

STAMP NOTES

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NO. 1

APRIL, 1906

PRICE 5 cts.

There has been some discussion as to which is the rarest stamp. By some people it is thought that the one cent of British Guiana is, as only one is known to be in existence.

The five mu of Korea issued in 1898 was used for only one day.

Probably the stamp having the highest catalogue value is the five cent black issued provisionally by the postmaster at Baltimore in 1846. It is catalogued by Scott at four hundred dollars.

Because of the popularity brought about by the war with Russia, Japan has had many of her stamps counterfeited. These counterfeits can be distinguished from the originals by the number of leaves in the flower. The originals have sixteen, while because of a Japanese law, the counterfeiters have printed theirs with some other number than sixteen.

A good way to distinguish between the reprints of Heligoland and their originals, is that the reprints have very white gum, are printed on very white paper and the colors are too gaudy and light. The paper on which the originals are printed is of a darker shade.

The reprints of Hamburg are printed, unlike the originals, on unwatermarked paper.

Definitions

Ribbed paper has lines on both sides.

Silk paper, in making, has small shreds of cloth pressed into it. These shreds, which are colored, are visible on the back of the stamp.

Laid paper when held up to the light can be seen having shaded lines running through it.

Wove paper is smooth, and unlike laid paper, appears even in shade.

Embossing is the process by which small impressions are sunk in the stamp appearing in projections on the back.

This was done to some issues of early stamps of the United States to prevent removing the cancellation.

A notable sale took place a short time ago in which the ten cent of the St. Louis provisional issue brought five thousand dollars.

STAMP NOTES

A MONTHLY PAPER DEVOTED
to the interests of the STAMP COL-
LECTOR.

PRICE—

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A collection of valuable stamps
owned by Dr. Geo. F. Fiske of Chicago
was recently sold at auction in New
York. It contained over a thousand
stamps, in which no stamp catalogue
at less than three dollars, others as high
as two hundred.

A sheet of the noted one penny
blacks of Great Britain sold for five
hundred and sixty dollars at an auction
sale a short time ago.

Two hundred thousand dollars is the
value of presumably the most valuable
collection in the world. It is in the
British Museum in London.

Counterfeits and Reprints

Our attention has been called to a
number of counterfeits and fake stamps
sold on approval sheets, and in packets
to the innocent stamp collector, who
does not know much in regard to their
origin. Practically the worst of these
on the market are the Bergesdorf stamps
which consist of the 1/2s violet, 3s rose,
1/2s pale blue, 1s white, 1 1/2s yellow, 3s
blue on pink paper, and 4s brown. None
of these are catalogued at less than 12c
each, and some as high as \$100.00; how
can a dealer sell these stamps at a few
cents apiece?

Hamburg is another one of the
countries whose stamps catalogue and

where from 12c to \$30.00. These stamps are very roughly printed, and consist of all the varieties ever issued.

The Heligoland stamps are about the worst of the fake stamps issued, as there are so many varieties, and being a combination of bright colors, they attract the beginner's attention. They also sell for a very small sum in sets or singly, and he jumps at the chance to decorate his collection. The originals of these catalogue anywhere from 18c to \$55.00.

Next comes the stamps of the Roman States; these are gaudy and attractive and sell at a very low rate per set. We advise any collector not to purchase these stamps. Of course the originals are not as scarce as the Heligoland and Hamburg stamps. The used copies of these stamps can be bought for any amount from 2c up, and although these prices are very reasonable they continue to make counterfeits of them.

Next on our list of stamps for the beginner to watch out for, are the 5c green, 3c blue, and 4c red imperforated, and perforated of Italy, 1856 to 1862. These stamps are very common on quite a number of dealers' sheets marked anywhere from 1c to 4c or 5c each. They list from 2c apiece up, but we advise anyone to discontinue purchasing such stamps until he knows whether they are originals or reprints.

Argentine Republic has a few stamps

which are very commonly reprinted, and they are of the second issue, date 1862, the value being 5c brown, 10c green, and 15c blue; you will find these on several of the dealers' sheets marked at a very low price per set; if original would be worth several dollars.

The Samoa Express are also very bad stamps for young collectors to purchase; they are also a very attractive set, consisting of about eight varieties and are very common reprinted; no one of the original stamps is listed under \$3.50 and we would advise collectors not to purchase any such trash.

Another sort practically of no use to the stamp collector, which are fakes pure and simple, were never used to pay postage, and never were authorized by anyone except the man who got them up—these are the "U. S. Army Frank," with a shield and eagle. The colors of these are blue, red and brown.

We are prepared to answer questions relating to prices of stamps, briefly but to the point. Send in questions before the 15th. of the month preceding answer. Address

STAMP NOTES

Send for our Advertising Rates. Our Circulation at present is not over large but our rates are in proportion.

STAMP NOTES

No manager of any reputable stamp company cares for foreign revenues. While they may not be counterfeits or reprints, they are not good stamps to purchase. Many collectors desire to purchase these stamps, but we would advise the beginner to leave them alone until he gets his postage collection under way, as there are many thousand varieties of these stamps, and it is impossible to get a complete price list of the same. When dealers put them on sheets they mark them at what they please.

Other stamps noticed on cheap dealer's sheets are the unused German locals, which may be originals, it is doubtful as many of them are only useful to decorate the boy's album. These are sold anywhere from 2c to 10c apiece. Our advise to beginners who do not know much about stamps, is not to purchase any of those we have noticed above, as nine-tenths of them are practically worthless to the collector, who aims to get a collection of original and genuine stamps of all nations. — American Boy

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GILBERT D. JOHNSON,

GLENCOE, ILL.

It is difficult to determine what success. A knowledge of the way to obtain it is not so difficult. Summed up, it is just this: Do your best every day, whatever you have in hand. The principal failures in business, so far as I can judge, are due to lack of definite plan, shiftlessness, trying to find out some new way to suddenly leap into a high position, instead of patiently plodding along the old roads of industry and integrity.—John Wanamaker.

When Spanish stamps are found punched they have been used in payment of telegrams, and therefore not postage.

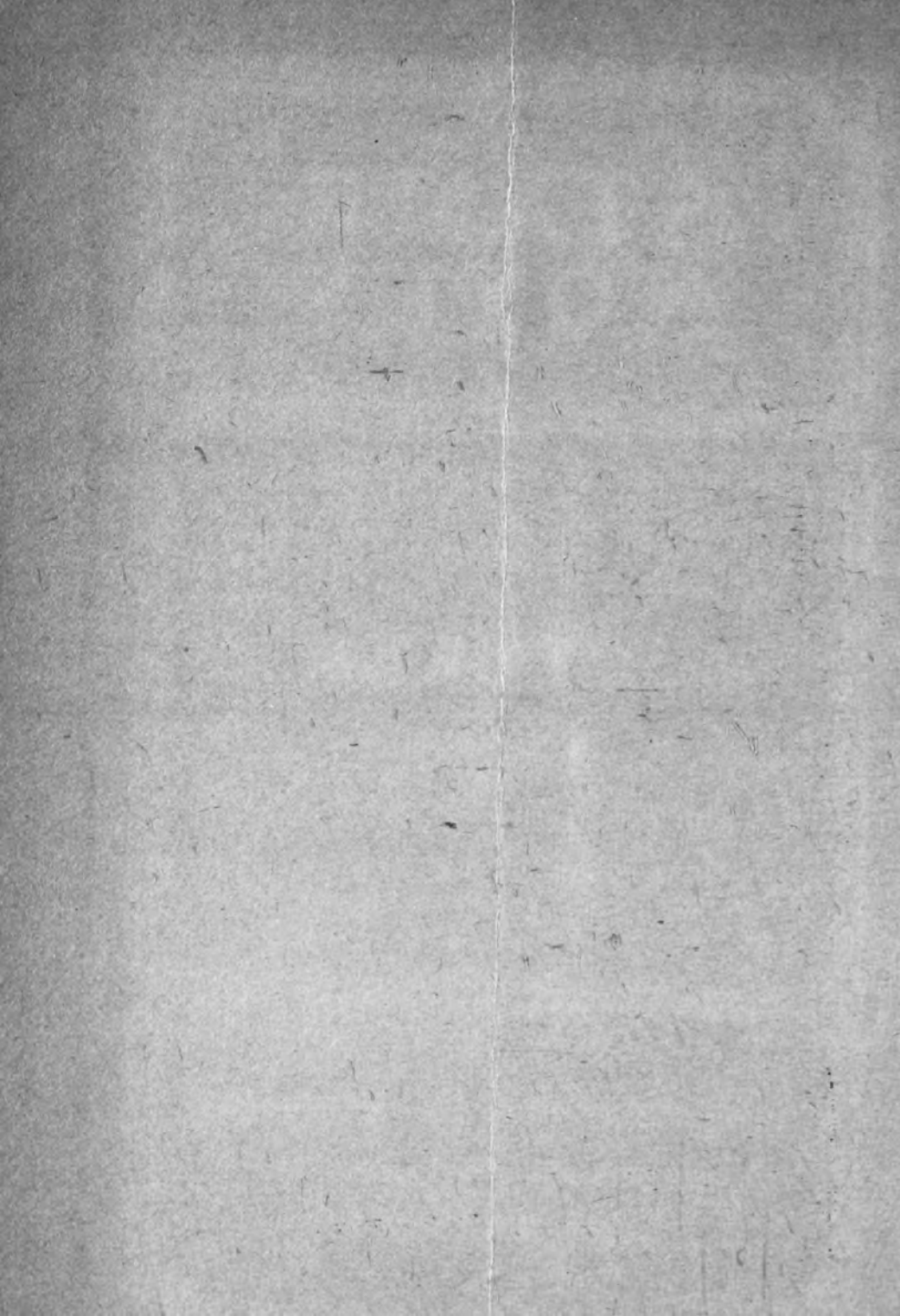
STAMP NOTES

OCTOBER
1906

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

Subscription Price 25 cents per Year

GLENCOE, ILLINOIS



STAMP NOTES

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

VOLUME 1

OCTOBER, 1906

NUMBER 3

MAKING POSTAGE STAMPS

OF late years, the United States has dropped into the fashion of changing the designs of its mailing franks more frequently than almost any other nation, and gradually the first Republic of the New World has come to the proud position of possessing stamps that are more artistic than those sent out from any other country.

It is not easy to understand what an immense amount of work is required by the advent of new styles in this postal currency. What with the men who manufacture the paper, the two or three thousand men and women who assist in printing and gumming the stamps, the toilers who help in transporting the new products of the printing presses, and the eighty thousand postmasters and clerks who sell the stamps to the public, it is estimated that fully one hundred thousand persons have a hand in preparing for a postage stamp "opening."

Government

Its Own Best Bidder

For upward of a decade the national Government has been print-

ing its own postage stamps; that is, the work has been done at the big institution at Washington, known as the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, which is a branch of the Treasury Department, and designed primarily for the printing of national currency; but the gigantic task may at any time revert to private individuals or a corporation, if a disposition is shown to do the work cheaper than the government can do it.

Every year the Post Office Department advertises for bids for furnishing the postage stamps, and the treasury department submits a proposition in exactly the same manner as the other bidders; but the plant of the big money factory at the national capital is so perfectly equipped that the manufacture of stamps can be carried on at a cost of less than five cents a thousand, and apparently the bank note companies which formerly supplied stamps have concluded that there would be no profit in the transaction at such a price.

Engraving the plates which are used in the production of postage

stamps is a delicate operation. Perhaps a dozen different engravers, each an expert in his particular line, contributes to a design for a stamp that is not an inch square. One supplies the vignette, a second cuts the delicate scroll work, a third furnishes the artistic lettering, and so on.

The original plate bearing a stamp design, although baked until it is almost as hard as a diamond, is never employed in the actual printing. It is much too precious for that, since, were it destroyed, it would, in all probability, be impossible to engrave a new plate that would be an exact duplicate in every delicate detail. Accordingly, the original plate constitutes a steel die, with which impressions are made on soft steel, and these latter, termed replicas, are used, after hardening for the actual printing.

Postage stamps are printed in sheets of four hundred, and all the printing is done in an immense room known as the beehive, containing over three hundred hand presses, each requiring for its manipulation the services of two operators, one, an expert plate printer, and the other his woman assistant, whose duty it is to feed to the press the blank sheets of paper and remove them after they receive the impression. The ink is applied by means of a hand roller, and inas-

much as the varied hues inevitably tinge the hands and faces and clothing of the workers, the immense press room presents a picturesque spectacle of kaleidoscopic color.

Gumming the stamps is an important process and those persons who never moisten a postage stamp without momentary uneasiness regarding the possible presence of germs or other evils, would doubtless be reassured could they realize the many precautions surrounding the preparation and application of the sticky stuff most familiar to the American tongue. The gumming is done by an electrical machine, and each sheet of stamps after receiving the baptism of mucilage, is carried by an endless chain, operating like a miniature moving sidewalk, through a wooden tunnel, where the temperature is one hundred and thirty degrees Fahrenheit, from which the sheets emerge with the mucilage perfectly dry.

—Chicago Record Herald

TO BE CONTINUED

Another Great Find

Another great find of stamps has been made, this time in one of the Southern States, where a nice lot of nearly \$1200 was unearthed. The lot consists mostly of Confederate stamps, the most valuable one being a five-cent red Athens, which is valued at \$500.

A Note for the Stamp Collector

In the year of 1902, when the United States decided to bring out a new series of stamps, it was suggested by a young woman that the face of one of her sex be put upon the stamp of the 8c. denomination. It was declared that to Martha Washington should belong the honor of being the first woman to appear upon a U. S. stamp, when a collector called attention to the fact, that ten years before, a foreigner in the person of Queen Isabella had appeared in six of the stamps of the Columbian Exposition.—Written for Stamp Notes.

Scarcity of Good Used Specimens of Early U. S. Issues

Many collectors have probably noticed it is hard for them to obtain good specimens in early issues of the United States. There are at least three reasons why this is true. First of all, the postmasters had a very primitive method of cancellation. They usually partly or entirely obliterated the face of the stamp with a daub of thick black ink. Secondly, the postmasters were careless in separating the stamps from the sheets. They often injured the perforation, and when the stamps were imperforate, they were cut unevenly and jagged. Then in the removal of

the stamps, they often were torn thoughtlessly from the envelope sometimes leaving parts of the perforation stick to the paper.

Panama Stamps—A Warning

Young collectors should be very careful when buying stamps of the Panama Canal zone. Large numbers of the stamps of Panama, not surcharged, have been purchased in the republic, and the overprint upon them has been counterfeited. Parties who have endeavored to sell these stamps in New York city have been arrested, but many of the fraudulent stamps are in circulation. Every one wants to get rid of these in exchange for stamps required for the collection. The fact that every collector possesses these ordinary stamps is a first reason for difficulty in making exchanges. It is hardly safe to send stamps to parties who are unknown, and therefore the difficulty of exchanging is increased. It is as well to avoid duplicates whenever possible, unless one has an opportunity for exchange among one's friends.—St. Nicholas.

In collecting U. S. revenue stamps of the Spanish war, try to obtain specimens with uncut cancellation.

They not only look better but will be more valuable in the future.

STAMP NOTES Our Prize Contest

A monthly publication devoted to the interests of the stamp collector.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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GILBERT JOHNSON, - - - Editor.
Glencoe, Illinois.

THE TRADE COLUMN to start next month.

Rates:—10 cts. per inch, 36 words, undisplayed.

ARE YOU a subscriber to Stamp Notes? If you are not, become one now, and we will insert an inch add in the Trade Column for you free. Send in before the 10th of October and it will appear in the November issue.

Now that fall has come, after the usual dull season in collecting, let us hope that it will be livened up with new vigor, and new recruits to philately, the most fascinating of all hobbies.

Although Stamp Notes is growing larger and better with each number, the subscription price has been reduced to twenty-five cents the year.

If any reader of Stamp Notes has met with any peculiar incident in collecting stamps, which he thinks would be of interest to other collectors, write to us about it and we will give it due consideration.

To the one who sends us the best article before October 31, 1906, we will mail at once on that date, a fine album containing over six hundred different varieties of stamps from many countries, including a nice selection from our own.

Remember, the only cost to you will be that of mailing your article to us. Sit down and write, you have just as much chance to win as anybody.

The September Housekeeper contained a very interesting article entitled "The Woman Expert of the Dead Letter Office," which tells about Mrs. Collins, the head of that office and some of her experiences in deciphering the puzzling addresses.

There are also photographs of a few of the letters which have been sent to the Department.

Although this does not deal directly with philately, it has been thought it would be of interest to collectors.

**A Description of all Postage
Stamps Issued by the United
States Post Office
Department, Complete
to June 30, 1906.**

**Taken from the Report of the
Third-assistant Postmaster-
general for the Year
ending June 30, 1900.**

Series of 1847

FIVE-CENT—Portrait of Franklin after the painting by John B. Longacre, three-quarters face looking left, white neckerchief and fur collar to coat, the ground inclosure surrounded by a faintly engraved wreath of leaves on which are the letters "U" and "S" placed in the left and right upper corners, respectively, and in each of the two lower corners a large figure "5." On a line curved with the upper portion of the medallion are the words "Post Office", and following the lower line of the medallion outside of the inclosure the words "Five Cents."

A border of fine straight lines surrounds the entire stamp. Color, light brown.

TEN-CENT—Portrait of Washington, from Stuart's painting, three-quarters face looking to the right, white neckerchief, and black coat, faint wreath of artificial leaves surrounding the inclosure of the medallion and extending to the

border on which are the letters "U" and "S" in the left and right upper corners respectively, and in each of the lower corners a large Roman Numeral "X." In a curved line around the upper and lower lines of the medallion are the words "Post Office" at the top, and "Ten Cents" at the bottom, with a straight line outer border as shown in the 5-cent stamp. Color, black.

Series of 1851

ONE-CENT—Profile bust of Franklin looking to the right, the words "U. S. Postage" following on outside border line in the medallion at the top, and "One Cent" at the bottom in white capitals and on curved panels; on the corners and partly surrounding the two panels are convolute scroll work ornaments, nearly meeting in points on the sides. Color, indigo blue. These were the first stamps in perforated sheets, and they were so issued as early as the 24th of February, 1857.

THREE-CENT—Profile of Washington, after Hondon, facing left. Surrounding the eclipse is a tessellated frame, terminating in each of the four corners with a fine lathe-work rosette. At the top and bottom of the stamp are straight panels with a small part cut off at each end, the top bearing the words "U. S. Postage," and the bottom

"Three Cents" in white capitals. In each of the four excised panel ends forming the extreme corners of the stamp, is a small white diamond figure. A fine white line forms an outer rectangular border. Color, brick red.

CONTINUED IN NOVEMBER.

THE NOVEMBER NUMBER OF STAMP NOTES

Our next issue will be even better than this number.

The most helpful article describing the minor as well as the major details of the U. S. stamps will be continued.

"Making Postage Stamps" is concluded, and a Trade Column will make its appearance with many "Snaps" therein.

There will also be many notes, short and long, about stamps.

If you are not a subscriber now you should be one before November.

That blank is meant for you, and that blank filled out and sent to us with a quarter means interest by you in philately for the next twelve months at least, because of this paper.

Nelson Stamps for Barbados

The much advertised Nelson commemorative set of Barbados, which recently was issued is at-

tracting attention not alone because of the handsome appearance of the specimens, but also by reason of the memorial to Nelson, England's greatest admiral, that they embody so picturesquely. As the stamps honor the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Nelson, 1805, in the great naval fight in Trafalgar Bay, we think it opportune to repeat a short account of Nelson's taking away. The following description is taken from a supposedly authentic account of his death: "About the middle of the action with the combined fleets on the 21st of October, the late illustrious commander-in-chief, Lord Nelson, was mortally wounded in the left breast by a musquet ball, supposed to be fired from the mizen top of La Redoubtable, French ship of the line, which the Victory fell on board early in the battle; his lordship was in the act of turning on the quarter deck, with his face towards the enemy, when he received his wound; he instantly fell and was carried to the cockpit, where he lived about two hours. Lord Nelson, on receiving his wound was immediately sensible it was mortal; and said, with a smile to Captain Hardy, with whom he had been talking at the moment, 'They have done it for me at last.' * * * His lower extremities soon became cold and insensible, and the effusion

of blood from his lungs often threatened suffocation; but his eyes seemed to brighten and his spirits to revive, at hearing the cheers given by the crew of the Victory, as the different ships of the enemy surrendered. * * * About five o'clock, however, when Hardy saw the victory was completely decided and the battle nearly ended, he was enabled to attend to the last wishes of the dying hero, who eagerly inquired how many ships were captured. * * * He now said that he felt death fast approaching, and that he had but a few minutes to live—he could have wished to survive a little longer to have seen the fleet in safety; but, as that was impossible, he thanked God that he had outlived the action, and had been enabled to do his duty to his country. About this time he was aroused by another cheer from the crew of the Victory, at their seeing some more of the enemy strike their colors; at which he expressed the highest satisfaction on learning the cause, and shortly after expired without a groan."—Evening Hours.

"A Color Dictionary"

Is the title to a very attractive little book, printed by Bullard & Co., Boston, in which are given examples and definitions of almost every color and shade from black to white. There are also samples

of laid, amber, fawn, wove, cream, and manila paper. This book is designated as No. 22 of handbook series, and its price is eight cents postpaid.

The finest collection in the world is owned by Count de Ferrary of Paris, although the Toppling collection at the British museum is a close second in value.

A scarce Spanish war stamp is the one-half cent orange, documentary. It is now catalogued at ten cents, unused.

A Tendency to Specialize

There is a cessation just at the present time in the great interest in stamps which has existed for a number of years past. The desire to possess stamps, however, never leaves the true collector, and it is only a question of time when there will be a greater amount of collecting than ever before. The world's issues, however, have become so great that many are likely to confine their collecting to the stamps that are issued in and for the United States, its colonial possessions, protectorates, and near neighbors which are likely sooner or later to come under one or another of these heads.—St. Nicholas.

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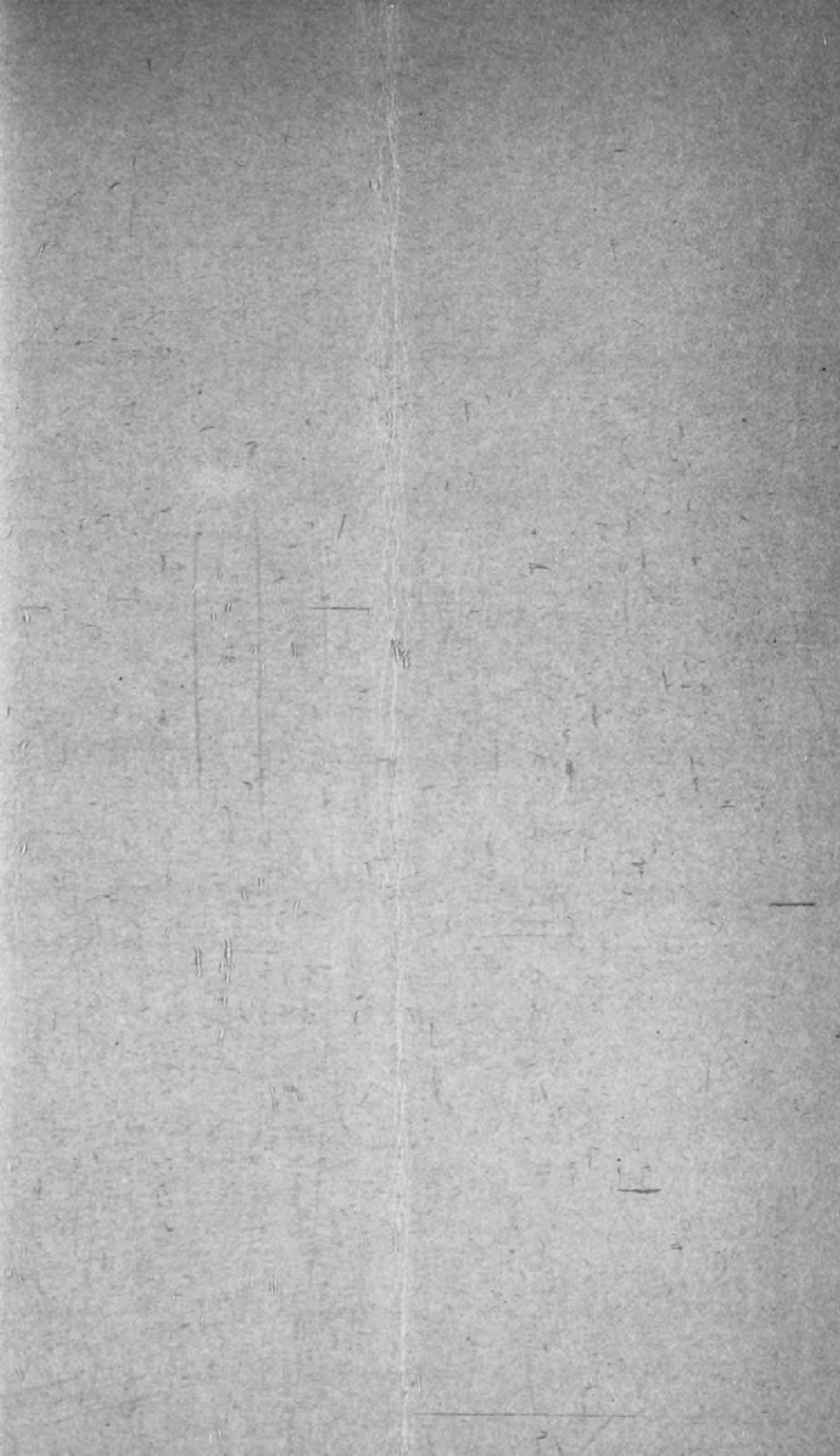
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STAMP NOTES

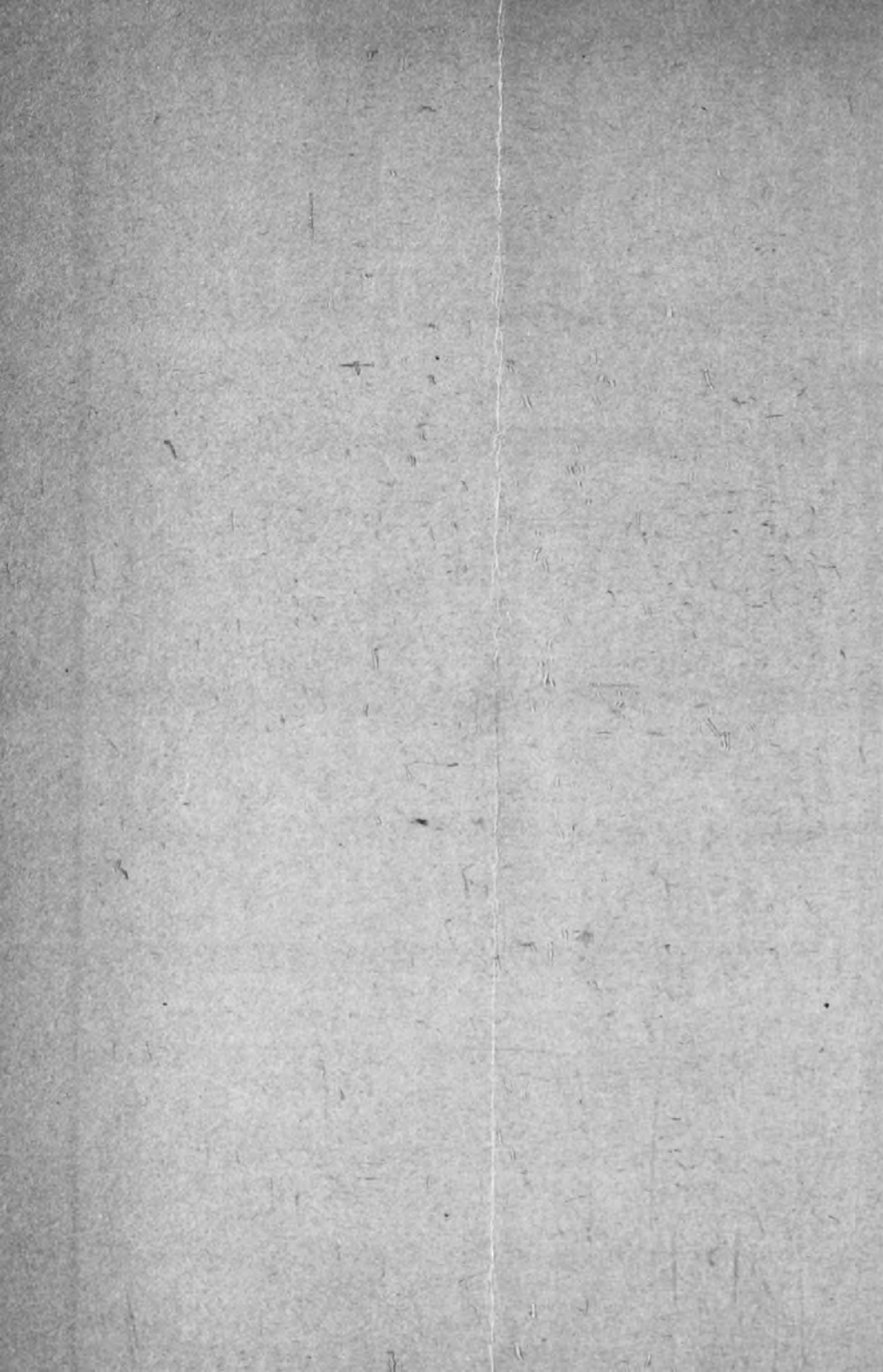
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1906

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VOLUME 1 . NUMBER 4

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GLENCOE, ILLINOIS



STAMP NOTES

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

VOLUME 1

NOVEMBER, 1906

NUMBER 4

American Issues in Three Periods

THE stamps of the United States of America are a big subject — perhaps too big a subject, nowadays, to be tackled in their entirety, and with specialistic thoroughness, by any one collector of moderate means. Philatelists able to sink large sums of money in their hobby, and devote to it a generous amount of time and trouble, could get together remarkable collections of American stamps. The Earl of Crawford has recently completed (if such a thing can ever be said to be complete) his remarkable collection of U. S. A. issues. It is a collection upon which work and money have been lavished without stint, but the result is an assemblage of American issues which is probably entitled to rank as the finest in the world. Lord Crawford does not confine himself to the issued stamps, but takes proofs, essays, reprints, and “government counterfeits” and further embellishes his collection with every conceivable object calculated to shed a light on the postal history of the country he has taken in hand—

postal decrees for instance, varieties of postmarks and postal documents of every description. This, in the eye of some people, is philately carried to its highest pitch; others may be inclined to denounce it as “specialism run mad.” Certain it is that no collector of average leisure and limited resources could undertake to collect the stamps of America on such a magnificent scale as this. He must therefore either rest content with a collection on “generalist” lines — standard varieties only — or adopt some section of the subject; as his own particular study.

It happens that the stamps of the United States lend themselves excellently to a subdivision of this sort. One may split them up into three most interesting classes or periods, as follows:—

Section I.—The period of “Postmasters” issues, 1845 to 1847, comprising many front rank varieties, such as the stamp of Baltimore, Brattleboro’, and St. Louis, and the envelope of New Haven. This section is an impossible one for the

rank-and-file philatelist, but would afford a few pleasant week end diversions for a millionaire of stamp collecting proclivities.

Section II would comprise stamps from the issue of the first "government" or federal series in 1847 down to the end of the year 1889. This of course is another "large order," for included in this section would be all the scarce early maps of the government series, the many varieties of "National and Continental" printings, the "Carrier" and local stamps (the latter classed in old time albums and catalogues as "Special and Private Offices"), and also the official and many of the newspaper stamps.

Section III., the class which will most strongly appeal to the young would-be specialist, comprises the stamps from the issue of 1893 down to the present time, and embraces in addition, the special "exposition" issue of Chicago, Omaha, Buffalo and St. Louis.

A parcels post convention having been concluded between the United States and Denmark taking effect Oct. 1, 1906, packages will be admitted to the mails on and after that date. They must not weigh more than four pounds and six ounces and will be charged for at the rate of 12 cents per pound.

Dangerous Postage Stamps

The English post-office authorities have recently ordered the withdrawal from circulation of the threepence stamp colored yellow and brown, for the reason that investigation has shown that the coloring matter employed on these stamps contains sufficient chromate of lead to produce injurious effects. It was shown during the investigation on which the order of withdrawal was based that 12 milligrams of this substance were sufficient to cause poisoning, and a single one of these objectionable stamps carries a milligram of it. Thus the repeated application of these stamps to the lips in the act of moistening might result in the accumulation of a dangerous quantity of the poison in the mouth.

An Uncommon Cancellation

An unusual form of postmark or cancellation is shown on a Confederate envelope sent during war time by a southern soldier to his home in Alabama. No stamp is on the cover, which bears the customary impression, "Due" and the marking under view: In an oval, black, "—track (indecipherable)— May 11—1863—N. & C. R. R." The railway cancellation on Confederate envelopes has been unknown heretofore to many collectors of Confederate stamps on the covers.

MAKING POSTAGE STAMPS**CONCLUDED****Particular About Mucilage**

To meet the different conditions of the seasons of the year, the quality of the gum is changed quarterly. In winter soft gum is used, while in summer a harder grade is applied to the postage stamps; and it is highly important always to keep a sharp watch on the mucilage to insure quality least likely to cause the sheets to stick together by reason of the dampness in the atmosphere.

The mucilage is prepared in accordance with a time honored formula, and for boiling the strange concoction there are installed in the basement of the Bureau of Engraving, three giant kettles, each of which will hold fully one hundred gallons.

If placed end to end, the stamps printed for the use of the American people each year would girdle the globe nearly four times. Under normal conditions between ten million and twenty million stamps are printed at the building during an ordinary working day of eight hours, but under stress of unusual conditions, when the great print shop has been in operation night and day, an average of over forty million stamps has been produced every twenty-four hours.

Inasmuch as the average consumption of stamps at the present

time is about sixteen million a day, the Bureau can usually keep pace with the transient demand; but the law requires that there shall be kept on hand in the storage vaults at the Bureau one hundred million one cent stamps and twice as many of the two cent denomination, and some care is required to see that this measure is not depleted.

**In the Same Category
as Money**

The same manifold precautions surround the manufacture of postage stamps that characterize the printing of currency. Each sheet of stamps is counted dozens of times during the process of manufacture, and if a single sheet is missing when the hour arrives for ceasing work, every employee of the division where it has disappeared is compelled to remain in the building until the misplaced bit of paper is found. At night the plates from which the stamps are printed are carefully checked off and locked up in great vaults fitted with time locks, the doors of which cannot be opened the next morning unless all three of the men in charge are present, it being necessary for each to manipulate a lock of which he alone knows the combination.

When an old issue of postage stamps is retired and a new series comes to take its place, there is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

STAMP NOTES

A monthly publication devoted to the interests of the stamp collector.

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Ten cents per inch of 36 words, undisplayed.

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GILBERT JOHNSON, - - - Editor.

RICHARD K. WILLIAMS, - - - Asst. Editor.

Glencoe, Illinois.

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Specializing U. S. Stamps

During recent years there has been a strong tendency to make a specialty of the stamps of the United States. This is probably due to the great number of varieties; and collectors, of which our country boasts the majority, naturally wish to make a good showing of their own country. The stamp companies increase the popularity by advertising albums for United States and possessions alone.

Both the postage and revenues are very attractive, and harmonious in colors, especially the exposition issues and the current series.

For instance, take the stamp of the St. Louis Exposition. All of the colors, especially through the ten-cent, are vivid and beautiful.

Then in engraving we think the present issue is the best engraved set of any nation.

It is no wonder the stamps of our country are made a speciality.

A stamp that was used only one day is the 5m., 1884, of Korea.

One of the handsomest stamps is the two-cent of North Borneo, series 1894.

A rare stamp is that of the Hawaiian Islands, 1851.

The worst engraved stamp is the ten-cent, year 1858, of new Caledonia.

**A Description of all Postage
Stamps Issued by the United
States Post Office
Department, Complete
to June 30, 1906.**

**Taken from the Report of the
Third-assistant Postmaster-
general for the Year
ending June 30, 1900.**

FIVE-CENT.—Portrait of Jefferson, after the painting by Stuart, three-quarters face, looking to the right and upon a ground slightly lighter than the general cast of the stamp. The lathe-work border nearly follows the rectangular outer lines of the stamp. It extends about three-sixteenths of an inch wide, curving inward at the middle of the four sides, at the top and bottom touching the medallion and at the sides passing under it, thus leaving small spaces of a different figure at the four points outside the ellipse. This border follows the curved lines at the corners. The words "U. S. postage" are in the middle of the border at the top, and "Five cents" at the bottom in white capitals follows the slightly curved line of the border. Color, Brown.

TEN-CENT.—Portrait of Washington, after the painting by Stuart, three-quarters face, looking to the left. Around the upper portion of the medallion, on a solid

ground, are thirteen five-pointed stars, above which, in a white panel following the general line of the medallion, are the words, in small stencil capitals, "U. S. Postage" and at the bottom, in white capitals and following a double reserve curve, are the words "Ten cents." In each of the upper corners is the Roman number "X" in the nearly circular spaces left by the foliate and scroll ornamentations which appear there as well as, to a larger extent, in the trigonal spaces in the lower corners of the stamp. Color, dark green.

TWELVE-CENT.—Portrait of Washington, the same as the 10-cent stamp. Above shaded capitals, and below, similarly inscribed, are the words "Twelve cents." The medallion lies upon a rectangular, straight-line engraved background whose corners, which appear outside the ellipse, are ornamented by scroll work rosettes, and between this background and the outer border of the stamp there is a finely tessellated space. Color, black,

TO BE CONTINUED

The plainest stamp is the twelve-cent, 1850 of British Guiana. In a crude circle are the words "British" at the top, "Guiana" at the bottom, and "12 cents" across the middle. All the letters are roughly executed.

Trade Column

RATES—10 cents per inch of 6 lines, about 36 words.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

great conflagration in a specially prepared furnace in the basement of the general post office at Washington; for here all the left-over stamps are cremated. Many preliminaries are gone through with before the burning can take place. The chief task is, of course, the accounting.

Uncle Sam maintains a book-keeping account with every postmaster in his service, and when an issue of stamps is called in for retirement, every bit of paper received at the postal headquarters must be counted and credited to the postmaster who returned it. Occasionally the Government finds itself with a heavy stock of superannuated stamps on hand and no chance to get rid of them. Thus, after the close of the Pan-American exposition the condemned stamps which had been issued in commemoration of that show, but remained unsold and were fed to the flames, had a face value of over a million dollars.

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