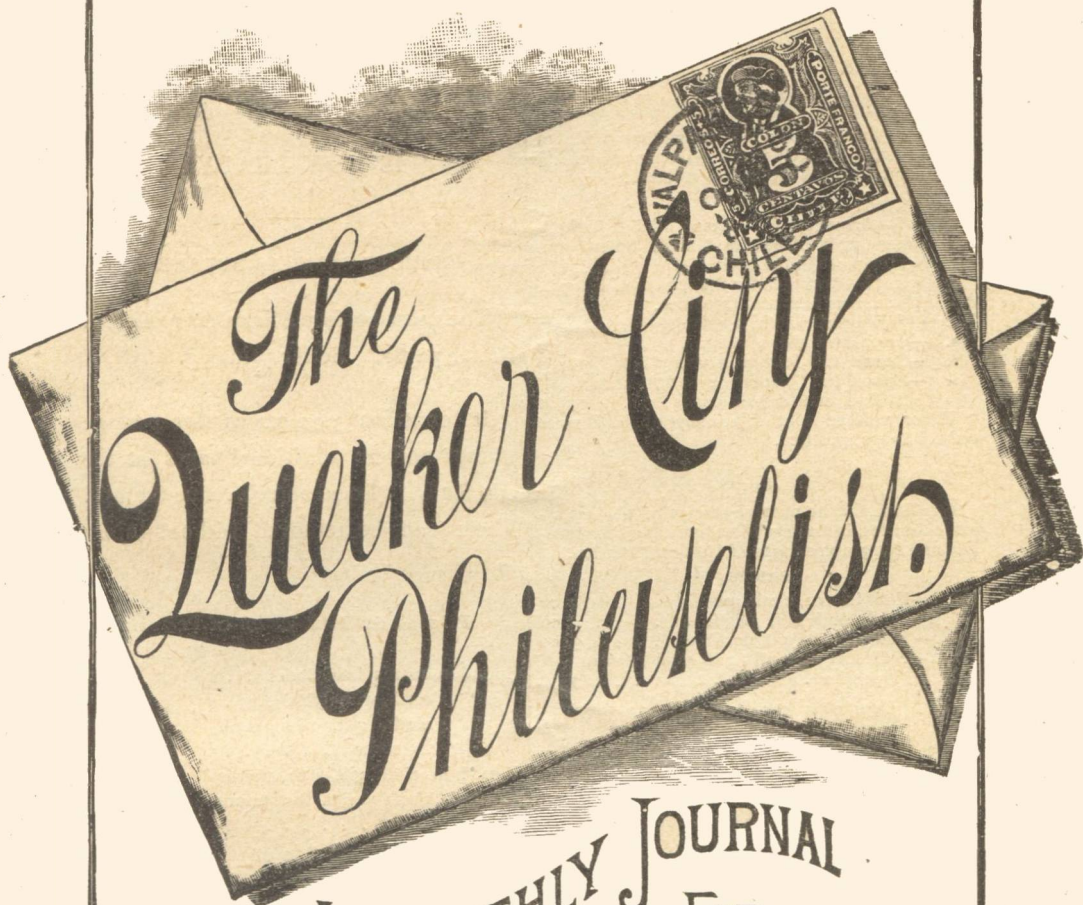


Vol. VIII.

JULY, 1893.

No. 91.



A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR  
STAMP COLLECTORS.



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# The Quaker City Philatelist.

VOL. VIII.

JULY, 1893.

No. 7.

## DAMAGED STAMPS.

BY JOSEPH F. COURTNEY.

IT is not an unusual occurrence for a collector, who is looking over one of our large dealers' auction catalogues, with the prices obtained for the specimens inserted, to stray across many items which are, to say the least, very astonishing.

One of these items, and the most important at that, and the one which furnishes the subject for this article, is seen in the ridiculously low prices brought by specimens which are in the least degree damaged, that is, with a slight nick, a corner gone or a few perforations missing.

The prices realized for these slightly damaged stamps, as compared with those obtained for perfect specimens of the same country and denomination, are something to be wondered at, and the reasons for which are entirely beyond my comprehension. In fact, collectors, as a rule, seem to have given up the idea of adding to their collections any stamps in the slightest degree imperfect.

A satisfactory reason for this state of affairs is something I have been unable to arrive at. While I am cognizant of the fact, that a slightly damaged stamp is not deemed as valuable in either a monetary or a philatelic sense as a perfect specimen, still I cannot discover the reason why they are nearly entirely dispensed with.

The reader must not come to the hasty conclusion, that I am in favor of the much damaged stamp; on the contrary, I am in favor of relegating the *very* heavily canceled and much torn stamp to the rear, in other words to the waste basket.

It is the slightly damaged specimen I am countenancing; the stamp, which, but for the prejudices existing in philatelists' minds, could fill many a long-vacant space in their albums at one-half or one-quarter the cost of a perfect specimen.

Philatelists who have been favored with more than the average share of this world's goods can, as a matter of course, afford to buy none but perfect specimens to add to their collections. But to the collectors who are not so favored the slightly damaged stamp should be as a Godsend, inasmuch that it would fill long-vacant spaces in their albums, which would otherwise remain blank, and at a small proportion of the cost of a perfect specimen.

In my opinion, a stamp having a few perforations missing, or in any other condition that would cause it to be known as a slightly damaged specimen, should not be entirely discredited by philatelists, as such a stamp would be the means of brightening vacant spaces in their collections until such a time as they would be able to obtain a perfect specimen.

I acknowledge that, as a general rule, the true philatelist is very neat when it comes to the care of his collection, and is very careful in regard to the condition of the specimens he adds to it, but I do not think it is wise for him to pass over stamps which are perfect but for a slight nick or a corner missing, and which would in no way cast any reflection on the page of the album in which they are placed.

As in all things, a philatelist can please himself as regards the condition of the specimens in which he intends to invest. If he has cash in plenty, let him, by all means, buy nothing but perfect stamps, but if he is the average stamp collector, let him look to the size of his pocketbook in purchasing, and when he strays across a slightly damaged specimen for sale at a small part of the price of a perfect one, let him by all means purchase it, and then wait until such a time as he happens across a perfect stamp for sale at a decided bargain, and with it replace his damaged specimen, and exchange that with some brother collector for stamps not in his collection.

## A QUESTION OF PROPRIETY.

BY H. H. ZOBEL, C. P. P. C.

**S**IMULTANEOUSLY with the rather brief announcement in the philatelic journals that the Government of the United States would reprint its obsolete department adhesives, has a storm of fierce indignation broken out among those dealers and collectors possessing more or less large assortments of these valuable stamps.

As is usual in a case of this kind, the collectors were rather inclined to take the first announcements as the work of unprincipled parties desiring dealers possessing these stamps to place them hurriedly upon the market, and so reduce current and strictly maintained valuations. But as the true facts gradually presented themselves they were compelled to believe that the Government's idea in this respect was not entirely mythical, but the result of prolonged debates by the department officers, in which a good chance presents itself of gradually covering the enormous deficit.

Those who are opposed to the proposed proceedings are entirely of those classes of philatelists and dealers possessing nearly complete sets purchased at current prices; and opposed to them by a much greater and overwhelming majority are those American collectors who have incomplete sets, and are consequently awaiting such an unlooked-for chance of completing their blank pages at little cost to themselves.

Many collectors emphatically and earnestly declare that it will materially ruin the fair name of our goddess and disgust many collectors possessing these stamps, but these very gentlemen have seen only one side of the question, or have gauged their opinions from the completeness of their department pages and not from a careful and thorough review of the two debatable sides which really exist.

These gentlemen must certainly admit that the majority of collectors have not these valuable stamps in their albums, and they must also be aware of the fact, that there is very little, if any, chance of securing them except by the heavy expenditure of cash. Speculation in stamps has been denounced time and again by our leading philatelic journalists, and why should we not endeavor, for mutual benefit, to break the existing market prices, which certainly do not encourage a new collector.

Have our journalists become hypocrites when a chance of destroying ruinous prices extends her hand to them, or do they not realize that the Government's announcement is an honest one? Perhaps this may be so; but as the rumor has gained such large proportions among the American collectors, should we not encourage the belief that they will be reprinted, and so cause our Government to receive the question in a more favorable light?

The collectors must also understand that so long as the present enormous deficit is as great as it is now, just so long will they wait for the long-expected penny postage on first-class mail matter.

It is the Government's intention to fully cover their debts before materially reducing postage upon mail matter, and the sale of such official reprints from original plates should be hailed everywhere as the first step towards postal reductions.

Thus we have before us a powerful alternative—to encourage an official and genuine reprint as a step nearer to penny postage, or to still denounce the government's decision and delay a great movement for years.

As an example of the methods employed by those opposed to such action as is now contemplated, we, of the affirmative side, need only ask of our opponents the cause which led them to welcome with open arms the reprints of early Mauritius stamps, the plates of which were recently discovered.

The contrast between the two announcements are certainly of a startling nature—one being sought after with an eagerness totally lacking in common sense, and the other is denounced because a few among thousands possess sets of the department adhesives of our Government.

A few collectors have already stated that such reprinting would so disgust many collectors that they would drop philately altogether, but if such is a fact—and I do not

believe it is—the sooner such weak philatelists (?) throw away their collections, the better it will be for those who remain among us. For every collector who gives up philately for this unsettled reason shall we gain twenty, whose interest, instead of diminishing with time, will increase so rapidly, that those who have dropped out of our ranks will be speedily forgotten as the years pass away.

This question may be considered debatable for an indefinite period of time without materially decreasing the immense number of future arguments, and so considering, we must always remember that every subject has two sides and is, therefore, simply a question of propriety.

### NEW ISSUES.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

**Argentine.**—The 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10c. stamps of 1890 have been surcharged "Oficial" diagonally in black. There are postal cards and letter cards of 3c. orange on buff.

**Bolivia.**—We have the 5c. blue, "Transacciones," surcharged "Provisorio" in small capitals and below "1893" in script.

**Brazil.**—We understand more works of art in the shape of 10, 20 and 50c. stamps have appeared.

**Cape of Good Hope.**—The 2d. bistre has been surcharged "One Penny" and value barred.

**Chile.**—We some time ago received the new official seal. It is lithographed, black on white paper; "Administracion de correos" in upper label; "Cierro Oficial" in lower label, and "Santiago Chile" across the centre. In the centre is what might be taken for a representation of our old-style street letter boxes.

**Congo.**—The 50c. gray violet, changed from brown, is at last in use.

**Great Britain Levant.**—The 2½d. envelope blue on white has been surcharged "40 paras," in black.

**Hawaii.**—The varieties surcharged "Provisional Govt. 1893" in three lines are twenty in number and include all from our No. 20 to the present time. It is said to be their intention to surcharge all remainders.

**Hayti.**—3c. lilac and 5c. orange of the re-engraved type have appeared.

**India.**—The color of the 8a. is changed from violet to rose.

**Jhind.**—The 3a. and 6a. of India are surcharged "Jhind State" and the 4a. the same with "Oficial."

**Liberia.**—The *Monthly Journal* informs us that the 3c. recently chronicled "is a forgery; or at least not authorized."

**Morocco.**—For the use of the French officers at Tangier, the French stamps 5c., 10c. and 20c. have been surcharged in red, 5, 10 and 20 centimos.

**Niger Coast Protectorate** is the new name given to the West African Coast since the settlement of the boundary line with Germany. This territory includes the Oil Rivers Protectorate, which is now a thing of the past, and its stamps obsolete.

**Nossi Be.**—Despairing of receiving any of the new stamps, apparently all being required to supply the demands in Paris, the local authorities have prepared 6500 25c. on 20c; 3000 50c. on 10c; 1500 75c. on 15c., and 1000 1fr. on 5c.

**Turks Island.**—The 2½d. stamp is now printed in blue instead of brown.

**Venezuela.**—We have received a new stamp from this country. The head is in an oval, "Instruccion" in band above, "Bolivar" in straight label at bottom, "1" in each lower corner; color purple.

**Victoria.**—The 1s. (Stamp Duty) is now printed in bright lake or cherry instead of brown.

# The Quaker City Philatelist.

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## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS, AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

The following names have been received from various sources as nominees for the coming election:

### FOR DIRECTORS.

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*Vice-President.*—W. C. Vanderlip, of Massachusetts; Gustave J. Luhn, of South Carolina; Frank S. Stiles, of Pennsylvania; C. H. Mekeel, of Missouri.

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Geo. H. Watson, of New York; J. O. Hobby, of New York; G. B. Calman, of New York.

P. M. Wolsieffer, of Illinois; J. H. Huber, of Illinois; C. D. Reimers, of Illinois.

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A LARGE proportion of the 1200 to 1500 letters a day received by the President are marked "private" and "personal," and are found to be from total strangers, who want some private advantage entirely personal to themselves or their friends. These epistles are always referred to the departments.

## FACTS AND FIGURES.

BY LEWIS G. QUACKENBUSH.

IF there is any one philatelist on the American Continent who ought to be honored by his brother collectors, it is Mr. Albert R. Rogers of New York. Mr. Rogers has been found at the front of every recent movement calculated to benefit philately, as well as by his publications covering several hitherto occupied fields. He has been one of the most energetic workers for the A. P. A., and has probably done as much for that body as any single member. Mr. Rogers has lately issued a volume, nominally a philatelic directory, but really containing matter more interesting to the collector than is to be found in the most fascinating novel of the year, which entitles him to a place as a benefactor of the cult. It is filled from cover to cover with a mass of statistics very interesting to every philatelic student. As there are few active collectors who do not possess this volume, I need not here outline its general plan or attempt to speak in detail of its various features; but there are a good many facts and figures revealed by a careful perusal of the book, which seems to me worthy of consideration and of comment.

The bump of curiosity is well developed in all live, wide-awake Americans; therefore Roger's Blue book ought to satisfy the most inquisitive minds, for it answers questions as to the personality of our brother collectors which we have often puzzled over. For instance, how often have we wondered what was the age and occupation of Guy Green, the famous philatelic writer. We turn to this book and learn that Mr. Green is nineteen years old and is engaged in qualifying for the practice of law. And so on. With its aid we can solve many an enigma and learn many an interesting fact.

The directory contains the names of about two thousand collectors from the United States and Canada, and it is probable that this number, small as it is, comprises most of the advanced collectors of this continent. Apparently few boy collectors took the trouble to send Mr. Rogers their names, for there are few collections listed of less than 1000 varieties; but perhaps that is due to the healthy powers of prevarication which are so common among American boys. The ages of prominent collectors as given therein are perhaps the most significant feature of the book. If every one of the sceptics who ignorantly class all philatelists as school boys were to have the opportunity of perusing this book for a few hours, their erroneous ideas would very quickly be dissipated.

According to the list, those collectors who are over legal age (21) outnumber those under that age by at least two to one, and out of the entire two thousand, there are not two hundred whose ages are given as less than eighteen years. This is most convincing proof that philately is just as much beloved by manhood as by youth; that the business man is just as much interested in the hobby as the school boy. Yet age is not always a badge of honor. The young men are usually far more active and enthusiastic in their chosen recreation than are their elders, and pursuing this comparison a little farther, we are surprised to notice the youth of many of the leading philatelic authors and editors. It speaks well for philately's future that so many of her leading representatives are young men, just on the threshold of manhood. Yet it is somewhat surprising to learn that such leading philatelic journalists as Severn, Green, Kauter and Ashcroft are still under legal age.

Philatelists are to be found in every part of the country, likewise are they engaged in almost every trade and profession known to man. A glance at the column wherein each man's business is noted shows that philatelists do not affect any particular occupation, but that in daily life they are engaged in all sorts of traffic and all kinds of professional duties. There is indeed a fair sprinkling of students, but by far the greater majority of those listed in the book are actively working their way in the great maelstrom of business life.

It is a significant as well as a pleasing fact, that philatelists are in no case engaged in business of a low and debasing nature. We have doctors and lawyers and editors and

merchants and clergymen in our ranks, but saloon keepers or burglars or pugilists or loafers take no interest in the pursuit. In fact no one but a brainy man can appreciate philately. Ignorance and a love for stamp collecting are incompatible. Philatelists are always educated men and are usually of high moral character, for he who frequents the saloon and the gambling hell can take little pleasure in so mild a pursuit as philately.

Hardly half of those whose names appear in the books are set down as members of any society whatever, and many more are members only of some petty local organization. It is remarkable that so many fail to join either of our great national societies. Hundreds of men, whom we should judge from the size of their collections to be advanced students of the science, apparently fail to recognize the manifold advantages which a first class society offers to its members. To these, the only advice possible is that which Mr. Rogers gives in the preface: namely, join some good society at once. We heartily echo his words in behalf of our societies, which receive far too little support from those for whose benefit they were organized.

Under the heading of "Specialty," the advocates of specialism can find a great deal of solid comfort, for there seem to be many who are turning aside from the ways of their fathers—from the broad highway called generalism into the narrow footpath termed specialism. The stamps of the United States seem to be the favored specialty, although he who collects from the whole world will hardly find himself in the minority. Still the number of those who confine themselves exclusively to U. S. stamps is surprisingly large, and indicates that this branch of specialism is steadily gaining favor.

I wish that I could find time and space to analyze some of the other noteworthy features of the book, but even a review can be made too long. Suffice it to say that I have only touched briefly upon a few of its most important features. I have no intention of giving Mr. Rogers an advertisement, nor does he need one; but I would certainly advise all who have not yet secured a copy of the Blue Book to buy one without delay. And I hereby move that the philatelists of America tender their thanks to Mr. Rogers for this notable addition to our literature, at the same time asserting that its name is a misnomer, and suggesting as a substitute that the next addition be called "The Encyclopedia of Philatelic Facts and Figures."

#### A TOPIC OF THE TIME.

BY GEORGE N. BREWER, C. P. P. C.

IT has been stated recently that the United States Government intends to reprint some of the obsolete adhesive postage stamps and also the department stamps.

Would this be fair to the collector? I say, No! Take, for instance, the set of postage stamps issued in 1869. They command good prices, and those collectors who have the complete set are proud of the fact. Some of them are printed in two colors; and a more beautiful set of stamps has never been issued.

The Government still has the plates. Suppose these stamps should be reissued and sold at face value, would it not be unjust to those collectors who have paid several times their face value for them? Undoubtedly the stamps are magnificent specimens of the engraver's skill—but the art is not forgotten. Other designs could be made that would, at least, be equal in merit to this issue.

The Government is not in need of funds, and if it desires to change the present series of emissions it can certainly afford to pay for a new set of plates.

The plea may be raised that thus far in reissuing stamps there has been some distinguishing feature. Either the die has been retouched, the perforation changed, or the gum of a different color. Such changes have occurred; but will they do so again? I do not doubt but that a series of stamps may be reprinted that will have a single feature to distinguish them from the originals.

Where then is the premium the collector paid for his original set?



The department stamps, also, would depreciate greatly in value if they were reprinted. For instance, the \$5 State Department brings over \$100 at auction now. What would it be worth if an unlimited quantity were reprinted? Of course it would then be within the reach of every collector. But how about the man who is enthusiastic enough to invest \$100 in a single specimen? This class of collectors *must* be kept in the ranks. But how long will they remain there if they see their choicest stamps becoming comparatively worthless? Where then is the premium the collector paid for his original set?

Postmaster-General Wanamaker said when the Columbian series was issued that a large amount would be purchased by collectors and the Government never be called upon to redeem them. He was right; collectors not only in this, but in other countries, purchased a great many unused stamps. A lightly canceled specimen is not always obtainable, and an unused one is worth its face value at any time. The collector is a constant source of revenue to the Government and *he should be protected*.

This matter affects a large number of persons in this country who have considerable money invested in stamps; and, as the reprinting of obsolete issues would certainly tend to discourage many collectors, I think the Government should use new designs when it issues another series of stamps.

---

A COIN DIE SELLS FOR \$31.—It was used by the Confederacy for helping make half-dollars. S. H. Chapman, of Philadelphia, bought the original half-die from which the Confederacy struck its half-dollar for \$31 yesterday, at the Herman sale, at No. 739 Broadway. The other side of the coin was made from a die in the New Orleans mint in 1861.

Only four impressions were made. A cancellation of the die has been effected by a straight file-cut across the face, to prevent its further use. Otherwise it is in perfect condition.

The prices brought for the remaining coins and medals were correspondingly low, the attendance being confined to dealers bent on buying everything at a bargain.

---

SOUVENIR COINS IN LIMBO.—Nearly a million Columbian souvenir half-dollars are still held at the Mint in this city subject to the orders of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The opinion of Attorney General Olney that no money ought to be paid to the Illinois corporation known as the World's Columbian Exposition will take the control of the souvenir coins out of their hands, and in all probability the coins will be placed in circulation at par value, as it is stated at the mint that they will probably not be re-coined.

The last shipment of half-dollars to Chicago was made April 3, 1893, and amounted to \$250,120.

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THERE is a postage stamp of the Columbian series that costs more after it is cancelled than when it is bought at the Post-office. It is the five-dollar stamp. Anybody can get one of these stamps for \$5 at any Post-office in the country, but hardly anybody can get a cancelled stamp of the same denomination in a Post-office, a stamp store, or any other place, for the sufficient reason that stamps of a face value greater than a dollar are out of circulation, so to speak. Nobody has use for them. The rarity of a cancelled five dollar stamp therefore gives it an extra value in the eyes of the philatelic crank. If he wants one very badly his best course is to put one on a letter, address it to himself, and mail it. Then it will reach him with an enhancing smudge of ink on it.

**NOW FOR THE SOUVENIR QUARTERS.**—The work of coining the Columbian souvenir quarter-dollars will probably be commenced soon, and as there are only 40,000 to be struck off the coinage will be completed in one day. The first five pieces will be struck with a hand-press by Coiner Steele and will be set aside, together with the 400th, 1492d and 1892d piece, and forwarded to the Board of Lady Managers of the World's Fair. It is expected that these special pieces will be disposed of at a good premium.

**BUT THE POSTAL CLERKS WOULD SWEAR.**—If you have any reason to suspect that the letters you write to any particular person are tampered with there is a very simple remedy which involves far less trouble than sealing-wax, matches and a seal. Fasten your envelope in the ordinary way and then write your address and put the stamp on the back instead of the front. However carefully the envelope may be opened it will be found impossible to stick the flap down again so that the exact edges of the letters will join as they did before, for even the smallest difference is sufficient for the most inexperienced detective to see that the missive has been tampered with.

The eagle was first officially recognized as an emblem of the United States in 1782, when Congress settled the design of the great seal. It combined a plan by William Barton, of Philadelphia, and suggestions made to John Adams by an English antiquarian.

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10 on 20 red	
10.10 on 20 red	
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3 sets 24 shillings (\$6).	
10 sets 60 shillings (\$15).	

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