

The Quaker City Philatelist.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIC SOCIETY AND SECTION PHILADELPHIA
INTERNATIONALER PHILATELISTEN VEREIN.

VOL. II.

DECEMBER, 1887.

No. 12.

HISTORY.

BY WILLIAM H. MITCHELL, D.D.S.

This is the place, stand still my steed,
Let me review the scene
And summon from the shadowy past
The forms that once have been.

Thus sings the greatest of English poets—Longfellow—when he put in everlasting words the feelings of his heart in looking back over the years that had

“ * * Passed away, though imperceptibly,
Into what Byron terms, “The Past Eternity.”

We are but mortal, and human mind can conceive but of one idea at a time.

We are but human, and being constituted differently or influenced by surroundings that have with our growth moulded us to fit them, we differ from each other in our opinions, and looking at matter from different points of view, our conclusions differ as a sequence.

We are not omnipresent, hence we can know only of what passes and occurs at the place when we are present.

We are not omniscient, hence we cannot tell what has taken place in the centuries that preceded our being or foretell what the future holds in store.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, in one of her most beautiful poems, and all of her productions are written in the most intense language our tongue is capable of forming, says :

Keep out of the past, for its highways
Are deep with malarial gloom,
Its gardens are sere and its forests are drear,
And everywhere moulders a tomb.

* * * * *

Keep out of the past, it is lonely
And barren and bleak to the view.

Its fires have grown cold, and its stories are old. Tombs have their remains—tombs have given us much of our history of the past. “What is written remains forever,” says the old Latin motto, and from the writings of those who have gone before us we must form our conclusions of what has taken place.

Fires leave ashes, and in them oft there is found that which is to be desired and preserved. Old stories are new to each succeeding generation and must be preserved to those to come. Tradition has been succeeded by the pen, and the pen by the press, and the art preservative gives to men their only insight into the past, by multiplying the records graven on stone, monument or tomb, and crumbling manuscripts or more frail paper, the results attained by our forerunners.

I am speaking to Philatelists, and the history of which I speak will be Philatelic.

She stands ready to-day with her tablet and stylus as she did in mythology to record the progress of the world.

History cannot be o'erthrown, but it can be forgotten. Historical facts cannot be pushed into dark corners, and always remain in the shadow, but they can be unknown, or, if known, ignored.

History in general is made up of the history of many nations and individuals, and these record inventions, discoveries of principles, and application of principles and inventions, and if we wish to attain knowledge and not to assume that which we do not possess, or to jump over important details and form conclusions not warranted by facts, then, if we

"Would comprehend the whole,
Then learn the parts, each part is parcel of the plan."

Philatelic history has of necessity to treat of the origin of Philately and its progress. Philately had its birth contemporaneous with the first stamp, but was not matured or developed till 1858, and prehistorical Philately has to furnish a field for the antiquarian as well as the Philatelist.

The first stamp, who can say when it made its ingress in this world?

The first stamp, in whose mind was it conceived?

The first stamp, who created it and commanded it into being?

There is but one answer—None can tell.

Carburetted hydrogen was known to chemistry for years, and when the bright mind of an Englishman proposed to light the city of London with this fluid he was scoffed into silence. Another Englishman visiting the French Capital at this time finds a Frenchman proposing to do the same thing in Paris, and in a letter to his friends in England says, "If anything is to be done with our countryman's invention 'twere well if it were done quickly, for the French have the same wrinkle."

The stamp exists, as all collectors know, in four forms: The band or wrapper, which developed into the enclosed envelope; the adhesive and the card, and in one of these forms has existed, not for years, but for centuries, first appearing in one portion of Christendom and then in another; it may be in different forms; disappearing for years, it again comes to the attention of civilization, but the *time* was not yet, and so gathering what has been preserved from oblivion and from many sources we can trace a connection from antiquity mediæval times and down to the general awakening of the governments of the world to the demands of commerce and society; and

The past and present here unite,
Beneath time's flowing tide,
Like foot-prints hidden by a brook,
But seen on either side.

Previous to the general adoption of the stamp, the mode of travel was slow and uncertain. News traveled only at the same speed. And the railroad spreads its iron path from city to city. We note the improvement. At this time the history of the world to the preceding day could not be read at the morning meal.

The Clermont stemming the current of the mighty river that perpetuates the memory of him who first made it known to the world, was the first practicable vessel of its kind. But others beside Robert Fulton deserve some credit for having striven in the same direction.

No, we can give credit to none until we have proof beyond the shadow of a doubt, that in the course of time we may be compelled to change our opinion and we will have no answer for the question, "Why did not ye look before ye leaped?"

The mails that have arrived in this country at intervals during the last year have been loaded with specimens of English typographical art, and emanate from the pen of a deluded and narrow-minded but filial son.

Mankind honors devotion, and the attention of Philatelists is chiefly centred in that they admire the son for his efforts to memorize his worthy sire.

Let us look at these pamphlets and peruse them carefully, and what is the conclusion? Nothing! What do they give for our instruction? Nothing! But what do they record? They record the folly of American societies in that they did not investigate the matter before they passed resolutions that they will be compelled to rescind.

The action of the juvenile societies we can in a measure overlook, but when the Association that will soon wield an influence that will be impossible to o'erride can calmly, without a fair investigation and in the face of historical facts that cannot be denied, pass resolutions that are only proof of their ignorance and monuments of their lack of research, when these facts are all in print within the last five years of our literature, then I for one say, "Verily, the grasshopper has become a burden."

And in order that all may see the chronological line running through the ages I have gathered thus far facts and submitted a few notes.

HISTORICAL FACTS.

A chronological table showing when the stamp envelope-wrapper, adhesive postage and revenue stamps and post cards were first used, also places where uniform postal rates were in vogue prior to 1840.

Antiquity, Egypt.—Carvings on the tombs show a messenger delivering an epistle; in the upper right-hand corner is the impression of a seal.

1653 France, Paris—Private Local.*—M. De Yelayer. Stamped envelopes, wrappers, and a Billet du Correspondence; fell into disuse through mismanagement; per letter one sou; collection boxes first used.

1658 France, Paris—Private Local.*—The last post revived by M. Chamouset. Adhesive stamps similar to those now in use, two sous per ounce.

1659 France, Paris—Governmental.*—The last post seized by the Government and a pension allowed its founder. No record of the Government's use of Chamouset's stamps, but a uniform rate was established, "seldom used and soon forgotten."

166—England, London—Official.—Tradition mentions a cover used by Charles II.

1683 England, London—Private Local.†—Penny post. Murray & Dockura, proprietors. Uniform rate, stamps of some kind may have been used, but no record exists.

16—Holland—Revenue.—Stamps, adhesive, in use.

16—Spanish Colonies in America—Honduras Cc.—Official.—"Right-of-way" stamp. The couriers of the Viceroy used stamps on the documents carried by them; sometimes hand-struck and sometimes hand-struck adhesives were attached.

16—England, Bristol to London.†—Penny postage. Uniform rate in use before last-mentioned post; may have been Government, but in all probability a private enterprise.

168—England, London—Governmental.†—Murray & Dockura's post purchased by the P. O. Department. Pension allowed. First uniform rates established in England by the Government.

1708 England, London—Private Local.†—Half penny post, soon, however, suppressed by Government.

1716 Spain, Madrid—Official.§—Secretary of the Crown. Free stamps. Arms of Castile and Leon in use till about 1800.

17—American Colony of New York.¶—Jamaica, Long Island, N. Y., to Brooklyn and New York. Uniform rates, delivered 3d.

1765 America British Tax—Revenue.**—Adhesive stamps of different denominations. Few purchased, fewer used. Many destroyed, but few preserved.

1776 Belgium, Brussels—Government.—Letters of the post to be sent at uniform rates. Prepayment announced by means of marks on stamps. Proposition made by a Frenchman, Paris de L'Epinar. Proposition refused.

1819 Sardinia—Governmental.—Combined envelope and wrapper.

- 18— Sweden, Stockholm. §§—Proposition made by Treffenberg to issue stamped envelopes, supported by Count de Schwerin, but rejected by the Assembly of Nobles.
- 1834 Great Britain, Dundee Scot.—Effort made by James Chalmers, and essays printed. Claim by Pat. Chalmers.
- 1831 U. S., Elizabeth, N. J.—Provincial.—Stamped envelopes receivable for postage paid sold in quantities.
- 1837 U. S., Block Id., R. I.—Provincial.—This Postmaster issued a stamp of some kind this year; will give particulars in another article.
- 1837 Great Britain, London.—Postal reform bill introduced in the British Parliament.
- 1838 France, Paris.*—Pamphlet published by M. Piron, giving full history of the posts of De Yelayer and De Chamouset and subsequently run by the French Government. See note.
- 1838 Australia, New South Wales.—Sydney post-office stamped envelopes issued.
- 1840 Great Britain—Governmental.—Stamps first issued for permanent use and the prepaid system made compulsory.
- 1840 United States, New York. ††—The penny post was relinquished this year, succeeded in 1842 by the "N. Y. City Despatch Post." If stamps were issued they have not been discovered.

NOTES.

* See pamphlet entitled "*Der Servier des Portez et de la Taxation des Letre au Moens d'un Timbre.*" M. PIRON, PARIS, 1838. *Historical Anecdotes of French Industry.* MONS. D'AURIAC. *National Philatetical Society, Bulletin No. 1,* 1878. *Inventors' Record, Eng.,* Jan. 5, 1884. *Granite State Philatelist,* March, 1883. *Stamp Collectors' Journal, Eng.,* Nov., 1884.

† See *History of Our Times.* JUSTIN MCCARTHY. *Granite State Philatelist,* Oct., 1883. *Stamp Collectors' Journal (Eng.),* Nov., 1884.

‡ "*Old Records, City of Bristol,*" *Eng.*

§ *Royal Decree, Dec. 7, 1716.*

¶ "*Harpers' Magazine,*" MSS. History of Jamaica.

** See *American History,* Lesser's Field Book of Rev.

§§ *Records Assembly Nobles, SWEDEN.* *Granite State Philatelist,* March, 1883. *National Philatelist,* Sept., 1883 (National Society).

†† Reference is made to this post in the business circular of the *New York City Despatch Post,* issued in 1842; *United States Locals,* by J. H. Coster, 1876, page 24; also *French Edition,* same work. *Reference list of U. S. Private Local Stamps,* Dr. W. H. Mitchell, 1887, page xvii.

¶¶ Official documents still preserved in Honduras and also in Spain.

This, it would seem, would convince the most prejudiced mind, but we remember the adage :

"A man convinced against his will
Is of the same opinion still."

But nevertheless,

Let us gather these fragments while we may,
Ere time dim their story and it fade away.

THE CALIFORNIA PONY EXPRESS.

REPRINT FROM THE PHILADELPHIA "PRESS" OF MARCH 27, 1861.

The express has been run with great regularity considering the obstacles it has had to contend with. Last summer about the middle of June, the Indians commenced to be very troublesome. They destroyed nearly all the stations west of Salt Lake City, killed some of the riders and station-keepers, and ran off all the stock they could find belonging to the company. From the first of July until about the commencement of September the express was, to a great extent, discontinued between Salt Lake City and Carson City, a town west of the former place. Letters, however, continued to be received at the extreme ends of the routes, although in limited quantities, which accu-

mulated at the above places ready for forwarding as soon as a cessation of the Indian troubles would allow it, or sooner if a rider could be found bold enough to run the risk of being shot or scalped by the savages, who were always on the watch for such an opportunity.

A very thrilling incident occurred during these troubles, at a place two hundred miles from Salt Lake, which will serve to illustrate the danger then to be feared in that wild region. Four of the company's employees were engaged in rebuilding a station which had been destroyed by the Indians. It was early in the morning; two of the men were asleep in a hut on the summit of a small hill, and the others in a tent at the foot of it. A band of Indians prowling around, chanced to discover them. Observing those in the hut before the others, they fired in upon them, killing one instantly and wounding the other in the leg. The latter immediately started down the hill, shouting to those below to save themselves, as the red skins were after them. Jumping up and seizing their pistols, the three started for a run across the plains, with the Indians in hot pursuit and yelling like so many fiends. The pursued ran together for some distance, and bade fair to make good their escape, when the wounded one cried out that he could go no farther. One of his companions, a very powerful, athletic fellow, took him on his back, and so continued his flight, although at such a slow rate that their pursuers were fast gaining upon them. The wounded man seeing this, begged to be left to himself, as he did not wish to be the cause of the other's capture. He only stipulated for the loan of the pistol his friend had with him. Very reluctantly his request was complied with, when, without a moment's hesitation, placing the pistol to his head, he blew out his brains, preferring such a fate to the one in store for him, as he knew it was the custom of those tribes to torture their prisoners before killing them. The remaining two employees succeeded in reaching a station about ten miles distant, where, with those already stationed at that point, they considered themselves safe against any attack from the enemy. The agent of the Express Company at Salt Lake finally raised a band of a hundred men, and being provided with arms and ammunition from one of the United States Government stations, started out to put an end to these disturbances, and teach the Indians a lesson likely to last them until the General Government sent force enough to make it entirely effectual. The expedition had the desired effect—the Indians were routed whenever met with, a great many killed, and finally they became so submissive as to cause no further apprehension. The express again assumed its trips, and has since run with great regularity.

During four months of the year, from December to April, the difficulty of traveling is much increased by the heavy snows which prevail over a large portion of the route. In some sections for several miles the snow is piled up to a depth of twenty-seven feet. To obviate this difficulty, the company all the winter long have had on hand at such places a sufficient force of men and ox teams to keep the road packed. The method of doing this is to turn on the teams after the snow has fallen about two feet and keep them traveling back and forth till it is packed hard, and after two feet more has fallen to do the same thing over again, and so on until a good hard road is formed between walls of snow as high as a two-story house.

When the enterprise was first started letters were forwarded but once a week and the rate of postage was five dollars for one-half ounce. Soon after, a semi-weekly mail was established, and the rate fixed at two dollars and fifty cents a quarter ounce, at which price and regulation the express is still running.

The title of the company that manages this enterprise is the "Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company," and its main business consists in running a line of express and passenger coaches to the Pike's Peak gold region. Their starting points from the eastern end are Leavenworth city, Kansas, and St. Joseph, Missouri, and they take passengers through, to Denver City, in the remarkably short space of five and one-half days, which is a strong contrast with the time when twenty days for the same distance was considered a quick trip. On the first of July next, or before, this company will start a daily line of coaches to Salt Lake City, carrying the United States mail,

where they will connect with the "Overland Mail Company," which will run to Placerville, Cal. They will also continue their pony express, reducing the price of postage, however, to one dollar per half ounce, and making the time from the Missouri river to San Francisco in ten days, the year through.

About the tenth day of April next the present schedule of fifteen days, from St. Joseph to the Pacific, will be reduced to the former time of ten days; the rate of postage will also be reduced to two dollars for half-ounce letters, postage prepaid.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WITH this number we complete our second volume, and again thank our patrons for their favors during the past year. Mr. McAllister voluntarily retires and Mr. W. M. Watson has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Watson is not unknown, having been prominently connected with the *Keystone State Philatelist* for some months, and we feel that the change will be beneficial, as Mr. Watson is a strong and fearless writer. No assurance of improvement need be given, our constantly improving support making imperative the improvements which will, from time to time, be noticed.

Subscribers of a year or more ago will realize a striking difference between the twelve pages in the old make-up and the present twenty-page magazine style.

Advertisers are reminded that our circulation has more than doubled in the last six months, and at our present low subscription price no reduction can be possible, but rather that a certain and swift increase will be the case. Our rates are now much lower (circulation and class of readers considered) than any other publication of this nature.

REDUCTION.—Every collector should turn to page 193, of this number, where he will find our latest and best inducement to subscribe. We hope to have every collector on our list and wish to make THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST the best known as well as the best publication. We will issue twelve numbers per year; the coming year will be no exception.

Get on board now at the low price, 15c. per year; no further reduction can ever be made, and the usual constant improvement will be made during the coming year, so that by December, 1888, you may expect to receive a superior journal.

THE American Philatelic Association election for officers resulted as follows: Treasurer, H. B. Seagrave, 110; scattering, 9; total 119. For Secretary, H. O. Harris, 56; S. B. Bradt, 16; scattering, 3; total, 75. As the vote cast did not equal two-thirds of the membership there was no election.

If we understand aright, Mr. Bradt, at the urgent request of many members, withdrew his resignation; therefore, there is only one vacancy to fill.

We think Mr. Seagrave would make a good Treasurer and should be elected.

WE inform our readers that we have obtained entire possession and control of the *Keystone State Philatelist*, which we have merged into this paper. We also inform them that we shall fill out the unexpired subscriptions to the K. S. P. We feel safely able to assert that, notwithstanding the high stage of excellence to which the K. S. P. arose, the readers will find the change in no way disadvantageous or useless; in fact, we think it will be the other way, much for the better.

IS IT NECESSARY NOW? The November number of THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST for 1886 contains the following guarantee:

"The owners of THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST are determined to keep faith with each subscriber, and have decided not to use subscription money until it is earned, and for this purpose will keep in reserve an amount which will be fully sufficient to refund to subscribers in case of necessity."

How well has our guarantee been fulfilled by the Company?

We answer that it has kept its word in the past and deserves your full support for the future. It is not a *boodle* enterprise depending for its existence upon the uncertain support of the pocket-books of a few men who are anxious to obtain notoriety, but it is a solid and successful business enterprise and has been so from the start. There is a reason why, but that is our secret.

The American Philatelist has come to stay. Mr. Brock has found the way to enable it to be something without being an unnecessary burden to the Association. We believe and hope all the members will lend their efforts to aid the Board of Managers to place it on such a footing that it will command the respect of those who take no interest in the study.

WE present to our readers this month the conclusion of a most interesting reprint on the pony express or mail express which was and is notable for the enterprise of its originators, and for the daring and bravery of its conductors. Though this is not a new subject, it is most interesting to read what it was thought of at the time.

PHILADELPHIA is not behind the times, but rather far ahead. The Branch of the American Philatelic Association now has a membership of nine, and Section Philadelphia of the Internationaler Verein of Dresden has fifteen active members who recently sent 1200 marks away on exchange sheets.

THE "Philatelic Cyclopedia" is meeting with continued favor among all classes of collectors.

QUAKER CITY PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETINGS.

MEETING, NOVEMBER 12, 1887.

Called to order at 8.20 P.M. President Henderson in chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Ten members and a visitor present. Messrs. Scarlett and Lynde delivered short addresses. A discussion on badges for the Q. C. P. S. resulted in the following motion: That a committee of two be appointed to visit engravers and procure estimates as to cost and report at next meeting. Carried. Adjourned 10.05 P.M.

MEETING, NOVEMBER 26, 1887.

Called to order at 9.15 P.M. President Henderson in chair. Eight members and a guest present. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Communication received from National Philatelic Society, inviting the Quaker City Philatelic Society to their banquet in commemoration of their thirteenth anniversary.

Moved that the Q. C. P. S. cordially congratulate the N. P. S., wishing them long life and prosperity, and that a committee be appointed to attend. Carried.

Messrs. MacCalla, Henderson, and Lynde, committee.

Resignation of Mr. A. F. Henkels received and accepted with regrets.

Committee on Badges reported a keystone with Q. C. P. S. engraved thereon. Ordered.

Moved by Mr. Durborow that the Society subscribe to the following papers: *P. J. of A.*, *Western Philatelist*, *Stamp*, *Philatelic Gazette*, and *Collectors' Review*.

Adjourned 10.15 P.M.

F. E. P. LYNDE, *Secretary*.

INTERNATIONALER PHILATELISTEN VEREIN.

NOVEMBER 15, 1887.

THE regular meeting of Philadelphia Section was held Saturday evening, November 5th, at the residence of Mr. Corfield, owing to sickness at Mr. Von Utassy's, with Mr. Lynde in the Chair, and Messrs. Corfield, Durborow, Lynde, MacCalla, Siddall and Watson present. After the minutes of the last stated meeting had been read and approved, Messrs. George P. Bush and Harry Green, of Bellefonte, and W. V. Nicholson, of Erie, were admitted to this Section. It was moved and carried that hereafter the Secretary shall send out all bills for dues. The Chairman requested all members that have not sent their photos to do so at once.

Mr. Corfield moved that a committee of two be appointed to try and secure a badge for this Section. Carried. And the Chairman appointed Mr. Corfield and himself, with power to act, providing they could be obtained at a cost not to exceed seventy-five cents each.

Meeting adjourned at 10.45 P. M.

W. H. CORFIELD, *Sec'y*,
Philadelphia Section,
3609 Locust St.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

WE HAVE received, just too late for notice in our November No., Mr. W. V. Nicholson's catalogue of postage stamps; while not as pretentious as many of them, it makes up in solid value on account of cheapness, both in stamps and price. Come again, oh Druggist.

Another aspirant from the South, but they all appear to die. Let us hope this one, the *Charleston Philatelist*, will live.

We notice a steady improvement in the *International Collector*, and it is one of the most readable of our visitors.

We have been very much astonished in the last couple of months, so much so, that we cannot keep it to ourselves any longer. Something has come over the spirit of his dream. The worthy editor of the *Curiosity World* has not pitched into anyone for quite two months. By the way, the said C. W. has not deteriorated any since it started in as a bi-monthly.

The *Philatelic Herald* has actually arrived at July. Bully, keep it up.

We have received the following publications; thanks: "Philatelic Journal of America," Nos. 32 and 33; "Adhesive Postage Stamp," "Niagara Falls Philatelist," No. 3 and 4; "Philatelic Fortnightly," Vol. II, Nos. 1, 2, 3; "Mystic World," No. 5; "Buckeye State Collector," Nos. 3 and 4; "Curiosity World," Nos. 16, 17, 18; "Young World," No. 2; "Philatelic Gazette," No. 39; "Stamp Collectors' Journal," No. 108; "Collector," No. 4; "Agassiz Companion," No. 9; "Common Sense," No. 6; "Boys' Globe," Nos. 4, 5, 6; "Internationaler Briefmarken Anzeiger," No. 6; "Plain Talk," No. 31; "Old Curiosity Shop," No. 34; "Texas Philatelic Journal," No. 3; "Stamp," No. 9; "Youths' Leisure Hour," Vol. I, Nos. 1 and 2; "Philatelic Herald," No. 7; "Western Philatelist," No. 11; "Halifax Philatelist," No. 10; "Philatelic World," No. 11; "Stamp Collectors' Figaro," No. 6; "American Philatelist," No. 2; "Collectors' World," No. 1; "Our Monthly Visitor," No. 9; "Toronto Philatelic Journal," Vol. II, No. 5; "Courier du Timbrophile," No. 8; "Young Geologist," No. 5; "International Collector," No. 6; "Monitor," No. 5; "House Helps and Hints," No. 2; and "Charleston Philatelist," Vol. I, No. 1.

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References, THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST and all leading stamp dealers in America.

DO you know that the first edition of "THE CYCLOPÆDIA OF PHILATELY" is almost exhausted? We expect to make little or no profit out of this edition, and we look to Philatelists to see that we come out even. We did expect to make a big profit out of it, but the author insisted on making so many changes and corrections, which, although it made the book one which can be relied on as accurate, cost us more than the original composition. You want a copy of this book. We know you do. You need it more than you need the price of it. 25 cents is nothing to you—the book is. 25 cents pays for a cloth-bound copy. We have it bound in paper, too, but you would sooner have the cloth-bound edition. You can put it in your library, and it will not look at all out of place, and it will stand the wear and tear that a book of its stamp is always subjected to, better than the paper-bound edition. It is now almost Christmas, why not give a copy (cloth) to your brother, sister or friend who is interested in stamp collecting. We know they would appreciate it. To those who have not yet secured a copy we would repeat that this edition is nearly exhausted, and it may be months before we get out a second edition, and would therefore advise you to send in your subscription at once.

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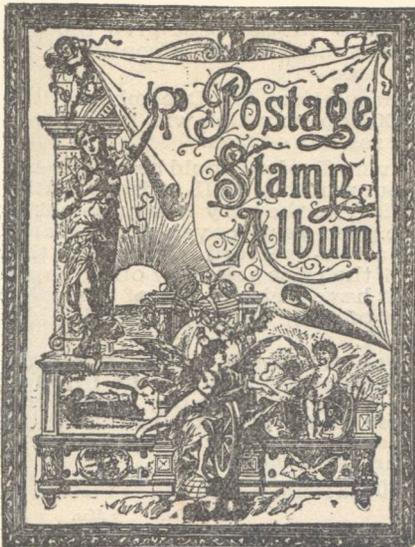
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