

The Quaker City Philatelist.

VOL. I.

APRIL, 1886.

No. 4.

(For the Quaker City Philatelist.)

THE PHILATOPHILE.

BY YUM-YUM.

The lover may rave of his ruddy-cheeked lass,
The sailor may sing of the sea,
And toppers may tell of the charms of the glass,
But stamps have more beauty for me;
A book of rare stamps is more precious than gold,
An heirloom bequeathed for all time;
A casket of wisdom, in which we behold,
The progress and arts of each clime.

Though humble my lot, yet dull care I defy,
With stamps for my gentle allies;
And folly and vice from my presence all fly,
When I look on the rare ones I prize;
My stamps shall supply me with balm for each
blow,

When Fortune to me seems unkind,
With pleasure I laugh at the high and the low,
Feel cheerful and contented in mind.

While sitting alone by my own fireside,
A collection of stamps on my knee,
A lover alone with his beautiful bride,
Would win little envy from me;
My heart feels at ease, as through stamp-world I
roam,

The fair realms of Fancy so free,
The sweet spirit of Peace reigns over my home,
My stamps seem the whole world to me.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO THE DIVISION OF POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The many expedients which are now resorted to by the far-off colonies of Great Britain, and also by other countries to keep up the supply of certain values or to meet a special want, has led amongst other devices to the division of higher values into parts to *make* lower denominations, and as there would at first sight seem to be no good reason why the same should not be done here by the public, as this would be an unquestionable convenience, the correspondence below may be of some interest

in showing how this matter was treated at an early date :

CLEVELAND, O., Sept. 10, 1853.

HON. S. R. HOBBIE—*Sir*:—Shall we recognize half of a twelve-cent stamp as six cents; one-fourth as three cents; or any other fraction of any stamp in proportion to its size? We are in the constant receipt of letters prepaid by halves of twelve-cent stamps, which have passed unmolested through San Francisco and New York. Please instruct us and oblige,

Yours, &c.,

J. W. GRAY, *Postmaster*.

P. O. DEPARTMENT, 1ST DIVISION }
OFFICE, September 12, 1853. }

SIR: I am directed to inform you in answer to your letter of the 10th inst., that halves or other fractional parts of postage stamps being unknown to the law, cannot be permitted to be used in prepayment of postage. The Act of Congress empowered the Postmaster-General, and him only, to provide and furnish postage stamps of the denomination of three cents, and of such other denominations as he might deem expedient. In pursuance of the authority thus vested in him, he did issue postage stamps of the denominations of one, three, and twelve cents, no others having been by him deemed expedient or necessary. The requirement of the law having been fulfilled in this respect, by the only person authorized to execute it, it follows therefore that the attempt to create other denominations, by cutting postage stamps into fractional parts, is an illegal assumption; and that the legal value of the stamps so cut is thereby destroyed.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,
S. R. HOBBIE, *1st Assis't P. M. General*.

Just how far the division of stamps may be carried on now may fairly be said to be a question, as I have seen quite a number of city letters (which were delivered without the postage due stamps), and which were franked with the two halves of a two cent stamp placed back to back. It is hardly likely that these were overlooked as the division was very plainly shown.

H. McALLISTER.

GREAT BRITAIN AND HER COLONIES.

BY ALF. FITLER HENKELS.

Stamp collecting is considered by many people to be a mere amusement without being of any practical use to the person collecting; this is a mistake, as a great many of our prominent teachers and professors will tell, for if you go through a school where the young mind is brought to display its fullest capabilities, you will find that nine out of ten of the scholars who collect stamps are of quicker perception, and have a more general knowledge than their companions who do not collect.

The collection of stamps educates the collector in various ways without his knowledge at the time, and it is not until he is called upon to make use of this acquired knowledge in conversation or otherwise, that he fully appreciates "the little scraps of paper" (as I have heard people call them in ridicule), which he has taken so much trouble to gather together, and he will also find that the mind is more ready to retain such information as it has gathered through its own exertion, than that which it has forced upon it.

The collector becomes acquainted with the relative positions of countries to each other in a geographical point of view, as also their political relation, he becomes acquainted with the value of their various moneys, and with the name and rank of their rulers, sovereigns, or governors, which is a very acceptable addition to an education.

But to come to the subject on which I intended to write the following articles, I will call the reader's attention to the philatelist, and the so-called and self-styled philatelist. I will begin by a reference to the advantages of old collectors.

(To be continued.)

THOSE English concerns must be large indeed, when it took two of them to buy the stock of Mr. G. A. Lowe (of Toronto, Canada), the value of which was about \$20. Most any American school-boy would make a dangerous rival of the so-called "Co's."

News has just been received of a Convention of the Philatelic Societies of this country, to be held in New York in the early part of May.

Q. C. P. S. Meetings.

MEETING HELD MARCH 6, 1886.

A regular stated meeting of the Quaker City Philatelic Society was held this evening at 1321 Arch street, President Durborow in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Two communications were read and disposed of.

It was resolved that Mr. Adler's dues be accepted, and he be reinstated in the Society, under certain conditions.

A bill from Messrs. Early & Son was received, and ordered to be paid. The retiring Librarian then gave a report of the magazines, etc., in the Society's library to the first of the year.

Committee on Room was authorized to engage the room in Early's new building, and to select two nights a month, same nights to be about two weeks apart.

Committee on By-Law IX, gave its final report and suggestions, after which it was resolved that it should be as follows:

BY-LAW IX.

SALE OF STAMPS.

The time for the sale and exchange of stamps for the benefit of the members' collections shall be thirty (30) minutes at each meeting of this Society, subject to the following conditions:

SECTION 1.—Any member of the Society may place in the hands of the auctioneer, a sheet of stamps to be sold by him, and prices to be affixed by him under the direction of the owner, whose name shall be secret.

SECTION 2.—That no more than twenty-five stamps be received from one member, and any limit may be placed on the stamps.

SECTION 3.—Commission on all stamps offered for sale shall be ten per cent.

SECTION 4.—No *counterfeits, reprints, fac-similes, or other deceptions* shall be offered.

Disregard to any of the above rules shall cause the person to be fined.

Mr. MacCalla was elected Auctioneer.
Adjourned.

MEETING HELD MARCH 25, 1886.

Meeting called to order at 8 P. M. Vice-President Corfield, in the chair. After the minutes were read and corrected, a communication was read from Mr. Adler, in which he declined to be reinstated into the Society. Bills for rent and postage were presented, and ordered to be paid.

The Committee on Room, after giving its final report, was discharged. One new member was admitted.

The subject having been brought up, "now that the Society has a regular place to meet," it was decided that a sign be placed in Mr. Durbin's office, and a committee of one was appointed to see to it.

The Society's new wrinkle was then indulged in, and proved the means of securing bargains in rare stamps for all present.

Adjourned. WM. E. SCARLETT.

Our Review.

We wish to exchange with all philatelic papers published. Publishers will please send two copies and we will return the compliment. Papers should be addressed to Mr. E. R. Durborow to receive notice in this department.

The Empire State Philatelist for March, is as bright as ever, in reading matter as well as in dress. We return thanks for the many kind words said about the QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST. The philatelic story is good and is a step in the right direction to amuse and entertain the devotees of Philately.

The Collector's Science Monthly for March is a good magazine, but little of it is devoted to Philately. We wish it success.

The Garden City Philatelist for March. This is a new paper and full of information, etc. We would advise friend Mouat

to get a new printer or else make the present one use more ink.

The Arizona Pride of Philately, February number, is a small paper, but we hope to see it grow in size ere long; it is well printed and we wish it all possible success.

The Stamp and Coin Gazette is the same bright and breezy paper as of old. The publishers evidently believe in *going* for frauds and they do it with a will. That is quite a good joke about the ad-vers. being all knocked into pi. We hope the publishers may be able to do the same with some of the frauds of the day.

The Philatelist, quarterly, for Spring, 1886, is out. Mr. Abbott deserves much praise for the neatness of his paper; it has much that is of interest to collectors, also a good philatelic story. The plea for the "Q. C. P. S." is well worth reading. The publisher is just a little hard on the QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST, but by the time the Summer number is out we hope to grow in his good graces.

The Collector's Companion is out at last. We had begun to think, Bro. Raymond, that your paper had climbed the "Golden Stairs," but we are glad to see that it is still in the land of the living. It is brimful of reading matter, and is a magazine in every sense of the word. We compliment the publishers on having such a successful periodical.

The Stamp World for March, the old reliable, as it were. This paper is late, but it is looking well. My dear Bro. Mills, you must be more prompt in the future.

The Philatelic Monthly for March contains the following: "For stamps of Siberia, mentioned in the last *Monthly*, kindly apply to the compositors and proof-readers of the Chamber's Printing House." Are we to infer where Bro. Durbin gets his new issues?

We have also received the following: *Philatelic News, Our Home Companion, The People's Press, The Universal Collector's Journal, The Chemung Review, The Youth's Pilot, Plain Talk, Philatelic World, The Exchange, Stamp, and The Canadian Philatelic and Curio Advertiser.*

—THE—
Quaker City Philatelist

Published Monthly,

IN THE INTEREST OF PHILATELISTS.

Entered at Philadelphia P. O. as Second-Class Matter.

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		One page, \$5.00.	

20 per cent discount for standing advertisements 3 months or over.

Circulation never less than 1000 copies per month. Satisfactory evidence will be given regarding our circulation when desired.

All communications for the Editorial Department should be addressed to the Editors,

H. McALLISTER, 2045 Chestnut St.
 E. R. DURBOROW, 25 N. 10th St.

Business Manager,

GEO. HENDERSON,
 1221 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

Advertisements for No. 5 should be in by April 26th.

ALL matters requiring comment in these columns, correspondence, &c., should be addressed to H. McAllister, 2045 Chestnut St.

THE special delivery system is now receiving the attention of the P. O. Department, as it has been found to be a failure, except in large cities, and even there the force is being reduced by the action of the special carriers who are constantly resigning, as there is not sufficient work to make their places profitable. It is now said that a measure to extend the service to packages is under consideration. That this would increase the amount of special material, there can be but little doubt, as many packages would be sent this way if sure of an early delivery. The number of letters bearing special stamps has fallen from 22,000 in November to 10,000 in March at the Philadelphia P. O., and the carriers have resigned, until now but a few dozen remain out of a force of over 300.

A NEW YORK dealer has started a novel scheme, in the shape of getting up

outfits for "dealers" We would advise him to desist, as there are already too many infants engaged in the stamp business.

BRO. DURBIN is making an extended tour through the South. He has our best wishes for the speedy return of his health.

Two dealers claim to have bought the entire stock of Mr. H. S. Jeanes, of this city, when both combined did not purchase over half of it. What fools these mortals be!

THE *Collector's Companion* takes too decided a stand in regard to Philatelic Poetry. There has just come to light in the "City of Brotherly Love" a genius in the Poetic Art, who bids fair to rise to fame.

IF W. E. SKINNER could have refuted the charges which were made in this Journal against him in February, he would have placed himself in a better position to be believed when he went into a personal villification.

His assertion is ridiculously false, and would not require a reply if it were not thrown broadcast over the country.

The proofs of the charges which we made in February are now in our possession, and may be seen at any reasonable time by any one. We have some very poor counterfeits which he sold, and also his circulars which fully sustain every charge we have made.

AT last accounts the Berkshire Philatelic Union was doing well. This is a good time to begin Societies. No one who has not been a member of such societies and noted the increased interest which was taken in Philately can understand the amount of benefit derived from them.

MR. EDMUND PRIDEAUX was appointed Postmaster of Great Britain in 1644, and was the first to establish a weekly conveyance of letters to all parts of the kingdom. The rates in these times were not so high as one would suppose, as we find that by Act of Parliament in 1657, a letter composed of a single sheet was carried 80 miles for 2*d.*, and over 80 and under 150 miles 3*d.*, double sheet letters (about half an ounce) were 4*d.* for 80 miles, and 6*d.* for 80 and under 150 miles. These rates were increased in 1710 to 3*d.* and 4*d.* for 80 and 150 miles, single sheet letters, and double rates for double-sheet letters.

In 1784, the rate was further increased to 4*d.* and 5*d.* for same service, but before this time, from 1764 till 1784, letters could be sent short distances one post-stage (about ten miles we suppose) for 1*d.*, or two post-stages for 2*d.*, which was in 1784 increased to 2*d.* and 3*d.* for the same service.

H. M.

Correspondents' Column.

[This column is open to all, and we hope you will take the opportunity to express yourself on any philatelic question. Those who want any information should send us their queries, which will be published in the following number.]

Editor "Quaker City Philatelist."

In answer to H. G. M., in No. 2, I would state that the first stamps issued with water marks, were the 1855 issue of Spain, and were water-marked with loops across the entire stamp. As to who invented them, I don't think any one can tell, as the ancient Egyptians water-marked all their documents and parchments.

W. C. MICHAELS.

MR. H. McALLISTER,

Editor "Quaker City Philatelist."

DEAR SIR: It is not my privilege to reply to every small boy scribbler who sees fit to attack one through the press. For 18 years I have been dealer, author and publisher in the philatelic ranks, and a collector since 1867. Mr. Henry S. Jeanes finds fault with a recent article of mine in *The Philatelic Magazine*. He is unnecessarily severe, and the first person who has accused me of a wrong

act. He says in his communication: * * * "I notice an article on 'Postage in Various Countries,' the writer of which starts out by directly 'cribbing' a portion of the essay, 'Hawaiian Stamps and their Origin,' published in the February and March numbers of the *New England Philatelist*, one year ago."

I would say in reply that the "cribbed portion of the essay" consists of *one single paragraph* or about *one-thirtieth* of the entire essay. The information may have appeared in the *New England Philatelist* one year ago, but the article was written by me over two years ago. In December 1883, I wrote 140 manuscript pages of a history of Postage, chapters from which I have lately contributed to *The Philatelic Magazine*. I do not take the credit for one paragraph, but for the essay entire. The work I have done has benefited our grand science and I hope to still further benefit it; yet instead of thanks from Mr. Jeanes, I receive only abuse. Does he not know that there is nothing new under the sun—that nothing is original with him at least? and yet he pours out nearly a column of abuse simply because *one paragraph* out of 140 pages happened to appear in another publication. I trust Mr. Jeanes will reconsider his ill-timed criticism.

Very sincerely,

WILL M. CLEMENS,

A Philatelist for nearly 20 years.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., March 21, 1886.

[Regarding Mr. Clemens' answer to Mr. Jeanes we think it rather misleading, as in one place he excuses himself, while in another he states that the manuscript was written "over two years ago." It is not always that credit is given for small portions of a work, but we believe that it is generally done by the best historians, if not by all, for their own credit. We do not mean to permit further correspondence, as both sides have had their say and have taken more space than this matter has deserved.—ED. Q. C. P.]

Editor of *Quaker City Philatelist*:—I have a 2 ct. Blue Proprietary surcharged "Fredk. Brown, Philada.;" is it to be classed among the medicine stamps, and what is it worth, who can tell?—JOHN.

Chronicle.

EDITED BY L. W. DURBIN.

Ceylon.—The surcharged stamps are evidently not to have a much longer currency. The first of a new series has been issued, without surcharge, having the head of the Queen in an oval, "Ceylon" above, "Postage" on the left, "Revenue" on the right, value below. The value is 5 cents, lilac.

Gibraltar.—In addition to the stamps already mentioned, there is a 2-pence registered envelope, made from that of Barbados.

Guatemala.—The high value stamps, mentioned some time ago, have come to hand. They are all made by surcharging. The stamp is finely engraved and bears the portrait of Gen. Barrios. Above is "Ferrocarril Al Norte;" at the sides "Republica De Guatemala;" below "Value un Peso." The surcharge is "Correos Nacionales—Guatemala" and the new value. The set is 25, 50, 75, 100 and 150 centavos.

Gwalior.—The following additional values have been issued:

- 1 anna and 6 pies, brown;
- 3 annas, orange;
- 6 " brown.

Mexico.—We have received letter cards of the value of 4 centavos, carmine, on white.

Peru.—A couple more provisional stamps have come under our notice, 5 centavos, olive, and 10 centavos, gray. Both have the arms in the centre, the 5 centavos having "Correos Del Peru" above the 10 centavos, "Franqueo" above.

St. Lucia.—We have the 1 penny, printed in lilac.

Shanghai.—We have seen specimens of new surcharged stamps, viz:

- 40 cash on 80 cash, salmon,
- 60 " 100 " yellow.

Santander.—A new type has been prepared for the three values in use in this State. The colors are unchanged, they being as follows:

- 1 centavo, blue;
- 5 centavos, red;
- 10 " violet.

Tobago.—We have specimens of the 6 pence of the current issue, surcharged ½ penny in black.

Tolima.—*Le Timbre Poste* chronicles a 5 peso, yellow, of the type of the old 5 centavos, brown.

Victoria.—We learn that the 3 pence, orange of 1866, and 4 pence, carmine of 1881, have been surcharged "Stamp Duty."

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Treasury 11 " " " used.	75
Interior, 10 " " " " " " " " " " " "	90
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War, 11 " " " " " " " " " " " "	90
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COMMON SENSE
 ABOUT

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In these days when the majority of dealers are charging exorbitant prices, and sending out torn, badly soiled and imperfect stamps, it is certainly exercising one's common-sense to trade with a dealer who makes it his prime object to sell only stamps in perfect condition, and at the **LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES.**

What more disgusting sight can there be to the true collector than an unused stamp from which the corner is missing, or a used specimen so badly clipped, that it is doubtful just what stamp you are looking at. Yet it is a fact that there is not one dealer in fifty who is particular in these matters. Such a thing is certainly dishonest, if nothing more.

And again, what collector has not found several, if not one half, of the stamps in a packet he has purchased, badly soiled. It is the favorite trick with the majority of dealers to "work off" their bad copies in packets.

The undersigned, appreciating the fact that intelligent collectors want good stamps for their money, makes it his specialty to sell only stamps which are in the best condition, and he solicits correspondents from all who would get an equivalent for their money.

In the matter of prices, mine will be found as low as those of any dealer, while in a large number of cases, they are very much lower. It is not my object to charge 25 cents for a stamp costing me 2 cents, neither do I wish to obtain \$10.00 for one costing 50 cents. This is the ratio of profit charged by more dealers than collectors are aware, and it is time we had a little old-fashioned honesty in the stamp business.

My Quarterly Price-List, the best in the country, sent free to any collector on application. Address,

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