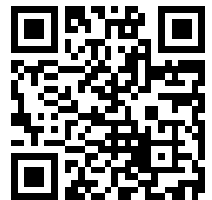

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Post office



APR 19 1911



H. E. Deats

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Post. Office

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The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1897.

No. 73.

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued from page 169.)

The American Bank Note Company printed the United States stamps for two years, partly from plates made by the Continental Bank Note Company, and partly from plates which they themselves prepared by the use of the original dies. Then new dies were made for the one, two, three and six cent stamps, and at the same time a five cent stamp was prepared with the head of Garfield. There was made also about the same time a new plate for the thirty cent stamp from the original die. The plate which had been made in 1870 by the National Bank Note Company had been in use during all these years and had become much worn. The stamp from the new American plate differed from those printed by the same company from the Continental plate to such an extent that many supposed that this stamp also had been re-engraved, and it was listed as such for some time in catalogues.

The difference between the stamps from the two plates is so great that we believe it well to list them in a catalogue of this nature, and we therefore give the stamp from the American plate a place in the series of 1882.

1882.

138. 1c. blue, re-engraved.

The one cent stamp as printed from plates from the original die had the

vertical lines of the ground work as shown in our first cut. They appear to be of about the same width throughout the stamp. Thus there is no shading apparent as we look at a stamp. The one cent stamp as printed from the plate made by the re-engraved die has wider lines of groundwork in the upper than in the lower portion of the stamp. Thus there is a distinct shadow upon the upper portion of the stamp which is evident at a glance.

139. 3c. green, re-engraved.

The original three cent stamp as printed by the National, Continental and American Companies shows in all good prints a clear, strongly marked shadow beneath the lower right hand side of the central oval.

This shadow is very much fainter in the three cent as re-engraved; indeed in many cases the fine cross lines which cause it can scarcely be seen with a glass.

140. 5c. brown (Garfield).

141. 6c. red, re-engraved.

The six cent stamp of 1870 was so engraved that there is a distinct difference of shade between the three portions of the stamp, within and around the oval and the outer frame.

The lines within the oval are close together, those just without a little farther apart, while those of the frame

are still farther apart and so fine that in numerous cases they are hard to see at all.

Thus we have the stamp known as the plain frame.

The six cent as re-engraved has its lines much more nearly alike throughout the stamp. The portion within and immediately surrounding the oval are of the same shade. The lines of the frame differ from them a little, but the general appearance of the stamp is one of evenness of shade. The lines of the frame are not found worn away in any prints of the re-engraved six cent stamp.

142. 10c. brown, re-engraved.

The re-engraved ten cent stamp is readily distinguished from the stamp from the original die by counting the number of vertical lines at the left of the oval between it and the edge of the shield. The original stamp had six of these lines while the re-engraved has only four.

The ten cent re-engraved never has the little mark in the ornament which is found on the Continental stamps, and also those printed by the American Company from the Continental plates; but its absence is not decisive, since it frequently failed to show in American prints from the Continental plates. This was probably the result of wearing of the plates. The best way to distinguish the re-engraved stamp is by the means given above, although the general difference in the appearance of the stamps is such that they may be told at a glance after one has become familiar with them.

There are many points of difference between these four re-engraved stamps and the same values from the original dies, but we have not made mention of

them as we wish to avoid confusion and make the selecting of re-engraved specimens an easy matter.

143. 30c. black (American plate.)

The distinguishing feature of this stamp is the return to the early evenness of shade which characterized the stamps printed by the National Company. One selecting a thirty cent of the National print and placing by its side several Continental stamps of succeeding years will notice a change in the stamp from year to year. The parts around the central oval gradually grow lighter until finally in American prints from the National plate there is always a sharp contrast between the portions within and without the oval.

There are some stamps of late Continental print, probably made after a re-entering of the plate with the original die, which approach the National stamp in evenness of appearance; but none come so near it as the beautifully printed stamps made by the American Bank Note Company from its own new plate.

1883.

144. 2c. claret.

145. 4c. green.

1887.

146. 2c. green.

147. 3c. vermilion.

148. 1c. blue (new design).

1888.

149. 4c. carmine.

150. 5c. blue.

151. 30c. brown.

152. 90c. purple.

Subscribe to THE POST OFFICE, only 25 cents a year to all countries.



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS :

I shall be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to H. Gremmel, 85 Nassau street, New York.

Argentine Republic—The *A. J. of P.* claims that the 1891 20 pesos exists both engraved and lithographed, the former perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, and the latter $16\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated $16\frac{1}{2}$.

Lithographed.

20p gray green.

Cape of Good Hope—We have seen the 2 and 4-penny stamps in new colors.

Adhesive Stamp. Watermark: Anchor.

Perforated 14.

2p brown.

4p olive.

China—When the forms of the Post OFFICE closed last month we received the new set of Provisionals, but too late to chronicle them, and since then a few more were received. We also received a new supply with a resetting of the surcharge in which figures and cuts are larger. Therefore we will list the entire set we received and hope that no more will come.

Adhesive stamp. Watermark: a shell.

Perforated 12.

Provisional Issue. Black surcharge.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c on 3c (1894 issue) pale yellow.

1c on 1c (1885 issue) green.

1c on 1c (1894 issue) red.

2c on 3c (1885 issue) violet.

2c on 2c (1894 issue) green.

4c on 4c (1894 issue) rose.

5c on 5c (1894 issue) yellow.

5c on 5c (1885 issue) greenish yellow.

8c on 6c (1894 issue) brown.

10c on 9c (1894 issue) green.

10c on 12c (1894 issue) orange.

30c on 24c (1894 issue) carmine.

Large surcharge.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c on 3c (1894 issue) pale yellow.

1c on 1c (1894 issue) red.

2c on 2c (1894 issue) green.

10c on 12c (1894 issue) orange.

30c on 24c (1894 issue) carmine.

Unwatermarked. Perforated 15.

1c on 3c (Revenue) red.

2c on 3c (Revenue) red.

\$1 on 3c (Revenue) red.

Large surcharge.

4c on 3c (revenues) red.

Our correspondent has sent us the following official circular :

IMPERIAL CHINESE POST.

NOTIFICATION (PROVISIONAL) NO. 20.

MAILS.—On and after the 2d February, 1897 (KUANG Hsü, 23d year, 1st

moon, 1st day) Mails will be exchanged by every opportunity between the Post Offices now opened at the under mentioned places in China :

Amoy.	Newchwang.
Canton.	Ningpo.
Chefoo.	Pagoda Anchorage
Chinhai (Ningpo).	(Foochow).
Chinkiang.	Pakhoi.
Chungking.	Peking.
Foochow.	Shanghai
Hangchow.	Shasi.
Hankow.	Soochow.
Hoihow (Kiung- chow).	Swatow.
Hokow.	Szema.
Ichang.	Taku (Tientsin).
Kiukiang.	Tientsin.
Kiungchow.	Wenchow.
Lunghow.	Whampoa.
Mengtsz.	Woosung.
Nanking.	Wuhu.

Also with *Hongkong*, *Macao* and *Formosa*.

Supplementary Mails, duly advertised, will be made up at the different Post Offices to suit local requirements.

RATES OF POSTAGE.—The Domestic Rates of Postage are as follows :

Letters : for each $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. or fraction thereof, 2 cents.

Newspapers : posted singly, Chinese, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent each ; Foreign, 1 cent each. When sent in packets, 1 cent per 2 oz. or fraction thereof.

Books, Circulars, Samples : 2 cents per 2 oz. ; Patterns or Samples not to exceed 8 oz. in weight.

Parcels : 10 cents for first lb., and 5 cents for each succeeding lb.

Registration : 4 cents ; return receipt 4 cents.

Prepayment is compulsory. During the winter when navigation is closed by ice, Mail Matter to and from Peking, Tientsin (Taku), and Newchwang is

subject to the Special Tariff and Rules under which the Overland Service is conducted.

POSTAGE STAMPS.—The Postage Stamps of the Imperial Post are of the following denominations* : $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, 1 cent ; 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 30, 50 cents ; 1, 2, 5 dollars. Domestic Postcards, 1 cent.

BUSINESS HOURS.—The Imperial Post Offices are open for the transaction of public business on weekdays from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. ; on Sundays and holidays, from 8 to 9 A.M.

DELIVERIES.—Delivery of Mail Matter will take place as follows : 8 A.M., 10 A.M., noon, 2 P.M., 4 P.M., and 6 P.M. (or at other hours to suit local requirements). Correspondence for vessels in port will, as a rule, be sent to the agents, but, if desired, will be delivered on board at 9 A.M. and 4 P.M., subject to alteration.

PRIVATE BOXES.—Private Boxes may be rented at any Post Office. The fee is \$10 per annum, payable in advance. Boxholders will be provided gratis with an account book, and a special account may be opened for the transmission to Chinese ports of certain unstamped printed matter of uniform size and weight, such as Market Reports, Circulars, Invitations, Cards, Bills, etc., each not exceeding 2 oz. in weight and in packets of not less than 10, the postage—at the rate of 1 cent each—being either payable in cash or charged to the sender's account, which must be settled monthly, and, as a rule, no information can be given as to particulars of matter or charge made in the account.

INQUIRIES.—Inquiries concerning

*At present provisional surcharged Stamps of other values are in use. Issue of Postcards deferred.

postal business must be made at the Post Office (Custom House).

COMPLAINTS.—All complaints and representations which cannot be adjusted by the Postal Officer should be addressed to the Commissioner of Customs.

By order of the Inspector General of Customs,

H. KOPSCH,

Postal Secretary.

INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF CUSTOMS,

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

SHANGHAI, 27th Jan., 1897.

Congo—Several Philatelic Journals chronicle new postal cards with stamps of the new type.

Postal Cards.

10c vermilion, *buff*.

10c green x 10c red brown, *rose*.

15c blue x 15c yellow brown, *gray blue*.

Ecuador—In addition to the provisionals chronicled by us last month, the *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicled the following values of the 1894 issue, surcharged "1897-1898."

Le Timbre Poste claims that some of the 1895 issue have also been surcharged.

Provisional issue. Perforated 12, 1894 issue. Surcharged in black, "1897-1898."

1c blue.

2c yellow green.

5c green.

10c vermilion.

20c black.

50c orange.

1s carmine.

5s dark blue.

1895 Issue, surcharged.

2c yellow brown.

50c orange.

1s carmine.

5s dark blue.

Gambia—We are informed that a new set of the current colonial type will be issued in a very short time.

German Empire—The current issue of adhesives and postal cards have been surcharged respectively: "Deutsch Süd-west Africa," "Kamerun," "Marschall Inseln," "Deutsch Neu Guinea," and "Togo," for use in the Colonies.

Cameroons.

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated.

Black surcharge.

3pf brown.

5pf green.

10pf carmine.

20pf blue.

25pf orange.

50pf red-brown.

Postal Cards.

5pf green, *buff*.

5x5pf " "

10pf carmine, *buff*.

10x10pf " "

German New Guinea.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated.

Black surcharge.

3pf brown.

5pf green.

10pf carmine.

20pf blue.

25pf orange.

50pf red-brown.

Postal Cards.

5pf green, *buff*.

5x5pf " "

10pf carmine, *buff*.

10x10 pf " "

German South West Africa.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated.

Black surcharge.

3pf brown.

5pf green.

10pf carmine.

20pf blue.

25pf orange.

50pf red-brown.

Postal Cards.

5pf green, *buff*.

5x5pf " "

10pf carmine, *buff*.

10x10pf " "

Marshall Islands.*Adhesive Stamps. Perforated.**Black surcharge.*

- 3pf brown.
- 5pf green.
- 10pf carmine.
- 20pf blue.
- 25pf orange.
- 50pf red-brown.

Postal Cards.

- 5pf green, *buff.*
- 5x5 pf " "
- 10pf carmine, *buff.*
- 10x10pf " "

Togoland.*Adhesive Stamps. Perforated.**Black surcharge.*

- 3pf brown.
- 5pf green.
- 10pf carmine.
- 20pf blue.
- 25pf orange.
- 50pf red-brown.

Postal Cards.

- 5 pf green, *buff.*
- 5x5pf " "
- 10pf carmine, *buff.*
- 10x10pf " "

India, Bundi—This native State has issued an adhesive stamp of $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, similar to the Alwur.

Adhesive Stamp.

Thin grayish, wove paper.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ a slate, 108 varieties.

Thick white laid paper.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ a slate, 108 varieties.

Charkasi—This native State has issued a series of adhesive stamps and envelopes.

Adhesive Stamps.

- $\frac{1}{4}$ a rose.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ a purple.
- 1a green.
- 2a green.
- 4a green.

Envelopes.

- $\frac{1}{4}$ a rose.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ a purple.

Duttia—This native State has also issued two adhesives.

Adhesive Stamps.

- $\frac{1}{4}$ a black, orange red.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ a black, grayish green.

Hyderabad—The $\frac{1}{2}$ anna comes now in new color.

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated.

- $\frac{1}{4}$ a bright vermilion.

Patiala—The 1 rupee of India has been surcharged "Patiala State."

*Adhesive Stamp. Perforated 14.**Watermark 14.*

1r carmine and green, *black surcharge.*

Labuan—*The London Philatelist* chronicles the redrawn. North Borneo, surcharged "Labuan."

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated.

- 1c lilac and black.
- 2c blue " "
- 3c ocher " "
- 5c green " "
- 6c brick red and black.
- 8c rose " "
- 12c vermilion " "
- 18c olive brown and black.
- 24c lilac and blue.

Madagascar—The current franc unpaid letter stamps have been surcharged in three lines, "Madagascar et Dependances."

Unpaid Letter Stamps. Imperforated.

- 5c blue, vermilion surcharge.
- 10c brown, " "
- 20c yellow, blue, " "
- 30c carmine, blue " "
- 40c lilac, vermilion, " "
- 50c violet, blue " "
- 1fr dark green, vermilion surcharge.

North Borneo—*The London Philatelist* states that the adhesives have been redrawn to include Chinese and Malay characters in the inscription.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated. Re-engraved.

- 1c ocher and black.

- 2c lake and black.
- 3c lilac and olive green.
- 5c vermilion and black.
- 6c olive brown " "
- 8c dull lilac " "
- 12c blue " "
- 18c green " "
- 24c dull blue " "

Samca—The 2½ penny comes now in black brown.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated 11½.

Watermark N. Z. and Star.

2½ p black brown.

Seychelles—Three new values have been issued.

Adhesive Stamps. Watermarked Crown C. A. Perforated 14.

18c blue.

36c brown and carmine.

1 rup. lilac and carmine.

Turkey—The *New England Stamp Co.* send us the following letter of one of their correspondents :

CONSTANTINOPLE, TURKEY, 22/3/97.

Messrs.

THE NEW ENGLAND STAMP Co.,
Boston.

Dear Sirs : Thinking you would like to hear about the new Turkish issue I beg to trouble you with the following :

Enclosed herewith please find samples of Turkish stamps to be issued on the 13th of April next.

The reason for this change is, the Turkish Government intends working opposition to the Austrian and other foreign post offices which take papers, etc., for a half penny. The Turkish post office intends taking them for a farthing, gold, that is to say 1 farthing and 1/16 of a farthing silver currency, surcharging the 10 paras stamps with 5 paras. The stamps surcharged in black are to replace the "matpoises,"

or, the stamps that were used by the newspaper agencies and printing offices. The red stamps are to replace those used for posting small samples, private newspapers, etc., etc., etc.

Newspaper Stamp. Perforated.

5 paras, green, black surcharge.

5 " " red "

Zanzibar—The 1 and 4 annas of the new set have been surcharged in red "2½." Postal Cards have also been issued.

Adhesive Stamps. Watermarked a flower. Perforated 14.

2½ on 1a blue and red.

2½ on 4a black, green and red.

Postal Cards.

½a green, buff.

½x½a green, buff.

1a carmine, buff.

1x1a carmine, buff.

THE MONTHLY PACKET OF NEW ISSUES.

The April Packet contains six varieties: Labuan, 1c., 2c., 3c., 5c., 6c. and 8c. Jubilee, all unused.

27 CENTS. POST FREE.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau st., New York.

This packet is only on sale until the next number is issued and is supplied to *subscribers* to the Post Office only.

The subscribers wishing to receive the Monthly Packet regularly should send \$3.24, in advance, for the Packets for April, 1897, to March, 1898 (inclusive), in order to avoid disappointment, as the supply is limited, and it will be sent on the same day when the Post Office is mailed.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, Editor.

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3 inches.	4 00	10 80	20 40	38 40
½ column.	5 00	13 50	25 50	48 00
1 column.	9 00	24 30	47 60	86 40
1 page.	16 00	43 20	81 60	153 60

Forms close on the tenth of each month.

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We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement which we consider detrimental to the interests of the journal, without giving any reasons whatsoever.

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We will exchange two copies with all philatelic papers. Address all communications to

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85 Nassau Street, New York.

A cross opposite these lines indicates that your subscription expires with this number. A prompt renewal is requested.

The exchanges of the POST OFFICE will greatly oblige if they will send one copy to Mr. Gremmel at 85 Nassau Street, and another to the editor, P. O. Box 2,874, New York.

* * *

An increase of business in stamp circles is reported. It is certain that the fears of many have not been realized, and the work of collecting stamps instead of dying out has been taken up with renewed zeal and interest lately, and great confidence in the future is now expressed on all hands.

* * *

We are not as collectors directly concerned with politics, but our interests are certain to be affected by the tariff bill, if it does, as expected, restore the duty upon stamps imported from for-

eign countries. It is scarcely likely that any influence that could be brought to bear would have weight with the framers of the new tariff, for they have so great interests to consider that they will not give any time at present to the consideration of this small matter.

* * *

It would be an excellent thing if the truth that the placing of a duty on stamps as objects of collection will cost the government more time and trouble in collection than the whole duty will amount to could be conveyed to the understanding of our legislators. It would be found by an examination of the cost of collection under the McKinley tariff, as compared with the amounts received, that the business was done at a loss. The universal testimony of the customs officials during that period was that the whole thing was a loss and a nuisance.

* * *

The tariff then of twenty-five per cent. *ad valorem* was a farce, for the Government never had an expert in its employ at any port competent to value stamps as objects of collection. The cost of employment of such experts would be a hundred times the amount realized from their services. If a specified duty of so much per thousand were arranged, collectors would have small cause of complaint. The prices of continentals would rise, but the best stamps would practically escape duty, as they will in any event, through the ignorance of the customs officials.

* * *

We suppose that there will be more or less of a similar activity among stamp importers to that which one sees at the present time among those connected with general business. Import-

ers are rushing in goods in expectation of increased customs charges in the future. Wholesale dealers in stamps will probably act in the same way, but, as in general business, their prices will be based on the future wholesale rates for stamps. We therefore advise dealers who are not importers to lay in their stocks of the classes of stamps naturally most affected by a tariff while the prices remain as they are.

* * *

The failure of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Company which has been freely predicted in New York for many months has at last taken place.

The following was given out by the Company as the reason for failure: "The business of importing and dealing in stamps and manufacturing stamp albums for collectors is one that has suffered very much these hard times. Being a business of luxury, it has perhaps suffered in a greater degree than others. The assets of the company are large and valuable, but are not of a character to be readily realized on, in times like these. It will be the policy of the trustee to continue the profitable portion of the business, conserving the interests of the creditors by cutting off expenses and realizing upon the assets by public or private sale as early as possible."

* * *

The above serves excellently as the kind of an explanation which is always expected, and which is invariably given for publication. It deceives no one, however, and it strikes us that the best way would have been to state the plain fact, which every one knows, that the business has been run in an extravagant manner. The stamp business is a

good one. It has not suffered so far as our knowledge goes, to anything like the extent which other kinds of business, even those dealing with the necessities of life, have suffered. The true reason of the Mekeel failure is found in the president's own statement: "I have been drawing a salary of \$6,000 a year, and George and Isaac \$3,000 each. Mr. Funk, as secretary, drew \$125 a month." It would take a bigger stamp business than that done by this company to stand such a drain, when the enormous expenses of all other descriptions which it must incur are considered. It is said that the creditors of the concern will be paid in full. There is small doubt of that when they look out for themselves by chattel mortgages, but what of the poor stockholders whose dollars have gone into the pockets of these officers and high-priced employees? We hear that they will realize five cents on the dollar. We sincerely hope it will be so much.

* * *

The only way to conduct a stamp business successfully is to follow the rule of success in all other kinds of business, economy of expense as compared with receipts. Many of the New York dealers whose sales in each year are very large, employ no high-priced help, preferring to exercise the general management themselves and to fill personally the positions of trust, leaving the large amount of handling stamps to help which will do it at the ordinary rates of wages. The large concerns which act differently in this matter have a special use for each high-priced employee, whose salary is well within the amount of cash profit which he brings to the house.

* * *

The gentlemen of the house of

Mekeel may have rendered an equivalent for the large salaries which they drew from the concern, but we fancy that the stockholders will examine their certificates of stock long and anxiously with microscopic care before they see that profit.

* * *

The Stanley Gibbons Co. of London have bought some very large and fine collections during the past few years, paying for the Ehrenbach collection of German stamps about \$30,000 and the Castle collection about \$50,000. Both of these large purchases, however, are placed in the shade by their latest acquisition, which is that of the greater portion of the collection of Mr. F. W. Ayer, of Portland, Maine, valued at \$250,000. This collection contains many great rarities and is one of the finest and largest accumulations of stamps ever made in this or any other country.

* * *

This great purchase is an all-sufficient reply to those who have feared that good stamps would cease to be good property. If this great London firm is content to invest a large amount in stamps of this character, it is certain that they not only have value, but will hold and increase their value in years to come. This purchase is not made except with great profit in plain sight in disposing of it.

* * *

It is characteristic of the American mind to be, as is said, "way up in the air," or "down in the dumps." This is perhaps a natural reflection of the conditions which prevail in the commercial world in which we live, as the English say, "a nation of traders." Nearly all advanced collectors in this country are in business or dependent

upon business conditions for their living. The case is different in Europe. A large proportion of the collectors are people of means who think it a sin, at least for themselves, to work. This class collects stamps without regard to business, and it constantly absorbs large numbers of valuable specimens. We collect stamps most actively in America when times are good or when we can find nothing else to speculate in profitably. We have heretofore predicted that the buying class of Europe would get a large part of our best stamps during the period of depression in this country. This sale of the Ayer collection shows that this is the fact. Again, all dealers who cannot make good sales in this country will sell largely in Europe during the coming summer. Our good stamps are going abroad and collectors here are letting them go with very little thought of the ultimate result.

* * *

What will that result be? It does not take a prophet to foretell that the next time that we are "up in the air" we shall buy them back from Europe, so far as we can get them, at a great profit to these purchasers. The American collector who is wise will do all that he possibly can to get hold of rarities which he needs for his collection at the present time. He need have no fear whatever of loss if he buys carefully yet liberally of all fine specimens which he requires.

* * *

We wish to point out the plain fact that this advice is given mainly in the interest of the American collector. It matters little to the dealer whether he sells here or in Europe so long as he secures his profit on his sale.

The stamps which go to Europe will yield their profit on the sale there, and when they come back the dealer will bring them and American collectors who have waited will have to pay an amount for them equal to two profits in addition to the present value and whatever advance time may make in their worth.

* * *

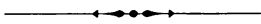
It seems to be a hard thing for collectors to understand that the advance in the value of good stamps cannot cease. They persist in comparing them with stocks or wheat or manufactured articles which rise and fall in the market.

The nature of stamps is essentially different from these articles of commerce. It is a very unusual thing to have any increase made in the supply of a rare stamp, and when it does occur, as in the case of the St. Louis stamps, the additional interest awakened at once offsets the increase and produces an advance instead of a fall in price.

* * *

The Nova Scotia remainders may be instanced as producing a decline. It is not worth while to dispute it, but it is also a certainty that the larger number of collectors who will now be able to possess themselves of these fine stamps will give an impetus to their collection which will in a few years restore their prices to their former level, and even produce an advance.

The collectors whose stamp purchases will certainly be a source of lasting satisfaction to them from the financial point of view will be those who possess an unlimited faith in the constant increase of the value of all rare stamps.



Subscribe to THE POST OFFICE, only 25 cents a year to all countries.

THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

ON THE NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS BURNED.

Report That Will Be of Special Interest to Dealers and Speculators in Hawaiian Stamps.

[From Honolulu Evening Bulletin.]

Ever since the burning of the old issues of Hawaiian stamps on the morning of January 28 last, under authority of a joint resolution of the Legislature, local speculators have been particularly anxious to find out exactly how many stamps were destroyed and their particular denomination. In the issue of the *Bulletin* of the date mentioned a tabulated statement of the number and value of the stamps on hand and authorized to be destroyed by the Legislature, if not sold prior to January 1, 1897, was printed. It will be noticed that in the report given below, the total value of the stamps destroyed is not given. The *Bulletin* has made repeated efforts to obtain the exact value and denomination of the stamps sold between the date of the passage of the resolution by the Legislature and January 1, 1897, but for some reason best known to the authorities the figures were not obtainable. However, to those who are interested enough to do a little figuring they can be easily got at by computing the values of the stamps mentioned in the following report and subtracting them from the figures given in the table printed on January 28. The difference will show what stamps were sold at the post-office, and as they mostly went to speculators, will give a pretty general idea of the number of stamps of each denomination now owned in this city and held for speculative purposes.

178. 3.00 yellow green.
 179. 4.00 rose.
 180. 5.00 black.

Attention has been called by some writers to variations in the paper of the stamps of the Columbian issue. We do not believe these to be anything more than accidents resulting from the processes of manufacture. Any ribbing which is found upon them is very different in nature from the Continental ribbed paper of 1873-5, which is never duplicated by accidents in the manufacture of later varieties of paper.

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING PRINT.—
1894-95. Same die.

Triangular ornaments added in upper corners.

181. 1c. ultramarine.
 182. 1c. blue.
 183. 2c. pink.
 184. 2c. rose.
 A. Lines through triangle plain. Triangle I.
 B. Lines of border reduced. Triangle II.
 C. Lines removed from border of triangular ornament. Triangle III.

The varieties in the triangles which are usually known as I, II, and III, are easily seen in the cuts.

185. 3c. purple.
 186. 4c. dark brown.
 187. 5c. chocolate.
 188. 5c. brown.
 189. 6c. dark red brown.
 190. 8c. lilac brown.
 191. 10c. dark green.
 192. 15c. blue.
 193. 50c. orange (Jefferson).
 194. 1.00 black (Perry).
 195. 2.00 blue (Madison).
 196. 5.00 green (Marshall).

A change of paper was made in 1895 to a watermarked variety. The water-

marked letters U S P S are repeated throughout the sheet in horizontal rows. The number of letters is not the same as the number of stamps in a sheet, and therefore a watermarked letter is not found complete in each stamp in most cases.

1895. Watermarked. Large Letters.

197. 1c. blue.
 198. 2c. rose.
 A. Lines through triangle plain. Triangle I.
 B. Lines of border reduced. Triangle II.
 C. Lines removed from border of triangular ornaments. Triangle III.
 199. 3c. purple.
 200. 4c. dark brown.
 201. 5c. brown.
 202. 6c. dark red brown.
 203. 8c. lilac brown.
 204. 10c. dark green.
 205. 15c. blue.
 206. 50c. orange.
 207. 1.00 black.
 208. 2.00 blue.
 209. 5.00 green.

SPECIAL DELIVERY.

The first issue of these stamps was made with the intention of use for the special delivery of mail at a number of offices designated as Special Delivery Offices. Therefore the inscription which appears in six straight lines on the first issue of these stamps reads:

SECURES
 IMMEDIATE
 DELIVERY
 AT A SPECIAL
 DELIVERY
 OFFICE.

The experiment having proved a success, the privilege of special delivery of mail on payment of a fee of ten

cents was extended to all post offices, and all later issues bear the inscription in five lines, the lowest curved :

SECURES
IMMEDIATE
DELIVERY
AT ANY
POST OFFICE.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. PRINT.

- 1885.
- 275. 10c. blue.
- 1887.
- 276. 10c. blue ("at any office").
- 1893.
- 277. 10c. orange.

BUREAU ENGRAVING & PRINTING PRINT.

- 1894.
- 278. 10c. blue.
- 1895. Watermarked.
- 279. 10c. blue.

The stamp printed by the Bureau differs from the earlier issues in the dark line around the stamp, and also in the fact that the figures at the bottom are shaded with horizontal lines.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. PRINT.

- 1865. Colored Border.
- 300. 5c. blue (Washington).
- 301. 10c. green (Franklin).
- 302. 25c. red (Lincoln).
- 1867. White Border.
- 303. 5c. blue.

The large sized newspaper stamps exist in a variety of shades, and with the exception of the five-cent with the colored border, they are found on a thin, hard variety of paper called pelure.

The Newspaper and Periodical stamps printed by the Continental and American companies differ from each other in paper in a similar manner to that in which the regular issues differ.

The Continental stamps are found on hard paper of snappy quality, while that of the American print is soft and usually of porous appearance.

CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. PRINT.

- 1875. Indian.
- 304. 2c. slate.
- 305. 3c. "
- 306. 4c. "
- 307. 6c. "
- 308. 8c. "
- 309. 9c. "
- 310. 10c. "

JUSTICE.

- 311. 12c. carmine.
- 312. 24c. "
- 313. 36c. "
- 314. 48c. "
- 315. 60c. "
- 316. 72c. "
- 317. 84c. "
- 318. 96c. "

VARIOUS DESIGNS.

- 319. \$1.92 brown.
- 320. 3.00 vermilion.
- 321. 6.00 ultramarine.
- 322. 9.00 yellow.
- 323. 12.00 green.
- 324. 24.00 dark violet.
- 325. 36.00 brown red.
- 326. 48.00 red brown.
- 327. 60.00 violet.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. PRINT.

- 1879. Continental Plate.

INDIAN.

- 328. 2c. black.
- 329. 3c. "
- 330. 4c. "
- 331. 6c. "
- 332. 8c. "
- 333. 10c. "

THE POST OFFICE.

JUSTICE.

- 334. 12c. carmine.
- 335. 24c. "
- 336. 36c. "
- 337. 48c. "
- 338. 60c. "
- 339. 72c. "
- 340. 84c. "
- 341. 96c. "

VARIOUS DESIGNS.

- 342. \$1.92 brown.
- 343. 3.00 vermilion.
- 344. 6.00 blue.
- 345. 9.00 orange.
- 346. 12.00 green.
- 347. 24.00 dark violet.
- 348. 36.00 brown red.
- 349. 48.00 yellow brown.
- 350. 60.00 purple.
- 1885. American Plate.
- 351. 1c. black (Indian).

The prints of the Bureau from the plates of the Continental and American companies are more nearly a perfect black for the low values than the stamps printed earlier. The color differs in the higher values, while in all these stamps the paper is somewhat lighter than the average of American prints.

BUREAU ENGRAVING & PRINTING PRINT.

Continental Plates re-numbered.

- 1894. Indian.
- 352. 2c. black.
- 353. 4c. "
- 354. 6c. "
- 355. 10c. "

JUSTICE.

- 356. 12c. pink.
- 357. 24c. "
- 358. 36c. "
- 359. 60c. "
- 360. 72c. "
- 361. 96c. "

- 362. \$3.00 scarlet.
- 363. 6.00 blue.

American Plate re-numbered.

- 364. 1c. black (Indian).

Bureau Plates.

- 1895. Indian.
- 365. 1c. black.
- 366. 2c. "
- 367. 5c. "
- 368. 10c. "
- 369. 25c. pink.
- 370. 50c. "

VARIOUS DESIGNS.

- 371. \$2.00 orange.
- 372. 5.00 blue.
- 373. 10.00 green.
- 374. 20.00 slate.
- 375. 50.00 carmine.
- 376. 100.00 purple.

1885. Indian. Watermark.

- 377. 1c. black.
- 378. 2c. "
- 379. 5c. "
- 380. 10c. "
- 381. 25c. pink.
- 382. 50c. "

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Figure in Oval.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. PRINT. 1879-91.

- 1879.
- 400. 1c. yellow brown.
- 401. 2c. " "
- 402. 3c. " "
- 403. 5c. " "
- 404. 10c. " "
- 405. 30c. " "
- 406. 50c. " "
- 407. 1c. red brown.
- 408. 2c. " "
- 409. 3c. " "
- 410. 5c. " "
- 411. 10c. " "
- 412. 30c. " "
- 413. 50c. " "

1891.		423.	1c. deep claret.
414.	1c. claret.	424.	2c. " "
415.	2c. "	425.	3c. " "
416.	3c. "	426.	5c. " "
417.	5c. "	427.	10c. " "
418.	10c. "	428.	30c. " "
419.	30c. "	429.	50c. " "
420.	50c. "		

1895. Watermark.

**BUREAU ENGRAVING & PRINTING
PRINT.**

Figure in Lozenge Shaped Frame.

1894.

421.	1c. light claret.
422.	2c. " "

430.	1c. claret.
431.	2c. "
432.	3c. "
433.	5c. "
434.	10c. "
435.	30c. "
436.	50c. "

**THE DIES OF THE STAMPS OF NAPLES, 1858, AND PARMA, 1852-57,
AND JOURNAL TAX, 1853-57.**

The London Philatelist prints under the above heading a very interesting article by Dr. E. Diena concerning the lately discovered plates of these old stamps.

Our readers are aware that the plate of the $\frac{1}{2}$ g. was altered by the erasure of the Bourbon arms and the substitution of the cross of Savoy to produce the $\frac{1}{2}$ t. of the Provisional Government. The recovered plates show that the plate of the 50 g. was altered in a similar manner so far as the lower right hand stamp was concerned, the cross being roughly put in but the value being unaltered.

The following is stated concerning the discovery of the plates:

These several objects had all been sold in 1875, with other articles of an obsolete nature, by the Bureau of the

Mint at Turin as old metal, to a private person who had, it is said, vainly endeavored to dispose of them. Persuaded of their interest, he could not, however, bring himself to destroy them, and he has hence had them for a number of years in his possession. It was only recently that, having endeavored to dispose of them to a stamp dealer, he at length disposed of them to an amateur at Turin, from whom the Posts and Telegraphs Department has been enabled to procure them.

It was at first supposed that these plates had been stolen, and the Director of Posts at Turin caused an inquiry to be instituted, the result of which has been to establish the fact that their sale took place in 1875, and was legally and properly carried out—a discovery which only shows what depth of folly officials are capable of.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, Editor.

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* *

There was a reference to cuts in the last number of the POST OFFICE under the heading of our Descriptive Catalogue. These cuts were omitted through a misunderstanding, but they are the same as those in our little work on Minor Varieties, pages 15 to 20. They will be included in the Descriptive Catalogue as published in book form.

* *

We are sorry to learn that Mr. Andreini, who has acted for two years as

correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly*, has decided to give up writing his notes upon New York matters. The items which he has furnished under the pen name of Iberius have been among the best things of the sort that we have ever seen. His method of reporting current events has pleased all, and offended few, while his easy style of writing has rendered his work most pleasant, as well as profitable, to all readers. We wish *Mekeel's Weekly* success in obtaining a correspondent of ability equal to that of Iberius, but we question the possibility of securing another writer of his quality to contribute to a stamp paper.

* *

The International Postal Congress meets this month in Washington to consider questions relating to international postal interests.

The admission to the postal union of the last three countries having postal facilities, China, Corea and Orange Free State, is one matter of interest, while the discussion of the question of the adoption of an international postage stamp will be closely followed by philatelists. Should it be decided to use such a stamp it would have a great effect upon the value of all denominations of stamps whose existence has depended upon the rate established for international postage. We do not know what the plan is, but it is natural to suppose that such a stamp, in its numerous denominations, would put an end to the circulation of the regular issues between various countries. Many nations would have no use for high value stamps of their own, and would abolish them, while the international stamp itself would be very common in all countries.

The reports of the proposed action of the Congress in amending the general postal treaty, which we see in the daily papers, may not be reliable. It is said, however, that the United States delegation will propose the use of a return postage stamp which may be sent in a letter from any country and prepay a reply to the sender. The matter of the increase of weight allowed for a single rate to about double that now allowed is said to be favored by many delegates.

* * *

Mr. A. H. Weber, in the March *Philatelic Californian*, calls attention to the fact that there were more 24c. stamps of the U. S. issue of 1870 on hand and destroyed in January, 1885, than were turned over to the Government by the contractor, the National Bank Note Company, in 1873. He argues from this that our letter from Washington must be incorrect, and that the Continental company did print 24c. stamps. We reply simply that our letter was official, and we see no reason to doubt its correctness. The number of any stamp destroyed by the Government cannot be used in arguing concerning the number reported to have been printed, unless it should happen to exceed that number, which we have never heard had occurred in any instance.

* * *

The total number of twenty-four cent stamps of the 1870 issue sent out to the post-offices was in the neighborhood of a million. Their issue ceased in 1875. They had been widely distributed. They were of small use, but still some use of them could be made. The post-offices, however, gradually returned to the department the number finally de-

stroyed in 1885. Mr. Weber seems surprised that so large a number should be on hand to be destroyed. There had been no destruction of stamps until 1885, and it is only natural that the longer the period, the more there should be on hand, since there was no re-issuing of the stamp. We do not see any reason why our above explanation, which is perfectly simple, should not be the correct one, since it harmonizes with all official documents. Our readers who have found in various post-offices stamps of every issue since war times can understand the matter easily. Ten years, from 1875 to 1885, is a reasonable period in which to allow postmasters time to get tired of carrying over a lot of high value unsalable stamps from year to year, and therefore to decide to return them to the department.

* * *

The long talked of federation of the Australian colonies of Great Britain seems to be much nearer realization at the present time than at any period of the past.

A convention was agreed upon early in the year by all the divisions, with the exception of Queensland. The first meeting was held by the delegates the twenty-second of March at Adelaide. The question seems to be whether the interested colonies can agree upon a constitution. It is believed that if the delegates of this convention can come to an understanding as to the relations of the colonies participating, Queensland will also come into the federation.

* * *

The effect of the accomplishment of this end upon Australian stamps would be great and immediate. There is no series of stamps more interesting than

the varieties which have been issued by the various grand divisions of Australia. Some years ago there was great interest in their collection, which changed, as was natural, to a great disregard for them. It is not easy to understand this peculiarity of human nature, that it must dislike what it has once liked, but we know it to be a common truth which appears in the stamp world just as in all the other affairs of life. The accomplishment of federation would certainly cause a renewed interest in these fine old issues. The best thing that collectors can do is to gather them while they may be had at the reasonable prices of the present time.

* * *

One who desires a collection of a representative character and cares nothing for minor varieties of perforation, watermark and plate, can secure a good collection of Australian stamps at a reasonable figure, while the specialist who delights in the most minute variations may find all that he can possibly use in the innumerable variations of these stamps of Australia.

One of the reasons why we believe in general collecting as on the whole more pleasant and profitable than specializing is that such a collector has an opportunity, whenever he sees reason for attention to the stamps of a particular country, to take them up without loss of time, and also with a fair foundation upon which to base his collecting. The chance to turn with renewed interest in collecting from the gathering of one kind of stamps to the collecting of a different series will keep up interest, which is likely to fail when one has secured all the stamps of a particular country which one can find or which one's pocket-book will stand.

It matters not whether the Australian federation is secured now or is delayed for some years; it is as sure to come eventually as the consolidation of the cities which are now included in New York was certain to become a fact in the course of time. Anticipation of such events is one of the sources of gain to the collector, for by such foresight he may secure rarities and fine specimens at a reasonable price which are unobtainable when the fact is accomplished.

* * *

A union of the Australian colonies will effect much saving in the way of administration of the government. Not the least of these will be the cost of manufacture of stamps. It is said that New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria all maintain at the present time extensive plants for the manufacture of their stamps. One of these with some additions can do the work of the whole federation, and in all probability produce much better stamps than those which are now in use in the separate colonies.

* * *

We hear many rumors of the death of the S. S. S. S. We hear also from many directions of the issuing of commemorative stamps in the immediate future for the purpose of celebrating the longest reign of English history. We cannot but wonder whether the two facts are not connected. The principles of the S. S. S. S. would make it necessary to condemn these issues to a large extent as of speculative nature.

The loyalty of true Britons would make it extremely difficult to stand by the principles of the society.

Have these contradictory influences pulled the society to pieces, and in the

general jubilation which is to come shall we hear no more of the association which has aimed at the good of collectors and collecting in a manner which has failed of appreciation?

* * *

Many are prophesying a great revival of interest in stamp collecting in the near future. Those who remember the way in which our Columbus issue aroused people of all classes to an appreciation of the fact that there was something in stamp gathering, will look forward to a similar result from the stamps issued for the great British celebration. We are inclined to think such prophets right. The buyers of Columbians expected an immense profit from their speculation. The same kind of buying will be repeated by another lot of people (not collectors, but speculators) when British commemoratives are issued. A collapse will follow, but collecting of the genuine sort will not suffer. It will be, in this instance as in the former, the speculators who will bear the loss.

* * *

The great London Philatelic Exhibition is likely to prove a stimulus of the right sort in arousing renewed interest in collecting. H. R. H. the Duke of York, the President of the London Philatelic Society, has added a gold and silver medal to the list of prizes which are offered. There is said to be great competition in Europe in the endeavor to carry off the highest awards, and dealers and collectors alike are striving to complete the lots which they intend to show, in order to reach the summit of achievement and have the best chance in the contest.

Should this exhibition be all that is desired and produce its expected effect

upon collecting, we do hope that prominent New York collectors associated with those of other cities will undertake an American exhibition of like nature. Here is work for the New York Collectors Club that is well worth its undertaking, and we trust that its members will consider the question of the effect upon collecting and the general interest therein which a great show of stamps in New York would be sure to have.

* * *

One of the most foolish attempts at fraud upon Mr. R. F. Albrecht and our publisher has just been settled by the payment of all expenses and the return of the stolen stamps. A party in a certain town of this State ordered valuable stamps on approval from Mr. Albrecht and Mr. Gremmel, and tried the old trick of altering and raising prices. The evidence against this man, who had furnished unexceptionable references, was complete and conclusive, and Messrs. Albrecht and Gremmel took a trip to the city of his residence and laid the matter before the Recorder, who issued a search warrant. The effect of this was the discovery of the stolen stamps. Prosecution would have been made and the party sent to prison for a long period had it not been for the intervention of friends, who stated that this was the first time that he had been found guilty of any wrong dealing.

Messrs. Albrecht and Gremmel, for the sake of the man's family, and in order to give him a further chance in life, accepted from him the return of the stamps and the payment of all expenses.

* * *

There is a lesson for all fraudulently inclined persons in this case. There

seem to be some who think that no matter what is asked for stamps, they are a kind of property which can be appropriated with impunity. This case shows that the courts will treat the stealing of stamps in precisely the same

manner as the taking of any other goods. Conviction and sentence would most certainly have followed in this instance, had not the officers of the law themselves pleaded to have the charge withdrawn.



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS :

I shall be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to H. Gremmel, 85 Nassau street, New York.

Bolivia—*The A. J. of P.* chronicles new adhesives, and states they are poorly lithographed.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated.

- 2c red.
- 10c brown violet.
- 20c lake and black.

Brazil—Mr. Huehn has sent us the 10 reis re-engraved. The principal difference consists in the word "dez" to the left of "10" having been replaced by "reis."

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated.

- 10c red and light blue.

Colombian Republic—*The P. M. & W.* states that a 10 centavos adhesive of the same type as the current 5c has been issued.

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated.

- 10c brown, rose.

Dutch India—The 12½c with head of Queen Wilhelmina, and the 15c unpaid letter stamp of the new type have been issued.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated 12½.

- 12½c gray.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. Perforated 12½.

- 15c carmine and black.

Egypt—*The Monthly Journal* states that some of the Egypt stamps have been surcharged "SOUDAN" in small black capitals, and the equivalent in Arabic in *black*, for use in the Post Office between Wadi-Halfi and the Egyptian frontier.

Adhesive Stamps.

- 1m brown.
- 3m yellow.
- 5m carmine.
- 1pi ultramarine.

Monacc—The 50 centime and 5 franc have changed in shade.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated.

50c bistre, *yellow*.

5f bright rose, *green*.

New South Wales—The 9 and 10 penny adhesives have been issued with large watermark N. S. W. and large crown; the surcharge is of smaller type.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated. Watermark, large N. S. W. and Crown.

9p red, brown and black.

10p lilac.

Niger Coast—The 1 penny comes now on watermarked paper.

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated. Watermark Crown C. A.

1p vermilion.

Peru—The *A. J. of Ph.* chronicles the 1886 50c and 1p surcharged "DEFICIT" in black, and a postal packet; all issued in the beginning of the year.

Postal Packet Stamp. Perforated 12.

1c purple.

2c olive.

2c bistre.

5c dark blue.

10c purple brown.

20c red.

50c blue green.

Unpaid Letter Stamps. Perforated 12.

50c red, *black surcharge*.

1p brown, *black surcharge*.

San Marinc—The long heralded set of unpaid letter stamps has been issued; the design is similar to the regular adhesive, except that the coat of arms has been replaced by the denomination of value in black on a white ground.

Unpaid Letter Stamps. Wmk. Crown. Perforated 14.

5c light green and black.

10c " " "

30c " " "

50c " " "

60c " " "

1fr pale rose and black.

5fr " " "

10fr " " "

Switzerland—The 1c unpaid comes now in same color as the other values.

Unpaid Letter Stamps. Perforated 12½.
1c yellow, green and carmine.

Uruguay—The commemoration stamps of 1896 have been surcharged "Provisorio, 1897."

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated.

1c brown and black, red surcharge.

5c blue " "

10c carmine " "

THE MONTHLY PACKET OF NEW ISSUES.

The May Packet contains five varieties: Brazil, 10 reis; China, ½c. on 3c., 1c. on 1c., 2c. on 2c., 4c. on 3c., large surcharge, all unused.

27 CENTS. POST FREE.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau st., New York.

This packet is only on sale until the next number is issued and is supplied to *subscribers* to the POST OFFICE only.

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THE COLLECTORS CLUB,

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Admittance by Membership Card.

Notices of coming events and applications for membership will be found posted on the bulletin boards.

For special information inquire of the House Committee.

Tenth Meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, 351 Fourth Avenue, May 10, 1897, Vice-President Chas. Gregory in the chair. Present, Messrs. Luff, Lynde, Scott and the Secretary.

Called to order at 8.15 P. M.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

The Secretary read letters from the Chairman of Literary Committee; from Mr. C. H. Mead, which was laid on the table; from Mr. J. S. Dionian, handing his resignation, which was accepted, and from the Secretary of the National Philatelic Society, requesting that the name of the Manhattan Philatelic Society be placed on bulletin board and

upon the outside door—and upon motion the request was granted so far as it related to placing the name of the M. P. S. on bulletin board at the cost of the latter society.

The Treasurer was instructed to pay for shares of Mr. J. S. Dionian, resigned, and of Mr. W. Theo. Curtis, deceased, when certificates are legally surrendered.

The Chairmen of House and Amusement Committees then made their reports, which were received.

The Treasurer made his monthly report, showing \$988.04 in bank, and the report was accepted.

The following applications for membership were reported:

- (25.) Henry S. Fleek, Newark, Ohio.
Proposed by John N. Luff.
Seconded by Henry L. Calman.
- (26.) Chas. E. Green, Pittsburg, Pa.
Proposed by Walter S. Scott.
Seconded by Chas. D. W. Drew.
- (27.) F. M. Heilihey, Boston, Mass.
Proposed by John N. Luff.
Seconded by F. E. P. Lynde.

and the two last were ordered to be posted according to the Constitution.

Upon ballot Mr. Henry S. Fleek, whose application had been posted over thirty days, was unanimously elected a subscribing member.

The Secretary reported having issued a two weeks' ticket to Mr. Ad. Strauss, of St. Louis, Mo.

The Treasurer was instructed to collect from members elected after April 1, half a year dues only.

Adjourned at 9.25 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

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The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

Vol. VII.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1897.

No. 75.

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued from page 17.)

DEPARTMENT STAMPS.

There is no more interesting study at the present time, so far as stamps are concerned, than that of the varieties of United States Department stamps. The simple character of the various sets was long assumed, and even now the only practicable distinction for the use of collectors in general is that which exists between the Continental and American prints on the hard, brittle paper and the softer, porous variety.

It is our intention to list the Continental and American prints only, but for the information of specialists who wish to go further than this we will give certain facts that have come to our notice which will be of advantage to those who desire to make discoveries for themselves.

We will consider first the paper. This is in general the same for the different years as that used for the regular issues of the period. Taking all departments together we have found in them all the varieties noticed in the paper of stamps of the general issues.

Taking them separately there are some sets which up to the present time we have never seen on certain kinds of paper, and in all sets individual values which are not found on

paper of particular thickness or quality.

This arises from the small number of department stamps manufactured, relatively to the quantity of those of the general issues. The ordinary stamps were printed steadily, and consequently on all varieties of paper used by the contractors for stamp printing, while department stamps were produced in lots, with long periods of time between the printings, during which the use of some kinds of paper, which had been introduced, was discontinued.

Those values of which most were printed, the three and six cent, for instance, naturally show the largest number of varieties of paper.

It will interest many to know that ribbed paper of the regular Continental variety has been found by us in the stamps of all sets, with the single exception of the Interior Department. These very likely exist, especially in the one, two, three and six cent values, of which large numbers were issued during the years of the use of ribbed paper, but up to the present time we have not found any of them. We have, on the contrary, seen all stamps of the War Department on ribbed paper, with the exception of the seven cent, which will be found probably, as this value was issued in considerable quantity during the years of the use of ribbed paper.

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO.
PRINT.—1873-79.(Designs those of Corresponding General Issues, except
Post Office.)

AGRICULTURE.

500.	1c.	yellow.
501.	2c.	"
502.	3c.	"
503.	6c.	"
504.	10c.	"
505.	12c.	"
506.	15c.	"
507.	24c.	"
508.	30c.	"

The earlier prints of this department were in color which possessed a greenish tinge. It is probable that no value higher than the six cent was printed later than 1875. The numbers of the high values issued from 1882-84 were such as to suggest that they were remainders of the early printing, as they came out in lots of fifty, sixty-five and one hundred and fifty. These certainly would not be the exact amounts printed at a given time from plates of one hundred stamps. A further confirmation of the belief that they were remainders is found in the failure to the present time to find values above the six cent on American paper, which would have been used for a printing made between 1882 and 1884.

The one, two, three and six cent are found without the greenish tinge in later prints made between 1877 and 1879.

EXECUTIVE.

509.	1c.	carmine.
510.	2c.	"
511.	3c.	"
512.	6c.	"
513.	10c.	"

The earlier stamps of this department come in a dark, rich shade, while the

later issues are lighter and brighter. There were no stamps issued for the use of this department after 1877.

INTERIOR.

514.	1c.	vermilion.
515.	2c.	"
516.	3c.	"
517.	6c.	"
518.	10c.	"
519.	12c.	"
520.	15c.	"
521.	24c.	"
522.	30c.	"
523.	90c.	"

There is little difference in the shades of these stamps. The vermilion of early prints frequently shows less of the orange tinge which is to be seen in the clearer, better prints, made between 1877 and 1879. The ink is that of the two cent of the general issue of the period.

JUSTICE.

524.	1c.	purple.
525.	2c.	"
526.	3c.	"
527.	6c.	"
528.	10c.	"
529.	12c.	"
530.	15c.	"
531.	24c.	"
532.	30c.	"
533.	90c.	"

Purple being a color composed of red and blue, the variations found in the shades of this set result from the greater predominance of the red in many of the early prints, and that of the blue in later stamps.

NAVY.

534.	1c.	blue.
535.	2c.	"
436.	2c.	green (error).
537.	3c.	blue.

- 538. 6c. blue.
- 539. 7c. "
- 540. 10c. "
- 541. 12c. "
- 542. 15c. "
- 543. 24c. "
- 544. 30c. "
- 545. 90c. "

Early stamps of this set are a bright, clear blue, which gives place to a dull, almost leaden, hue in later prints.

POST OFFICE.

(Figure in Oval.)

- 546. 1c. black.
- 547. 2c. "
- 548. 3c. "
- 549. 6c. "
- 550. 10c. "
- 551. 12c. "
- 552. 15c. "
- 553. 24c. "
- 554. 30c. "
- 555. 90c. "

The variations in shade in these stamps correspond to those seen in the thirty cent black of the general issue, the same ink probably being used. It is said that the change from a dead black to the steely or bluish gray shade is caused by a mixture of tallow used as an ingredient of the ink. A small use of the tallow is said to make the dead black, and a greater use the bluish gray shades. The earlier stamps average darker than those printed later, although the shade is not a certain test by means of which to decide the year of the print.

STATE.

- 556. 1c. green.
- 557. 2c. "
- 558. 3c. "
- 559. 6c. "
- 560. 7c. "
- 561. 10c. "

- 562. 12c. green.
- 563. 15c. "
- 564. 24c. "
- 565. 30c. "
- 566. 90c. "
- 567. 2.00 black and green.
- 568. 5.00 " "
- 569. 10.00 " "
- 570. 20.00 " "

Green, composed of blue and yellow, varies as the one color or the other predominates. A yellow undertone is a common characteristic of the earliest prints of the stamps of this department. The variations correspond exactly with some which are observed in the three-cent green stamps of the general issue used during this period. It is probable that the ink in use for them at the time when these department stamps were being printed was taken for these stamps.

The later prints have the blue green tinge so commonly found in the three-cent stamp in use from 1877 to 1879. There was, so far as the record of stamps issued shows, only one printing of the five, ten and twenty dollar stamps.

TREASURY.

- 571. 1c. brown.
- 572. 2c. "
- 573. 3c. "
- 574. 6c. "
- 575. 7c. "
- 576. 10c. "
- 577. 12c. "
- 578. 15c. "
- 579. 24c. "
- 580. 30c. "
- 581. 90c. "

A dull, lifeless brown is the shade of many of the early prints of these stamps, while in others there is a yellow undertone observable. This variation, although slight, is not the effect of

gum, as it is seen distinctly in used specimens from which all trace of gum has been removed. The same variations may be found in the ten-cent stamps of the general issue printed during the period, and the same ink was probably used for both these and the Treasury stamps.

WAR.

582.	1c. red.
583.	2c. "
584.	3c. "
585.	6c. "
586.	7c. "
587.	10c. "
588.	12c. "
589.	15c. "
590.	24c. "
591.	30c. "
592.	90c. "

It is in this set of stamps that the greatest variations of shade occur. The most noticeable shades, which amount almost to changes of color, are the dark red, dull pink, plum and brick red. The three-cent stamp exists in the largest number of shades, while there is very little difference in the tint of some of the high values. It is well-nigh impossible to match up more than a single set of these stamps, and slight varieties of shade will be found even in them.

The War Department stamps were in constant use the longest, and the issue of the various values more evenly distributed through the period of ten years than that of any other set.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. PRINT.

February 4, 1879-1884.

Printed on Thick, Porous Paper.

(Values which may be discovered, but have not as yet, are printed in italics.)

AGRICULTURE.

593.	1c. yellow.
594.	2c. "
595.	3c. "
596.	6c. "

There is the same variation in the paper of department stamps as in that of the general issue. All the varieties of the American paper, however, will not be found in the set of stamps of any one department. The greatest variation has been found very naturally in the paper of the stamps of those departments in which the largest numbers of stamps on American paper were issued, Interior, Treasury and War.

The stamps of the Department of Agriculture are of the clearer yellow, or second shade of the previous printing, and readily distinguishable by the paper. The small number of the values above six cents (50 to 150) issued during the years from 1882 to '84 makes it probable that they were remainders of the previous printing, and thus all the values that are on American paper have been discovered.

INTERIOR.

597.	1c. vermilion.
598.	2c. "
599.	3c. "
600.	6c. "
601.	10c. "
602.	12c. "
603.	15c. "
604.	24c. "
605.	<i>30c.</i> "
606.	<i>90c.</i> "

The stamps of this department on American paper vary more in shade than they do in the Continental print. The vermilion of some values is clear and bright in certain stamps, while in others of the same value it is dull and yellowish. This is noticeable, particularly in the two, three and fifteen cent values.

There is a sort of fuzzy or dim appearance of the surface of stamps on American paper which shows very plainly in most of these Interior stamps.

JUSTICE.

607.	2c. purple.
608.	3c. "
609.	6c. "
610.	10c. "
611.	12c. "
612.	15c. "

- 613. 24c. *purple.*
- 614. 30c. "
- 615. 90c. "

The three and six cent of this department are the only values likely to be found since the last year of issue, for all except the two cent ended June 30th, 1879, and the thousand of the two cent issued in 1884 were probably remainders of the earlier print, or some of them would have been discovered before this time on American paper.

NAVY.

- 616. 1c. *blue.*
- 617. 2c. "
- 618. 3c. "
- 619. 6c. "
- 620. 7c. "
- 621. 10c. "
- 622. 12c. "
- 623. 15c. "
- 624. 24c. "
- 625. 30c. "
- 626. 90c. "

It is not probable that values above the six cent will be found on American paper, as none of them were issued after the year ending June 30, 1879.

POST OFFICE.

- 627. 1c. *black.*
- 628. 2c. "
- 629. 3c. "
- 630. 6c. "
- 631. 12c. "
- 632. 15c. "
- 633. 24c. "
- 634. 30c. "
- 635. 90c. "

The issue of this department ceased June 30th, 1879, and since the numbers of the stamps above the six cent value were comparatively small, it is not likely that any of them will be found upon American paper.

STATE.

- 636. 1c. *green.*
- 637. 2c. "
- 638. 10c. "
- 639. 12c. "
- 640. 15c. "
- 641. 24c. "
- 642. 30c. "
- 643. 90c. "
- 644. 2.00 "

There is a probability of discoveries of these stamps on American paper in all values listed above, except the two dollar, as there were considerable numbers of them issued between 1881 and 1884. There were only 300 of the two dollar issued during the American period and these were probably remainders from the previous printing.

TREASURY.

- 645. 1c. *brown.*
- 646. 2c. "
- 647. 3c. "
- 648. 6c. "
- 649. 10c. "
- 650. 12c. "
- 651. 15c. "
- 652. 30c. "
- 653. 90c. "

It is probable that the two cent on American paper will be discovered, as more of them were issued during 1879 than there were of the one cent stamp, which exists on this paper.

WAR.

- 654. 1c. *red.*
- 655. 2c. "
- 656. 3c. "
- 657. 6c. "
- 658. 7c. "
- 659. 10c. "
- 660. 12c. "
- 661. 15c. "
- 662. 24c. "
- 663. 30c. "
- 664. 90c. "

The probabilities are against finding any more values of this department on American paper, as there were a great many remainders of the 7, 15, 24 and 90c. stamps, among which stamps on porous paper were not found in these values. These stamps also were used in quantity longer than those of any other department and yet specimens on American paper are not found among them. The 24c. has been listed but the specimen shown is not satisfactory. It is on one of the questionable papers, while all War Department stamps of the accepted values on American paper are plainly American.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, Editor.

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* * *

The holding of the meetings of the congress of the Postal Union behind closed doors has prevented the publication of much interesting information. It would be a good thing if philatelists could understand the ways in which the different nations regard the problems which arise in relation to the postal service. The delegates have been making a tour of the country lately, and will hold a supplementary meeting, upon their return to Washington, to make final decision in regard to matters which

have come before them. It is to be expected that the results of their labors will be published within a reasonable time thereafter.

* * *

We publish this month the portion of our descriptive catalogue of United States stamps relating to Department issues. The great interest which has been felt during past years in these will certainly be revived and increased when "good times" come once more. There are no American issues more worthy of the collector's attention, nor do we believe that there are any which will prove a better investment in the long run to those who have purchased them with this end in view. Department stamps were issued before the days when large numbers of stamps were saved. The result is that many varieties which from the number issued would naturally be common are quite scarce, their very commonness having produced their destruction and a relative scarcity, as compared with what would have been the case had most of those issued been saved.

* * *

The period of depression which we have been passing through in general business has had its effect upon stamp values, but those certainly fail to appreciate a most valuable truth who do not see that beyond this period of depression there will be one of great buoyancy and advance, during which stamps as well as all other merchandise will increase in value. The holders of good stamps who press them upon the market at the present time, make a great mistake. It is a good time for buying, and a very poor one for selling, if one wishes to get what one's stamps are worth.

There seems to be one class connected with the stamp world which has been hit very hard by the period of depression. This is the speculative class. Those who have put a good deal of money into late issues in the hope of realizing large profits have been badly disappointed. It was something which was easily foreseen, and the Post Office often spoke in the days when it was going on of the folly of purchasing and trying to corner that for which there was no market. Such stamps could only pass from hand to hand among the speculators; those smarter than the rest getting rid of their holdings, that the foolish ones might bear the burden when until the crash came.

* * *

It is the fact that these speculative buyers are out of the market at present, which makes a large part of the dullness which has been felt in the stamp world. The dealers do not care to sustain the prices of stamps even if able. It has often been said in time past that dealers made prices, and they have been taken to task for advancing them so rapidly. The evidence of the present is all sufficient that it is and always has been the amount of collectors' and speculators' purchases which has made the prices.

Speculators go, collectors purchase less freely, and prices sag.

* * *

This speculatively inclined class, however, is precisely the one which it is easiest to get back to the market.

That they are ready to return even now, if only they can get money, has been shown in the general desire to get hold of some of the values of the new Canadian stamps, of which small numbers (relatively to the number of col-

lectors who will want them) have been issued.

* *

The stamp business in relation to collectors is not poor. It has not suffered to anything like the extent which other kinds of business have suffered. The editor of the Post Office has been making some inquiries and his information is that gross sales among some of the best firms during the past year have been three-fourths of those of the year preceding, while some state that they have sold almost as much this year as ever before. The profit has been less, but when we know that in these "hard times" there are business concerns all around us doing business at an actual loss, and many of them only hoping to be able to bear their losses until better times shall come, no one need feel that the stamp business is a poor one. The general idea at the close of this season seems to be that all stamp interests have suffered far less than was to be expected. A general answer among the dealers to the question how business has been during the season was, "I can't complain." There may be some, whose business has been small, to whom a loss of a few thousand dollars of trade meant the loss of all, but it has not been of such that we have inquired. The future is as full of promise for the stamp trade as for any business in this country, and the editor repeats this year with more of confidence than ever before his oft repeated saying of the past, that the stamp business, because of the variety of interest which it excites, the information which it gives and the generally easy and satisfactory way in which profits are made and money accumulated, is the very best business in existence.

The London Philatelic Exhibition has been having trouble on account of a miniature of the Mulready envelope which it has been sending out to advertise the exhibition. The folly of objection to such an illustration, the cut of which, even in the hands of unscrupulous persons, could do no harm whatever, is evident to any thoughtful man. The instinct to persecute seems to be very strong, even in civilized man. A way to attack a fellow-being, a chance to make some one unhappy appears to be the height of some men's ambition.

* * *

We have a case of similar nature here in our own country in the seizure of United States newspaper stamps which were about to be sold to collectors.

Why are government officials so zealous in their attacks upon collectors and dealers? It puzzles one to answer, unless it be this desire to persecute some one.

The pretence is that the officials are upholding the law, preserving United States property, etc., etc.

The odd thing is that they should seek so earnestly to protect comparatively worthless property while they let so much that is valuable be stolen without a word.

Even allowing the government position that newspaper stamps are stolen property, what is their worth? We believe the government was charged about eighteen cents a thousand for printing them. They are worth no more. They cannot be used for postage; they have no value whatever beyond their cost.

Mr. Scott should claim that the government is suing him for an excessive amount in asking for the return of

six cents' worth of property. That is the value of more than three hundred stamps.

The government officials who have such a desire to uphold law and save government property would do much better and make more by turning their attention to the thousand and one little leaks whereby Uncle Sam is defrauded every year out of large sums of money.

* * *

This suit should be defended. What right has the government to seize all newspaper stamps because it believes that some have been stolen? It has sold large numbers to collectors in the past. It has no more right to seize newspaper stamps, unless it can show that the individual specimens have been stolen, than it would have to seize the government bonds it has sold because a few may have been stolen from the United States Treasury.

* * *

The claim of the secret service is that it is overrun with work; therefore, it cannot attend to much that ought to be done. This whole attack upon dealers and collectors is a piece of unnecessary and useless labor. The whole matter could be settled in a moment with immense financial advantage to the country by simply ordering the sale of newspaper stamps at the post offices.

The United States would receive thousands of dollars for which it would be obliged to render no service whatever, and would save a large sum in legal proceedings and detectives' services.

* * *

The meeting of the American Philatelic Association about to take place at Boston promises to be quite lively, un-

less there be toward the last a union of opposing interests.

There is, and has been for some time past, great dissatisfaction with the working of the Exchange Department. The circular to the members of the Association, published elsewhere in this number, states the facts of the case. It is believed also that a change in the office of Treasurer is advisable for the reason stated in the circular. The ticket of the New York Branch we believe to be the best that it is possible to nominate at the present time. Mr. Beard has proved himself an excellent Secretary, and would undoubtedly, on account of merit, have been fully endorsed in the West were it not for his knowledge of and personal acquaintance with the facts connected with the failure of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company. We hope to see the ticket of the Circular elected, and do not doubt that it will be if a firm stand is taken by all having the interests of the Association at heart. There should be no compromise with those whose interests during the past year have caused them to make this great association their tool. The only hope for the making of a great and permanent success of the American Philatelic Association lies in the selection of a set of officers against whom there is not the slightest suspicion of dishonor in any dealings whatsoever.

* * *

The loyalty of our English friends does not allow them to say much against the Jubilee stamps now appearing. The Prince of Wales Hospital Fund Jubilee stamps are, however, too much of a pill even for these devoted philatelic subjects of the great Queen to bear. The following from the *Stamp*

Collectors' Fortnightly puts the matter correctly:

"This is the age of money-getting. Everyone, nowadays, from a duke down to a dustman, wants to 'make a bit.' Thousands of people are puffing themselves up with pseudo-patriotism in this year of Jubilee, solely because they are 'making a bit' out of the Longest Reign Commemoration. The latest idea—although in reality a very old idea—is to make a bit out of philatelists. The Hospital Fund Receipt Stamps—despite very positive assertions to the contrary—are, as a matter of fact, not selling quite so well as anticipated. This being thus, there is a carefully-engineered movement on foot to make the stamps necessary to philatelists by getting the Postmaster-General to pass them through the mails as postage stamps. The attempt will fail, as it deserves to fail. Any thinking man looking the matter squarely in the face will see the gross injustice of the proposal. We have nothing to urge against philatelists supporting the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund—quite the contrary!—and if stamp collectors can afford to contribute their, lshillings and half-crowns to that Fund by all means let them do so! But is it fair, is it right, that philatelists should be *forced* to purchase these labels, as forced they would be did they become recognized as British postage stamps? Charity is essentially voluntary; force it and it ceases to be charity and becomes extortion.

"'Make them postage stamps,' says the non-philatelist; 'then you will get your £50,000 easily enough out of those stamp collecting maniacs.' It is great fun for the non-philatelist, and the advice he gives costs him nothing.

"It is a favorite gibe of the cynic

and the newspaper man that all philatelists are a little mad. Perhaps they are. Let us, for the sake of argument, suppose that they are. How does this improve the case for a Hospital postage stamp? The labels are issued to benefit the hospitals, not the lunatic asylums!"

* * *

The following circular which explains itself, has been sent out to the members of the American Philatelic Association :

We, the undersigned, were appointed a Committee by the New York Branch (No. 2), for the purpose of bringing before you the candidates nominated by the branch, as follows:—

President—FRANK P. OLNEY, of Rhode Island.

Board of Vice-Presidents—WILLARD C. VAN DERLIP, of Massachusetts; REV. J. L. KILBON, of Massachusetts; GEO. L. TOPPAN, of Massachusetts.

Secretary—JOE F. BEARD, of Iowa.

Assistant Secretary—H. B. PHILLIPS, of California.

International Secretary—E. DOEBLIN, of Pennsylvania.

Treasurer—H. G. SMITH, of Minnesota.

Supt. of Sales and Purchasing Department—GEO. R. TUTTLE, of New York.

It is unnecessary to say anything of the majority of the above named gentlemen, for they have acceptably filled their offices for the past year.

We desire to call your attention only to our candidates for Treasurer and Superintendent of Sales and Purchasing Department.

We think a change of Treasurer important for the following reasons: The present incumbent has been for

three years an employee of a firm of stamp dealers, The C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Co. He has always worked for their interest and would be likely to continue to do so. Mr. Smith has the endorsement of almost all the Western collectors, as well as many friends in the East. His reputation is of the best, and he has no connection whatsoever with any firm of stamp dealers.

There is still more need of a new man at the head of the Exchange Department. The management of this department has been very unsatisfactory under the present Superintendent.

Most of the members who have participated in the Exchange Department are aware of the many complaints that have been made, but, for the benefit of those who have not, we give a few extracts from letters bearing on the subject.

“For several years I have patronized the Sales and Purchasing Department of the A. P. A. and have been very much dissatisfied with the manner in which it has been conducted—remittance for sales have been made slowly, and stamps held a long time after I had requested their return. I have now some \$200 worth of stamps on circuit from which I cannot seem to get returns. Yours truly,

J. W. DICKINSON.”

“If other participants in the Exchange Department have fared no better than did I, it is high time that the methods of this branch be speedily reorganized. * * * On March 7-24, 1896, I sent five books, * * * On Oct. 5, 1896, two books came back. * * * After repeated requests * * * another book turned up Dec. 21. * * * I complained to Official Board and on Jan.

18, 1897, the remaining books came back after ten months. * * * If the A. P. A. cannot do any better than it has in the past it ought to shut up shop.

DUNCAN STARK WYLIE."

Another case was brought up at last year's convention. Mr. Rudolf Kost of Elberfeld, Germany, had some sheets circulated in the Department and after a delay of over nine months his sheets were returned with \$180 due him. Although he had repeatedly requested a settlement, his claim was not paid until our New York delegate had brought the matter before the convention.

Many similar cases have occurred, but we think these few should be sufficient to cause the members to cast their votes for Mr. Tuttle, who has the endorsement of all our New York members and who is a thoroughly responsible and capable man for the position.

We enclose blank proxy, and would advise all members who cannot attend the Convention to fill up and return in enclosed envelope.

Important matters may be brought before the Convention and every member should be represented and his proxy should be in responsible hands. Any instructions will be faithfully attended to.

Yours very truly,

HENRY GREMMELE.

JOSEPH S. RICH.

R. R. BOGERT.

We have been assured that the Boston and Chicago Branches are fully in accord with the New York Branch in regard to the above nominations.

Subscribe to THE POST OFFICE, only 25 cents a year to all countries.

Society Reports.

Philatelic Societies containing 25 of our subscribers can have their proceedings reported free of charge.

THE COLLECTORS CLUB,
351 Fourth Avenue, New York.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

WILLIAM HERRICK, *President.*

CHARLES GREGORY, *Vice-President.*

JOHN W. SCOTT, *Treasurer*, 40 John street.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary*, 29 W. 75th street.

HENRY L. CALMAN. JOHN L. LUFF.

HIRAM E. DEATS. F. E. P. LYNDE.

FREDERICK A. NAST.

Eleventh meeting of the Board of Governors, held at 351 Fourth avenue, June 7, 1897.

Present, Messrs. Calman, Deats, Luff, Lynde, Nast, Scott and the Secretary.

Mr. H. E. Deats was elected chairman in the absence of President and Vice-President.

Called to order at 7.15 P. M.

The reading of the minutes of previous meeting was dispensed with.

Treasurer's report was accepted, showing \$923.37 cash in bank.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Chas. Gregory, Vice-President, urging the Governors to take action on the matter of the seizure of U. S. periodical stamps.

Upon ballot Mr. F. M. Herlihey was unanimously elected a subscribing member of the Club.

The following applications for membership were reported and posted on Club bulletin :

(28.) McCoy S. King, 36 Gramercy Park, N. Y.

Proposed by John N. Luff.

Seconded by F. E. P. Lynde.

(29.) Captain S. Baker, U. S. A.,
N. Y.

Proposed by W. S. Scott.

Seconded by Dr. Paul Allen.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, the Governors of the Collectors Club have heard of the seizure of certain U. S. periodical stamps from the Walter S. Scott Stamp Company L'd, by Post Office Department officials on the alleged ground that said stamps had been "stolen, embezzled and purloined" from the government ;

Whereas, it is a well known fact that large quantities of said periodical stamps were openly sold to dealers and collectors by the government for about ten years, as it is evidenced by circulars issued by the Post Office Department, specially by a circular dated March 27, 1875, and by receipts given by the Third Assistant Postmaster General for money paid for said periodical stamps ; and

Whereas, it is also a well known fact that over seven hundred sets of these periodical stamps were furnished by the United States government to the officials of the Universal Postal Union, at Berne, Switzerland, and that most of said sets have long since passed into the hands of collectors ; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Governors of the Collectors Club most earnestly protest in behalf of its members against this unjust, oppressive and unlawful proceeding.

The question of defending the suit of "U. S. *vs.* The Walter S. Scott Stamp Co., L'd," was next discussed, and it was the sense of the Governors that the Club, as the leading organization of stamp collectors and dealers, should undertake it.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Club contribute \$100 toward expenses of the suit, and that Mr. John W. Scott be appointed a committee of one with power to associate others with him in the management of said defense.

The Secretary was directed to furnish copies of resolutions to the government officials, and to the daily and philatelic press.

Adjourned at 8.20 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

The following interesting notes are from *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* :

It has been discovered in Vienna that envelopes covered with bronze inside are impervious to the Röntgen rays. This means of course, that the secret of letters is inviolable even under the strong light of the X rays.

As soon as the present supply of four-penny stamps has been exhausted in Gambia this value will disappear from the series.

Everybody knows, that quarter stamps could be used at one time in Mexico, but that Belgium would tolerate such an abuse is the latest. But truth is stranger than fiction and we hear of the 20 centime cut in four and used as 5 centime on a newspaper obliterated Antwerp.

ADVERTISE. — Even a small one in the Exchange Department, at 50 cents a month, will bring you bigger returns than a larger ad. in a great many other papers. Over 3,500 different Collectors will read your ad. in THE POST OFFICE.

The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1897.

No. 76.

THE PASSING OF THE HIGH-PRICED STAMP.

The value of a collection of stamps lies in the information which may be gathered from it and the pleasure which it imparts, rather than in the amount of money which it has cost or the market prices of the specimens which it contains.

The recognition of this fact is the one thing which will save stamp collecting at the present time, and will also secure for it increase of popularity.

The steady advances in the values of many varieties, which the past few years have witnessed, has gradually raised the price of a fairly complete collection above the means of a large part of the number of those desiring collections.

It is a fact that every advance in the price of any one stamp reduces the number of those who will buy it for their collections. It is also true that when many desirable stamps have advanced in price the total value of a collection becomes so great that the number of those desiring stamps and also feeling able to keep a collection is materially reduced.

One dollar may not be too high a price for a stamp of which fifty thousand only exist, but when we consider that the number of stamps in this class is growing every year, and therefore the collector of to-day, in order to complete his collection, must take ten such

stamps to one that he was called upon to buy ten years ago, we can see reason why there should be a limit to the demand for high-priced stamps.

Twenty years ago a remarkably complete collection of stamps might be had for one hundred dollars. What are now rare stamps were given away without thought by those possessing them. The writer has had many unused copies of the 30c. U. S. Justice Department handed to him by a friendly official. He was delighted with them, for New York dealers would allow him thirty cents each in exchange for them at the catalogue prices of the time. These exchanges were not so bad either, for among them were used and unused copies of the 3p. Saxony of 1850 and other stamps now very scarce. Such collections as many of the boys had in the seventies would now cost over one thousand dollars each. It is evident that few young people would have collections now if satisfaction with them consisted in the possession of these stamps, which have become so scarce. The cost of a fairly complete collection is now so great as to prohibit many men even from indulging in the pastime who would otherwise find much enjoyment in collecting.

The comparatively great money value given to stamps of late years has been the reason for the marketing of so

many collections. "Hard times" have accelerated the movement, until at last the point has been reached where supply exceeds demand, and prices have fallen. It is true that catalogues contain the same figures, and may even show advances in some stamps in their succeeding editions, but the standard prices are, after all, not those of the catalogues, but the net prices at which stamps may be purchased. These are now lower for nearly everything. We find fifty per cent. discount allowed on stamps sold only at twenty-five or thirty-three and a third off catalogue a year ago. Cheaper stamps are offered at fifty per cent., with a cut in catalogue price, or at that exceedingly foolish expression of discount, seventy-five per cent., which means that catalogue prices are wrong, and have ceased to be the standard. The point has been reached in the prices of stamps beyond which they cannot go. This is the apparent fact in the most moderate statement of what seems to be truth. An accurate statement would probably be that prices have gone beyond the demand for stamps, so that they must fall, for a time at least, until an increase in the number of buying collectors makes a market for them.

One disposed to take exception to this statement may instance some scarce stamps whose net prices have not declined. There are a few such, but they stand by themselves in a class outside and independent of the rule as exceptions to prove its existence.

The actual interest in stamp collecting is greater to-day than it ever has been in the past.

The passing of the high-priced stamp will not interfere with this in the least. A general decline in prices will help and not hinder the growth of philately.

The speculative instinct among buyers of stamps is not dead, but in the immediate future the buying is more likely to be confined to low-priced stamps, which always have a market, than to those held at high figures.

The multiplication of the high-priced stamps has produced their downfall in the minds of speculative collectors.

So long as the real value of a collection lies, as stated in the opening words of this article, in the information which one gathers from it and the pleasure which it imparts, just so long will stamp collecting flourish, and the general interest in it increase year by year.

If the high-priced stamp could pass away altogether and prices come down so that all collectors might possess all varieties it would be an excellent thing, but this is manifestly impossible now that the number of the world's active collectors has come to exceed many times the numbers of certain stamps in existence. Right here, however, the facility with which the collector adapts himself to circumstances stands him in good stead. If he cannot get one stamp he desires he takes another. He is not obliged to have everything, and he will not buy that which he thinks too high priced for his means. Thus the supply of a given stamp is practically increased by the elasticity of the demand. Collectors of stamps as in other articles are getting over the idea of completeness as necessary to pleasure in collecting. The representative collection is that which most now expect to secure, and this can be had without paying high prices for stamps.

CRAWFORD CAPEN.

Subscribe to THE POST OFFICE, only 25 cents a year to all countries.



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS:

I shall be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to H. Gremmel, 85 Nassau street, New York.

Argentine Republic—The *A. J. of P.* chronicles a new value to be used specially for prepayment of postage on packages weighing from 2 to 5 kilogrammes.

Adhesive Stamp. Watermark Sun.
Perforated 11½.
1p 20c black.

British Protectorate—According to the *Philatelic Record*, the Cape of Good Hope ½p green has been surcharged *British Bechuanaland*.

Adhesive Stamp. Watermark Anchor. Perforated 14.
½p light green, black surcharge.

Bolivia—We have seen more of the new set.

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated.
1c pale yellow green.
5c dark blue green.
50c orange.
1b violet on bluish
2b black.

British Central Africa—A new set has been issued somewhat similar to the preceding issue bearing the same coat-of-arms, but on white ground, above, or semi-curved label. "British

Central Africa," at side "Postage" "Revenue" and below, the denomination of value.

Adhesive Stamp. Watermark Crown C. A. Perforated 14.

1p ultramarine, arms black.
2p orange, " "
4p carmine, " "
6p green, " "
1sh gray lilac, " "

Watermark Crown C. C.

2s 6p ultramarine, arms black.
3sh gray green, " "
4sh carmine, " "
1£ deep lilac, " "
10£ orange, " "

British South Africa—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the current 4p stamp in a new color.

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated 14.
4p ultramarine and lilac.

Canada—A Jubilee set has been issued.

Adhesive Stamp. Perforated 12.
½c black.
1c orange.
2c green.
3c light rose.

5c deep blue.
 6c rich brown.
 8c violet.
 10c brown violet.
 15c steel blue.
 20c vermilion.
 50c ultramarine.
 \$1 red.
 \$2 dark purple.
 \$3 yellow brown.
 \$4 purple.
 \$5 olive.

Postal Card.

1c black, buff.

Ecuador—The Jubilee set of last year has been surcharged 1897-98; the *A. J. of P.* claims that an official set of stamps for 1895 exists.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated 11½.

2c blue, black surcharge.
 5c green, “
 10c ochre, “
 20c red, “
 50c lilac, “
 1s orange, “

Official Stamps. Perforated.

1c gray, carmine surcharge.
 2c gray, “ “
 5c gray, “ “
 10c gray, “ “
 20c gray, “ “
 50c gray, “ “
 1s gray, “ “
 5s gray, “ “

Finland—The 3½ rouble stamp has been discovered printed in the same colors as the 7 rouble.

Adhesive Stamps. Watermark Wavy Lines. Perforated 13.

3½r, black and orange, error.

India—The 1 anna comes in a new color.

Adhesive Stamp. Watermark Star. Perforated.

1a maroon.

Official Stamp.

1a maroon.

Mauritius—The *Philatelic Record* chronicles two envelopes, of the new type.

Envelopes.

18c blue, brown paper.

36c brown, “ “

New Foundland—Mr. Ohman has sent us the long promised set; they are very handsome.

Adhesive Stamps. Perforated 12.

1c green.
 2c claret.
 3c light ultramarine.
 4c olive.
 5c reddish purple.
 6c red brown.
 8c brown orange.
 10c slate brown.
 12c dark ultramarine.
 15c red.
 24c bluish purple.
 30c slate.
 35c salmon.
 60c black.

New Hebrides—The Australian New Hebrides Company has issued two stamps for prepayment of postage on letters carried between the islands by their steamers.

Adhesive Stamps. Rouletted.

1p deep rose lilac, vignette black.

2p orange brown, vignette blue.

—•••••—
ADVERTISERS. It will cost you \$1.50 an inch to advertise in THE POST OFFICE; it would cost you over \$40.00 for postage alone to send a circular to the 3,500 stamp collectors who receive this journal regularly.

THE MONTHLY PACKET OF NEW ISSUES.

The July Packet contains six varieties, all unused: New Foundland, 1c., 2c., 3c., 4c.; Negri Sembilan, 3c.; S. Ujong, 3c.

PRICE, 27 CENTS, POST FREE.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau st., New York.

This packet is only on sale until the next number is issued and is supplied to *subscribers* to the POST OFFICE only.

The subscribers wishing to receive the Monthly Packet regularly should send \$3.24, in advance, for the Packets for July, 1897, to June, 1898 (inclusive), in order to avoid disappointment, as the supply is limited, and it will be sent on the same day when the POST OFFICE is mailed.

VOTE

FOR

JOE F. BEARD



He has been the best

A. P. A. Secretary

we ever had.

The *L. A. W. Bulletin* gives a new use for postage stamps which may result in an enormous rush for cheap unused new issues. It says under the heading of The Postage Stamp Repair: "Postage stamps have often been used for the repair of punctures. The idea is a good one. In the absence of something better, two or three postage stamps stuck one on top of the other and firmly bound in place will hold for a long ride."

QUEER MAIL MATTER.

"We run across some very queer things here sometimes," said one of the post office employees yesterday, "but I think the very queerest piece of mail matter I ever handled was one that was brought in three or four years ago by one of the collectors. He said when he opened the mail box he saw a loose stamp lying there and picked it up. To his surprise he found a penny adhering to the gummy side, and across the end—it was a two-cent Columbian—was written the address in ink, very small, of course, but perfectly legible. That was all there was to it. The cent was the letter, and the stamp served as an envelope. You couldn't imagine a more compact epistle."

"Did it carry all right?"

"I suppose so. The cent was stuck on tight, apparently, and as the address was a 'city' one, it probably held until delivered. I suppose it was sent partly as a joke and partly to test Uncle Sam's patience. It caused a great deal of comment in the office, and the boys all agreed that it was one of the strangest things that ever happened."—*Pittsburg Dispatch*.

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The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, Editor.

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1 inch.	\$1 50	\$4 05	\$7 65	\$14 50
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3 inches.	4 00	10 80	20 40	38 40
$\frac{1}{2}$ column.	5 00	13 50	25 50	48 00
1 column.	9 00	24 30	47 60	86 40
1 page.	16 00	43 20	81 60	153 60

Forms close on the tenth of each month.

TERMS.—Cash in advance.

We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement which we consider detrimental to the interests of the journal, without giving any reasons whatsoever.

CIRCULATION.

3,500 copies each month, *guaranteed.*

EXCHANGES.

We will exchange two copies with all philatelic papers. Address all communications to

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau Street, New York.

A cross opposite these lines indicates that your subscription expires with this number. A prompt renewal is requested.

The exchanges of the Post Office will greatly oblige if they will send one copy to Mr. Gremmel at 85 Nassau Street, and another to the editor, P. O. Box 2,874, New York.

* * *

There has been a great interest taken in the Canadian Jubilee stamps since they were issued. The colors are good, but the uniformity of design will prevent their enjoying the popularity in complete sets which they would otherwise possess. Canadians are speculating in them wildly. There is no reason in the prices asked for the $\frac{1}{2}$ c and 6c on the supposition that the Government's statement of 150,000 of the former and 75,000 of the latter printed is correct. The utmost value that could be given

these stamps on this basis is thirty-five cents for the $\frac{1}{2}$ c and seventy cents for the 6c, instead of one to two dollars each as is asked for them by some.

Even these lower prices are excessive for stamps in present use, and so long as full sets may be secured at Canadian post offices at face, we do not see any reason why collectors should pay exorbitant prices for these values.

* * *

The speculative instinct of the Canadian Government officials seems to be well developed. They have made a sharp move in refusing to sell desirable values in order to dispose of complete sets. We do not know whether it is proposed in Canada to treat these Jubilee stamps the same as the regular issue, but if not they are not worth face value to anyone; and if so, we do not see what is to hinder the purchase of complete sets and the return for redemption of all values not desired. Some of our readers may not know that Canada redeems postage stamps for a small commission to cover expenses. Since this is the case, we venture the prediction that unless the Jubilee issue is condemned after a certain date, it will prove to be an exceedingly profitless speculation. Even if twenty-five thousand complete sets (all that have been printed) are sold, a very large number of them are likely to be returned when the purchasers find that they cannot sell them readily at a profit. The speculation in these stamps is not confined to collectors and dealers. The general public is buying them with the foolish notion that there is a great deal of money to be made by so doing. Those sharp enough to unload while the fever is on will come out all right, but the most of the buyers will lose,

rather than make money. If it is a fact as stated by some that the Government will treat these stamps differently from the regular issues and refuse to redeem them, collectors who pay face for the high values do an exceedingly foolish thing.

* * *

Meanwhile the general increase of interest in stamp collecting which this and other jubilee issues will excite will be an excellent thing for all concerned. The set of stamps issued for Newfoundland is one of the most interesting that has ever been put forth by any government. It commemorates the sixty years of the Queen and at the same time that far greater event the discovery of the mainland of North America by Cabot June 24th, four hundred years ago.

Its historical pictures, as well as those illustrating the present industries of the colony, render the issue exceedingly attractive. This being a permanent issue, and the highest value being sixty cents, the stamps are certain to have a large sale. They are without doubt of speculative nature to a considerable extent, nevertheless they cannot but help to increase of interest in collecting, and since their denominations are not high, as in the case of the Canadian speculation, we expect the colony will make a good thing out of their sale.

* * *

Attempts have been made from time to time during the period since Mr. Georges Carion was expelled by the American Philatelic Association to "exonerate" him. This has been undertaken by those who were probably honest in allowing the gentleman to impose upon them with his specious

stories of persecution. He has written numerous letters to our publisher in the effort to get himself into a better position, but Mr. Gremmel was altogether too shrewd a man to be caught by him. We publish elsewhere an article from the *American Journal of Philately* which effectually exposes Carion's method of securing a postmaster's attestation of a fraudulent surcharge by sending him a genuine unsurcharged stamp. We trust that the philatelic papers which have been endeavoring to uphold this man and have unwittingly aided and abetted his rascality, will now "exonerate" themselves before the public by publishing all the facts as given by the *American Journal of Philately*.

* * *

We think it well in this connection to call the attention of collectors generally to the advertisements which appear in Philatelic papers. Carion's advertisement has appeared in many of the smaller publications during the past year and there are also other advertisements of dealers who have been convicted of fraudulent transactions to be seen in them from time to time. Every Philatelic paper which regards its own interest, to say nothing of the interest of its subscribers, should refuse the advertisements of all such dealers. We have ourselves recently heard some of the foremost New York dealers state positively that they would never again patronize the advertising columns of certain publications, which have lately been publishing the advertisements of dealers who have been convicted of fraudulent transactions. A glance through the pages of papers which allow such parties to advertise in them, will reveal the small patronage which

they secure from reputable dealers. We have nothing whatever against some of these papers, but we warn them that unless they make their journals clean, and rigorously exclude from their columns those who prey upon collectors they will lose the patronage of those whose desire is directed toward a fair treatment of collectors. Honorable dealers do not care to take the chances of association with those proved to be dishonorable in their transactions.

* * *

The POST OFFICE has been solicited in vain many times to insert advertisements of dealers whose methods are to say the least questionable. It refuses to admit them and will continue in the future to print for the benefit of its readers the advertisements of those only who will treat them fairly in all transactions.

* * *

It is strange, in spite of all that has been published in relation to stamps, how little knowledge of their value exists in the minds of those who are not active collectors. A friend sends us the following letters, which were written to him with the idea of securing an offer for stamps which he wrote the owner were worth less than fifty cents.

SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., 4/28/97.

DEAR SIR: In answer to yours of recent date in regard to stamps, will say I have two Confederate 10 cent stamps, uncanceled, which have been preserved in excellent condition. You being an expert on stamps, will no doubt know what I have by above description. Will sell one or both (they

are together) if have reasonable offer. Write what they are worth to you.

Respectfully,

— — —
SOUTH OMAHA, 4/30/97.

DEAR SIR: Since I last wrote you, have looked over relics I have and discovered a 3-cent scarlet stamp, of issue of 1862. Also an old letter head of war times and envelope. The letter head has printed on upper left hand corner a globe with words, "United States of America," and on globe sits goddess of Liberty, an emblem in left hand, rays of light radiating from her head, and in right hand holds a book with these words on outside, "The Union Forever and Ever."

Envelope has been despoiled some by mice at ends. On addressed side is company of soldiers and officers, and woman at rear end of column, holding a balmoral skirt up just above knees, and eyes of all the company turned toward her. Underneath this picture are these words: "Officers—Front face! Eyes right! Why in th-thunder don't you turn your face to the front?"

All these relics I write you about, together with two Confederate stamps, have been in my family since 1862, are genuine and in good condition.

Should you wish to purchase them, you can negotiate with me for same through ——— National Bank, or otherwise as to your liking,

Respectfully,

— — —
* * *

Another oddity in the way of knowledge which is worth adding to one's collection of such things comes from a Pennsylvania town. A correspondent writes: "I have just run across a curi-

osity in shape of a letter mailed at Wilmington, Del., having a 2c postage due stamp used postally, the facts being that a small boy temporarily in charge of a country post office in Pennsylvania sold 25 2c postage due for ordinary postage purposes, commenting at same time upon the "new stamps" that had just been issued. The first one used ran the gauntlet of the post office successfully, but the next letter on which one was used was stopped and the proper postage stamp required."

* * *

The American Philatelic Association meets in Boston, August 24. A good time for all who attend is expected. We notice certain statements in a western paper, concerning the circular of the New York Branch, which was published in the June POST OFFICE. It was not expected that this circular would please the parties whose actions it exposed. It is however sufficient for us to say that we are in constant receipt of letters commending the circular and if we should undertake their publication the pages of this paper would not contain them. It is certainly time that a stop was put to all methods in connection with the work of the greatest society of the country which are of such a nature as to meet with the disapproval of every straightforward man. The Association has decided upon perfect honesty and upright action as the things which it *will* have in all its business, and through this circular, which voices this sentiment, it warns all evil disposed persons to get themselves out of and keep out of the way of its progress toward a great and perfectly united association of collectors who propose to be really helpful to one another in their business of forming collections.

This brings up the thought which has been forced upon us from time to time. Years ago there was a great deal of down-right dishonesty in dealing in stamps. Dealers would accept consignments from foreign or even American collectors and either make no returns for them or else pay next to nothing. This happened over and over again with certain men so that there could be no doubt whatever that the intention was to defraud. The business of dealing in stamps has changed greatly within the last ten years. It has become a regular line of trade and has subjected itself to business laws. The persons in the business who have been dishonest have either gone out of business or else have been forced to honesty because they have found it the only policy on which success could be gained in New York, the great philatelic center.

The same force compelling to honesty has not been operative in all parts of the land. There are still some in certain western cities who think that permanent gain can come from fraudulent action. They practice this in their dealings with those who consign stamps to them, whether as dealers or collectors desiring to dispose of collections. The POST OFFICE has received many letters complaining of this dishonest dealing, which their authors want published. We have so far declined to do this, but we are collecting evidence, and we invite all who have been the victims of dishonest dealing to send us statements of the facts. The POST OFFICE will in this as in all other things take the part of those who have been injured. We serve notice herewith on such dealers that such practices must cease. We give them to understand that the POST OFFICE is afraid of nothing in the matter of exposing fraud. It only waits.

for full proof in order that it may do no injury to possibly innocent parties in publishing statements of facts. Meanwhile collectors and dealers who have anything to sell should be very careful as to whom they intrust with valuable property.

* * *

We publish an interesting letter from the office of the Governor General of Canada, which shows the true inwardness of the speculation which is being indulged in by the insiders among Canadian officials. The only reason apparently why the government of Canada will not sell the Jubilee stamps in quantities and of denominations to suit collectors is that officials would thereby be deprived of a grand opportunity for petty speculation. This whole Jubilee stamp business is a miserable fraud upon the collecting public. Officials and those in official connection are writing dealers every day that they have just those kinds and denominations of stamps for sale which the government will not sell to the public.

The government of Canada is unworthy of a place among great governments. It places itself on a par, by means of its furthering the schemes of officials, through failure to sell all the stamps wanted to everybody applying for them, with those small States which openly and avowedly manufacture stamps to sell to collectors.

The only difference is that Canada is hypocritical in denying its smallness while little countries are honest in declaring their intentions to increase their revenues in this manner.

* * *

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,

OTTAWA, 19 July, 1897.

HENRY GREMMEL, Esq.,

85 Nassau St.,

New York.

SIR:—I have 150 six cent Jubilee stamps for sale (1 whole sheet of 50 and 4 half sheets). Will take \$130 cash for the lot, or will sell in smaller quantities at 90 cts. each.

I have also 150 eight cent Jubilee stamps which I will sell for \$50, or in smaller quantities at 35 cts. each.

If you care to buy any of these stamps at prices quoted, kindly advise me as soon as possible as the stamps are in great demand here and will probably fetch higher prices next week.

The P. O. Department only has a limited number of these stamps left and will only supply them to purchasers of full sets, which cost \$16.22 a set.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR F. SLADEN.

Reference:

Bank of Montreal, Ottawa.

Also C. N. Sparks, Esq., “

P. S.—All the stamps are in A1 condition, well centered, &c.

NEW LIGHT ON COCHIN CHINA UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

The American Journal of Philately says: For some time, Mr. George Carion, of San Francisco, has been selling unpaid letter stamps of the French Colonies, surcharged “Cochinchine,” diagonally, and a number of philatelists in

San Francisco have taken up the cudgel in his behalf, not only in regard to this matter, but also in regard to other allegations advanced against him.

Some months ago, Mr. Carion published a letter from one of the post-

masters in Cochin China, recognizing the authenticity of certain stamps which had been submitted to him, and on the strength of this Mr. Carion expected us to recognize his surcharges in the 57th edition of our catalogue. We wrote him at the time that we considered the certificate of no value. Investigations on the part of the Société Française de Timbrologie in Paris, have resulted in throwing some interesting light upon the subject, and as the matter stands at present, the burden of proof is certainly thrown upon Mr. Carion. We publish herewith an article from the *Revue Philatelique* including a letter received by the Secretary of the Society in question, from the Inspector General of the Colonies.

THE FALSE SURCHARGES OF MR. GEORGE CARION.

The *Philatelic Californian* of October, 1896, published the following article:

"Last year, grave doubts were expressed as to the genuineness of the Unpaid Letter Stamps of Cochin China, many holding them to be forgeries. Owing to the remoteness of the country, it is only recently that the following letters have been received from the postal authorities in Cochin China, that set at rest all doubts as to their authenticity.

"Below are given fac-similes of the original letters, together with their translations:

1st—*Letter of Inquiry sent to the Postmasters.*

"SAN FRANCISCO,

"March 24th, 1896.

"TO THE POSTMASTER,

"Baclieu, Cochin China.

"Mr. Postmaster:—I have the honor to submit to you herewith different

"unpaid letter stamps about which a contention has been raised, and I have recourse to your kindness to beg of you to let me know if these stamps have really been in use at your office, as the cancellation seems to show.

"Please return me these stamps by registered letter in the enclosed stamped envelope.

"Thanking you in advance, I remain,

"Yours truly,

"GEO. CARION."

2d—*Answer from the Postmaster at Baclieu, Cochin China.*

"The two unpaid letter stamps in the margin, cancelled at Baclieu (Cochin China) on the 12th of March, 1894, are perfectly genuine in all respects.

"Baclieu, May 11th, 1896.

"The Postmaster at Baclieu,

"J. MILLAVET."

N. B.—Under that letter, is the photo-engraving showing the registered envelope in which it was sent.

3d—*Answer from the Postmaster at Tay-Ninh, Cochin China.*

"SIR:—In answer to your favor of March 24th, I have the honor to inform you that the four unpaid letter-stamps annexed, are absolutely genuine, and that they still have legal circulation in Indo China.

"Yours truly,

"PRAMS."

N. B.—Under that letter, is the photo-engraving showing the registered envelope in which it was sent.

This article, with its indisputably authentic documents, would seem to have terminated the discussion in favor of Mr. Carion. Many of our contemporaries have reproduced it; among others, the *Pennsylvania Philatelist*, and, this month, the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. These two journals

even give the quantity of unpaid letter stamps thus surcharged, as follows :

400	stamps of	5	centimes.
400	"	"	10 "
150	"	"	15 "
200	"	"	20 "
200	"	"	30 "
200	"	"	40 "
150	"	"	60 "
100	"	"	1 franc.
100	"	"	2 "
100	"	"	5 "

It is now our turn to speak. First, let us call attention to the following point :

On the unpaid letter stamps in question, *the surcharge alone was disputed.*

In the letter of Mr. Carion *all that is asked for is an opinion as to the stamps and the cancellation marks.* Not a word is said about the surcharge, for the very good reason that, although so-called facsimiles were sent to the postmasters for their opinion, *the unpaid letter stamps really sent, were not surcharged.*

We are now going to expose this fraud, and to give proof in support of our contention.

The "Société Française de Timbrologie," knowing well what it should be guided by in the matter of these surcharges, notwithstanding the proofs which Mr. Carion had given in support of their authenticity, requested Mr. A. Schoeller, the secretary, to ask the Minister of the Colonies what was the official act authorizing this surcharge "Cochinchine." Mr. Schoeller complied with this request, and at the same time furnished the Minister of the Colonies with the fac-similes of the statements of the postmasters and of the unpaid letter stamps in dispute, which he had cut out of the *Philatelic Californian*.

The following is a translation of the answer received from the Minister of the Colonies :

"Paris, 5—5 (May 5th), 1897.

"SIR:—With your letter of the 16th of January, you furnished me with a reproduction of the photo-engraving of the acknowledgments made by the Postmasters of Baclieu and of Tay-Ninh, with respect to the authenticity of unpaid letter stamps bearing the diagonal surcharge 'Cochinchine,' and you asked me what was the official act which sanctioned this modification introduced in the unpaid letter stamps of this colonial office.

"I have the honor to inform you, on the one hand, that, according to the results of a most careful investigation made in Cochinchina, the acknowledgments of the Postmasters were made with regard to unpaid letter stamps not bearing the surcharge 'Cochinchine,' and on the other hand, that the office of Cochinchina has never surcharged unpaid letter stamps with the name of the Colony.

"Yours, etc.,

"Le Ministre des Colonies,
"L'Inspecteur Général des Colonies,
"Secrétaire Général du Ministre p. i.
"Signed: (Illegible).

"Mr. Schoeller, Secretary of the Société Française de Timbrologie, 12, Rue de Grammont."

Nothing could be clearer or more precise than this answer.

The Postmasters have not acknowledged the authenticity of the surcharge "Cochinchine."

No unpaid letter stamps have ever been officially surcharged with the name of the Colony.

The consequence of all this, is that the unpaid letter stamps surcharged "Cochinchine," offered by Mr. George Carion of San Francisco and other places, are not only *false* but have *never existed.* GEORGE P. GRIGNARD.

The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

Vol. VII.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1897.

No. 77.

THE LONDON EXHIBITION.

BY EUSTACE B. POWER.

The exhibition held this summer in rooms of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colors was at the same time imposing and instructive.

The short time the writer spent there was barely sufficient to casually look over and admire the exhibits, but what appealed more than anything to his fancy was the magnificent showing by the specialists. Mr. Fred. R. Ginn's exhibition of the stamps of the United States, both used and unused, was particularly fine, occupying one entire case.

Mr. W. B. Avery of Birmingham showed the first issue of Mauritius unused, also the 2c circular Guiana in *pair* on the cover and other magnificent rarities. Mr. Dorning Beckton showed a superb collection of Greece. Many of the rarer stamps unused, in block form. Mr. H. J. White showed his collection of unused Great Britain, consisting chiefly in blocks and sheets. Amongst other things were noticed ten 2d, small crown, perf. 14, unused, large blocks of the octagonal issue and a full sheet of the 2sh. brown.

The smallest room of the three was given up almost exclusively to the dealers, all of whom seemed to be doing their utmost to please collectors and patiently explaining *stamps* to the non-collecting visitor.

But what was most noticeable was the excessive care paid to the collections shown, the richness of the mountings and the glorious ranges of shade, all carefully and artistically carried out. Some collectors claim that certain unused stamps listed at a low price cannot be found and such is really the case, but when one sees blocks and even *sheets* of the particular stamp shown by specialists one can readily appreciate why the stamp is not common. America was well represented in "the 100 rare stamps" class. Amongst the stamps shown from this side of the water were British Guiana 1856, 4c, on "loaf sugar" paper, the only specimen of this stamp shown in the exhibition. Virgin Islands 1/ carmine with the black figure of the virgin *missing*. Great Britain 8d *Brown* orange, also the £1 anchor, unused, listed at \$300 and worth \$500—this amount being offered for it. Amongst many American visitors to the exhibition were Mr. Wm. Thorne, Mr. H. K. Sanderson, Mr. F. E. Smith, Mr. John N. Luff, etc., etc.

The government exhibitions were of great interest.

GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL EXHIBITS.

295.—*Her Majesty's Commissioner of Inland Revenue*. Twenty-six frames, containing a series of impressions from all the plates from which the postage

stamps of Great Britain have been printed, as registered and preserved at Somerset House; inclusive of the fiscal stamps available for postage. This exhibit forms a practically complete historic review of the postage stamps of this country.

296.—*Her Majesty's Postmaster-General*. Fifteen frames of stamps, chiefly of the British Colonies, arranged in various designs and comprising Newfoundland, Bahamas, Bermuda, Great Britain, Canada, Orange Free States, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Cape of Good Hope, Straits Settlements, Cyprus, Ceylon, West Indies, East Indies, India, Lagos, Malta, Western Australia, British Guiana, India and States, Tasmania and New Zealand. A proof sheet of the 1d. (black) stamp without letters, etc., etc.

297.—*The Secretary of State for India*. A frame containing sets of Postage, Service Postage, Revenue, Telegraphs, Special Adhesive Share Transfer, Foreign Bill, and Court Fee Stamps of India.

298.—*The Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope*. An exhibit of re-

cent issues of Postage Stamps. Card of Wrappers of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

299.—*The Agent-General for New Zealand*. Specimens of some of the issues of this Colony.

300.—*The Crown Agents for the Colonies*. Eight frames of stamps printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., comprising :

1. Issues of British Guiana, British Honduras, and Barbados.
2. Ceylon, Hong Kong, and St. Helena.
3. Straits Settlements, and States.
4. British Central Africa, and British East Africa Protectorates.
5. Gibraltar, Malta, Mauritius, and Seychelles.
6. Grenada, Turks Islands, and St. Lucia.
7. Lagos, Gold Coast, Gambia, and Sierra Leone—stamps and cards.
8. Natal Postage, Revenue, and Telegraph stamps, cards, and wrappers.

In frames 1 to 6 the stamps were shown in blocks of four each.

STAMP VALUES.

There are reasons for the scarcity of certain stamps which it is well to understand if one wishes either to buy them at fair prices for one's collection, or to accumulate them with the intention of selling at a profit.

It is strange to one who does not have a knowledge of these reasons that the very common stamps of ten or twenty years ago have many of them become quite scarce.

The first thing to consider in making

up one's mind as to the possible value of a stamp is to find out the number that have been issued.

If this number is less than half a million it is very important in determining ultimate value. Half a million is a number which is easily absorbed by the world's collections and thus a given stamp may be taken out of the market altogether, the only specimens sold being the few that are offered when collections are put onto the mar-

ket. This statement, however, that half a million stamps are readily absorbed must be considered apart from or with due consideration for face value. This number of stamps of a face value of several dollars each would not be taken by collectors. Some might be purchased by the few who care little for money, preferring rather the completeness of their collections, but the great army of collectors to whom cost is important would pass such stamps as beyond their means. How many collections contain the ten, twenty-five and fifty franc stamps of Obock? These are not passed simply because of their speculative character, but mainly because of the expense. Low values of the same issues are sold in large quantities.

The second point to consider in passing upon value is the number of a given stamp that have been destroyed. If the issue of the stamp amounted to a half million or less the knowledge of the number destroyed will furnish an accurate means by which to measure its value. There are, however, some elements to be considered beyond the mere question of number. One is the matter of attractiveness. A pleasing stamp will have ten times as many buyers as one that has no power to attract. Again the relation of a given stamp to others must be considered. The only stamp of a set which most collectors can afford to purchase, if the set is an attractive one, will find a ready sale. So also the only stamp of a pleasing set which is high priced may command an even higher price than it would on account of the number issued, just because of its relation to the rest of the set easily secured. Further there must be taken into consideration the increase of the world's issues of stamps. If, for instance, there were only a hundred

stamps in existence of which the total issue of each was half a million, with the large number of collectors throughout the world, all of these stamps would be speedily absorbed and secure and maintain a full value. On the contrary, however, when the fact is that there are thousands of such stamps and their number is being increased constantly and rapidly, and also it is a fact that the purchasing power of collectors is limited, it is quite evident that there is a limit of value which cannot be passed. It has been estimated that the value of any stamp for collecting purposes cannot exceed \$50,000. That is, if there are fifty stamps of a given variety in existence each will be worth \$1,000 each. If there are fifty thousand each will be worth a dollar. Considered apart from face value this seems a very fair estimate.

Notice, for instance, the way in which the value of the seven cent United States War Department stamp hangs around two dollars. A fair estimate of the number in existence at the present time is 25,000. This stamp has the advantage noted above of being the only high-priced one in a set otherwise easily obtained, hence the catalogue price rises somewhat higher. Another United States stamp, the 24c. of 1872, of which there were a million issued and probably a hundred thousand preserved, is recognized on all hands to be much over-priced. There are certain stamps for which there is some special demand in the case of which this rule may fail; but in general it holds good and serves as a standard of value for one who knows about the numbers of stamps in existence. The probability is also that it will hold good as a means of estimating the value of stamps for many years. The only reason for a

change in the amount to be allotted to a given stamp must come from a rapid increase in the number of collectors. The demand would be so increased by this that the value of the total issue of a stamp would be raised. Any increase in the number of collectors is, however, offset by the constant stream of new issues made by the various governments of the world. These make increasing calls upon collectors, and the amount of money they can spend being limited, the value of any stamp is thus prevented from rising above the \$50,000 limit.

There is one thing which may change this means of estimating stamp values materially. Specialism has been an important factor in maintaining the value of stamps. Whole pages of one stamp in various shades, such as may be seen in the albums of many advanced collectors in this country and in Europe, affect the values of those stamps very materially and have aided in maintaining the \$50,000 limit. This, however, cannot raise the value, for it is distributed through the issues of all nations. There are specialists in the stamps of very many countries, indeed of all. The thing which can and probably will raise values in future will be a general turning of the collecting world to the issues of the period of the world's history marked by the reign of Queen Victoria. This will be, broadly speaking, the stamps of the nineteenth century. It is more than probable that large numbers of collectors who have begun collecting during this century will not collect the issues of the twentieth century. It is not safe to make predictions, for if an exceedingly attractive issue were to be put forth in 1901 we should not be inclined to wager much on the power of any col-

lector to resist the temptation to add it to his treasures. A decision, however, made and clung to by a large body of collectors to buy the issues of the nineteenth century only, would advance values of many of the desirable stamps among them above the \$50,000 mark.

The reason for the scarcity of many once common stamps lies in the carelessness concerning their preservation which results from their very commonness.

Millions of such stamps have been thoughtlessly destroyed, until in some instances the very cheapest varieties have been brought within limits which have given them an actual value to the collector.

One who has an opportunity to see the collections that are made by many young people understands readily the tremendous absorption of low-priced stamps. A very large proportion of these collectors destroy their stamps in collecting them. This loss is simply enormous and gives value within a few years to stamps which otherwise could have no value because of the vast numbers issued.

The saving of such stamps in good condition is done mainly by dealers. The "hard times" which we have been passing through lately has caused a good deal of selling of stamps of good quality which otherwise would have remained in dealers' hands. There have been many stamps sold, because of the stringency, which cannot be replaced. The knowledge of what these are is important, as aiding those who wish to buy stamps for the increase of value which will come later.

CRAWFORD CAPEN.

Subscribe to THE POST OFFICE, only 25 cents a year to all countries.

THE GERMAN CRUSADE AGAINST PRICES.

[From the London Philatelist.]

Following in the wake of Judge Lindenberg, of Berlin, Dr. Moschkau, in the columns of *Der Philatelist*, has latterly been wailing about the increase of prices and the approaching death of philately in consequence thereof. Less fortunate, however, than his colleague of Berlin, the doctor has brought down upon himself some adverse criticism at the hands of Messrs. Reinheimer & Freudenstein, of Frankfort, which to us appear to effectually dispose of the doctor's previous "arguments." Replying in the June number of the above journal, Dr. Moschkau occupies no less than nine columns; but we fail to see anything convincing or of *practical* utility in his "reply." We have the highest respect, in a philatelic sense, for Dr. Moschkau, but we are tempted to ask, What is his personal experience, say during the past ten years, in the acquisition of really fine or rare stamps? The doctor's *plaudereien* are so obviously saturated with his esteemed personality that we may be forgiven for putting the matter in this light. We would contrast two points in his reply. 1. In order to rehabilitate philately, he urges abstention from specializing, except to a limited degree, and the adoption by all of general collecting, *including cut envelopes!* Why not include cut post cards too? This would be absolutely certain to save philately from impending dissolution! In our humble judgment the general collector makes "stamp collecting," and the specialist creates philately; hence we are absolutely opposed to our Teutonic *confrère*. 2. Perhaps for want of argument, Dr. Moschkau, in his nine columns, quotes

all the various prophecies and fulminations that have emanated from august Berlin as to the impending "slump"—*inter alia*—"The stamps that nobody has do not rise, but only those that the many have got, namely, dealers and speculative collectors." Disregarding the obvious bull, this is sound sense, and nearly meets the whole question. Instead of pages of diffuse diatribes, *which necessarily alarm the small collector, why not set to work to advise them which stamps are too highly priced, and for what reasons?* There is no lack of countries which include some too highly-priced stamps. Heligoland, Saxony, Baden, Bremen, Wurtemberg, Oldenburg, Nevis, West Indians (later issues), Nova Scotia (remainders)—to name only a few—are all instances where an ounce of practical pricing would be worth a pound of prosy preaching. On the contrary, perhaps the learned doctor will advise others where to buy cheaply simple European unused stamps, such as Alsace 5c. inverted net, the Wurtembergs perf. 13 on thick paper, the early 2d. perforated English, or the first issue of Thurn and Taxis, most of which are "priced" in Continental catalogues, and are doubtless to be found in the albums of the general collectors whom the learned doctor so sagaciously counsels to "close your pockets and open you eyes." Dr. Moschkau is evidently a philatelic Rip Van Winkle, and like that amiable character has apparently closed both his pockets and his eyes for many a long year. The wealthy or advanced collector can protect himself; it is the smaller and medium collector that looks for guidance at the editorial hands; but only harm is done by penning alarmist statements of a general nature instead of *practical* advice.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, *Editor.*

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* * *

The approaching meeting of the American Philatelic Association promises interesting developments of great importance to the future of our greatest American society. A general clearing up of the difficulties which have beset the Association during the past few years is expected, and the hope is confidently expressed that the end of all trouble is in sight.

* * *

There is something new appearing on the horizon in the interest of col-

lectors. We are of the opinion that the idea on which the advertisement of the American Promotion Company on our first page is founded will prove to be the biggest boon to collectors of anything that has happened in their favor in the last decade, and would suggest that all those who have the true interests of stamp collecting at heart write to the address given for full particulars.

* * *

The attacks made by post office officials in Great Britain upon the illustrators of postage stamps has been taken up by the printers' unions. The claim of the post office authorities that they have been asked to take up this matter by foreign governments is attacked in the *Philatelic Record*, which declares it an attempt on the part of those governments to interfere with British trade. The *Record* gives the following account of the action of the Typographical Association at a meeting held at Plymouth:

In introducing the question Mr. Wood pointed out the serious effect that would result were the order of the post office strictly adhered to. He stated that the whole of the illustrated literature would have to be printed abroad, and then could be sold in England with impunity; and pointed out that philately had reached that stage when the study of it would be almost useless without illustrations. One firm alone in Plymouth would suffer very considerably, and it would probably mean the discharge of ten workmen, which would be a serious matter to the Plymouth Branch.

Mr. Reynolds pointed out that it was a most extraordinary position for a government body to take up, to compel work to be sent out of this country,

after having been carried on so successfully for so many years. He moved the following resolution: "That this Conference views with dismay the recent decision of the Post Office Department regarding the printing of pictures of postage stamps in philatelic literature, and pledges itself to do its utmost to get the decision set aside."

Mr. Allen seconded, and a number of questions by delegates were answered mainly by quotations from the July issue of the *Philatelic Record*.

Many speakers expressed regret that it should be necessary to combat an attempt to injure a business after so much has been said against the introduction of foreign-made goods into this country.

The delegates will bring the matter before their respective branches, which doubtless will make representation to the M. P.'s for their districts.

* * *

We give in this issue an interesting account by Mr. Eustace B. Power, of the London Philatelic Exhibition, which he attended. We are glad to see by the statement of awards that the highest, the gold medal of Class III., for the exhibit of fifty to one hundred rare stamps, was secured by Mr. W. Thorne, of New York. This medal was won in competition with fourteen collectors, among whom were the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and H. R. H. the Duke of York. The exhibits were made in classes and in each the gold medal was the highest award.

The award to Mr. Thorne shows that our American collectors are not allowing all the good things to go to Europe to enrich the great collections.

The POST OFFICE offers the congratulations of American collectors to Mr.

Thorne and also their thanks for the representation of their interests which he has made so successfully.

* * *

Our attention has been attracted, especially lately, to the question of catalogue prices in their relation to the quality of specimens sold. Catalogue prices are supposed to be for average specimens. The strange thing is that collectors do not appreciate the value of the extraordinary specimen. There are many countries, such, for instance, as Great Britain, where stamps are heavily cancelled, in which fine specimens are worth many times the price of the average one. Nevertheless collectors will pay no more for these than for the most ordinary specimens, nor do they acknowledge their higher worth, unless they happen to be in their own collections.

* * *

It may be held that this failure on the collector's part is a matter of business. If he allowed higher value to the fine specimens he could not buy at so low a price as he now does. This works two ways. The dealer is ready to allow the fact that extra fine specimens are worth more than average ones but he cannot do so as long as collectors will not give extra prices for them. The consequence is that the moment when cash value is of most importance to a collector—the moment when he wants to sell his collection—is the one in which the dealer as a measure of self-protection can allow no more for the extra specimen than for the average one. Could he sell such stamps at higher prices than are given for poorer specimens he would gladly pay more for them.

The relative value of the average and the extraordinary specimen is not adequately estimated by collectors generally, else they would see the immense advantage of getting the best of everything and valuing their stamps accordingly. A collector who has the means to purchase fine stamps will do the best for himself by demanding the most perfect attainable specimens and getting them by being willing to pay for them.

* * *

There is much heard among collectors and dealers about "good stuff," "trash," and similar things expressed in like terms. It is sometimes a puzzle to discern just what is meant by these phrases, and we have often thought that their authors did not know themselves just what they meant, inasmuch as what is called "trash" by one, another calls "good stuff." The distinction seems to be largely a matter of opinion, since a great deal that is low-priced is spoken of as "good stuff," while some high-priced stamps are denominated "trash." A fair distinction in the quality of stamps may be made by noticing which of the world's governments have gone into the business of stamp speculation or have allowed employees to do so. The stamps of such countries speedily degenerate from good stuff to trash. Notice particularly Portugal and colonies, French colonies, Labuan, Ceylon, and shall we add Canada and Newfoundland? These last two countries with their jubilee issues limited in quantity, have put themselves into the class of the above nations in the minds of many collectors. The stamps of those nations remain "good stuff" which are not sold for other than legitimate postal requirements.

We receive inquiries from those who send us articles which we cannot use as to the kind which we can publish in the POST OFFICE. We can reply to all here without criticising too sharply the faults of particular articles submitted, since we write now with all the rejected manuscripts in mind rather than in view of the deficiencies of any one.

* * *

We cannot use manuscripts which are merely space-fillers, that is, those which discuss some worn-out subject, or consist of a series of assertions which every one recognizes as true and no one in his senses would think of disputing. We do not wish manuscripts treating of subjects foreign to our pursuit, nor do we care for those which rake up old matters discussed and laid at rest years ago. We can make no use of articles which bring forth as new discoveries things with which all real students of philately are familiar. There are many articles of this nature submitted by those just beginning their researches. Well-known facts, so far as philatelists are concerned, strike these writers for the first time, and they herald their discoveries as news. The publication of such papers by the POST OFFICE would cause it to be ranked very justly with publications of low grade, whose managers know nothing of philatelic facts.

* * *

Speaking positively, we do want papers which discuss fresh topics in an interesting manner. We can use those which discuss questions of the present time in a sensible and all-around way. One-sided views even, though ably presented, are not worth publishing. As example, we have seen articles whose writer took positions in favor of the collection of used specimens only. The

articles were well written, but the Post OFFICE would not publish them. We have no doubt that their writer would think the reason was that the editor is a firm believer in the superior value of the unused stamp. This had nothing to do with it. The editor cannot consult his personal preferences when editing a paper for the reading of people of widely differing views. The difficulty with the papers lay in the failure to discuss intelligently the question of the cancelled to order variety of used stamps. The writer assumed from beginning to end that any philatelist knew at a glance whether or no he had in his possession a genuinely cancelled stamp which had done postal duty. He blinked the fact that no expert can tell the genuine from the cancelled to order stamp in the cases of countries which cancel their stamps for the export trade with the same set of cancelling stamps which they use in stamping the specimens which pass through their post offices. The articles were, therefore, one-sided, and well-informed philatelists would smile as they read them.

* * *

We want also articles which treat directly of stamps and their peculiarities. An article on the stamps of a country which merely enumerates its several issues, or gives information which any one may gain from the reading of a priced catalogue, is not worth publishing in a journal of our class. Information to be acceptable need not in all cases be new, but it must not be a repetition of what all our readers have seen. A model article was one which we published a year ago on the Secret Marks on the Stamps of Hamburg. The writer did not claim originality, but he produced an article which would interest any one who possessed

any of these stamps. We ourselves passed a pleasant hour in examining Hamburg stamps for these engravers' marks, and felt that the article well repaid us for our study, in enabling us to discover quickly certain counterfeits in circulation.

* * *

A writer of fair ability can produce acceptable articles which we shall be glad to print in the Post OFFICE if he studies his subjects, but it is in philatelic writing as in everything else impossible to do good work without proper preparation and examination of the subject treated.

Many articles have been submitted to us by doctors, lawyers, clergymen and other educated men who seemed to think themselves qualified to write good philatelic articles by the mere fact that they were expert in writing in their own spheres and possessed a love of stamps. Their experience should have taught them better. The editor of the Post OFFICE might as well think himself qualified to prepare a brief or write a sermon because he can write an article on stamps, as for these gentlemen to think they can instruct philatelists when they know far less of stamp subjects than he does of those legal or religious.

* * *

To sum up: The Post OFFICE wants articles which are bright and original in their way of handling the topics treated, or it wishes those revealing study and research which will be profitable to our readers. This last is the test of every article. We simply ask the question: Will it be worth our readers' time to go through this? We try to prevent their wasting their time by wasting our own in reading much that our care for their interests causes us to reject.

CANADA JUBILEE STAMPS.

Mr. F. W. Wurtele in several issues of the *Montreal Daily Witness*, which he has kindly sent us, has set forth very plainly many of the facts which render this set of stamps one of the most disreputable that has ever been made. His letter to the editor in the number of the paper for July 15, states the position so lucidly that we reprint it for our readers' benefit :

SIR: Your Ottawa despatch in regard to the jubilee stamps, evidently derived from official sources, is probably the best statement of the government's position in the matter that can be made. The government takes credit for standing between the public and the "stamp shark," but, unfortunately, its action has had exactly the opposite effect, and really protects these rapacious speculators in "exacting tribute from the general public." In the first place, "the general public" has no use for stamps of \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00. The limit of weight for a parcel is eleven pounds, and the highest rate is twenty-four cents per pound, equal to \$2.64 postage on a parcel of the extreme limit. I believe there is no limit of weight to first-class matter, but to use a five dollar stamp on a letter would mean, if a domestic one, that it would weigh about ten and a-half pounds, or if addressed abroad, three pounds two ounces. Now, I imagine "the general public" does not frequently overburden the mails with such bulky correspondence. These stamps are irredeemable, and it is clear that not one purchaser in a thousand will ever use them postally, so that they represent a direct contribution or tax from the stamp collector, to the revenues of the Dominion. If, then, the government has prepared a series

of stamps exclusively for the benefit of stamp collectors, it is ridiculous to talk about their supply being based on the calculation of a three months' ordinary consumption. The ordinary consumption has nothing to do with the case. Common sense would dictate that if the stamps are issued to please the collectors of such things, that they should be supplied in such quantities as those interested may demand.

I would like to see the "official authority for the statement that there is a sufficient number of half-cent and six cent stamps to supply all the legitimate demand." One of the very best authorities on stamp collecting, Mr. Crawford Capen, has stated that out of a million stamp collectors but 10,000 will buy a stamp costing as much as five dollars, 25,000 will go up to two dollars, 50,000 to one dollar, 100,000 to fifty cents, 200,000 to twenty-five cents, and only half the total number, *i. e.*, 500,000 will pay as much as ten cents for a single stamp, the other half not going over five cents. Any stamp dealer of any lengthy experience will admit the general correctness of these estimates. If they are correct it would mean that if the government can sell 25,000 five-dollar stamps to collectors, it can sell 2,500,000 of half, one, two, three and five-cent stamps, and 1,250,000 of six, eight and ten-cent. Taking into consideration that the issue is not a postal necessity, but rather one for the philatelic fraternity, the above figures would represent about the quantity required "to supply all the legitimate demand."

It is not too late yet for the government to change its plans, to issue these stamps in the quantities demanded by the public, and it is only by doing so

that it can protect the public from the "stamp shark," it is only by such an honest course that the reputation of the postal department of Canada will not suffer greatly, and it is only by this means that the public revenue will be most benefited. If this is not done we have every reason to be afraid that we will be unable to obtain the stamps we require.

Since writing my last letter, I have heard rumors of a case where certain rare values of jubilee stamps were removed from a letter while in the post-

office, and others substituted. This tampering with Her Majesty's Royal Mails, if the report be true, caused by the demon of speculation aroused by the Post Office Department itself, will do more to bring the postal administration of Canada into disrepute, than all the schemes of outside stamp speculators ever concocted. Let Mr. Mulock, who has the reputation of being a sound business man, act in a business-like way and save the reputation of his Department.

F. W. WURTELE.

THE ISSUING OF POSTAGE STAMPS AS A REMEDY FOR POVERTY.

The *American Journal of Philately* under the above head prints a translation from a Brazilian paper which we reproduce below. Poverty-stricken nations are making all the money they can out of collectors, and it is becoming a very important question what shall be done about it.

Portugal has for many years been systematically at work in the line of defrauding by the issue of unnecessary stamps. The news that a republic is shortly to be established in Portugal, if true, means many new sets of stamps for the country and its colonies. Brazil was formerly Portugal's colony, and this idea of money making from collectors' desires appears to have penetrated the southern brain at last and once begun the end cannot be foreseen. What measures will collectors take to prevent this robbery? United effort, as seen in the results of the work of S. S. S. S. in condemnation of issues, has proved to be of small avail. How shall the collector protect himself? The only answer to the question that we believe to be of practical value at present is that collec-

tors' journals everywhere should do all that they can to spread the knowledge of the exact character of various issues that are made by impecunious governments. This will give every collector an opportunity to decide for himself what to buy and what to leave alone. Hence we shall print in the *POST OFFICE* whatever will help collectors to decide as to the character of issues made by nations of this class.

We publish herewith a translation from the *Philatelic Journal of Brazil*. The postal necessity for the set which is here suggested is instantly apparent from the following question and answer in the translation: "But where, in such hard times as these, are we to procure the money for this purpose? is the question that will be asked by prudent and economical persons."

"The proposition for an issue of commemorative stamps furnishes a satisfactory answer to the above question."

It is evident that the only idea in proposing such a set is the provision of revenue for a depleted treasury; and if the set should ever make its appearance, we sincerely hope that collectors will leave it severely alone.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY
OF BRAZIL.

The traveller, as he journeys on a long and difficult road, stops for a while on reaching the summit of a hill, and looks back over the road that he has traversed. Upon seeing the distance that he has covered, the obstacles that he has overcome, he recovers breath and courage, his weary, worn out body receives new vigor from the magic touch of hope, and he is encouraged to make new and still stronger efforts.

So it is with nations. In the difficult but glorious road of civilization, they also must make occasional pauses in their journey, and, from an elevation, review all the progress that has been made, all the joys that have been experienced, all the sufferings undergone, so as to recover power and energy for new undertakings and for new triumphs.

This is the advantage and purpose of anniversary feasts, etc., which enable nations to take in their whole life at a single glance, and give them knowledge of their power and worth.

Worthy, therefore, of all praise and support, is the idea of celebrating the anniversary of the discovery of Brazil by means of a national exposition and other festivities.

"But where, in such hard times as these, are we to procure the money for this purpose?" is the question that will be asked by prudent and economical persons.

The proposition for an issue of commemorative stamps furnishes a satisfactory answer to the above question. As has been shown, the commemorative issues of Columbus, Don Henrique, etc., stamps, covered the expenses, and even left a large surplus to be expended in exhibitions and magnificent festivals. Indeed, an issue of postage stamps would be the most indispensable and the safest basis for the realization of projected festivals.

In addition to this advantage, an issue of artistic stamps, carefully designed, would in itself suffice to celebrate in an effective manner the date of the first appearance of western civilization in Brazilian territory.

The stamp, by reason of its extensive and inevitable circulation, and of the love and affection of which it is the object, becomes a precious vehicle of instruction in the interior, and of universal diffusion abroad. Many countries have already appreciated this fact, among which may be mentioned the United States, England, Argentina, etc., which have commemorated by this means the notable events of their history. Brazil, which needs so much to educate the people, and make its progress known, will certainly not despise this expedient.

Trusting, therefore, that our statesmen, administrators artists and philatelists will be interested in so useful and patriotic an enterprise, we take the liberty of offering, as a basis for study, the following plan of an issue of postage stamps, summarizing perfectly the social evolution of Brazil during the four centuries of its existence in communion with the nations of the West.

PLAN OF COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE.

10 reis.—A savage, representing the first inhabitants of Brazil.

20 reis.—Effigy of Pedro Alveres Cabral, representing the bearers of western civilization.

50 reis.—Effigy of Tiradentes, representing the martyrs of the country.

100 reis.—Effigy of Jose Bonifacio, representing the heroes of independence.

200 reis.—Effigy of D. Pedro de Alcantara, representing the imperial epoch.

300 reis.—Effigy of Benjamin Constant, representing the apostles of the Republic.

500 reis.—Effigy of Deodoro da Fonseca, representing the heroic liberators.

700 reis.—Effigy of Floriano Peixoto, representing the soldiers of the Republic.

1000 reis.—The first mass in Brazil.

2,000 reis.—The cry of Ypiranga.

5,000 reis.—Proclamation of the Republic

10,000 reis.—Allegory of civilization.

P. R. P.

(*Jornal Philatelico.*)

The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

Vol. VII.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1897.

No. 78.

UNITED STATES STAMPS IN THE 58th CATALOGUE.

The prices of the advance sheets now issued vary very little from those of the 57th edition. The changes that have been made have been mostly in the way of reduction. There are a few instances in which we are inclined to disagree with the publishers as to the drops that have been made, and in others, notably the case of the 24c of 1872, where no diminution of price occurs we think there should have been reduction. This however, is not a matter where we believe in criticism, for a firm has always the right to make whatever prices it may desire to ask for its stamps in offering them to collectors. The points of advantage in this catalogue over the 57th are, in the first place, its greater fulness. We believe in the idea of making catalogues as complete as possible within reasonable limits, and we see little in this list that is not commendable in this respect. We are especially glad to note in the way of variation of shade the 2c dull vermilion under the American Print of the War Department stamps. This is a variety which we have long believed should be listed if any variations of shade at all are catalogued. This is a question which is much discussed and is very hard indeed to settle satisfactorily. An illustration of the difficulty is found in the listing that is

made under the heading of Continental Print of the stamps of the War Department. Two full sets are given us as rose red and brown red respectively. The 1c, 2c, 7c, 10c and 30c of the latter shade are not priced. The immediate question is, why confine the list to these two shades? Is it because it is thought that in these full sets may possibly be secured? We can see no other reason. Is this a valid one? We have made more of a study of the stamps of this department than of those of any other simply because they could be obtained in large numbers, we having had some thirty thousand of all values of our own, and also because there are in them so great differences of shade as to make their study fascinating and instructive. Our experience with them, embodied finally in a collection numbering between three and four hundred varieties, was that the three cent possessed the largest number of distinct shades—we had forty. The less a stamp was used, and therefore the less different printings there were made of it, the smaller the number of differences of shade. The seven cent and ninety cent therefore vary least. We never were able to make up a single full set that matched perfectly, and we do not believe that this can be done, especially in the brown red shade..

A very good matching may be made in the common rose red, but whatever standard one takes for his brown red, one finds immediately that it is impossible to find all the stamps alike. We mention here an entirely different matter for the sake of bringing together our facts. This is the question of making the listing complete. The catalogue goes into ribbed papers. The last edition gave us the Continental ribbed stamps of the regular issue, and these advance sheets contain the 2c, 3c and 6c of the Post Office Department. Why confine the listing to these? We have in our possession every stamp of the War Department except the seven cent on ribbed paper, and it is probable that this also exists. We submit that it would be far better to list War Department stamps on ribbed paper, most of them being of the earlier and darker shades of these stamps, and leave out this brown-red distinction of shade. We have also found many of the other Department stamps on ribbed paper. If any are allowed in a general catalogue of this nature all should be.

We notice the introduction of the Continental Prints of the 30c and 90c stamps of 1873 and are very glad to see them, but the list includes also the 24c of this print which as shown in the *POST OFFICE* of January, page 135, does not exist. We hope it will be dropped both as numbers 219 and 231 from the catalogue as finally printed. The latter number is the ribbed variety. We were shown the 24c on which the first listing of the stamp as ribbed was made, and we have no hesitation in declaring that it was a mistake. The subsequent discovery that the 24c was never printed by the Continental Company as a regular issue confirmed our judgment that the stamp shown us was not on Con-

tinental ribbed paper. The 5c blue Taylor is not listed on ribbed paper. We have a fine specimen.

We think the listing of the 10c yellow brown under American Bank Note Company Print as being from National plate a mistake. The stamp comes without secret mark, but Mr. Sterling submitted to us some years ago a large number of strips in which there were some stamps with and others without the mark. It was possible in some instances to discover traces of the mark, with the use of a good magnifying glass, when at first sight it appeared to be absent. The mark was not strong on the transfer and apparently wore down so that it made a very light impression on the plate from which it was in many instances effaced by ordinary wear. The low price of four cents which is affixed to this stamp indicates that a mistake has been made as the same stamp with mark worn off is just as common as that with it present in American prints from the Continental plate.

The two types of the five cent of 1882 do not exist in the die and we have never seen any valid reason for thinking the differences anything except the result of a wearing of the plate. Why this distinction should be restored, when under the head of Argentine the absence of diagonal lines in the ground work of the stamp of 1868, is attributed to wearing of the plates we cannot understand. The case is certainly better for the Argentine stamp, for while there are no differences other than crossed lines in the United States stamp, in the Argentine there are what we believe to be die differences in other parts of the stamp showing that it was re-engraved.

The drops in prices in these advance sheets in relation to a few stamps are

eminently sound. There was no reason why stamps which could be sold at wholesale for a quarter of the retail price should remain on a par with stamps for which the dealer must pay one-half catalogue value. We are on the

whole very well pleased with these advance sheets, and believe that they will prove in the better times already begun a fair representation of the values of United States stamps.

CRAWFORD CAPEN.



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS:

THE POST OFFICE will be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to THE POST OFFICE, 85 Nassau Street, New York.

Mr. Gremmel, who always attended to the New Issues, etc., for the POST OFFICE, had an ill turn just as he was about to prepare the list for our August number, and the editor's small knowledge of what had been listed made it impossible for him to take his place. This month we shall content ourselves with a list of what we think has not been already listed in the POST OFFICE, and we trust our readers will pardon any mistakes we may make while we are educating ourselves to an understanding of the way to handle this subject. We acknowledge at the start our obligation to the *American Journal of Philately*, the *Boston Stamp Book*, *Philatelic Record*, *London Philatelist*, *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, and *Le Timbre Poste*, from whose pages our list is compiled.

United States—8c brown violet (shade).

Belgium — *Adhesive. Perforated*
14x13½.

50c gray.

Brazil—*Adhesives. Perforated.*

100r carmine and black.

1000r green and violet.

British Bechuanaland — *Adhesive. Watermark Anchor. Perforated 14.*

½p emerald green, black surcharge.

British East Africa — *Adhesive. Watermark Flower. Perforated 14.*

2½ surcharged on 4a black, green and red.

China — *Adhesives. Provisionals. Small Numerals.*

1c on 3c orange, error.

Large Numerals.

1c on 1c green.

2c on 3c red lilac.

5c on 5c greenish yellow.

10c on 6c brown, black surcharge.

Colombian Republic—*Adhesive. Perforated.*

20c light brown, green.

Dominican Republic — *Adhesive. Perforated 14.*

2c vermilion (shade).

Ecuador—*Adhesives. Provisionals. Perforated 11½. Correos Provisionales and Arms in Circle.*

1c rose, black surcharge.

2c blue, “ “

5c green, “ “

10c ochre, “ “

Surcharged 1897-1898, on Jubilee Issue.

10c ochre, black surcharge.

Regular Adhesives. Perforated 15½.

2c vermilion.

5c lake.

10c dark brown.

Egypt—Soudan—*Adhesives. Watermark Star and Crescent.*

Perforated 14.

Surcharged in Arabic and English.

2m green, black surcharge.

2pi orange brown, black surcharge.

5pi gray, “ “

10pi violet, “ “

Unpaid.

2m green, black surcharge.

4m carmine, “ “

1pi blue, “ “

2pi orange, “ “

Envelopes. Blue Paper.

Size 145x112 mm.

5m carmine, black surcharge.

1pi blue, “ “

Eritrea—*Adhesive. Perforated 14.*

Surcharged Colonia Eritrea.

5c green, black surcharge.

Fernando Po—*Provisional Adhesive.*

2 Centavos surcharged 5 Cen. in oval.

5c on 2c rose, blue surcharge.

Regular Issue.

10c red (change of color).

France—*Pneumatic Letter Card.*

5c black, blue, perforated III.

French Offices in Zanzibar—*Zanzibar values added in Indian currency.*

Perforated 14x13½.

½a on 5c green, greenish.

1a on 10c black, lavender.

1½a on 15c blue.

2a on 20c red, green.

2½a on 25c black, rose.

3a on 30c brown, bistre.

4a on 40c red, straw.

5a on 50c rose, rose.

10a on 1f bronze green, straw.

50a on 5f lilac, lavender.

India—*Holkar.*

Adhesives. Perforated. Current type.

2a green.

4a violet.

8a ultramarine.

Las Bela.

Adhesive. Perforated 12.

½a black.

Sirmoor.

Adhesive. Officials. Regular Issue surcharged On S. S. S.; the word On in larger letters than in the older issue.

3p orange, black surcharge.

6p green, “ “

1a blue, “ “

2a carmine, “ “

Leeward Islands—*Regular Adhesives. Surcharged with monogram V R I in center of Garter containing the words Sexagenary 1897.*

Jubilee Issue. Watermark Crown C.A.

Perforated 14.

½p green and mauve, black surcharge.

1p carmine “ “ “

2½p blue “ “ “

4p orange and mauve, black surcharge.
 6p brown " " "
 7p slate " " "
 1s rose and green, " "
 5s blue " " " "

Liberia—*Registration Envelope. Size 130x80 mm.*

10c gray green (shade) *white*.

Mexico—*Wrappers. Thin glazed manilla paper. Size 250 x 85 mm.*

2c red, red inscription, for interior use.

2c red, green inscription, for international use.

Morocco—*Mazagan-Marakech.*

Unpaid Adhesive. Perforated.

5c blue and black.
 10c yellow and black.
 20c blue, green and black.
 30c rose and black.
 40c brown and black.
 50c lilac and black.
 1p violet and black.

New South Wales—*Jubilee Issue.*

Adhesive. Watermark Crown and N. S. W. Perforated 11 x 11½.

1p carmine.
 2p deep blue.
 2½p royal purple.
Watermark 5.
Perforated 11.
 5sh dark purple.

Philippine Islands—*Adhesive. Perforated 14.*

1c carmine (change of color).
 40c violet.
 80c carmine.

Porto Rico—*Adhesive. Current Type. Perforated 14.*

80c black.

St. Vincent—*Adhesives. Current Type. Perforated 14. Watermark Crown C. A.*

2½p milky blue.
 5p slate brown.

Salvador—*Provisionals. Surcharged TRECE Centavos on Current. Stamps to Form New International rate. Perforated 12. Adhesives.*

13c on 24c yellow, red surcharge.
 13c on 50c rose, black "
 13c on 50c purple, black surcharge.
 13c on 100c carmine brown, black surcharge.

Envelope.

13c on 15c black, red surcharge.

Servia—*Adhesive. Variation of perforation. Perforated 11½.*

1par dull red.

Seychelles Islands—*Adhesive. Perforated 14. Watermark Crown, C. A.*

2c yellow and green.
 3c violet and orange.
 4c pale green.
 8c carmine and green.
 10c blue and black.
 12c olive brown and green.
 16c red brown and blue.

Sierra Leone—*Adhesives. Perforated 14. Watermark Crown, C. A. Provisionals.*

2½p on 3sh lilac, black surcharge.
 Type I.
 2½p on 2sh lilac, black surcharge.
 Type II.
 2½p on 2sh lilac, black surcharge.
 Type III.

Regular Issue.

½p lilac and green.
 4p lilac and carmine lilac.
 6p lilac.

South Australia—*Adhesive. Variation of perforation. Perf. 13.*

3p deep gray green.

Switzerland—*Wrapper. Corresponds with stamp on current postal card.*

5c carmine, yellow.

Tasmania—*Adhesive. Current Type. Perforated 14.*

5sh violet and red.

Tonga—*Adhesives. Perforated 14. Watermark Turtles. Various designs.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ p blue.

1p carmine, brown and black.

2p bistre and black.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p light blue and black.

3p emerald green and black.

4p mauve and green.

5p orange and black.

6p red.

7 $\frac{1}{2}$ p green and black.

10p carmine and black.

1sh purple, brown and black.

2sh dark ultramarine and black.

2sh 6p violet.

5sh brown, red and black.

Two Sicilies — — *Adhesive. Discovery.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ gr blue, error.

THE MONTHLY PACKET OF NEW ISSUES.

The September Packet contains two varieties: Hayti, 1c and 20c unused.

PRICE, 27 CENTS, POST FREE.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau st., New York.

This packet is only on sale until the next number is issued and is supplied to *subscribers* to the POST OFFICE only.

The subscribers wishing to receive the Monthly Packet regularly should send \$3.24, in advance, for the Packets for September, 1897, to August, 1898 (inclusive), in order to avoid disappointment, as the supply is limited, and it will be sent on the same day when the POST OFFICE is mailed.

ADVERTISERS.—It will cost you \$1.50 an inch to advertise in THE POST OFFICE; it would cost you over \$40.00 for postage alone to send a circular to the 3,500 stamp collectors who receive this journal regularly.

ADVERTISE.—Even a small one in the Exchange Department, at 50 cents a month, will bring you bigger returns than a larger ad. in a great many other papers. Over 3,500 different Collectors will read your ad. in THE POST OFFICE.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, *Editor.*

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

25 cents a Year to all Countries.

All subscriptions must begin with current number.

ADVERTISING RATES.

SPACE.	1 Month.	3 Months	6 Months.	12 Mon's
1 inch.	\$1 50	\$4 05	\$7 65	\$14 50
2 inches.	2 75	7 40	14 00	26 50
3 inches.	4 00	10 80	20 40	38 40
½ column.	5 00	13 50	25 50	48 00
1 column.	9 00	24 30	47 60	86 40
1 page.	16 00	43 20	81 60	153 60

Forms close on the tenth of each month.

TERMS.—Cash in advance.

We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement which we consider detrimental to the interests of the journal, without giving any reasons whatsoever.

CIRCULATION.

3,500 copies each month, *guaranteed.*

EXCHANGES.

We will exchange two copies with all philatelic papers. Address all communications to

HENRY GREMMEL,
85 Nassau Street, New York.

A cross opposite these lines indicates that your subscription expires with this number. A prompt renewal is requested.

The exchanges of the POST OFFICE will greatly oblige if they will send one copy to THE POST OFFICE at 85 Nassau Street, and another to the editor, P. O. Box 2,874, New York.

DIED.—At his home in Rutherford, N. J., September 1, 1897, HENRY GREMMEL, publisher of this magazine.

It is with the deepest sorrow that the editor writes the above notice for the readers of the POST OFFICE. They, as well as he, will feel that they have lost a personal friend. Mr. Gremmel was a man of great force of character and strong determination. Nothing that he ever put his hand to was given up until his end was accomplished. He

was a man of strong convictions who was never afraid to say what he thought. This made him some enemies, but these foes were always in the wrong. On the other hand, the man who had his friendship possessed a backing which never failed him. When Henry Gremmel made up his mind that a friend of his was in the right, and ought to have his support, that support he would get and keep though all the world went back on him. He was also a man possessed of a talent all too rare, that is, the ability to argue a matter to its conclusion and never lose his temper. He would get angry quickly at one who could not see a point and admit that the argument was against him to that extent, but one who could acknowledge error of thought or of judgment, and still held opinions with which he did not agree kept his respect and his friendship. He was a man whom the world could ill afford to lose and one whose absence will be felt severely by all whose privilege it was to meet him in social or in business relations.

* * *

Henry Gremmel was born in Bremen, Germany, in March, 1862, and was therefore at the time of his death thirty-five years and six months old. He was musically inclined, and at an early age entered the German navy as a musician, and in this capacity traveled in all parts of the world. He became interested in stamps during his constant changes of scene and accumulated a considerable number of good issues. He finally left the navy and about a dozen years ago went to Brazil as a musician, playing in the orchestras attached to various theatres. Thence he finally came to New York and for a time was attached to the Irving Place

theatre as musician. He began at this time to deal in stamps in a small way and finally gave up musical work and opened an office in the little room in the front portion of 85 Nassau, which has of late years been his private office and work room.

He was married eleven years ago and leaves a widow and two fine boys. Mr. Gremmel began with very little, but in the course of these ten years worked up one of the best businesses in the country, and without doubt it was on account of his energy and thrift the most profitable one relatively to the amount of money required to carry it on. No one who entered the rather cramped quarters in which he did his work could get any idea of the amount of his business and the fine stock which he had accumulated.

No dealer in this country has made in such a short period so great advance nor could anyone have done more. His great faith was always in large advertising, and even in early days, before he undertook the publication of the *POST OFFICE*, he was known to be very liberal in this matter.

No dealer could be more missed merely on the ground of his business capacity than Henry Gremmel will be in the future of dealing in stamps in this country.

The *Philatelic Era* thus voices the general sentiment regarding him :

“He was a man of sterling honesty and, while he had a disposition peculiar to his own countrymen, made many friends and few enemies among the stamp collecting fraternity. In his sudden death philately loses a very desired and honored follower.”

* * *

The following resolutions were

passed at a recent Directors Meeting of Stamps Publishing Company.

Monday, Sept. 13, 1897.

Whereas, we have learned with deep regret of the death of our esteemed friend, and fellow director in the Stamps Publishing Company, Mr. Henry Gremmel and

Whereas, Mr. Gremmel has been an enthusiastic and ready helper and supporter of every effort made for the proper development and upbuilding of this magazine, and

Whereas, we desire to express appropriately our thoughts and feelings in relation to this sad occurrence, therefore

Be it Resolved, that we tender to Mr. Gremmel's family our full sympathy in this bereavement and make known to them our sense of a loss in common with them in the passing away of our friend and brother in this directorate.

Resolved further, that the Secretary be instructed to transmit to Mrs. Gremmel a copy of these resolutions.

Carried unanimously,

R. R. BOGERT, G. B. CALMAN,
J. C. MORGENTHAU, G. C. CAPEN,

Directors of Stamps Publishing Co.

* * *

A most natural question arising and met with on all hands just now is, what is to become of Mr. Gremmel's business?

Knowing as he has for some time that he must lay aside his work, he has been making preparations to dispose of it. The advertisement which the editor inserted in the *May POST OFFICE* concerning a stock of goods on which the valuation in June, 1896, was nearly fifty thousand dollars, and in which he stated that twenty thousand dollars

cash would be required, related to Mr. Gremmel's stock and business, and was inserted at his instance. The amount secured in response to that advertisement was ten thousand dollars, but while Mr. Gremmel was willing to take shares in a company, he thought that for a stock of stamps worth fifty thousand dollars he should not have less than twenty thousand in cash. One or two propositions were made him later, but the matter finally settled to the determination to form a corporation which should raise all the money required, and pay for the stock and good-will of the business in cash at a price named by Mr. Gremmel.

* * *

This was the opportunity for the carrying out of ideas which had been for a long time in the mind of the editor, and some friends of his who were collectors. Mr. Gremmel himself also thoroughly favored these ideas. Simply stated it was this, to return his business to those who had helped him build it up from small beginnings and made it what it was; to give it back to the collectors of the country in the form of a corporation organized on such lines as should make it a benefit to them.

The editor's collecting friends were some of them members of the American Promotion Company of 18 Wall street, a concern incorporated under the laws of the State of New York for the purpose of promoting sound industrial and commercial enterprises. These gentlemen had been able in several business enterprises in which the editor is interested to command hundreds of thousands of dollars, and it seemed to be the best possible plan to intrust to this company the formation of the stamp corporation, since their taking it

up as a New York State corporation, concerning which the laws are very strict and precise, and also organizing it as another New York corporation would tend to give it proper standing and cause it to command the confidence of all collectors.

* * *

Thus the American Collectors Company was founded.

The originators, who will probably be the board of directors for the first year, are H. A. La Paugh, President of the American Promotion Company, a general collector, and well known as a specialist in English stamps; E. H. Fallows, of the firm of Carter & Fallows, Attorneys at Law, 18 Wall Street; F. G. Ross, well known as the personal representative of Lillian Russell, and through his travels with the great singer acquainted with collectors in every large city of the United States; and, finally, the editor of the *Post Office*, who will act as the manager of the new company.

* * *

The idea at the foundation of the American Collectors Company is co-operation. Many new forces will be brought into service in order to carry out this idea.

The first is to interest collectors in every part of the country so that they will become personally desirous of making the plan successful. Thus with a capital of \$100,000 the par value is only one dollar a share, which gives all a chance to participate.

Another is the establishment of General Agencies throughout the country, giving to some responsible and active collector the oversight of the work in his territory.

A number of such agencies have been established already.

The development of the plan will result in giving to the stockholders all the benefits which they have so signally failed to secure through many of the societies which have been formed only to fall to pieces because of their lack of merit.

Here are a few points in favor of the Collectors Company:

Small expenses. No large salaries.

The company will allow as large discounts on stamps it sells as any other dealers. It will then set aside from its profits a good dividend on the capital stock. Next it proposes each year to set aside a certain amount, depending on the amount of its profits, as a cash surplus which will be a constantly increasing guarantee of the value of its stock. Thus its stockholders will feel a certainty that their company is actually on a firm foundation. The idea of the directors is that nothing talks like money.

* * *

It is not intended in establishing this company to do anything which will antagonize the business of dealers throughout the country. Those everywhere who buy and sell stamps will find it a very valuable thing to have a connection with the American Collectors Company through becoming stockholders therein. It is now certain that the company will take up some very fine and large stocks of stamps and there will be every inducement offered to those desiring to buy stamps who intend to sell them again.

The American Promotion Company reports that subscriptions are coming in rapidly and that many prominent collectors throughout the country are endorsing the plan by becoming stockholders.

It is proposed also to do a good work for collectors in the way of giving permanent and known value to their stamps. It is proposed to establish certain prices, and rules in relation to those prices, which will enable a collector to know first what he must pay for stamps, and in the second place somewhere near what he can get for them when he wishes to sell them. There has been a great deal of uncertainty on the above matters, which has been unavoidable under all the circumstances of the stamp business, but the plans adopted by the American Collectors Company are such that this uncertainty can be done away with to a very great extent.

* * *

We have received the following letter from Mr. C. J. Phillips, of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, London, which explains itself, and points out an error into which the editor, and not Mr. Gremmel, fell through the failure either to notice the statement in an English philatelic journal from which he read the statement concerning premiums that the exhibits noted were not for competition, or else because that journal did not make the matter clear.

DEAR MR. GREMMEL:

In the August number of the Post Office just to hand, I see on page 55 that you congratulate our friend, Mr. W. Thorne, on securing the gold medal for 100 rare stamps, and mention that his competitors included the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha and the Duke of York. I think you should point out the fact that neither of their Royal Highnesses entered their stamps for competition, also that Mr. W. B. Avery, the foremost collector of Great Britain,

did not enter any of his stamps for competition, although he was kind enough to show a large number. In the case of the Royalties, from Her Majesty downwards, they are continually in the habit of helping all kinds of exhibitions by lending valua-

ble and unique goods in their possession. Although this courtesy is very much appreciated, it should be noted that such things are never for competition.

Yours truly,
C. J. PHILLIPS.

NOTES ON ENGLISH STAMPS.

BY W. S. WEBB IN THE PHILATELIC CHRONICLE AND ADVERTISER.

COLORED POSTMARKS.

During the first twenty years or so of 1d postage, inks of various colors were often used for office stamps with name and date, though black was almost exclusively used for cancelling the postage stamps after 1841. Red, blue and green are frequently met with, in various shades, and sometimes you may come across old covers and envelopes, which present quite a gay show. I have one specimen, dated 1853, which has the marks of five places on its back, in as many different colors—black, blue, green, dark and pale red. In two of these the date is absent, the disc enclosed with the circle being quite blank.

PENNY ENVELOPE STAMPS.

Most collectors will have noticed the accidental variety in die No. 150 of the embossed 1d stamp (1868) which has a portion of the outer frame missing, opposite the G in "postage." I have just noticed that die 110 (1864) has also a peculiar feature, viz.—a dome of white, rather less than a small pin-head just outside the right hand date circle, over the figure 4. It is so well formed and distinct that I think possibly it may not be accidental, but perhaps some kind of "mint mark."

PUNCH-CANCELLED POSTCARDS.

Since alluding to these last month, I

have, through the kindness of Mr. G. A. Gosnold, of Bristol, learned where two more of the devices were employed, viz.—that the single $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. hole was used at Bradford in 1871, and the "orb and cross" (inverted in this instance), has been found on a card posted by a firm in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, in Nov., 1870. This seems to show that this mode of cancellation dates back almost, if not quite, to the introduction of postcards.

MORLEY'S NEW CATALOGUE.

Since its appearance I have had occasion for considerable handling of this book, and I have the pleasure to state that it improves on acquaintance—a sure sign of a good thing. I have only one grumble (and that arises out of the very comprehensiveness of the book), which is, that a reference number attached to each variety would have been a great convenience, both to the compiler and his customers: The work is remarkably free from typographical errors, considering its mass of detail; I may here point out two which I have noticed—on page 84, the date of issue of the second group of "I. R. Official" stamps should be 1885, instead of 1883, and on page 64 the word "revenue" in the heading should be replaced by "telegraph." The pricing of English

stamps used abroad is carried out on a new and particularly good system, being both concise and convenient.

1D. RED WITH FIRMS' NAMES.

In last months' issue appears Mr. Morley's list of plate Nos. of penny

red, with firms' names, Govt. printed in red on back. I am able to add the following: J. & C. Boyd & Co., Nos. 118, 120, 127, 139, 154, 162 and 167. W. H. Smith & Son, 147. Probably several more numbers exist.

INCIDENTS OF THE LONDON EXHIBITION.

BY C. J. PHILLIPS IN STANLEY GIBBONS' MONTHLY JOURNAL.

A few curious incidents came under our notice, but unfortunately one forgets to note these at the time they occur, and they are lost sight of. We might, however, place one or two on record. During the dinner of the Philatelic Society on the Tuesday, a small boy, who was in attendance at the bottom of the stairs pointing out the way to the dining-room, called out, "This way for the Philanthropic dinner." Probably this was the first time that philatelists had been called philanthropists.

Two ladies called one day at the Exhibition and asked the policeman on duty if he could point out some of the Royal exhibits. He, poor fellow, was not a philatelist, but he had been using his eyes and saw that one case contained stamps and plates of Prince Edward Isle, exhibited, we believe, by the London Society. He at once conducted the ladies to this exhibit, and said, "Here you are, mum; this is a collection belonging to Prince Edward of York."

We sincerely hope that Prince Edward will take after his illustrious father, but we do not think that he is yet of an age to appreciate philately; however, the answer quite satisfied the ladies, who studied the stamps with much interest.

At the annual dinner of the Philatelic Society the Chairman, Mr. M. P. Castle, in responding to the toast of the evening, "The Philatelic Society of London," stated that owing to pressure of work in arranging the exhibits he had had no time to prepare a speech and no time to work up "impromptus" beforehand. Amongst other things he stated that the members of the Executive Committee should be especially endowed with three qualities: First, the digestion of the ostrich, in order to enable them to survive the numerous dinners and banquets; secondly, the imperturbability of the Sphinx, to enable them to answer the most ridiculous questions, etc., with unmoved faces; and, lastly, the constitution of a horse, in order to enable them to get through the immense amount of work that had to be carried out.

During a private visit paid by His Royal Highness the Duke of York to the Exhibition, the judges who were on duty happened to find a forgery in the Luxembourg exhibit of Mr. Gordon Smith. His Royal Highness was apparently greatly amused at this, and on bidding farewell to the judges told them to carefully examine the same exhibitor's cases of South Australian stamps and try to find a forgery amongst them. In this, we believe, they did not succeed.

The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1897.

No. 79.

THE AMERICAN COLLECTORS COMPANY.

The American Collectors Company which expects to take over Mr. Gremmel's stock of stamps is making excellent progress

Subscriptions and applications for agencies have come from all parts of the Union and even from foreign countries. Collectors' Clubs and Societies everywhere have taken up the matter and are offering their co-operation in our endeavor to make a large and strong collectors' company.

Mr. Gremmel's customers appreciate the opportunity which is offered them to acquire the business which they have made for him, and are sending in their subscriptions to the stock. There have been some misconceptions as to the facts in relation to this stock of stamps.

It is not at present offered for sale to anyone except the collectors of the country through their participation in the American Collectors Company.

Mr. Gremmel himself left written instructions that his stock should be sold to us under certain conditions. No one else has an opportunity to buy unless we are unable to comply with those conditions. We do not believe that collectors will allow this stock to be sold to anyone but themselves; indeed, from the ready response to the plan of our company as already set before them, we know that they will not. The American Collectors Company is an

assured success, from the number of subscriptions already received and the interest shown by collectors throughout the land.

Many questions are received in relation to our purposes, and the methods which we shall employ in carrying them out.

Our first purpose is to place the shares of the company on a dividend paying basis. We propose to make them a solid and profitable investment. This is not, however, our largest purpose. We shall make the company a means whereby its stockholders can do the most possible for themselves in increasing and bettering their collections.

For instance, suppose that a shareholder is interested in securing new issues of stamps as fast as they come out. Let him send to us a list of the countries whose stamps he wishes. We have our agents in every land, and by adding the amount of his order to the standing orders which we have with these agents we shall be able to let the stockholder have his new issues at actual cost. Concerning old issues we can act in relation to stockholders in a similar manner so far as some stamps difficult to obtain are concerned.

It is a well known fact that many stamps, even though very low-priced in some instances, are exceedingly hard to

get in any quantity. Nevertheless a stamp company frequently succeeds in securing odd lots of such stamps which it always disposes of to its best customers at large profit.

For instance, the editor of the *Post Office* bought some time since two hundred unused copies of the six ore Sweden unused with post-horn on back. All of them that he cared to sell were taken quickly by customers, Mr. Gremmel himself buying all that we would sell him at double catalogue price for them at the time. It will be the policy of the Collectors Company on securing bargains of this nature to notify its stockholders that they have the first opportunity to buy them for their collections at a fair profit to the company on the actual cost. In other words the shareholders of the company will participate personally and constantly in the profits of any bargains which we may be able to secure as a company.

The idea, as will be seen readily, is to do for collectors, becoming members of the company, that which many societies have been organized to do and have failed to accomplish.

One of the great troubles of the collector has always been to come to any conclusion as to the actual cash value of the stamps in his collection. It is a very simple thing to estimate that they are worth a certain proportion of catalogue price, but it has always been an entirely different matter to sell them at that estimate.

The American Collectors Company proposes, by means which are within our knowledge at the present time, to establish, by degrees, certain buying and selling proportions which will enable its shareholders to decide as to the actual cash value of good specimens of stamps.

The above is in itself a reason why every collector in the country should support the American Collectors Company by sending his subscription to whatever number of shares he is able to take.

The need of an actual standard of value has been more widely felt than any other need of the business. There have been many attempts at this with more or less of success attending them all.

Again and again we have heard the cry for a standard of values, and no one has been able to respond to the demand. There is the same need to-day, and there exists also the possibility of meeting that need. This great thing will be accomplished by the united action of the collectors of the country. The writer long ago called attention to the truth that the greatest society of the country, the American Philatelic Association, had it in its power to produce a catalogue of United States stamps which should be the accepted standard of value for American collectors. It was, however, perfectly evident that there was no sufficient inducement for the production of such a catalogue. A catalogue is an expense and an enormous one. No society could stand the cost of such a production. An association however, such as the American Collectors Company, which has stamps to sell on the bases of the values which it establishes, can do this easily and satisfactorily. This in itself is enough to make all collectors support this company to the extent of their ability.

This company is a collectors' company pure and simple, but the dealers throughout the land understand very well that it is not intended in the slightest degree to antagonize their interests. There can nothing but good

for all concerned come out of a movement which shall result in the settlement of the questions and difficulties of collectors. Such settlement will naturally produce also a large increase in the numbers of those interested in collecting. It will be a comparatively easy thing to arouse the collecting instinct which is in every one, and direct toward the most interesting of all such pursuits, stamp collecting, when men may be assured that in so doing they are not in danger of sinking what money they employ, but are, on the contrary, reasonably sure of considerable profit.

The American Collectors Company when organized will be a limited liability company. Its shares will be paid in full, and its shareholders will not be liable beyond the amount which they have paid in for their stock. A plan of the company which is meeting with great favor is its establishment of General Agencies in all parts of the country. A number of such agencies have been established, and the company is in correspondence with the first collectors throughout the United States, seeking in every city to secure the very best man for the position. An earnest, energetic young man, who has the confidence of all the collectors of his city, is desired in every large place, to give his attention to the work of this association of collectors.

It frequently happens that a dealer who is a collector, seeing that he can do more for himself by taking a General Agency for our company than by trading in a smaller way by himself, offers his services to us, and proposes to us the purchase of his stock of stamps. We are making arrangements of this nature with some good men, and are willing to correspond with others who

consider that such a course would be advantageous to them.

It will not be a difficult thing for an active man located in a large city to secure large enough sales for our company there so that his commission will amount to considerable, even though he devotes his spare time only to the work. It is likely that such an agent working with full knowledge of the possibilities of the field will eventually develop enough trade to make it advisable for the company to place a large stock of stamps in his hands, and open an office in every large center throughout the country.

The company is being approached by collectors in foreign lands, who see at once the possibilities of our enterprise, and there is no question that the American Collectors Company will not only be known everywhere, but also receive the active co-operation and financial aid of collectors throughout the world. We are ready and desirous of establishing agencies in every land. Collectors of standing and influence in large cities everywhere can secure General Agencies for us, and the special advantages attaching to them, by becoming shareholders and making application with proper reference. Mr. Gremmel's business has always brought him into intimate relations with collectors throughout the world, and we are sure that they will be glad to unite with us in building up this company as in a sense a monument to his memory.

CRAWFORD CAPEN.

ADVERTISERS.—It will cost you \$1.50 an inch to advertise in THE POST OFFICE; it would cost you over \$40.00 for postage alone to send a circular to the 3,500 stamp collectors who receive this journal regularly.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, *Editor.*

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½ column.	5 00	15 50	25 50	48 00
1 column.	9 00	24 30	47 60	86 40
1 page.	16 00	48 20	81 60	153 60

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A cross opposite these lines indicates that your subscription expires with this number. A prompt renewal is requested.

The exchanges of the POST OFFICE will greatly oblige if they will send one copy to THE POST OFFICE at 85 Nassau Street, and another to the editor, P. O. Box 2,874, New York.

* * *

We print at the request of some of his friends and customers a picture of Mr. Gremmel. This is a cut made some years ago from a photograph which then represented his appearance quite well. The difference between this and his looks during the last years of his life, while due in part to his greater age, was caused largely by the progress of the malady which finally took him from us. This picture will give those who have been his friends through years of business relations with him an understanding of his appearance

which is perhaps as near to the actual man as it is possible to get.

* * *

The editor feels that a considerable injustice has been done Mr. William Thorne in the matter of the exhibit which he made at the London exhibition.

Soon after the note appeared in our August number in relation to his securing the first prize, in which we made the mistake of asserting that it was in competition with the exhibits of the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha and H. R. H. the Duke of York, Mr. Thorne called upon Mr. Gremmel and asked to have the statement corrected. Mr. Gremmel said nothing of this to the editor at the time and his death occurred before the next date for writing editorials for the POST OFFICE. Our publication of Mr. C. J. Phillips' letter last month without mention of Mr. Thorne's own correction of our error would lead one astray as to the effort he made personally to correct the mistake. However, we do not really think that this additional mistake could really injure Mr. Thorne in the opinion of his English friends, for all who know him cannot but feel how perfectly honorable he must be in all his actions by an inherent moral necessity which pertains to his character.

Any one noticing the matter would be much more likely to lay the difficulty at our door, where it belongs, than to ascribe any unworthy action to Mr. Thorne.

* * *

It is worth while to recur just at the present time to the subject of the S. S. S. S., the society whose masterful inactivity in the presence of the crop of Queen's Jubilee speculative issues was predicted by the POST OFFICE.



HENRY GREMMEL.

That prediction, however, was superfluous, as every one knew that there was never any really vigorous and efficient life in the concern. There are those who are disposed to bewail the fact, that in the present state of Philately wherein she has no strong defender against the inroads of impecunious governments, and those not above securing a petty profit by robbing the "stamp collecting crank," the S. S. S. S. was not more fully sustained by the collecting world in its effort to suppress the great nuisance. This is a waste of your tears, friends. Never shed one over the demise of a society which was diseased from its birth. It is far better dead than that it should exhibit before our eyes the spectacle of its continuous suffering.

We took ground in the POST OFFICE from the start against this society. We claimed that it would do more harm than good. The outcome has justified our view. Many of the original members of this society were perfectly honest in their desire to make an end of speculative stamps, but they were not keen enough to see that the association with themselves, of those whose interest consisted in making a market for certain issues of this class, was certain death to the society itself. Men's views cannot be expected to run counter to their business interests. The reception of men into the society, whose business was selling speculative issues, was heralded as a victory for the cause. It really meant its destruction. The society, through its decrying of speculative issues and entire upsetting of the views of many young collectors throughout the world who valued the pretty picture stamps above all others, did more harm than under the circumstances it could possibly do good.

The editor of the POST OFFICE has been supposed by some to be a friend of certain speculative issues. This is a mistake. He is unalterably opposed to the whole business. Nevertheless he is disposed to look at it on its practical side. Our view is that everything really efficient as against speculative issues of all sorts should be done. We wish just now to recall to the minds of collectors that which we asserted several years ago was the only way to deal with this question. Then our words went for naught, for the idea of this mighty S. S. S. S. was the dream of the Philatelic world. Now we trust they will meet with attention and that a great result for the good of our pursuit will be the outcome.

* * *

We asserted then that the only effective way to deal with this question was for publishers of catalogues and printed albums to unite in the decision to leave out of their publications all speculative issues. We contend now that this action, carried out to a limited extent, has been the only one that has really accomplished anything for the good of Philately. See the list of unpriced speculative issues in the back of the fifty-seventh catalogue. Who is there that looks upon them with anything but scorn? This is the way, and the only way, to deal with the subject of speculative issues. Once allow them a place in catalogues and albums, and they become objects of collection for the whole fraternity. No amount of talk will down them—"They are in the catalogue; there is a place for them in the album"—that is all a collector has to say. The few who discriminate for themselves may throw aside speculative issues; the majority will not. In other words, the world's great firms of

dealers have the whole means of destroying speculation in stamps immediately in their power. Collectors, however, are the real masters. All they have to do is to unite in a determined call upon the dealing firms to stop listing all speculative issues to bring the business to an immediate close.

* * *

The collectors of the world are not under any necessity to buy stamps. They can stop if they will. The dealers must sell in order to exist. Let, then, the collectors say to the great dealing firms, "We will not buy one single stamp of you unless you stop listing all speculative issues." We would soon see who had the power. The result of such combined action on the part of collectors would be that within one single year all speculative issuing of stamps would cease.

* * *

It is best to deal with this matter practically. The writer cannot see how under the present methods and conditions of collecting, stamps already listed can be dropped from catalogues and albums. Anything that is a legitimate postal issue once listed is generally accepted, and then it is simply upsetting to the weaker ones among collectors to say anything against it.

The question now is: Can Philately stand her present dose. It seems to us she can but that if it is continued it will poison and eventually kill her.

* * *

Treating the matter definitely and practically, the Seebeck stamp is the point around which the whole discussion revolves.

It was a highly speculative thing, but it was very attractive, especially to the young.

It should have been refused a place

in the catalogues and albums. It would not have lasted then. It has secured its place, but so great has been the outcry by collectors that its author has determined to make no more such contracts. The notice in certain papers of an offer to the Bolivian Government on the part of Mr. Seebeck is a mistake. The proposal was one made years ago.

Our view concerning the suppression of speculative stamps in relation to the Seebeck issues, simply stated, is that we can stand what we have at the present time. These attractive stamps will not harm our pursuit if an end is now actually made to their issue. The editor is not adverse to their collection. Indeed his personal opinion is that the collector, who, in these days of the ill-repute of these stamps, fills the pages in his album devoted to them will, in the course of a few years congratulate himself on their acquisition.

We do not, however, wish to be mistaken. We are absolutely opposed to the issuing of such stamps, and we now declare that in case Mr. Seebeck or any one else undertakes to start again to make such issues and the catalogues list them, we are ready in the general interests of collectors to issue a catalogue which shall be pledged never to list speculative stamps.

We believe the collectors of the country will back us up in this and will furnish us the capital for catalogues and albums based on this idea.

* * *

Our whole notion, in a nut-shell, is that philately's best interest will be served by silent submission to the past, whereby the money already invested by multitudes of collectors and dealers will not be wasted, and by grim determination in relation to the future not to submit to further injury.

The collectors of the world have the control of this matter if they make up their minds to approve and uphold the philatelic press in what is practicable, that is, the demand upon publishers of catalogues and albums that they no longer allow a place to speculative issues.

NOTES ON COLLECTING.

BY H. A. LA PAUGH.

Half the pleasure of stamp collecting is in letting the "other fellow" see your treasures, especially if you can show him a number of specimens that are missing in his own collection.

The remaining half of Philatelic delights is comprised in hunting bargains and the discovery of rarities.

From our own experience we would suggest a very profitable field for the discovery of valuable specimens is to look in your own collection and with a little study you will be surprised to find stamps, the worth of which you have not even suspected.

From the old, old story of having had a fine collection of United States which went for a song some years since, the writer out of spite at himself for letting them go, took to collecting English as a specialty, shying all the high priced stamps of that country, for a little observation soon showed that every dealer had specimens for sale, so that, it being only a matter of price, they were not what was wanted by this particular collector, but picking up instead every odd looking shade or any stamp that looked the least out of the ordinary. Buying in this haphazard manner soon resulted in the accumulation of numerous copies of the same denomination and issue all differing in some way one from another. A little study showed unsuspected rarities that were worth as many dollars as they cost cents.

The most interesting and at the same

time most valuable were what is known as the Colonial Cancellations. Before the Postal Union had spread over the world, great difficulty was experienced in sending letters from South America, the West Indies, and several far East points such as Suez, Malta and Gibraltar, to foreign countries.

To remedy this, the English Government established a post office in each British Consulate abroad, furnishing the Consul with a supply of the then current English stamps (on the theory that most all the letters would be carried in English ships) and a cancelling stamp, which obliterating device was always the next in the series that were being used at the time in England.

This cancelling stamp consisted of a date and a number preceded by a letter, such as "B. O 1" Alexandria, "BO 2" Suez, "A 25" Malta, "A 26" Gibraltar. Some of these stamps are common, such as "C 51" St. Thomas, which at the time of use of these "Provisionals" was a great shipping point. Some are of great rarity, such as "F 69" Savanilla. It is possible to find both uncatalogued, and unknown varieties which add to the interest.

This method of collecting has enabled the writer to pick up a collection of Great Britain stamps, cataloguing some \$2,000, at a total expense about \$50.00, and this without either accumulating duplicates or exchanging a single specimen.



United States—The *American Journal of Philately* gives the following interesting information concerning some lately discovered War Department Envelopes, which we reproduce :

“ Mr. F. J. Schoof, a collector of entire envelopes in this city, recently submitted to us two envelopes of the War Department, which were entirely unknown to us, and had never been chronicled in any catalogue. The envelopes are as follows: 3c red on fawn, knife 42, size 7, wmk. E, round gum; 6c red on white, knife 46, size 8, wmk. D, square gum.

“ One of the most remarkable things about the envelopes was the fact that one was used in January, 1890, and the other in 1895, and it struck us as extremely peculiar that any of these official stamps should have passed the post office at so late a date. In order to satisfy ourselves in regard to this point, we addressed a letter to Gen. Marcus J. Wright, of the War Records Office in Washington, who now replies to us as follows :

“ The explanation asked for is that I was furnished with a large number of stamped envelopes and having regular correspondents all over the southern states I sent them envelopes for the purpose of enclosing me such official Confederate papers as they might obtain. Some of them were held over to a late day, as those you have. I occasionally receive some of these.

“ It will therefore be seen that these War Department envelopes are still available for use in that department, and this will no doubt be news to most of our readers.”

It having been reported from various sources at about the same time that the current 2c stamp had been found on laid paper with plate number 406 in the margin, Mr. B. F. Gottling writes as follows: “ I submit for your inspection a strip of six 2c stamps from plate 406, not laid, showing that not all the stamps from that plate are on laid paper.” Which may be of interest to some who do not have access to plate numbers.

Argentine Republic—A stamp of the value of 25 centavos has been issued similar in design to the 5c of 1890. It is chronicled by the *American Journal of Philately* as sent them by Mr. Harrison of Buenos Ayres. Its appearance at this time is strange, since it does not correspond with stamps of the current type, and no reason for such a late issue can be given.

Adhesive. Perforated 11½.

25c carmine.

Austria—This country has issued a new postal card with instructions in German, Ruthenian and Polish.

Postal Card.

2kr brown.

Bolivia—This country has issued a set of stamps to take the place of the

previous issue largely forged, which has been called in. *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* illustrates the Un Boliviano. The design is a front view of Bolivar, resembling in many respects the 50c and higher values of the present issue of Peru.

Ecuador—*Le Timbre Poste* chronicles the new stamps of this country of which we give the following list :

Adhesives. Perforated 15½.

1c green.

2c orange.

10c brown.

20c yellow.

50c ultramarine.

1s bistre.

5s lilac.

Fernando Po—The *London Philatelist* states that another provisional similar in type to the one chronicled last month has been issued.

Provisional Adhesive.

5c on ½c de peso gray, black surcharge.

French Offices in Zanzibar—The *American Journal of Philately* gives a full description as follows of the Zanzibar Provisionals lately issued, which have been chronicled also by *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* and the *London Philatelist*.

Through a valued correspondent in this colony, we have just received information in regard to the issue of a set of provisional stamps, which were in use from June 24th until July 29th, the date on which the new surcharges, which we chronicled last month, were received in the colony, from Paris. Some of these provisional stamps were made by surcharging a few values of the current issue in use in Zanzibar, but it appears that the stock of these was very small, and would not have suf-

ficed for the demands of the colony for the period in question. It was therefore found necessary to also use the margins of the sheets, and to surcharge these in a similar manner to that used for the manufacture of the surcharges which were printed on the stamps themselves. Our information is absolutely reliable, and states that the following stamps were issued :

800 25c or 2½ anna on 5c green on greenish.

200 25c or 2½ anna on margins of the 5c stamp.

200 25c or 2½ anna on 15c blue.

60 25c or 2½ anna on margins of the 15c stamps.

150 25c or 2½ anna on 10c black on lavender.

60 25c or 2½ anna on margins of the 10c stamps.

300 50c or 5 anna on 30c brown on bistre.

100 50c or 5 anna on margins of the 30c stamps.

150 50c or 5 anna on 40c vermilion on straw.

60 50c or 5 anna on margins of the 40c stamps.

There are varieties of surcharge, such as straight and curly tail, in "2" of "2½," thin and thick figures in "25" (50), etc. ; no complete list of these can be given at present.

A number of peculiar combinations have resulted from this novel method of producing provisional postage stamps, as, if the sheet of French or French Colonial stamps is examined, it will be found that on some of the edges there is a line of the color corresponding to the color of the stamp, whereas on some other edge the paper is perfectly white in some cases, and in others tinted. We therefore have some of these provisionals which were printed on the margins of the sheets which show a line of color running

across the center, and a line of tint either above or below this, whereas some of the others are perfectly white. We are reliably informed that no speculative intent attached to the issue in question, and these stamps will no doubt become among the rarest French provisionals.

Great Britain—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* reports the addition of a 1 penny value to the list of Official stamps.

Adhesive.

Official, surcharged Government Parcels 1 p lilac, black surcharge.

India, Bundi—This State has issued a series similar in type to the stamps of Alwur.

Adhesive, White Laid paper. Imperf.

- 1a red.
- 2a green.
- 4a green.
- 8a red.
- 1r yellow.

Charkhari—Stamps with addition of final "s" to the word "anna" have been issued, according to *Le Timbre Poste*.

Adhesives. Thin wove paper.

- 1a green, final "s.
- 2a " "
- 4a " "

Envelope, 140 x 78 mm.

- 1a green, final s.

Postal Card, 126 x 78 mm.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ on rose lilac, laid buff.

Cochin—*Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* states that the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 puttans now come on thin wove paper with indistinct watermark of an umbrella-like form.

Adhesives.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ p orange, watermark umbrella.
- 2p purple " "

Liberia—A new stamp has been issued for inland postage. It is of homely design, having a large 3 at center.

Adhesive. Perforated 14.

- 3c red and green.

Mexico—Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have received wrappers and envelopes of this country different from the ordinary types; also a new postal card.

Wrappers 2c rose, formula red.

- 2c " " green.

Postal Card.

- 3c and 3c brown, formula carmine.

Philippine Islands—This country has furnished a new set of surcharges to further discredit its issues with philatelists.

Adhesives. Rectangular Surcharge. Provisionals. Perforated 14.

- 5c on 5c green, 1893.
- 15c on 15c rose, 1894.
- 15c on 15c red brown, 1892.
- 20c on 20c violet brown, 1894.
- 20c on 20c pale brown, 1892.
- 25c on 25c blue, 1891.

Peru—Through Messrs. Williams & Co. information comes of the issue of several new stamps, and they have sent us a 5c green of current type.

Adhesives. Perforated 12.

- 5c green.

Unpaid. Surcharged Deficit.

- 5c vermilion, black surcharge.
- 10c orange, " "

Postal Card. Provisional Issue.

- 2c on 5c white, blue surcharge.

Roumania—Mr. A. Krassa has discovered a 15 bani red of the issue of 1869 on laid paper.

Straits Settlements—Pahang—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* notes the issue of the 5c of the new type.

Adhesive. Watermark Crown C. A. Perforated 14.

- 5c lilac and gray.

Wurtemberg—The large sized 5pf official envelopes of this country being little used have been changed into 10pf by the addition of another stamp of the same design.

Official Envelope.

- 5pfx5pf green, buff, 355x142 mm.

THE MONTHLY PACKET OF NEW ISSUES.

It will be necessary to discontinue the furnishing of this packet for a month or two until the matters relating to the disposition of Mr. Gremmel's stock of stamps are settled. Subscribers will have their subscriptions extended.

THE COLLECTORS CLUB.

351 Fourth Avenue, New York.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

William Herrick, President.

Charles Gregory, Vice-President.

John W. Scott, Treasurer, 40 John street.

J. M. Andreini, Secretary, 20 W. 75th street.

Henry L. Calman, Hiram E. Deats, John N. Luff, F. E. P. Lynde, Frederick A. Nast.

COMMITTEES.

Executive.—H. L. Calman, Chairman; J. N. T. Levick, J. W. George.

House.—F. E. P. Lynde, Chairman; H. E. Deats, John N. Luff, Albert Perrin, W. S. Scott.

Amusements.—John N. Luff, Chairman; J. B. Brevoort, J. Oakley Hobby, P. F. Bruner, C. L. Moreau.

Auditing.—F. A. Nast, Chairman; Henry Clotz, Alvah Davison.

Literary.—H. E. Deats, Chairman; Jos. J. Casey, Jos. S. Rich.

Membership.—Chas. Gregory, Chairman; R. R. Bogert, H. Collin, H. Clotz, H. N. Terrett.

Furnishing.—J. W. Scott, Chairman; R. R. Bogert, H. L. Calman.

Admittance by Membership Card.

Notice of coming events and applications for membership will be found posted on the bulletin boards.

For special information inquire of the House Committee.

Fifteenth meeting of the Board of Governors held October 11, 1897, at the Club House, 351 Fourth avenue.

Present, Messrs. Scott, Luff, Lynde, Nass, Gregory and the Secretary.

Vice President Gregory as Chairman called the meeting to order at 8.10 P.M.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

The Secretary read communications from Messrs. Ackerman, Wolsieffer, Luff, Deats, Mekeel, Mathews, Carion, and Collin.

Appropriation of \$5 for binding books was made at the request Library Committee.

Request of Mr. Mathews granted.

Special Committee on Cuts reported the expenditure of \$36, as authorized.

Report of Committee on Amusements was then received.

House Committee report received.

Treasurer's report embodying receipts and expenditures up to the end of Club fiscal year duly examined by the Auditing Committee, was then presented and it was accepted with congratulations. Balance in bank on 30th Sept., \$650.04.

Appropriation of \$40 for ivory balls was passed and Chairman of House Committee authorized to purchase a set.

Upon ballot the following candidates were unanimously elected subscribing members of the Club:

(33). Reginald Stelfox, Demarest, N.

J.

(34). D. H. Bacon, Derby, Conn.

(35). P. M. Wolsieffer, 201 S. Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

(36). Henry F. Lyons, Jr., 383 First street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

(37). William Brown, St. Thomas square, Salisbury, Eng.

(40). W. H. Sussdorf, Woodside, L.I. and they were declared duly elected.

The following application for membership was reported:

(41). Erik Enequist, 136 Liberty street.

Proposed by John W. Scott.

Seconded by Walter S. Scott.

and his name was ordered to be posted.

The Secretary reported having issued a two weeks visitor's ticket to Mr. Ed. L. Smiley, of Boston.

An informal discussion was then held on the subject of amendments to the constitution, proposed by Mr. Luff.

Adjourned at 9.55 P.M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 80.

A NEW PLAN FOR THE BENEFIT OF PHILATELY.

BY CRAWFORD CAPEN.

Reprinted from the New York edition of Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.

It has been evident for some time to all interested in stamp collecting that it was necessary to do something to put life and energy into American philately.

A few years ago the selling of stamps and the buying of them was very lively. There was a great deal done in every way which had a tendency to arouse and keep the interest of collectors at the highest pitch.

The hard times came, and while stamp collecting stood them better than almost anything which can be named, still the final result of the strain to which all interested in collecting were subjected, was a break. This has proved to be a more serious matter than was at first supposed. The depression has extended in many directions. Stamps which were regarded as gilt-edged security for the money invested in them have, in many instances, fallen in price, and in other cases because of their high cost are regarded by most collectors as too valuable to purchase, even though large discounts from the list prices are made. The depression is not due to the hard times alone. Much of it is the result of too rapid advance in the prices of stamps both in this country and in Europe.

There has been a very great and material change for the better in all the lines of general business, which has been perfectly evident to anyone closely associated with life in the great monetary center of the country, whose very inmost point is known by the name of Wall street.

This improvement has not extended to the stamp business. There are some ways in which there has been gain, but the life that should have been imparted to collecting by the force which has been injected into business affairs has not made itself evident as it should. These facts have set many collectors and dealers thinking. There has been more than one way suggested in which to make progress and to arouse the general interest.

The writer was associated, as the editor and manager of the young collectors' paper, known as *Stamps*, with one of the best movements in this direction. A very successful year in managing that business when the hard times are considered, has made all feel that it was not enough—that a much more radical method must be employed in order to re-arouse the collecting world to the interest in stamps which was necessary.

The sickness and subsequent death of Mr. Gremmel resulted in the organizing of the new concern, known as the American Collectors Company, which aims at such a union of collectors throughout the country as will really make the very strongest support for collecting interests. The general idea is a great association of collectors. The basis of that association is to be an arrangement which will reverse the common effect in relation to every association which has been started by collectors and has failed to be of benefit to them—that is an arrangement whereby those who unite with it receive constant dividends of one sort and another from the association, instead of being out of pocket through the paying of dues to a society.

It has the plan not only to pay dividends upon the stock of this company, but the idea is to furnish information and to give opportunities for the buying of stamps which it is entirely impossible for collectors to get by the methods which have been adopted in the past for dealing in stamps. This is one of the strongest points in favor of the society, and another is the fact that it will put all the business both of collecting and dealing upon a more substantial basis than it has ever had.

One of the great difficulties which collectors have experienced has been their inability to tell what stamps that they purchased were worth. They have had the catalogue and have been able to estimate value on the basis of catalogues, but there has never been any certainty in relation to actual value.

We believe that it is a perfectly possible thing, if the co-operation of all collectors can be secured, to establish

a permanent relation between the buying and selling values of stamps.

Take stamps listed at five cents each and upwards, for instance, on the supposition that they are correctly priced. The buying value of good specimens might easily be established at 60 or 75 per cent. of their net selling price. It is impossible within the limits of an article to state how or by what plans this can be accomplished, but those who have been intimately connected with the facts relating to the pricing of stamps for American collectors can see readily in what way great improvement can be made along lines which will ultimately result in a permanent relation between buying and selling prices.

All know very well that there is great difference in the condition of stamps. At the same time, the ordinary catalogue price is made on the basis of a fair specimen in good condition. The fact that there may be some relation established is evident from the way in which dealers have in years past issued not only selling but also buying lists.

A certain prominent dealer has always had a buying list of prices which he was willing to give for stamps, but during the depression of the last year he has been unable to take large quantities of stamps offered.

The great difference between the prices in the buying list and those of the selling list was due to the very large discounts which have been given in the selling of stamps. There must be, and this would naturally be the first business of the Collectors Company, a permanent relation established between the long price and the net price of stamps.

The next step is the making of such

an arrangement with collectors generally that when stamps are purchased it will be known that they can be sold. The spreading of the shares of the company among many of the collectors of the country will have a tendency to produce what is required in this direction.

The American Collectors Company has established its capital at \$100,000, because it needs for its purposes this large amount in order to do its work effectively.

It has, however, with the idea of allowing every one to secure an interest in it, made the price of its shares one dollar each, fully paid and not assessable, in order that every collector throughout the country may have an opportunity to participate in the undertaking.

It may not be seen at first how a large enterprise of this sort can benefit the trade in general, but those who think of the opportunities which the American Collectors Company will have through its general and its ordinary agents to arousing a widespread interest in stamps will catch the idea

of the real help and impetus this company can give to collecting. It will be a perfectly simple matter, with the aid of the large number of shareholders, to start many new collectors; to interest them in the various forms of collecting—in other words to double and treble inside of a very short time the amount of collecting that is done in the United States.

We shall show collectors how to buy stamps cheaply, how to buy those stamps which are best worth buying, how to make collections which will be permanently valuable, and in which it will be worth while to invest whatever sum of money they may care to use in this way.

The American Collectors Company would not be a good thing for collecting in general unless it had a high aim and a determined purpose. This its many friends who have given it their hearty co-operation and their subscriptions declare that it possesses, and they propose to make it all that it hopes to be for the general interests of our fraternity.

GREATER NEW YORK AND THE MAILS.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL GARY WILL APPOINT A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Postmaster-General Gary will shortly appoint a commission to investigate the effect of the Greater New York consolidation on the postal service, and on the basis of its report a special message will be sent to Congress asking for authority to abolish the county seats to be embraced and calling for a special appropriation to cover the expense of Greater New York service.

It is expected that First Assistant Postmaster-General Heath, Chief Geo.

Beavers, of the Salary and Allowance Division, and Private Secretary Dawson will constitute the commission.

The Postmaster-General, it is said, will not confine himself to the present boundaries of Greater New York, but will extend jurisdiction as far east as the State line and across to Irvington-on-the-Hudson. Some consideration has been given to embracing a strip on the west side from Jersey City up some distance.



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS :

THE POST OFFICE will be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to THE POST OFFICE, 85 Nassau Street, New York.

United States—The editor of the POST OFFICE has found the 30c of the Interior Department on American paper. This was a very unexpected discovery as no stamps of this value of American print have been found among unused remainders of the Interior Department. The specimen is canceled, and shows not only the ordinary characteristics of the paper in use during the American period, but also its print possesses many of the peculiarities of American Bank Note Company workmanship.

Official stamp. Interior Department. *Adhesive.* Printed by the American Bank Note Company.

30c vermilion.

Canada—We have received from Mr. Rudolph C. Bach of Montreal specimens of the new $\frac{1}{2}$ c stamp of Canada. We understand that it is intended to bring out new values of Canadian stamps as old values are exhausted. The one-half cent stamp of the older issue was sent to many who sought to buy the one half cent Jubilee stamp, thus the issue became exhausted and this value is consequently the first to appear. The design is very neat. It consists of a head of the Queen as she

appears to-day, faced to left in oval with four maple leaves in the corners of the stamp.

Adhesive. Perforated.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c black.

China—Mr. Morgenthau has shown us a surcharged two cent stamp of this country just received by him in which the design has been re-drawn. The most noticeable difference is in the figure 2 which is quite different in shape from that of the stamps first received in this country.

Adhesive. Perforated. Provisional, 1894. Re-engraved and Surcharged.

2c black on green.

The regular issue has been received in this country and consists of three different and odd designs, the central figures of which are a dragon, a fish, a bird.

Adhesives. Perforated.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c brown violet.

1c yellow.

2c orange red.

4c yellow brown.

5c rose.

10c dark green.

20c violet brown.

30c carmine rose.

50c yellow green.

- \$1 carmine and rose.
- \$2 orange and yellow.
- \$5 yellow green and pink.

We have found in our stock some $\frac{1}{2}$ c of the surcharged stamps imperforate vertically.

Adhesive, 1897.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c imperforate vertically.

French Colonies—Mr. J. C. Morgenthau has shown us new stamps of the ordinary type for another colony, that of Grand Comore.

Adhesives. Perforated. Name surcharged in color.

- 1c lilac.
- 2c brown.
- 4c claret.
- 5c green.
- 10c lavender.
- 15c blue.
- 20c red.
- 25c rose.
- 30c brown.
- 40c red.
- 50c carmine.
- 75c deep violet.
- 1fr bronze green.

Leeward Islands—Mr. J. C. Morgenthau has shown us the 1p and $2\frac{1}{2}$ p of the Sexagenary issue with double surcharge.

Adhesives. Perforated.

- 1p green and mauve, double surcharge.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ p carmine and mauve, double surcharge.

Newfoundland—We have received from Mr. Ohman a one cent Newfoundland stamp which is surcharged on the 3c of 1890-'95, two black bars being used to cancel the value.

This stamp is likely to be exceedingly rare in uncanceled condition, as it is said that the postmaster of New-

foundland would allow none of them to be sold. Postage is paid at the office and officials attach the stamps. They will not even allow the sending of several circulars to the same party. A new issue is expected shortly.

1897—*Adhesives. Perforated.*

1c on 3c, black surcharge.

Orange Free State—*Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* announces the 1sh value in brown.

Adhesive. Perforated.

1sh brown.

Queensland—The one penny stamp now comes with figures in all four corners.

Adhesives. Perforated 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

1p vermilion, figures in all corners.

Sarawak—The *American Journal of Philately* announces the appearance of the 50c and \$1.00 of the type of 1889. The one dollar has the value in black.

Adhesives. Perforated 14.

50c gray green.

\$1.00 “ “ and black.

THE MONTHLY PACKET OF NEW ISSUES.

It will be necessary to discontinue the furnishing of this packet for a month or two until the matters relating to the disposition of Mr. Gremmel's stock of stamps are settled. Subscribers will have their subscriptions extended.

ADVERTISERS.—It will cost you \$1.50 an inch to advertise in THE POST OFFICE; it would cost you over \$40.00 for postage alone to send a circular to the 3,500 stamp collectors who receive this journal regularly.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, *Editor.*

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

25 cents a Year to all Countries.

All subscriptions must begin with current number.

ADVERTISING RATES.

SPACE.	1 Month.	3 Months.	6 Months.	12 Mon's.
1 inch.	\$1 50	\$4 05	\$7 65	\$14 50
2 inches.	2 75	7 40	14 00	28 50
3 inches.	4 00	10 80	20 40	38 40
½ column.	5 00	13 50	25 50	48 00
1 column.	9 00	24 80	47 60	86 40
1 page.	16 00	43 20	81 60	153 60

Forms close on the tenth of each month.

TERMS.—Cash in advance.

We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement which we consider detrimental to the interests of the journal, without giving any reasons whatsoever.

CIRCULATION.

3,500 copies each month, *guaranteed.*

EXCHANGES.

We will exchange two copies with all philatelic papers. Address all communications to

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau Street, New York.

A cross opposite these lines indicates that your subscription expires with this number. A prompt renewal is requested.

The exchanges of the POST OFFICE will greatly oblige if they will send one copy to THE POST OFFICE at 85 Nassau Street, and another to the editor, P. O. Box 2,874, New York.

* * *

We have received from the house of Alph. Bruck, Rio de Janeiro, a very neat album adapted to the wants of collectors of the stamps of Brazil. Spaces are made for all varieties, including differences of perforation, and even telegraph stamps have a place allotted to them. The spaces for very many stamps are separate one from another, and blank leaves are left at the end of the book for later issues and varieties not mentioned, which the collector may wish to include in his album. The sight of such a book as this makes one feel that it would be a

very nice thing to have it filled with the attractive issues of Brazil, which have always been well liked by collectors.

* * *

One of the finest pieces of work that has ever been done for the benefit of collectors was Mekeel's New York edition of his *Weekly Stamp News*. The clear cuts, the varied information in relation to collectors and collecting interests in the metropolis, and a number of excellent articles, all combined to make this an issue which will not be forgotten soon, nor one which its publisher can easily surpass in his effort to produce an acceptable weekly journal.

* * *

The publisher of the *Weekly* was kind enough to print in this edition a general sketch of the plans and purposes of the American Collectors Company. We reproduce this in another place in this paper as it contains explanations of many things relating to the policy of the Company concerning which we have had inquiries.

* * *

The American Collectors Company was incorporated November 15th, under the laws of the State of New Jersey, as par value of one dollar a share is desirable, and New York allows nothing less than five dollars. Certificates of stock have been sent to all who have paid for their shares in full.

While many subscriptions have been received we understand that many collectors, as is very natural, have been waiting until the organization of the Company was completed before sending in their subscriptions. The Company will be glad to hear from all such at once.

* * *

The organization as arranged now is

not final. The editor of the Post OFFICE does not wish to hold the presidency of the Company, much preferring that some well-known collector should occupy the place. It has been thought advisable therefore to put his name there for the present in order that a change may be made easily when the proper time arrives. The Secretary is a friend who acted as an incorporator and who will resign in order that the editor of the Post OFFICE may become Secretary when he resigns the Presidency.

* * *

The organization as it stands at present as arranged for the first year by the incorporators is:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Crawford Capen, Fred. G. Ross,
A. C. Wall, N. B. Powter,
Edw. H. Fallows.

OFFICERS.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, *President.*
FRED. G. ROSS, *Vice-President.*
N. B. POWTER, *Secretary.*
EDWARD H. FALLOWS, *Treasurer.*

GENERAL AGENTS.

Boston, Geo. L. Toppan.
Burlington, Vt., Harry P. Whitcomb.
Chicago, B. A. Cottlow, M.D.
Cleveland, Ohio, W. J. Brodie.
Clifton, Tex., C. O. Nelson, Jr.
Colorado, Pierce & Zahn, Denver.
Detroit, Irving E. Patterson.
Harrisburg, Pa., Longnecker & Weigel.
Lancaster, Pa., W. H. Welchans.
Los Angeles, Cal., E. S. Stilson.
Lowell, Mass., Samuel Burbank.
Montreal, Can., F. W. Wurtele.
New Orleans, H. G. Hoffmann.
Newark, N. J., Wm. Devey, Jr.

North Carolina, Luther B. Tuthill,
South Creek.

Omaha, Frank Brown.
Philadelphia, Francis K. Delp.
Pittsburgh, Pa., A. Platz.
Plainfield, N. J., Geo. E. Marx.
Providence, Percival Parrish.
Haverhill, Mass., Herbert A. Chase.
San Francisco, Cal., Chas. D. Lowe.
Springfield, Mass., F. Newell Chapin.

* * *

There are in addition to the above list of general agents, a considerable number with whom we are in correspondence in relation to general agencies. It is desired to establish such an agency in every city of the country as soon as possible.

* * *

The Company proposes to begin business very soon. It is perfectly evident, however, that there are a great many things to arrange for such a company before business can be begun in a satisfactory manner.

We propose to make this Company not only a grand association of collectors, but also a paying investment from the start for all connected with it. Not a single move will be made which does not show a profit in it for our shareholders, before it is made.

* * *

The work of taking the inventory of Mr. Gremmel's stock is not yet completed. After this work is finished it will take a week at least to estimate the value of it, and decide concerning the purchase of it by the American Collectors Company.

* * *

The editor of the Post OFFICE has lately acquired a large majority and consequent control of the stock of the American Promotion Company. He

is now the President of that Company, which is incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, and has its offices at 18 Wall Street.

We hope that collectors will feel that this is a guarantee that the financial affairs of the American Collectors Company will be administered in a conservative and satisfactory manner.

* * *

The English correspondent of the American Journal of Philately writes of the revival of interest on his side of the water in the S. S. S. S. Our own opinion on the matter of the utility of such a society is well known. We do not believe that there is any remedy for the flood of speculative issues, which is really practical and effective, except that which has been shown to be such, that is, the refusal of the makers of catalogues to list them.

We really cannot understand the meaning of one paragraph of his letter, *i. e.* "Of course there will remain the question of the catalogues and albums. As Mr. Phillips has publicly withdrawn from the Society we cannot expect him to accept the Society's list of stamps that should be excluded, but I am of opinion that if he includes the rubbish he will divert no small number of English collectors to the Scott Stamp & Coin Co.'s catalogue, if, as I presume, you will not waver in your splendid adherence to the policy of the merciless condemnation and exclusion of rubbish."

We cannot see where the catalogue of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. can be considered superior to that of the English Company which lists stamps condemned by the S. S. S. S. In a previous portion of the letter we find the following, *i. e.* :

'A general discussion followed on

the recent flood of objectionable issues and it was unanimously agreed to black list without further delay all the following issues :

1. Canadian Jubilee Issue.
2. New Foundland, Cabot Series.
3. New South Wales, Hospital Stamps.
4. Victoria, Hospital Stamps.
5. Leeward, Jubilee Surcharge.

We have before us the fifty-eighth edition of the catalogue just published, and in it we find all of the above condemned issues with the exception of the Hospital Stamps, which no one regards as stamps. We think that our readers will, without doubt, regard our views as correct, for the condemnation of the S. S. S. S. seems to be of no validity whatever.

* * *

There is no greater demand at the present time for any stamps than there is for the Leeward Isles Sexagenary stamps. These stamps are as speculative as any that were ever put forth. The number of the stamps issued was so small that the prices have risen steadily—that of the five-shilling stamp jumped at once to \$15—and yet everyday dealers are receiving calls for the stamps, not from young collectors, those who are not supposed to know the difference between good stamps and "speculative rubbish," but from the most advanced collectors of the country.

Why do they want these stamps? Simply because they are interesting. The fact that they are British Colonials certainly adds to their interest, and there may be any number of societies organized to suppress these stamps and they will surely be collected in spite of them. There would on the contrary be very few who would put any money

into them if they knew that they would have no place in catalogues and albums.

* * *

A great deal of thought and discrimination, however, should be exercised when the decision was made to omit anything from the catalogues, even supposing that catalogue makers come to the decision to cease listing speculative issues. We do not believe that any firm of dealers can act in this matter contrary to the views of other dealers in all parts of the world. They must pull together in their decisions against speculative issues just as they do in their determination to list them. We regard the determination to list them as the one which is really profitable. Hence it is not to be expected that the time will come when the dealers will unite in refusal to admit them to their catalogues. The only hope is in the union of collectors themselves. The coming together of other parties, and by an authoritative body deciding to list the new stamps in the catalogue, which is their own property, is the only means whereby the speculative stamp can be destroyed.

* * *

We have had a talk lately with a friend, who is a great collector, who doubts the possibility of a union of collectors in any such undertaking.

He points to failures that have been made and asserts that failure will come in the future because of the failures of the past.

We take an entirely different view of the matter. We believe, and we know, from what we ourselves have done lately, that collectors will unite both for the production of catalogues and

albums and also for the general protection of their interests in stamps.

We are certain that the only thing that is necessary in this country in order to induce them to take up and forward their own interests in a successful manner is to feel that those who are at the head of the work are in reality acting for their interests. It is perfectly certain that if anybody undertakes to push the interests of collectors in general for his selfish and mercenary ends, he will fail as positively as everything of the sort has failed in the past. Personally we do not like too much talk. We would prefer to show American collectors that we are acting for their interests, not by what we say but by what we actually accomplish. We wish personally to assure collectors who have already taken interest in the work which we are now pushing forward that their interests will be placed by us before our own. This may sound like a strong statement, and it is, but when it is understood we think that collectors will agree that we are not insane as at first thought we might be considered.

Generally speaking, the man who claims to be placing other people's interests before his own is simply seeking to deceive in order that he may accomplish his own ends. We save ourselves from this opinion, by showing to collectors that our real interest lies in furthering their ends.

We have incorporated the American Promotion Company under New York laws, for the purpose of doing a legitimate and straightforward business. We propose to make a success of our business by making every Company that we handle a valuable thing for its shareholders. The American Collectors Company is only one of a number of interests which we are serving. Our

own personal interest is most perfectly served by making the American Collectors Company a financial success from the start for the investors in its shares rather than for ourselves.

* * *

The collectors of the country are much larger investors in other lines than they are in the stocks of stamp companies. Is it not perfectly plain that there will be the most for us in making them understand that even in financing a stamp company "every thing we touch turns to gold"?

We want all the collectors of the country interested in this Company. We have secured a great many and the number is increasing rapidly. We have a one-dollar share in order that there may be no one who cannot have an interest; we will say, however, that there have been very few single shares taken. We hope that all who can take a large interest in the Company will do so and help us not only by their good words but also by their money, to do for them what is far more important to them as collectors than to any one else.

THE LEIPSIK PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

[From the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.*]

As a side show to the Industrial Exhibition held this summer at Leipsic the Philatelic Exhibition has been a decided success. Opened on the 20th of September for a fortnight 7,325 visitors paid for admission.

The large hall put at the disposal of the exhibitors was about 280 feet long by 120 wide, and was lit from above. The arrangement was about the same as that in our London Exhibition. The insurance against fire would have cost about £600 and was considered to be unnecessary. A good service of firemen, detectives, and four special watchmen was arranged for both day and night, and has had the very best results. Not a single stamp has been stolen or damaged.

With exception of the two Post Office Mauritius everything was exhibited, and shows what a small section of true philatelists can do. Only members of the Leipsic section of the Dresden Philatelic Society could exhibit, and to be able to show over £50,000 in

value is not so bad for a Society of about 90 members.

One of the noticeable exhibits was:

Consul von Mutzenbecher: Moldavia three 27, one 81, three 108, and several 54 paras; three Tuscany 3 lire; Cantons in profusion; Spain inverted head perf. and imperf. on letter; five New Brunswick 1s; four Nova Scotia 1s; Peru twelve medio peso yellow, two of the error medio peso in rose, one on a letter *se tenant* with the 1 peseta; Nevis, eight sheets, including the 6d lithographed; United States 15, 24 and 30 cents with inverted center; Cape of Good Hope, both errors; Hawaii first issue; Mauritius block of four large fillet; Natal, many copies of both the first two issues, and the 3d blue third issue with star; British Guiana first issue 4 cents yellow and 8 cents green single specimens and on letter, issue of 1856 4 cents carmine and 4 cents blue; two Great Britain 8d brown red; one Brattleboro', a sheet of Providence 5 and 10 cents, St. Louis; New Brunswick Connell stamp used on letter.

Society Reports.

Philatelic Societies containing 25 of our subscribers can have their proceedings reported free of charge.

THE COLLECTORS CLUB.

351 Fourth Avenue, New York.

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FIRST FLOOR.—Office and Assembly Room.

SECOND FLOOR.—Library.
 Room of the Philatelic Society, *front.*
 Room of National Phil. Society, *rear.*
 THIRD FLOOR.—Guest Chambers.
 BASEMENT.—Billiard Room.

Admittance by Membership Card.

Notices of coming events and applications for membership will be found posted on the bulletin boards.
 For special information inquire of the House Committee.

Sixteenth meeting of the Board of Governors held at the Club House, 351 Fourth avenue, November 8, 1897.

Present, Messrs. Scott, Luff, Lynde and the Secretary.

Mr. Lynde was chosen Chairman, and the meeting was called to order at 8:15 P. M.

Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read communications from Messrs. Deats, Wolsieffer, Bacon, Green, Bartels and the N. Y. Printing Company.

The Secretary reported that in accordance with constitutional provisions he had mailed on Nov. 1, 1897, several notices of default, and on the 5th inst., 128 notices to members about amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws, offered by Mr. Luff.

The Secretary also reported that up to date no other amendments had been offered.

The Secretary further reported that he had issued, in behalf of the Committee on Amusements, invitations to an entertainment on the 12th inst.

The Secretary was directed to write to Mr. Bacon, thanking him for his business offer.

The Secretary was instructed to send a list of members to the publishers of "Clubmen of N. Y." and to subscribe for one copy of the work for the Club.

The House Committee reported the purchase of billiard balls, which are giving entire satisfaction.

The Treasurer's report was received. Balance in bank \$927.05.

The Secretary was directed to write to Mr. Merry about the purchase of a piano, suitable for the Club Rooms.

The Treasurer was authorized to issue a share of stock to Mr. Reginald Stelfox.

The Committee on Amusement was authorized to defray cost of oxygen gas

and incidentals connected with the next entertainment.

The Secretary was instructed to send notices of annual meeting two weeks before December 8 to country members, and one week before that date to city members.

Upon ballot the following candidates were elected to Club membership:

(41). Erik Enequist, 136 Liberty St.,
New York.

(42). Rob't A. McKim, 280 B'way,
New York,

and they were duly declared elected.

Adjourned at 9:40 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

McKINLEY SIGNS THE POSTAL TREATY.

[From *New York World*, Wednesday, Nov. 17.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16. — President McKinley to-day signed the treaty recently adopted by the Universal Postal Congress. The treaty will take effect Jan. 1, 1899. Its chief provisions relating to the international carrying of mail matter are as follows:

For territorial transit, including maritime transit of not more than 300 nautical miles, each country in the line of transit is to be compensated by the country of origin at the rate of 18 cents a pound for letters and post cards, and two and one-quarter cents a pound for other articles. This rate is to be reduced every two years of the six at the rate of five, ten and fifteen cents, respectively.

For maritime transit about \$1.45 a pound is allowed for letters and post cards, and nine cents for other articles. This is to be divided *pro rata* among countries in transit, with reduction every two years to \$1.35, \$1.16 and 97 cents. Transit expenses will be further reduced, as payments will be made only on the basis of weights exchanged during 1896, though mails increase in weight about 10 per cent. annually. Commemoration postage stamps will not be recognized in international mails.

Postage stamps are to be printed as far as possible by the various countries as follows: Five-cent in dark blue, two-cent in red, one-cent in green.

ADVERTISE. — Even a small one in the Exchange Department, at 50 cents a month, will bring you bigger returns than a larger ad. in a great many other papers. Over 3,500 different Collectors will read your ad. in THE POST OFFICE.

The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 81.

REVIEW.

The 58th edition of the Scott Stamp & Coin Company's catalogue of postage stamps has been issued. It is, as stated on the title page: "A descriptive list of all postage stamps ever issued by any government in the world, giving their date of issue, color and value. Illustrated with the Types of all Stamps, and giving the prices, used and unused, at which they can be obtained of the publishers; being a useful guide for arranging stamps in the International Stamp Album. Thoroughly revised and corrected."

This work is far more interesting this year than it has been during many years previous. It is issued at a time when there is a great deal of scepticism abroad concerning the prices of stamps.

It has been thought by many that there must necessarily be a great decline in the prices that were made by dealers, as there have been so large forced sales of stamps within the last year. The prices of the catalogue in many ways reflect the feeling of collectors in general. There are many stamps in which there has been a considerable decline in prices, and there are very few indeed in which there is any great advance. There are at the same time enough prices of stamps in which there have been no changes made, so that the collector who looks them over may feel satisfied that there is a certain degree

of solidity in collecting, and that the prices do in some way bear such a constant relation to the law of supply and demand that the bottom cannot fall out of stamp collecting altogether.

There is as yet, however, no such decline in the prices of stamps that it is impossible for dealers to give any considerable discount from the prices that are now asked. It will be felt by many in looking through the work that there might well enough have been many more stamps marked down, and the opportunity thus given for more collectors to purchase.

The amount of purchases made depends also on the prices of stamps, provided of course that there is a sufficient interest in gathering them. The first result of any lowering of prices is a feeling on the part of many that value has been taken from them, and if they have stamps in their possession the idea is that they have lost money. We think that a consideration of all the prices of the catalogue will show to any thoughtful collector that this is not really the case. The value of those particular stamps which have been marked down has always been less than the catalogue prices.

The change in prices also is not the reducing of the value of stamps, but it is merely the reflection of a reduction which has taken place previously. One

of the oldest dealers in the country said to us recently that stamps were articles of merchandise which were the very last to be affected by hard times, and also that they were very slow in making up their loss when the good times came again. This is shown very certainly to be the case with them by the catalogue which has just been published. The list prices made in the 57th catalogue were an attempt to hold the values against the decline which had been made before that edition was issued.

It did not accomplish this object and thus the publishers have submitted to the inevitable in the 58th edition, which shows approximately the decline which has occurred. The only doubt that comes into our minds in looking through the book is as to whether they have reduced prices enough. It is a question whether it would not have been better to have made a much larger cut in the prices. We suppose that the feeling is that the business will be injured thereby. We very much doubt it, for the prices of stamps could be brought down to the reach of a very much larger number of collectors and certain modifications made in the methods of cataloging which would arouse an interest in the work of collecting. We believe the number of collectors would increase so rapidly that stamps would immediately make an advance, which we hope, however, would not be like that of the past five years, too fast. This suggests something which we do not mean to offer as a criticism of the present catalogue, for it is a very difficult thing indeed to decide upon the methods of avoiding such a difficulty as that in which these publishers are at the present time. We refer to the listing of shades of stamps throughout the whole work. The in-

roduction of shades and minor varieties in the general catalogue is regarded by many collectors as a great evil and as having a tendency to discourage collectors who would otherwise be far more interested in gathering stamps. We believe that there is very great truth in this view but at the same time it is an extremely difficult thing to decide where to draw the line. A dozen collectors sitting around a table discussing the matter never agree as to what should be done and what should not be done; indeed, the differences of opinion are fundamental, so that we do not see how it is possible to please all.

The man who argues for the leaving out of shades and minor varieties as being a great discouragement to collectors has a very strong argument. On the other hand the one who states that it is his belief that all collectors should have an opportunity of knowing the exact value of every variety of stamp that is issued is one whose opinion has a very great deal in its favor.

The best solution of the difficulty that we have been able to devise has been that which is an argument for the complete catalogue and for spaces for a comparatively limited number of stamps in the printed albums.

It is by having a printed album that collectors of small means and those who are not interested in minor varieties guide themselves. We regard the last issue of the International album which leaves out many varieties formerly introduced as being a step in the right direction, but we believe that it will be necessary to alter this in form considerably, and also to arrange the general catalogue in some way so that its numbers will correspond with the album in order to make the book a great success for use among average col-

lectors. We have already reviewed in the POST OFFICE the United States portion of this 58th catalogue and we do not feel like entering into any special criticism of the other sections of the work, for we feel that the publishers' knowledge of the varieties and the market prices is far more extensive and complete than our own. The work we

regard as in many ways a success. It is probably as great a success as could be made by anyone under the present circumstances of the collecting world, for no one understands more fully the difficulties, nor is there anyone who is better able to meet these difficulties than the publishers of this catalogue.

CRAWFORD CAPEN.

EARLY POSTMARKS OF QUEENSLAND.

[From the *Australian Philatelist* for October.]

Readers of this journal who are conversant with Mr. Basset Hull's "Notes on the Stamps of Queensland" remember with interest the means adopted by the government of the "baby" colony, born on 10th December, 1859, to provide it with a postal issue.

Sufficient quantities of the current issue of N. S. Wales postage stamps were purchased to last until the arrival of a permanent Queensland issue. These were distributed amongst the various post offices and sold for prepayment of letter postage, and when preserved (on the fourth page of the letter to which they were originally attached) rank as Queensland stamps.

Quite recently, through the courtesy of a friend, I was privileged to scan over a dozen of these letters, all prepaid with the stamps of New South Wales, in one case a beautiful strip of the 1d. vermilion, of course imperforate.

The tale of the date stamp is writ large on these letters, three of them, posted in February, 1860, are cancelled with a date stamp bearing the legend BRISBANE, N.S.W. Unfortunately I was

unable to see any with March or April dates, but the next in order of date was received on 4th May, and is cancelled with a stamp lettered BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND. During the twelve months immediately following separation, the postal officials at Ipswich (Feb. 3–Nov. 12), Drayton (July 26, 1860–Jan. 3, 1861), Dalby (Jan. 31, 1860–Jan. 3, 1861), Condamine (Jan. 26–Dec. 31, 1860), and Taroom (Dec. 24, 1860), continued to cancel the correspondence passing through their offices with the date stamps in use prior to separation.

The dates within brackets are those of the first and last impressions on the letters in my friend's album.

Now, the explanation is, probably, that Brisbane, as the head office, had to stamp all correspondence, inwards and outwards, and this, in the opinion of the authorities, was sufficient to warrant the sending to Sydney for a stamp specially made, a list being afterwards made of all the remaining stations and one forwarded for them all, which was probably completed and delivered some time in 1861.

TAU.

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The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, *Editor.*

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We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement which we consider detrimental to the interests of the journal, without giving any reasons whatsoever.

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We will exchange two copies with all philatelic papers. Address all communications to

HENRY GREMMEL,

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A cross opposite these lines indicates that your subscription expires with this number. A prompt renewal is requested.

The exchanges of the POST OFFICE will greatly oblige if they will send one copy to THE POST OFFICE at 85 Nassau Street, and another to the editor, P. O. Box 2,874, New York.

* *

We notice from the December number of the *American Journal of Philately* that the publishers take the view of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative stamps that we supposed they did. Their own statement of the case is so clear and precise that we publish it in full:

* *

In our London Letter, which was published in the November number of this Journal, our readers will have had a full account of the reorganization or resuscitation of this society. We publish

herewith a copy of a circular proscribing a number of issues, and also an appeal to philatelists in general to join the reorganized association and to help it along in its work.

Our readers are aware of the fact that, with as much consistency as possible, we have followed the lines laid down for the guidance of the original society, and that we have been particular about warning our readers against any issue which was considered unnecessary or speculative by us. However, we must say that, at this moment, we are not prepared to guide ourselves by the present action of the society, as we do not feel justified in black-listing such issues as the Canadian and Newfoundland sets, after having sold them in quantities to our customers in all parts of the world. At the time that these stamps were issued we expressed our disapproval, particularly in reference to the Canadian set, but, as anticipated, the demand for the stamps became too urgent for us to attempt to resist the movement.

The New South Wales and Victoria Hospital stamps are, of course, ridiculous, and the unattractive Sexagenary stamps of the Leeward Islands may be placed in the same category.

The proposed Jubilee issue for Mauritius will not be recognized by us, and the Uruguay "Surcharge" is only a cancellation, and therefore of no possible interest.

As to British South Africa, it seems to be still doubtful as to whether these stamps will appear; and finally, as to the Olympian games stamps, we are pleased to see that the Society has followed our own line of reasoning, and withdrawn the ban from them.

* *

In another portion of this number

we also print the circular referred to which states the present opinion of this Society in relation to stamps that are before collectors. An examination of this list will satisfy anyone that collectors in general are very much at variance as to the way in which they regard various issues of stamps.

The new South Wales and Victoria Hospital stamps are the only ones condemned by this Society which are universally condemned by collectors. All the other numbers mentioned have their admirers, and even when they are not admired they will be collected by many who wish to put everything that exists into their collections. We are not arguing as to what should be, but as to what is practicable, that is, on the question whether there can be a society whose condemnation is effective. We do not believe in, nor do we have any more hope for a valuable outcome from the work of this Society than for the work of that society of the same name, of somewhat different membership, which acted formerly. There is nothing more in that list of condemned stamps so far as force and authority and effective destruction of speculation is concerned than there would be in any printed list published by any one, society or no society.

* * *

The truth of this is seen very plainly in the way in which the publishers of the *American Journal of Philately* treat the matter.

They object to the ruling in relation to Canada and Newfoundland stamps, and it is perfectly certain that since these stamps are listed in the 58th catalogue every collector will want them.

They speak of the Sexagenary stamps of the Leeward Islands as in

the "same category" as the New South Wales and Victoria Hospital stamps of that list, nevertheless the collectors all over this country so far as our experience goes are very anxious indeed to secure them. It is a fact, whether liked or not, that those who are willing to give an unqualified assent to the S. S. S. are a very small minority of the collectors of America.

We know very little of the collectors of Europe, but have lately heard that an inspection of albums would show as a matter of fact a very great number of those who departed from the views of this Society.

* * *

It is curious but nevertheless true that collectors who agree and state their agreement with the ruling of this Society, so far as the theory is concerned, when it comes to actual practice place in their collections everything that they can get hold of, but without any regard to quality so long as the price which they are obliged to pay is right. The truth is there is a large speculative feeling among collectors, and those involved in collecting are men who cannot forego the hope of a certain amount of profit coming to them from the collecting of stamps. It is wonderful how those who profess to be entirely oblivious to the commercial side of collecting betray their interest in this when they begin to talk about the values of stamps. We believe that any society for the suppression of speculative stamps no matter how worthy its membership, and how valuable its rulings, will nevertheless fail of success in the objects which it sets before itself, because it will not be sustained by the actual practice of the collectors of the country. There is no brake—there is no efficient preventive of this evil—except that

which is in the hands of publishers of catalogues and albums. The dealers of the world are now controlling the matter of the speculative stamps—controlling them by the listing of them in catalogues and the making of spaces for them in albums. The collectors of the world will control the out-put of speculative stamps when they take into their hands the listing of stamps in catalogues and the making of spaces for them in albums. We do not think that there is any progress made in this direction outside of that which is at the present time being attempted through the American Collectors Company.

* * *

This union of collectors has made a great deal of progress during the past month. The Company has acquired several large lots of stamps having secured among them the stock of the oldest dealer in the United States, Mr. William P. Brown. He began business beside the railing in City Hall Park, New York, with his stamps exhibited to the public on a board, a tack being driven through each to keep it from being blown away. He has accumulated a great many good stamps in the course of the years since 1860, and although he has been out of the business for a short time he had still in many ways one of the finest lots to be found in New York City. It has also been his custom to hold back a portion of his better stamps, exhibiting those only which he desired to sell.

Mr. Brown will continue to do some business in stamp lines himself, having kept his approval sheet business, but the American Collectors Company has acquired his large reserve stock, the supply from which he sold directly to collectors over the counter.

Circular No. 6.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

Notice is hereby given that the Special Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, having taken into consideration the undermentioned issues, are of opinion that the same are speculative or unnecessary.

In making public the above opinion this Society recommends collectors to refuse to purchase the undermentioned stamps and to assist the Society in preventing the issue of stamps intended mainly for the purpose of sale to collectors and speculators. This practice if attended with successful results is calculated to seriously prejudice the interests of all Philatelists, and to bring Philately into disrepute.

1. *Canada*.—Jubilee set.—The objections to these stamps are that the set includes high values for which there is no postal use, and that certain of the values were not issued to the public in the regular way, and could only be purchased in complete sets and not separately.

2. *Newfoundland*.—Cabot Issue.—This was wholly unnecessary and did not supersede the regular issue, the plates having been destroyed after a limited number of stamps had been printed.

3. *New South Wales Hospital Stamps*.—These were entirely unnecessary for postal purposes, and were only made available in order to induce collectors to buy at enhanced prices.

4. *Victoria Hospital Stamps*.—The same remarks apply to this proposed issue.

5. *Leeward Islands*.—Overprinted "Sexagenary."—This was a temporary issue entirely unnecessary for postal purposes. The remainders are being

offered for sale by Public Tender, and as an inducement it was officially stated that the die used for the overprinting had been destroyed.

6. *Mauritus*.—Proposed Jubilee Issue.—It is believed that the usual objections will apply to this issue. Collectors are advised to regard it with suspicion until it has been ascertained whether it is intended to be of a permanent nature, or merely commemorative.

7. *Uruguay*.—"Paz" Issue.—The stamps were available for only three days in September, 1897, and were not issued to meet any postal requirements.

8. *British South Africa*.—An announcement having been made that a stamp in commemoration of the completion of the Railway as far as Bulawayo was to be issued, the Committee are pleased to state that the London officials of the Company have given their assurance that no such issue will be sanctioned.

9. *Olympian Games Stamps*.—The condition under which these stamps have been issued having been modified, so that they have now become a permanent issue, the objections mentioned in a previous circular no longer apply.

By Order of the Committee,

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

November, 1897.

* * *

Mr. H. G. Clay sends us a letter from a Boston man calling himself Lyman J. Hastings whom it will be well for dealers to look out for. He applied for stamps of "a high class" giving as reference the Second National Bank of Boston. The answer of the bank to Mr. Clay's inquiry was: "In reply to

your favor of Dec. 13th we regret to say that we have not any knowledge of the party in question, namely Lyman J. Hastings."

* * *

The inventory of the stock of Mr. Gremmel is nearly completed. It is thought best for certain legal reasons not to confine the bids to any one party wishing to secure the stock; therefore any reliable individual or firm who wishes to bid upon this stock is invited to examine the inventory. All such should apply to Mr. Robert Grass, Equitable Life Building, 120 Broadway, New York, who will furnish all information in relation to the matter.

* * *

Fiscals—or revenue stamps, as they are usually called in this country—are interesting many collectors. A note in the *Philatelic Chronicle* gives some interesting facts concerning these stamps under the heading of "Leeward Island Postal Fiscals."

"About a year ago the remainders of the Revenue stamps of these islands were offered for sale. They were purchased in one lot by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and resold to Mr. Thomas Birch, of the Midland Stamp Company, 11 Northampton Street, Birmingham. Many of these stamps were once usable for postage and are listed in the various standard catalogues—in fact all except the Antigua long rectangular stamps were so usable, although not all have been catalogued at any one time.

"Mr. Birch sold a proportion of these stamps to Mr. Calman of New York and another, and larger, lot to Mr. Empson of Birmingham, hence they are practically held by these three gentlemen."



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS :

THE POST OFFICE will be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to THE POST OFFICE, 85 Nassau Street, New York.

United States—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles the 1847-issue five and ten cent unused on laid paper. We do not remember ever to have heard of these stamps before, but the three cent of 1867 imperforate grill covering the entire stamp, and also 13 16 imperforate we saw a long time ago. The fifteen cent and thirty cent of the Department of State are the only ones which had been discovered on American paper, but it has been our privilege to find within a short time in the collection of Mr. D. Jones of Philadelphia a fine specimen of the seven cent on the same American paper. This stamp bears as an additional certificate of authenticity the cancellation date of 1883.

Adhesives. Laid paper.

1847.

5c brown.

10c black.

1879 American Bank Note Company Print.

Department of State

7c green.

DEPARTMENT STAMPS ON RIBBED PAPER.

Having been requested to do so by several of our collecting friends we

print the following list of United States-Department stamps on ribbed paper which we have ourselves seen at different times.

We shall be very glad indeed to have any of our friends send us additional values if they have them on this paper so that we may add them to our list.

Agriculture, all.

Executive, all.

Interior, none.

Justice, 1c specimen.

Navy, all except 1c.

Post Office, 3c, 6c, 10, 12c.

State, all except 24c and \$2.00 to \$20.00.

Treasury, 1c, 2c, 6c.

War, all except 7c.

Barbados—The Jubilee issue for Barbados has recently appeared. The stamps are of large, fine design. They were shown us first by Mr. J. C. Morgenthau. The center which is diamond shape, has the same coat-of-arms as the regular issue, while at the left are the words *Victoria, R. I.*, and at the right 1837-1897.

Adhesives. Watermarked Crown C. A.

Perforated 14.

1f gray and carmine.

$\frac{1}{2}$ p grayish green.
 1p rose.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ ultramarine.
 5p dark olive brown.
 6p violet and carmine.
 8p orange and ultramarine.
 10p blue, green and carmine.

Canada—The 2c of the new issue has appeared. Our Canadian friends seem to have decided upon the use of one single design, as this 2c is of the same design as the $\frac{1}{2}$ c chronicled last month. We do not regard this as a very promising thing for collectors, as there will be very much less interest in any issue where designs are of the one type.

Adhesive. Perforated 12.

2c purple.

Chili—The *Philatelic Journal* of Great Britain states that the 1 peso postage due of this country has been changed to the 100 centavos value.

Adhesives. Unpaid Letter.

100c red on straw.

Dutch Indies—The 30c unpaid letter stamp of the late type has been issued.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. Perforated 14.

3c red and black.

Eritrea—The *Philatelic Journal* of Great Britain states that the lately issued 1c and 2c of Italy have been surcharged for use in this colony.

Adhesives. Perforated.

1c brown, black surcharge.

2c red, black surcharge.

Fernando Po—*The American Journal of Philately's* correspondent in Havana notifies them that the 6c stamp of this country has been surcharged 5 centavos in type similar to that used in surcharging the 2c and $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Adhesive—Provisional Perforated.

6c brown, surcharged 5.

Newfoundland—We have received the 1c and 2c Newfoundland stamps of the new issue. These are evidently designed to take the place of the Jubilee issue of which the 1c and 2c values are exhausted, and it is supposed that other values will follow as fast as the Jubilee stamps are used up. These stamps were first shown us by Mr. J. C. Morgenthau. The 1c is of a similar design to the 1c of the Jubilee issue, while the 2c bears the head of the Prince of Wales as he is at the present time. These stamps will be very interesting to collectors for this reason.

Adhesives Perforated.

1c carmine.

2c orange.

Peru—Messrs. Williams & Co., of Lima, Peru, have sent us the 1c Peru unpaid letter stamp surcharged FRANQUEO, used for postage during a short time in November. They say: "The 20c Unpaid stamps, of the 1874 type are now in use (Nov. 1st) surcharged Deficit as on the 5c and 10c issued in August. The 1c unpaid 1879 type are also being prepared with this surcharge. Less than 30,000 of the 1c unpaid 1879 type surcharged 'Franqueo' were placed on sale Nov. 6th for ordinary use during that month, supply of the 1c 1896 issue being exhausted. We have been favored with a view of the beautiful new 1c, 2c and 5c which will be placed on sale from December 1st. On official authority we learn that these are not intended as a commemorative issue."

Adhesive—Unpaid Letter Stamp.

1897—1c surcharged "Franqueo."

Samoa—*The American Journal of Philately* has received a new stamp for

this country, of which they state, however, that the 2p is the only one which differs much from the preceding issue, it being printed in bright yellow instead of orange.

Adhesive Stamp. Perf. 11.

2p yellow.

Victoria—*The Australian Philatelist* mentioned the finding of a 2p of the type of 1857 on paper watermarked single lined 6.

Adhesive Watermarked Single Lined.

2p lilac, type of 1857.

THE MONTHLY PACKET OF NEW ISSUES.

It will be necessary to discontinue the furnishing of this packet for a month or two until the matters relating to the disposition of Mr. Gremmel's stock of stamps are settled. Subscribers will have their subscriptions extended.

ADVERTISERS.—It will cost you \$1.50 an inch to advertise in **THE POST OFFICE**; it would cost you over \$40.00 for postage alone to send a circular to the 3,500 stamp collectors who receive this journal regularly.

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THIRD FLOOR.—Guest Chambers.

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Admittance by Membership Card.

Notices of coming events and applications for membership will be found posted on the bulletin boards.

For special information inquire of the House Committee.

Seventeenth meeting of the Board of Governors held at the Club House, Dec. 6, 1897.

Present: Messrs. C. Gregory, Vice-President, in the chair, Calman, Deats, Luff, Lynde, Scott and the Secretary.

Called to order at 8.15 P. M.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Wm. Herrick, resigning as President of the Club, and his resignation was accepted with regret.

Adjourned at 9.15 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

Eighteenth meeting of the Board of Governors held at the Club House Dec. 8, 1897.

Present: Messrs. C. Gregory, Vice-President, in the chair, Deats, Luff, Nast, Scott and the Secretary.

Called to order at 7.50 P. M.

The resignation of Mr. Lynde as a member of the Board of Governors, was read by the Secretary and the same was accepted.

Adjourned at 8 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

Nineteenth meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, December 8, 1897.

Present: Messrs. Deats, who was chosen Chairman, Bruner, Calman, Luff, Nast, Scott and the Secretary.

Called to order at 10 o'clock P. M.

Mr. William Thorne was nominated for President and unanimously elected.

Mr. P. F. Bruner was nominated for Vice-President and unanimously elected.

Mr. J. W. Scott was nominated for Treasurer and unanimously elected.

Mr. J. M. Andreini was nominated for Secretary and unanimously elected.

Mr. John N. Luff was chosen tem-

porary Chairman of House Committee.

Adjourned at 10:30 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

Twentieth meeting of the Board of Governors, held December 13, 1897.

President Thorne in the chair.

Present Messrs. Calman, Bruner, Nast, Luff, Stebbins, Scott and the Secretary.

Called to order at 8 P. M.

After the reading of correspondence by the Secretary it was moved, seconded and carried that Mr. Theo. Van den Heuvel, formerly known as Henri Collin, may become a subscribing member by paying initiation fee.

Treasurer's report was received, showing balance in bank of \$1,120.33.

For failure to meet house bills Mr. Frederick M. Herlihey was dropped from the rolls and the Treasurer was authorized to charge the indebtedness to House accounts.

Mr. Frank J. Bescher not having qualified as stockholder was stricken off the roll.

Messrs. Hasse and Mead not having qualified as subscribers were stricken off the roll.

The amount appropriated for the purchase of a second-hand piano was increased to \$150.

The Treasurer was directed to invest, out of the Club funds, a sufficient sum to pay for \$500 U. S. 4 per cent. Coupon Bond of 1907.

The President offered to the Board the names of members to serve in the standing Committees during the ensuing year, and the same were duly approved by the Governors, to wit:

Executive, H. L. Calman, *Chairman.*
J. N. T. Levick.
J. W. George.

- House, John N. Luff, *Chairman*.
 Charles D. W. Drew.
 Robt. A. McKim.
 Albert Perrin.
 Walter S. Scott.
- Amusements, P. F. Bruner, *Chairman*.
 Ed. C. Hartshorne.
 John N. Luff.
 Wm. Knudson.
 J. W. Scott.
- Auditing, F. A. Nast, *Chairman*.
 Henry Glotz.
 Alvah Davison.
- Literary, H. E. Deats, *Chairman*.
 Jos. J. Casey.
 Jos. S. Rich.
- Membership, J. H. Stebbins, Jr., *Chairman*.
 R. R. Bogert.
 Henry Clotz.
 Jos. S. Rich.
 H. N. Terrett.

The Treasurer was authorized to spend about \$80 for the Club's year book.

Mr. Luff presented to the Club, in behalf of Mr. Wm. Brown, of Salisbury, England, a number of Mr. Brown's own etchings, which were accepted with thanks, and Mr. Luff was authorized to have same properly framed and hung about the premises.

An appropriation of \$50 was passed, upon request of Amusement Committee for a Xmas celebration.

Adjourned at 9:35 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary*.

Second meeting of stockholders and first annual meeting of the Club, held at the Club House, Dec. 8, 1897.

Vice-President Chas. Gregory, as Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8.15 P. M.

To the roll call the following stockholders answered :

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Andreini, | Luff, |
| Calman, H. L., | Nast, |
| Drew, | Rich, |
| Gregory, W. F., | Terrett, |
| Holland, | Bruner, |
| Krassa, | Dieschbourg, |
| Morgenthau, | Gregory, Chas., |
| Perrin, | Hobby, |
| Scott, W. S., | Knudson, |
| Bogert, | Meyenberg, |
| Deats, | Parker, |
| George, | Scott, J. W., |
| Hartshorne, | Tuttle, G. R., |
| Homburger, | and Williams. |

Reading of the minutes of previous stockholders' meeting, Oct. 5, 1896, was dispensed with.

The following reports of officers were accepted :

- Vice-President's report.
- Treasurer's " "
- Secretary's " "
- Report of Chairman Executive Com.
- " " House " "
- " " Com. on Amusements.
- " " Auditing Com.
- " " Literary " "
- " " Membership " "

Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws were then considered section by section, and passed as follows :

Amendments to the Constitution :

Sec. 8. Amended to read as follows :

" Nominations for the office of Governor may be made two weeks before the annual meeting."

Sec. 9. Amended to read as follows :

" No member shall vote for more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled and the corresponding number of candidates obtaining the largest num-

ber of votes shall be declared elected as Governors."

Sec. 12. To add to the section as follows:

"Any member who shall have transferred his stock to another person shall be deemed to have resigned his membership, but this shall not prevent his applying for and being elected to subscribing membership in the prescribed way."

Amendments to the By-Laws:

Sec. 2. Amended to read as follows:

"The initiation fee for subscribers shall be ten dollars. The annual dues for resident subscribers shall be ten dollars and for non-resident subscribers five dollars.

"The above initiation fee and annual dues shall be paid by all subscribers admitted after January 1st, 1898, and the annual dues above provided for shall be paid by all subscribers after October 1st, 1898."

Sec. 3. Amended to read as follows:

"The annual dues for resident stockholders shall be ten dollars and for non-resident stockholders five dollars."

The above annual dues shall be paid by stockholders admitted after January 1, 1898, and by all stockholders after October 1, 1898.

Sec. 8. Amended to read as follows:

"All bills shall be payable on the first Monday of each month, and no member shall at any time, allow a charge against him to exceed twenty (20) dollars. Should a charge against any member be found to exceed the

prescribed limit the Chairman of the House Committee shall notify him, in writing, to that effect. Should a member refuse or neglect to pay his account on written notice of the amount due, he shall cease to have any further credit at the club until such arrears be paid up. If he should remain in arrears sixty days after receiving notice of default, the Board of Governors may erase his name from the list of members."

The Secretary then read the resignations of Messrs. Herrick and Lynde from the Board of Governors, the Secretary stating that both resignations had been accepted by the Board.

After an explanation made by the Chairman about vacancies, the election of Governors took place, Messrs. Nast and Drew having been appointed Tellers.

To serve three years to replace the outgoing class:

John W. Scott,
Henry L. Calman,
P. F. Bruner.

To serve two years in place of Mr. Herrick, resigned:

Mr. William Thorne.

To serve one year in place of Mr. Lynde, resigned:

Dr. Jas. H. Stebbins, Jr.

And the Chairman thereupon declared Messrs. Scott, J. W.; Calman, H. L.; Bruner, Thorne and Stebbins duly elected Governors of the Club.

Adjourned at 9.55 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

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“ 2c. red, 1884, Retouched on fawn.....		1.00	.25
“ 5c. blue, 1887, four varieties (in sets).....		.70	.50
Wrappers, 2c. black, 1864, Die 2.....		1.00	.40
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* “ “ 2c. mauve.....	.35
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The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1898.

No. 82.

THE FUTURE OF COLLECTING.

It is the same in the collecting of postage stamps as in every department of life. We are constantly looking forward and thinking of what will be. A great many things have taken place during the past years which have caused a distrust in the minds of collectors, some of whom have feared that they would be destructive of the collecting of postage stamps. We may mention among these the decline of the auction sale, the rise of the speculative stamp and the failure of a number of dealers in stamps to make the large sales which have been customary in years past. There is at first thought a great deal of menace in these things which are undoubted facts, but as one considers them carefully one comes to the conclusion that the final result will not be adverse to collecting interests. We believe that the real reason why the auction sale has declined was because it was in itself as conducted by many of those who held sales a menace to collecting. Had it been the constant and invariable practice of all who catalogued stamps for auction to list them in exact accord with their condition the auction business would not have attained in the first place so great a magnitude and therefore there would not have followed, as always does follow when a thing is pushed to extremes, the depression and failure in it which

has come finally. It is not in human nature, however, when business is good, to let a little thing stand in the way of the accomplishment of those sales which make business. The great demand among collectors for fine specimens of stamps; the increase in their call for well centered, finely printed and, when unused, stamps in mint condition, produced among those who dealt in stamps a dearth of desirable specimens. The auction sale could not be continued if good stamps only were to be offered for sale, hence the point was soon reached where all sorts of stamps of every kind and condition were offered to collectors. It is a perfectly simple matter capable of easiest explanation to draw the conclusion under such circumstances that auction sales must die a natural death. This, however, so far from being adverse to the real interest and popularity of collecting is really an argument in favor of the strong position which collecting holds in the minds of its devotees. It is rather an evidence that the collecting public is so thoroughly in earnest and so determined in its devotion to collecting that it will not have it spoiled by the introduction of any slovenly elements. The evidence that this is true is found in the fact that even at the present time, when it is generally admitted that the auction sale business is in a depressed condi-

tion, really fine specimens bring excellent prices.

The second matter in reference to the action of those who have been putting forth speculative issues to secure from the collector's pocket the funds which he unwillingly pays for stamps which he thinks he must have, we believe to be a matter which will take care of itself. The time was when collectors made no discrimination as to what they would collect. A stamp was a stamp no matter whence it came or where it belonged. The flood of speculative issues is, however, producing discrimination. This began by the making of distinctions, which are scarcely to be regarded as distinctions, in the collecting of used specimens as against unused. Later the same collectors were found to have changed to the collecting of used stamps of certain countries only and finally they came back to the gathering of unused stamps of the countries which they favored. This is the gradual progress of sensible discrimination. The speculative issue will do no harm to real collecting. It will disgust a few. It will turn from our pursuit some half-hearted ones; but the real collectors who have collecting at heart will never give it up no matter what may take place. The third point, the failure of dealers to make large sales of stamps is only an incident of the dull times; the difficulty which everyone has had to contend with during the past year or two of finding money to put into those things which are matters of pleasure and interest only. Good sales of stamps will come back again and plenty be done in the business as soon as we make a real return to good times. The future of collecting is full of promise. Everyone who has the real collecting instinct knows

the deep feeling of pleasure which comes over him as he lays out before himself a number of choice stamps selected from the issues of the country, in which he takes special delight. Every collector has the answer in his own mind as to what will be the future of stamp collecting without asking any questions of anyone else, if he possesses the real collecting instinct. A true collector knows that stamp collecting cannot be given up so long as there are stamps to collect. The immediate future of stamp collecting, however, will be of such a character that there will be no place in it for those who are half-hearted; or for those who are not particular; or for those who have no real interest in collecting itself. There have been many attached to collecting who have been merely speculators. There is money in stamps as an investment. There are certain stamps which must advance, which are advancing, which certainly will advance in value in the future, but these stamps are not to go up by leaps or bounds such as delight the speculator's heart. The advance in values will be steady, and will be based upon the actual merit of stamps rather than upon any information which may be given as to value which has in the past caused many stamps to advance, which had not in themselves the worth ascribed to them.

There is no collector having a fine collection which he has gathered at great pains who should feel the slightest doubt as to the worth of his collection. Every such collector will feel within a few years that he has done a great thing in holding on to his stamps and in prizing them highly during the periods of depression. The ones who will lose will be those who in their desire to secure money, who, in their

thoughtless fear of the future, sacrifice at low prices that which is really good and valuable. We think that the result of all the disturbance which there has been in the stamp world within the past year or two will be the devotion of collectors to collecting pure and

simple, with the effort to secure the finest specimens of the most desirable stamps, and that there will be considerably less heard of the speculative side of the matter, which will be to the great advantage of all real collectors.

CRAWFORD CAPEN.

A NEW POSTAGE STAMP.

Commemorative of the Holding of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

For the third time in the history of the nation, in recognition of the importance of a brilliant enterprise, Postmaster General Gary has decided to order a series of special postage stamps, commemorative of the holding of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha in 1898. The stamps will be issued in denominations of 1-cent, 2-cent, 5-cent, 10-cent and \$1, making it possible for the public to use these stamps on all outgoing foreign as well as domestic mail matter and packets of merchandise. In the United States there are 70,000 post offices, so that the wide spread circulation of these special stamps, suggestive of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, will be readily attained. The issue lends the Exposition the prestige of government recognition and support.

In issuing these special stamps it is not designed by the Postmaster-General to withdraw from sale the current series, as was the case during the World's Fair. The series of special stamps for the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition will be supplied to any office in the United States, and

every postmaster will find an active demand for them from the start, not only by stamp collectors, but by hundreds of thousands of people who will prefer them during the Exposition period in place of the regular series.

The new issue of special stamps will be of marked artistic order in design, symbolical of the great Trans-Mississippi region and its tributaries. Third Assistant Postmaster General Merritt, who will have charge of the selection of subjects, has written a number of letters to the leading artists of the United States, asking for suggestions relative to designs. The designs contemplate portraits of distinguished persons identified with the country, appropriate historical events as illustrated by existing paintings or engravings.

As it is the aim of the Postmaster General to give the Exposition a series of stamps that will not only be artistic in character, but which will appeal to all classes of people and be especially typical of the Greater West, it is suggested that possibly one of the denominations might have on the face a reproduction of a celebrated painting,

“Frémont Hoisting the Flag on the Rocky Mountains.” Other prominent men and events in connection with the Western territory, typical of its marvelous development and progress during the past one hundred years, are suggested. Among these is the well known statute of the distinguished western leader and statesman, United States Senator Thomas H. Benton, at St. Louis, which bears upon one side of the base a quotation from one of Mr. Benton’s celebrated speeches, wherein he outlined the possibilities of the country beyond the Mississippi. It has been thought that the Benton statue would be an appropriate design for one of the stamps.

The complex picture which hangs in the south corridor of the Capitol, known as “Westward-ho,” emblematical of the hardships attendant upon the pioneer, and suggested by Bishop Berkley’s quotation, “Westward the course of empire takes its way,” is also proposed.

A representation of the picture “De Soto’s Discovery of the Mississippi River,” in the rotunda of the Capitol

at Washington, is suggested for use on one of the stamps.

The stamps will be different in color from the regular series. In shape they will resemble the Columbian stamp issued in commemoration of the World’s Fair. The new ones will be twice the size of the present postage stamp. The Trans-Mississippi stamps will be sought after by collectors, and as there are nearly half a million of these people in the world, the government, instead of being philanthropic, expects to realize handsomely upon the issue. Columbian stamps to-day are selling at prices many times higher than was once paid for them, and they are growing more valuable each year. It is the same way with the Centennial stamp, and it will also be true of the Trans-Mississippi stamp.

Third Assistant Postmaster General Merritt invites suggestions of scenes for use of the stamps, it being the desire of the post office authorities to give the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition the handsomest set of stamps ever issued to commemorate an exposition.

CHILE UNPAID.

(Extract from letter.)

VALPARAISO, Dec. 15, 1897.
My dear Mr. A —,

Yours of 9th Nov. safe to hand, and I hasten to comply with your wishes by this mail. Under separate cover, I send all I can, *i. e.*, all the new postage stamps your friend specifies and all I could find obtainable of the “unpaid letter ones,” as he terms them. You were just in time for the 8-cent upwards for this

latter class, for no more are to be issued.

I am to get the 1 and 6-cent ones soon; at present, *i. e.*, for this year, no more can be sold, as they have not enough to go on with until fresh ones arrive, they fear. They (the P. O. people) will not let me have them new, so they cancelled them as you will see.

(Signed,) W. G. D. S.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, Editor.

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* * *

Almost upon the point of publication, this issue of the POST OFFICE has been delayed, owing to the acquisition of the stock of the late Mr. Henry Gremmel by Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co., who will henceforth publish this periodical. The time is too short to outline a definite policy for the paper; suffice it that we shall endeavor to maintain the high standard attained by its former proprietor.

* * *

The February number will be gotten under way and published as soon as

possible, in order to resume the regular date of mailing in the March number.

* * *

The American Collectors Company having made arrangements which it considered most advantageous to itself for the purchase of such stocks of stamps as it required for its business, and this having been stated to Mr. J. C. Morgenthau by the President of the company, also that the American Collectors Company did not care to put in a bid for the stock of Mr. Gremmel at present, Mr. Morgenthau decided to purchase the stock of stamps himself for his own firm. The editor of the POST OFFICE wishes personally to re-iterate all that he has stated in late numbers of this paper concerning the excellence of the stamps contained in the stock, and offers his congratulations to Mr. Morgenthau upon his fine purchase.

It is with the utmost regret that we announce to our readers the death of Mr. G. B. CALMAN, which occurred on Tuesday, January 25th, after a lingering illness.

We publish in another place in this paper a statement received from Nan-king relative to postage stamps which were issued in that place just before the issue of the Imperial stamps of China. It is an interesting statement, and we have no doubt represents the facts as they are. The question immediately arises, however, what was this put forth for at this time. It seems perfectly evident that there is something to be gained by doing it more than the mere vindication of the issue. It is probable that the desire is to sell the large quantity of these stamps

of Nanking which remain on hand. If the issue was perfectly legitimate and all right in every way and to be used for postal purposes only, it would be just as well for the local authorities to destroy all the remainders that they have on hand. Will they do it? We think not.

* * *

This statement comes at a time which makes it very interesting. We have just been discussing in the *Post Office* the question of the real means of the prevention of the issue and sale of the speculative stamp. We have contended that the dropping of them from the catalogue and album is the one effective way to suppress them, that there was no need whatever for the existence of any society to do this work; that the opinion of the society was simply of equal value, and had just as much force as the opinion of any individual of which it was composed. We would as soon have the opinion of the President of the S. S. S. S. as that of all the members combined. There is no strength in the numbers, simply because there is very little if indeed there is any difference of opinion among collectors. The S. S. S. S. has tried to accomplish something and its success has not been remarkable. It has re-organized and is trying to accomplish something once more. Its success will not be remarkable. The catalogue here in the United States places the issue for Nanking among the speculatives and refuses to list it among regular issues. Who has bought this issue? How many sets have been sold? The authorities who have some on hand and for sale know that there is not the slightest chance for the disposing of them in the United States until they are placed in their proper position in the catalogues.

This is not an argument against the Nanking stamps. We are disposed to believe that they are a legitimate issue, still we shall suspend our judgment until all the facts are in. What we are using this case to illustrate is the positive power of the catalogue and album to accomplish the ends most desired by collectors. We have given a great deal of space to this matter from time to time because we are satisfied that it is a matter of paramount importance to the collecting interests of the country.

* * *

We publish in another place a statement in relation to a new stamp which is one of the greatest humbugs imaginable among speculative issues. It is to be hoped that the collecting interests of the country will refuse to recognize these stamps in any way, and that the Government of the United States may be prevailed upon by them to refuse to have anything to do with the issue of the stamp "Commemorative of the Holding of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition." Every collector should place against this issue of commemorative stamps a protest wherever it will do any good, either by writing to his Member of Congress or the Senator from his State urging against the allowing of the use of Government influence in such a manner. We hope that this "New Postage Stamp" will never be issued.

* * *

NANKIN, November 27, 1897.

To the Editor of the Post-Office :

Sir : On looking through Scott's 57th catalogue, we find that our local stamps have been placed under the head of speculative issues. Would you kindly allow us space in your journal to give a brief history of the local post

here, its origin and object from the time of its foundation, up to February of this year, when by Imperial Edict, Post Offices were established at each of the Treaty Ports and Nankin also included amongst the number. By placing these details before the readers of your journal, they will be better able to judge whether the decision to issue stamps was speculative or not.

The Nankin Local Post Office was established about 12 years ago for the purpose of facilitating the receipt and dispatch of mails belonging to the foreign community. An arrangement was made with the Shanghai Local Post Office, whereby mails forwarded to Shanghai were delivered free, and mails arriving from there were similarly dealt with here. The expense of working the Local Post Office was defrayed by the members of the community. Accounts were kept and paid quarterly, the whole amount being apportioned equally among the adult members of the community. The duties of postmaster were undertaken voluntarily and without remuneration by one of the foreign missionary body. These arrangements worked well enough for some ten years or more, but soon after the termination of the Chino-Japanese war, a number of foreign constructors were engaged through the German Government, to reorganize the Chinese army, and from 30 to 40 of these instructors were stationed at Nankin. This addition to the foreign community greatly increased the work of the local post-office, making it impracticable to keep a separate account with each individual, and the question was discussed at a general meeting. It was pointed out that the postmaster having his missionary work to attend to, as well as looking after the post office, the old system

of keeping accounts was altogether too much to require of him. It was therefore decided to issue stamps. The Shanghai municipality, through the local postmaster, was approached on the subject of allowing us to have their stamps over-printed for our local use. They asked 50 per cent. of the face value of any stamps supplied. This we considered too much to pay, fearing that the profits to us would be insufficient to defray the expenses of our office. Accordingly, an order was given to a firm in Japan to print the stamps as supplied to the public from September, 1896. We must mention that up to the beginning of February of this year, there had never been any other post office at Nankin, as, being a non-treaty port, the mercantile class were restricted from trading and residing at Nankin. When the Imperial post office established branches at all the treaty ports, and included this port in their number, the local post was closed.

We enclose a copy of a letter from the United States Consulate at Shanghai, which corroborates most of these facts, and any further doubts you may have can be removed if you care to make enquiries. We enclose one-half dozen sets, so that, if necessary, you can give a description of them to your subscribers. The first issue comprised stamps ranging from one-half cent to twenty cents. The colors not being satisfactory a slight change was made in the stamps from one-half cent to five cents, and a clearer impression made. No surcharges or postage dues have been issued, and all the plates have been destroyed, so that there can be no more issues. The only point on which the S. S. S. S. can place us under their ban is in the fact that it was only last

year we decided to issue stamps, and at that time the society was most active in denouncing various local issues as speculative. Had we known the Imperial post office was going to be established so soon, we would never have issued stamps.

F. E. MEIGS,
T. W. HOUSTON,
JOHN C. FERGUSON.
ROBERT C. BEEBE, M. D.,
*Nankin Community Com-
mittee on Stamps for
Local Post Office.*

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
SHANGHAI, 15/11/97.

Dear Sir: I am sorry to learn that so false a statement has been published with regard to the issue of stamps by the Nanking Local Post as you report in your letter of recent date to me.

Inasmuch as I was living in Nanking at the time the issue was decided upon, and have been familiar with the condition of the foreign community there for ten years past, I am able to assert of my own knowledge that the stamps were not issued simply as a speculation. The number of foreign residents in Nanking greatly increased immediately after the war with Japan, owing largely to the employment by the Government of German officers to organize a new army. These gentlemen were settled in various parts of the city and the task of keeping account of each one's postage became such a burden that it was decided to issue stamps. The enterprise was discussed several times by the community but was finally agreed to as the best solution of the difficulty. At the time there was no Imperial Post, nor was it known that it was

shortly after to be organized. Under these circumstances it is altogether incorrect to say the issue was purely speculative. I don't see how a more legitimate issue could be made.

I am, sir.

Your obedient servant.

(Signed) E. T. WILLIAMS,

U. S. Vice Consul-General.

REV. F. E. MEIGS, Nanking.

* * *

NOTICE.

Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co. have purchased the complete stock of the late Henry Gremmel—including stamps, stock books, albums, fixtures, the POST OFFICE, etc.

The purchase did not include the book accounts due the estate—and debtors will kindly send payments for amounts due at once, to facilitate the winding up of the estate.

Estate of HENRY GREMMEL,

Room 715, 87 Nassau St.,

New York City.

* * *

ADVERTISERS.—It will cost you \$1.50 an inch to advertise in THE POST OFFICE; it would cost you over \$40.00 for postage alone to send a circular to the 3,500 stamp collectors who receive this journal regularly.

* * *

Subscribe to THE POST OFFICE, only 25 cents a year to all countries.



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS :

THE POST OFFICE will be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to THE POST OFFICE, 87 Nassau Street, New York.

The United States has made the change of the color of its stamps to conform to the requirements of the Postal Union. We have seen, however, nothing but the 1c green at the time of writing these notes.

Adhesive, 1898. Perforated.

1c green.

Barbadoes—Jubilee issue. To our chronicle of last month must be added the 2sh. 6p. value—same design, color black—value in orange—the entire set being watermarked crown CC and not CA as announced.

Canada—The denominations of the new issue so far received by our publishers are as follows :

Adhesives. Perforated 12. No watermark.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c black.

1c green.

2c deep purple.

3c carmine.

5c blue.

6c brown.

8c orange.

10c plum.

Newfoundland—Boston correspondents announce the old issue as having

been reprinted. A supply having just reached us leads us to believe but two values have been so treated, viz. :

1c, color pale yellow green ;

3c, color pale mauve ;

the balance of the set being in the same colors as when first issued.

Guatemala—The *American Journal of Philately* states that the regular issue of stamps of this country was sold January 1st, in place of the Exposition issue which was in use last year. The 12c stamp of 1897 has been surcharged UN-CENTAVO-1898 in three lines, to supply the place of 1 centavo stamps, which had run out.

Adhesive. Provisional. Perf. 12.

1c on 12c carmine and violet, surcharged.

Japan—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* announces the 1 sen in a new shade.

Adhesive. Perforated.

1s olive.

Newfoundland—The *American Journal of Philately* gives the following interesting particulars in relation to the 1c on 3c of this country : "It appears that the provisional stamp illustrated in our last number exists in three dif-

ferent types of surcharge. The stamps were surcharged in sheets of 50, the four upper rows being all of one type; the lower row being composed of eight settings of the second type and two of the third type. We are informed that only 40,000 of these stamps were surcharged, which would yield 800 sheets of 50, or 1,600 stamps of the rarest variety, and 6,400 of the second type.

Very few of these stamps were obtained unused by dealers or collectors, almost the entire issue having been used for prepayment of postage. As a large proportion of those thus used will be destroyed, we may conclude that all these provisional stamps will become scarce, and the third type, of which only two exist in each sheet of 50, will reach a high degree of rarity.

We are also informed that a few were surcharged in red, and a few with red and black surcharge. Our authority states that these were made without authority from the Post Office Department, and that the Postmaster-General ordered them to be returned. It is said that two or three are in the hands of collectors, and of course these should be considered only in the nature of essays, they being in the same class as the similar double surcharge which was made at the time Barbados issued the 1/2d on 4d brown.

Persia—It is stated by several journals that the stamps of Persia have been surcharged again, producing certain undesirable varieties which may or may not have been required by postal needs.

Adhesives. Perforated.

5s on 8s brown.

1k on 5k violet and silver.

2k on 5k " " "

Peru—Williams & Co. of Lima,

Peru, have sent us a card and three new stamps issued December 31, 1897. The 1c contains a river scene with the picture of a large suspension bridge across it. The 2c, a picture of a public building; the 5c, a man's head. Of these three stamps, 1,000,000 of each were issued.

They say: "In addition to three new stamps there were issued on December 31st, 1897, nine new postal cards as follows: The 1c. green, for local use, and the 2c. orange, for provincial, have a New Year's greeting printed on the reverse and are dated January 1st, 1898. They are valueless for foreign service. All the varieties are surcharged on the old five-cent black, with the exception of the 3c and 4c cards (4), and have a view of the new Post Office in the upper right hand corner. This building was opened on January 1st, 1898. All stamps and postal cards of recent issues are available for postage.

Adhesive. Perforated. American Bank Note Co. Imprint.

1c. blue.

2c. brown.

5c. rose.

Postal Cards:

1c. green.

1c. red.

2c. orange.

2c. blue.

2x2c. blue.

3c. red brown.

3x3c. red brown.

4c. black.

4x4c. black.

St. Vincent—The 1s. stamp comes in a new shade, according to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

Adhesive. Watermarked Crown C. A. Perforated 14:

1s. salmon.

Sweden—The *American Journal of Philately* states that the 30 ore comes now in yellow instead of yellow brown. *Adhesive, Perforated 13, Watermarked Crown, 30 ore, yellow.*

SECOND FLOOR.—Library.

Room of the Philatelic Society, *front.*

Room of National Phil. Society, *rear.*

THIRD FLOOR.—Guest Chambers.

BASEMENT.—Billiard Room.

Society Reports.

Philatelic Societies containing 25 of our subscribers can have their proceedings reported free of charge.

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FIRST FLOOR.—Office and Assembly Room.

Admittance by Membership Card.

Notices of coming events and applications for membership will be found posted on the bulletin boards.

For special information inquire of the House Committee.

Twenty-first meeting of the Board of Governors held at the Club House January 11, 1898, President Thorne in the chair.

Called to order at 8:25 P. M., the following members being present: Bruner, Calman, Luff, Stebbins, Scott and the Secretary.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary reported having issued a two weeks visitor's ticket in favor of Dr. Dahlberg of Chicago, at the request of Mr. J. C. Morgenthau.

The Secretary read the resignation of Mr. John Luther Kilbon, and the same was accepted with regret.

The Treasurer's report was then received, showing a balance of \$488.35 cash in bank, after deducting the cost of U. S. Bonds bought.

The lease of Club House was ordered to be renewed for one year, and the President and Treasurer were authorized to sign it in behalf of the Club.

The Chairmen of House, Amusement and Membership Committees then made their reports, which were received.

Adjourned at 9 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS:—Two cents per word for each insertion. Cash in advance. No advertisement received for less than 50 cents, and they will be set in solid brevier, no display allowed.

Exchange wanted with foreign dealers who can supply stamps in large quantities. J. C. Morgenthau & Co., 87 Nassau St., New York.

We wish to establish cordial business relations in *Asia, South Africa and Australasia*, and invite dealers and collectors in these parts, having good stamps to sell or exchange to send us selections on approval. Registered only. No first sendings. European and North and South American dealers send offers and price lists only. We have no use whatever, for common stamps or large wholesale parcels, as our business along this coast is solely with advanced and medium collectors. We hold an important stock (£1,000 worth on hand) of the stamps of Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Panama, Chile, etc., which is constantly augmented by large purchases, so that we can offer the best inducements in exchanging on a cash basis, viz., lowest prices and large variety. Williams & Co., Publishers of Peruvian Specialists Album and Catalogue, Casilla 348, Lima, Peru.

CHILE.

1853.	5c. red brown (2), used	--- \$2.00
1854.	5c. brown red (7), "	--- .60
	5c. red brown (11), "	--- .60
1878.	50c. lilac (37) "	--- .30

LUXEMBURG.

1891.	10c. Perf. 11½ (63), unused	--- \$0.08
	25c. " 11½ (64), "	--- .15
1891.	S. P. 10c. Perf. 11½ (162)	
	unused	--- .10
	25c. Perf. 11½ (163)	
	unused	--- .20

NEWFOUNDLAND.

1897. PROVISIONAL.

1c. on 3 cts.	Type I., unused	--- \$1.25
1c. " 3 "	" II., "	--- 3.00

J. C. MORGENTHAU & CO.,

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Newfoundland Stamps.

½ cent	1887, red stamps, persheet, 100, new,	\$2.5
12 "	1866, pink " " " " "	25.00
6 "	1868, rose " " " " "	7.50
1897,	The Cabot Issue, 14 in set	2.50
1866,	12 cent, pink, each, new	.40
"	24 " blue, " " "	.40
1868,	6 " rose, " " "	.15
1880,	2 " green, " " "	.08
"	3 " blue, " " "	.10
"	5 " blue, " " "	.15
1887,	½ " red, " " "	.05
"	1 " green, " " "	.05
"	2 " orange, " " "	.05
"	3 " brown, " " "	.10
"	10 " black, " " "	.20
1894,	12 " puce, " " "	.40
"	6 " carmine, each, new	.30

CASH WITH ORDER. NO EXCHANGE.

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JANUARY 19th and 20th, 1898,

We shall hold a sale of gilt-edged specimens of United States and Foreign Stamps. Among them are :

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A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1898.

No. 83.

THE STUDY OF STAMPS.

Study of all kinds is a very different thing under present modern conditions from what it was fifty or one hundred years ago. The difference arises from the impetus which has been given to scientific methods by the valuable results which have come to the world through science from its determined following by those who have devoted themselves to its work. Long ago men formed theories in relation to facts, and then studying the facts managed to make them correspond with their theories. The result was a state of affairs which made the old proverbs in relation to the number of opinions equalling the number of men in existence, perfectly true. Modern scientific study which works in exactly the opposite way proceeding from facts to opinions, using the merest skeleton of a working theory on which to proceed, results in precisely the opposite state of affairs. Men who study any one topic carefully and scientifically arrive at last at the same opinion, or at least until they have arrived at the same opinion do not regard their views as correct.

It is possible to apply the scientific method to the study of stamps, and it is only as the scientific method is applied that there will be a common opinion developed in relation to them which will be near the truth at the

least. It will be found by those who have the scientific spirit in study when they seek to apply this to the study of stamps, that in this as in all fields of knowledge there is too much for any one man to know. The consequence of the use of the scientific method in other branches of study is the development of the specialist.

The specialist is one who gives his attention to some particular line or form of work not entirely neglecting other study, but bending his energy to the production of truth in his particular line, using other study as a help to his end. The student of stamps may collect those of all countries and will find it very advantageous to him to do so no matter what his special line of study may be, for in the comparisons that one may make with the stamps of other countries one may learn more fully the means of distinguishing differences in those which he has made up his mind to study. The writer is more interested in stamps of foreign countries, many of which are especially pleasing to him, than he is in those of the United States. The work, however, which he has especially set for himself has been the study of the stamps of our own country and the development of all facts in relation to them which may be of advantage to collectors. The effort has been to do this work in a scientific way.

That is to systematize and classify whatever knowledge may be developed so that it could be applied directly to the study of the stamps of our own country. There was a great deal of information which might have been gained quite readily in relation to United States stamps of the older issues at the period when they were in circulation which no one seemed to have cared in those times to preserve. This information is not lost but is preserved in the stamps themselves. The one who goes at the work of developing this information by scientific methods is sure to reap a rich reward. The difficulty is that a very large part of the study that is made of stamps is not systematized and classified.

It is made in such a haphazard and careless manner that it becomes all mixed up and is therefore of very little consequence. As an example, take the study of papers of United States stamps. Many collectors note that such and such a paper was used at such and such a period. There is no question about this as a fact, but failing to notice that other papers were used during the same periods, and the paper that was used largely in one period was used to a small extent in another period, they soon become tangled up in their knowledge, so that one who seeks to apply what has been learned in this way to the making of decisions in regard to the nature of stamps would fail entirely. It will be well enough to illustrate our topic by the consideration of a good method of studying papers. The writer has used a stock book such as is employed by all dealers, for holding stamps. Successive slips in this book bear dates all the way from the earliest to the latest issues which happen to be under examination. When a stamp is

found which was certainly printed during a particular year it is placed in the slip corresponding with that year. This method having been followed for a number of years the slips were found to have a series of stamps which showed quite plainly the gradual changes which have been made in the use of paper by the different bank note companies; and the knowledge coming from the work was so formulated that we are quite sure that we can tell within a year or so what the date of a stamp is by the paper upon which it is printed. This is of course applicable to most stamps, but there are occasionally ones which are found which the writer freely confesses that he is unable to place. The notion seems to exist among those who do not study stamps to any great extent that all this examination of papers is a useless thing. Who cares, they ask, what paper a stamp is printed upon? The fact is that nobody does care if he is a sensible collector so far as the particular stamp itself is concerned. Changes in print or paper have remarkably small significance when considered by themselves, but considered in their relation to other things and to occurrences which happen from time to time they are of very great importance. For instance, yesterday there was submitted to the writer a lot of stamps falsely grilled. The work was very well done but the question was how to make it appear to the one submitting them for examination, that the assertion that they were counterfeits was anything more than our opinion. The forger had carefully selected his stamps, but he was lacking in a perfect knowledge of qualities of paper. When he wanted the ten cent of '72 for his work he picked out one on brittle paper, and without the

secret mark, but it was American paper nevertheless. The commonly accepted definition of American paper as of the soft porous quality, applies in most instances but not in all. The certainty of the stamp being on American paper, or at least not being on National paper, which is the only kind that would be grilled, happened in this instance to be confirmed by a view with a strong glass which revealed the remains of the secret mark in the ornament on the right side, the plate not being worn quite enough so that it had entirely disappeared.

This is also a characteristic of American print, as the plate was in good condition during the Continental period and stamps printed then showed the secret mark plainly. This is a practical illustration of the value of the scientific method in the study of United States stamps. Every student of stamps, no matter what country he may take up, will find the examination of the paper that is used very important to him in many ways.

One of the surest means of getting ahead when one is making a study of stamps is the recognition of the fact that one's knowledge is and can be only a small fraction of the sum total of knowledge to be obtained. No matter how hard one may work and how much one may accomplish there will come those after him who will go farther ahead than he has gone, and find out more of truth even though they may not be giants as the early workers were, —even though they may be merely pigmies, they will be "pigmies on the shoulders of giants" able to see farther and understand much more than the giants themselves. Scientific work in the study of stamps has made very great progress during the past few years and it is to be hoped that those who give themselves to it will work ahead and develop much truth, so that the next few years may see a great increase in the sum of our knowledge.

CRAWFORD CAPEN.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

BY GEORGE B. DUERST.

[From the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.*]

Schleswig-Holstein, situated in the north of Germany between that country and Denmark, has been for centuries the apple of discord between them, the two duchies, and also Lauenburg, which politically belonged to them, continually changing hands, now belonging to Denmark with the King of Denmark as their Duke, now under the nominal sovereignty of the German Emperor and ruled by their own Dukes.

To follow all the internal feuds and give an account of all battles fought would lead me too far, but a few of the principal events will no doubt be interesting to my readers.

The first church built on Danish ground was erected at Schleswig in 850, the country evidently then belonging to Denmark. In 934, however, it was ceded to Germany, and Henry I. established it as a separate dependency under the name of "Danish Mark."

The Emperor Conrad II. gave the country back to Denmark in 1025. The Wendish tribes revolted and founded in 1066 a mighty empire under Kruko. This empire comprised Mecklenburg, Holstein, Schleswig, Lauenburg, Stormarn and Dithmarschen. The Emperor Lothair appointed, about the year 1230 or 1231, Duke Adolphus of Schauenburg Duke of Holstein, whereas Schleswig was left with Denmark, and Lauenburg was given to Henry of Badewide. In 1459 Adolphus VIII., Duke of Schleswig and Holstein, died and his uncle, King Christian I. of Denmark (the first ruler of the Oldenburg line), was elected Duke of Schleswig and Holstein on the 5th of March, 1470. One of the principal clauses in the act of succession was "that these two countries should be undivided forever" (ewich tosammente ungedeelt). About the year 1500, however, King John divided the countries again, and his brother Frederic received Tondern, Hadersleben, Tyle, Steinburg, Trittow, Oldenburg, Plön and Kiel, whereas King John retained Flensburg, Sonderburg, Norburg, Hanrove, Rendsburg, Haseldorf, Apenrade and Segeberg, i. e., the northern portion. By the treaty of Roeskilde in February, 1685, Schleswig and Holstein were declared to be independent of Denmark. This treaty, however, was never carried out, and the two duchies were sometimes united with Denmark, and sometimes independent, and under the rule of their own dukes. In 1720 England and France confirmed the conquest of Schleswig by the Danes, while Holstein was considered as belonging to the German Empire under the sovereignty of their own dukes. At the end of the Napoleonic troubles both duchies were left with Denmark although it had

been decided that only Schleswig should belong to Denmark. On the southern gate of Rendsburg there is to be found the inscription "Eidora Romani Terminus Imperii," meaning that the river Eider is to be the frontier of the Roman Empire, and the decision of dividing the two duchies was based on it. In 1846 the question arose, whether Schleswig and Holstein should belong to Denmark or not, and when the Danish Congress petitioned the King to proclaim that Denmark, Schleswig, Holstein and Lauenburg, should be one united monarchy, the German population of the three latter provinces appealed to the German people and expressed the wish to be free from Denmark, and to become independent Duchies affiliated to Germany. An insurrection broke out in 1848, but was subdued by the Danes in 1851, and it was not until 1864 that the German Congress asked Prussia and Austria to interfere. The consequence of this step was the war of 1864 which ended by Denmark ceding Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg to the victors. These, however, could not agree altogether, sometimes the two duchies were governed by both, sometimes Schleswig by Prussia and Holstein by Austria. The war of 1866 between Austria and Prussia left the three duchies with Prussia.

Geographically, Schleswig and Holstein are bounded on the north by Jutland, belonging to Denmark; on the east by the Baltic, Lübeck, and Mecklenburg; on the west by the North Sea; and on the south by Mecklenburg and Hamburg. The population is 1,150,300, and the area 7,273 square miles.

The currency at this time consisted of

1 Mark Courant (Hamburg) = 16 schillinge = 28 cts.

1 Mark (Lauenburg) = 16 schillinge = 25 cts.

1 Rigsbankdaler = 96 skillings = 55 cts.

A study of these various currencies will facilitate greatly the understanding of the stamps.

From the foregoing historical sketch it can be clearly seen that the stamps of Schleswig-Holstein should be divided into the following periods:

- A: Schleswig-Holstein (Provisional Government. Seat of Government at Rendsburg). 15 Nov., 1850—1 Feb., 1851.
- B: Schleswig-Holstein (Danish Government). 1 February, 1851—1 March, 1864.
- C: Schleswig (governed by Commis-

sioners appointed by Prussia and Austria. Seat of Government at Flensburg). 20 Feb., 1864—24 Jan., 1865.

D: Holstein (governed by Commissioners appointed by Prussia and Austria. Seat of Government at Kiel). 1 March, 1864—24 Jan., 1865.

E: Schleswig and Holstein (governed by Prussia and Austria combined. Seat of Government at Flensburg). 24 Jan., 1865—31 Oct., 1865.

F: Schleswig (governed by Prussia). 1 Nov., 1865—1 Nov., 1866.

G: Holstein (governed by Austria). 1 Nov., 1865—1 Nov., 1866.

H: Schleswig and Holstein united with Prussia. 1 Nov., 1866.

[To be continued.]

OMAHA EXPOSITION STAMPS.

PROTEST OF SAN FRANCISCO DEALERS.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Jan. 27, 1898.

HON. JAMES A. GARY,

Postmaster General,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Whereas, the Special Commemorative stamps for the Omaha Exposition are regarded here by all fair minded stamp collectors and dealers as being speculative and unnecessary in character, and that many small countries are issuing and preparing fancy designs of stamps for the sole purpose of selling to stamp collectors for revenue only; and whereas, these, to a large extent are unnecessary abortions, coming as they do of late in such vast numbers as to drive many en-

thusiastic philatelists from our ranks in disgust, and as it also seriously threatens philately's future; *Resolved*, that we the Stamp Dealers Protective Association, this 27th day of January, 1898, have assembled herewith to enter a protest against the issuance of these so called Exposition stamps; *Resolved*, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Hon. James A. Cary, Postmaster General at Washington, D. C., in the hope that he will give this matter his kind consideration, and that the passage of these stamps be reconsidered by him.

W. SELLSCHOPP, President.

JAS. N. MAKINS, Secretary.

E. F. GAMBS, Treasurer.

The Post Office.

CRAWFORD CAPEN, *Editor.*

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½ column.	5 00	13 50	25 50	48 00
1 column.	9 00	24 30	47 60	86 40
1 page.	16 00	43 20	81 60	153 60

Forms close on the tenth of each month.

TERMS.—Cash in advance.

We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement which we consider detrimental to the interests of the journal, without giving any reasons whatsoever.

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J. C. MORGENTHAU & CO.,

87 Nassau Street, New York.

A cross opposite these lines indicates that your subscription expires with this number. A prompt renewal is requested.

The exchanges of the Post Office will greatly oblige if they will send one copy to THE POST OFFICE at 87 Nassau Street, and another to the editor, P. O. Box 2,874, New York.

* * *

We publish elsewhere a protest from the dealers of San Francisco addressed to the Postmaster General of the United States in opposition to the proposed stamp for the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. It is not likely that any protest whatever offered by stamp dealers will have any effect. The Trans-Mississippi Exposition will have its stamps and will sell them to collectors everywhere, who are disposed to buy them. The Government of the United States thinks that the dealers have no business to say anything about the matter and this may be in a way a correct view. The efforts of the dealers how-

ever to prevent this issue is but an echo of the opinion of collectors in all parts of our land.

It is collectors who will buy these stamps and it is to them that the appeal is made to furnish funds for the carrying on of this Exposition. The question is will they do it? The view that we take in the matter is well known. We believe that there is one way and just one to prevent a large sale of these stamps. We think that the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. holds the key to the position and if they distinctly and definitely state at the present time that they will not list this series of stamps in the main part of their catalogue but will give it a select position among the speculatives in the back of the book, that the cause will be won, so far as the large number of collectors is concerned: The stamps will be good for postage and may be used as such but from collectors' point of view they will have comparatively little value.

* * *

There are some who do not or will not see the great power possessed by the publishers of the catalogue generally accepted by the collectors of a country as a standard. It does not do to blink the facts. The catalogue possesses a large power in molding and developing the collecting interests of the country. Collectors generally follow its dictates, and this being the case it is the greatest power for good or ill, so far as collecting is concerned.

* * *

We re-print an article from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* concerning Schleswig-Holstein which gives many interesting facts in relation to the Duchies as well as stamps. It is the foundation of the exposition of

scientific facts in relation to the stamps of these countries and we shall print the continuation of it next month for the benefit of our readers. It is probable that one who wishes to study these stamps and to write concerning them will find very much information in this article that will be valuable to him.

* * *

The *Times-Herald* of Chicago prints the following interesting bit of news under the date of January 29th. We copy it from the *Philatelic Era*.

BELIEVED IT A BOGUS STAMP.

POSTMASTER GORDON'S MEN
HAD NOT HEARD OF THE NEW ISSUE.

A green 1-cent stamp on one of the hundreds of thousands of envelopes that are handled daily in Chicago post office was discovered Thursday by one of the clerks in the mailing division, and announcement was immediately made that a counterfeit had been intercepted.

The only way the stamp differed from the regular issue, which is printed in blue, was in its color, but it was taken to Superintendent Montgomery's office and from there hurried to Postmaster Gordon.

News of the discovery of the supposed counterfeit was telegraphed to the post office department at Washington and the clerk was complimented on his watchfulness. Yesterday the officials were somewhat chagrined when they received a telegram from Washington notifying the Chicago post office that the green 1-cent stamp was perfectly regular and was one of the large issue recently put out by the department.

This is one of the most laughable things that has occurred lately. It

passes comprehension how men with any idea of stamps or of counterfeiting could believe that counterfeits would be put forth in the wrong color; not merely an off-shade, but positively a wrong color. We suppose that the Chicago people got so excited over the 2 cent lithograph counterfeit a few years ago that they have been unable to recover from the shock, and therefore suppose that everything unusual is counterfeit. What will they do with the Trans-Mississippi Stamp?

* * *

To the Patrons of the late HENRY
GREMMEL :

The January number of the Post OFFICE contained only a short notice of the transfer of the stock of the late Mr. Gremmel to the undersigned by purchase. The sale was consummated while the forms were on the press, and the number being already long past due, we did not desire to delay its appearance any more than necessary, so simply made a few changes. The stock of Mr. Gremmel has now been transferred to our offices, which we have enlarged to double their former size. The old customers of Mr. Gremmel know what a valuable stock of stamps he had accumulated during his ten years active business. This stock is now on sale, and at prices greatly reduced. From time to time we shall publish quotations on certain stamps, and the first installments appear in this number. It is of course impossible to quote on everything, and we can state that in general we are allowing a discount of 40% from 58th prices on all stamps that were in Mr. Gremmel's stock, and a discount of 10% on prices in his price list—sets, packets, etc. The stock is particularly rich in current

sets of Br. Colonies, as well as those preceding the present issue. The West Indian Islands being particularly well represented, as also Gambia, Lagos, Gibraltar, Sierra Leone, Rhodesia, Natal, Straits Settlements, Queensland, etc. In used stamps the stock is rich in South and Central American countries—Hayti, Colombian Republic, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Guatemala, Argentine Republic, Curacao, Surinam, being instances in point.

Mr. Gremmel's wholesale business will be continued by us for the present; it is rather out of our line, and we do not know whether we shall replenish this part of the stock when it runs down. We are allowing a discount of 10% on Mr. Gremmel's wholesale list, which continues in force for the present.

The POST OFFICE will be continued by us as heretofore. We anticipate making certain changes in time, but they will be to the interest of its readers.

We respectfully solicit a continuance of your patronage.

J. C. MORGENTHAU & Co.

Society Reports.

Philatelic Societies containing 25 of our subscribers can have their proceedings reported free of charge.

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Room of the Philatelic Society, *front.*

Room of National Phil. Society, *rear.*

THIRD FLOOR.—Guest Chambers.

BASEMENT.—Billiard Room.

Admittance by Membership Card.

Notices of coming events and applications for membership will be found posted on the bulletin boards.

For special information inquire of the House Committee.

* * *

ADVERTISERS.—It will cost you \$1.50 an inch to advertise in THE POST OFFICE; it would cost you over \$40.00 for postage alone to send a circular to the 3,500 stamp collectors who receive this journal regularly.



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS:

THE POST OFFICE will be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to THE POST OFFICE, 87 Nassau Street, New York.

British Bechuanaland—The *D. B. Z.* chronicles an issue for this protectorate consisting of the current Great Britain surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate." The values are as follows:

Adhesive. Perforated 14.

½d vermilion, black surcharge.

1d lilac, black surcharge.

2d green and red, black surcharge.

4d green and brown, black surcharge.

6d purple on red, black surcharge.

British Central Africa—The *A. J. of P.* chronicles a provisional registration envelope. "The value "TWO PENCE" has been crossed out in red ink, and underneath is written, also in red ink, "4^d" and three initials which we make out to be E. E. H."

Registration Envelope, size 152x96 mm.

4p on 2p ultramarine, red surcharge in manuscript.

British East Africa—The *D. B. Z.* announces the issue of a new set of rupees values in this protectorate. The stamps now measure 30x25½ mm., and are as follows:

Adhesives. Watermark Crown CC.

Perforated 14.

1 rupee ultramarine.

2 purple orange.

3 " dark violet.

4 " carmine.

5 " black brown.

10 " yellow brown.

20 " yellow green.

50 " lilac.

Chili—The *American Journal of Philately* restores the 10c blue on blue paper, 1855 issue, to the catalogue. It is done on the strength of a copy in Mr. J. B. Leavy's collection; this specimen, which we have seen, is undoubtedly on blue paper; it shows the *ivory head* distinctly.

Adhesive. 1855. London Print. Blue Paper.

10c blue.

China—*Le Timbre Poste* announces an issue for the German colony in this country.

Adhesives. Current German Empire, surcharged "China" in black, obliquely.

3 pf. brown, black surcharge.

5 " green, black surcharge.

20 " ultramarine, black surcharge.

25 " orange, black surcharge.

50 " orange brown, black surcharge.

Colombian Republic—The current issue has evidently had a new printing. Shades now current are

- 5c red brown on salmon paper.
- 20c red brown on greenish blue.

Panama — The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the following: We are informed that a provisional Registration Stamp was in use at Colon for a few days in November last. It was formed by surcharging the ordinary 10c stamp, "AR — COLON — COLOMBIA," in three lines, in black.

Registration Stamp.

- 10c orange, black surcharge.

Cuba—The much heralded new issue has at last appeared. The design is alike throughout, the set consisting of portrait of Alphonso XII. in a circle, "Cuba 1898 y 1899" in label at top and value in label at bottom. Denominations as follows:

Adhesive. Perforated 14.

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 mils, all orange brown.
- 1c black violet.
- 2c dark blue green.
- 3c dark brown.
- 4c orange.
- 6c dark blue.
- 8c gray brown.
- 10c vermilion.
- 15c slate green.
- 20c maroon.
- 40c dark lilac.
- 60c black.
- 80c red brown.
- 1 peseta yellow green.
- 2 peseta slate blue.

Dahomey and Dependencies—We are informed there will be the usual "French Colonial" set for this colony. The 10c Postal Card has already appeared.

Fernando Po—The *A. J. of P.* has the following:

The *Madrid Filatélico* informs us that the 6c stamp, not content with having its face smeared over in black, has now received a coat of red in the same style as the previous disfigurement. Also we are informed to our surprise that the 5c stamp has been surcharged 5c as a provisional measure.

Adhesive Stamps.

Provisional Issue.

- 5c on 6c dark violet, red surcharge.
- 5c on 5c green, red surcharge.

France—In the stock of the late Henry Gremmel our publishers found two copies of the 60 centimes dark violet France unpaid. This stamp has been dropped from the catalogues but the specimens found formed parts of complete sets and are undoubtedly genuine and not stamps of the French Colonies perforated.

Unpaid Letter Stamp.

1894. 60c dark violet on creamish perforated, 14x13½.

Guatemala—From this country the *A. J. of P.* announces the following provisionals:

- 1c on 2c slate blue.
- 1c lilac surcharged *Servicio Interno.*

Iceland—For the first time in its history Iceland has been obliged to resort to the surcharge. We understand that the 5 aur green has been used for this purpose.

Adhesive Watermark Crown. Perforated. 14x13½.

3 aur on 5 aur, surcharge "PRIR" in black, "3" in red.

3 aur on 5 aur, surcharge "PRIR" only.

Macao—From the *A. J. of P.*: We read in several of our contemporaries that the 10 reis stamp has been surcharged “2 avos” to correspond with the same value created in Timor when the original set was made with values in Mexican currency.

Adhesive stamp. Perforated.

2 avos on 10 reis green, black surcharge.

Mozambique—From the *A. J. of P.*: We note from several of our contemporaries that the 300r has been used provisionally as a 50r stamp, being provided with a surcharge for the purpose.

Adhesive stamp. Perforated.

50r on 300r dark blue, black surcharge.

Nicaragua—The annual visitation is upon us, and we are informed full sets of postage, unpaid and envelopes, have appeared. As soon as they reach us we will give designs and colors.

Persia—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles 3 provisionals for this country—the surcharge hand-stamped in violet.

Adhesives. Perforated.

5ch on 8ch (lion type) brown.

1kr on 5kr (head type) violet and silver.

2kr on 5kr (head type) violet and silver.

Also the following new issue:

Adhesives. Perforated (lion type).

1ch gray. 2ch brown.

3ch purple. 4ch vermilion.

5ch yellow. 10ch blue.

12ch carmine.

(Head type).

1kr ultramarine.

Salvador—The same as Nicaragua. Colors and denominations will be given next month.

Samoa—The *Monthly Journal* has received the

2d bright yellow perforated 11.

2½ rose “ 11.

6d maroon “ 11.

Straits Settlements (Negri Sembilan)—The *Timbre Poste* announces the following values of the current type as now in use:

5c lilac and ochre.

10c lilac and orange.

20c green and olive,

and the *Monthly Journal* has received:

Selangor—

\$2 green and carmine, wmk. Crown CC.

\$3 green and mustard, wmk. Crown CC.

United States—The *A. J. of P.* has the following:

The Philatelic Monthly and World has discovered a new type of the Eagle Post, which recently turned up among some old letters in Philadelphia. The design is extremely crude, consisting of the inscriptions PAID, EAGLE POST, 80 CHESNUT STREET, all enclosed in a roughly drawn circle. It should be observed that the first “t” of Chestnut is omitted—a peculiar error.

NOTICE.—In order that subscribers to this magazine may receive the new issues as quickly as possible after their chronicle in these columns we shall offer each month small packets consisting of various novelties.

We offer this month (good only till the next number appears):

Novelty Packet No. A containing 9 unused stamps, 25c.

Novelty Packet No. B containing 24 unused stamps, \$1.00. Post free.

J. C. MORGENTHAU & Co.,
87 Nassau Street, New York City.

UNITED STATES STAMPS.

Unused.		Used.	
1855, 1c reprint.....	\$2.50	1847, 5c (.85).....	\$0.45
5c ".....	6.00	10c (4.00).....	2.25
3c outer line (15.00).....	7.50	1851, 1c Broken circle (15.00)....	8.00
10c " (3.00).....	1.75	5c (13.50).....	8.00
12c " (3.00).....	1.75	10c (1.00).....	.50
24c " (7.50).....	4.00	12c (2.25).....	1.25
30c " (12.00).....	7.00	1855, 5c Red-brown (7.00).....	4.00
1861, 5c " (6.00).....	3.00	5c Brown (4.00).....	2.25
1869, 2c re-issue (10.00).....	5.00	5c " (2.50).....	1.40
24c " (15.00).....	8.50	12c (1.00).....	.50
1893, \$1.00 Columbian (4.00)....	2.50	30c (7.50).....	4.00
1894, 50c, no wmk, (1.00).....	.60	1861, 10c (August) (15.00).....	9.00
\$2.00 " (5.00).....	3.00	5c Yellow (8.50).....	5.00
12c P. O. (1.00).....	.50	90c Blue (4.00).....	2.00
90c P. O. (2.50).....	1.25	1869, 15c (2.00).....	1.00
1c State (3.50).....	1.75	24c (7.00).....	4.00
3c " (.75).....	.40	30c (4.00).....	2.25
6c " (1.00).....	.50	1872, 24c (2.00).....	1.00
7c " (3.50).....	1.75	1888, 90c (1.25).....	.70
30c " (8.50).....	4.50	1893, 1.00 Col. (4.00).....	2.00

CONFEDERATE.—Mobile 2c black, five copies (1 dgd.) used on the entire envelope, catalogue value, \$200.00.....Price, \$100.00
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The Comprehensive Catalogue of U. S. Stamps, describing in details the various prints, etc., of United States stamps sent free with any order from above list amounting to \$1.00 or more.

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87 NASSAU STREET,

NEW YORK CITY.

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.

The Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1898.

No. 84.

THE OUTLOOK.

It is frequently helpful to examine the conditions under which one finds one's self, in order to determine the moves to be made in the carrying on of any business. The present seems to be a good time for those who are connected, as dealers or collectors, with business relating to stamps, to examine into present facts and conditions in order to determine the wisdom or unwisdom of purchases or sales which may be contemplated. We have had about two years of steady "liquidation." The times have been such that those who had been holding stamps with the idea of profit in so doing, have been obliged to place them on the market. The result of such action has been a steady decline in prices, and the question is, Has such a decline reached the bottom, or will it continue for a year or more to come? This, we think, states the problem in a nut-shell, for as soon as the point has been reached where stamps will be sold no lower, we may expect that there will come a turn, and a new advance will be inaugurated. There are certain reasons which may be urged against the belief that prices are at the lowest notch. There are rumors of war on all hands. It is urged that men, in the event of war with Spain, will turn entirely from care for stamps or stamp collections, and that in consequence those who possess stamps will have a

still greater desire to sell them, and that larger discounts will be given, and stamps will be sold even without profit, for the sake of securing the money that has been invested in them.

It is noted also that there are large stocks of stamps being disposed of at prices very much less than their actual value, and that those who buy them are therefore able to sell at even lower prices than they have sold them at in the past, and still make a good profit on their sales. These arguments have in them an element of truth which would occasion considerable disquiet among those who have made purchases of stamps at higher prices, were it not for certain opposing truths which in our opinion are more weighty than those which we have mentioned. It is certain in the first place that war with a foreign nation will not be productive of hard times in this country. The increase that has already been begun in the manufacture of war supplies of all sorts is having its effect upon the country, and business is becoming better in every direction. This means, in the first place, that men will have more money to spend. While it may be a fact that in the first rush and push of new business, collectors will turn away from their collecting, it is also certain that within a very short time the need of a relaxation from serious pursuits which the collecting

and arranging of stamps furnishes, will be felt more keenly than ever. Therefore collectors who have money to spend, will spend money in order to satisfy themselves and relieve themselves from the heavy strain of hard work which they perform during business hours. The ultimate result of any increase in the earning power of the collectors of this country, means a large increase in purchases of stamps. As regards the question of those who have made purchases of stocks of stamps, selling them at even lower figures at a profit, it seems reasonably certain that we are very near the bottom as regards prices. These stocks of stamps are passing from the weak into the strong hands. It is noticeable that in the advertisements we see in the papers, unused stamps are being sold at a slight percentage above actual cost in the countries that issue them. Dealers who know that these stamps cannot be replaced at less than face value are not going to sell them to collectors at lower figures than those of the present—*not unless they need money more than those into whose hands stamps are now going need it.* There have been some serious mistakes made in the past in relation to the collecting of stamps which have had an important influence upon the bringing of things to the point at which they are to-day. The foremost of these has been the speculative mistake. Those collectors who have been speculators have not been willing to confine themselves to the securing of rare stamps, but when it has been impossible to get hold of these, they have turned their attention to those issues which were almost unlimited in number, being far beyond the wants of all the collectors of the world.

Thus it was perfectly possible when the time came for liquidation to put

upon the market such large numbers of stamps of those less desirable kinds in which men had been speculating, that there was no one who cared to buy them. The speculator having been ruined so far as his speculation is concerned, he naturally turned away from the collecting of stamps as the means of gain, and has left the market to this extent unsupported.

The second mistake which is not so fully recognized as this, but which is nevertheless a very vital one, has been the fact that the business of dealers in stamps has been looked upon just as any other business is viewed. Dealers and collectors alike have thought of stamps as articles of merchandise of a staple character. It has been forgotten that the collecting of stamps is really a fancy, and that value in these little bits of paper depends upon the notions which the collectors of the world may from time to time have in relation to them. As example, if collectors of the world want United States stamps to-day, they will be sold at comparatively high prices; if to-morrow their minds are taken up with the stamps of South America, those of the United States must be sold at larger discounts. If again they turn to the stamps of the British Colonies, all Americans must suffer. Those who have stocks of the stamps that are not in demand will sell them at a sacrifice in order to get them off their hands, unless indeed they are fortunate enough to possess large numbers of those which are in demand. The only assurance that we have of stability in the stamp business is the fact that collecting has been continued for so many years and that it better and more fully than anything else satisfies the collecting instinct which seems to be almost universal among the

nations of the world. There is in this an assurance of the continuation of the business and a certain amount of value to be attached to all collections of stamps that are made.

So far as the present outlook is concerned it is very good indeed. It is

our personal belief that we have reached the bottom for prices during the present year, and with the return of the good times which seems to be imminent, we anticipate advances in the value of all really scarce stamps.

CRAWFORD CAPEN.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

BY GEO. B. DUERST.

[From the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.*]

(Continued from page 127.)

Period A.

Schleswig-Holstein.

Provisional Government.

Capital Kiel. 15 Nov., 1850—1 Feb., 1851.

Already in the year 1849 the Postmaster of the provisional Government had thought of issuing postage stamps in order to facilitate the work of the postal officials, and made the necessary enquiries in Belgium regarding the manufacture and the cost of the dies, plates, paper, and printing, but it was not until March, 1850, that the Treasury submitted a proposal to the chamber concerning the introduction of postage stamps.

Strange to say Mr. Moëns does not mention the stamps of this issue in his work on the stamps of Schleswig-Holstein; in his large catalogue, however, they are given and headed "Gouvernement Insurrectionnel."

The decree for this issue was dated Kiel, April 2d, 1850, and reads as follows:

Conformably to the decision of the Chamber of Representatives on the 26th of March of this year the Government decrees as follows:

§ 1. The Finance Department be authorized to cause stamps to be manufactured by the affixing of which the franking of letters according to the tariff can be done.

These stamps will bear the coat-of-arms of Schleswig-Holstein.

§ 2. Whosoever

1) manufactures or forges stamps with the view of fraud or uses such imitations or forged stamps for the franking of letters or

2) helps the author of the forgeries to use such imitations for the franking of letters or procures others to do so—will be punished with penal servitude up to 5 years.

This decree gives neither the value nor the colors in which the stamps were to be issued. Several designs were submitted, and one of them being approved of, the firm of H. W. Köbner and Lehmkuhl in Altona secured the printing contract. They were ordered to print the stamps on what is called "Dickenson paper," *i. e.*, paper containing either vertical or horizontal silk threads. This was obtained from Pasing near Munich in Bavaria and had blue vertical silk threads.

An official notice dated Kiel, November 5th, 1850, describes the stamps, and also gives the values to be issued in the first paragraph. Sec. 2 says, that only "letters," not parcels could be franked by these stamps. Sec. 3 deals with letters either not franked at all or insufficiently franked, and strange to say in either case the addressee had to pay the full postage, and no account was taken of any stamps that may have been put on the letters. If too many stamps had been affixed to any letter the sender had to bear the loss. A further curious remark was that no stamp could be used a second time.

A further official notice published the same day for the use of the officials deals with the cancellations. Strange to say neither the word "obliteration" nor the word "cancellation" was used, but the word "blacken" (*schwärzen*). The despatching office had to "blacken" every stamp with the official die (17 horizontal lines surrounding a square containing the number of the office in the centre). If any stamps were not "blackened" at all or too lightly, the receiving office had to cancel them with the date cancellation die, which ordinarily had to be put on the envelope.

These stamps were printed in sheets of 80 stamps.

To Mr. Rosenkranz I am indebted for the above decrees, as also for the following figures of the quantities printed and delivered :

	1 schill. blue.	2 schill. rose.
Nov. 10, 1850.....	80,000	40,000
“ 25, “	20,000	20,000
Dec. 24, “	100,000	100,000
Feb. 14, 1851.....	1,100,000	540,000
Total.....	1,300,000	700,000

The cost of the dies was...1000 Mk. Crt. = \$282.42

The cost of the

printing was 1250 Mk. Crt. = \$352.91

At the post offices stamps to the value of 1599 Mk. 2 schill. = \$451.46 were sold, and letters franked with such stamps numbered 8,701, and the value of the stamps used was 893 Mk. 3 schill. = \$251.92.

A third die of the value of 3 schill. was also made but not used.

Issue of 15th of November, 1850.

Large double-headed eagle with the ducal coat-of-arms embossed in the centre, above which the word POST, and below the word SCHILLING. In the two top corners are the letters S and H, meaning Schleswig and Holstein, in the two lower corners the values in figures. Printed in colors on white Dickenson paper with vertical blue silk threads. Imperforate.

1 schilling blue, dark and light.

2 “ rose, “ “

Mr. Rosenkranz thinks the first printing of both values to have been in the darker shade, as nearly all the remainders are light blue and light rose.

The cancellation die numbers run from 1-42. Those mostly found are 3 (Altona), 11 (Glückstadt) and 18 and 19 (Kiel).

Schleswig-Holstein possessed also the following post offices: Hamburg (12), Lübeck (20), Eutin (10) and Schwartau (42), although these places were outside the two duchies.

The provisional government was dissolved on February 1st, 1851; the stamps could, however, be used for franking letters until the end of August.

The large remainders were sent to Copenhagen with all documents and dies. They have been sold gradually, and their present high price seems to indicate that the stock must be nearly exhausted.

Reprints of this issue do not exist.

[To be continued.]

NEWFOUNDLAND PROVISIONAL FORGERS AT WORK.

When the figures of the rare type of the Newfoundland Provisional 1c. on 3c. became known it was anticipated that its scarcity and value would tempt the forgers to produce these stamps. The following letter from Newfoundland proves that these suspicions were well founded. Fortunately, however, the shade of the stamp upon which the genuine surcharge exists is very scarce, unused, and so, as will be seen from the letter, the forgers were compelled to use a different shade. The writer was to send a copy of the forgery for illustration, but at the time of going to press it had not been received. In the next number of the *POST OFFICE* we hope to be able to illustrate both the forgery and the genuine :

ST. JOHNS, NEWFOUNDLAND, }
 March 2, 1898. }

Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co.

GENTLEMEN: I desire to acquaint you of a case of forgery of Newfound-

land surcharges (I think only type III). Having purchased some a few days ago, I examined them, and made the discovery they were forgeries. I have engaged a solicitor and made a deposition of the facts. There were three young men arrested to-day, and one yesterday, in connection with it. Tomorrow an investigation will be held in court before a magistrate. I will send you a further report on the conclusion of the case. It is easy to distinguish the forgeries from the genuine. "One cent" is about two millimeters higher from the bottom bar in the forgery, and a half millimeter wider across the face of the stamp than the genuine. The ink is paler and not so heavily printed, and the shade of the stamp is a brownish instead of a purple or lilac gray, as the genuine surcharge is only on those two colors.

Yours very truly,

W. J. A——.

DUNEDIN, N. Z., FREE LIBRARY ISSUE.

Effingham House, Arundel Street,
 Strand, London, W. C.

12th January, 1898.

Dear Sir: I am directed by the Committee of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps to inform you that the Sub-Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, have specially considered the question of the proposed issue of stamps in connection with the Jubilee Free Public Library at Otago, New Zealand.

The Sub-Committee are of opinion that these stamps are undoubtedly of a speculative nature, and constitute an attempt to induce collectors to include in their collections labels which are absolutely useless and worthless, and they would advise all amateurs to have nothing whatever to do with them.

Yours truly,

H. R. OLDFIELD,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

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CRAWFORD CAPEN, *Editor.*

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TERMS.—Cash in advance.

We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement which we consider detrimental to the interests of the journal, without giving any reasons whatsoever.

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We will exchange two copies with all philatelic papers. Address all communications to

J. C. MORGENTHAU & CO.,

87 Nassau Street, New York.

A cross opposite these lines indicates that your subscription expires with this number. A prompt renewal is requested.

The exchanges of the POST OFFICE will greatly oblige if they will send one copy to THE POST OFFICE at 87 Nassau Street, and another to the editor, P. O. Box 2,874, New York.

* * *

Collectors of United States stamps will be interested to know that the series of discoveries which have been made concerning the paper of department stamps have received recognition in the Catalogue for Advanced Collectors, published in the *American Journal of Philately*. We find there a list of Department stamps upon ribbed paper, substantially the same as that which has been published in the POST OFFICE with the few additions that have been made since our list was published. The list as it stands at present is as follows:

U. S. DEPARTMENT STAMPS ON RIBBED PAPER.

Agriculture, all.

Executive, all.

Interior, 1c, 12c.

Navy, all.

Post Office, 3, 6, 10, 12, 90.

State, all.

Treasury, 1, 2, 6.

War, all except 7.

It is probable that the seven cent of the War Department will be discovered, and it is possible that all Department stamps may be discovered upon this paper. It is our advice to collectors, that during the time when it is comparatively easy to secure these stamps at ordinary prices, that they complete so far as they are able their collections of stamps upon ribbed paper.

* * *

Mekeels' Weekly Stamp News published a special edition March 3d, which contains a great many good things, including a large number of advertisements interesting to collectors, the whole being dedicated to The Stanley-Gibbons Limited of London, who used a very large amount of advertising space in the paper.

Mr. J. N. Luff published an excellent article on "Things in General" in which he makes the best possible statement of the difficulty that is experienced in providing a catalogue which will please collectors, humorously pressing home his truth by certain quotations from literature, advising his critics to try to make a catalogue themselves if they think it is easy, and concluding with the question in the language of the elder Weller, "Samivel, my son, whether it's worth while going through so much to learn so little, as the charity boy said when he

got to the end of the alphabet, is a matter of opinion. I rather think it isn't."

* * *

His views of the difficulty of providing a color chart for collectors are also precisely correct. Color is something which is so dependent on light and the eye of the observer, that it is impossible to establish a standard which will be available under all conditions. Color names are also so various and so indefinite that it is not possible to designate the shades and tones by any words of the English language. We do not think that there is any better way to handle the question of color than by making comparisons, and learning through careful observation the varieties of the shades of the stamps of different nations.

* * *

The editor concludes with this number the fourth year of his work for this paper. It has been a period during which many things of interest have occurred, in which there have been some notable discussions of facts in relation to stamps, and in which this paper has put forth a great many articles bearing upon stamps which are of permanent value to collectors. There are many interesting things connected with this work, which was largely the joint labor of Mr. Gremmel and the editor, which would interest collectors if they could know them. Mr. Gremmel's attention was first attracted to the editor by our persistent assertion in conversation that there were varieties in the prints of United States stamps which could be detected. This he was disposed to question at first, but when the matter had been brought clearly before him he devoted himself with the utmost determination and energy

to the discovery of facts, and the success of the series of articles which have been published in the POST OFFICE included under the head of The Comprehensive Catalogue of United States Stamps, and later under the title of The Descriptive Catalogue, resulted in very large part from his own study and development of facts which he placed before the editor, in order that they might be put into proper form for the readers of the POST OFFICE.

* * *

The editor cannot refer to these matters without expressing his great indebtedness to Mr. Gremmel, and also without asserting that more and more through the years to come collectors will feel the loss which they have met in the passing away of one who was so thoroughly devoted to all that was worthy of notice in Philately. The editor has a great deal of work upon his hands, and in view of this fact it seems best on the whole that he should conclude his labors for the POST OFFICE with this number. The new publishers of the paper, Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co., are gentlemen with whom we have been associated very pleasantly during the past year, and we have no doubt that in their conduct of the paper they will present to collectors that which will fully satisfy them and make them feel that they are in nowise losers because the present editor of the paper has laid down his pen.

* * *

The editor wishes all his friends with whom he has had so many pleasant talks during the past four years, the utmost success in everything that related to their collecting, and hopes through the interest which the POST OFFICE may develop in the coming

years, many may be added to the numbers of collectors, and much be done for the general good of Philately.

Society Reports.

Philatelic Societies containing 25 of our subscribers can have their proceedings reported free of charge.

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351 Fourth Avenue, New York.

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FIRST FLOOR.—Office and Assembly Room.

SECOND FLOOR.—Library.

Room of the Philatelic Society, *front*.

Room of National Phil. Society, *rear*.

THIRD FLOOR.—Guest Chambers.

BASEMENT.—Billiard Room.

Admittance by Membership Card.

Twenty-second meeting of the Board of Governors held at the Club House, February 14, 1898, Vice-President Bruner in the chair.

Called to order at 8.15 P. M.

Present: Messrs. Luff, Stebbins, Scott and the Secretary.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

The Secretary read sundry letters and reported having circulated copies of Club Year Book among philatelic societies and papers, as directed by Governors.

Upon motion, it was voted that the usual course be followed with share of stock of late Henry Gremmel offered for redemption, to wit: to place it for sale on the Club books.

The Treasurer's report was received, showing balance of \$372.66 cash in bank.

The Chairman of the House Committee then presented his report, which was received.

The bound volume of the *American Journal of Philately* for 1897 was received from the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., to whom a vote of thanks was tendered.

Upon ballot, Mr. Henry C. Quinby, 222 Fifth avenue, proposed by Alexander Holland and seconded by Geo. R. Tuttle, was unanimously elected a subscribing member of the Club.

Adjourned at 8.50 P. M.

J. M. ANDREINI,
Secretary.



TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS:

THE POST OFFICE will be glad to receive from collectors and dealers notices of new issues, etc., which can, if desired, be inserted with the sender's name. Communications as to these should be addressed to THE POST OFFICE, 87 Nassau Street, New York.

Canada—Mr. Gilbert E. Jones has shown us a rare “split provisional” from Canada. The cover in question has a 3d imp. beaver plus $\frac{1}{2}$ of a 3d (wove) the usual ring cancellation covering the split portion. The envelope is further stamped “Port Hope, July 16, 1855. Canada paid 10c.”

China—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent the publishers of the *A. J. of P.* a specimen of the 50c present issue, printed in dark green (the color of the 10c).

It is said that only 240 were printed in this color.

Adhesive. Perforated 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

50c dark green. Error.

French Levant—The *A. J. of P.* chronicles two printings of the 20 piastres on 5 francs.

In the older issue the space between 20 and piastres is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm., whilst in the present issue it is only 1 mm.

Guatemala—1894. Scott type A 17.

There are two types of the surcharge; in the one, “1894” measures 14 mm, in the other, only $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Our publishers found in their stock both types

of the 2c, 6c and 10c on 200—of the 1c on 2c and 10c on 75c, we have seen only the wider surcharge.

Haiti—Our publishers have just received the 7c *slate*. Whilst this stamp has been chronicled many months ago it has only just been put in actual circulation.

Hong Kong—*Filatelic Facts & Fallacies* states the \$1 on \$2 Rev. now comes in light green.

The *D. B. Z.* has received the 96c *slate*, surcharged \$1 and watermarked Crown, C. A. From the watermark we judge there must have been a special printing of the 96c; possibly this is the permanent form of the \$1 stamp, the 96c C. C. has long been obsolete.

Adhesive Stamps. Provisional Issue. Perforated 14.

Watermarked Crown and C. C. \$1 on \$2 light green.

Watermarked Crown and C. A. \$1 on 96c *slate*.

Hungary—Various German contemporaries chronicle the following new issues for Hungary:

Adhesives. Perforated.

2kr red violet, value in black.

3kr green, value in black.
 10kr blue, " " "
 20kr gray, " " "

Mozambique—The 20r rose and 40r brown of 1885 have been utilized in the manufacture of the following provisionals issued in December :

2½r on 20r 1885, black surcharge.
 5r on 40r " " "

Nicaragua—The design of the 1898 set is uniform throughout, having the coat of arms in the centre : " Republica Mayor de Centro America " above, " Estado de Nicaragua," and value below.

There are 11 varieties of adhesives, the same number of officials, 7 unpaid letter stamps, 5 envelopes and 4 post-cards.

North Borneo—We understand the current (re-engraved) set has been defaced with the over-print " Postage Due."

Philippine Isles—The new set, corresponding exactly to that announced for Cuba in the February number of this journal, has now been put in circulation. Colors and values are exactly the same as Cuba—a 5c value is added, the color of which is carmine. The Scott Stamp & Coin Co. add to their list of provisionals in the Addenda to the 1898 Catalogue—

15c on 15c red brown, blue surcharge.

Porto Rico—The 1898 set is in every particular the same as that listed herewith for the Philippine Islands.

Portugal—Various journals chronicle the sets to be issued on April 1st for this country, also sets for Azores, Madeira, Colonies in Africa, Maçao, Timor, and Portuguese Indies—in all 7 sets, 8 values each, in addition to which there

is to be a set of 6 values of unpaid stamps for Portugal. We understand the various designs printed by Messrs. Waterloo & Sons, of London, commemorate the voyages of Vasco de Gama. These sets are not only speculative but absolutely unnecessary, and we trust the same will meet with scant support from philatelists on this side of the Atlantic.

Roumania—*Der Philatelist* has received an interesting error in this country, it is the 25 bani blue in a strip with two of the 5 bani blue current issue. The sheets of the 5 bani with this error were on sale for three days at the Bucharest Post Office; on the fourth day, the error was discovered in the state printing establishment, and all 5 bani sheets with the error were seized by a special committee of the government, those in the Post Office as well as those in the branch offices.

The sheets in question were printed in December, 1897, and consisted of 2,000 in all, the error being the third stamp from the right in the third row from the top.

Hence there were 2,000 of the errors; of these 216 had been sold (*i. e.*, 216 sheets) and the balance, 1,784, were withdrawn; neither *Der Philatelist* nor its correspondents say what has become of these sheets.

Adhesive, 1897. *Perforated* 13½.

Error 25 B blue.

The same paper chronicles the unpaid letter stamp. 10 bani green perforated 13, with watermark P. R. 15 mm. high.

Unpaid letter stamp, perforated 13, watermark, P. R. 10 bani green.

Salvador—The design of the 1898 issue, chronicled last month, is : national arms in the centre; Union Postal Uni-

versal, 1898, Republica Mayor C. America, at top; Estado de el Salvador and value at bottom.

12 adhesives, 8 unpaid letter stamps, 5 envelopes and 5 post cards.

Sarawak—Our publishers have received the following additions to the current set—

- 16c green, value in orange.
- 32c “ “ “ black.
- Both designs of the usual type.

Uganda—The *P. J. of Gt. B.* notes a specimen of the 50 cowries, of the first issue, printed in error 51 and then corrected to 50.

Adhesive.

- 50c on 51c black, error.

NOTICE.

In order that subscribers to this magazine may receive the new issues as quickly as possible after their chronicle in these columns, we shall offer each month small packets consisting of various novelties.

We offer this month (good only till the next number appears):

Novelty Packet No. A containing 9 unused stamps, 25c.

Novelty Packet No. B containing 24 unused stamps, \$1.00. Cash with order, Post free.

J. C. MORGENTHAU & Co.,
87 Nassau Street, New York City

ADVERTISERS.—It will cost you \$1.50 an inch to advertise in THE POST OFFICE; it would cost you over \$40.00 for postage alone to send a circular to the 3,500 stamp collectors who receive this journal regularly.

NEW ISSUES.

For some time past we have been supplying our customers with new issues as soon as they reach us. This month we offer readers of the "POST OFFICE" the following novelties, all unused:

Barbados Jubilee Issue.

¼p, ½p, 1p, 2½p.....	\$ 15
5p, 6p.....	35
8p, 10p.....	55
2s 6p.....	90
The set as above for.....	1 90

British Central Africa.

1895, 1p, 2p, 4p, 6p, 1sh.....	2 00
1897, 1p, 2p, 4p, 6p, 1sh.....	1 00

Canada.

1897, permanent issue, ½c, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 10c.....	50
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Labuan.

1897, issue of 1894 re-engraved, 1c, 2c, 3c, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 12c, 18c.....	10
18c error (postal instead of postage)	85
18c (corrected to postage).....	35
18c (corrected to postage).....	20

North Borneo.

1897, issue of 1894 re-engraved, 1c, 2c, 3c, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 12c, 18c, 24c.....	1 00
18c, error (postal instead of postage)	35
24c, error (postage omitted).....	40
18c (corrected to postage).....	20
24c (postage added).....	30

Sierra Leone.

1897, ½p, 1p, 1½p, 2p.....	18
2½p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 6p.....	65
1sh.....	35
2sh.....	70
5sh.....	1 75

Salvador.

1896 issue, complete, Nos. 134 to 145.....	45
1896 issue (II), Nos. 146 to 157.....	45
1896 issue, unpaid, complete.....	45

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UNUSED.

Argentine Republic, 1892, 2c (.40).....	\$0.20
1892, 5c (.40).....	.20
Corrientes, 1864-80, 2c yellow (.50).....	.25
“ 3c blue (.25).....	.15
“ 2c mauve (.25).....	.15
Brazil, 1888, 700r (.85).....	.45
1890-93, 700r chocolate (.40).....	.25
“ 700r fawn (.50).....	.30
1894-97, 500r (.25).....	.15
700r (.35).....	.20
Bulgaria, unpaid, 1895, 30c on 50c (.25).....	.15
“ 1896, 10s (.05).....	.03
Chili, 5c Return Reg. 1894 (.08).....	.05
China, 1897, 1c on 1c (No. 31) (.10).....	.06
“ 2c on 3c (No. 32) (.25).....	.15
“ 4c on 4c (No. 36) (.25).....	.15
“ 5c on 5c (No. 87) (.20).....	.12
“ 10c on 9c (No. 45) (.20).....	.12
Congo, 1894, 25c (.10).....	.06
“ 50c.....	.12
“ 1 franc.....	.23
“ 5 “.....	1.15
P. P. 1893, 3½ francs (1.50).....	.90
Curaçao, 1889, 1g 50c.....	.80
“ 2g 50c.....	1.25
1892-93, 25c.....	.12
“ 30c.....	.15
1895, 2½c on 10c (.50).....	.30
Danish W. I., 1873-96, 1c (No. 6) (.08).....	.04
“ 7c (.50).....	.30
1895, 10c on 50c (.25).....	.15
Germany, 1880, 3 pfg. (.06).....	.03
“ 5 “ (.06).....	.03
“ 10 “ (.10).....	.05
“ 20 “ (.15).....	.08
“ 25 “ (.20).....	.12
“ 50 “ (.75).....	.45
Hawaii, 1864-71, 1c (.20).....	.12
1883-86, 12c (1.25).....	.75
1893, 1c (.25).....	.15
“ 12c (3.50).....	2.10
“ 15c (.60).....	.35
Hayti, 1886, 5c (.50).....	.30
1890, 2c on 3c (.15).....	.09
1891, 1c (.08).....	.05
“ 2c (.10).....	.06
“ 5c (.20).....	.12
1893-5, 3c (.15).....	.09
“ 5c (.10).....	.06
“ 20c (.40).....	.24

USED.

Austria, Levant, 1888, 2pi (.35).....	\$0.20
Lombardy, Venice, 1850, 10c (.50).....	.30
1858-59, 3s black (.75).....	.45
1863, 15s, perf. 14 (.15).....	.09
Belgium, 1865, 1 franc (1.00).....	.60
1866, 1 franc (.85).....	.50
Bolivia, 1894, 50c (.12).....	.06
“ 1.00 (.25).....	.15
Brazil, 1888, 700r (.85).....	.45
“ 1,000r (.25).....	.15
1890-93, 1,000r (.25).....	.15
Bulgaria, 1879, 1 franc (.50).....	.30
1889, 50c (.15).....	.09
“ 1 l (.12).....	.06
Col. Rep., 1868, 1 peso (.35).....	.20
1876, .20 (12).....	.06
1881, 50c green (No. 128) (1.00).....	.50
1883, 1 peso (.75).....	.40
1888, 1 peso (1.00).....	.60
Curaçao, 1873, 50c (.25).....	.15
1889, 12½c (20).....	.10
“ 15c (.20).....	.10
“ 60c (.60).....	.30
“ 1g 50c (1.50).....	.80
“ 2g 50c (1.50).....	.80
1891, 25c on 30c (.60).....	.35
1895, 2½c on 10c (.60).....	.30
“ 2½c on 30c (.60).....	.30
Danish W. I., 1895, 10c on 50c (.25).....	.15
France, 1849-50, 10c (.85).....	.50
“ 1 franc (1.00).....	.60
1853-60, 20c blue on greenish (1.00).....	.60
Unpaid, 1881-92, 50c (.12).....	.07
Hawaii, 1864-71, 2c (.35).....	.20
“ 5c (.60).....	.35
1893, 12c (.35).....	.20
Hayti, 1881, 1c (.25).....	.15
2c (.50).....	.30
3c (.50).....	.30
5c (.50).....	.30
7c (.50).....	.30
1882, 3c (.25).....	.15
7c (.25).....	.15
20c (.20).....	.10
1883, 5c (.15).....	.09
7c (.50).....	.30
1886, 20c (perf. 16) (2.00).....	1.20
2c (.25).....	.15
5c (.25).....	.15

CASH WITH ORDER.

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87 NASSAU STREET, - - NEW YORK CITY.

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75 NASSAU ST.,
NEW YORK CITY.

RARE U. S. REVENUES.

IMPERFORATE.	Cat. Price.	My Price.
10c Bill of Lading	\$1.00	\$0.70
25c Protest	1.25	.70
50c Mortgage	1.75	.75
50c Probate of Will.....	4.00	2.00
\$1.00 Conveyance.....	.35	.20
1.00 Mortgage	1.25	.50
1.60 Inland Exchange.....	10.00	7.00
2.00 Mortgage	2.50	1.00
5.00 "	3.50	2.00

	Cat. Price.	My Price.
50c Probate of Will	\$1.75	\$1.00
\$1.00 Conveyance.....	0.25	0.15
1.60 Inland Exchange.....	2.50	1.90
1.90 " "	1.50	1.25
3.50 " "	2.00	1.50
10.00 Conveyance.....	3.50	2.25
25.00 Mortgage	5.00	3.50
50.00 U. S. Inland Revenue.....	4.00	3.00

2D ISSUE.

PERFORATED.	Cat. Price.	My Price.
2c Certificate, orange.....	.75	.50
2c Playing Cards, orange.....	1.50	.75
4c Proprietary .....	.15	.09
5c Playing Cards.....	.90	.60
5c Proprietary.....	1.50	1.00
20c Foreign Exchange.....	1.25	.85
25c Protest .....	.50	.10

6c blue and black.....	2.50	1.50
\$2.00 " " .....	.75	.50
2.50 " " .....	.50	.35
3.00 " "	2.00	1.50
3.50 " "	6.50	4.00
20.00 " "	15.00	8.00
25.00 " "	22.50	9.00
50.00 " "	15.00	8.00

CASH WITH ORDER. MONEY REFUNDED FOR UNSATISFACTORY STAMPS.

Your Want List of Part Perforated and Silk Papers filled at 50 per cent. of 57th Prices.

HENRY CREMEL,

85 Nassau Street, - - - NEW YORK.

Drop Me a Postal Card for the

CHEAPEST PRICE LIST OUT.

It is full of bargains and good stamps.

F. NOYES,
ALICE, TEXAS.

UNITED STATES STAMPS

- AT -

60 % DISCOUNT.

On receipt of \$5.00, we will send a collection of 230 varieties of United States stamps and envelopes which amount to over \$13.00 at list price, or for \$2.50 we will send 100 varieties United States Adhesives which amount to nearly \$7.00 at list price.

BOGERT & DURBIN CO.,

722 Chestnut St., 160 Nassau St.,
PHILADELPHIA. NEW YORK.

Even Exchange with Collectors. Approval Sheets exchanged, or sent to select from at 50 per cent. for used and 25 per cent. discount for unused stamps from standard catalogue prices. References.

A. L. MACKAYE,

Care N. Y. Press Club,
34 West 26th Street, New York, (73)

TAKE HEED! BE QUICK! We offer U.S. Newspapers and Periodicals, '79-'85, Soft Paper, Full Gum, as follows:

	Cat. Price.	Our Price.		Cat. Price.	Our Price.
1c Black.....	\$0.25	\$0.12	4c Black.....	\$0.50	\$0.30
2c " .....	.35	.18	10c " .....	.50	.30
3c " .....	.75	.45			

The Set of 5 Varieties for \$1.20.

Approval Books at 50% discount. Reference required.
P. O. Box 182,
THE BRETT STAMP CO., ALBANY, N. Y.

R. LINDNER,

BERLIN, WILMERSDORF,
GERMANY,

will repair damaged and clean soiled rarities at following prices:

1 M. each for stamps valued at	5— 25 M.
1 M., 50 Pf. " " "	25— 50 M.
5 M. " " "	50—100 M.
7 M., 50 Pf. " " "	100—300 M.
15 M. " " "	500—800 M.

At Senf's 1896 or Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue,
1 M. equal to 25 cents.

Prices are strictly net.

Reference:—Publisher of this Journal. (75)

New England Stamp Company,

265 WASHINGTON STREET,

BOSTON, MASS.

Antigua, 2½d. brown, cc.....	\$12.00	Nevis, 1s. yellow, green.....	\$80.00
Bahamas, 1s. cc perf. 12½.....	40.00	St. Kitts, 6d. olive brown.....	16.00
Barbados, 5s. pink.....	28.00	St. Lucia, 1s. orange and black.....	24.00
Bermuda, 3d. on 1d. rose.....	30.00	St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s. vermilion.....	110.00
British Guiana, 96c. bistre.....	20.00	Tobago, 6d. bistre brown, cc.....	20.00
British Honduras, 6d. cc. 14.....	24.00	Trinidad, 5s. dull lake, cc.....	10.00
Dominica, 1s. lake, C. A.....	28.00	Turks Isl., No. 35, 4d. on 1s. violet....	32.00
Grenada, 6d. rose, no wmk.....	16.00	Virgin Isl., 6d. Perf. 15.....	40.00
Montserrat, 4d. blue, C. A.....	52.00		All unused.

Having these stamps, we must have others also that you have tried in vain to find.

Send us your want lists on **U. S. Adhesives, U. S. Revenues, U. S. Envelopes** (cut square or entire), **Match and Medicine, British North America, Leeward Islands, Africans, Australians, Europeans**, all other countries, and we will astonish you. Reference required.

1897. LIBERIA. 1897.

All Unused, Mint Condition.

1c. mauve	\$0.03
2c. black and olive.....	.04
5c. black and magenta.....	.10
10c. black and yellow .....	.20
15c. gray	---
20c. red.....	---
25c. green	---
30c. gray blue.....	---
50c. black and brown red.....	---

The Complete Set of 9, only \$2.00

CASH WITH ORDER.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau Street, NEW YORK.

Important Announcement.

I have taken possession of the entire stock of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., as Trustee, under Deeds of Trust issued for the benefit of all creditors of that corporation, and I am ready to fill all orders, either wholesale or retail, the day of receipt.

Notice to Dealers:

I am prepared to make **SPECIAL PRICES** on any stamps in this immense stock, and solicit correspondence from buyers.

Notice to Collectors:

Want lists will be given special attention at the best discounts. Correspondence solicited from **BUYERS**. Liberal discounts allowed on large orders of either packets, sets or other stamps.

I have retained the regular employees and am prepared to give business the best attention.

W. B. BECKTOLD, Trustee,
Station C, St. Louis, Mo.

TO EUROPE.

During this summer I will visit Europe and will call on all the principal dealers of London, Paris, Bruxelles, Hanover, Berlin, Frankfurt a. M., Munich, Leipzig, etc.

United States collectors or dealers who will commission me to sell or purchase stamps for them should correspond with me at once. I will take Rarities (no stamps priced below \$2.00), pasted in books with hinges and priced at lowest net figures, at 10 per cent. commission, and will purchase Rarities at the lowest prices for collectors and charge them 10 per cent. additional. Special terms to parties who have very large lots or fine collections to dispose of.

Blank Approval Books holding 60 stamps each can be supplied at 15 cents per 10, post free.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 NASSAU ST.,

NEW YORK.

CHINA PROVISIONALS.

Since last month I have received a few more provisionals, of some only a very small quantity, so order early if you want to complete your sets.

Small Surcharge.			
½c on 3c (1894) yellow	.....\$0.03	30c on 24c (1894) carmine	.....\$0.60
1c on 1c (1885) green	......25	1c on 3c (Revenue) red	......05
1c on 1c (1894) red	......50	2c on 3c " "	......05
2c on 3c (1885) violet	......25	\$1.00 on 3c " "	..... 1.00
2c on 2c (1894) green	..... 1.00		
4c on 4c (1894) red	......08	Large Surcharge.	
5c on 5c (1894) orange	......10	½c on 3c (1894) orange	......05
5c on 5c (1885) ochre	......10	1c on 1c (1894) red	......05
8c on 6c (1894) brown	......15	2c on 2c (1894) green	......06
10c on 9c (1894) green	......50	10c on 12c (1894) orange	......20
10c on 12c (1894) orange	......20	30c on 24c (1894) carmine	......60
		4c on 3c (Revenue) red	......08

A SET OF 21 ONLY \$5.00.

CASH WITH ORDER.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 NASSAU ST.,

NEW YORK.

J. C. MORGENTHAU & CO.

OFFER THE FOLLOWING SPECIALTIES:

OBSOLETE.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

(On India.)

½ anna, unused	.....	\$0.15
1 " " "	.....	.22
1 a, 6 p, " "	.....	.38
2 annas, " "	.....	.55
2 a, 6 p, " "	.....	.55
3 annas, " "	.....	.95
4 " " "	.....	.38

(The set of 7 for \$3.00.)

SAINT HELENA.

(Surcharged.)

½d, green (No. 36) unused	.....	\$0.09
2d, yellow, unused	.....	.15
3d, violet, " "	.....	.25
4d, brown, " "	.....	.35

(The set of 4, 75 cents.)

SIERRA LEONE.

½d, green, unused	.....	\$0.03
1½d, violet, " "	.....	.09
3d, yellow, " "	.....	.15
4d, brown, " "	.....	.20
6d, red-violet, " (No. 32.)	.....	.35

(The set of 5 for 75 cents.)

ZANZIBAR.

(On India.)

½ anna, unused	.....	\$0.09
1 a, " "	.....	.15
1 a, 6 p, " "	.....	.15
2 a, " "	.....	.38
2 a, 6 p, " "	.....	.50
3 a, " "	.....	.50
4 a, " "	.....	.38

(The set of 7 for \$2.00.)

NEW ISSUES.

CAPE.

2½d, blue, unused	.....	\$0.08
1s, ochre, " "	.....	.40

CYPRUS.

½ pia, green and red, unused	.....	\$0.03
30 para, " violet, " "	.....	.04
1 pia, rose and blue, " "	.....	.05
2 " blue and claret, " "	.....	.10
4 " olive and purple, " "	.....	.20
6 " green and brown, " "	.....	.30
12 " red and black, " "	.....	.60

(The set of 7 for \$1.15.)

ST. HELENA.

1d, red, unused	.....	\$0.04
2d, yellow, " "	.....	.08
2½d, blue, " "	.....	.08
5d, lilac, " "	.....	.18

(The set of 4 for 40 cents.)

TOBAGO.

The Provisional ½d on 4d Lilac Revenue' postally used on the entire cover, . \$3.50

Any of above stamps sent on receipt of cash, money order, or New York draft. Money cheerfully refunded if stamps are not satisfactory. Postage extra on orders under 50 cents.

We have in stock most of the new varieties listed in 57th edition and will send same on approval at lowest net prices.

WANT LISTS SOLICITED.

J. C. MORGENTHAU & CO.,

STAMPS FOR COLLECTIONS.

87 NASSAU STREET, - - NEW YORK CITY.

EUSTACE B. POWER, Manager.

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.

Albrecht's Surpassing Hinges....

Much has been said and written about hinges, but the best remark we noticed some time ago in reference to these little, but for stamp collectors, very important slips of paper, was this: "*A hinge is an infernal machine for the destruction of rare stamps!*"

The author of this dictum has evidently never seen our "**Surpassing Hinges,**" and it serves him right that his experience with any other make of hinges has caused his outcry of condemnation of a most useful tool for collectors.

To use a hinge properly must be learned like everything else. In using the "**Surpassing Hinges**" do not put on too much moisture, and when affixing it to a stamp, place the same face down on an even surface, press the hinge slightly on to the stamp by rubbing it with your finger nail, then fold the hinge, the fold to be on a straight line with the end of the stamp (or the perforation) and finally attach the end of the hinge to your album. What will be the result? Here is what Mr. James S. Whipple, of Urbana, Ohio, sayeth :

"I have removed stamps from sheets put on with your Surpassing Hinges and found neither stamp or sheet was injured."

Now as to the price! Just think of it, we charge 15 cents per thousand, which is one-third more than what you can buy "*infernal machines*" for. But is it safe to have infernal machines in your house? Here is what Mr. C. E. Severn, of Chicago, sayeth :

"What profiteth a collector if he saves a few cents in buying his stamp hinges and loses many dollars in torn stamps through their fault?"

Can you imagine an outlay of over a thousand dollars for hinges? That is exactly what we had to do in order to supply the American market with an article which would give entire satisfaction. The enormous quantity we imported secured us a cheaper buying price than we had before, and we are thus enabled to offer our "**Surpassing Hinges**" to the trade as follows :

50,000	for	\$4.75	(equal to	9½c	a package of	1,000)
100,000	"	8.50	"	8½c	"	"
250,000	"	20.00	"	8c	"	"

Expressage extra in all cases.

To Collectors we offer 8 packages for \$1.00 postfree. 1,000 for 15 cents postfree.

R. F. ALBRECHT & CO.,

STAMP DEALERS AND PUBLISHERS,

90 NASSAU STREET, - NEW YORK.

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.

**GREMMEI'S
IMPROVED STOCK BOOKS,**

PATENT No. 538,487,

ARE THE BEST IN THE MARKET.

No. 1 holds 5,000 Stamps.....	\$1.00
" 2 " 15,000 "	2.00
" 3 " 30,000 "	3.00

If you buy stock books of your local dealer, see that Gremmel's Patent No. 538,487 is printed on them.

HENRY GREMMEI,
85 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

CANADA REVENUES....

U. S. Revenue and Postage, British Colonies, Stamps of all grades and Albums sold by us at very low prices. Please write us. Match and Medicine stamps wanted. Large new lists just out.

J. T. STARR STAMP CO.,
COLDWATER, MICH. (174)

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN**

- U. S. 1851. 1c. and 1c. variety,
- " 1856. 3c. and 3c. outer line,
- " 1871. 1c. and 1c. re-engraved.

—OR—

Reay and Plimpton Envelopes,

Bavaria. 1849. 6 kr. and 6 kr. variety,

—OR—

Any similar Stamps and Envelopes catalogued as varieties, then you should have a copy of

MINOR VARIETIES.

(Copyrighted by H. Gremmel.)

Bound in Paper, 15 Cents. — Bound in Cloth, 25 Cents.

SPECIAL PRICES TO THE TRADE.

Send all orders direct to

HENRY GREMMEI,
85 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

THREE FACTS.

No. 17 of The International Stamp was printed in THREE colors on 80 lb. LAID paper and contained 188 INCHES of paid advertising. Most papers are printed in ONE color on 40-50 lb. inferior paper and contain 40-50 inches of advertising matter.

If you see the POINT send for sample to (372)
2624 Dupont Ave., So., Minneapolis, Minn.

**1897. 1897.
WHOLESALE LIST.**

All prices are greatly reduced and many bargains are in it.

FREE TO DEALERS ONLY.

If you have not seen it drop me a postal.

HENRY GREMMEI,
85 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK.

Send 10 cents for "CAPITAL" PACKET No. 18, FOR BEGINNERS. Contains 200 finely mixed stamps. Our Approval Sheets at 25, 33¼ and 50 per cent. commission are fine.

**Blank Approval Sheets, 10 cts. per dozen.
Stamp Hinges, 10 cts. per 1,000.**

CAPITAL CITY STAMP EMPORIUM,
1406 North Third Street, Harrisburg, Pa. (72)

\$1.30 ORANGE, 1st Issue Revenue, Perforated, is a Rare Stamp. I have a few, and if you will send five names of Collectors (not out of any directory) and 75c., I will send you a fine copy.

HENRY GREMMEI,
85 Nassau Street, NEW YORK.

GOLD COAST.

1884 to 1891, unused, mint condition.
½p. green, 1p. rose, 2p. gray, 2½p. blue and orange, 3p. olive, 4p. mauve, 6p. orange, 1sh. violet.

The Set of 8 only \$1.00.

2sh. brown, 75c.; 5sh. lilac and blue, \$1.75; 10sh. lilac and carmine, \$3.50; £1 brown and black, \$7.00.

The Set of 4 only \$11.50.

SIERRA LEONE.

1884 to 1892, unused, mint condition.
"OBSELETE." ½p. green, 3c.; 1½p. violet, 9c.; 3p. yellow, 15c.; 4p. bistre, 20c.; 6p. red violet (32) 35c.

The Set of 5, 75 Cents.

1896. 1p., 2p., 2½p. and 1sh.; set of 4, 55c.
2sh. (37) \$0.90 { the 2 only \$2.50
5sh. (38) 1.75 {
£1 (39) \$6.50.

CASH WITH ORDER.

HENRY GREMMEI,
85 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS:—Two cents per word for each insertion. Cash in advance. No advertisement received for less than 50 cents, and they will be set in solid brevier, no display allowed.

Exchange desired with advanced collectors throughout the world. I offer almost every stamp and postal card of Argentine, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia, etc. Works of art and pictures, views, engravings, etchings, illustrated magazines, colored prints, accepted in exchange for rare stamps of South and Central America. Basis of exchange Scott's 55th edition or Stanley Gibbons'. J. Emilio Monnet, Buenos Aires, Arg. Rep., Calle Arenales, 1718. (65-70)

Queensland. Set twelve varieties 15c; fifty assorted 35c; hundred 50c stamp; add postage, remit unused 6c, 15c, 30c, 50c 1890-4 or 4c Columbus. 250 mixed Queensland or Australian \$1 bill or stamp. Set eight provisionals \$1. S. Dalley, 2 Brighton Terrace, Brisbane, Q.

Burdette R. Baldwin, Box 75, Windham, New York. 100 foreign stamps, all different, 10 cts. Approval sheets for new beginners at 50% commission. A few unused 1 and 2 ct. plate numbers of the present issue. Write for prices. (74)

Undersigned will send good Scandinavian and Iceland stamps in exchange for other stamps. H. Thoróe, Esbjerg, Denmark. Europe. (70)

A Horse and Buggy wanted in exchange for Foreign Postage Stamps. Address "Horse," care of POST OFFICE, 85 Nassau St., N. Y.

Exchange wanted with foreign dealers who can supply stamps in large quantities. Henry Gremmel, 85 Nassau St., New York.

Postage Dues, o. g., uncanc., 1 and 2c red brown, also 1 and 3c brown, catalogued at over 70c; for the 4 only 20c, post paid. Oscar Jannasch, Waco, Texas.

100 U. S. and foreign stamps, fine lot for 25c, guaranteed to catalogue over \$2.50. Have a fine lot of Cuban stamps, guaranteed genuine, unused, 15 varieties, catalogue \$1.80, price, 60c, or both lots for 75c. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. R. Kretschmar, P. O. Box 104, Braidentown, Fla.

Do you need any first issue revenues? Why not exchange with me? I want second and third issue, good U. S. Postage and Departments. A. P. A. No 1315 and Louisville Phila. Society member. C. M. Pate, 2204 4th Ave., Louisville, Ky.

JAMAICA.

All the Postage Stamps except the low values are obsolete, and cannot be bought any more at the Postoffice.

I procured a few and offer them at a low figure.

All unused and mint condition. $\frac{1}{2}$ p. green, 1 p. lilac and mauve, 2 p. green, $2\frac{1}{2}$ p. lilac and mauve, 3 p. olive green, 4 p. vermilion, and 6 p. orange.

The set of 7, only 60c.

1871. 1 sh. brown, wmk. Crown, C. C.	\$0.45
1875. 2 sh. claret.....	1.25
1875. 5 sh. mauve.....	2.50

The set of 10, only \$4.00.

H. GREMMEL,
85 Nassau St., New York.

DEPARTMENTS.

Full original gum and very fine Agriculture set.....	\$25.00
Justice, 1c.....	1.25
" 2c.....	2.25
" 12c.....	2.50
" 24c.....	12.00
State, 1c.....	2.00
" 90c.....	10.00

We hold our last auction sale of the season, April 30th. We would like to send you a catalogue if you'll let us know your address.

If you think of selling next year, we should like to write to you before you decide where to place your collection. We think we can save you money.

Let us quote prices on what you want.

ESTABLISHED 1885.

B. L. DREW & CO.,

(ROOM 219)

23 Court St., BOSTON, MASS.

MONEY IN IT!

I offer here some stamps which will be a good investment. All are unused and in mint condition.

LAGOS.

1885-91— $\frac{1}{2}$ p. green, 1 p. rose, 2 p. lilac and blue, $2\frac{1}{2}$ p. blue, 3 p. lilac and brown, 4 p. lilac and black, 6 p. lilac and purple, 1 sh. green and black.

THE SET OF 8 ONLY \$1.00.

1894—5 p. lilac and green, $7\frac{1}{2}$ p. lilac and carmine, 10 p. lilac and yellow.

THE SET OF 3 ONLY 75 CENTS.

2 sh. 6 p. green and carmine\$1.00 | 5 sh. green and blue\$1.75
 10 sh. green and brown\$3.50.

THE COMPLETE SET OF 14 ONLY \$7.00.

CONGO.

1894-5—5c red brown and black, 10c pale blue and black, 25c orange and black, 50c green and black, 1 fr. lilac and black.

THE SET OF 5 ONLY 65 CENTS.

5 fr. carmine and black\$1.50 | 1893—3 fr. 50c gray\$1.10

THE SET OF 7 ONLY \$3.00.

NEW FOUNDLAND REPRINTS.

Old collectors remember when they could buy the U. S. 1869 set of reprints at face value, but the reprints were not catalogued so they waited till they came in the catalogue as re-issues and paid fancy prices. These New Foundlands are similar and as they can be used for postage, they should be in every collection. Buy a set before they are catalogued and out of your reach. $\frac{1}{2}$ c vermilion, 1c brown, 2c green, 3c brown, 8c blue.

THE SET ONLY 75 CENTS.

Block of 4, same rate.

ST. HELENA.

ALL OBSOLETE.

$\frac{1}{2}$ p. green, 1 p. red, $1\frac{1}{2}$ p. red brown and green, 2 p. yellow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ p. blue, 3 p. violet, 4 p. brown, 6 p. gray, 1 sh. green.

THE SET OF 9, \$1.50.

5 sh. orange\$2.50
 1 sh. green, wmk. Crown, C. C. Scott's, No. 30 80c.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.

I have been able to procure a few of the 1896 10 sh. slate and carmine rose. One New York dealer asks \$8.50 and Stanley Gibbons does not quote them, but prices the 5 sh. at 30 sh. (\$7.50). Take a hint and fill your set, as I will sell a few at \$5.00 each. I still have a few sets of the 2 sh., 2 sh. 6 p., 3 sh., 4 sh. and 5 sh. left. Stanley Gibbons' price, 54 sh. (\$13.50). Will close them out for \$7.00 a set.

CANADA.

Two years ago I bought a large lot of 6 p. on laid paper. I now offer the cream of the lot, all very fine picked specimens, at \$4.50 each.

TRINIDAD.

1880-4— $\frac{1}{2}$ p. green, 1 p. rose, $2\frac{1}{2}$ p. blue, 4 p. slate, 6 p. olive, all obsolete and bound to be rare.

THE SET OF 5 ONLY 75 CENTS AND BLOCK OF 4 ONLY \$2.50.

1894—5 sh. carmine lake, only\$2.50

MANY OTHER BARGAINS CAN BE SUPPLIED.

HENRY GREMMEL, No. 85 Nassau Street, NEW YORK.

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.

BARGAINS IN USED AND UNUSED SINGLE STAMPS.

NUMBERS IN STANDARD 1897 EDITION CATALOGUE.

Hayti.		New. Used.		Naples.		New. Used.		Piura.		New. Used.	
34.	3c	.10	.10	13.	2 g	.15		14.	5c	.20	
35.	5c	.15		Netherland.				Philippine Is.			
36.	2c on 3c	.10	.10	1.	5c	.04		62.	8c	.08	
42.	7c	.20		2.	5c	.10		64.	12½c	.10	
43.	2c	.08	.08	3.	5c	.08		71.	2c	.04	.02
44.	2c	.08	.08	4.	10c	.02		73.	5c	.20	
47.	3c	.10		50.	1 gl	.15		77.	12½c	.06	
49.	7c	.06	.06	62.	50c	.75		81.	10c	.05	
50.	20c	.30	.15	77.	2 g. 50c	1.50		85.	2c	.03	.02
51.	2c	.04	.08	78.	50c	.30		90.	8c	.05	
52.	3c	.05	.05	Norway.				97.	8c	.05	
53.	5c. green	.08	.04	1.	4 s	.08		100.	20c	.20	
Indo China.				6.	2 s	2.00		109.	10c	.10	
15.	1 fr		.20	12.	2 s	.05	.04	178.	1 r. on 5c	.75	
Macao.				33.	1 k	.04		181.	16c. on 2½c	.20	.20
31.	40 r		.25	34.	1 k. 50 o	.35		183.	1 r. on 2c	.70	
45 to 55, set of 12,				35.	2 k	.12		270.	16c. on 2 r	.75	
only		1.25		Oldenburg.				273.	1 r. on 12½	1.25	
56 to 64 and 105 set				16.	½ g	.35		274.	6½ on 12½	.75	
of 10 only		1.25		17.	¼ g	.35		Porto Rico.			
Mexico.				18.	1 g	.15		2.	50c	.35	
3.	1 r	.10		20.	3 g	1.00	1.00	19.	10c	10 00	
6.	2 r	.07		Orange Free State.				69.	40c	.15	
10.	1 r	.05		10.	5 sh	1.75		70.	80c	.60	
11.	2 r	.10		27.	1 p	.06		87.	20c	.06	
28.	2 r	.10		Persia.				89.	80c	1.50	
35.	25c	.20	.20	77.	5 s	.10		96.	1c	.05	
54.	6c	.10		83.	10 p	.30		108.	3c	1.00	
69.	6c	.10		Peru.				Roumania.			
262.	1 p	1.25	.50	3.	1 d	.18		66.	50 b	5.00	
293.	2c	.25	.25	10.	1 p	.35		126.	50 b	.20	
299.	12c	.15	.15	12.	1 d	.12		140.	50 b	.08	
308.	12c	.40	.25	150.	20c	.03		150.	1 l	.12	
315.	20c	.10		151.	50c	.12		151.	2 l	.25	
316.	25c	.12		152.	1 p	.30		St. Pierre Miquelon.			
366.	12c	.25		217.	1c	.06		22.	5c	.05	
383.	10c	.20	.20	218.	5c	.10		23.	15c	.08	
390.	10c	.25	.25	219.	10c	.20	.10	29.	75c	.45	
Monaco.				220.	20c	.15		34.	10c	.12	
6.	25c	.10		221.	50c	.15		Siam.			
Mozambique.				Arequipa.				22.	4 a on 34 a	.10	
7.	100 r	.03		2.	25c	.25		25.	1 a	.07	
10.	10 r	.02		7.	10c	.10	.15	26.	1 a	.03	
14.	50 r	.03		14.	5c	.12		27.	1 a	.03	
18.	25 r	.02	.02					32.	2 a	.06	
20.	50 r	.02	.02					35.	10 a	.12	.10
21.	100 r	.06	.06					36.	4 a	.08	.08

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.

My 1897 Retail Price List No. 12

—OF—

U. S.  FOREIGN STAMPS IS NOW READY.

It is issued in three parts and contains over 150 pages of solid matter on which SINGLE STAMPS ONLY are advertised at prices

FROM 1 CENT TO \$400.00 EACH.

Every stamp advertised in my list is now (April 8th, 1897), in stock and for sale. Many stamps are priced

30 TO 75% BELOW CATALOGUE PRICES OF RECENT DATE.

The price for my list is 25 cents. The 25 cents can be deducted from the first order to the value of \$1.25. If you are a buyer of stamps you may save many dollars by investing 25 cents for a copy of my 1897 Retail List.

Sample of part of page 9 in Part I of
C. F. Rothfuchs' Price List.

	UNUSED.		USED.	
	1st.	2d.	1st.	2d.
Interior.				
1c, vermilion.....	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.20	\$0.10
2c, ".....	.05	.03	.08	.01
3c, ".....	.03	.02	.02	.01
6c, ".....	.05	.03	.05	.02
10c, ".....	.25	.20	.40	.20
12c, ".....	.35	.30	.30	.15
15c, ".....	.50	.25	.40	.20
24c, ".....	.60	.35	.50	.25
30c, ".....	.75	.40	.75	.25
90c, ".....	2.50	1.50	2.00	.75
Complete set, 10 varieties.....	5.00	3.00	4.00	1.75

	UNUSED.		USED.	
	1st.	2d.	1st.	2d.
Justice.				
1c, purple.....	2.00	1.25	2.00	1.00
2c, ".....	3.00	2.00	3.00	1.00
3c, ".....	.75	.50	.60	.20
6c, ".....	1.25	.75	.85	.30
10c, ".....	3.00	2.00	3.00	1.50
12c, ".....	2.50	1.75	2.00	1.25
15c, ".....	7.50	5.00	6.00	3.50
24c, ".....	20.00	15.00	20.00	10.00
30c, ".....	25.00	15.00	20.00	10.00
90c, ".....	50.00	30.00	50.00	22.00
Complete set, 10 varieties.....	110.00	70.00	105.00	50.00

	UNUSED.		USED.	
	1st.	2d.	1st.	2d.
Navy.				
1c, blue.....	1.25	.75	1.00	.40
2c, ".....	.65	.50	.60	.25
3c, ".....	40	30	20	10
6c, ".....	60	50	35	15
7c, ".....	15.00	12.00	10.00	5.00
10c, ".....	2.00	1.50	2.00	.75
12c, ".....	2.00	1.25	1.75	.50
15c, ".....	3.00	2.00	2.50	1.00
24c, ".....	4.00	3.00	3.75	2.00
30c, ".....	4.00	2.00	2.50	1.00
90c, ".....	12.00	8.00	8.50	4.00
Complete set, 11 varieties.....	40.00	28.00	30.00	15.00
1st. Are stamps in fine condition.				
2d. Are stamps slightly imperfect.				

Souvenir Postal Cards of Washington, D. C.

	UNUSED.		
	Per 1	Per 10	Per 100
In Black.			
McKinley and White House.....	5c.	30c.	\$2.50
In Blue.			
Capitol, Washington, D. C.....	5c.	30c.	2.50
White House, ".....	5c.	30c.	2.50
Monument, ".....	5c.	30c.	2.50
U. S. Treasury, ".....	5c.	30c.	2.50
Army and Navy Building.....	5c.	30c.	2.50
New Congressional Library.....	5c.	30c.	2.50

Unused stamps are not accepted.
Remittances should be made by Bills or Post Office Money Order.

C. F. ROTHFUCHS,
359 1/2 PENN. AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C.

R. F. ALBRECHT & CO.'S
43d
AUCTION SALE

WILL BE HELD ON

April 28th and 29th.

Secure a copy of this Model Catalogue by dropping a postal to 90 Nassau St.

Collection offered for sale contains a grand lot of United States stamps, including 1851 imperforate 24c.; 1856 5c. red brown, unused, o. g.; 1881 3c. scarlet; reprints of 1856, '61, '69, 1870 24c. grilled. \$5.00 State, all departments complete.

C. H. Mekeel's - -
- - Announcement.

The affairs of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company having become involved, the Directors have placed the property in the hands of Trustees for the benefit of the creditors.

The assets are ample and there is no doubt but that all the creditors will be paid in full.

I am at present assisting the Trustees in getting matters settled up.

The corporation will no doubt go into liquidation and wind up its affairs.

After I have done all that I can to assist in this matter, I shall start in the stamp business individually on my own account, making a specialty of the better class of trade. I have already been approached by several advanced collectors who are desirous of selling their collections, and I shall undertake commissions of this kind.

I am also open to buy collections and rarities, and hope to secure a share of the patronage of my old customers.

C. H. MEKEEL,
4516 Cook Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

In order to increase the Circulation of his Priced-List,

E. T. PARKER,

BETHLEHEM, PENN.,

will furnish any of the following stamps at the prices given, PROVIDED the names and addresses of at least five collectors be furnished for each stamp ordered.

	Catalogue Price.	Special Offer.		Catalogue Price.	Special Offer.
U. S., '68, 1c. blue, grilled	\$.125	\$0.40	25c. Conveyance, part perforated	\$0.50	\$0.15
" '69, 1c. buff	.75	.35	50c. Probate of Will, imperforated	4.00	1.50
" '70, 90c. carmine, unused,			50c. Surety Bond, part perforated	1.00	.25
National print	12.50	7.00	1c. Proprietary, 1878, rouletted	1.25	.50
" '72, 7c. vermilion	.75	.35	2c. blue, 5th issue, rouletted	.75	.30
" '72, 12c. purple	.75	.30	1c. black, James Eaton, rouletted	3.00	.70
" '70-1, 24c. purple	2.00	1.25	Ceylon, '85, 12c. rose, reg. env. en'ire	.25	.12
" 30c. Interior, unused	1.00	.60	Col. Rep., '87, 2c. blk., postal card	.08	.04
" 3c. State, unused	.75	.50	Great Britain, 1/2p. vermilion, Army		
" 6c. State, unused	1.00	.60	Official stamp	not given	.10
" 3c. Treasury, unused	.10	.05	Jamaica, '83, 1p. blue, C. A.	.25	.10
" 2, 4c. War, unused	.75	.40	Newfoundland, '66, 12c. pale red, new	.75	.40
" '95, Envelope, 5c. dark-blue,			Persia, '89, set 8 varieties, unused	8.58	.50
die B, amber, entire, unused	.50	.15	Roumania, '94, 1 1/2, 3, 5, 10, 15 and		
" 1894, Western Union	.50	.20	25b	.08	.04
2c. Certificate, blue, imperforated	.50	.25	Seyschelles Islands, 2, 4, 8, 10, 13 and		
2c. Certificate, orange	.75	.40	16, unused	.92	.50
2c. Proprietary, part perforated	2.00	.50	Venezuela, '93, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 1b.	.37	.15
5c. Playing Card	.90	.50			

BRITISH COLONIALS.

Send us good reference and we will send you fine selections of the above at 25 per cent. discount.

We have a **very fine** 6 p. New Brunswick at \$18.00 net. Also 6 p. yellow-green Nova Scotia, equally fine, \$6.00, and many other rarities. Send us your want list.

The following prices are for this month only:

* Means unused.

ANTIGUA.

* '86, 1p. perforated 12.....\$0.85

BRITISH BECH.

* '87, 3p. lilac......30

BRITISH GUIANA.

'90, 1c on 4 varieties......45

'89, 2c mauve and black......15

'89, 3c " "......12

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

'53, 1p. carmine......70

'53, 1p. rose......50

'65, 6p. lilac c.c......18

DOMINICA.

'79, 1p. lilac (rev. for post.)......80

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

* '92, 1p.-1sh., 5 varieties......90

GIBRALTAR.

* '95, 20c, 1 and 2p., 3 varieties......85

GOLD COAST.

* '91, 2 sh......60

NEW SOUTH WALES.

* '71, 5 p., dark green......20

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

* '87, 3c on 32c, violet rose.... .18, used, .10

* '92, 1c on 4c, brown......18

* '92, 1c on 12c, violet brown......55

* '92, 30c on 32c, vermilion......55

* '94, 3c on 32c, rose......07

SELANGOR.

* '94, 3c on 5c, rose......10

SEYCHELLES.

* '94, 3c on 5c, rose......10

TASMANIA.

* '57, 1 p. carmine......30

* '64, 1 p. " perforated 12......50

* '64, 1 sh., vermilion, perforated 12......70

BOSTON STAMP CO.,

Box 2789, - - - - - BOSTON, MASS.

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.

VOLUME VI.

OF THIS JOURNAL CAN NOW BE HAD BOUND FOR \$1.00.

To Subscribers who will return the complete Volume in fine condition and 60c., the same will be sent bound.

COMPLETE FILES OF THIS JOURNAL.

Vol. I. Bound.....	\$2.50	Unbound.....	\$1.75
“ II. “	1.50	“	1.20
“ III. “	1.25	“	1.00
“ IV. “	1.25	“	1.00
“ V. “	1.00	“	1.00

Or the 6 Bound Volumes for \$6.00.

HENRY GREMMEL, 85 Nassau Street, N. Y.

GOOD REFERENCE

is all that I require from you. I can send you fine selections of all kinds of stamps, at various discounts. I cannot send you unused or Rare Colonials at 50%, but if you will send your

WANT LIST,

you will receive some fine bargains.

MY 25 PER CENT. SHEETS ARE THE BEST.

Good Agents wanted for my 33½ and 50% Sheets.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau Street,

New York.

NEW SPRING OFFERS.

155 Varieties, foreign, many unused..... 12 cts,
25 “ “ from North America only..... 10 “

500 VARIETIES,

from all parts of the world, used and unused, a fine lot

ONE DOLLAR.

Approval Sheets. 50 per cent. commission.

HARRY S. LEE,

Mattapan, Mass.

1840-1878.

I have a good stock of the *old* issues of all countries, and would be pleased to quote prices on any.

Send for price list.

F. NOYES, Alice, Texas.

BACK NUMBERS of the POST OFFICE

can be supplied at following prices :

Nos. 2, 8, 11, 25, 26, 38, 40, 41, 53 and 54,
each single number..... 20c

Nos. 7, 13, 29, 32, 35 and 37, each single
number..... 30c

Nos. 34, 49, 50 and 51, each..... 50c

All other numbers 10c each.

Only very few of the rare numbers are in stock, so if you care to have complete files, send for them at once.

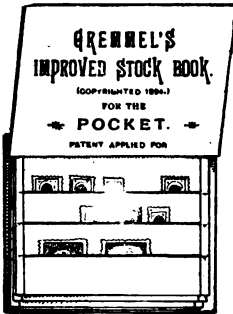
A set of 25 different numbers of the Post Office, only 75c, post free.

HENRY GREMMEL,

85 Nassau Street,

NEW YORK.

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.



**VERY
HANDY
AND
USEFUL
ARE**

Gremmel's Pocket Stock Books.

You can see every Stamp at a Glance.

Size $3\frac{1}{4}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ Inches.....20c.
 " $3\frac{1}{4}$ x $6\frac{1}{2}$ "25c.

SEND FOR FREE LIST OF SETS AND PACKETS.

HENRY GREMMEL,
 85 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

FOREIGN CATALOGUES.

STANLEY GIBBONS' 1897 EDITION

RECEIVED JANUARY 1st.

1st Part. Postage Stamps of Great Britain and her Colonies.

PRICE 50 CENTS, BY MAIL 55 CENTS.

Second Part.

Postage Stamps of all other Countries.

Price, 50 cents; by mail, 58 cents.

HENRY GREMMEL,
 85 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK.

A 5c. MIXTURE.

Two years ago I made up a mixture for my own sheets. They contain a great many varieties.

Will close them out:

100 for.....\$0.70
 500 for.....3.00
 1,000 for.....5.00

HENRY GREMMEL,
 85 NASSAU ST., - N. Y.

STAMP DEALERS DIRECTORY.

Terms for a 2 or 3 line advertisement in this column \$2 for 12 insertions, payable in advance.

CLAY, H. G., Jr., 1512 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. Retailer and wholesaler of postage stamps.—Americans and British Columbias a specialty.

GREMMEL, HENRY, Room 3, 85 Nassau st., New York City. North, Central and South America a specialty. Retail and wholesale list free.

A three line Ad. in Dealer's Directory only \$2.00 per year. Will it pay you?

ALBUMS.

When you need one remember that I allow you 25 per cent. in stamps on any one up to \$8.00. (Postage or express is extra.)

H. GREMMEL,
 85 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

GOOD MANUSCRIPT WANTED. Highest cash prices paid. Address the Publisher or the Editor of THE POST OFFICE.

Our Australian Packet.

Australian stamps are to be the favorites with a large number of collectors. To meet the demand for them we have put up a new packet, containing

85 Varieties of Australian Stamps, including many scarce and desirable specimens, such as New South Wales, 8d, official, 1889, 5d, green, square, official envelope, etc.; South Australia, official wrapper (catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at 50 cents); Victoria, unpaid; Queensland, beer duty paper; several varieties envelopes and wrappers, etc. The stamps in this packet catalogue by Scott's 56th edition at over \$4.00.

Price, \$2.00, Post-paid.

To those who want a cheaper packet of Australian stamps we will send 50 varieties catalogued at over \$1.50, for 75 cents, post-paid.

GRANITE STATE STAMP CO.,
 NEWMARKET, N. H.

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.

AUCTION SALES.

One of the owners in the last sale, which we held in April, offered his collection to several New York dealers for \$150.00, and he could find no buyer, as mostly all dealers were short on cash. When the party gave me a call, I convinced him that if he would place the Stamps with any responsible dealer to be sold at Public Auction that the collection would net him considerably more than his price. He left the collection with me, and six weeks later I sent him a check for \$261.00.

Another owner offered his collection at the same time and would gladly have taken \$200.00, and we realized \$384.00 for him. There are other similar cases; and if you have a collection or any duplicates, do not sell them for a mere song. What we have done for others we can do for you.

OUR TERMS

are 20 per cent. on small lots and 15 per cent. on large lots or entire collection.

BEST REFERENCE CAN BE GIVEN.

HENRY GREMMEL,
85 NASSAU STREET.
NEW YORK.

CLAY'S BARGAIN CORNER.

ALL ON ORIGINAL COVERS.

	Cat.	Net.
New York, 1845, 5c, blk., gray paper	\$8.00	\$5.00
" " " " white "	—	7.00
1845, 5c	.85	.55
1867, 10c, 11x13	1.00	.80
1846, U.S. Mail, 1c rose, No. 409, cut round	12.00	4.00
" U. S. P. O., No. 412	35.00	20.00
" " " No. 418	40.00	30.00
1852, Penny Post, No. 444	—	25.00
Jenkins' Camden Despatch, yellow, unique	—	20.00
Justice, 1c, o.g.	2.00	1.25
2c, o.g.	4.00	2.25
10c, o.g.	3.50	2.00
12c, o.g.	3.50	2.00
15c, o.g.	7.50	4.00
24c, used	20.00	10.00
State, 1c, o.g.	3.50	2.00
2c, o.g.	7.00	3.75

SEND FOR MY BARGAIN LIST—IT'S FREE.

H. G. CLAY, JR.,
1208 CHESTNUT ST., PHILA., PA.

SCOTT'S STANDARD CATALOGUE,

58th EDITION,

appeared on November 24th.

Price: 58 Cents, Post Free.

No Collector can afford to be without it, as it contains many new features, and most of the prices have been rearranged, many going down and others being advanced.

AUCTION SALES.

Beginning in January, we shall, during the coming season, sell a magnificent lot of stamps at auction, comprising collections and parts of collections, and including many of the rarest United States Revenue Stamps.

Catalogues of all our sales will be sent free to all who will send us their names and addresses to be added to our present mailing list.

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO., LTD.,

18 EAST 28d STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

HALLOO!!

**RARE REVENUES
CHEAP.**

All Stamps in fine condition.

- \$25.00 Mortgage, imperf. \$18.00
- 6c. Proprietary, orange..... 88.00
- \$500.00 second issue 375.00
- \$1.00 Proprietary, unused, violet paper..... 70.00
- \$5.00 Proprietary, unused, violet paper..... 450.00

A. KRASSA,
81 Nassau St.,
NEW YORK.

— THE —

Post Office.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

SUBSCRIPTION:

25 CENTS A YEAR TO ALL COUNTRIES.
SINGLE COPIES FIVE CENTS.

PUBLISHED BY
J. C. MORGENTHAU & CO.,
87 NASSAU STREET,
NEW YORK.

**25%
DISCOUNT
FOR 30 DAYS
FROM
Standard Prices
ON ALL
MAIL ORDERS.**

One of the best stocks in the country to select from. Trial order solicited. Everything guaranteed to be satisfactory.

ESTABLISHED 1861.

E. A. HOLTON,
8 Summer Street,
BOSTON, MASS.
Elevator.

The American Collectors Company

CRAWFORD CAPEN, President.

18 Wall Street, NEW YORK,

Has arranged the best plan for the

Exchange of Collectors Duplicates

That has ever been devised.

SEND FOR FULL PARTICULARS.

HAVE YOU DEALT WITH US ?

We make a specialty of Buying and Selling U. S. Locals, Plate Nos. and Rare Stamps.

WANT LISTS SOLICITED.

- \$20.00 Probate of Will, perforated \$22.50
- Die D, 2c vermilion, Plimpton, unused, entire... 7.50
- Leeward Island, sexagenary, 1/4d to 1/- (?)..... 10.00
- Bureau Plate No. 73, Top, unwatermarked..... 5.00
- Nevis, 1/4d on 1/4 of 1d, violet, violet surcharge.. 3.00



NASSAU STAMP CO., Ltd.,
75 NASSAU STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.,
N. Y.

NOTICE.

While removing the effects of the late Henry Gremmel, the mailing lists of the New York City and Foreign Subscribers were unfortunately mislaid. We have made up the lists as far as possible from other data at hand, but some subscribers may have been overlooked. We would esteem it a favor if all New York City and Foreign Subscribers would kindly send us their names and addresses and where possible the date of expiration of their subscription.

Respectfully,

THE POST OFFICE,
No. 87 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

DROP ME A POSTAL CARD FOR THE
CHEAPEST PRICE LIST OUT.

It is full of Bargains and good Stamps.

F. NOYES,
ALICE, TEXAS.

WE WANT YOUR TRADE,

But we know there are thousands of people who can't come to visit us and select what is desired, and for these we have a series of

BOOKS ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY,

Which we will send on approval to any one

WILLING TO BUY.

Our Discounts vary from 25 to 33½ per cent.

Better apply for a trial lot and send a good reference at the same time.

BOGERT & DURBIN CO.,
722 Chestnut Street, PHILADELPHIA.

A 5c. MIXTURE.

Two years ago Mr. Gremmel made up a mixture for his own sheets. They contain a great many varieties.

We will close them out :

100 for.....	\$0.70
500 for.....	3.00
1,000 for.....	5.00

We also have the following :

3c. MIXTURE.

100 for.....	\$0.45
500 for.....	1.80
1,000 for.....	3.00

2c. MIXTURE.

100 for.....	\$0.30
500 for.....	1.20
1,000 for.....	2.00

J. C. MORGENTHAU & CO.,
87 NASSAU ST., N. Y.

Please mention THE POST OFFICE in answering advertisements.

FOR 8 CENTS

There will be sent to any address

13 VARIETIES OF JAPANESE STAMPS

That catalog at **27 Cts.**

E. T. PARKER,

BETHLEHEM, - - - - PA.

NEWFOUNDLAND SURCHARGED.

1 CENT ON 3 CENT.

We have a block of four, **perfectly centered**, used showing **all three types** at.....\$12.50

And a few new specimens as follows :

Type I	1.00
“ II.....	3.00
“ III.....	7.00
“ I and II in pairs.....	4.00
“ I and III “.....	8.00

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

BOSTON STAMP COMPANY,

43 MILK STREET, Room A, BOSTON, MASS.

Please mention **THE POST OFFICE** in answering advertisements.

BRITISH COLONIALS.

Unused.	Used.
BARBADOS.	ANTIGUA.
1882, 5sh. (\$7.50) ----- \$4.50	4p. blue, C.A. (.85) ----- \$0.50
BERMUDA.	BERMUDA.
1880, 4p. C.C. (.15) ----- .09	6p. C.C. (.25) ----- .10
BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.	CANADA.
1891, 1p. (.08) ----- .05	½p. unperf. (\$4.00) ----- 2.50
2p. (.10) ----- .06	3p. " (wove) (.35) ----- .20
4p. (.18) ----- .10	6p. " " (\$5.00) ----- 3.00
6p. (.25) ----- .15	6p. " laid (\$6.50) ----- 3.50
8p. (.35) ----- .20	3p. perf. (\$3.50) ----- 2.00
1sh. (.50) ----- .30	½p. " (\$8.50) ----- 4.50
BRITISH HONDURAS.	2c. (1859) (\$1.00) ----- .60
1882, 1p. C. A. (\$2.50) ----- 1.50	12½c. (1859) (.40) ----- .25
BRITISH SO. AFRICA.	17c. (1859) (\$1.50) ----- .25
1896, ½p. (.08) ----- .02	1c. (1868) wmk. (\$2.00) ----- .90
1p. (.05) ----- .03	1c. " laid (\$15.00) ----- 9.00
2p. (.10) ----- .06	3c. " " (\$5.00) ----- 3.00
3p. (.15) ----- .09	GAMBIA.
4p. (.20) ----- .12	1sh. green (\$15.00) ----- 9.00
6p. (.30) ----- .18	GRENADA.
8p. (.40) ----- .24	1sh. violet (\$9.00) ----- 5.00
1sh. (.60) ----- .35	1d. on 8d. (.60) ----- .35
CANADA.	HONG KONG.
1859, 2c (\$2.50) ----- 1.50	96c. yellow (\$7.50) ----- 4.50
1882, 10c. ribbed (\$1.00) ----- .40	\$1.00 on 96c. red (.35) ----- .20
1875, 8c. Reg. (\$2.50) ----- 1.50	2.00 Rev. (.60) ----- .30
DOMINICA.	INDIA.
1sh. C.C. 14 (\$7.50) ----- 4.00	1895, 2r. (.20) ----- .10
6d. C.A. 14 (\$5.00) ----- 3.00	" 3r. (.25) ----- .12
1sh. C.A. 14 (\$27.50) ----- 16.00	JAMAICA.
LAGOS.	1s. pine (.75) ----- .35
3p. brown, C.A. (\$1.50) ----- .90	1s. C.C. (.15) ----- .08
1sh. orange, C.A. (\$1.50) ----- .90	2s. C.C. (\$1.25) ----- .75
MAURITIUS.	2p. Rose, C.A. (.25) ----- .10
38c. on 9p. (\$1.00) ----- .60	2½p. on 4p. (.25) ----- .15
15c. brown (.40) ----- .25	1sh. C.A. ----- .10
Env., 1878, 25c. (.65) ----- .30	LEEWARD.
" 1879, 8c. (.12) ----- .06	1sh. pen canc. (.20) ----- .10
" 50c. (\$1.00) ----- .50	MAURITIUS.
" 8c. Reg. (1891) (.20) ----- .10	(1894) 15c. (.25) ----- .12
" 12c. Reg. (1893) (.12) ----- .06	MONTERRAT.
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1887, 10c. (.25) ----- .15	" 10c. (.60) ----- .35
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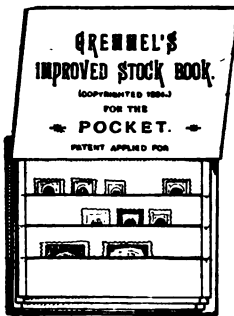
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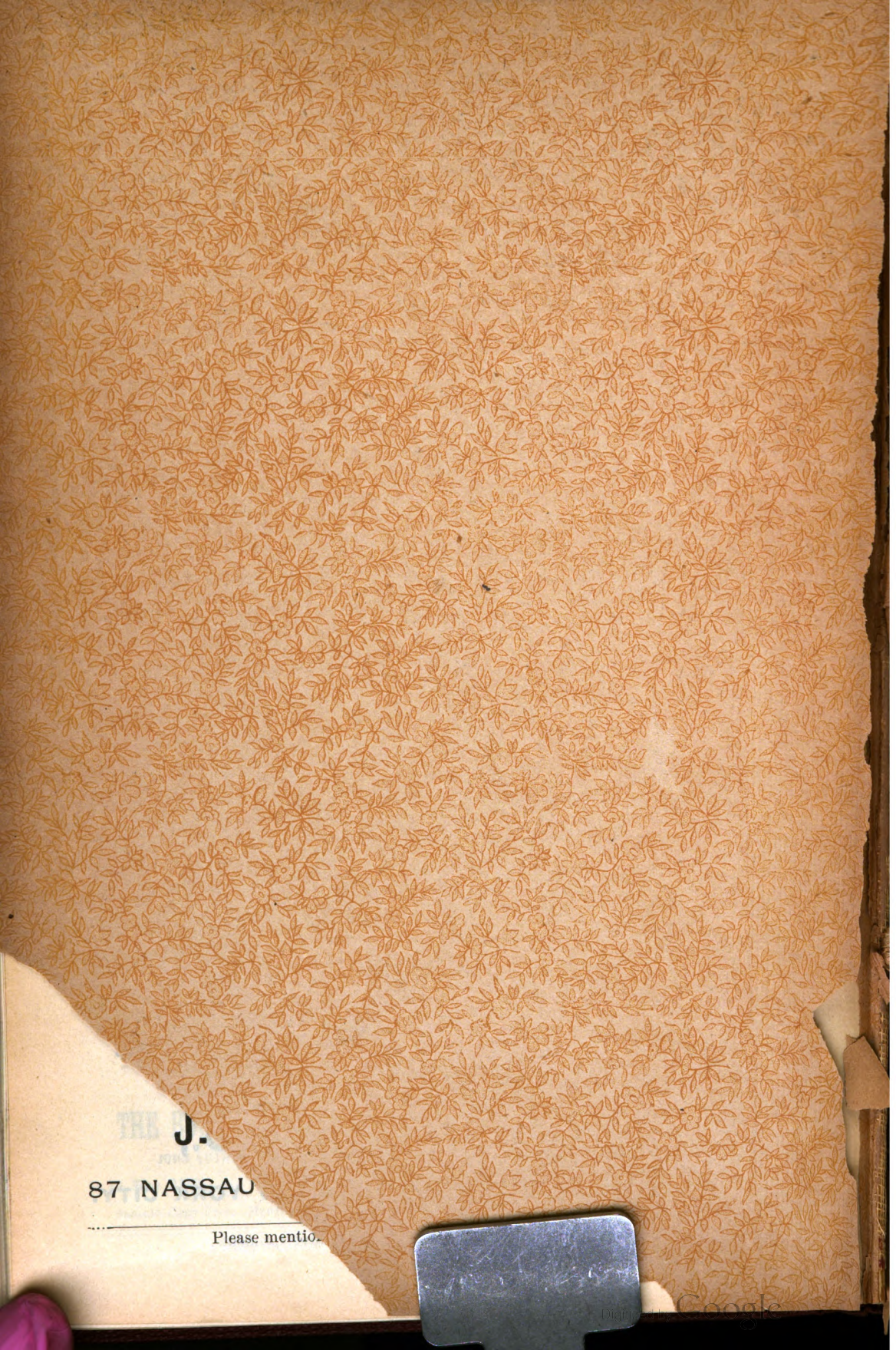
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