

Vol. 1.

DECEMBER, 1887.

No. 1.

THE

SEMI-ANNUAL

STAMP COLLECTOR.

A Magazine in the Interests of Stamp Collectors.

EDITED BY

**JAMES WALTER JONES.**

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PUBLISHED BY

J. W. JONES, 220 NOTT TERRACE STREET,

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.



# THE SEMI-ANNUAL STAMP COLLECTOR.

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PUBLISHED BY  
**J. W. JONES,**  
NUTT TERRACE STREET, - SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

Correspondence desired in all parts of the world.  
I pay cash for rare stamps.  
Any person having *Philatelic Publications* to dispose of will do well to communicate with me.

## SALUTATORY.

With this, our initial number of **THE SEMI-ANNUAL STAMP COLLECTOR**, we introduce ourselves to the Philatelic public. This is a magazine devoted entirely to philately, and no pains will be spared to make it a source of pecuniary gain to the any readers interested in Philately.

Each subsequent number will be more interesting and entertaining in its reading matter, and an increase in size will be made in a short time.

Henceforth **THE STAMP COLLECTOR** will appear promptly in the months of April and September of each year. All matter intended for insertion in our next number should reach us on or before March 1st, 1888.

With these concluding remarks we respectfully place our magazine before you, trusting that it meets the support and approval of all.

## Postal Cards.

The first emission of postal cards by the United States took place in 1873. In the upper right corner was the head of Liberty in oval frame. On the frame were the words "U. S. Postage" above and "One Cent" below. Along the top, in curved lines, are the words "United States Postal Card," and below them, in small type and a straight line, "Write the address only on this side—the message on the other." The whole was surrounded by a border and printed in brown on buff card, water-marked with the large monogram, "U. S. P. O. D.," (United States Post Office Department). It was also issued the same year on a card which bore the water-mark, small, "U. S. P. O. D.," and was printed in three shades—brown, light brown and dark brown. In 1875 appeared a card bearing a profile of Liberty in the upper right corner in a frame; to the left of this was "Postal Card" on a ribbon which crossed in front of the monogram "U. S." Below was the inscription "Write the address on this side—the message on the other." It was printed in black, on five shades of cards—light buff, buff, dark buff, yellow buff and brownish buff. In 1881 appeared the same card with the inscription changed to "Write only the address on this side." This time it was printed on only two shades of cards—buff and dark buff. In 1885 came the brown cards, with Jefferson's head; and on Jan 1, 1887, appeared

those in use now. The denomination of all cards was one cent. There has been but one two-cent card (for foreign communications) issued. That was in 1879. It bears the Liberty head in blue on a buff card, and can be bought at the post office now.

CHAS. E. HUTCHINSON.—

*Boston Transcript.*

## The Value of a Collection.

BY WILL M. CLEMENS, EDITOR "THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP."

Some twenty years ago I looked upon the first and only collection of postage stamps that I had ever seen. There were about two hundred stamps in all, a very small collection nowadays but a very large one then. These stamps were mounted or I should say pasted, in a small blank book, of the sort given away gratis by country druggists. They were fixed for all time in that amateur album. First, each stamp had been mucilaged over its back and then after it had been pasted in the book, the mucilage brush was passed over the outside of the stamp, to make it more secure. No earthly power could ever remove the stamps in this collection, without destroying the collection and at the same time ruining the stamps, for they were mounted back to back, leaving none of the pages blank.

This collection of two hundred stamps was the property of a schoolboy friend of mine, and today, as I recollect his collection, it included a rare Brattleboro local, some of the rare match and medicine stamps, and a number of the earlier issues of Brazil, all very valuable stamps. This collection had it been mounted properly would to a certain degree, have been a very valuable collection. However, as it was, the stamps in the collection were worthless, or nearly so.

As I write these lines I am reminded of a card of stamps, which I saw not many years ago, hanging on the walls of a public library in a small city in Ohio. There were perhaps a hundred stamps in the collection, including such rare general issues as New Orleans and Memphis Confederate locals. There were valuable specimens also of the old issues of United States stamps. The specimens in this collection were tightly pasted or gummed to a sheet of card board which was afterwards framed. Thus it was that this was a valuable collection of my acquaintance was well nigh worthless, owing to the manner in which the stamps were mounted.

I have written all this with the intention of showing to philatelists, and especially young collectors, the importance of taking great care and precaution in the mounting and arranging of specimens. Many stamps are ruined by the improper methods used in mounting. Whole collections are made worthless by a too liberal use of paste or mucilage.

It makes no matter how young the collector, or how few the number of stamps in his collection, he should never paste his specimens in his album. I know this rule is generally violated, especially by the beginner, who thinks that much time is required in using the improved method of mounting stamps by means of stamp mounts or hinges. But such time is not wasted but is time well and wisely spent.

The value of a stamp collection depends not alone upon the manner in which stamps are mounted, although I admit that this is the principal thing that enhances the value of a collection. A collection to my manner of thinking is more valuable when its owner seeks its place in his album sets and issues complete, even if of the more common stamps.

instead of single or individual specimens of the more common stamps of a country, selected with care and mounted with prudence are far more valuable to the whole collection than a poor specimen of a very rare stamp.

In a matter of course a collection of unused specimens is more valuable in a money sense, than a collection of used stamps. This is one of the natural laws of philately. But it does not behoove the collector to collect unused specimens only. He should collect both, aiming at all times to obtain unused specimens if possible, if not he should be content with used specimens until at least he can obtain unused stamps to take their places.

This reminds me too, that the collector should never feel satisfied with his collection. He should only retain his stamp until he can obtain a better or a cleaner specimen. He should watch over his collection with jealous care, taking out a poor specimen and supplanting it with a better one whenever possible. It has often occurred to me that a suitable definition of the word Philately would be "never satisfied," at least, in my opinion, the collector should never be content. He should always look out for the improvement and betterment of his collection. He should examine it carefully day by day and night by night and be continually on the alert for better stamps. No collection can be too good, none can become too valuable.

Upon this same theory I might say that the size of a collection does not make it valuable; neither does the rare stamps in a collection make it of great value. Everything depends to a certain extent upon the condition of the specimens in a collection. Clean, untorn stamps are the ones that tend to make a collection of value.

Only yesterday I secured a five-cent Memphis local, a very rare stamp when in good condition, but the specimen coming into my hands is well nigh worthless, simply because of its condition.

These are some of the things that tend to add value to a stamp collection. For the benefit of the young collector upon whose mind the points cannot be too strongly impressed, I will make a summary of the foregoing statements.

FIRST. Care in the mounting of stamps.

SECOND. Care in the securing of clean untorn specimens.

THIRD. In the selection of choice specimens rather than a large number.

FOURTH. In the possession of fine impressions of common stamps, rather than poor specimens of rare stamps.

These are the things that add value to a stamp collection, in a financial sense. But outside of money there are other kinds of value recognized in Philately as in everything else. The young collector should not look upon his collection as valuable solely from a financial point of view. He should not only learn to study his stamps, but to study them well. His album should at once be to him his history, geography, and encyclopædia. In this his collection is far more valuable than in a money sense.

The boy who can trace the history of a nation through his stamps, possesses more, far more, than the money invested in his specimens. The collector who can tell of the fall of an Empire or the rise of a Republic through his stamps, has a collection of greater value than he can ever realize. The youth who can tell his friends of the size, location and government of Samoa, Bermuda or the Azores, is unconsciously the owner of a very valuable collection. Hence, I am led to believe

and to say that the true collector, the real follower of our noble science, the genuine philatelist is he who thinks not of the money he has invested in stamps, who cares not for the commercial value of a single variety, but whose heart and mind are earnestly engaged in the close study of his stamps. Such a collection is far more valuable than any that gold can purchase, for then the true worth of the same is brought forth, just as the true worth of men and women are shown to the world. Not what a man has but what good he can do in the world. Not what a stamp is worth but what knowledge it conveys to the collector.

Stamp collecting is yet in its infancy. I have watched the progress of the science from its earliest days when it took the form of a hobby, until today when it stands before the world as an art and a science combined. I see for philately a grand and glorious future—a future, believe me, that will result in stamp collecting being made a feature of school life. I can almost see the day not far distant when philately will be one of the branches of learning in our public schools, for is it not true that a single stamp is more valuable, if properly studied, than any page of history or a leaf from any geography in the land. There are lessons to be learned from stamps that men cannot learn from books, and more especially from the school books now in use in America. I could name, had I the time and space, a dozen important facts in history and geography, obtainable from stamps alone, as no text book now in public use contains these facts. These very lessons are among the things that make a collection valuable. Then, I repeat again, study your stamps, young collector, and old collector as well for old heads are

not too old to learn, and a second look at the same point of view often times presents a new phase upon the landscape of the idea, study your stamps, study them and take pleasure as well as pride in discussing the good points about your collection, and the time will come when your stamp collection will suddenly develop into a grand and valuable collection, more costly, more precious than you had dreamed it could become.

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### S. Allen Taylor.

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S. Allen Taylor of Boston, Mass., notorious stamp forger, was arrested May 6th by a United States officer, charged with counterfeiting postage stamps. U. S. Commissioner Hallet held him \$500 bond for examination on the 14th.

Mr. Taylor failed to put in an appearance, and has gone to Canada. He is the owner of a very large and magnificent library of Philatelic literature and possessed a fine private collection.

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### Father of Cheap Postage.

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THE ENTERPRISE OF LYSANDER SPOONER  
THE ROWLAND HILL OF AMERICA

There died in Boston the other day a man to whom belongs more justly than any one else the honorable title of father of cheap postage in America. He was the veteran Lysander Spooner, who passed away at his home at the age of 84. In 1844, when the sending of an ordinary letter any distance was a serious tax, Spooner began an enterprise which was almost immediate and proved lasting

his results. He believed, while denying the right of leagues to monopolize the carrying of mails, that the business could be done more cheaply at a profit.

To prove his belief and test the power of a league, he established a private mail from Boston to New York, afterward extending it to Philadelphia and Baltimore, carrying letters for the uniform rate of five cents. The business grew rapidly, but the government officials soon overwhelmed him with prosecutions. Every letter he carried could be made the basis of a suit. He tried to get the attorneys of the department to let the question go to the last tribunal on one test case, waiving proceedings on the others for the time being, but this did not suit their purpose, which was to crush him with the weight of legal expenses, and thus sooner drive him from the field. This they succeeded in doing in the course of seven or eight months. He had not the means to defend the numerous cases piled up against him, and was compelled to surrender. Others, following his example, had established private mails, and they too were forced to retire.

But the moral victory was his. He had demonstrated that a low rate of postage would support the department, something of which the people but for his action at that time might not have been convinced for many years afterward. So well had he done his work, that in the next year Congress made the first reduction in postage rates, followed in 1851 and in subsequent years with still further reductions. Spooner was also a voluminous writer and an active abolitionist, and the publication of his work demonstrating the unconstitutionality of slavery, marked an epoch in the anti-slavery agitation.—*New York Times*.

## Persian Stamps.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE WORLD—  
ENTHUSIASTIC COLLECTORS.

Having entered the postal union, Persia, of course, had to have recourse to stamps, and the Shah ordered several denominations to be printed, writes ex-Minister Benjamin in the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. These, like all which have superseded them, have been very handsome, in fact, we know of no stamps equaling the Persian in beauty, excepting perhaps those of Russia. The most valuable denominations, in red and golden yellow, have in the centre the portrait of the Shah beautifully engraved. Lower denominations have the sun bursting forth in his glory, while Arabic lettering adds to the unique effect. The very first Persian stamps engraved were coarse, and are now rare to the last degree, but succeeding designs are well executed. It has become quite the habit to have new designs, with slight alterations, introduced from time to time, without any apparent necessity. The reason for this has been explained to me as due to the venality of the postmaster general at Teheran, who acts under the minister of posts. He employs a sub-head who has often been an European. Said European, especially an Austrian who was there several years ago, sees it to be to his advantage to change the stamps frequently. As soon as a design is changed those which are superseded, become rare and much sought after by stamp collectors; aware of this fact, the postmaster contrives to store a quantity which he holds for a rise, and gradually disposes of at a fine profit.

The stamp mania exists among European residents at Teheran no less than it

does in Europe, and the reader may be surprised to learn that it is quite as difficult to make a complete collection of Persian stamps at Teheran, as in London. The interest shown in the subject there, is indicated by an incident that happened during my residence in Persia. A duel came near being fought on account of a rare Persian stamp. The quarrel was between a prominent member of one of the legations and a Russian colonel. Both were enthusiastic collectors, and the former accused the latter of stealing an excessively rare stamp from his album when looking it over. The Russian at once sent a challenge, which was accepted. The day was appointed and the hour, when the stamp was suddenly produced by a lady who said it had been loaned to her and she now hastened to return it in season to prevent bloodshed. The explanation was accepted, and the duel was declared off.

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## Obituary.

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It was with the deepest sorrow, that we received the sad intelligence of the death of our brother, Leonidas W. Durbin.

Mr. Durbin was born at Rising Sun, Ind., in 1849, and at the age of nineteen entered into the stamp business as a clerk in the firm of Mason & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. In a very short time, however, he began business for himself; starting with a very small capital, he gradually became a noted dealer, and in 1875 he began the publication of the *Philatelic Monthly* which was continued until his death. Among other publications his catalogue of postage stamps was considered the best authority.

Mr. Durbin was a member of the Temple of Honor and Temperance and Superintendent of the Union Sabbath School.

Philately has lost an ardent worker, and the American Philatelic Association has lost its highly respected Treasurer.

To his wife and children we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

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## Notes.

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The Canadian Philatelic Association was organized in August, 1887. It has already quite a large list of members.

The *Stamp Collector's Figaro* is one of the best papers we receive. Mr. Young should be congratulated upon the entertaining reading matter he gives the reader. It is managed in a perfectly business-like way and bids fair progress.

Mr. George H. Richmond has issued *The Philatelic Press Directory*. It is a neat little book of 44 pages and cover.

The *Collector's Journal* is a new paper from Brooklyn, twelve pages and cover.

The *Cumberland Collector* has discontinued publication. The May number was the last.

Major Evans' Catalogue in the P. J. & A. will be found very useful as well as instructive to Philatelists.

The *Texas Stamp* followed the *Texas Philatelist* to the grave. All subscription money was returned.

The *Old Curiosity Shop* is doing well under its new manager, Will M. Clement.

The *American Philatelist*, clothed in a new dress, and under the new management is progressing finely. The number of advertisements show that dealers are



interested in establishing a good official organ for the A. P. A.

The *Philatelic Magazine* of La Grange, Ill., has suspended publication. Mr. Bishop has also retired from the stamp trade.

We have received two numbers of the *Niagara Falls Philatelist*; the first is not up to the average; the second is an improvement.

We received the last number of the *Empire State Philatelist* in June; as the next month rolled by we had seen nothing of it. Thinking the summer had taken its effect, it was hoped that it would appear later and then Bro. Fraser was to assume editorship. But as the cold weather advances we hear nothing of it, and will have to let it "freeze" up and "melt out" next spring.

The *Philatelic Gazette* has entered its fourth year of publication, with a newly designed cover and single columns.

## Directory of Philatelic Publications.

Publishers sending ten cents will have the name in this Magazine in our next number.

The *Philatelic Gazette*, Atoona, Pa., J. M. & Kendig, publishers.

The *Curiosity World*, Lake Village, Ark., J. M. Hubbard, publisher.

The *Empire State Philatelist*, P. O. Box 1516, New York City, Philatelic Publishing Co., Publishers.

The *Buckeye State Philatelist*, Wellington, Ohio, E. L. French, publisher.

The *Philatelic Herald*, 504 Congress St., Portland, Me., W. W. Jewett, publisher.

The *Western Philatelist*, P. O. box, 206, Chicago, Ill., Western Philatelic Publishing Co., publishers.

*Independent Philatelist*, Bergen Point, N. J., W. H. Mitchell, publisher.

*Quaker City Philatelist*, box 33, Philadelphia, Penn., Q. C. X. Philatelic Publishing Co., publishers.

The *Collector's Journal*, 750 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., Collector's Publishing Co., publishers.

The *American Philatelist*, Phila. Pa., Literary Beard A. P. A. publishers.

The *Philatelic Tribune*, Smyrna, N. Y., F. J. Stanton, publisher.

The *Youth's Ledger*, N. Y. city, J. L.

*Plain Talk*, 61½ Patchen Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., Plain Talk Publishing Co., publishers.

The *Old Curiosity Shop*, Jamestown, N. Y., Will M. Clemens, publisher.

The *Philatelic Journal of America*, Turner Building, St. Louis, Mo., Philatelic Publishing Co., publishers.

The *Semi-Annual Stamp Collector*, J. W. Jones, Schenectady, N. Y., publisher.

The *Stamp*, P. O. box 2922, Denver, Col., The Stamp Pub. Co., publishers.

*Stamp Collector's Figaro*, 307 Webster Ave. Chicago, Ill., E. W. Voute, publisher.

The *International Philatelic Advertiser*, St Nassau St., N. Y., Krebs Bros., publishers.

The *Keystone State Philatelist*, box 111, Philadelphia, Penn., Keystone State Philatelist Pub. Co., publishers.

The *Philatelic World*, Room 37, Tribune Building, New York City, R. R. Bogert, publisher.

## Directory of Stamp Dealers.

- Ashfield, A. E. Box 233, Rye, N. Y.  
 Bogert, R. R. Room 38, Tribune Building, N. Y. City.  
 Brown, Wm. P., N. Y. City.  
 Calman, G. B. 299 Pearl St., N. Y. City.  
 Edwards, Peeke & Co., 2728 Calumet Ave. Chicago.  
 Fuelscher, C. J., Box 219, St. Louis, Mo.  
 Gowing, Edward & Co., Box 229, Medford, Mass.  
 Gambs, E. F., 234 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Cal.  
 Hubbard, John M., Lake Village, N. H.  
 Harris, R. S. & Co., Dubuque, Iowa.  
 Hauschild, G. A., South Euclid, Ohio.  
 Jones, J. W., Schenectady, N. Y.  
 Krebs Bros., N. Y. City.  
 Putnam Bros., Lewiston, Me.  
 Rothfuchs, C. H., Washington, D. C.  
 Sterling, E. B. Box 294, Trenton, N. Y.  
 Scott & Co., 721 Broadway, N. Y.  
 Wettern, Wm. v. d., Jr., 176 Saratoga St. Baltimore, Md.

## Directory of Collectors.

- Ames, A. P., Medford, Mass.  
 Anderson, F. M., Blue Earth City, Minn.  
 Blackner, M., Medford, Mass.  
 Bradford, S. B., La Salle Co, Ottawa, Ill.  
 Gilmour, Geo. I., 212 Bunker Hill street, Boston, Mass.  
 Gilmour, Robert, Schenectady, N. Y.  
 Gowing, Edw. box 229, Medford, Mass.  
 Green, John, Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.  
 Jones, J. W., Schenectady, N. Y.

- Jones, Louis P., Malden, Mass.  
 Jones, Miss Lottie T., Malden, Mass.  
 Platto, Edw., Quackenbes St., Schenectady, N. Y.  
 Stimpson, Geo. A., Malden, Mass.

## The American Philatelic Association.

The A. P. A. is flourishing with a membership of over three hundred, and American collectors may feel proud of such an organization to promote the interests of the science of Philately.

Although in this country, stamps have been collected for nearly a quarter of a century, there had never existed a national organization to advance the interests before the A. P. A. was formed in the year 1886, about four months ago. Under the leadership of worthy officers it has prospered with a few difficulties to mar its history and has proved itself to be a success in every way. Among the advantages which the association affords, we desire to make mention of the Exchange and Purchasing departments, which yield to the collector advantages that are well worth the trifle expended in becoming a member. The American Philatelist is sent free to all members with the privilege of advertising in the same at a reasonable discount, and a library of philatelic literature will be instituted as soon which will be a great credit to the association.

Every collector wishing to avail himself of these advantages, should send twenty-five cents, accompanied by an application to the secretary, S. B. Bradt, Green Crossing, Ill.

## The American Philatelist.

In the early part of April a dissatisfaction arose among the members of the Association as to the official organ, and resolutions were presented to the trustees abolishing the same, and that the Board of Officers select one of the existing journals to publish all official matter, and furthermore, they were to determine the official organ, from the three receiving the greatest number of votes from the members, therefore, a vote was called for on July 10th, which resulted as follows:

Philatelic Journal of America,	79
Western Philatelist,	57
Quaker City Philatelist,	17
Empire State Philatelist,	15
American Philatelist,	2
Plain Talk,	1

The Western Philatelist was determined the official organ by the Board, and a general discussion arose as to this, both among the members and the press, but at the last convention the Western Philatelist remained.

In November the *American Philatelist* was again continued. It would be unjust to compare it with the former numbers for the reason that it is under so much better management; the November number came out with sixteen pages and cover, and is under the direction of a literary board, composed of three worthy and competent gentlemen who intend, with the aid of the members, to bring the magazine up to a high standard. The subscription price to members is fifty cents per year and advertising rates seventy-five cents per line.

## The Second Annual Convention.

One hundred and eighty-seven members were present or represented by proxy at the last convention held in Chicago, and such important business was transacted, which was given in the September issue of the *Western Philatelist*, therefore we will not weary the reader with a detailed account of the proceedings.

President Tiffany delivered a very fine and attractive address, which may be had in pamphlet form of the publishers of the *Western Philatelist*; price ten cents.

The Chicago branch prepared an excellent banquet, which was tastily gotten up, and all that were present went home feeling that they had been treated well, and no unfriendly feelings or words in regard to the few difficulties of the past to mar its record.

The next convention is to be held in Boston, and at the same time an exhibition is to take place, which is calculated to rival any ever held in this country. Boston is a good place for such a thing, and if prepared by the proper persons will be a success.

## THE SEMI-ANNUAL STAMP COLLECTOR.

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2. all different.....	15	8. 15 South American.....	30
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- 6, 11. Vol. II, No. 11.*
- rn Philatelist, Vol. I, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6.*
- telic Journal of America, Vol. 1,*
- 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Vol. 2,*
- 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25.*
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J. W. JONES,

100 Nott Terrace St., Schenectady, N. Y.

## PUBLISHERS AND DEALERS.

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