

# The Quaker City Philatelist.

VOL. I.

SEPTEMBER, 1886.

No. 9.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

## JOTTINGS.

BY F. E. P. I.

It is a remarkable fact that among so many advanced collectors of stamps in this enlightened era so few of them pay any attention to some of the most interesting phases of this delightful pastime. For instance, if you ask any one hundred collectors (I mean those who have gotten past the stage when his sole thought and boast is, "I have more stamps than Bill Jones has got"), if they collect water-marks, about ninety out of the one hundred will say, "I have not the time, and don't think them interesting enough if I had." Yet I think this a very big mistake. They will find it so if they just try it once. Again, it is a part of philately where the unexpected is more likely to happen than most others. Mind, I don't say the following circumstance is liable to happen often. Some time ago I bought a couple of hundred Jamaicas, and, happening to pick one up by chance, instead of the usual C. C. and crown, it was a pine-apple, and in sorting them over came across nearly a whole set. I am sure if some of our collectors were to take up this branch they would not only enhance the value of their collections, as many stamps exactly alike otherwise, on account of a water-mark, would be doubled in value, nay, sometimes trebled, what the other one is, but would become not only very much interested, but find it very instructing.

Although I am not an advocate of the extremist section of shade collectors who would examine a stamp for ten minutes

to find a variety in color, I do believe that ones that are very distinct should be thought more of and sought after, and it is very saddening to hear one philatelist after another say, "Oh, its only a shade; I don't collect them." I think that the compilers of our catalogues are partly to blame for this, as I find that distinct varieties are very often not noticed in their lists. I can mention a couple here to illustrate my meaning:

Hungary, 1874,	not	catalogued,	2 kreuzer, lilac.
"	"	"	2 kreuzer, blue lilac, very dark.
"	"	"	2 kreutzer, rose.

The last-mentioned shade was noticed in one of the editions of one of our best catalogues, but for unknown reasons was dropped in the next. Again, in Mauritius, 1860-72, 1d, brown, was catalogued, but the 1d, brown lilac, was not. Yet there was hardly enough brown in the latter to call it a shade, while the first was very distinct in that regard. In regard to color varieties, foreign albums are the best, as they give distinct ones, whereas it does not go into them so deeply as the specialist (if I may so call him) does. Hoping these few remarks will call the attention that they deserve (not remark colors) of thoughtful collectors to this subject, I pass to the next.

What has become of all the outcry, that the philatelic papers, were full of, against surcharges. They have not been growing any less in point of issue. Or have the kickers become disheartened, or has the sop thrown to them by Peru, stopping that business, made them hope for more?

I had thought until a short time ago that the error that only unused stamps

were counterfeited was explained; but, alas, the dream was too good to be true. I came across a collector the other day whose collection numbers over three thousand kinds and who has been at it for three years. Yet, when I pointed out a most miserable counterfeit to him, said: "Oh, no, that's perfectly genuine; it is canceled." One more remark, and I have done. I saw a piece of news in a daily paper the other day about the U. S. de Colombia, namely, that under the new constitution the sovereignty of the States composing it are to be abolished, and, of course, that will do away with the State stamps. If this is true, what will be done about the supply of hideous prints that they call stamps of these separate and sovereign States sent to us? Can Liberia furnish enough for the demand? From present appearances it can.

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### FRANKLIN'S GRAVE.

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Located on a busy street, in what is now fast getting to be Old Philadelphia, is to be found a graveyard, and, passing along an old-fashioned black and red brick wall, you will come to a place at which the wall gives way to a few feet of iron railing. On looking between the bars at the level gravestone so exposed one may read that all that remains of one of our greatest citizens has been buried there—a man whose works are felt to-day, even though he (and his grave) are forgotten by many who owe so much to him; a man to whom much of the freedom so prized by true Americans is due; to whom is due the credit of first securing successful mail service in the American colonies and who afterward was our first Postmaster-General.

And this grave, left so exposed that all generations might see, and, profiting by a great example, become better men and women, is to-day the receptacle for lunch bags, bits of paper and other refuse which can be thrown through the convenient open spaces of the wall.

H. M.

### HOW KINGS USED TO TAMPER WITH THEIR SUBJECTS' LETTERS.

A work on the French postal service gives some curious details of the sinister institution known as "Le Cabinet Noir." Its origin dates as far back as Louis XI, who instituted it for the purpose of discovering the secret thoughts and doings of his subjects. Under Richelieu the art of ramollissement des cachets, as it was then styled, was practiced on a large scale. But it was not till the reign of Louis XIV that the famous Cabinet was officially created. Special employes were engaged to unseal the letters at the post-office and make known their contents to the king. Under Louis XV the institution was further developed. The highest personages at Court were subject to the indiscretions of the post. "It is of no use my sealing my letters," wrote the mother of the regent; "they have fabricated a kind of composition out of quicksilver and other substances which remove the wax, and when the letters are opened and copied, they seal them up again so cleverly that nobody can detect the trick." It was by this means that the Government discovered all the details of the Cellamare conspiracy. The Revolution abolished the Cabinet, and enacted severe penalties against tampering with letters; but the system was revived by Napoleon I, who made extensive applications of it. It continued under the Restoration, as the Duc de Broglie shows in his "Souvenirs." During the reign of Napoleon III it was reorganized on a more comprehensive plan, and a sum of 600,000 f. a year was devoted to it out of the secret service grants. Twenty-two employes were constantly engaged in manipulating the letters. Since the fall of the Second Empire the Cabinet Noir has ceased to exist.

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MR. C. F. ROTHFUCHS states that the box containing the sets of unused State Departments, which are being handed out at Washington, is nearly exhausted, and that an early increase in the prices of State unused is at hand. We regret that space will not permit us to give his whole letter.



## U. S. REVENUE STAMPS.

Every one who is interested in United States stamps should make a collection of the fiscal or rather the revenue stamps of that country; for this branch of philately has been too much neglected, and now that it is coming into favor it is very difficult to obtain correct information in regard to them, owing to the lack of interest taken in them when such information could have been easily obtained. It is only a few years since the specimens of the second and third series of document and the second series of proprietary stamps were discovered with inverted medallions, and I notice now that there are fifteen new colored stamps added to the first series of documents. There are new discoveries as follows: 2 cts., orange; U. S. Internal Revenue, printed on green paper, 4 cts., blue; Playing Cards, 4 cts., purple, and 4 cts., slate; Proprietary, 30 cts., purple, and 30 cts., slate; Foreign Exchange, 30 cts., purple, and 30 cts., slate; Inland Exchange, 70 cts., blue; Foreign Exchange, \$1.90; Foreign Exchange, brown, slate and purple, \$2.50; Inland Exchange, purple, and slate, and last the \$3.00 Charter Party, blue. Some of the above I have had in my possession, but the one that impressed me the most forcibly was the \$3.00 Charter Party, blue. This stamp I found among a lot of the common green varieties of this stamp in the stock of a prominent dealer in this city (Philadelphia). I called his chief clerk's attention to it and asked him if the difference in color would make any difference in the price, and he informed me that it would not, so I purchased it. I consider it as unique, being the only one that I have ever heard of.

Some advanced collectors collect all varieties of revenues; the perforated, part perforated and unperforated, rouletted, double perforations, perforations by sewing machines, and serrated edges caused by tearing apart the unperforated stamps with a ruler or some blunt instrument which jags the edges, and in unsevered parts of unperforated stamps, as also part perforated. This is without doubt a very disheartening number of

varieties for a young collector. But when you once start with the perforated varieties as a beginning, you will find that you will take to the other little novelties as natural as a duck takes to water, and I do not think that any collector who takes the trouble to collect U. S. Revenues will ever regret the time or money spent upon them.

I do not refer to document stamps only, but to the private proprietary stamps of the match, medicine and playing-card firms, also, which makes one of the most interesting collections that a person can make.

There is about 2400 varieties of U. S. stamps, both postage and revenue, which would be sufficient to occupy the time and interest of any collector to study properly.

H.

## C. C. P. S. Notes.

GRAND CROSSING, Ill., July 17, '86.

*Mr. Wm. E. Scarlett, Secretary C. C. P. S. :*

DEAR SIR:—At the regular meeting of the C. S. C. U., held last evening, July 16th, our society, in response to the call of the National Committee on Organization, made the following nominations for temporary officers of the proposed National Philatelic Society, viz :

For President—Mr. E. R. Durborow, of Philadelphia.

For Vice-President—Mr. J. H. Raymond, of Chicago.

For Secretary—Mr. Theo. F. Cuno, of New York.

For Treasurer—Mr. W. G. Whilden, of Atlanta.

Our society is, as you will perceive, in favor of placing the head of the ticket in your city, and if your society should favor our nominations we have little doubt but that this ticket can be successfully carried through.

I shall be glad to hear from you at any time.

Yours truly,

S. B. BRADT,

*Corresponding Secretary C. S. C. U.*

—THE—  
**Quaker City Philatelist**

*Published Monthly,*

IN THE INTEREST OF PHILATELISTS.

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

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*Business Manager,*

GEO. HENDERSON,

Box 111, Phila., Pa.

Advertisements for No. 10 should be in by Sept. 27th.

NEXT month we will issue 2000 copies, just double our usual circulation, and as these extra copies will go among an equally good class of collectors as our regular edition, we could hardly offer a greater inducement to advertisers. Rates will remain the same, but an increase is more than likely very soon of at least twenty-five per cent, so that contracts at our present rate will soon seem very cheap.

It is a good time to get on board.

NATIONAL PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

We recommend to our readers the following ticket:

*For President,*

L. W. Durbin, Philadelphia, Pa.

*Vice-President,*

R. R. Bogert, New York City.

*Secretary,*

S. B. Bradt, Chicago, Ill.

*Treasurer,*

W. F. Greany, San Francisco, Cal.

*Librarian,*

John K. Tiffany, St. Louis, Mo.

*Counterfeit Detector,*

James M. Chute, Boston, Mass.

*Exchange Manager,*

Theo. F. Cuno, New York City.

Members of the National Philatelic Association are notified that the votes for the officers will be opened on the 14th inst., at 8 P. M. All votes should be sent to Mr. T. F. Cuno, 148 Jefferson avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., and should contain a remittance of at least 25 cents. Vote for the men whom you think will reflect the most credit and do the best work for the society.

WHY not subscribe—twelve numbers, one each month, 25 cents. We don't intend to give up, and call your attention to our advertising columns as a very good reason.

CAN our Western friends tell us how Stahl likes jail quarters?

DEALERS say the summer trade has exceeded anything they ever knew of before—no one knows why; probably they don't feel the good times in the air.

Strikes are over, boys.

THE Committee on Organization of the National Philatelic Society has issued a call which we should like to publish, but want of space will not permit. The committee now consists of Mr. Theodore F. Cuno (N. P. S. of N. Y.), 148 Jefferson street, New York; S. B. Brandt (C. S. C. U.), Grand Crossing, Ill.; W. G. Whilden, Jr., 93 Washington street, Atlanta, Ga.; George H. Henderson (Q. C. P. S.), Box 111, Philadelphia, Pa.; C. H. Mekeel (St. L. P. S.), Box 512, St. Louis, Mo. A postal sent to any of the committee will secure a circular giving full information appertaining to membership, etc.

As nearly as can be ascertained, twenty-five years have elapsed since the first modest beginning of the universal craze for collecting canceled postage stamps. How large the business of dealers in this article has grown is evident from the fact that a single house in



Nuremberg disposed last year of 23,000,000 stamps.

### Editors' Waste Basket.

"Where, oh where are all the philatelic papers?" Gone up the spout? We hope not. Up to press time we have received but about one-quarter of our usual exchanges. What can be the matter with our friends? Have they caught the summer fever and died, or have the editors hid themselves away to mountain and sea-shore, and left the editorial sanctum in charge of the "office boy?" Which ever may be the case, we hope all that are in the land of the living will still continue to remember us, and we shall be glad to do the same.

The *Mart and Exchange* is an old paper, but this is the first time we have had the pleasure to see it. It is well filled with advertisements and exchange notices; it also has some good articles, and especially a "Philatelist's Observations Abroad."

The *Long Island Collector* is up and able to be about again. It is quite a neat little fellow, and if its projectors follow out all that they promise, we see a bright future for it.

*Philatelic Journal of America* has an article on the proposed national society, by Mr. Joseph C. Casey, of New York; also, some remarks by Mr. Theodore F. Cuno. They are well worth reading. There is a department devoted to Spanish, which will be hailed with delight by our many Spanish-American collectors.

The *Young World* is a new paper devoted to the interests of collectors of coins, minerals and amateur photography. Although it does not see fit to devote any part of its reading matter to philately, yet its advertising columns are well filled with stamp-dealers' cards. It also finds space to attempt to abuse the Q. C. P. for its open attack on the *Golden Days*. We do not understand their motive in abetting such advertisements as we have exposed from time to time.

We have also received the following: *The Empire State Philatelist*, *The Philatelic Monthly*, *The Chemung Review*, *The Carson Philatelist*.

The Committee on National Organization have decided to hold a Convention in New York city on September 14th and 15th.

We hope Philadelphia will be well represented.

### Chronicle.

EDITED BY L. W. DURBIN.

*British Bechuanaland*.—Postal cards, newspaper wrappers and registered envelopes are used in this colony now as well as adhesive stamps.

*British Guiana*.—The one-quarter and one-half anna stamps are now unperforated, and the colors changed to green and red respectively.

*Ceylon*.—A fifteen-cent olive has been added to the new series.

*Curacao*.—Stamps of the value of twelve and a-half cents and a five-cent postal card are said to be now in use.

*Dominica*.—The half-penny is now green and the four pence gray. It is said that a single sheet of six penny stamps was surcharged "one penny" by mistake.

*French Colonies*.—The 25 centimes is now black on flesh, to correspond with the 25c. of the mother country.

*Gambia*.—A 2½ pence blue has been issued. The color of the 3 pence has been changed to pale green, and that of the shilling to brown.

*Grenada*.—Single and double ½, 1 and 1½ penny post cards have been issued, as also ½, 1, 1½ and 2 pence wrappers, and 2 pence registered letter envelope.

*Guatemala*.—Of the new issue the following have appeared: 1 cartan, blue; 2 centavos, brown; 5 centavos, purple; 10 centavos, red; 20 centavos, green; 25 centavos, orange; 50 centavos, olive.

*Mexico*.—5 and 10 centavo envelopes, with stamp of the new pattern, are out.

*Montserrat*.—The penny card has been issued in double form.

*News*.—Double 1 and 1½ penny cards have been emitted.

*Sandwich Islands*.—The color of the 12 cents is to be changed to red.

*Tobago*.—The ½ penny has changed color to green.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

At a sale of furniture, held on Friday, August 27th, there were a few lots of miscellaneous curiosities, among which were: 275 war envelopes (Union), sold at  $\frac{1}{4}$ c. each; 7 war envelopes (Confederate), sold at 1c. each; an album, containing 700 foreign and U. S. stamps, \$2.10; 400 Confederate 5c. stamps, unused, \$1.05; 4500 mixed U. S. and foreign stamps, \$1.35; 400 local stamps, \$1.05; 600 counterfeits of rare stamps, 50 cents. Few dealers had heard of the sale, and so prices were not high.

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1 good fossil, 5c.; 3 var. European coins, 10c.; 1 Chinese cash coin, 5c.; 1 large U. S. cent, 5c.; 1 razor shell, 5c.; 1 specimen serpentine, 5c.; 1 Confederate note, 5c.; 1 sea bean, 5c.; 1 bleeding tooth shell, 5c.; total 50c.

Packet No. 101 contains all the above, and will be sent post-paid to any part of the U. S. for only 25 cents. Stamps taken.

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- THE -

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Where more than one is mentioned on a line, the price is so much for each. *Postage extra.* \*Signifies unused.

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" 3 c. . . . .	.04	" " " 3c.	.15
1857, 1 c. . . . .	.03	* " Newspaper, 4c.	.20
" 3 c. . . . .	.01	* 1885, " 1 c.	.10
" 24 c. . . . .	.75	* 1879, Officially	
1861, 1 c. . . . .	.02	Sealed, . . . . .	.10
" 2 c. . . . .	.02	1872, Registered, . .	.10
" 3 c. . . . .	.01	Agriculture, 3 c. . . .	.04
" 5 c. . . . .	.10	Treasury, 1 c. . . . .	.03
" 10 c. . . . .	.02	" 2, 10, 12, 15,	
" 12 c. . . . .	.05	30 c. . . . .	.02
" 24 c. . . . .	.25	" 3, 6 c. . . . .	.01
" 30 c. . . . .	.15	" 7 c. . . . .	.18
1868, 2 c. . . . .	.05	" 24 c. . . . .	.50
" 3 c. . . . .	.02	" 90 c. . . . .	.05
" 10 c. . . . .	.10	Interior, 1, 6 c. . . . .	.04
" 12 c. . . . .	.15	" 2 c. . . . .	.02
" 24 c. . . . .	.50	" 3 c. . . . .	.01
1869, 1 c. . . . .	.04	" 10 c. . . . .	.12
" 2 c. . . . .	.03	" 12 c. . . . .	.05
" 3 c. . . . .	.01	" 15 c. . . . .	.08
" 6 c. . . . .	.12	" 24, 30 c. . . . .	.10
" 10 c. . . . .	.15	War, 1, 2, 12, 15, 30 c.	.04
" 12 c. . . . .	.20	" 3, 6c. . . . .	.01
" 15 c. . . . .	.40	" 7c. . . . .	.40
1870, 7 c. . . . .	.10	" 10, 24 c. . . . .	.10
" 12 c. . . . .	.10	" 90 c. . . . .	.15
" 24 c. . . . .	.25	Centennial Env., red	.10
" 30 c. . . . .	.02	" " green	.20
" 90 c. . . . .	.05	" " Phila.	
		die, green . . . . .	.20

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" 3 c. . . . .	.04	" " " 3c. .15
1857, 1 c. . . . .	.03	* " " Newspaper, 4c. .20
" 3 c. . . . .	.01	* 1885, " 1 c. .10
" 24 c. . . . .	.75	* 1879, Officially Sealed, . . . .10
1861, 1 c. . . . .	.02	1872, Registered, . . .10
" 2 c. . . . .	.02	Agriculture, 3 c. . . .04
" 3 c. . . . .	.01	Treasury, 1 c. . . .03
" 5 c. . . . .	.10	" 2, 10, 12, 15, 30 c. . . .02
" 10 c. . . . .	.02	" 3, 6 c. . . .01
" 12 c. . . . .	.05	" 7 c. . . .18
" 24 c. . . . .	.25	" 24 c. . . .50
" 30 c. . . . .	.15	" 90 c. . . .05
1868, 2 c. . . . .	.05	Interior, 1, 6 c. . . .04
" 3 c. . . . .	.02	" 2 c. . . .02
" 10 c. . . . .	.10	" 3 c. . . .01
" 12 c. . . . .	.15	" 10 c. . . .12
" 24 c. . . . .	.50	" 12 c. . . .05
1869, 1 c. . . . .	.04	" 15 c. . . .08
" 2 c. . . . .	.03	" 24, 30 c. . . .10
" 3 c. . . . .	.01	War, 1, 2, 12, 15, 30 c. .04
" 6 c. . . . .	.12	" 3, 6c. . . .01
" 10 c. . . . .	.15	" 7c. . . .40
" 12 c. . . . .	.20	" 10, 24 c. . . .10
" 15 c. . . . .	.40	" 90 c. . . .15
1870, 7 c. . . . .	.10	Centennial Env., red " green .20
" 12 c. . . . .	.10	" " Phila. die, green .20
" 24 c. . . . .	.25	
" 30 c. . . . .	.02	
" 90 c. . . . .	.05	

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“ “ War, used, complete,	.80	“ “ 10 “ 40, “	.30
“ “ Navy, 9 var., used,	1.75	“ “ 25 “ 40, old (eagle),	.20
“ 12c., green, 1869, unused,	.35	Mexico, 1856, 2 red on yellow, unused,	1.75
Macau, 5 Reis, used,	.12	“ “ “ black on yellow, “	1.40
“ 10 “ “	.20	“ 1885, official, used,	.08
“ 20 “ “	.20	“ “ “ env., used,	.12
“ 50 “ “	.25	Siam, 1/2 att., unused,	.03
Guinea, 1885, 5 R., unused,	.10	“ 1 “ “	.04
“ 1886, “ “	.04	“ 2 “ “	.06
		“ 4 “ <i>used</i> ,	.15

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