

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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INTERNATIONALER PHILATELISTEN VEREIN.

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No. 1.

POSTAGE STAMP SAVING CARDS.

BELOW we quote from the author of the Postage Stamp Saving Cards, who is now petitioning Congress to introduce them, whereby a person can either use the card for a savings bank and a means of making small remittances, either in this country or abroad. It is to be greatly hoped that Congress will adopt this system, which would be a boon to all. We reproduce some of the author's proposals:

“Explanation of the proposed United States Postage Stamp Saving, or Remittance, or Return (Postage Stamp Redemption) Postal Card:

“This specimen of the proposed Postage Stamp Saving Card is sent with the request that, if you are interested in the subject, you will send your criticisms of it; and also such further suggestions as may seem to you pertinent.

“If you desire to promote the adoption of this plan, you can sign and circulate for signatures the enclosed petition.

“While this card (if authorized by Congress) could be used simply as a Saving Card only, it can also be used to remit such savings to a savings bank, or to other financial corporations; or it could be used to make small remittances to institutions, firms or individuals.

“It could be used as a return postal card by affixing a one-cent postage stamp on the inside, the message to be written on the blank pages; the postage stamp would then be redeemed for one cent at any post-office and the card taken up.

“It is hoped that, in the near future, such a card may be adopted by the International Postal Union as a method of transmittal of small sums between persons of different nationalities, the postage stamps of one nation being redeemed by every other nation in the Postal Union, the differences of indebtedness between the nations being settled in the International Postal Clearing House.

“In the following to Mr. Wanamaker I submit a suggestion for the passage of a law which, it seems to me, is all that should be attempted at the present moment. The plan suggested certainly moves on the lines of least resistance; it embodies the results of three years' examination of the workings of the postal savings-bank system in Great Britain—where it has been in successful operation over twenty-five years—in France, Belgium, Austria and in Italy. The system has also been adopted in the Netherlands, in Canada and other British colonies; and the Postmaster-General of Germany is seeking to introduce it into the Empire:

“GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PA., November, 7, 1889.

“JOHN WANAMAKER, ESQ., *Postmaster-General, Etc., Etc.*

“*Dear Sir*:—I respectfully suggest the passage of a law providing:

“1. For the preparation by the Government of a postage stamp saving card, substantially embodying the features of the one herewith handed to you.

" 2. For the refunding of the face value of undefaced postage stamps attached to said cards, on presentation at the post-offices.

" Yours, etc.,

" HORACE J. Smith."

(PROPOSED)

UNITED STATES

[1ST PAGE.]

POSTAGE STAMP SAVING, OR REMITTANCE, OR RETURN

POSTAL CARD

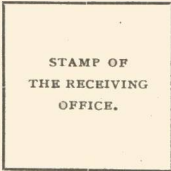
If sent by mail as a postal card a one-cent postage stamp must be affixed here; or, it may be sent in an envelope, on which a two-cent postage stamp must be affixed.

ADDRESS,
.....
.....



When addressed, this card will be payable on the receipt of the above-named person.

Received the value of within stamps.



SIGNED,

Postage Stamp Saving, or Remittance, or Return [4TH PAGE.]

POSTAL CARD.

Postage stamps may be affixed to this card, either for the saving of small sums, or for transmission through the mail.

When presented at any United States post-office, the face value of the undefaced stamps affixed to it will be paid to the person to whom it is addressed, or it may be endorsed to bearer.

If sent by mail as a postal card a one-cent postage stamp must be affixed on the other side; or, it may be sent in an envelope, on which a two-cent stamp must be affixed.

When sent by mail the blanks below *must* be filled out.

NAME OF SENDER,

AND POST-OFFICE ADDRESS,

TOTAL VALUE OF WITHIN STAMPS, \$

The second and third pages are ruled in squares for the placing of unused postage stamps, or for written communications.

No one man knows as much as all men; but one man can fecundate the brains of a great many men. We do not understand Mr. Smith to be so presumptuous as to think he "knows it all;" but he has the right to claim the proud distinction of inventing a new currency. And not a currency for the United States only, but (a thing that has never been done before) *he has, in fact, created an international currency.* This certainly is a proper thing for a man of Quaker antecedents to do, because an international currency is, most evidently, in the interests of peace.

Facility of intercourse, especially the facilitating of financial intercourse, is certainly in the line of universal peace.

Creating such a currency provides a way to choke off the "*small check fiends,*" who are the *bête noir* of the banks. Every check, be it of \$10,000 or \$1, or even for fifty cents, must have its endorsement to follow in due course on its back—every check, as it passes from the first bank in which it is deposited, and through all the strings of banks whose care it passes under, must be carefully noted in the books, till at last it reaches the bank on which it is drawn. Here the change is made to the account of the drawer and the check filed to be returned to the drawer. The number of clerks' hands through which each check *must* pass cannot be exactly enumerated; and how many headaches and worries the "small check fiend" causes we would not like to know.

If the bankers "know a good thing when they see it," and they are generally credited with some cuteness on matters which make or save money for them, they will boom this plan.

There is a scale of prices prepared by the Central Committee on "Postage Stamp Redemption," which offers a specimen card, an explanation of the same, a petition to the Senate and a petition to the House, enclosed in an envelope, at two cents each, which is a trifle less than cost (*viz.*, \$20.50 per 1000), and will stamp them for another cent, and endorse them for nothing.

The officers of this central committee are: Horace J. Smith, President; Rev. Dr. H. L. Wayland, Vice-President; F. S. Humphrey, Secretary; Albanus L. Smith, Treasurer. The office is at No. 1305 Arch street, Philadelphia.

NOTINGS.

THE South Kensington Museum has the original engraving of the Mulready stamps, made by Thompson, the engraver, on a block of gun metal. The officially sealed stamps of Canada were intended for use on dead letters (having the owner's address printed on them) improperly sent to the Dead-letter Office and opened in mistake. This label is quite scarce.

* * *

THE Medellin stamps were issued for use in Antioquia, Medellin being the place where they were printed. As they appear to have been issued "for revenue only," would it not be right to call them "revenue" stamps?

* * *

ANOTHER new country to issue stamps is Swazieland. The stamps of the South African Republic are now also issued surcharged Swazieland.

* * *

WE were shown, a few days ago, by Mr. Henry Calman, a Reunion Island, 1852, 15 and 30c. on the entire envelope. These are among the rarest stamps issued. They were printed in sheets of eight, both varieties on the same sheet, and the entire plate being engraved by hand; each variety has some minor changes. Only a very few of these stamps are known to exist. Two others are in the collections of foreign collectors.

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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W. A. MacCALLA.

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THE international postage stamp, which we so often hear of, certainly should receive the consideration of the Postal Union as a method of simplifying the postal service, but we think that the people of this country should be more anxious to secure a more reasonable rate for registered mail, or else seek the establishment of a different form of registration, by which, for the payment of a small fee, each letter or parcel would be stamped with a number, and a slip or receipt, bearing only this number, be given to the sender, and a receipt taken from the addressee, by which he would acknowledge the receipt of such a numbered letter or parcel from the post-office from which it was sent. No other record and not more than ordinary care to be taken of such letters while in transit, the object being merely to secure to the sender positive assurance that the letter or parcel had been received and preventing fraud.

All of this seems practical to us and likely to prove popular, and we would put the fee for this service at two or three cents only.

We have always believed that the present rate for registered matter was much too high, particularly as the sender is not guaranteed or insured against loss.

MR. GLADSTONE recently, in a speech, pointed out the advantages derived from the postage stamps as compared with the former way of charging for each sheet or "bit of paper" in a letter, so much per piece, instead of by weight, and gave credit to Sir Rowland Hill for the idea.

Mr. Patrick Chalmers, of course, objected to this credit, and wrote to Mr. Gladstone, pointing out the claims of the late Mr. Wallace, who moved a Select Committee be appointed, in 1835, to inquire into the management of the post-office, etc. Mr. Chalmers also wrote: "As we are approaching the Jubilee celebration of the great postal reform of 1840, when it is desirable exactly to know what proposals of Sir Rowland Hill, of 1837, were original on his part, and what we owe to other men,

permit me, respectfully, to ask if you have merely overlooked what I now point out ; or if, in your opinion, the valuable principle of charge by weight was originally the conception and first the proposal of Sir Rowland Hill ?" Does Mr. Chalmers expect an answer in the affirmative ?

ANOTHER claimant for the honor of having first conceived the idea of adhesive postage stamps, according to the English *Weekly Dispatch*, is Mr. Francis Worrell Stevens, who says he incautiously communicated his idea to Rowland Hill, at that time a teacher in his school. Mr. Stevens should have brought his claim before the public long ago. It might have been recognized then ; now it is too late to expect recognition. Will the Chalmers adherents investigate this matter ?

A COMPLETE new issue is now in order from Brazil, and we hope that the present rulers will be more fortunate or use better judgment in selecting a design than the old government had been in recent years.

YOUR subscription is now in order. Terms, fifteen cents per year of twelve numbers. This is low, certainly.

WE understand that one of our contemporaries is about to retire from the field. Better luck next time.

THE DANUBE STEAM NAVIGATION Co. had the privilege of issuing stamps in Bulgaria, Servia, Turkey, to be delivered in towns along the Danube river. Since 1874 they partake more of the nature of an express label, being used only on their own line of steamers, prepaying packages only. The originals were never issued perforated ; the paper is thick and the color much duller than the reprints or counterfeits. The 1889-90 issue, apparently issued for the collectors' benefit, are perforated, and can be obtained canceled to order.

DR. VINER, in the *Stamp News*, tells us that counterfeits were made nearly as soon as stamps were issued. He has in his collection a genuine postmarked Indian $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, red, and a French 50 centime, which was taken off a letter mailed in Paris. Forgeries, such as the Moldarians and Swiks locals, frequently passed through the post-office undetected.

SALVADOR, the smallest in area of the Central American republics having over 500,000 inhabitants, has over twenty first-class and thirty second-class offices. The 200 branch offices are served by the police. The Contra Stello issue were said to have been issued on account of counterfeits abounding.

THE youngest king in Europe has his portrait on his postage stamps. Spain has just issued a new set, with a picture of his baby majesty. Servia, perhaps, will follow the example and issue a set with the new monarch picture.

AT a recent sale, held in London, a British Guiana 4c. blue, 1856, used, sold for \$185. Another copy, unused, sold for \$250. The 1c. magenta, strip of four, brought \$35. Grenada, 1853, 10c., due 1p., brought \$17.

THE currency of Siam consists of Calty, Tamlung, Tical, Salung, Fuang, Songpie, Pie and Att. One Calty equals 5120 Atts. Either the Calty is a very large coin, or the Att a very small one.

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P. NIESSEN, Rue d'Allemagne, 96B, Brussels, Belgium, Stamps. Exchange wanted. 8

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