

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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

VOL. III.

JULY, 1888.

No. 7.

OFFICIAL DECREE.

ANNAM AND TONQUIN.

THE General Secretary Resident of the French Republic in Annam and Tonquin, chevalier of the Legion of Honor, according to the report of the director of posts and telegraphs, shows the stock of stamps of 1 and 5 centimes to be nearly exhausted.

Seeing that these stamps are much used and the necessity of preventing their complete want—

DECREES.

The director of posts and telegraphs is authorized to surcharge, to transform into stamps of 1 and 5 centimes, the number of postage stamps of 2, 4 and 10 centimes as indicated below.

1st, Into stamps of 1 centimes.	2d, Into stamps of 5 centimes.
20,850 stamps of 2 centimes.	45,000 stamps of 10 centimes.
50,000 " " 4 "	

HANOI, January 21, 1888.

RAOUL BERGER.

LIST OF RUSSIAN DISTRICT STAMPS.

BY F. E. P. LYNDE.

BERDIANSK.

RECTANGULAR centre shield surrounded by Russian inscription, reading translated, "Rural Postage Stamp of Berdiansk;" in four corners ornaments shaped like angels' wings containing figure 10; upper half of shield contains a hut and plow; lower half anchor.

10 kopëcs, green and blue.

BIJETSJK.

Type I. Rectangular. Outer border made of sexagonal ornaments; centre inscription in four lines reading, "Rural postage stamp 3k."

Type II. Rectangular. Outer border a plain thin line; a line of inscription follows border on all sides; in centre 3k.; inscription reads, "Rural postage stamp Biejetsk, 3 k."

Type III. Rectangular border similar to Type I. Four lines of inscription, line under 2d and 4th line; figure 3 in four corners; inscription reads, "Rural postage stamp Biejetsk 3 kopecs."

Type I,	3 kopecs, green.	Type III,	3 kopecs, green.
" II,	3 " pink.	" "	3 " pink.

BOBROW.

Type I. Diamond-shaped, outer line wavy; Russian words following two upper

lines of diamond below 2 horizontal lines; inscription reads, "Rural postage stamp Bobrow 3 kopecs."

Type II. Rectangular frame of two lines, outer one heavy, inner light; five lines of horizontal inscription reading, "Rural postage stamp of Bobrow 3 kopecs."

Type III. Oblong frame consists of ornamental scrolls; four lines of inscription reading, "Rural postage stamp of Bobrow 3 kopecs."

Type IV. Oval frame of thin line broken at top and bottom by ornaments; ornaments at side but line not broken; centre four lines of inscription reading, "Rural post of Bobrow, 3 kopecs."

Type V. Square frame, very ornamental; four lines of inscription reading, "Bobrow rural postage stamp, 3 kopecs."

Type VI. Square frame; ornamental four lines of inscription, reading "Rural postage stamp of Bobrow, 3 kopecs."

Type I, 3 kopecs, black on rose.		Type IV, 3 kopecs, green.
" II, 3 " green.		" V, 3 " "
" III, 3 " "		" VI, 3 " pale blue.

BOLASCHKOFF.

Type I. Rectangular. Russian inscription following four sides, reading "Rural postage stamp of Bolaschkoff 4 kopecs." Centre shield divided in centre in upper half; three fishes touching noses thus Y on a ground of horizontal lines; lower half two objects looking like striped fruit of some sort.

Type II. Rectangular. Perforate design same as Type I, except background of upper half of shield is solid and the fruit has lost its striped appearance.

Type I, 4 kopecs, black. | Type II, 4 kopecs, black, red and blue.

BOGORODSK.

Type I. Rectangular. Frame broken by small squares at four corners and small scrolls; small squares contain figures of value; in centre two ovals, outer containing inscription reading "Rural post of the district of Bogorodsk" and value, inner oval divided in half by central line, upper half contains St. George killing a dragon to left on perpendicular lined ground, lower half some outlandish ornament on dotted horizontal ground.

Type II. Very similar to first type, better executed and different fancy scrolls.

Type III. Rectangular frame. Three wavy lines, inner line white centre, same as previous types; figures at four corners within wavy lines; background solid color; St. George to right.

Type IV. Same as last, and lines in upper half of inner oval cover the figure of St. George giving appearance of his being behind the bars.

Type I, 1869-72,	1 kopec, pink.
	1 " magenta.
1884,	1 " brown.
	1 " red.
	1 " carmine.
	1 " lake.
Type II, 1869-72,	5 kopecs, blue.
	10 " "
	5 " unpaid, red.
	10 " " red.
	10 " " brown.
1884,	5 " brown.
	5 " red.
	5 " carmine.
	5 " pale blue.
	5 " black.

Type II, 1884,	5	“	lake.
	5	“	deep blue.
	10	“	red.
	10	“	carmine.
	10	“	brown.
	10	“	lake.
	10	“	black.
Type III,	Envelope stamps.		
1871-76,	5	kopecs,	blue.
Type IV,	10	“	“
1871-76,	10	“	red (unpaid).
Type III, 1869,	5	“	blue.
“	10	“	red (unpaid).

(To be continued.)

HISTORY OF THE EARLY POST-OFFICE.

BY GEORGE HENDERSON.

THE post was an unknown thing in early colonial times. When one beholds the magnificent system of post-offices which we possess, he can scarcely realize that it has been but about two hundred years since the first royal patent was issued to Thomas Neale, creating him Postmaster-General of “Virginia and other parts of North America.” The office was not one which to-day would be sought by the hungry spoilsman, for with no salary, and little or nothing to do he speedily sank into oblivion. The reason for this is readily seen from the fact that the few hundred thousand people in the colonies were scattered over a wild stretch of twelve hundred miles. Later the colonists found that for the sake of protection their settlements must become intensive rather than extensive, and we now hear of eight mails passing yearly from the Potomac to Philadelphia.

Nearly up to the end of the seventeenth century all letters were sent by private hands, but in 1693, after the matter was agitated in the House of Burgesses, it was enacted that if Mr. Neale, the newly appointed Postmaster-General, would immediately introduce the postal system into Virginia, he should receive “for the post of every letter not exceeding one sheet, or to or from any place not exceeding four-score English miles distance, three pence,” and in proportion for additional weight and distance. This did not, however, prohibit the employment of private persons.

In 1738 the postal service was extended to Williamsburg, Virginia, a more important town than to-day. To insure success financially, the post-rider was not to leave till he had enough letters to pay all expenses. We read that the riders were required to be at the “Susquehanna river on Saturday nights to receive the Philadelphia mail,” and the following Saturday at Williamsburg; thus one week was consumed between the points where the northern mail was received and from where the southern was dispatched, the mail being sent south once a month from Williamsburg.

In 1639 the first post-office was opened in Boston, at Richard Fairbank’s. It is said that the populace were so eager to get their letters that they would go down the bay to meet the incoming vessels; this became so annoying that the Postmaster was compelled to adopt a new plan by which a list of the letters was published. The first post was established in New Jersey in 1694, the plan being devised by Col. John Hamilton.

In Pennsylvania the post-office goes back to the Duke of York’s time, and originated in the necessities of the government. By act of 1676, it was held as follow:

“Publique Affairs. *Whereas*, this government may on many occasions be disappointed of speedy and true information of Publique Affairs out of England, as well as out of our neighbors’ Coloneyes. To the remedy of such future inconveniences, every constable to whom any letters may come directed to the Gouverneur, attested on the

Backe side the letter with the name of one of his Majestie's principall Secretaries of State or with the name of any one of the Gouverneurs of any of his Majestie's Coloneyes of New England; or any letter sent from the Gouverneur to the Sheriff, or any of the Justices of the Yorkshire upon Long Island, and so attested as above said, shall be dispatched by every such constable within three hours at the furthest after the receipt thereof to the next constable, and so forwards as the letter directs upon the penalty of forty shillings for every hour's delay, and in such cases all constables are impowered to press a sufficient horse and man for that purpose. Allowing for the man and horse satisfaction six pence for each mile's travel, which shall be discounted to such constable in the Publique Rates."

We thus see that the constables were the first Postmasters in Pennsylvania, but were only allowed to carry public letters and documents. William Penn commissioned Henry Waldy, of Tacony, as his first Postmaster, in July, 1683. Three pence was charged to take a letter from Philadelphia to the Falls (now Trenton). This post went once a week, and was required to be fully published "on the meeting-house door or other public places."

In 1753, Franklin was appointed Postmaster-General for the colonies, and ere long it became a source of revenue to the crown. It was his boast that out of this losing branch of the public service, he raised up one that yielded more than three times the income of the Irish postal system.

When Franklin retired in 1774, a printer, named Goddard, of Baltimore, offered a plan for a "Constitutional American Post-office." The scheme was rather elaborate and visionary, but would have been tested had not the war for Independence broken out. As no one knew so much about the system as Franklin, he was waited upon, and asked to resume his old position. He was authorized to establish a line of posts from Falmouth, in New England, to Savannah, Georgia, with as many cross-posts as was necessary. Massachusetts saw the great importance and benefit to be derived from a well-organized post-office, so she, at her own expense set up fourteen. New Hampshire, about the same time, also established one at her own expense. These routes ran from Cambridge, renowned even this early as the seat of Harvard, and went as far north as Georgetown, in Maine, and as far south as Falmouth. From Cambridge mails also went out to Haverhill, Providence, Woodstock *via* Worcester, and thence by way of Springfield to Great Barrington. At Falmouth the mails were taken in charge by the regular Government riders. Fifty miles were considered a good day's journey in summer, but in winter much less ground was covered.

Soon after the opening of the Revolution, the Continental Congress chartered two packets to ply between Georgia and North Carolina, and that harbor which would be nearest to the seat of Government.

Such was the humble beginning of that department of the Government which does more to unite a scattered nation, and to increase its prosperity, than any other. There is now annually expended in the transportation of mail matter a sum exceeding one-half the amount of the domestic debt at which our fathers stood appalled at the close of the revolutionary war. More mails are handled daily in New York than there were in six months in Washington's time; and more letters are distributed in the same city in twenty-four hours than, when Franklin held office, were distributed in the thirteen States in a whole year.

In 1784 there were three mails a week between Boston and New York in summer, and two in winter. Six days were required to make the journey. For many years two saddle bags were sufficient to hold all the mails. That from New York to Philadelphia was carried by boys on horseback five times a week.

In the country, however, in the small settlements far removed from the post routes, slowness and great irregularity were the rule. In the mountains of New Hampshire, in the hills of Pennsylvania, in the swamps of the Carolinas, letters were as long on their journey as it now takes to go to the heart of Asia. It took thirty-five days for a letter to go a distance in winter which would now be traversed in an afternoon.

The arrival and departure of the mail was an occasion of great importance. On the day set for the arrival of the post-rider, a day which from the importance of the event was not known by its calendar name, but as "post-day," most of the village assembled at the inn, to have their hearts gladdened by missives from afar. A few letters, a bundle of newspapers, often many weeks old, and perhaps a package of drugs for the doctor, constituted the entire quota for the village. The townsmen crowded around the door to hear the innkeeper read aloud the latest happenings from the "newsprint," while the postman was carried off, by some of the throng, to take a meal, at which he was expected to dispense the news and occurrences of his trip. In some remote regions, to break in upon the desolation, and to while away the time, the post-rider would amuse himself in knitting mittens, or stockings, as his beast slowly cantered along.

Protection for the mails or even for the traveler was almost unknown. And it was a frequent complaint that the post-rider had opened and read the letter. And it was not until the mails had so increased in number that the carriers found no time to read the notes, that this obnoxious practice ceased to exist. Indeed, so common was this abuse that it became the custom for those holding important Government offices to correspond in cipher. Madison wrote to Monroe, in November, 1784: "Your favor without date was brought by Thursday's post; it enclosed a cipher, for which I thank you, and which I shall make use of as occasion may require." As stages became more common, letters were frequently entrusted for delivery to a passenger.

The post-office played as important a part in the elections, particularly that of 1788, as it does to-day, with its thousands of henchmen. Information, it is said, which would have changed many votes in Massachusetts and Connecticut, was purposely detained. No newspapers from the Middle or Southern States were received by the eastern printers for weeks. The Federalists were accused of thus using the Post-office, but they stoutly denied it. Finally in New York and Philadelphia steps were taken to disprove the charge. It was shown that the Government had never received papers for transmission through the mails, but that the printers had been in the habit of paying the post-riders for the accommodation; and if any had been delayed they were the ones to be looked to.

Upon the resignation of Sam'l Osgood, in 1791, Washington appointed Timothy Pickering Postmaster-General. So insignificant was the office that its administrator was not deemed worthy of a Cabinet seat. The growth of the Post-office in the last hundred years is indeed astounding. There is no other branch of the Government which is in closer contact with the people or in which they take a livelier interest. In 1776 there were twenty-eight post-offices; in 1790 there were seventy-five; in 1795 there were four hundred and fifty-three; and at the present time there are about fifty-five thousand. The yearly revenue in 1790 was \$25,000; now it is \$48,837,000. Thirty-six cents was charged to send a letter from New York to Savannah; eighteen times the amount now required to send one far beyond the Rocky Mountains, into a country about which our ancestors knew nothing.

It appears that it took twenty-nine and one-half hours for a letter to go either from New York to Philadelphia, or from Philadelphia to Baltimore. Under the Confederacy this was thought to be as fast as the people could reasonably demand. But a change had taken place. A new Constitution was now in operation; the public debt had been funded; money was plentiful; and a bank had been established. A mania for speculation now broke out; and in the excitement to hear the latest acts of Congress, and the price of stocks in the neighboring cities, a post which could make at least one hundred miles in twenty-four hours was demanded. A plan was outlined to have the mail go by riders in daytime, and in coaches at night, but, alas, they had overlooked the most important part—the country was too poor for any such scheme. An attempt was made to make it successful, in New Jersey, by carrying passengers. But as that State insisted upon an annual tax of four hundred dollars on each stage, it too fell through. A bill was now introduced into Congress, under which this tax could not be laid.

Immediately a cry of indignation went up, the States had not outgrown their Colonial clothes, State pride and jealousy was still predominant, and States' rights were asserted with renewed vigor.

Another act was more successful. A bill was passed which continued in force for nearly fifty years. It gave the franking privilege to Congressmen and heads of departments, and admitted newspapers to the mail. Single letter rates, that is rates for a single sheet of paper, were as follows:

1 to 30 miles, 6 cents.	200 to 250 miles, 17 cents.
30 to 60 " 8 "	250 to 350 " 20 "
60 to 100 " 10 "	350 to 450 " 22 "
100 to 150 " 12½ "	450 to — " 25 "
150 to 200 " 15 "	

ANNUAL CONVENTION AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

Members intending to be represented at the coming Convention by proxy, should be especially careful to give full instructions how they desire their vote to be cast, in case the Hill-Chalmers controversy is brought up, as it inevitably will be. It will be remembered that last year certain members, whose names are too well known to need repetition, procured many proxies without so much as intimating that they intended to spring the afore-mentioned dispute upon the Convention. It is needless to say they rushed a resolution through in favor of Chalmers, many votes having been cast for it which would have been cast against it, had the party been present.

There was entirely too much haste in the matter. It is not a point which can be decided by ex parte evidence, or even by perusing the arguments of both. The latest aspect of the controversy seems to indicate that neither Hill nor Chalmers is entitled to any of the credit he claims.

Not to go into any extended argument, but still to show that the case has a new aspect, we would call our reader's attention to the fact that Pearson Hill admits that the postage stamp was invented at least 200 years ago ("Origin of Postage Stamps," par. 8, pp. 9), and to show that grave doubts do exist as to the authorship of the uniform penny postage plan, we would merely state that even in 1839 it was referred to in the parliamentary debates as "that which was called Mr. Rowland Hill's plan," (Duke of Wellington's speech).

At the coming Convention the Philadelphia members will make an effort to have the resolution, passed last year, rescinded, and at the same time have an impartial committee appointed to make a thorough investigation, and report at the next annual meeting, so that every member will have a chance to read the report and vote intelligently upon it.

Any one wishing to vote according to the above plan should send their proxy to W. A. MacCalla, Box 1153, Philadelphia. H.

COMMUNICATION.

Quaker City Philatelist Publishing Co.:

Gentlemen:—May I ask you to insert the following in the next issue of your journal:

"I hereby declare the statements made in my behalf in the last number of the *Stamp Collector's Figaro*, to be untrue in every respect."

HOBOKEN, N. J., July 5, 1888.

JOSEPH RECHERT.

By so doing you will greatly oblige, yours truly,

JOSEPH RECHERT.

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A discrimination in the rates of postage to city subscribers is made between weekly and monthly periodicals, to the great disadvantage of the latter, for while the weeklies can be mailed to city subscribers for one cent per pound, monthlies cannot be mailed to city subscribers for less than one cent for each two ounces, except where the subscribers go to the post-office for their mail. This regulation **REFERS ONLY** to subscribers in the particular city in which the periodical is published. As **THE PHILATELIST** is located in **PHILADELPHIA**, we are, therefore, obliged to ask our Philadelphia subscribers twelve cents extra for postage, unless the paper is addressed at the post-office to be called for, or to any post-office box. **REMEMBER** this refers to Philadelphia subscribers **ALONE**, and to those in no **OTHER** city.

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OUR TICKET.

THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

President, John K. Tiffany, St. Louis, Mo.

Vice-President, W. C. Van Derlip, Boston, Mass.

Secretary, S. B. Bradford, Ottawa, Ill.

International Secretary, Joseph Rechert, Hoboken, N. J.

Treasurer, H. B. Seagrave, Ionia, Mich.

PROXIES AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.—All members desiring to be represented at the annual meeting, in Boston, should send their proxies to Mr. W. A. MacCalla, 237 Dock street, Philadelphia, with full instructions, how they wish their vote cast on all important questions, elections of officers, etc. Any members intrusting their proxies to Mr. MacCalla can be assured that their vote will be cast as directed.

THE August number of THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST will be issued about August 20th, and will contain full reports of the American Philatelic Association annual meeting in Boston.

THE Jay locals seem to be getting it all round just now. Is it because they are not really used for the purpose intended, or is it because the kickers have not got hold of all the numerous varieties?

THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION ELECTION.

A NUMBER of candidates have been suggested for the various offices to be filled at the next American Philatelic Association election. From among the number every member should make his choice, I take the liberty of making public the names of the candidates whose election I favor, in the hope that my reasons may be strong enough to induce others to vote for the same candidates.

For President, JOHN K. TIFFANY.

Who has shown himself during his past administration of our affairs to be able to handle them in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. Indeed I consider that it would be a misfortune to be compelled to loose his services.

For Vice-President, C. VAN DERLIP.

Because he is a COLLECTOR, who, when known at all, is favourably known. It is true that he has but recently become a member of our Association. What if this is so? Does it show him to be less competent, or less willing to serve the Association? I think not.

The qualifications which we must look for in the candidate for this office are a thorough knowledge of the object and aims of the Association and the good judgment to ascertain the best methods by which they can be attained. We want also firmness. Most of us may have the first of these qualifications, but what we especially want is a man who possesses the others, and who has no local prejudices or favorites.

For Secretary, S. B. BRADFORD.

As there is no opposition to the gentleman it is not necessary to give any other reasons, no matter how excellent they may be.

For International Secretary, JOSEPH RECHERT.

Because he has shown himself to be the right man in the right place. He has served the association as few could and fewer would. My official intercourse with him has shown me positively that besides being able to serve us, he looses no opportunity of doing so. Does common sense therefore recommend us to make a change?

For Treasurer, H. B. SEAGRAVE.

Who has held the office during the last few months with credit to himself and to the Association.

One important consideration must not be overlooked in contemplating this subject. These five offices have so much power under the Constitution and By-Laws that it is entirely possible for them, either through carelessness or bad judgment, to render the association a burden to us instead of a benefit.

We must therefore choose men into whose hands we can commit the management of our own affairs, as it were. Men whom we feel sure will work for our best interests at all times, and not only without compensation but generally without even thanks.

Our past two years have been so successful that we can reasonably and confidently expect to find an even brighter future before us, but we must have those at the helm of our ship who can surely guide us to it.

ROBERT C. H. BROCK.

How is the Press Association coming on, Brother Goodrich? Why not have it in running order by the time of the Convention and let the different members have a chance to get together then, many if not most of the prominent papers will have representatives at Boston. And the personal meetings would do more to bring the members together than a year of correspondence.

ONE thing will help along the Philatelic Band at Boston, and that is the fact that several organs will be present. And while I think of it THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST will have the best reports of the Convention to be found in the country. Put that on ice and see if I don't tell the truth. Look out friends for the Convention number of THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST.

THE Quaker City Society has adjourned till Fall, when the members promise to turn in and do their level best to increase the interest in our hobby and the prosperity of the Society. Philadelphia should have one of the best societies in the country, and the only reason that such a state of things has not been reached is the fact that many of those belonging thought that a society could be run without the co-operation of all the members. This state of things will be remedied in future and the Quakers will be found in the front rank.

THE American Association button has at last made its appearance, and it is rather a disappointment to the collectors who have so far examined it. It is too large to begin with, and the design is anything but as neat and suggestive as I expected to see it. The workmanship is apparently all O. K., and that is all that can be said in its favor. When the postal announcing its readiness for delivery reached Philadelphia the order was dispatched for one by return mail, but it takes about three weeks for a button to reach the Quaker City. Is this a punishment for past kicking from the city of Brotherly Love.

THE question of the next meeting place for the American Philatelic Association is one that will doubtless provoke long and earnest debate and considerable wire pulling at the coming Convention, and nominations are now in order. *The National Philatelist* has put forward the claims of Washington, saying, and very justly, that many men who would otherwise not attend would come on in order to see the Capital City, and kill two birds with one stone. THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST heartily seconds this motion and calls for the question. Washington is not so far away from St. Louis as St. Louis is from Washington, in other words, men would rather see Washington than St. Louis.

ONCE more we reply to the attacks of certain pro-Chalmers journals, and sincerely hope that this time a printer's blunder won't bar it out. In the June *Curiosity World* two gentlemen attack us tooth and nail on account of the publication of the *Kalermaraic Chronicles*. The manuscript was sent us, and after reading it over we came to the conclusion that under its cloak of ridicule it contained many self-evident and historical facts, so we published it as sent. It is perfectly right, no doubt, to run down a man, call him a swindler, and an appropriator of other men's ideas, when that man is dead and cannot defend himself, but to attack another LIVING man's claims by all fair means, of which we consider ridicule one, is wrong, at least in the ideas of the Chalmerites. Mr. Hill was capable of bribery, but not Mr. Chalmers, of course. No one blames the latter for trying to bolster up a bad cause by all means in his power, but one should receive as fair treatment as the other, which has not been accorded to Mr. Hill. It may be a stretch of imagination, but the cause of Mr. Chalmers is not gaining and the opposition is, as any unprejudiced person can see and believe by reading Mr. Pearson Hill's pamphlet entitled the "Origin of Postage Stamps," which shows up Mr. Chalmers' claims in their true light. Again, as far as we know, the writer is perfectly willing to give his name, probably will be glad to when he hears of the crimes laid at his door; we have known him for a long while and have never found him lacking in the qualities mentioned. In conclusion we would state that there is a persistent false statement of our position on this question. We have never held Sir Rowland Hill to be the inventor, but we do think that he is entitled to the credit of making it a permanent success, and that we shall fight Mr. Pat Chalmers until he proves with irrefutable evidence, of which he has not produced one iota, his case.

In regard to the accusation of copying Mr. Kurzwig's plan, we sincerely beg his pardon, if we have done so. We received the article late from the author, and had just time to correct the proofs and nothing more.

This Paper for July, August and September, as a trial, for only 5c.

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BOX 37, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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**Foreign and U. S. Postage Stamps
FOR COLLECTIONS.**CORRESPONDENCE IN
ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH AND ITALIAN.PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILATELIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.*St. Louis, Mo., U. S. A.*

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I am, however, constantly in receipt of consignments of Stamps of the following countries: Chili, Costa Rica, Curacoa, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Newfoundland, Nicaragua, Peru, Salvador, U. S. of Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico. Of the last country I always have the issues, 1856, 1861, 1864 (engraved, complete set), 1868, 1872, 1874, 1884 (complete), 1885 (complete), 1886 (complete), 1888, Officials, Porte de Mar Stamps, the three sets complete; also Guadalajaras and 1867 Provisionals.

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I have made up assortments of above Stamps for many well-known dealers, who continue to purchase them, and in every case they have given satisfaction.

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A Guessing Contest.

WE desire to ascertain how many Collectors read this magazine. For the purpose of testing it we have prepared a

BEAN BOTTLE.

This Bottle

is about eight inches in height, ten inches in circumference, three inches in diameter, and is about two-thirds full of common white beans, of the usual size used for cooking purposes.

This Bottle

has been sealed and placed in the vaults of the First National Bank of Paris, Texas. To the successful guessers of the number of beans in this bottle we propose giving eleven prizes.

\$10 in Gold

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