

THE

*** MISSOURI * PHILATELIST * ***

A Monthly Magazine in the Interest of
Stamp Collecting.

SUBSCRIPTION—

25 cents a year to all countries.
Single Copies 5 cents.

Published by—
N. G. WILSON, Box 878,
St. Joseph, Mo.

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Wanted! For spot cash, all kinds of U. S. stamps. Let me know what you have.

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15c. Columbian, (unused).....	15c.
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100 Sc. Sherman, 1893	\$2.00.

E. Barclay,
Fort Howard, Wis.

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WELL ! . . .

WELL !! WELL !!!

I will send you a U. S. official stamp cat. at 25c. for the small price of 5 cents.

F. G. BLAND,
143 39th. St., Chicago

The Missouri Philatelist.

PL. I.

DECEMBER, 1895.

NO. 1.

THE MODEL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Ye poet discourseth of ye Model Society, and of ye sad ending of ye saintly men, at ye hands of ye envious, who nourished hatred because they possessed not ye lyke amount of virtue; which is ye ideale of ye Poet's minde and not ye reale.

WISH you all "Good-morrow," and I trust I find you well,
Sure your Poet with a welcome you will greet,
From retirement most enchanting, — from a nicely padded cell,
And a lovely suit that fitted him a treat.
Perhaps you thought you'd lost me, and no doubt you wished it so,
But you had n't. No, you had n't. Oh dear, no!

I'm going to sing so sweetly of a group of model men, —
A Society composed of the *elite*,
Pure amateurs only, who a dealer did n't ken,
And could n't recognise one in the street!
Whose rules were so exacting, that they would n't have a pro.,
No, they would n't; and they did n't. Oh dear, no!

They'd a blameless list of members, all so perfect and so prim,
The very thought of barter gave them pain;
They drew back with a shudder from a dealer's contact grim,
And never bought or sold a stamp for gain.
They'd never sell collections, and to auctions never go,
No, they could n't; and they did n't. Oh dear, no!

Then the journal that they issued was a model for the mass
Of paltry papers published at two d.;
A literary effort of the most exalted class!
And advertising space was given free.
For they would n't touch the money of the outcast dealer. No!
They would n't and they did n't. Oh dear, no!


They spoke with solemn sadness of those magazines that mar
Their pages with self-seekings past rebuke;
They thanked the fates with fervour they were not as others are,
(See 11th verse of 18th chapter Luke).
And modestly immaculate upon their way they go,
While their wisdom never wavered. Oh dear, no!

But at last those meaner mortals who in error would persist,
From envy of their virtue planned a plot;
Proclaimed such bright beatitude too perfect to exist,
And dynamited all the blessed lot.

EPITAPH.

Personified perfection was their saintly life below, —
And now in brighter spheres their virtues glow.

SPECULATIVE CANCELLATIONS.


AR from the least interesting or least important feature of a stamp is the cancellation mark. Probably the greatest difference to the minds of many is that of price. Many otherwise valuable stamps are rendered comparatively worthless by being put "out of sight" behind a blot of ink and as a rule most stamps are worth more new than used. But the case is reversed when we consider some of the old German States, where a genuine used stamp commands a higher price than a new one.

A cancellation mark should be regarded as a badge of honor on a stamp as showing that it had legitimate use and was therefore worthy of collection by a philatelist, while on a Seebeck it would show that it had really reached the country for which it was ostensibly issued. But will it show any of these things if the present system of cancelling to oblige or deceive continues? By cancelling to oblige, I refer to countries whose stamps are too costly for the ordinary collector and who cancel large quantities of their stamps and place them on the market in a canceled condition.

When a stamp, which is worth more used than new, is canceled by a private party with the intention of making a neat profit, it is called "canceled to deceive." The two classes are plain out-and-out frauds, there being no way to tell between the genuinely used one and the canceled. Countries which desire to make money out of the stamp craze without making issues too often adopt the cancellation system. But several countries issue stamps for speculation

and then cancel them.

It is all very nice to have the stamps of Guatemala and other countries priced a few cents in a canceled condition. But the catalogues call them used, which is certainly inapplicable to them. If a philatelist desires to collect used stamps and to do so sends to Guatemala (knowing the character of the emissions of the country priced in the catalogues as used) and has the entire set placed on a letter and addressed to himself. Is this collector over delighted when he receives the letter and finds the stamps are canceled, the same as he could have bought in New York for a dollar or two? I find I heard him praying backward and forward.

Can't you see that the used stamps are a swindle pure and straight? So, if we wish our stamps to be such, we must buy the unused ones, and nothing would be gained by the action of these obliging governments. If collectors desire stamps at reduced prices, why not have them surcharged "obligers," or something of the sort, and not have them confused with the postally used ones? About the only objection to this is that they would take rank with reprints, but is that where they belong? A Seebeck in an unused condition has no philatelic value, but if we collect only the new ones we find ourselves in as bad a "fix" as ever, for, in addition to their Seebeckism, these countries have adopted the cancellation business. This is especially dangerous, as most of the Seebecks are worth more in a used condition than unused.

A collector may denounce speculative issues but buy these cancellation frauds which, in truth, are also speculative

as they are issued entirely for the
of philatelists. Most of the
which issue cancelled stamps are
important, and thus endeavor to
their income and also oblige the
all at one stroke.

Seebecks, as also many other
cancellations, properly belong
cancelled to deceive," as they cer-
deceive. The stamps of Guate-
mos, North Borneo, and some of
Costa Rica, Liberia, Martinique,
an Republic, Montenegro and
others are among these specula-
tries, but it will be observed
are not many, as many coun-
not heard of this new method
ding collectors, but if collectors
to buy them because they are
ey will soon be as great a nuis-
the speculative issues.

most among the "cancelled to de-
revenues used postally. Many
revenues are worth almost nothing
es, but are great rarities when
a postal cancellation. Here is
the counterfeiter does his little
any acids are known that will
ink, so that is comparatively easy
the pen cancellation, used on
then to have some obliging post-
cancel it is also an easy matter,
! a change has come to pass
useless stamp is worth several
An experienced philatelist can
of these changelings from a gen-
ellation by some trace of the
ink being left, but a small collec-
bly cannot tell them, and there-
only course is to buy them of
the dealers.

prints of several countries have
elected by a "counterfeit killer,"

and thus made to appear valuable. This
is especially true of those of Heligoland.

Enormous numbers of unused remain-
ders of certain countries have been sold,
and thus the unused stamps are rendered
common, while the used ones are scarce.
It is in these countries' stamps that a
fraudulently disposed person has a grand
chance, for all he has to do is to make a
"killer," and behold! this same "killer"
in his hands becomes a magician's wand,
for with it he can make valuable stamps
out of cheap ones.

But, after all, we have no right to ob-
ject to these cancellation frauds if we
collect speculative stamps, for they are
all of a class.—GORDEN C. CORBALEY, in
the *Eastern Philatelist*.

HIGH AND LOW CLASS OF PHIL- ATELIO PAPERS.

↑ HERE are, as most collectors are
aware, two distinct classes of stamp
papers, one of them catering ex-
clusively to the most advanced
collectors, and admitting nothing
to its columns unless of a high class, and
what I might call strictly scientific char-
acter.

The high class paper gives from the
hands of specialists and those well cap-
able of handling the subject, articles—
generally long ones—on the stamps of
the different countries, these articles of
course going into the minutest details of
perforation, watermark and the many
things causing varieties in stamps. Such
papers with their "heavy" articles have a
scientific aroma about them, and to the
younger and middle-aged collector are a-
bout as interesting as the *Astronomical
News*.

There are but about two of these high class papers in this country, and while we sometimes hear the complaint that the philatelic press does not give enough *instructive* articles, yet a close study of the matter will show that it does not pay to publish papers of this class, and that their support as regards the number of subscriptions is less than is accorded to the lower class journals.

This may appear a bold statement, and yet the proof is not wanting. How many stamp papers, both in this country and the other side, who started with a subscription price of two shillings, or fifty cents, and later reduced it? If the choice meal of valuable and instructive articles as served by them each month commands the support of the younger element, why reduce the price? Only for one reason, because the support is lacking, and by a lower price they hope to obtain it.

Take the high class papers giving only articles on the various issues of stamps, and how much is there in them for the ordinary collector? If he be a specialist, as so many are, he may find one or two articles published during a year of interest to him, and while this number of good articles is worth the subscription price of any stamp paper, yet by the time he struck those articles, he would think the paper of little interest owing to the publisher omitting little news notes as of no value, and as too insignificant for publication in a high class journal.

Right here to my mind is where these publishers make a great mistake, as while no one will deny the value of the learned articles on the different issues of stamps, yet these alone served up for months are too much like the roast beef at dinner without the dessert. Heavy articles are

good, and yet it is the little news and philatelic happening and gossip of which is going on which lends the greatest interest to a paper. In these every collector is interested, be he young or old, advanced or a beginner, and the publisher who caters to this line has the whole to draw from, while that of the high class paper is very limited.

Strong proof of this is seen in the present tendency of the scientific stamp papers toward giving a lighter class of literature along with the other matter. The results, I feel sure, will justify change.

It is needless for any one to complain of our papers devoting too much valuable space to current topics and not enough to statistical or postal history articles. There are enough papers giving the heavy matter, and if all publishers were to follow in the same line for six months I feel that hundreds, nay, thousands, would tire from the pursuit entirely, and under the present liberal manner of conducting the papers, with their cordial recognition of every one, and the hearty friendship seemingly always extended, these collectors will follow the leader for many years to come, basking in sunshine and learning by the way, and as one by one we older ones pass on the line, they will step forward, take up a higher standard and carry it onward as we have done in the past.—ELMER WOOD SPENCER, in *The Post Office*.



THE HIGHER STANDARD IN EVIDENCE.

SINCE first the philatelic world was surprised and amazed at the announcement of the Stamp Collector's Herald, from Albany, N. Y., (the first philatelic journal known,) there has been a steady increase in the value of our journals. So the ancient philatelists say. I cannot state the fact as positive, not having been living in those days, but we must take it as a truth nevertheless. This much I do know, that during the past ten years there has been a perceptible advance in the quality of our stamp papers, more especially of recent date. Let us give illustrations. I have before me two of the best papers of the year 1889. They are The American Stamp Journal and The N. Y. Philatelist. Let me glance over the American Stamp Journal. It has the usual 8 pages minus cover. The first sketch is termed "The Subject of Advertis-

ing." It embraces three paragraphs. The next subject is "Philatelic Societies and Their Uses." This is copied from a contemporary. Then comes nearly a column of self-advertising. The Post-Offices of Yokohama" is next, occupying one-half column. A list of New Hampshire papers follows, after which comes a treatise on stamp collecting. The editorials and reviews follow, and "Stamps as an Investment" wind up the reading part. The N. Y. Philatelist is even worse. It opens with "The Dominican Republic and its Stamps," which is "to be continued." "The Benefits of Philatelic Journals" comes in for a share, and "Notes" follow. This philatelic paper has a Philatelic Corner (!) which completes the contents.

Now take up the latest papers of '95. Remember, only 6 years difference!

The Bay State Philatelist is "a monthly magazine devoted to the Science of Philately." The first page

contains a photograph of H. B. Phillips. "The Postal Service of New South Wales" follows, after which is given a comparison of auction prices. Short newsy paragraphs find their way in all unimportant corners, and under the head of "In Philatelia" is given news about stamp issues and discoveries. A timely editorial regarding the 2c. '94-5 follows, after which we have a report of the A. P. A. convention. "Personalities" is a new departure, and "Philatelic Stories of the Streets and Towns" follow.

By these comparisons it is easily discerned how much higher the standard has been raised in the last few years. Let it continue. Let the standard be yearly raised higher and higher until we will have a high class series of philatelic monthlies. And The

Missouri Philatelist will help to accomplish the end. —W. Lionel Moise

THE COLUMBIAN ENVELOPE

It makes me "weary" to see how many well informed stamp people speak of the Columbian Stamped Envelope as bearing the profiles of Columbus and Isabella.

It is not the profile of Isabella, but is a representation of Liberty.

Our authority for this ex-postmaster general Wanamaker, the originator of the Columbian issue.

He says: "This design consists of an embossed circular stamp considerably larger than the stamp on the current issue of envelope bearing as the principal feature the profiles of Columbus and Liberty above the figure of an eagle with outstretched wings, and surrounded by a shield similar to that used in the arms of the United States."

So it will be plain to those who have described them as having Isabella's profile were in error.

—Badger Philatelist

THE MISSOURI PHILATELIST.

A Monthly Philatelic Magazine.

Subscription, 25c. per year.

Back numbers 5c. each.

Advertising Rates :

	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 yr.
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Editor and Publisher—

N. G. WILSON, S. P. A. & P. S. A.,
Box 878, St. Joseph, Mo.

Issued on the first of each month. All matter for the next issue must be in by the 15th. of this month.

EDITORIAL.

Thanksgiving day means to most collectors a day of rest and turkey. A portion of the many thousands of collectors throughout the country

will receive a copy of this, our first issue, on thanksgiving day, the 28th. of Nov. Trusting that this, our first attempt, will be kindly received by the philatelic fraternity we make our bow.

(Continued on page 10.)

A POSTAGE STAMP THAT WILL
BE RARE.

HUPON the occasion of the seven hundredth anniversary of the birth of Antonius of Padua, which was celebrated last June in Portugal, a set of Jubilee postage stamps was issued bearing portraits of the Saint. There were four designs. Type one shows the Saint praying. Type two as he addresses a sermon to the fishes. Type three his Ascension to Heaven. Type four his portrait with the bible and stalk of lilies. Since these stamps were issued for two weeks only, and the balance was to be destroyed on July 2d., sets of these stamps, particularly used ones, will become scarce, and collectors should try and obtain them at an early date before prices go up.—Phila. Record.



(Continued from page 9.)

Advertisers will please take notice that all advertisements for a less time than 3 months must be paid for in advance. We cannot spare the time necessary to book the accounts of transient advertisers. Six months or yearly advertisers who are known to us, or who will furnish satisfactory references, can remit at expiration of each quarter.

The P. S. of A. is to be incorporated. 10000 shares of stock at 25c. each will be issued. The P. S. of A. is the largest and best philatelic society in the world. This is due to the low dues and many advantages.

The Southern Philatelic Association is slowly but surely climbing the ladder of success. Ye ed

itor recently received a couple of well filled books from the exchange department, showing this department to be in good condition. If the official journal is published regularly hereafter, look for a host of new applications.

Meekel's Weekly recently published a large number on extra fine pages, and giving a complete history of the Meekel Co., with a large number of good engravings.

THE PHILATELIC PRESS.

Filatellic Facts & Failacies completes its 3d. year without a double number.

The Dixie Philatelist is now published at Macon, Miss. The last number is quite an improvement.

The Collector of Minneapolis is a very neat and tasty monthly devoted to the S. of P.

The Texan Philatelist, published semi-monthly at Abilene, Tex., by W. C.

Lowry, is well worth 15c. per year.

The Reporter promises a 16 "pager" for Xmas.

The Evergreen State Philatelist, as well as the Eastern Philatelist, promise extra large holiday numbers. The Eastern Philatelist improves every month.

The Post Office don't seem to be in as prosperous a condition as it was this time last year.

"Facts" is a curious little monthly coming from Riverside, Calif., but "tall Oaks from little Acorns grow."

The Michigan Philatelist is "on top," but more original matter would be an improvement.

Neat, though small, is The Midland Philatelist from Kansas City, Mo., by F. R. Hurst.

The Rocky Mountain Stamp is one of those papers you "read about." We need more like it.

The Badger Philatelist should be printed on better paper.

The Stamp, (Groveland, Mass.) is all right. So is "The Stamp."

The Nebraska Philatelic Blue Book, compiled by E. L. Platz and published by Hopson & Platz, Omaha, Neb., is promised. Price 10c. It will contain over 500 addresses of Nebraska collectors.

—♦♦♦—
For the Missouri Philatelist.

Here and There.

BY BERTRAM J. BISHOP.

Mr. Chas. G. Hart, publisher of the Pipestone Philatelist, has been confined to the house for some time with a fever. For this reason the P. P. is a little late this month.

Herbert C. Beardsley has resigned his position as Official Editor of the P. S. of A., and Oney K. Carstarplun appointed in his stead.

We may soon have a national philatelic emblem. W. H. Kessler, Jr., has been working on one for some time and thinks he has hit upon a good idea.

Mr. I. E. Patterson has resigned his position as Sec'y of the Mich. Phil. Society and J. T. Percival of Port Huron appointed to fill the position.

Another resignation from the above society is that of S. E. Kirk as Treasurer. Ye scribe will hereafter handle the coin.

Mr. Don Fuller, of Detroit, has given up stamps altogether. In some unaccountable manner he has lost his interest in the hobby. He will be greatly missed from the circles of Detroit stamp collectors.

Chas. C. Guy, the genial editor of the Northern Philatelist, spent most of October in New York City. Business and pleasure combined were the cause of his trip.

E. S. Martin of Minneapolis has given us a new philatelic journal, — *The Collector*. We hope it may meet better success than its predecessor of the same name.

Notes From Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Philatelic Association has been organized, with C. W. Lawton, of Patterson's Mills, Pa., sec'y pro tem. Initiation fee 10c. Dues, 25c. per year. Mr. Lawton will be pleased to furnish application blanks, to any Pennsylvania collector.

The Pennsylvania Philatelist for November, contains the usual amount of interesting reading and a full account of Mr. Kissinger's trip. The Pennsy. was the finest paper received in November. Mr. Kissinger knows how to get out a good paper.

Messrs. Chas. & William Beamish, of Phila.

have formed a partnership and are prepared to supply any number of good stamps at reasonable figures. The more the merrier.

The Pennsylvania Stamp published at Patterson's Mills, Pa. by Lawton, Cleaver & Co., is a new one. Again we say, The more —

The Fireside Philatelist is a small 8 page 3x4 monthly published by P. E. A. Conrade, Mile Run, Pa. It beats all what a big name some of the smallest papers have.

Where's that S. of P. hand-book? Speaking of the S. of P. makes one think the S. of P. is a good thing,—for *The Collector*.

Filatelic Facts.

Published monthly at only 15c. per year. Sample Free. Advertising Rates \$3.00 per page. A year's subscription to *Filatelic Facts*; a year's subscription to *The Missouri Philatelist*, and a ten cent book, all for only 30c. Total value 50c. Send 30c. silver, stamps or money order to

FACTS PUB. CO., Riverside, California.

1000 fine 6x9 in. circulars of 1000 words or less printed on both sides and sent postpaid for \$1.75. On one side, 500 words, \$1.15. N. G. WILSON, St. Joseph, Mo. Box 878.

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St. Joseph, Missouri.

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100.	300.	500.	1000	2000.	3000.
20c.	50c.	80c.	\$1.50.	\$3.	\$4.50.

Other sizes at equally low rates. Write for estimates. We can mail, and are now mailing, 30 packages per month. We can mail 10,000 if necessary. We never send over 10 circulars in a package, and always try to fix them so they won't conflict.

Give us a trial.

Address

The PHILATELIC MAIL AGENCY
St. Joseph, Mo.

Exchange Notices.

This department is for the free use of our subscribers; limited to 30 words. All others 10c. for each insertion. Notices must be written on a separate piece of paper, and the same notice cannot be inserted twice unless paid for.

We will give two sets of 4 var. of unused Columbian envelopes for every unused or perfect used 50c. Columbian sent us, or will give one unused set for every unused 30c. Columbian sent us. Hurst Stamp Co., 1517 Forest Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

Will give 50 good stamps for every 2 philatelic papers sent me in good condition. W. F. Cherington, Viroqua, Wis.

All kinds of printing to exchange for U. S. stamps. Facts Pub. Co., 997 Main St., Riverside, Calif.

In exchange for 10 good covered stamp papers I will send 500 continentals. N. G. Wilson, Box 878, St. Joseph, Mo.

Trade Notices.

30 words or less, 10c. 1 notice free with every subscription. Extra words 4c. each.

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T. Brodstone, B x 116, Superior, Neb.

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address for a sample copy,
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The Missouri Philatelist.

H. G. Wilson, Pub.

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VOLUME 1.
NUMBER 2.

February,
1896.

PHILATELY AND THE WEATHER, OR MID-WINTER FANCIES.

[BY M. C. SPEARS]

It is an undisputed fact that cold weather infuses new life and vigor into Philately, but the cause of this effect has never been satisfactorily proven and probably never will be.

As much as we Philatelic pen pushers desire to make a perennial of Philately, she nevertheless remains a winter blooming plant. For it is only in the coldest, frostiest weather that her richest flowers bloom forth in snowy splendor; and later on after the auction sales and all lively traffic in stamps have culminated, we rest from our interesting labor and quietly enjoy Philately's fruits, that is if they are not too bitter.

Natural Philosophy has explained the stimulating effect of cold weather upon the brain, so as stamp collecting is an intellectual pursuit, it is only natural that Philately should be more actively pursued in cold than in warm weather.

It is an interesting study to watch the rapid revival of interest all along Philatelic lines at the first suggestion of cold weather. The collector walking along the street and smelling frost, turns up his coat collar and hastens home, there to resurrect his collection and we can imagine him all during the winter, seated before the "glowing coals" dreaming over his blank spaces or anxiously scrutinizing some doubtful specimen.

The dealer spying the first newspaper prophesy of a "cold snap," straightway arranges his stamp window in the most attractive style, and selecting his most tempting bait for the unwary collector, sends off his "copy" to the stamp papers. Ye editor thus financially encouraged,

rejuvenates his publication and sends forth in holliday garb with four columns editorials on "Why our magazine has not reached you regularly during the summer." And last but by no means least, ye Philatelic author! There is nothing left for him to do but seize pen and paper, and grind out pages of copy on "Mid-Winter Fancies."

A PRECIOUS STAMP.

By C. Arnold Henchman.

A friend of mine, a quite rich man by the way, is the owner of quite a precious stamp. I have forgotten the denomination of the stamp in question but will say it is one with a history: In 1860 Mr. Laverre later Col. Laverre of the Confederate Army found a stamp in the traffic thoroughfare of Richmond. He kept the stamp superstitiously believing if he lost same his good luck would desert him.

In a battle in 1864 Col. Laverre was found dead on the field and among his effects was the stamp. It was in several hands when a stamp broker named G. got it and would not sell it for less than \$500, having bought it for a dime. Wittich, my friend, bought the stamp for \$500 and would not sell it now for five times that amount. The moral to this is watch your stamps, a fortune may pass through your hands without your knowing it.

Collectors will be surprised to hear that stamp collections in China are very numerous. The higher class of people who are civilized collect once in a while but by the poorer class such people are looked upon as idiots or "chee faos" as the Chinese say. The writer knows it from personal experience and once barely escaped serious consequences by arguing with a "Big Tail" of the higher class. Should you have good fortune of any of the readers to visit China, we trust they will not have to do the above.

NOTES.

Give 'em a rest, Seebecks.
 Growing Philatelic Facts.
 No good, Approval books.
 Enlarged, Michigan stamp.
 On time, Michigan Philatelist.
 A "Beaut," The Xmas Penny.
 Leave them alone, Surcharges.
 Will be higher, U. S. revenues.
 Biggest and best, The P. S. of A.
 A good investment, U. S. stamps.
 Wanted, A Missouri State Society.
 Where is it? Beardsley's Advertiser.
 Needs an official organ, The S. P. A.
 Pretty as a flower, Rocky Mt. Stamp.
 Behine time, Lone Star State Philatelist.
 A good thing, The Missouri Philatelist.
 The E. S. P. stand without a peer. Nit.
 Dead, The Collector; likewise the S. of P.
 The only one, Mekeel's Daily Stamp Star.
 Needs an edition, The Seneca Philatelist.
 Making money, Evergreen State Philatelist.
 Written by "Misery."

THE BEST FIND OF RAREST STAMPS.

Some of the Most Remarkable Chapters in
 the History of Philately.

Stamps are frequently made the theme of Christmas tales in the magazines devoted to the interests of the stamp-collecting fraternity, but the wildest flights of the philatelic romancers make but feeble approach to the marvelous real story of the latest "find" of the rarest stamps known which was recently made at Louisville, Kentucky.

The stamps referred to are those that were issued by Postmaster John M. Wimer at St. Louis, Mo., in November 1845, before the United States Government had decided to adopt the system of prepaying postage by adhesive stamps, which had first introduced in England in 1840 in order to permit of a full appreciation

of the extraordinary value that attaches to these labels a few facts concerning their history is necessary.

Although, as stated, these stamps were issued in 1845, their existence was not known to collectors until November, 1863, eighteen years after their creation, thus indicating to some extent their scarcity. Ever since this discovery they have been the subject of deep and careful research in order to fully establish their authenticity and their consequent value. It was not long before the more scientific collectors had traced the records back so as to fully establish the legitimacy of the 5 and 10 cent values, but the genuine character of the 20-cent value had remained a subject of doubt and discussion up to the fall of 1894, when John K. Tiffany, a prominent attorney of St. Louis and an ardent philatelist, gathered together from the fortunate collectors who had specimens a number of the three different denominations, and from a thorough examination and comparison of these specimens evolved a theory which he claimed unassailably established the genuineness of the 20-cent denomination. But the full proof of the character of this most valuable of all postal labels was only obtained when the extraordinary discovery was made at Louisville.

The result of the investigations made regarding these philatelic gems, it has been ascertained that the aggregate number of all values combined that were printed in 9000. Of this number 3500 were of the 5-cent denomination, 4500 of the 10-cent and but 1000 of the 20-cent. It was further ascertained that there were variations in the designs and differences in the paper upon which the stamps were printed that resulted in seven distinct varieties of the 5-cent, 9 of the 10-cent and four varieties of the 20-cent. Evidence was also obtained which indicated that a considerable number of each value had never been

brought into use, and which are presumed to have been destroyed.

These are the facts which show the extreme rarity of all these stamps, and how much they are sought after by collectors is shown by their market price today. The most common specimens, certain varieties of the 5 and 10-cent denominations, are valued at \$250 each, while the rarest, certain varieties of the 20-cent, which are found among the Louisville lot, recently changed hands at the record price for stamps, a pair of them having been sold for \$5000.

Stray fragments of the story of the great Louisville find have appeared in various philatelic publications for the past few months, but the full details of the sensational developments relating to the matter were jealously guarded by those who were in a position to tell them. The lion's share of these eventually fell into the hands of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., of St. Louis, and in the special semi-annual edition of their Philatelic Journal of America, just out the full story of the great find is told for the first time, the only variation from absolute facts being changes in the names of those who made the original discovery and those who assisted to dispose of the stamps. The salient and most interesting features of the story follows.

Black Bob is a Kentucky negro employed as porter in the courthouse at Louisville Ky. One day last August Bob was commissioned to clear up some boxes of old correspondence, besides an accumulation of miscellaneous traps that had for some time been an eyesore to those about the building.

In the act of shoveling a large batch of old letters into the furnace, several that were loose fell at the negro's feet. To one of them Bob noticed a stamp attached. He picked it up for examination, and it being of unusual appearance, and remembering

that he had heard of boys collecting stamps of foreign countries, he placed it in his pocket and then besought himself to sell it for others so long as he had taken no trouble to save this one.

A half-way careless tumbling of one of two other bunches brought to his view stamps, about the same as he had seen before, except that the figures in the cases were different; the pictures, however, of two bears appeared in all.

At this point of Bob's interesting investigations the two janitors of the building came in, and, seeing the darky courting examining one of the stamps, asked him what he was looking at. Forthwith he produced what he had found, and one of the janitors expressed an interest in them. Bob asked him what he would give to obtain them. The janitor being acquainted too with a gentleman who, as he expressed it, "liked such thing," offered a quarter a drink for the lot. Bob was too thrifty to resist, with payday away in the distance and mentally congratulating himself upon his mornings good fortune, quickly closed the deal.

Janitor Draper and his co-worker, Bob, the next evening called at the former's stamp-collecting acquaintance, as Draper did not care to keep his quarter invested any longer than he could help, and besides he expected to realize a profit. Perhaps the stamp would bring a dollar.

Draper's astonishment, not to say satisfaction, can, therefore, be imagined when he received a \$5 bill for the stamps. Berry struck for his share and received it. They at once arranged a programme for the next day, as there were several boxes of old correspondence in the courthouse cellar that had not been touched.

They were both down an hour earlier than usual, and smiling fortune greeted them, for in the very first box out of

had taken the other bundle of letter, they found quite a quantity they concealed their discovery from the porter who made his appearance later in the day, and who had forgotten the incident of the previous afternoon.

Draper and Berry met the next evening at an appointment at the former's house to discuss the situation and arrange to sell the 100 additional "bear" stamps they had secured, at the rate they had received for the first nine, would mean more than \$50 for them. But would the collector give this amount? This idea worried them considerably, and they decided to take counsel with their brothers-in-law. This proved a wise precaution for Draper's brother-in-law suggested they dispose of but a few at a time. He knew nothing about stamps, but having much natural shrewdness feared that a wholesale offering might spoil the market. He also suggested that they visit a printer named Hacker, who displayed stamps for sale in his show-window. In accordance with the programme fixed upon they called upon Hacker on the following Monday. The printer had considerable knowledge of stamps, and when the four curiosities called and displayed to his astonishment a dozen or so of their stamps he scarcely believe his eyes. As soon as he examined his composure sufficiently he asked them if they had with them all they owned, their countenance had already betrayed them, and they were obliged to acknowledge they had others, but would not admit that there were more than double they exhibited. Hacker insisted that they bring all they had to him, and promised to give them \$25 a piece for such specimens as he could select, and the next evening was appointed for a second meeting.

Meanwhile Hacker was in a serious predicament. He had promised to buy at least \$100 worth of stamps, but had no available funds. In his dilemma he remembered an

acquaintance, who was an advanced collector. He called on him, told him the story and promised to sell him on a reasonable basis some of the stamps if he would advance him the necessary sum of money. This was readily done, as the collector was extremely anxious to secure some of the long wished-for rarities.

True to their promise the party of four called on Hacker the next evening and to his astonishment, produced more than forty of the coveted rarities. He carefully selected the cream of the lot, as to the sellers it made no difference whether he took a 5, 10, or a 20 cent stamp. The result of the transaction gave the stamp sellers \$325 and Hacker thirteen of the choicest of the St. Louis stamps, among them two of the 20-cent denomination and from the sale of which he subsequently made a net profit of nearly \$4000.

Their peculiar fortunate experience induced the two janitors subsequently to seek the counsel of a well-known collector and prominent business man of Louisville, in whose employ they had recently been. He proved a real friend, and on his advice they paid a visit to New York with a portion of their possessions. Here they disposed of nineteen stamps for \$2000, subsequently other sales were made to New York and Boston dealers. Forty-two stamps were thus disposed of within a short time for a sum less than \$5000.

At this stage the St. Louis firm came on the scene and by shrewd and generous dealing succeeded in obtaining all the remaining stamps in the hands of Draper and Berry, some ninety-five in number at a total outlay of about \$23,000. The total number of stamps brought to light was 137, consisting of seventy-five of the 5cent, 46 of the 10 cent and 16 of the 20cent.

Altogether Draper and Berry realized in the neighborhood of 30,000 from their find, which was equally divided between

them, and Bob, the real discoverer of the great bonanza, was made happy by a liberal gift.

It may be interesting to know further that all these stamps were found on envelopes addressed to Messrs. Tyler and Rutherford of Louisville, Ky., and were from the firm of William Nisbet & Co. of St. Louis, and that their aggregate value to-day is not less than \$60,000.—[Christmas Edition of the San Francisco Call.

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Are you going to vote this ticket? if not, why not? O. K. Castarphen, for President, is the most prominent candidate. Ralph W. Ashcraft has also announced his candidacy for President.

There are many candidates for each of the various offices, but why shouldn't there be? Many societies are springing up, but none of them can or ever will compare with the P. S. of A. The applications are rolling in at the rate of almost a hundred per month. Every department is in good working order.

The act of incorporation will probably be completed before this is published, and members should see that their dues are paid before March 1st. An alphabetically arranged list of members would be appreciated and anyone desiring to assist in the publication of such a list or a complete P. S. of A. handbook, kindly write the editor of this paper. It should contain an alphabetically arranged list, as well as a list in the order of their number. The constitution, by-laws, etc. There are a number of our readers that have not yet joined this greatest of all great societies. The editor would be pleased to furnish application blanks to such upon request.

We will always endeavor to make this paper especially interesting to members of the Philatelic Sons of America.

The Southern Philatelic Association seems to be dying for the want of a good official organ.

The Columbian Philatelic Society is hustling.

THE MISSOURI PHILATELIST.

A MONTHLY PHILATELIC MAGAZINE.

Subscription 25 cents per year.
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Editor and Publisher,

S. P. A. N. G. WILSON,
P. S. of A. Box 678, St. Joseph, Mo.

EDITORIAL.

Next time you review the M. P. kindly send us a copy as we don't like to borrow one.

We have changed printers and can promise our readers a better looking magazine in the future.

Bro Littlejohn of the Seneca Philatelist continues to run a two page article through three or four numbers.

There are, no doubt, many of our readers that have not read the full particulars of the St. Louis "find," hence we republish it.

Advertisements and subscriptions are a good thing. We have pushed ours along the month. In other words we've skipped a month.

Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Western Philatelist contains eight pages and supplement. The supplement being a photo of O. L. Caspary. We have seen this gentleman's picture so frequently of late that we feel as though we were acquainted with him.

Never "paste" an advertisement on a postal card, unless you desire to "stick" the receiver for a whole cent. This is published for our readers in general and Bro. Lowry in particular.

The Philatelic Exchange, announced on the last page, is the paper you have been looking for. Several pages of exchange notices in many different countries have been received already.

The exchange editor of the Philatelic Newsletter presumes the editor of the Missouri Philatelist will derive as much pleasure from his "little paper" as the editor of the Newsletter does, but fears for his pile of the wherewithal if he doesn't succeed in ensnaring the festive advertiser in a greater measure. No doubt the editor of the "little paper" does derive as much pleasure in writing "editorials" as does the editor of the "big" one. We venture to say we are carrying more cash advertisements than the Newsletter.

Societies are all we can read about now. It seems that almost every philatelic publisher, not already the official organ of some society, organizes one. Where their profit comes in is a mystery, at least the most of them. There are at least five magazines claiming over 1500 readers that devote three or four out of their eight or ten pages of reading matter to a state society of less than 150 members. Do you suppose the other 1350 readers care anything about a society which they cannot join?

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 2-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 3 x 5 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.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

By J. De Q. Donohoe.

NOTE. The article which follows may not contain any news for the full-fledged philatelist, but this issue of our paper is very largely circulated, and will doubtless come into the hands of many who are beginners or have recently taken up the fascinating hobby, and will find the general remarks that follow of interest.—Editor.

An old and often dirty postage stamp, is not to the average man either a thing of beauty or a joy forever, but the philatelist it is both, at least if it be a rare variety. Philatelist, we should explain is a word that has only lately received recognition by the standard dictionaries; It means one who makes a collection of stamps, and designates a class numerous throughout the world, but especially so in the United States.

To the uninitiated it seems almost incredible that this hobby possesses at least fifty American periodicals devoted entirely to its interests; that it supports dealers in nearly

every city whose sole occupation it is to buy and sell stamps for collections, some of them claiming sales aggregating \$100,000 yearly; and that it sustains a half dozen national societies with large memberships; yet all this is true.

And talk about cranks! Your genuine stamp fiend, for so he has been nick-named, could give points to the base-ball or bicyclic enthusiast, and beat him so badly that the latter's zeal would seem of an Arctic temperature. But after all he is not a bad sort of a fellow. There is no disputing about tastes, and there is something about the postage stamp that gives it the great fascination as the object of collection.

This is shown by the widely varied classes whence these philatelists are drawn. The larger number of them is made of school-boys; but wealthy business men, clergymen, lawyers and physicians, are often found to be devoted to the pursuit. The royal families of the world contribute not a few collectors, amongst them the King of Siam, the girl Queen of Holland and the Duke of Edinburg.

The finest collection ever gathered was that of the late T. K. Tapping, a former member of the English House of Commons. This pursuit engrossed much of his time, and he had at least one clerk constantly employed in attending to his philatelic correspondence. Mr. Tapping left his stamps estimated to be worth \$500,000, to the British Museum, where they are now exhibited.

There are also many valuable collections in this country, although

none that rival the ones just mentioned. The late A. Gerald Hull, millionaire broker and capitalist, possessed one of the best of them. By his will it came into possession of his fifteen year old sister, who is said to have refused \$47,000 offered for it by a New York dealer. It has been estimated that their present rate of increase will cause these stamps to more than double in value by the time this young lady comes of age. Not a bad investment; government bonds would not prove half as profitable, if this calculation is correct.

Both George and Edwin Gould have figured as philatelists, and bought some valuable stamps in their time, but the present status of their collections is not known to the public.

There are between three and four hundred separate countries and colonies that either do issue, or have issued, postage stamps and the total number of regular varieties recognized is close to thirty thousand. By far the larger part of these bring out trifling prices as objects of collection when cancelled. A thousand of the common varieties from the whole world may be bought for ten dollars or less, and not one-half of the number catalogued will bring as much as 25 cents each.

The large sums represented by the great collections mentioned, are mainly invested in a few rarities that are held at enormous prices. Costliest, perhaps, amongst these are the first two stamps issued by the British Colony of Mauritius. Specimens of the pair recently bought thirty-four hundred dollars

at a stamp auction held in London.

Several early stamps of British Guiana bring from \$300 to \$1000 each. The Sandwich Islands, Moldavia, and Afghanistan, are also credited with great rarities.

There are probably some hundreds of regular varieties that would bring over \$100 each; and besides these there is no end of freaks and oddities, that is stamps printed in the wrong colors, on unusual paper, or something of the kind, enabling them to command extravagant prices.

The market value of a stamp depends solely, of course, upon the law of demand and supply. Many of the oldest issues are not rare, because so many of them have been manufactured and are yet preserved. For instance, a specimen of the first adhesive stamp which was issued by England in 1840, may be purchased for three cents. On the other hand, certain varieties that are not really very scarce, bring higher prices than their comparative rarity would warrant, because there is some special demand for them. This is the case with the larger number of issues of our own country.

Most American collectors make a specialty of these, and so in obedience to their extensive demand, U. S. stamps bring in general higher prices than equally rare ones of other countries.

Our first regular issue was made in 1847, but two or three years before that time the postmasters of several cities adopted stamps of their own to certify that postage had been prepaid. Nearly all of these locals command very high

prices. One issued at New Haven is held at \$2,500; another belonging to Milbury at \$1,000; and a Brattleboro local at \$600. Only a specimen or two from New York and Providence can be bought as low as \$5.

Later government issues of the U. S. are numerous and include many varieties of considerable rarity. Amongst them are the 98 departmental stamps of 1873, which continued in use but a few years, being then superseded by the present penalty envelopes. Stamps of the Treasury, War and Post-Office Departments are rather common, but the Executive stamps for the President's use, and those of Navy, Justice, and State Departments, are most rare to-day. The issue of the department last named, embraced two, five, ten and twenty dollar values, of which the five is the scarcest stamp ever issued by the government. It has brought nearly one hundred dollars at auction.

Comparatively few know that we issue stamps of higher denomination than any other country in the world. There are the newspaper and periodical emissions, which range through a set of twenty-five denominations from one cent to sixty dollars in face value, and are amongst the most beautiful stamps in existence. They are not sold to the public, but only used by postmasters who affix them to blank forms in amounts equal to the postage paid by publishers and newsdealers on second-class matter, then cancel and forward them to Washington where they are destroyed. As a consequence these

stamps can only surreptitiously come into the possession of collectors. But a large number of them is constantly found on the philatelic market, the results it is supposed, of postoffice thefts, and the compliance of certain postmasters who sell these coveted labels to friends, despite the law.

The recent Columbian stamps have excited more interest than any others ever issued in this country. They have been much criticised, and have almost taken rank with the mother-in-law and other standbys, as butts of journalistic wit. But it cannot be denied that they were beautiful. They have also proved a profitable venture for Uncle Sam. It is estimated that a million dollar's worth of them uncanceled, has been taken by collectors, which represents that much clear gain to the Post-Office Department.

Many other countries have lately issued commemorative stamps. A half a dozen: South and Central American countries have their Columbian sets, more or less closely patterned after ours. Then, too, Japan celebrated the recent silver wedding of the Emperor by a special set of stamps; Hong Kong and Shanghai have their jubilee issues, after fifty years continuance of their present forms of municipal government; and Portugal has gone the quarter centennial Columbian celebrations one better, and has an elaborately designed set of stamps to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of the earliest expedition sent out from her shores for discovery.

Most countries use characteristic

and often artistic designs upon their ordinary stamps so that the beauty of a well arranged collection of these in part explains the popularity of the hobby. It is said that many artists who are not philatelists in the ordinary sense, yet gather the more beautiful stamps unused that they may study their designs.

The main element in the popularity of philately, is however, its human interest. Postage stamps are a good running commentary on modern history and geography.

They teach little directly about these things, but powerfully stimulate curiosity and interests concerning them. It is a rare thing to find a collector who does not possess a greater than ordinary fund of information, about these matters.

As before mentioned stamps were first issued by England in 1840. It is true that as far back as 1658 something that has been called a stamp was for a short time used on letters to indicate that postage had been prepaid, but for all practical purposes stamps were really invented by Sir Rowland Hill, and first used in the year mentioned.

Stamp collectors first appear on the theatre of history ten years later, and have constantly increased in numbers during all the time since that date.

Lately the influence of philately in stimulating the young especially, to take interest in modern history and geography, has been more widely recognized, and the pursuit is generally favored on that account by parents and educators.

It is, therefore, not too much to predict, that this, already probably the most generally practiced form of

collecting will continue to increase the number of its devotees.—Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.

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One pound reading matter, no circulars, good reading matter 10c silver or 12c stamps. C. Arnold Kruchman, 1235, North 13th Street, St. Louis, Mo.

Collectors send for my fine approval sheets at 25 or 50 per cent discount and receive free an unused envelope stamp. Good references required. Max Strakosch, 221 East 17th Street, New York City.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

This department is for the free use of our subscribers; limited to 30 words. All others 10c for each insertion. Notices must be written on a separate piece of paper, and the same notice cannot be inserted twice unless paid for.

I will give 50 per cent of catalogue value for all your duplicates, valued from 3 to 25 cents if they are in fine condition, in exchange for fine foreign stamps from my approval sheets. Max Strakosch, 221 East 17th Street, N. Y. City.

A collection of autographs valued at 15c for confederate broken bank bills, stamps or philatelic papers. E. B. Jones, 717 Olive St., Sioux City, Iowa.

Rare British Guianas to exchange for good U. S. Send sheets and receive mine. Reference publisher of this paper. A. T. Nelson, Box 110, Parma, Idaho.

Eleven new 10c books to exchange for 50 good covered philatelic papers. List and description of books for stamp. N. G. Wilson, Box 878, St. Joseph, Mo.

Will give 500 mixed foreign stamps of several different countries for U. S. revenues and document stamps to amount of 50c. O. E. Jackson, Box 132, Greeley, Colo.

All collectors of Philatelic Literature should send their want and duplicate lists to W. L. Moise, Box 34, Sumter, S. C., who makes the exchanging of philatelic papers a specialty.

A 25-word advertisement in the Gem Philatelist for 10 good philatelic papers or 12 good stamps catalogued not less than 2c each. Gem Pub Co., 1224 North 17th St., St. Joseph Mo.

Youth's Companion, fine story papers, fine sportsmen papers, tobacco tags, cigarette coupons, stamps from sheets, etc to exchange for Philatelic papers or stamps. Moses B. Paoe, Box 1061, Muscatine, Iowa.

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PHILATELIC FACTS AND FALLACIES. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. W. Seischop & Co. 108 Stockton street, San Francisco, Cal.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. Address, 5301 Wykoop St., Denver, Colo.

THE STAMP. A monthly at 20c per year. Sample free. Chas. H. P. Ke. Groveland, Mass.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLECTOR A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. Cook & Copper, Orange, Cal.

TEXAN PHILATELIST A semi monthly at 15c per year. Sample free. W. C. Lowry, Abilene, Texas.

WESTERN PHILATELIST. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. Norman Edwards, Box 333, St. Joseph, Mo.

EASTERN PHILATELIST A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. F. H. Pinham, Newmarket, N. H.

SOUTHERN PHILATELIST A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. Gus J. Luhn, Charleston, S. C.

LONE STAR STATE PHILATELIST. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. Roy H. Bradley, Abilene, Texas.

DIXIE PHILATELIST. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. Russell & Chapel, Mason, Miss.

EVERGREEN PHILATELIST A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. R. W. French, Hartland, Wash.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIST. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. H. C. Beardsley, Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILATELIST A monthly at 50c per year. Sample free. C. W. Kissinger, Reading, Pa.

POST-OFFICE. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. Henry Greenmet, 85 Nassau St., New York City.

PHILATELIC NEWSLETTER. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. Address 166 Stevens Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

MICHIGAN PHILATELIST. Monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. W. C. Bailey, Coldwater, Mich.

SENECA PHILATELIST. A monthly at 25c per year. Sample free. A. J. Littlejohn & Co., Box 324, Seneca Falls, N. Y.

PHILATELIC EXCHANGE. Monthly at 25c per year. Sample 5 cents. Each issue contains addresses and exchange notices of collector in over 20 countries. Positively no free sample copies. Box 878 St. Joseph, Mo.

PHALATELIC FACTS. A monthly at 15c per year. Sample free. Facts Publishing Co., Riverside, Cal.

MIDLAND PHILATELIST. Monthly at 10c per year. Sample free. F. R. Hurst, 1517 Forest Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

MICHIGAN STAMP. A monthly at 10c per year. Sample free. H. McConnell, Clarion, Mich.

A two or three line notice of any philatelic publication in this directory, one year, one dollar. Additional lines at 50c each.

British Guianas

Catalogues from 2c to \$1.00 each to exchange for U. S. rare for rare. Send sheets and receive mine. Circulars mailed to stamp collectors in over 30 different countries for 8c per 100. Seven varieties British Guiana for 25c. **A. T. NELSON** - Box 110, Parina, Idaho, U. S. A.

SEND 15c for a year's subscription to the **UNION PHILATELIST** and get a 25 word ad 6 times free. 1000 stamp hinges and 12 blank approval sheets only 8c. **Carl Sudermann,** 610 Byron St., Mankota, Minn.

ONLY A dime for the **MICHIGAN STAMP** a whole year. Advertising rates 20c per inch. Free exchange column. When sending subscription send exchange notice. Address,

Michigan Stamp,

Clarion, Mich.

MR. COLLECTOR: I have a nice line of approval sheets, which I am sending out on receipt of good reference. I allow 33 1/3 per cent com. Cheaper ones at 50 per cent. **N. G. WILSON,** Box 878, St. Joseph, Mo.

DODGE. 20 Varieties

Yes, you see his name everywhere; almost gives his stamps away; has bargains for dealers and collectors. Though very busy, will answer all letters. Write to him, anyway.

J. F. DODGE, - - Windsor, Conn.

WANTED.

Penny—Vol. I—4. Vol. II—2—4. Vol. IV—3. Vol. V—1—2—4—5—6. Vol. VI—1—2—3.

Munsey's Magazine—Vols. 1—X, inclusive. Vol. XI—2—3—4—5—6. Vol. XII—3—4.

Also always want Admiral, Royal Sweets and Honey Dew cigarette certificates. Good exchange. Write quick! **BERTRAM J. BISHOP, Wyandotte, Mich.** P. S. of W., No. 810.

Winter Bargains!

100 Stamps Cat. \$1. by Scott 10c
100 Stamps Cat. \$2. by Scott 30c
100 Stamps Cat. \$3. by Scott 75c
100 Stamps Cat. \$4. by Scott \$1.00

Dealers will find many bargains in above and Collectors will be surprised and delighted.

The above are not trash, but genuine Foreign Postage Stamps. A stamp cat. 50c in every 5th packet.

BOOKS OF STAMPS

Are now the fashion and we have made up a nice lot of them which we send out on approval at 10 to 50 per cent com. Reference required. Posts not noticed.

THE VAN STAMP CO.,

Box M. P.

ALDEN, MICH.

Stamps & Postal cards.

Send for my packet No. 18, containing 120 U. S. and Foreign stamps, 50 varieties, sent postpaid for 25c. 10 varieties postal cards while they last 15c postpaid.

Wm. N. MOORE, Windsor, Minn

Of genuine unused
Foreign Postage Stamps

for 10 Cents

Is an offer seldom made, but I wish to clear out odds and ends and small quantities of about 50 lots purchased some time ago and can make this offer

**New Foundland, New Brunswick,
British Hauluns (Surcharge)
Cuba, and the Big Obocks of 1893**

are some of the stamps offered. The will catalogue over 50c If they don't send 'em back and get your money

Remember Only 10 Cents.

Chas. A. Townsend,

Akron, Ohio.

Get These.

1885, Special Delivery, 10c.
1857, 3c, outer line, 20c. 2c Dept. of Interior, unused 7c. Set of 4 var. Col. env. entire and unused 30c. 1000 well mixed U. S. stamps from the issues 1851-94, including revenues, special delivery, dues, etc., post free 25c. **Hurst Stamp Co., 1517 Forest Ave.**

Kansas City, Mo.

A Remarkable Offer

The Semi-Monthly Texan Phil. 15c.
The Monthly International Phil. 50c.
The Weekly Lone Star State Phil. 25c.
The Monthly Stamp 20c.
Missouri Phil. 25c.
Publisher's price \$1.35. We will send the above five papers one year for an \$1.00 money order. Address,

**THE TEXAN PHILATELIST
Abilene, Texas.**

The Philatelist Exchange.

The first number of the above named paper will be issued April 15. Many collectors, dealers and publishers have need of such a paper and we believe it will "fill a long felt want." Collectors desire exchange and correspondence in foreign countries. Dealers want the same in a larger scale. Publishers want exchanges and correspondents.

The contents: A large number of exchange notices of collectors in many different countries, such as France, Japan, India, Straits Settlement, Queensland, New Zealand and 20 other countries. A list of writers, philatelic periodicals and many other valuable aids to the collector, dealer and publisher.

The size of the pages will be 3 x 4 inches and consist of not less than fifty pages. 2000 copies will be printed, on good book paper. The circulation (2000) will probably be more widespread than that of any publication extant. That is it will go to more countries.

The price, 25 cents per year, postpaid to any country in the postal union is very moderate. All remitting 25 cents before April 10th for one year's subscription will be entitled to one free notice of thirty

words or less. Positively no free sample copies, but two 2c stamps will bring to your address a copy of the first number.

Our foreign friends will notice that we offer to send this paper to any country in the postal union for 25 cents. Remit in unused (present issue) postage stamps, of as many varieties as possible. When sending in your subscription send a notice or advertisement of thirty words or less and we will insert it gratis. It makes no difference where you want exchange or correspondence, you can get it now.

A particularly nice thing about this paper is its size. The majority of philatelic papers are of such size that they have to be folded several times in the mail. The size 3 x 4 inches will fit an ordinary sized envelope and likewise a vest pocket. It will be printed in book form on good book paper and be neatly bound. Advertisements will be inserted at the following low rates.

One page, 3 x 4 inches.....	\$1.50
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Address and make all Orders Payable to

N. G. WILSON,

P. O. BOX 787. ST. JOSEPH, MO.

We Must

Have more subscribers and will

Send this Paper

14 months or numbers for 25 cents. Send now.

VOID AFTER MARCH 15.

Standard Stamp Co. Business Est. 1885.
W. Flacbskamm, Mgr.
No. 4 Nicholson Pl.,
St. Louis, Mo.

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.

Special Rate.

FOR

Missouri Philatelist Readers.

Every person sending 15c will receive one years subscription to "THE STAMP," Regular Price 20c.

THE STAMP.
Groveland, Mass.

The Mankato Philatelist.

Published Monthly.

Subscription 15c per year. Advertising Rates: 25c per inch, 60c Per ½ page, \$1.00 per page Enlarged to 4 x 6 and contains from 4 to 8 pages and cover, printed on good book paper.

THE MANKATO PHILATELIST.

610 Byron St., Mankato, Minn.

STOP! PAUSE!

READ.

Do you know all about stamps you would like to;

Would You

Appreciate a book chuck full of the information you desire?

The Stamp Collector's Hand-book

Is just what you want; Price, paper 25 cents; cloth, 50 cents.

G. W. KISSINGER.
Reading, Pa.

FREE

Send 20 cents for one year's subscription to

THE STAMP

And Receive Free Packet of Stamps Catalogue ing 45 cents. The Stamp, Groveland, Mass.

From Every Stamp Collector
In the Country
Enclosing 25c for Subscription.

The Missouri Philatelist.

H. G. Wilson, Pub.

Postoffice Box 878,

St. Joseph, Mo., U. S. A.

VOLUME 1,
NUMBER 3.

March,
1896.

100,000 Stamp Hinges to be given away. 1000 to each person. Send 4c postage. N. G. Wilson, Box 878, St. Joseph, Mo.

Packets, Stamp Albums and Hinges

Send for Price List of Packets FREE, also send for sample of Stamp Hinges.

J. N. & W. J. DEGLMANN,
P. O. Box 585. Mankato, Minn.

Standard Stamp Co. Business Est. 1885.
B. Flachsamm, Mgr.
No. 4 Nicholson Pl.,
St. Louis, Mo.

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.

REMARKABLE OFFER

The Semi-Monthly Texan Phil. 15c.
The Monthly International Phil. 50c.
The Weekly Lone Star State Phil. 25c.
The Monthly Stamp 20c.
Missouri Phil. 25c.
Publisher's price \$1.35. We will send the above five papers one year for an 80c money order. Address,
THE TEXAN PHILATELIST,
Abilene, Texas.

Special Rate
FOR
MISSOURI PHILATELIST READERS

Every person sending 15c will receive one years subscription to "THE STAMP," Regular Price 20c.

THE STAMP.
Groveland, Mass.

20 Varieties

Of genuine unused
Foreign Postage Stamps

for 10 Cents

Is an offer seldom made, but I wish to clear out odds and ends and small quantities of about 50 lots purchased some time ago and can make this offer

*New Foundland, New Brunswick,
British Houluns (Surcharge)
Cuba, and the Big Obocks of 1893*

are some of the stamps offered. They will catalogue over 50c If they don't send 'em back and get your money.

Remember Only 10 Cents.

Chas. A. Townsend,
Akron, Ohio.

The Pellington Magnifying Glass

This is an improved magnifying glass, much handier than any we have ever sold, while the low prices puts it within the reach of all. The glass is extra powerful, enlarging objects many times and is thus very useful. The glass is mounted on three legged gilt tripod, so that it can be set firmly over any object, and what is very important, always at the right focus. Stamps can be greatly enlarged or can be used to decipher small print or writing. Price only 25 cents postpaid.

Pellington Stamp Co.

11 Pellington Pl.

BROOKLYN,

NEW YORK.

FREE

Send 20 cents for one year's
subscription to

THE STAMP

THE PHILATELIC PRESS.

The Home Pride is now devoted entirely to stamps.

Philatelic Facts, Vol. 3, No. 2, is quite an improvement.

The Bee Hive Philatelist doesn't resemble a full sized beehive very much.

As regular as clock work is The Michigan Philatelist, and the contents are pleasing.

The Philatelist from Waterville, Wash., is the poorest printed of any of the "new issues."

The Dixie is catching up with Father Time, and improving in appearance. Keep it up.

The Columbian Philatelist from Windsor, Conn., presents a neat and "fearless" appearance.

The Evergreen State Philatelist contains many interesting notes and a few (?) advertisements.

The initial number of the Baby Philatelist is making lots of noise. Isn't crying for mamma, though.

That bright little paper "The Stamp" comes in reduced size for February. Don't let it happen again.

The Southern California Collector doesn't ask odds of any one—not even the big corporation. Why should it?

The Weekly Philatelic Era for February 15 was an extra large one. Mr. Jewett always has a full table."

The Philatelic West, Vol. 1, No. 1, appears on time. It is really first class, although Bro. Brodstone

has succeeded in convincing at least one person that it is second class. Several others would like to be known as second class, but Uncle Sam says nit.

The Texan Philatelist comes in the form of a monthly. Can't say that we consider it a change for the better, but it will lessen Mr. Lowry's work.

The Pennsylvania Philatelist comes unusually late and in different form, due to the fire of The Stowell Printery. It is worth waiting for, however.

The March number of the Seneca Philatelist is a little beneath the weather. Were you short of MSS. or did you leave the last three pages blank for memorandum, Brother?

The Pennsylvania Stamp appears in enlarged form. The article by G. E. Cleaver entitled "Shall we have a Philatelic Literature Society?" should be read by every collector of Philatelic literature.

The Reporter dated November and December, 1895, is at hand. It is an extra large number, the contents are fair ('though aged.) If the January number is as long coming as the November and December numbers, why not date it January, 1897? You would only have to skip one year.

The Missionary number (270) of McKeel's Weekly Stamp News ought to bring a number of new collectors "in." If every dealer would do as much toward securing raw recruits as do the McKeel Co., the philatelic pen-pusher would not need to ask, Where are the boy collectors.

The Philatelic Paragraph from across the Bridge, New York, ably edited, by Max Strakosch. Come again.

The Southern Philatelist is in a prosperous condition, its circulation increasing at the advertising rates doubled.

Publico, an excellent young people's paper, contains an interesting philatelic department by Harris Reed, Jr.

Mr. Henry Flachskanm is now sole proprietor of the "Standard Stamp Co.," Mr. Louis Flachskanm having withdrawn.

We believe the International Stamp to be the only semi-monthly American philatelic paper now published. It is certainly a good one.

The Washington Philatelist, Reminiscences by Nage, Special Stamps for Cities, Philatelic Celebrities, etc., etc., go to make up an excellent number.

New Issues: In addition to the Baby Philatelist we have: The Brooklyn Philatelist is a neat little magazine from Brooklyn, and already promises to enlarge. I can personally testify to the excellence of this little paper as an advertising medium.

The Michigan Philatelist is for sale. Lack of time made it necessary for Mr. Bailey to announce the above. The publishers have a record to be proud of. Seventeen numbers, never late, never "doubled" and no reduced papers. Mr. Bailey is also closing out his stamp business.

CLIPPINGS.

That little South American country, Peru, has issued a new set of stamps consisting of 8 values. To our recollection this makes the third issue that has appeared from this country within the past twelve months.—Texan Philatelist.

"I'm not going to let this paper be caught in any more libel suits. I know it, by George!" exclaimed the city editor of the Morning Sentinel, running his eye rapidly over a page of copy. And he inserted a word so that the sentence read "Cain, the alleged murderer of Abel," etc.—Chicago Tribune.

I must heartily recommend the action of the Metropolitan Philatelic Club of San Antonio in the matter of plate numbers. The Lone Star State Philatelist truly states, "In the near future this idiotic phase of Philately will be as dead as Hector."

"Societies of Today" is the heading of an article by I. E. Patterson commenced in the March number of the Michigan Philatelist. He mentions the A. P. A., P. S. of A., S. of P. and L. of A. P., and says "Of course there are many others, but they are not large enough to merit discussion." According to the official organs the Southern Philatelic Association has more members than the L. of A. P. We know it is the oldest. Better include it and the Columbian Philatelic Society in your discussion, Mr. Patterson. We have received their 34th price list. It consists of 80 pages in red, white, and blue. If you haven't seen it look up their advertisement and send for it.

THE PHILATELIC PRESS OF TODAY.

I am fully aware that this is quite an old subject and one that has been discussed by many able Philatelic writers, but I do not consider the subject exhausted by any means, else I would not choose it for this article. Most of the writers considering this theme are inclined to take a very optimistic view of the condition of the Philatelic press, and to make very favorable comparisons between the stamp papers of today and those existing in Philately's early infancy. Although I am a strong believer in optimism I hardly think this is fair, for granting that the Philatelic press has made great strides toward improvement, there is still a long road to be traversed before perfection is attained, as I shall endeavor to show in this article.

The press is without doubt the most important factor of Philately and the stamp world is to be congratulated upon having so many bright, interesting stamp magazines, most of them established upon a firm financial basis. I say interesting, for this epithet can be honestly applied to the great majority of our stamp papers; yet many of the Philatelic articles that we read impress us with the consciousness that they totally lack that great subtle undercurrent which is the foundation of all true literary production—namely, thought.

The Philatelic scribe is essentially a space filler and he scribbles off his copy with an eye to catchy and pleasing phrasology, yet putting no thought whatsoever into his work. The Philatelic scribe may come back at me by replying that he does not receive sufficient remuneration to

justify pleasing phrasology, much less the embodiment of thoughts and I am sorry to confess that this is true. One dollar per page is indeed poor pay for mental production, and not a price conducive of mental exertion, so it is small wonder that our best writers, as soon as they attain proficiency, leave Philately for broader, more appreciative, and more remunerative fields of literary labor.

Yet withal, the stamp magazines on the average pay as much for manuscript as they can afford, and this leads me to attack another evil of the Philatelic press—namely, the small subscription price of our stamp papers. Surely no Philatelist worthy the name would grudge paying 50 cents a year for a stamp paper satisfying his demands in all its departments, while \$1.00 would not be exorbitant for a magazine of exceptional merit. As it is, however, the average price of our monthly stamp papers is 25 cents, and the contents, with a few notable exceptions, coincides with the price; whereas, if the subscription price were raised, the publisher could offer compensative remuneration for good literary production, and this in turn would increase the merit, and consequently the circulation of the magazine. The round of improvements tend toward the elevation of the Philatelic press to a higher, better plane of usefulness in the Stampic world.

M. C. SPEARS.

The editor with gladsome cry,
Exclaims, "My work is done."
The manager with weary sigh,
Complains, "My work is dun."
—College Life.

NOTES.

The Home Worker is now devoted entirely to Philately.

The first six numbers of the Dixie Philatelist are hard to get. Have you got 'em?

The Daily Stamp Item is quite a tax on our pocket books. It's welcome, though.

The Philatelic West is a very good paper, but the pages are just twice as large as they ought to be.

The February Pennsylvania appears a little late and a little worse for the fire of the Stowell Printery.

We understand David B. Crockett of Avondale, N. J., is going to publish a list of philatelic literature collectors.

I am informed that L. H. Mutch, of Houlton, Me., will shortly publish a paper for collection of philatelic literature.

George E. Cleaver of Reading, Pa., will hold an auction of Philatelic Literature April 3. Some desirable papers are offered.

If the Philatelic Literature Society is a success we will have Geo. E. Cleaver to thank. The Pennsylvania Stamp will act as official organ.

It is said that L. M. Staebler has resurrected the Canadian Philatelist. Widdicombe & Beattie of Ontario announce the Philatelic Record. Hurrah for Canada!

The prettiest magazine in my library is The Rocky Mountain Stamp, and the ugliest, (excuse the expression) is the Philatelist, a new one from Waterville, Wash.

C. of P. L.

MARTHA WASHINGTON'S
ONLY LETTER.

THE UNIQUE DOCUMENT RESERVED IN THE
ARCHIVES AT WASHINGTON.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

A copy of the only letter and signature of Martha Washington known to exist is in possession, according to the Boston Budget, of the United States Government. This letter lay for more than ninety years hidden among some musty archives at the Capitol, and was lately discovered by Walter H. French, clerk of the Department of Files, House of Representatives. The spelling, punctuation, and breaks of lines are carefully reproduced:

Mount Vernon, December 31st 1799.

Sir While I feel with keenest anguish the late Disposition of Divine Providence,

I cannot be insensible to the mournful tributes

of respect and veneration which are paid to

the memory of my dear deceased Husband—and

as his best services and most anxious wishes

were always devoted to the welfare and happiness

of his country—to know that they were truly

appreciated and gratefully remembered affords

no inconsiderable consolation.

Taught by the great example which I have so long before me never to op-

pose my private wishes to the public will—I must

consent to the request made by Congress—

which you have had the goodness to transmit

to me—and in doing this I need not—I cannot say what a sacrifice of individual feeling I make to a sense of public duty.

With grateful acknowledgement and unfeigned thanks for the personal respect and evidences of condolence expressed by congress, and your self.

I remain, very respectfully
sir

Your most obedient & humble
servant

MARTHA WASHINGTON.

HOW TO MAIL A POSTAGE STAMP.

How many people know how to mail a stamp in a letter? Nine people out of ten stick it so carefully down that the recipient always loses his temper, and generally 'he stamp, in the effort to release it. It is really more exasperating than when the sender forgets altogether the stamp he should have enclosed, or then, at least, it is not wasted. Even the most extravagant of us seldom have souls above saving a stamp, for it is, strangely, far dearer to us than the two cents it represents. The tenth person sends it loose, which is well enough, providing it does not slip out unseen and vanish, as these totally depraved small things have a habit of doing. The proper way is a very simple one. Cut with a sharp penknife two parallel slits at the top of your letter, and slip in your stamps, which will thus travel as safely as if in a special paper case. Perhaps you have been in a country village where money orders and postal notes are unknown, and for some reason it becomes necessary to send change in a letter. Cut a piece of light cardboard the size of the envelope, and from this cut circular pieces the size of your coins. Insert the coins and paste a

slip of paper across one or both sides.—Demorest Magazine.

The U. S., 1894, \$1 unwater-marked is destined to rank with the rarities, if we may judge by present indications. Already it is valued as high as the nine day's wonder—the \$1 Columbian.—The Reporter.

The Columbian Philatelic Society was organized on August 17, 1895, and has grown from a membership of 8, at that time, to 114 at present. The membership represents, so far, 23 states and two foreign countries. The different departments are now in fine running order, and the officers vie with each other to please the members to the best of their ability. The membership is of the best, as a glance at our membership roll will soon convince the most sceptical. The grand object of this vigorous young society is to uplift the standard of Philately and to assist in the clearance of Philatelia's ranks from frauds. We desire a membership of 200 by August, and our present outlook foretells that our wish will be gratified. The official organ of the society, The Bay State Philatelist, is a very fine magazine, members receiving same free. Don't you desire to join the coming society? If so, apply to the secretary immediately for blanks. Cost of membership: Initiation fee, 10c, dues 25c per annum. The secretary's address is Leo Fritter, 32 N. Grand Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

Good exchange for first 3 volumes of Pennsylvania Philatelist. N. G. Willson, Box 878, St. Joseph, Mo.

Wanted.—Some good, original MSS. Send at once.

THE
MISSOURI PHILATELIST.

A MONTHLY PHILATELIC MAGAZINE.

Subscription, 25 cents per year.
Back Numbers, 5 cents each.

Entered at the post office at St Joseph, Mo.,
as second-class matter, February 29, 1896.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 Yr.
1 inch	50	1.25	2.25	4.00
1/2 Col	1.50	4.00	7.00	12.50
1 Col	2.75	7.00	12.50	22.50
1 Page	5.00	12.50	22.50	40.00

Small ads, 6 cents per line.
Advertisements limited to 60 words per inch.
Advertisements for less than three months
Strictly in advance. Others quarterly. No
discount from above rates. Advertising space
when taken for three or more months can be
changed monthly without extra charge.

Editor and Publisher,
S. P. A. N. G. WILSON,
P. S. of A. Box 878, St. Joseph, Mo

EDITORIAL.

An unused pair of Canada, 1851,
12d, recently sold for \$1320.00 at
auction.

Mr. A. T. Nelson informs us he
has removed from Parma to Boise
City, Idaho.

The Philatelic Free Lance is
announced to appear from Bellaire,
Ohio, June first.

Burton's 17th auction catalogue is
right in it as to quantity. The
stamps are as a rule very cheap.

Since our review of the Philatelic
Press we have received 3 "new
issues." What's the matter with
the S. S. S. S?

A postal card recently written
was answered on the bottom of the
same postal card. Next the recipient
scratched his address and the ad-
dress of the first written was plac-
ed thereon. A one-cent stamp was
stuck on and it came back all right.

The April number will go to press
in seven days after this issue is
mailed. All copy should be sent
in immediately.

Advertisers should bear in mind
that their ad can be changed as
frequently as desired without extra
charge. Transient advertisements
MUST be paid for in advance.

Catalogue of Geo. E. Cleavers'
second auction of philatelic litera-
ture is at hand. Many very scarce
papers are listed and should bring a
good price. Mr. Cleavers' third
sale will take place April 20. If
interested better write for catalogue.
Geo. E. Cleaver, Reading, Pa.

UNITED STATES 24c—FIRST ISSUE.

[Read before California Philatelic Press Club.]

Among philatelists there has al-
ways existed a serious doubt as to
the authenticity of the 24c, 30c and
90-cent imperforate stamps of the
United States, supposed to have
been issued in 1856 "before the
perforating machine was issued"
as the complement of the series is-
sued in 1851.

In the fifty-fourth edition of
"Scott's Catalogue" the dates of
issues for this series of stamps is
given as follows: The 1c, 3c, 5c,
10c and 12c in 1851, and the 24c,
30c and 90c in 1856, and they ap-
pear in later editions of this work
as the issue of 1851-1856.

There is no reason to believe that
the 24, 30 and 90c stamps were ever
issued by the Government in an im-
perforate condition; in fact, the
catalogue previously mentioned
gives the date of the first perforated
issue as 1855, one year before this
issue of high values was supposed

to have been made. Is it probable that the perforating machine which was found to be such an improvement was only used on the 10c stamps and the other values sent out imperforate?

In the advance sheets of "Albrecht's Catalogue" for 1896, I note that the imperforate series is given as 1 cent to 24 cent followed by the annotation:

"Of this series no 30- or 90-cent value was ever issued, those catalogued by other dealers and offered at terrific prices are nothing but proofs."

The 24-cent is valued in this list of "Albrechts" at only \$150 unused and \$250 used. Of course these prices are not terrific, or at least they are only mildly so, but at any rate this has settled the fate of the 30- and 90-cent, and now for the remaining one of the trio, the 24-cent lilac. That it was ever issued in an imperforate condition I do not believe; those in hands of dealers being simply proofs similar to the 30- and 90-cent as mentioned above, and I think I have good reasons to believe as I do.

In February, 1889, it was my good fortune to secure a lot of unused stamps of the issues of 1851 and 1856. This lot consisted of some 600 1-cent blue, imperforate and perforate, 1800 3-cent red, imperforate and perforate, 30 5-cent brown perforated only, 70 10-cent green, imperforate and perforate, 6 12-cent black, imperforate and perforate, 8 24-cent lilac, perforated only. These stamps were evidently the stock of some postoffice in the South at the beginning of the Civil War. There were only a few imperforate stamps of any denomination; only one

twelve cent and five tens. Among the latter was an unused strip of two or three that I suppose are now in the album of a Boston collector who purchased them in 1889.

At the time I secured this lot of stamps I was not a collector, and wishing to realize on them and knowing of no other way, I sent specimens of each value to the Third Assistant Postmaster General stating that I had a large quantity and asking if the Government would redeem them. After waiting a short time I was rather disappointed on receiving the following:

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1889.

These stamps were declared obsolete and not receivable for postage July, 1861. They were printed between 1856-61. The 13- and 12-cent were engraved 1851. The 5-cent in 1866. The X cent in 1855 and the 24 cent in 1880. They have no value except as curiosities and to stamp collectors by whom they are sought. A. D. HAZEN,

Third Ass't Postmaster Gen'l.

It is on this letter that I base my principal claim that the 24-cent imperforate can only be a proof. You will note that the dates given are for the engraving and not the printing of the stamps. There is always the possibility that the writer of this letter may have been in error, but I for one take it for granted that he was not. It must be admitted that he was certainly in a position to have access to authentic records and if the mention of the several dates as given in this letter are correct, a 24-cent stamp certainly could not have been printed in 1856 from a plate that was not engraved until 1860.

An argument has been put forth by some that the plate of the 24-cent was made in 1856 and that

some few sheets were printed; also that the plate was then laid away and not used again until 1860, but this does not seem probable, for what would have been the necessity of engraving a new plate in 1860, when one was already in existence? And even were this so, the stamps thus printed in 1856 can only be proofs and certainly never issued for postal use. In all the editions of "Scott's" catalogue, prior to 1895 the dates of issue of the perforated 24-cent stamp is given as 1860 and this would seem to agree with the date as given in this letter.

I do not claim that the above is absolute proof that a 24-cent stamp was not issued imperforate, and give it merely as an item of information on a vexed subject, but will say that it has convinced me that all so-called copies of this imperforate stamp are either the 24-cent of 1860 with perforations trimmed, proofs, or unfinished specimens of that issue secured from the printers during the time they were in use, or from the stock in the hands of the printers when they were declared obsolete; very probably the latter and they should be classified only as such.

Regarding the 24-cent of 1860, I think "Albrecht" is right in valuing the used specimen at more than the unused, but do not think he has made the difference great enough. This stamp was in use less than a year, and necessarily a comparatively small number was used, while there must have been many unused specimens in the postoffices throughout the Southern states while at the breaking out of the war they were declared obsolete.—George Schiller, in *Philatelic Californian*.

THE OFFICIAL STAMPS OF THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

By H. S. SWENSEN.

United States department stamps are at once interesting to the average stamp collector, because they show the work of skilled artists, because of the uniformity and appropriateness of the colors and designs assigned to each particular set, and because of their office, uniqueness and almost general scarceness. These characteristics have no doubt wrought their desirability and collection and superinduced the general interest accorded them.

Department stamps have the power to make stupendous changes in regard to prices, which fact has caused many non-collectors to become interested in them. It is certainly true that more can be realized on money invested in good department stamps, than on many of the so-called lucrative investments.

While it is our aim to enucleate upon the stamps of the state department, yet much that we shall say will concern department stamps as a whole.

The stamps of the series of the state department were used as the name "state" indicates, by the officials of the different states and only for official business.

The earliest recognition of official correspondence relative to the department of state and other departments dates back, strange to say, to the year 1792, when the second congress, in its first session, took into consideration and approved the idea of providing for the free transportation of letters and packets of persons of official connection. The

franking privilege, as it is called, remained in vogue until its abolishment, brought on by abnormal abuse of the system, took effect July 1st, 1873. On March 3rd, 1873, it was approved by act of congress that an appropriation be made for the purpose of purchasing postage stamps for the different departments, and the postmaster general received instructions to provide the necessary official stamps and stamped envelopes. As is generally known stamped envelopes were issued for the departments of postoffice and war only. It is a matter of speculation why the other departments were not similarly supplied, but we presume that stamped envelopes proved to be superfluous in that the other stamps satisfied the requisiteness. It is our opinion, however, that the stamped envelopes are the most suitable and adapted for official business.

Department stamps first came into use July 1st, 1873. In three month's time over 60,000 stamps of the state department were issued. Up to recently the number of varieties of the series we are discussing, corresponded to the number of values, which is fifteen, but according to distinctions lately drawn, there are 29 varieties known and 4 more supposed to exist. The postoffice recognizes 27 varieties. It has been our pleasure to meet with the other two. Like many of the varieties of the regular issues of the United States, the distinction of these varieties is based upon the different prints. All values of the state department were first printed from the Continental Bank Note Company's plates. In 1877 the stamps were engraved by an im-

proved process. All the values, excepting the \$2, \$5, \$10, and \$20 plates are known to have been produced by this new process. In 1879 the contract for printing some of the department stamps, perhaps all, was given to the American Bank Note Company. We have seen the two- and seven-cent stamps printed on thick, porous paper which is symbolic of the American print. The postoffice recognizes the 15-cent stamp on porous paper. Stamps of this last distinction are exceedingly scarce, and no doubt will be held at very high prices. It is probable that other varieties supposed to exist will be discovered. Department stamps became obsolete in 1884, when the remainders on hand were ordered to be destroyed.

To go into a detailed description of the stamp under discussion would be too voluminous for the space allotted us, and perhaps unnecessary in that but few collectors have not seen all or part of the stamps, but we shall give a casual description, which, we trust, will not prove tiresome.

The heads of Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Stanton, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton and Perry appear respectively on each stamp of the state department from the 1-cent value to the 90-cent. The plate impression measures $19\frac{1}{2} \times 25$ mm; color, green; paper, white. The numerals of each value are between the two words, representing the value on a scroll. This is true for every stamp of the lower values. The groundwork is made up of very fine parallel lines upon which are placed the principal designs and devices such as the bust, oval, scrolls, numerals, letters, etc.

One mm. from the edge of the impression at the top is a closely hatched border which is about one mm. in width. In the 12 and 90-cent stamp this frame or border runs completely around. In the others it terminates about the middle in two balls. Below the letters composing "Dept. of State" is a shaded ornament on each end of which is a fleur de lis. Above is a colorless band.

Upon the four higher values of the state department is the large profile head of the late Hon. Wm. H. Seward. The plate impression measures 25x39 mm; color, green and black; paper, white.

The design of the larger states has also a groundwork of fine parallel lines printed in black which form triangles in the upper corners. In the borders these lines are lighter in shade and are horizontal. The oval containing the central device with usual labels and letters are placed upon the hatched ground. Rods tied together with bands with the letters "U. S. A." are placed at the sides. The bottom has the characteristic hatched label with shadeless bands and inscription, shaded on sides of value. The stamps are very artistic both in design and engraving. The shades of the stamps of the state department varies from a rich deep green to a shallow light tint. The original color is of the first named shade. It is not generally known that the high values "state" were used for prepaying dispatch bags. These stamps, we believe, were printed in sheets of ten, there being two horizontal rows. The plate number is printed in two colors, as is the imprint which is to be found

in the left hand corner and lower margin of the sheet. Since these "states" were supposed to have been printed from but one plate they are of but little interest to plate number collectors. The vignette of the high values is numbered 123. From the fact that these stamps were printed by two different companies might be developed that two different plates were used. As it is, only the 3- and 6-cent treasury and 3-cent postoffice are known to have been printed from more than one plate.

The following is a correct list of the number of "states" issued, with quotations from 54th and 56th edition of Scott's Catalogue and number of plates:

Value.	No. issued.	54 ed. Price.	56 ed. Price.	Plates.
1c.....	31,800.....	\$.50	\$1.00	3
2c.....	41,800.....	1.00	5.00	3
3c.....	109,200.....	.50	.75	7
6c.....	82,100.....	.50	.75	8
7c.....	37,800.....	.75	2.00	11
10c.....	64,900.....	.75	2.00	9
12c.....	20,800.....	1.50	3.00	7
15c.....	22,800.....	1.50	2.50	11
24c.....	13,800.....	2.00	5.00	11
30c.....	20,100.....	4.00	5.00	6
90c.....	6,043.....	5.00	7.50	12
\$2.....	3,508.....	10.00	17.50	12
\$5.....	363.....		125.00	12
\$10.....	363.....	*40.00	60.00	12
\$20.....	363.....	*35.00	50.00	12

*Unused.

According to these figures the two-cent stamp is too highly priced and the 24-cent is given too low quotation. There were 3,200 90-cent stamps issued, yet they are quoted at \$2.50 more than \$2 state. There is but little prospect that the stamp will receive much higher valuation in the next catalogue. The 90c navy as compared with the 90c state in number issued is too highly priced. But it should be remembered that something like 17,000,000 of department remained were destroyed in 1884. Therefore we cannot take the number issued

as a correct basis for valuation, although it is very evident that cataloguers are beginning to put some stress on this point. There could not have been very many of the \$20 state destroyed by the government for out of the 363 issued at least and perhaps more than 135 exist. A whole sheet was exhibited at the World's Fair and several single specimens were on exhibition. Mr. Chas. W. Hopkins, of Providence, R. I., possesses an unused block of four. Most of the large dealers have copies. During the last two years eighteen copies were sold at auction. Two years ago a set of the higher values were sold by W. C. Whitall of this city for the low sum of \$85. A set is now worth at least \$250. We believe that the only set now in the hands of a Minnesota collector is that held by a St. Paul gentleman. In regard to the 2-cent state we sincerely believe that the catalogue quotation, compared with the prices of the other stamps of the state department is in great excess of its correct valuation. We do not believe that it is worth one mite more than any other stamp of the department, excepting the three- and six-cent stamps. But nevertheless we expect to see it continue its upward march or rather jumps, because its destiny lies in the power of speculators, who will without doubt control the catalogues. We believe that the 10-cent is also too highly priced, when taking into consideration prices of the other stamps. The 12- 15- 24- 30- and 90-cent stamps are all good stamps and are firm and pay better than government bonds. The \$5 state is a rarity and a scarce stamp.

Next in order is the reprinted or specimen stamp of this series. They were first produced in 1874, for the government exhibit at the Centennial exposition. Because of this fact they are often termed Centennial reprints.

We understand that their issuance was unauthorized by any law or decree, but were simply printed by order of the postmaster general. In 1875, March 27, "specimen" stamps could not be obtained of the department at face value. The stamps were sold in sets except those of the high values of the state department and newspaper stamps, which could be obtained as desired. Specimen stamps of the state department are reprinted stamps, un-gummed, with the word 'specimen' printed across the face. The color of the "specimens" is much richer in tint than that of the originals; the impressions are pleasingly clearer and in no case is the paper of the stamps affected by the green coloring matter as is sometimes true of the originals. The department gave it out that it would be useless to apply for gummed stamps or official stamps with the word "specimen" omitted. It has been stated that "specimen" stamps of the official departments were printed with gum, but this assertion is untrue as would be inferred from the preceding sentence. It is true, however, that unscrupulous parties have treated "specimen" stamps with gum and sold them for the genuine article. We doubt if official stamps have been so treated very generally for the surcharge prevents disposal of the stamps as genuine originals. A prominent authority states that the "specimen" labels of

the department series, correspond exactly to the regular stamps except that the gum is lacking and surcharge added. We wish to take exception to this. Although the stamps of the two different classes were printed from the same plates, yet, when the specimens were printed, the plates were thoroughly cleaned and special pains were taken that there should be perfect impressions and brilliant coloring.

The reason why the department ordered "officials" to be surcharged can be explained by the fact that it wished to save collectors and others any trouble in identifying the stamps, and also to prevent practices of deception.

Lately there has been considerable interest aroused in regard to the value of specimens. The average specimen is worth according to leading dealers about half the market value of the originals. A specimen set of states excluding dollar values, recently sold for \$17.05. In 1882 the sale of specimen sets was closed to public, and remainders were destroyed. Whilst there were a great number of specimen stamps printed, yet that number did not exceed the number of regular stamps that were issued. It is certainly very logical then to presume that "specimens" will bring higher prices than the originals at some very near day. There is a very great demand for them now as evidenced by auction sales.

Proof essays or proofs were also issued for the department of state and other issues of United States. The perforated india proofs are the most valuable and more sought after than the common cardboard proofs. Proofs can easily be dis-

tinguished from the originals; the color of the former being of a fresher hue.

On June 21, 1894, the postmaster general sent forth a circular stating that the department had no proofs or proof specimens of postage stamps for general distribution. In a letter received recently from Kerr Craig, assistant postmaster general, personally, we learn that the restricted supply has been entirely exhausted last April.—The Philatelic Newsletter.

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