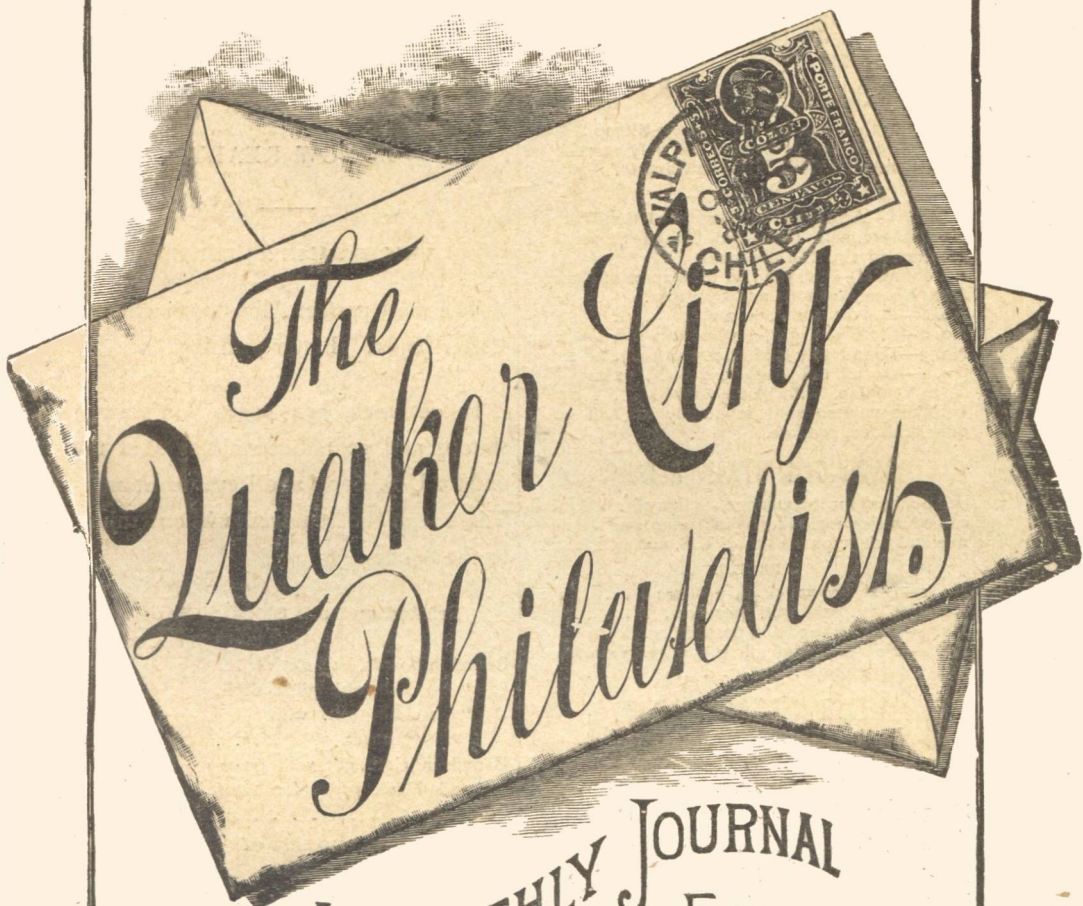


Vol. VIII.

AUGUST, 1893.

No. 92.



A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR  
STAMP COLLECTORS.



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# The Quaker City Philatelist.

VOL. VIII.

AUGUST, 1893.

No. 8.

## AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

FIRST DAY, AUGUST 15, 1893.

THE Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association was held at Vincennes Hall, Thirty-sixth and Cottage Grove avenue, Chicago, Ill., on August 15 and 16, 1893. There were present during the Convention 64 members and 19 non-members, total 83, the largest attendance the Association ever witnessed in its history:

The Committee on Credentials, Messrs. Samuel Leland, S. B. Bradt, C. H. Mekeel, reported 45 represented in person and 219 represented by proxy, which was increased to 222 represented by proxy, on the second day, held by the following members:

C. H. Mekeel.....	50	J. D. Rice.....	7
G. D. Mekeel.....	49	R. W. Ashcroft.....	3
H. E. Deats.....	46	W. R. Aldrich.....	1
E. Doeblin.....	18	A. L. Holman.....	1
W. C. Stone.....	18	C. W. Kissinger.....	1
C. E. Severns.....	13	C. J. Barton.....	1
S. B. Bradt.....	7		
Samuel Leland.....	7	Total.....	222

The following Committees were appointed:

*Committee on Standing Rules*—George W. Rode, J. J. Spencer, George T. Bush.

*Committee on Finance*—A. L. Holman, E. Y. Parker, G. N. Campbell.

*Committee on Library*—C. E. Severns, V. D. Aldrich, C. W. Kissinger.

*Committee on Sales and Purchasing Agencies*—E. Doeblin, V. Gurdji, J. D. Rice, C. H. Mekeel.

*Committee on Official Journal*—H. E. Deats, W. C. Stone, G. D. Mekeel.

*Committee on Branch Societies*—F. Doughty, John Neesner, Jr., E. W. Hensinger.

*Committee on By-Laws*—J. D. Rice, W. C. Stone, Howard Cameron.

After the report of the various officers of the Association, the Convention adjourned on Tuesday, to meet at 9 A.M., on Wednesday morning.

SECOND DAY, AUGUST 16, 1893.

The Committee on Credentials being ready to report on the result of the election, announced the same as follows:

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Alvah Davison.....	319	Joseph Rechert.....	48
H. E. Deats.....	222	W. C. Stone.....	35
John K. Tiffany.....	200	Henry Clotz.....	13
N. W. Chandler.....	111	Frank S. Stiles.....	9
E. Doeblin.....	96	P.M. Wolsieffer.....	5
W. C. Vanderlip.....	74	Wm. E. Loy.....	2
C. H. Mekeel.....	64	A. R. Rodgers.....	1
V. Gurdji.....	56	J. W. Scott.....	1
M. F. Walton.....	55	John N. Lubb.....	1

## TRUSTEES.

Henry Clotz.....	177	J. H. Huber.....	48
Joseph Rechert.....	133	C. D. Reimers.....	47
J. O. Hobby.....	124	A. R. Rogers.....	42
G. H. Watson.....	79	J. W. Scott.....	4
G. B. Calman.....	61	Henry Gremmel.....	3
P. M. Wolsieffer.....	49	W. Rasnus.....	2
A. Davison.....		1	

This of course makes the Board of Directors for the term from September 1, 1893, to September 1, 1894, consist of John K. Tiffany, H. E. Deats, Alvah Davison, E. Doebelin, N. W. Chandler; Messrs. M. F. Walton, W. C. Vanderlip and Joseph Rechert retiring.

The Trustees will be Henry Clotz, Joseph Rechert, J. O. Hobby; Mr. Clotz being the only former member retained, Messrs. G. H. Watson and G. B. Calman retiring.

The next Convention will be held at Niagara Falls; the result of the vote on this question follows in detail:

Niagara Falls.....	236	Boston.....	4
Washington.....	6	San Francisco.....	1
San Antonio.....	6	New York.....	1
Philadelphia.....	4	Denver.....	1
Toronto.....		1	

Hereafter *The American Philatelist* will be published annually, after each Convention, the official reports being published monthly by the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co. in the *Philatelic Journal of America*, and each member will be supplied extra by the Secretary with a separate sheet monthly, containing all official matter.

The Sales, Exchange and Purchasing Agents will be consolidated, and one officer will attend to these departments instead of two as heretofore.

## NOTES.

The Convention of 1893 will go down into philatelic history as one of the most harmonious in its history; nothing was done during the meeting that could be construed into anything else than perfect peace on all sides. The result of the election insures to the Association a set of officers who will no doubt give them a thoroughly efficient and capable administration, and there is no reason now why the American Philatelic Association should not prosper financially and numerically. Of the Board of Directors, Mr. John K. Tiffany will no doubt be elected to preside, and he needs no recommendation from the pen of the writer, he is too well known and admired for his sterling abilities as a philatelist and parliamentarian to add any words of commendation; his record speaks for itself, and the Association loses nothing by again placing him at the helm.

Mr. H. E. Deats, the probable Vice-President, will no doubt be an able and willing assistant to President Tiffany. He is a rising young philatelist, and will be found at the post of duty when wanted. Mr. Alvah Davison, the new Secretary, needs no introduction. While in a sense he failed in his *Consolidation* efforts, yet it cannot be denied that it bore good fruit for the benefit of the Association, and he will no doubt make an able and efficient officer of the Association.

Mr. E. Doebelin, while not so thoroughly known to some of the members as to the writer, also needs no recommendation; he will make a hard and conscientious worker in the office of International Secretary.

Mr. N. W. Chandler, our former Treasurer and no doubt the incoming one, has just ended a faithful administration of this office, and the Association did well in electing him again to this very important office.

The abolishing of the *Journal*, and the substitution of an Annual in its place, without any extra tax to the members is an experiment, and may or may not prove a bene-

fit to the Association. It remains to be seen. While the Association has no doubt presumably wasted money on their *Journal*, it has proved very often a source of attraction to those who wanted to become members, and it is an open question whether the amount invested has not come back indirectly in the way of new members; however, if the change does not work well it need not be abolished for over a year. With the dues at \$1 per year, it seems that almost every philatelist ought to become a member of the Association, and the editor of this journal will be pleased at any time to forward application blanks to any person requesting them. If you are interested in Philately you can do nothing better than join the American Philatelic Association.

MILLARD F. WALTON.

#### A COMPLAINT.

ARTICLES in which the writers enlarge upon what they are pleased to call the superiority of the intellectual and moral qualities of stamp collectors are of frequent occurrence in the columns of the philatelic press. When compared with ordinary non-collecting mankind, a stamp collector, according to these judges, towers far above the average mortal. From the trend of such articles, it is apparent that the writers are in most instances very youthful persons, and even though they do not swerve from the truth in making their statements, it is injudicious to burst forth with laudations of the stamp collector, even though deserved by the class of individuals on whom bestowed. So long as the articles referred to are not seen by those other than stamp collectors, there is no particular harm done, but when a person of intelligence, who is in no way identified with philately, chances to have come under his observation, a panygeric wherein the graces of mind and gifts of virtue of the stamp collector are glowingly extolled, and the more impressive to make the words, a comparison is instituted between a collector and one who is not a philatelist, to the dire disadvantage of the latter, then is the mischief wrought. In some measure stamp collectors are entitled to commendatory words, as they seem to be, as a class, a degree above the ordinary run of humanity.

When, however, their virtues are so highly spoken of in intemperate terms, it is evident they are merely being made the victims of flattery.

Flattery is usually nauseating to all except the one who is the recipient, and though stamp collectors be entitled to a due meed of praise, there is a limit to be observed and not to be exceeded. If an outsider were to read one of these sketches he would be seized with the wish to see some of the representatives of this remarkable genus on whom nature is reputed to have lavishly bestowed her favors.

It would as certainly follow that the collectors this person would meet would not come up to the expectations which the perusal of the article kindled, and ever afterwards it would prove a matter of amusing recollection to him to hear the words "stamp collector."

It might be inferred that modesty would forbid a writer who is a stamp collector himself to allude so very favorably to a class of persons among whom he is numbered. Should he override this gently restraining power, it would move unfeeling, practical individuals to say that this is a *naive*, though slightly circuitous, manner by which a stamp collector tickles himself. It can be imagined that a delightful feeling of titillation would be produced in him by reading these very complimentary things he writes about stamp collectors and which are reflected upon him, through the body of persons of which he is a member. Would it not appear better to outsiders if philatelic writers were to confine themselves to singing the praises of the hobby, rather than to reciting the alleged or real superiorities and excellences of stamp collectors themselves?

Better missionary work could be accomplished by acquainting the non-collecting public with the pleasures of stamp collecting, than by proclaiming the rare virtues of stamp collectors, as some writers do so persistently.

C. E. SEVERN.

## NEW ISSUES.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

**Argentine.**—*L'Echo Timbrologie* reports that the colors of the 10c. and 12c. stamps are to be changed to violet and light brown.

**Bolivia.**—We have received from our correspondent the 1c. pink and 5c. light blue, very poorly lithographed. They are of current type, 1c. with 9 stars, 5c. 11 stars.

**Cape of Good Hope.**—It is reported that a new issue is in preparation. The figure of Hope and anchor are to be retained, but the old, familiar design will be much changed.

**Cape Verde.**—*Le Timbre Poste* illustrates a 2½ reis stamp for Cape Verde. "Cape Verde," on wide label diagonally. In upper left half is "2½," in lower part "reis," with "Portugal" below on white label. Fancy border all around.

Probably similar type will be issued for all the Port. Colonies when the 1886 or head issue has been disposed of by surcharging.

**Lagos.**—*The Stamp News* mentions a 1d. on 1½d. green. C. A. wmk.

**Macau.**—It is 2½ at top, Journals across centre and each 10 obliterated with short line, 2½ on 10; 180,000 were prepared, and within an hour all were disposed of, the Governor taking 50,000, the P. M. General 20,000, and other officials the balance.

**Mauritius.**—At last a permanent 1c. violet has appeared.

**Mexico.**—We have the official stamps, old type, in green.

**Newfoundland.**—It is reported that a new set is in preparation.

**Pahang.**—The 5c. blue tiger type has at last appeared. We have neglected to note the new issue.

**Paraguay.**—There are 1c. gray, 2c. green, 4c. rose, 5c. purple, 10c. blue, 14c. light brown, 30c. light green, 40c. dark blue, 60c. orange, 80c. light blue, 1 peso olive. Through error the 1c. reads 1 centavos. These were issued in the latter part of 1892. Now the error in the 1c. stamp has been corrected by eliminating the S.

**Philippines.**—Chameleon-like, these stamps have again changed their hue. The 2½ is now olive, and 5c. violet brown. There is also a new 1c. brown violet.

**Queensland.**—*Le Timbre Poste* announces the 2d. surcharged 2½d. in black, at the same time doubts the correctness of its information.

**Salvador.**—Our correspondent informs us that there were about 40,000 of the UN CENTAVO on 5c. gray, of 1892, most of which passed the post. None remained in the hands of the Government at the end of the year. These were surcharged from top to bottom. It appearing that there would not be sufficient of these for the "New Year's cards," about 16,000 more were surcharged, but by mistake the surcharge reads from bottom to top. Very few of these were used, the greater part being bought up for speculation.

**Seychelles.**—The 16c. has been surcharged 12c. in blue.

**Shanghai.**—Because of a change of postal rate, stamps of low values have become necessary. Therefore there have been surcharged ½c. in blue on 15c., 1c. in blue on 20c. There has been issued also an envelope, 1c. black, white laid paper and wrapper; ½c., black on white wove.

**S. African Republic.**—A new Prov. has been made by surcharging the 2d. bistre "HALVE PENNY," in reddish brown, in two lines between two bars. Horizontal surcharge.

**St. Thomas and Prince.**—The 5, 10 and 20r., 1887, have been surcharged 2½ in two types. Thick and thin figures.

**St. Vincent.**—Now it is 2½ in black on 4d. yellow.

**Sweden.**—It is said that the 1 krona is to bear the effigy of King Oscar, and it is to be very artistic.

**Tunis.**—The 75c. has been changed to black on orange, corresponding with same value of France.

**Venezuela.**—Full new sets have been issued of type described last month. The

Interior stamps are of 5c., 10c., 25c., 50c., 1, 3, 10, 20 and 25 bolivars. We have not the colors. The correos (Postal Union) are 5c. light brown, 10c. blue, 25c. violet, 50c. purple, 1s. green.

There is also a Columbian stamp, 25c. violet, style and design similar to our Columbian issue, showing the landing of Columbus on the mainland, 1498.

#### THE CHINESE POSTAL SYSTEM.

THE Chinese have not yet established any Government post-offices or postal system for the masses of the people, though private enterprise has for many years rendered communication easy between the people in all parts of the Empire. This is conducted through what are called "letter shops." No stamps are used, but the "chop" of the keeper of the shop is always placed upon the envelope.

Imperial edicts and other official despatches are carried from city to city and province to province by couriers, who are, for this country, very expeditious, being in some parts provided with horses at convenient relay stations. Despatches are thus conveyed in cases of emergency 200 or 250 miles a day. In districts where horses are used each station-master is required to keep on hand from ten to twenty horses or donkeys, and the local official is held responsible for all delays that occur. These official couriers are not allowed to convey private despatches or letters.

At the treaty ports, "letter shops" are used by the natives only; but in the interior or places not reached by the foreign postal arrangements they are employed by foreigners as well, though chiefly by missionaries. These speak well of the system for its security, but do not consider it all that could be desired as respects quickness of delivery. It somewhat resembles our express business, as it transmits parcels of moderate size and weight. It is said to possess two decided advantages over our western system—insurance against loss and monthly settlement of accounts. All letters and parcels to be sent may be registered and insured. When given in at a "letter shop" the contents of an envelope are displayed before it is sealed up and stamped with the "chop" of the shop. Charges for transmission of valuables are made on a percentage of declared value, and, as is the case with letters, differ according to distance to be carried. A receipt is given, and the shopkeeper then becomes responsible either for its safe delivery with unbroken "chop," or seal, at its destination, or for its return to the sender. Owing to the competition that exists in all large cities and thickly populated districts this is necessary if the shopkeeper hopes to keep his patronage. In some parts of the Empire about two-thirds of the expense of transmission is paid by the sender, the remainder by the receiver; thus the shop is secured against entire loss from transient customers, and the sender has some guarantee that his letter will be conveyed with despatch.

The other feature much appreciated by native merchants is that of keeping an open account with the shop. Charges for services rendered are entered against regular customers, and settlements are made monthly. In case of loss it is seldom necessary to call in the aid of the courts, the force of competition being sufficient to insure reasonable settlement.

There are said to be nearly 200 letter shops in Shanghai, though in many remote villages there are none. The employees of the several shops are earnest in working up patronage, and go from house to house seeking customers. In the northern provinces, where horses are plentiful and roads more suitable for such travel, the letter-carriers commonly use horses or donkeys, which are supplied at stations about ten miles apart. Each messenger carries from seventy to eighty pounds of mail matter and travels about five mile per hour—much more slowly than the official courier. When the messenger arrives at a station, a few minutes only are allowed to change horses, and he is off again till the end of his route is reached, when the bag is given to a fresh man, who starts at once, no matter what may be the hour of the day or night and regardless of winds, rains, heat, or cold, until he, too, has completed his service and

handed the parcel over to a third messenger, and thus it reaches its destination. For short distances and in all the central and southern parts of China the messengers travel on foot and at a rapid gait.

This service would be liable to highway robbery but that in this country they have a way of compounding such villainy. The robber bands of each district collect black-mail, and for the sums paid them regularly they not only do not molest the messengers themselves, but even agree to keep others from doing so. Thus the evil of mail or express robbery, common enough in more civilized countries, is recognized as probable and duly provided for. Although, of course, not legal, this practice is quite common and is not far removed from the custom of some other nations in licensing social evils that cannot be entirely suppressed. Large firms engaged in the carrying business and in transporting travelers by carts, etc., between given points, are in the habit of contracting with the brigands for the safe passage of their goods and customers.

There are two kinds of stamps known among dealers as Chinese stamps. The first of these was introduced by Sir Robert Hart and is used only in the customs service. The other is a local Shanghai stamp used by a company carrying letters about the city of Shanghai and to outposts where there are foreign consuls, chiefly on the Yangtze river, and to the ports of Ningpo and Fuchau in the south, and Chefoo, Tien-Tsin and Peking in the north. These two systems are entirely in the hands of foreigners.

Letters, etc., of foreigners are conveyed from China to other nations by the postal system of the several countries, all consuls being regarded as postmasters for their own countries. Letters may be sent to and from China by the use of the stamps of any country through their respective consuls, but are only available at treaty ports. Foreigners living in the interior or away from treaty ports must make private arrangements for getting their mail matter from their nearest consul or authorize some Chinese letter shop to transmit matter for them. Letters for American residents in China should never be addressed to other than treaty ports.—CONSUL GRACEY in *Fuchau Letter to United States State Department.*

#### A NATIONAL POST-OFFICE.

“IN my interview with the Postmaster-General he urged upon me the importance of the relation of the New York city office to the whole service in the country.”

“POSTMASTER DAYTON.”

There are not a few public officials in Washington who seem to look upon the New York Post-office as a purely local establishment, and any funds used to further its efficiency as money spent for the sole benefit of New Yorkers. It is hardly necessary to say that this is a mistaken view which could not be entertained by any well-informed, fair-minded person.

Ex-Postmaster-General Wanamaker has aptly said that “the relation of the New York Post-office to the postal system of the country is not unlike that of the Clearing House to the New York banks. Its operations affect in some degree almost every other office. Lack of efficiency there is felt throughout the entire service.”\*

It is not a local, but a national, and even international institution, since it is the great centre for the despatch and distribution of outgoing and incoming foreign mails. Hence, to improve its facilities is to increase the efficiency of the whole postal service. Such improvement must be for the benefit, not only of the people of the metropolis, but also those of the entire country.

CHANGE IN SIZE OF POSTAL CARDS.—Postmaster-General Bissell has decided to abandon the three sizes of postal cards now in use, and to substitute one size for both single and reply cards. With that purpose in view the specifications which have been sent to prospective bidders for the contract for furnishing the postal service with cards during the next four years call for single cards of the uniform size of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.



# The Quaker City Philatelist.

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*Entered at Philadelphia Post-office as Second-class Matter.*

**Editor and Manager, MILLARD F. WALTON, P. O. Box 38.**

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

## THE POSTAL CARD CONTRACT.

The postal card contract for the coming four years will probably not be let till the return of Postmaster-General Bissell. All the bidders except two are from New York State. The bids are made for two sizes of cards, the single card and the double or "return" card, and for two qualities, a cheaper one, made of chemical wood pulp, and a finer, made of jute. The bids run as follows:

Bidders.	Price per 1000.	Price per 1000.
	Cheaper Single. Cents.	Cheaper Double. Cents.
M. Ruttenau, New York city . . . . .	39 9-10	78¼
C. C. Woolworth, Castleton, N. Y. . . . .	32 87-100	65 74-100
J. Henry Cox, New Lebanon, N. Y. . . . .	36 64-100	91
James Purcell, Valatie, N. Y. . . . .	35 70-100	90
Albert Daggett, Brooklyn, N. Y. . . . .	38	79½
Wolf Brothers, Philadelphia . . . . .	37½	90
Morgan Envelope Company, Springfield, Mass . . . . .	38¾	71
	Finer Single. Cents.	Finer Double. Cents.
M. Ruttenau, New York city . . . . .	42 6-10	83 6-10
C. C. Woolworth, Castleton, N. Y. . . . .	47 75-100	95 5c-100
J. Henry Cox, New Lebanon, N. Y. . . . .	46	96
James Purcell, Valatie, N. Y. . . . .	45	\$1.00
Albert Daggett, Brooklyn, N. Y. . . . .	46 27-100	99¼
Wolf Brothers, Philadelphia . . . . .	40	\$1.00
Morgan Envelope Company, Springfield, Mass. . . . .	42¾	78¾

On these bids as they stand, using the orders of cards for the last year as a gauge, Mr. Woolworth is the lowest bidder. At the rate he bids for the commoner quality of cards, the saving over last year would be \$84,000 at the very least. But even the highest bid this year is an improvement on last year of \$12,000. As the contract is drawn for four years at a time, and as the number of cards consumed increases from year to year, the probability is that, if he accepts even the highest bid on the list, Mr. Bissell will make a saving of \$56,000 or \$58,000; whereas, if he takes the lowest, the saving will run up to \$350,000 or \$360,000. The Government's success on this year's bids is considered somewhat remarkable.

**OLD ENGLISH HALFPENCE.**—How many collectors of coins know anything about the curious halfpence issued centuries ago by the English authorities—halfpence in the truest sense of the word, since they were nothing more than minted pennies cut directly in half? Specimens of these coins have been discovered frequently among the buried treasures which from time to time have been unearthed in Great Britain. In Lancashire, in 1840, were found a rare lot of coins, among which were several pennies of the time of Alfred and Edward divided in this way.

Similarly divided pence of the time of Edward the Confessor have been found, and in speaking of the discovery in 1833 of a number of these curious halfpence of the time of William the Conqueror, an unquestioned authority states that they were probably issued from the mints in that form since the whole collection had evidently been in circulation.

In the British museum in London are specimens of these divided coins issued under various monarchs from Alfred to Henry III. An eminent archæologist accounts for the divided coins by saying that this doubtless arose from the scarcity of small change, which was in part remedied under the reign of Edward I by the coinage of halfpence and farthings.

The following parties are authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for this paper:

KANSAS CITY, MO., Missouri Advertising and Subscription Agency, Kansas City, Mo.  
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