

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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MILLARD F. WALTON,

Secretary-elect of the American Philatelic Association.

Mr. Millard F. Walton, who has just been elected Secretary of the American Philatelic Association, has been an active philatelist for many years. His first collection, which was begun in 1868 and sold some time ago, numbered over 9000 varieties and contained a large number of fine things. He found it impossible to give up the study and is now making a second collection, which at present numbers about 6000 specimens and is rapidly growing. It is particularly fine in U. S. and British Colonial stamps.

We believe the American Philatelic Association has made an unexceptionable choice in selecting Mr. Walton as its Secretary, as his varied experience in matters of this kind make us feel that we can, without fear, tender our congratulations to the members generally and to him personally.

Mr. Walton has been favorably introduced by the leading philatelic publications, and it is now in order that we should hear from him monthly.

The Trustees have officially notified us of Mr. Walton's election, he having a majority over both his competitors.

HOW POSTAL CARDS ARE MADE.

IN 1865, the Prussian postal authorities announced their intention of issuing a correspondence card, on which brief communications not under seal or in an inclosure could be sent through the mails at greatly reduced rates. For some reasons, never explained, the scheme hung fire, and was apparently abandoned. In 1869, Austria took up the idea and commenced the manufacture and sale of "correspondence cards," as they are still called on the European continent. Prussia immediately followed suit, and during the war with France distributed the cards free to soldiers and at a purely nominal price to soldiers' relatives. American postal cards made their appearance in May, 1873, since which time the sale has grown so rapidly that over 1,000,000,000 have now to be manufactured every year.

Ten miles below Albany, N. Y., on the east bank of the Hudson river, is Castleton, where is located the manufactory for the making of post cards, five buildings in all. In these buildings are manufactured all the postal cards used by the Government, and from here they are sent to every city, village and hamlet in the United States, to be used by the public and sent by them to all parts of the civilized globe.

The largest of the buildings is known as the Fort Orange Paper Mills, of which C. C. Woolworth, of Albany, is president, and to whom the contract for printing the postal cards is sub-let.

In this building hundreds upon hundreds of tons of rags and pulp start, and come out in printed postal cards. Here also are made and printed all the registered letter receipts used by third and fourth-class post-offices.

During the past year, 1888, considerably over a billion cards were turned out and sent over the country. For each thousand of these little missives the Government pays fifty-four cents, and for them it receives the sum of ten dollars. The factory where the postals are made is a long one-story structure, about three times as long as it is wide. In this building all the cards are printed and cut from the sheets, counted by machinery, put up in packages of twenty-five each and packed in pasteboard boxes ready for shipment. A large fire-proof vault, built expressly and holding 20,000,000 cards, which are always kept in reserve, is located in this building. In the south room is the Government office, where is located the chief clerk and nine assistants, who are kept constantly busy recording the requisitions from postmasters and the time of filling them.

The machinery used in making the postal cards is the usual kind of paper-making machinery, and there are kept constantly in motion three washing engines, four beaters and two sets of rollers. One set is used entirely for postal-card work, and one for the finer grade of book-paper for the Government. Each day from four to seven tons of rags are used, besides a large quantity of wood pulp. The postal cards are made almost entirely from rags. The rags are carried from Castleton on the smallest railroad in the United States. This little road carries away daily, from the works, two carloads of printed postal cards, all of which are brought to Albany and thence distributed according to the destination marked upon them, all over the country, in every post-office over which Uncle Sam has jurisdiction. To load a car requires between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 of the little cards, according to how they are packed. Three million cards make a large load, as a box containing 25,000 cards weighs 162 pounds. A thousand cards weigh about five and one-quarter pounds. Climbing up the hill to the largest building one can easily follow the process by which postal cards are made. In a back room of the building can be seen a dozen girls whose sole duty is to sort the rags that come in from the collectors. The girls cut off all buttons and buckles on discarded garments, and sort the rags into piles according to quality. The sorted rags are put into huge chopping machines, which cut them into small pieces. It then whiffs them into a dust machine, where they are shaken and cleaned. From this point they pass through a succession of baths in chloride of lime and various other

bleaching and cleansing chemicals, with occasional visits to vats and trips through rollers with sharp knives on them.

After passing through the different processes the rags come out as a fine white pulp as thin as flower paste. This is shaken over wire to get the water out, and is then put through a score or more of rollers and a glue bath, after which it is rolled out into postal-card paper. At the end of the long rolls that have been squeezing the paper down and putting the gloss on it, are the knives used for cutting, and the long sheet passing through it is either cut into sheets four postal cards wide to be put into the huge automatic presses, or into sheets $21 \times 30\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In the big room of the postal card mill are about a dozen men and two dozen women, four large presses, four cutters and one extra-large cutter. The sheets are taken to the press, where they are given the feeders, who feed forty-one sheets a minute, or 1760 postal cards. The cards are printed from steel plates so hard that a file could not make an impression on them. Each one is printed from a separate plate, and eighty plates are locked in the bed of the press. All the plates are sent from Washington, and one set of plates, in continual use, lasts about two years.

The sheets are next taken to the cutters, from which they are turned out in single cards. Three girls take the cards of each feeder. One counts twenty-five in each package, and the other two put on the paper binders. After they leave this room they are put up in packages of twenty and put into the pasteboard boxes, which by contract must be muslin bound. Five girls put the muslin binding on the boxes, receiving for their work fifteen cents per hundred boxes. The boxes, when filled, are put into cases ready for shipment. No order for less than 500 cards is filled. Orders for 10,000 or more are packed in wooden cases, the largest single case holding 25,000 cards.

A new machine has recently been put in, to work on postal cards, that will increase the rate of printing them and decrease the number of employés. Two of the machines are now in operation. They print from continuous rolls at the rate of 300 per minute. A set of knives cuts them off and they drop into little cells, a set of steel fingers turning the packages over. After each twenty-five cards have dropped into a cell the fingers twine a band about the package and carry it back to the packing-room, where the girls put them into boxes. Another new invention is a box-making machine. The cost of printing the postal cards is steadily decreasing, and, with new and improved machinery, will be still less. The greatest expense is the manufacture of the paper.

NOTES ON NEW ISSUES.

ARGENTINE.—The 12c. bears the portrait of Dr. Juan Bautista Alberdi. The $\frac{1}{2}$ c. that of General Justo José de Urquiza.

BRITISH GUIANA.—A new lot of provisionals have made their appearance. Also a new issue.

GERMANY.—The new issue of stamps appeared October 1. The designs follow after the Belgium 1c. stamps. The values are 3pf. brown, 5 green, 10 rose, 20 blue, 25 orange and 50 red brown. The post cards are dated 1889 and bear the new stamp.

GIBRALTER.—The values are now expressed in centimes instead of pence.

SALVADOR.—Through an error of the engraving company, the stamps being printed Union "Postal de Salvador" instead of *Servicie*, etc., a provisional 1c. stamp was made by printing a heavy bar across the top of the stamp; only a few hundred were so surcharged. While waiting for the new lot the 3c. have been surcharged 1c. to take their place.

URUGUAY.—Counterfeits of the 60c. DILIGENCIA stamps have been unearthed. The "g" is misprinted a "c". The word *Diligencia* is $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm. instead of $11\frac{1}{2}$.

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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Terms of Subscription : 15 CENTS PER YEAR. ABROAD 30 CTS.

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A Cross opposite this Notice signifies that your Subscription has expired.

AS our friends will remember, this number completes our fourth volume. We have many friends, and trust that we may again give thanks for past favors and look confidently forward to their support.

Having flourished for the space of four years, a much larger time than the average, we are more than confident that the next year will prove a low-priced subscription rate to be as popular and more so than heretofore.

Mr. George Henderson has retired and the editorial and business matters will be conducted by Messrs. McAllister, Corfield and MacCalla.

We thank Mr. Henderson for his efforts for philately as well as for the able manner in which he has managed **THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST** during the past six months.

It is our intention to largely increase the subscription list and we offer some unexceptionable premiums to new subscribers. It will pay you to take advantage of our offer.

ADVERTISERS will find our columns most useful, as we constantly aim to reach the active collectors of to-day, a difficult matter, but one which we have been especially successful in doing. During the past three months our circulation has largely increased, and we expect to add 500 names to our subscription list in the next three months.

MR. SEAGRAVE, late Treasurer of the American Philatelic Association, has disposed of his collection. Mr. Seagrave is thoroughly well posted, particularly on the issues of the United States, and his proofs, which we had the pleasure of seeing, were incomparable.

MR. ROWLAND, of Allegheny, visited Philadelphia recently and left an agreeable impression with those who were fortunate enough to meet him.

THE American Philatelic Association flourishes beyond all reasonable expectations, and seems likely to distance its older competitor, the Internationaler Philatelisten Verein, Dresden.

TO the older philatelists many changes are apparent; old names are no longer mentioned and new ones abound on every hand; but the retrospective glance will notice a great improvement and the wretched forgeries of past times have almost entirely disappeared, owing to the vigorous fight which has been made. The periodicals of to-day are not confined to boyish issues, and instant and effective steps have been taken to run down the guilty, so that counterfeits are rarer than genuine, except, of course, the foreign, which cannot be reached on this side.

South America is full of this thing, as well as Germany and France, but this is far better than to have this right at home.

WE like to agree with our friends, but we cannot agree with Lieutenant Partello regarding the prices of stamps as to their prospective worth. As a guide in purchasing, we have always classed stamps under several heads, and we think our readers will profit by our example, so we give them.

Very Rare.—Stamps which we never or but rarely see even in the finest collections.

Scarce.—Stamps which, while rare, are generally found in the finest collections.

Rare.—Stamps which the average collector sometimes finds beyond his financial reach.

The first class seldom or never depreciate in value, and we know of some which have increased many hundred per cent.

The second class occasionally depreciate temporarily, but as but few are obtainable a lasting depreciation is hardly possible.

All below this class, excepting present issues, must ultimately advance as destruction and the constantly growing army of collectors will gradually increase their rarity as time goes on, slowly at first but still constantly. We doubt if our own collection could be purchased now at twice its cost.

To the disheartened we say, by our own experience, Don't sell your collection. Whatever you do, hold on to it. In after years you will find it a pleasure and a profit, as have many before you.

PREMIUMS this month to new subscribers. Remember our ridiculously low price and you will welcome a regular visitor.

A RECENT visitor to America, Mr. Giwelb, of London, is traveling around the world selling stamps only, and he states that so far it has been highly profitable. He is much pleased with the United States and hopes to pay us another visit soon.

MAJOR EVANS gives, in the November *Philatelic Journal of America*, his as well as Horner's numbers of the U. S. envelopes. These being in parallel columns, it makes their use to collectors for reference very convenient.

IN the death of George B. Mason philately has lost an earnest worker. Mr. Mason was well known to most American collectors.

MR. L. S. MORTON thinks that there would be no field for "specialists" if surcharges were tabooed. Collectors will agree with him—the dealers might not.

HORNER'S Revised List of Envelopes, with additions by Mr. E. B. Hanes, is brought up to date, and makes an invaluable addition to our stamp literature. Every collector of United States envelopes to intelligently understand his collections must have a copy.

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MILLARD F. WALTON,

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