L. Drew's first auction sale, which is to be held in Cambridge, Mass. on Mar. 15. The sale comprises 507 lots and many desirable stamps will be sold.

We have also just received Bogert & Durbin's wholesale list for dealers, offering many good bargains.

Mr. G. I. La Mont, editor of the *BROOKLYN STAMP*, which by the way is a very fine journal, recently appeared in a comedy which ran for three nights at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Of course the editor of the *C. C.* was there to see his city contemporary on the "stage." La Mont did nobly and went through his lines with perfection.

All who receive a sample of the *C. C.* this month are requested to subscribe. Do you not think it is worth 25 cents a year to you? We will tell you just what to do, if you are in doubt as to that point. Simply send 25 cents immediately and experiment. If at the expiration of your subscription you consider that you have not received 25 cents worth of good through our columns, we will cheerfully refund you your money.

We have tried to please both the young and old collector, without being partial to either, and will continue this course through the future. Older persons must remember that

the boys of to-day are the men of the future, and are worthy of their share of attention.

A new stamp society is to be organized in Brooklyn within a few weeks. We believe this to be a wise step, and the C. C. will do all in its power to help along the good cause. All persons interested in this matter (especially city collectors) will please write to G. I. La Mont, 212 Park Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

NORTH POLE.

A Brooklyn collector recently bought one thousand 3c Columbian stamps at 8c per hundred.

Mr. L. M. Stæbler is soon going to take a trip through the eastern states. We understand that it is his intention to make a short stay in Brooklyn. Will be glad to see you brother S.

The new Brooklyn society is hustling around for suitable quarters. As soon as we get settled we, would like to see all collectors visiting our city at our meetings.

We do not hear so much from Chicago now the fair is closed.

GOOD MSS WANTED IN EXCHANGE FOR ADVERTISING SPACE.

(FROM PAGE 3.)

dream; to day this is the order of the day in France, and it would be to the everlasting glory of our pursuit, if, after years of hard work, we would eventually induce our government authorities to place our stamp designing in the hands of competent artists, and gain for our collections the first beautifully designed set of postage stamps of the United States.

FROM THE PHILATELIC CALIFORNIAN.

SPECIAL!

We are going to make No. 2 of the Collector's Companion a special number of from 32 to 48 pages. In order to have every dealer try our columns, we have decided to offer some great inducements. Our circulation for No. 2 will be 2000 copies and it will contain a vast amount of excellent reading matter. Our regular advertising rates are \$9.60 per page, but to all who will send copy at once, we offer one page for \$4.50 one-half page for \$2.50, and one-fourth page for \$1.50.

Dealers should take this opportunity and get valuable advertising space cheap.

NEWSY NOTES.

There are over thirty-five philatelic papers published in the U. S. and Canada.

San Francisco is fast becoming a great philatelic center. Two of our best magazines are published there.

It has been reported to us that several more of the South American countries are going to adopt Sebeckism.

From good authority we have learned that there are now over 2,500,000 persons in the world who collect stamps.

After this year Uncle Sam is going to use no postal notes. Instead, money orders will be sold for any amount under \$100.

As soon as the supply of Columbian and 1890 stamps are exhausted, the United States will issue an entirely new set. The new postal cards have already appeared. They are printed on a better quality of paper than the former ones.

Although our English brethren are still a little ahead of us in philatelic journalism, we advise them to "hump" themselves, as our American journals are improving mightily. This is a glorious fact and can plainly be seen by comparing the present

issues with those of four or five years back.

AMERICAN.

Still we get them! A few days ago we were offered a fine (?) lot of "Opened by Mistake" fakes, at a very desirable (?) price, which we of course accepted. (?) Collectors; do not let yourself be fooled by these pieces of valueless paper.

On account of the late arrival of a part of our copy and various other causes, over which we had no control, we are several days late. We shall endeavor to be on time in the future, however.

DON'TS.

Don't write to a dealer for an offer on a certain lot of stamps you have or an album you want to sell. Let your price be known without any unnecessary correspondence concerning the stamps.

Don't by all means, don't substitute common stamps for good ones. You may not be detected the first time or the second, but the chance are if you try the game on some dealer that you will be trapped and caught. Be honest and you will be treated the same way.

—THE STAMP

GOOD MSS WANTED IN EXCHANGE FOR ADVERTISING SPACE.

SURCHARGING AND ITS
CONSEQUENCES.

There is no other question incidental to Philately, which has been so thoroughly discussed by stamp collectors, as the question whether or not surcharged stamps should be collected. This question, which has been a leading one during the past half dozen years, or so, has occupied more or less the attention of every thinking Philatelist on the globe; and most of those, who have any pretension to literary ability have treated the subject in the leading magazines of the day. In common with other Philatelic writers I have given the subject some attention. Indeed, the first Philatelic article that I ever wrote, published when the mania for collecting surcharges was at its height, was a vigorous tirade against it, and in the many other articles which I have written since that time, I have always, in considering the subject, tried to emphasize the fact that I consider the collecting of surcharges injudicious and unwise.

Just what the standing of the surcharged stamp is to-day, it would be rather difficult to say. The dealers, with more unanimity than they display, concerning some other matters (probably because they are most of them caught with a large stock of surcharges on hand) are doing their utmost to sustain surcharge collecting. A surcharged stamp is regarded

with suspicion by most collectors and a great many will not admit any surcharges at all to their collections.

While collectors are practically unanimous in believing surcharge collecting is injurious to Philatelic interests, there is a difference of opinion on the question whether a surcharged stamp is really a legitimate object of collection, i. e.—whether it comes within the province of Philately any more than the cancellation or post-mark.

Before answering this question, it is necessary that we should determine for what end the surcharge was created and what its uses really are. A surcharge is a word, figure or symbol printed or written upon the face of an adhesive stamp, for the purpose of altering its value, or for making it available for some other use than that for which it was originally intended. The altering of a stamp from one value to another, by means of a surcharge is sometimes rendered necessary in the smaller countries and in various colonies and islands by the shortage of some one denomination. In cases of emergency, the surcharge has its legitimate use, and the post-office officials of small countries find it very convenient and economical to occasionally change the denomination of some little used stamp; by a surcharge, to some value which is largely used by the people.

If the use of the surcharge had stopped here the question of its legitimacy would never have arisen. But since there are men everywhere eager to earn an honest penny in any way which presents itself, it is but little to be wondered that certain bright lights among the post-office officials, in various countries where the surcharge was used, should have devised means of filling their own pockets at the expense of the stamp collector. The various ways in which they did this are too well known to need any detailed description. Suffice it to say that he who attempts to collect surcharged stamps, will have to cope with the greatest accumulation of speculative errors, freaks, and counterfeits that was ever beheld by the eye of man.

I believe that the surcharge, in its present state, is not a proper candidate for a place in our albums. No Philatelist can afford to fill his space with these doubtful specimens, and they should be strictly boycotted by all. For my part I never could see why a surcharge should add any value to a stamp as it merely defaces and mars its beauty.

After all, the lesson which we are to deduct from all this is the same old story, it is only an illustration of the same truth that I have believed in ever since I began to collect; that the true and best way of enjoying Philately to the utmost is by collecting ONLY ONE SPECIMEN OF A STAMP and by disregarding

altogether all kinds of minute varieties, whether they be surcharges or varieties of perforation, or shades of color, or difference of watermark. Perhaps this method is too simple and straightforward for the use of the Grand Moguls of Philately, but for the average Philatelist, whose time and money are both limited it is the only right and satisfactory method of collecting.

LEWIS G. QUACKENBUSH, in THE FLORIDA PHILATELIST.

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