



THE
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STAMP.

Published Monthly for Stamp Collectors.

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PIPESTONE, MINN.



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THE MINNESOTA STAMP . .

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

PIPESTONE, MINN., AUG. 1896.

No. 1.

Notes on Rarities.

VEDA.

first Fiji island issue, the "express" stamps, were at the office of the *Fiji Times*, as printed every Saturday by J. Griffiths at his office on Street, Levuka on Ovalan, post which called forth these was established in the latter 1870, and is, I believe, first issued to the public in the Oct. issue of the *Times*. Besides the office at Lavuka, in charge of Griffiths himself, branch offices at Suva, Rewa, Nandi, Makandeow, Bua and some half other points. The scale of postage ranged from 1d for a newspaper, 9d, which charge was made for letters from one local office to another while a letter to any other part of the world cost 3d from Levuka and 6d from any of the other offices. The post continued in Fiji until Jan'y 1872.

The first plate prepared for the issue Great Britain was rejected. The second plate was origi-

nally prepared with a network, from which specimens were printed, and are occasionally met with, although surcharged specimens are eagerly picked up, but the plate was never used for issue until after the network was removed. Plate 3 was also prepared and can be distinguished by a small dot in the trefoil frame immediately below the ornament.

The genuine stamps of the 1867 issue San Salvador are canceled with a number of black dots, possibly intended for a fleur-de-lis; also with the letters S. S. formed into a monogram inclosed in a heavy circle, and with a pen stroke. Any specimens cancelled with either parallel lines, a circle with any name (like ordinary dating stamp), or with a series of concentric circles are counterfeits.

There were, it is stated upon good authority, upwards of three thousand designs submitted to the British Government from which to select a suitable design for the first adhesive postage stamp.

THE MINNESOTA STAMP.

HART AND RUEHLMAN,
PUBLISHERS.

H.D. Ruehlman, Editor, box 79, Sharon, Wis.

Chas.G. Hart, Business Mgr, Pipestone, Minn.

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EDITORIALS.

With this, our first number, we venture on the broad sea of philatelic journalism, only hoping we may live a long and prosperous life. We will publish a paper which will not be controlled by any one dealer or dealers, and will be a paper strictly for the trade. We hope to receive your subscription.

We will make no rash promises for the future, but let each issue speak for itself. We intend to publish 4 to 8 pages with a cover each month.

As the summer months roll on, the philatelic political pot commences to boil, and things seem to be very lively now in both the L. A. P. and P. S. of A. Although we do not publish our ticket in this issue, we would ask all who wish the Exchange

Department of the P. S. of A. in the hands of a competent man in the coming year, to vote for Mr. H. Ruehlman of Wisconsin. Mr. Ruehlman is capable of filling the office in the best possible manner, and we hope to see him come out with a rough majority. We would say Ruehlman first, last and all the time.

We have received with pleasure a copy of the Hand-book of Michigan Collectors, published by W.H. Keller, Detroit, Mich. The price is 15 cents and it is well worth it.

The Texas Philatelic Directory also been received. It contains a complete list of collectors in Texas. Price only 15c. Address Ed W. Heusinger, 113 City street, Antonio, Texas.

The Postage Stamp Craze.

"There is a young woman," said a watchman at the New York post office, "who spends several hours a day in the corridors looking for rare postage stamps. She never looks for a letter and she never expects one, but she watches those who do get them, and examines the stamps on all cast-off envelopes with great care. The stamps must be very rare before she will take it, and every time she gets a foreign stamp she consults a small book which she takes from her pocket."

ce decides whether she will keep not. She may not get a stamp any day at a time, but she does not seem to be discouraged. When she opens one she is as happy as if she had found a gold mine." "Is she the only one who comes for that purpose?" enquired the writer.

"Gladly, no, there are hundreds of them, and of every age, from small boys to gray-haired old men. Most of them want nothing but foreign stamps for collections, while other boys are trying to collect a million United States stamps. At any time you can see the collectors going about the streets carefully picking up every old envelope and removing the stamps. These people are all well-dressed and seem to have nothing else to do but look for stamps.

Several of these men who have been at it a long time have struck up a business between themselves trading stamps. When one of the boys who is trying to collect a million United States stamps finds a rare foreign stamp he trades it with one of the collectors of foreign stamps for two or three hundred old United States stamps, and considers himself well paid. There are a few young boys who collect foreign stamps for the purpose of selling them to collectors."

ERRORS.

FRA.

The bona fide errors must be divided into two classes—those occurring in adhesive emissions and those of the envelopes and postcards, and at present it is my purpose to consider the first class only.

These errors can be further subdivided into six classes, each of which is caused by the manner in which it is produced.

1. Error in design. Usually found in bi-colored stamps, as the inverted centres of the 1869 issue. In one colored stamps the only notable examples are the 5 para Egypt with inverted frame and the 3 kopec Russia with background of the 5k.

2. Error in plate. Where a wrong die is by mistake inserted in a plate, causing a stamp to appear in the color which rightfully belongs to some other value. The 5b Roumania of 1876 is a well-known example.

3. Error in die. Where a mistake in spelling or designing is made in the stamp, as the Qo error in Queensland or the CNETS of the Madison stamp.

4. Errors in watermark. As the New South Wales stamps where the figure of value is watermarked in the paper and wrong values are printed on the paper watermarked with some

other value.

5. Errors in perforation. This class is not so frequently met with as might be anticipated, and occurs by sheet being misplaced when run through the machine or by wearing of the needles, so as to leave two stamps unperforated.

6. "Surcharge" errors. By far the largest class of errors, caused by typographical errors, intentional or otherwise, in the setting of the plate of the surcharge.

The Cancelled Stamp Habit.

There is a really witty writer on the *New York Press* from which we clip the following :

"The canceled stamp seems to possess all of the pernicious qualities of the opium habit, with none of the latter's temporary soothing effects. It takes possession of the poor victim's mind until he loses interest in life and living. His day and his night are merely so many hours of torture. Waking he thinks and sleeping he dreams of how he can increase his stock of canceled stamps. He plots and he plans to get hold of envelopes ; he abstracts them in secret ; he spends hours in hunting through waste baskets. He throws envious

and suspicious glances at the ash barrels, and the sight of a postman brings thoughts of assassination and robbery. He writes letters simply for the sake of getting the canceled stamp on the reply, and he hangs about the post-office in a state of excitation. There should be a Kew-Forest institute started for the cure of the canceled stamp habit before it reaches the asylum stage."

But the "method in our madness" is seen when we point to the fact that at auction in New York city last month a pair of these *cancelled stamps* found a purchaser at the neat figure of \$102.

"What fools these mortals be."

The boy who collects a hundred or so of postage stamps and then offers to trade them for post-marks and post-marks for amateur papers, and these again for tin tobacco tags, may be a good sort of a boy, but his chances are he will never succeed in making a good collection of anything. He has no fixed purpose. He does not stick to anything long enough to find out if it has any merit, or to develop a lively interest in it. If he is going to collect stamps, for instance, let him go at it in earnest, and if after a trial he finds there is nothing in it then he ought to abandon it.



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