

The Quaker City Philatelist.

VOL. I.

FEBRUARY, 1886.

No. 2.

HOW TO COLLECT STAMPS.

When about to start a collection, first decide upon a plan or line of action, and then make your collection accordingly. There are several distinct methods of collecting, and opinions are divided as to which is the best. Some collectors take all kinds and varieties of stamps, without any classification of the minor variations of watermark, shade or perforation, their only rule being to take everything that is new to their collections. Others will take only such varieties as are mentioned in our catalogues, or for which spaces are provided in printed albums. Another will collect only revenues; another only revenues or postal cards, or provisional stamps, and others, again, draw their line at stamps issued before or since a certain date, or during a certain period. Another will make a collection only of the stamps of one or two countries, and will complete such issues before taking up others.

Each of these plans has its own advantages and also disadvantages. If one who is starting a collection can get large quantities of a few kinds of stamps from friends, or from family letters, he can, by exchanging with other collectors, make a very fair collection, but unless he has some cash, and is willing to pay for the rare stamps, he will not make a very complete collection.

If a collector starts out to make a complete collection of one or two countries, he will soon have slow work on hand, as the scarce stamps are soon reached. The best way, in collecting by this plan, is to get the rarest stamps first, for they are the ones that get scarcer every year. A collection of this kind, while no doubt giving its

owner and other collectors great satisfaction, yet has not that diversity and variety, possessed by a collection of stamps of all countries, and while superior in point of value, is greatly inferior where numbers are counted.

No one collector will see his collection as others see it; and no matter how highly he may prize it, and no matter how much satisfaction he may derive from it, there will be other collectors who will not appreciate it.

As to the album:—As there are so many kind of collections, so there should be an equal number of albums; but, as the number of collectors upon some of the plans is insufficient to make it worth while to publish albums for them, the collectors are compelled to either arrange their stamps in a blank album, or else in an album which is not suited to the collection. It is well known to those who have used them, that blank albums require much time to arrange, and that they are unsuited for a beginner, unless he makes a specialty of one or two countries; and these circumstances tend to limit the number of those who use blank albums.

In selecting an album, be careful to get one that provides for future issues. The best printed albums, unfortunately, are not manufactured in this country; and by our beneficent system of protection to American industry, we are prevented from using them. With so much protection, etc., our American album publishers ought to produce an album which can compete with English and German albums, as the facilities for producing an artistic piece of work are far better here than in England; but they do not, and there is not an intelligent collector in this country, who has ever

seen English albums, who would not prefer one of them to one of our own; for our albums, while costing twice as much—quality of paper, printing and binding being considered—are in arrangement and design not half as good.

However, as long as collectors buy these albums, so long will they be published, and the remedy lies with collectors themselves. The inference formed by non-collectors would be, that the albums are good enough for collectors, or they would not use them; but the time of arranging a blank album is an objection to their use; and the red-tape trouble and extortionate duty, prevent us from having good albums. There is, no doubt, that if there was no duty on imported albums, that American albums would at once improve in quality. If they did not, they would be driven out of the market, and none would grieve but the publishers.

Read by Theodore Siddall, before the Q. C. P. S., January 2, 1886.

POSTMARKS.

Very few philatelists pay any attention to postmarks, but a few remarks about their early use may not be out of place. The earliest record which we can find regarding the first adoption was by the London Post Office in the year 1660, at which time all letters were stamped with the month and day of same in circle, in black ink. At this time this method was used by no other office, but from the time of Queen Anne the Post Offices in the principal cities stamped the name of the city in black ink. Gradual improvements were added in the next 50 years in consolidating the above and adding a figure to denote the amount of postage due, which was done to prevent the deliverer from overcharging, (a common custom of that age). One of the laws of George III made overcharging of this kind a felony, but little attention seems to have been given to this law, as the Journals of that period contain many complaints of this offence.

John Bull's House of Commons first claimed the Franking privilege in 1660, which they soon withdrew under the as-

urance of the Crown that both Houses would be permitted to Frank all letters.

Many curious ways were discovered of writing Franks. John *Free* Bull being one of them, *Free* John Bull and John Bull *Free* being most common however.

Letters were first delivered at the houses in Philadelphia in 1753, one penny being charged for this service. Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster General of the Colonies at the time.

U. S. DEPARTMENT STAMPS.

We would advise collectors to complete their sets of these stamps, at the earliest possible moment, for prices are already assuming a fabulous turn. The following list shows the amount of Official stamps issued to each Department, and their rarity is in the same ratio as the following amounts:

Executive,	1,800
State,	58,338
Treasury,	1,442,650
War,	1,144,573
Navy,	81,493
Interior,	533,622
Justice,	25,470
Agriculture,	86,800

Do not cast them aside, and say they are too high priced; if you can't afford high priced ones, take the cheap ones, at any rate. These stamps, in a measure, mark the Centennial of American Independence, for they were used just before and after that event.

THE STAMPS OF FRANCE.

France like most, in fact, I might say all, of the large countries of the globe, was among the last to adopt the franking system now in vogue. It left it to small, unimportant countries, like Belgium, to find out the success of the scheme. In 1849, the then existing republican government issued a set of four stamps—20 centimes, black; 40 centimes, orange, and 1 franc, vermilion; but in consequence of the 1 franc resembling in color (particularly at night) the 40 centimes, in the course of a couple of months, by an official decree, it was changed to the familiar

crimson color. In the spring of 1850 a number of the 20 centimes were surcharged 25 centimes in red, but the plates for the 25s being ready, they were soon issued to the public. At this time the 25 centimes and two new values appeared, namely, 10 cen., bistre, and 15 cen., green. In 1852 Louis Napoleon was elected President of the Republic, and two stamps saw the light, the 10 centimes, bistre, and 25 centimes, blue. They bore the head of the newly-elected President on top, the words *Repub.*, *Franc*, and value on label at the bottom.

In 1853, after the coup d'etat, by which the downfall of the Republic was assured, four new stamps entered the Philatelic world—10 cen., bistre; 20 cen., blue; 40 cen., orange, and 1 franc, lake; and in 1854 appeared 3 more—the 5 cen., green; 20 cen., blue, and 80 cen., lake; but for the same reason that the 1 franc vermillion of '49 changed color, the 80 cen. became carmine.

In 1862 the complete set appeared, perforated, with the omission of the 25 cent., blue. These several issues, from 1853-62, are identical to the Presidency type, except that the word *Repub.* is stricken out, and that of *Empire* substituted.

In 1863, the Empire being at the highth of its glory, the Post-office officials thought as a fitting tribute to his military renown, or rather that of his Marshals, that the head of the Emperor, instead of being crowned only with what nature gave him, should have a wreath of laurel, and consequently 2 new omissions were seen, the 2 cen., red brown, and 4 cen., grey. In 1867 and 1868 all the set appeared with the lamented head, with the addition of a new value, 30 cen., brown. The 1 franc, lake, had long since been consigned to oblivion, as was the 5 cen., green, in 1863.

In 1869 another new denomination was seen, namely, the 5 franc, black, and in 1870, just about half a month before the great war, which cost France its throne and two billions of dollars, the last Imperial stamp appeared, the

the 1 cen., olive, with lamented head.

In 1870 the miserable specimens of the second Republic appeared, lithographed and imperforated, in several shades for each. The values were 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 80 centimes of the same colors as the Empire stamp, and from 1870 to 1875 these stamps appeared engraved, with the addition of a 15 cen. and 25 cen. In 1876 and 1877 appeared the familiar type of the present day.

French stamps, except the last set, are not remarkable for beauty, the engraving being very poor as a rule, particularly the first and second republics, which are very coarse.

In case of counterfeits, it would be well to know that the diamond network cancellation only appears on the 1849-50 Presidency set toward the latter part of the Presidency and Republic; the familiar dotted lines, with figure in centre, is much more common. In no case have I seen, and my experience extends over a period of fourteen years, a genuine Empire stamp, with a diamond cancellation, although I have seen it on several counterfeits. No doubt it will seem strange to thing of counterfeiting such common stamps, but I have seen many such, and would warn my readers against the 1 franc, 1849, vermillion, which is much counterfeited, by taking the 1 franc, lake, used or unused, and washed in an acid bath until they become of the original shade, and are then cancelled, almost strange to say, with the Empire cancellation of dotted lines, and I have seen one cancelled with a post-mark. F. E. P. LYNDE.

THE first Post-office in America was established in Philadelphia, in 1683.

THE first Postmaster-General of the Colonies in America was a Philadelphian.

Mr. J. W. Scott has transferred his stamp and coin business to the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Limited. The new company contains Messrs. Scott, Collins, Calman and Brown.

—THE—

Quaker City Philatelist

Published Monthly

IN THE INTEREST OF PHILATELISTS.

VOL. I. FEBRUARY, 1886. No. 2.

Subscription Price, 25 cents a year.

ADVERTISING RATES:

One inch	50 cts.	Half column	\$1.40
Two inches	90 cts.	One column	2.75
		One page,	\$5.00.

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

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

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

H. McALLISTER, 1226 Chestnut St.
E. R. DURBOROW, 25 N. 10th St.

All other communications should be sent to the Business Manager,

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

Advertisements for No. 3 should be in by
February 25th.

It is very confidently reported by a prominent dealer that the special delivery stamps will soon be withdrawn, and a 12 cent special be put in its place. He informs us that the plates are now being made, and that the stamps will soon be issued. We do not believe the 10 cent style will soon become rare, as this is too general an opinion.

THE Empire City Philatelist was published in 1883, and not 1884, as we stated in our last issue. We would also state that its publisher says it was not withdrawn from lack of support.

WE will send the Michigan Philatelist and the Quaker City Philatelist one year for 30 cents. This offer is only good until March 15th.

W. E. SKINNER has gone into the sale of counterfeit stamps, samples of which are now before us. The few counterfeits which we have among so many advertised (8 triangular Cape of Good Hope 12 cents) are hideously colored and extremely wood block in execution.

His circulars are carefully worded to avoid anything touching on the genuineness of the stamps offered, and warns collectors to "beware of a class of genteel thieves, styling themselves *philatelic* stamp dealers," and also inducing his victims to become his accomplices, as he will have no agents, and says "school-boys who want to make money should buy stamps in packets or sets from this list and stick them on a sheet of paper, and placing a good price on each stamp.

"If you charge only one half the price of most other dealers, you can still make a fine profit."

Reputable philatelic dealers should withdraw their support from his journal, as it is his evident intention to ruin their business as far as he can. The editorials on stamp collecting, and the minutes of the so called Essix Stamp Union would be burlesques of the highest rank if they were not intended to deceive the young and unwary.

To those whom he urges to buy counterfeits from his list and become his seconds, we would only say, "Don't!"

THE Globe Stamp Co. advertises extensively, and among its list we notice many counterfeits of rare stamps, at about the same prices as Skinner's. We would advise philatelists to let them alone.

THE Empire State Philatelist changes its colors like the chameleon, and looks the better every time.

IN the interest of what especial collector is the Collector's Companion published? We note that they always take great pains to have the apostrophe before the 'S.

MESSRS. WILLARD BROS. have sent us an unsolicited testimonial of the advertising merits of the Q. C. P., and wish us to state that they will receive subscriptions for it.

MR. H. G. SPAULDING has removed to Battle Creek, Michigan.

SOME unknown crank put up a new sign, reading "FILATELIK SOCIETY," at the door of the Quaker City Philatelic Society's Hall. He is requested to remove it.

THE Publishers of this paper are well pleased with the success of their efforts. They are constantly in receipt of letters from advertisers, expressing satisfaction with the paper; some of them state that it is the best advertising medium they have found. Moral—Dealers advertise at once.

WHERE are all those papers that advertised to appear in January, '86? Up to date we have received but one. What is the matter? Has the cold wave struck them.

WE have met with more encouragement than we thought possible, when this paper existed only in the brains of the originators, and it seems likely that our most hopeful enthusiast will fall short of his mark, and become an ear-sore with his I told you "so's." Our subscription list crept at first, walks now, and bids fair to run very soon.

A SOCIETY was recently formed at Pittsfield, Mass., which will be known as "The Berkshire Philatelic Union." Bertrand A. Packard, President; John D. Smith, Secretary and Treasurer. We wish it every success.

PUBLISHERS of philatelic papers will oblige us if they will send two copies of their papers for file, and we shall be pleased to return the compliment.

CHRONICLE.

EDITED BY L. W. DURBIN.

Antioquia. A new 20 centos stamp has lately been issued. Color, blue.

Bangkok. The 3 cents new, Straits settlements, is now in use in Bangkok, properly surcharged.

Belgium. Three new types have lately made their appearance, viz.,
20 centimes, gray.
50 centimes, buff.
2 francs, violet.

All have the bust of King Leopold.

Chili. The 20 centavos is now printed in gray.

Guanacosta. All the values of the current Costa Rico stamps have been met with surcharged "Guanacosta."

Liberia. An entire new set of stamps, has been prepared as follows: 1 cents red - 2 cents, green; 3 cents, violet; 4 cents, brown; 6 cents, gray; 8 cents, lilac; 16 cents, yellow; 32 cents, blue

Peru. 5 centavos, blue, with head of Admiral Grau, and 10 centavos, olive, head of General Bologneci, have lately been issued.

Siam. The ½ att stamps are said to have been surcharged with the postal union inscription and a new value, "1 tical."

Tahiti. A couple more surcharged stamps for Tahiti have been discovered. They are 4 centimes on 35 centimes; 5 centimes on 35 centimes.

Q. C. P. S. MEETINGS.

Meeting held January 2d, 1886.

After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, it was resolved to lay over Mr. McAllister's motion for the amendment of By-Law No. 9 until he should be present. The Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$4.04, was read and approved. Mr. MacCalla proposed the following amendment:

Resolved, That Article V, Section 1, be amended to read "Subscriptions for corresponding members shall be \$1.00 per year, entitling them to the official organ, and all articles published by the Society;"

which was laid over until the meeting of January 20th.

Upon motion of Mr. MacCalla, it was decided to suspend the article relating to nominations, and proceed to the nomination of officers for the ensuing year, whereupon nominations were made.

Mr. Henderson offered a resolution regarding a prospective increase of new members, which was adopted.

Mr. Corfield moved to erase Article XI from the By Laws, which was laid over according to rule.

Mr. Hancock read an essay on "The stamps of Mauritius," which was followed by an essay from Mr. Siddall, on "How to collect stamps."

Messrs Abbott, Chiles, Barrie and Hunstead were appointed essayists for the next meeting. Adjourned.

Theodore Siddall, *Secretary*.

Meeting of January 20, 1886.

Called to order at 8.15 P. M., E. R. Durborow presiding.

After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved, Mr. MacCalla proposed Mr. R. K. Pearce for active membership. It was resolved to suspend the regular order of business and proceed with the election of officers, whereupon Messrs. McAllister and Siddall withdrew their names from the ticket, and Mr. Lynde was nominated for Recording Secretary. After the first ballot, no choice having been made for the offices of Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, the

entire active membership of the society was placed in nomination by Mr. McAllister, which resulted in the election of Messrs. Jeanes, Scarlet and MacCalla. The officers of the Society elected for 1886 were

For President, E. R. Durborow; Vice President, Wm. H. Corfield; Treasurer, H. S. Jeanes; Recording Secretary, Wm. E. Scarlet; Corresponding Secretary, W. A. MacCalla; Librarian, A. F. Henkels.

The Corresponding Secretary was requested to inform Mr. Hancock that proxies cannot be received by this society.

It was resolved to erase Article IX (9) from the By-Laws, and Messrs. McAllister, Durborow and Corfield were appointed a committee to form a series of rules in reference to the sale of stamps at the meetings.

The amendment to Article V, Section 1, was carried as proposed at last meeting.

Article II was amended by substituting "request" for "appointed," and by striking out "none shall be excused from this duty except on account of sickness or unavoidable absence, and in such cases shall be reappointed."

Communications were read and disposed of as follows: From Mr. Warner, filed, and suitable replies were ordered to be sent to Messrs. Allen, Yonkers; James Elverson, Philadelphia, The Illinois Philatelist and Mr. W. V. Nicholson.

Bills from Messrs. Earley, Lynde and Siddall were received and ordered to be paid.

Committee on Sign was discharged, and the matter indefinitely postponed.

It was Resolved that this Society hold an annual dinner. This matter was postponed, owing to the late hour.

An essay on B. & O. Locals, by Mr. Hempstead, was then read, after which the Executive Committee made a favorable report upon the candidate for membership, and he was duly elected.

The retiring officers received a vote of thanks for their services during the past year. Adjourned.

THEO. SIDDALL, *Secretary*.

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.—Can any one tell me which were the first stamps issued with watermarks, and by whom invented?—H. G. M.

Editor Quaker City Philatelist.—Does the U. S. Government return foreign ("Return Cards") which are fully prepaid?—A. DUPONT.

EXCHANGES.

[All papers will be duly noticed, provided that two copies are sent to the Editorial Department of this paper.]

We have received a fat little journal, entitled "The Chemung Review," which is full of readable matter.

The Garden City Philatelist made its appearance, and bids fair to do well. Would advise a new printer, however.

SNOWED UNDER.—Skinner's "Essex Philatelic Union." "The flowers that bloom in the Spring, tra la, etc."

CORRESPONDING members will greatly oblige the Q. C. P. S. by giving some account of themselves.

THE Q. C. P. are engaged in the pleasant occupation of looking for larger rooms for their meetings, and a committee of three has been appointed for this purpose.

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COMMON SENSE

ABOUT

Postage Stamps.

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 correspondence 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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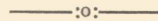
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