

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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

VOL. IV.

FEBRUARY, 1889.

No. 2.

PHILADELPHIA POST-OFFIGE.

THE fine granite building at Ninth and Chestnut streets, erected for the Postoffice, United States Court and officers of the Federal Government, was completed and opened for business in March, 1884, after eleven years of building
from the digging of its foundation in 1873.

While the Philadelphia Post-office does not cover the largest space, it is, however, the finest, most complete and costly, and is more thoroughly equipped than any other

Post-office in the country.

Looking at its grand front, the eye must take in at a glance the whole five stories, extending from Chestnut to Market street, a long stretch of almost five hundred feet of massive granite, with over one hundred windows and ten large doorways. Surrounding three sides of the structure is a very spacious area, giving light and easy access to the basement.

The windows on the first floor reach almost from the floor to the ceiling, and the windows above, while diminishing in size, are proportionately large. Their actual

heights are:

Ist s	story.			 												. 27	feet	3	inches.
2d s																			
3d s	story.			 			 			 						. 20	66	9	66
4th	storv		 													. 18	66	6	"
Don	ne			 												59		8	**
															-		-		

Every door and window in the building has a solid iron screen, which slides into the

wall, and when these are in place the building is absolutely fire-proof.

Such is the present Post-Office, and, as it is, it presents a striking contrast to its predecessors, of which we present an accurate list.

LOCATION OF POST-OFFICES IN PHILADELPHIA.

1728, at Andrew Bradford's house, Second street.

1734, on Second street.

1737, at Franklin's house, High street, near Fourth.

1771, at Foxcroft's house, High street.

1775, at Old London Coffee House, High street.

1782, at Widow Budden's house, Front street, below High.

1784, at corner of Front and Market streets.

1785, at corner of Front and Chestnut streets.

1790, at No. 7 South Front street.

1791, at No. 36 South Front street, near Chestnut.

1793, at Old College, Fourth street, below Arch.

1794, at No. 34 South Front street.

1797, during yellow fever, at Dunlap's stable, Twelfth street, below High.

1798, during yellow fever, at Eleventh and Market streets.

1799, at upper end of Market street.

1802, at Twelfth and Market streets.

1805, at corner of Tenth and Market streets.

1814, at corner of Third and Market streets.

1815, at No. 27 South Third street.

1816, at No. 116 Chestnut street. 1828, at No. 107 Chestnut street.

1834, at Merchants' Exchange Building.

1854, at Jayne's Building, Nos. 237-9 Dock street.

1863, at Chestnut street, below Fifth, south side.

1884, at Ninth and Chestnut streets.

The carrier service of Philadelphia covers the largest area of any city in the world, except London. New York covers forty square miles; Philadelphia one hundred and twenty-one square miles.

A HISTORY OF THE CARLY POSTAL SERVICE.

(Continued.)

R. OSGOOD stated that the establishment had in no year collected over \$35,000, and during the previous ones only \$25,000, whereas, under proper regulations, he thought this would run up to \$50,000. He stated that the charge on a letter from New York to Savannah was about 33-90 of a dollar, amounting, in his opinion, almost to a prohibition of correspondence between places remote from each other. He advised to let the contracts for extended periods, that men of capital might be induced to engage in carrying the mails, and to abandon the practice of letting the routes to the lowest bidders, as, under it, "many poor people," who were unable to do the service properly, were induced to bid, thus bringing discredit on the service. He advised to have Congress designate a rate per mile to be given, and then allow the Postmaster-General to select a suitable contractor, a mode of procedure which, although possessing recommendatory features, is too objectionable to permit its ever being acceptable in a Republican country.

He urged, in this paper, with much propriety and force, a repeal of the clause of the postal ordinances, making the Postmaster-General liable for losses resulting from the default of his deputies. Accordingly, Congress, in the next postal law enacted, struck out this requirement. He also argued at some length the question whether that officer should keep his office separate from the place in which the mails were kept. Such a suggestion would doubtless appear funny to any of the Chiefs of the Department who have set in the finely cushioned parlor designated for their occupancy in the splendid marble structure erected about ten years back (at an expense of \$600,000) for the use of the Department. It may be proper to add that, as late as 1820, the General and City Post-offices, the Land and the Patent Bureaus, were huddled together in a building erected originally for a hotel, at a cost of \$10,000, in which the Postmaster-General

and his clerks were allowed but four rooms.

Col. Timothy Pickering, of Pennsylvania, succeeded to the office on the 7th of November, 1791, at which time there still existed but eighty-nine post-offices in the Union, and the gross receipts of the establishment were but about \$46,000. Charles Burrall was his assistant. Among his reports to Congress I find one complaining that the Legislature of New Jersey had undertaken to raise a tax, and levied \$400 per annum for this purpose, on his contractor, for carrying the mail in stages between New York and Philadelphia, which he regarded as a great imposition, as, in his opinion, if all the States were to do so the General Government would soon be placed at the mercy of the States. I believe the different States have, notwithstanding, continued

to this day to tax Uncle Sam's mail-coaches whenever their Legislatures or county authorities have taken it into their heads to do so.

The office till this period amounted to but a clerkship, so limited were its operations. Congress passed a revised and much improved postal law on the 20th of February, 1792, arranging the postage tariff in federal money, and on a more equitable basis. No prophetic genius having yet foreshadowed the future consequence, and almost illimitable circulation of newspapers through the mails, no postage rates had hitherto been designated for them. This ordinance fixed these at one cent and one-and-a-half cents, according to distance, which continued the charge down to 1845. Half the revenue therefrom was allowed to the Postmasters collecting the same. The act also made the salutary provision of allowing newspaper publishers to transmit to each other, through Uncle Sam's portmanteaus, a single copy of their issues without charge. It fixed the salary of the Postmaster-General at \$2000 per annum, and that of his Assistant at \$1000, which, two years subsequently, got up to \$2400 and \$1200 respectively, and, at a five years later date, to \$3000 and \$1700.

Joseph Habersham, of Georgia, a very intelligent gentleman, took the Postmaster-General's desk on the 25th of February, 1795, in consequence of Mr. Pickering's transfer to the War Department. He is said to have proved eminently successful in imparting system and certainty to the operations of the establishment. In January, 1799, he informed Congress that the list of post-offices had increased to 700, and the length of post-roads to 16,000 miles—sevenfold their amount ten years before, making it necessary to settle about 3600 accounts annually; that he had to superintend the conduct and performance, as well as answer the letters of said deputies, and of about 200 contractors; also to open 40,000 dead letters annually; which made it essential, in his opinion, for the law-makers to augment the number of his clerks, then only four.

A revised postal law, proposed by him, was enacted on the 2d of March, 1799, embracing, among other improvements, a repeal of the death penalty, contained in the then existing statutes, for stealing or robbing the mail. Mr. Habersham urged a repeal of this clause on the grounds that it was not in accordance with the humane policy of the States, and that capital punishment, if ever resorted to, should only be inflicted for crimes whose enormity or frequency of repetition evinced such utter depravity as to leave no hope that it would be safe for the offender again to mingle with society. He advised the substitution of flogging for the death penalty. This change was made; but no jury having been found during the next eight years, however clear the evidence of guilt, willing to bring in a verdict of guilty in a case that would be followed by a public flogging, a subsequent enactment abandoned that penalty also. The laws on the subject now in existence make the punishment therefor five to ten years' imprisonment, and death for the second offense.

In these times it required forty days to obtain an answer at Portland to a letter mailed to Savannah, and forty-four at Philadelphia for a reply to one addressed to Nashville.

In 1810 a Postmaster-General exultingly informed Congress that these periods had respectively been reduced to twenty-seven and to thirty days. The wildest imagination had not then embraced the idea that Collin's magnificent steamers would bring us answers from England in 1851 in far less time! Barlow did not sing till 1808, and of course his prophecy had not at that time been fulfilled:

"Soon shall thy arm, unconquered steam, afar Drag the slow barge or drive the rapid car."

In the first quarter of 1800, while the office was in Philadelphia, Mr. Habersham selected for his Assistant Abraham Bradley, who continued in that capacity about thirty years, and exercised, in consequence of his eminent talents and devotion to business, a very potent as well as beneficial influence on the arrangements of the establishment. His younger brother, Phineas, a name nearly as eminent, was associated with him nearly all this period.

Gideon Granger, of Connecticut, took the Postmaster-Generalship in 1802. He possessed a magnificent person and commanding talents, and continued in office over twelve years. About this time, as has been stated, the establishment was transferred to Washington. It was at first located at the corner of E and Ninth streets, in a building now used for a female seminary, whence it was subsequently taken to some of the rooms in the old War Department, west of the President's mansion, and in 1812 to a

building located on its present site, and originally built for a hotel.

A further revision of the postal law was made by Congress in 1810, when a Second Assistant Postmaster-General was authorized, and a new set of routes substituted for those previously established. A clause inhibiting the employment of any but free white persons in the conveyance of the mails, was, at Mr. Granger's instance, inserted. Previous to this period blacks had served as mail-riders without let. This inhibition has remained in the postal law till the present. Mr. Granger's argument was that the evidence of blacks in some of the States was not admitted against the whites; that only the likeliest of them were employed as mail-riders; that they would, by mingling with the white agents of the office, acquire information enabling them to form, and carry out, a connected scheme dangerous to their white neighbors; and that, whether such a catastrophe happened or not, it was but prudent for Congress to look out for and guard against it, so far as this proposed amendment might effect so desirable a result.

The General Post-office was engaged in the latter part of Mr. G.'s term in an enterprise which will appear to people now-a-days rather queer, to wit, transporting the mails between Baltimore and Philadelphia in its own coaches, hauled by its own horses, and carrying passengers for profit. About \$11,000 was cleared to the Government by this line during three years of its operation. Mr. G. was interrogated by a committee of Congress as to the propriety of extending such operations northward to Portland, and southward to Louisville, Georgia. He reported favorably to extending, on the grounds that the mail-bags would be sent forward in coaches with augmented expedition, security and regularity, and the Government, having only its own interests to look after, would do the service better than contractors. It is admitted there is some force in his argument; yet, in view of the enormous patronage and perplexity that would thus devolve upon the Postmaster-General, it is clear that it was wise to abandon it.

The Act of 1810 introduced a clause making it the duty of postmasters to attend, at all reasonable hours, on all days of the week, for the delivery of letters, which hours Mr. G. had arranged to be one hour after the arrival and assorting of the mails, or when this interfered with the hours of public worship, one hour after church. The mails had been transported on the leading routes on all days of the week from the foundation of the Government; but, down to this period, postmasters who handed out letters on the Sabbath did so merely as an act of courtesy. The new regulation was followed by serious remonstrances from various parts of the country, which did not cease till 1831, when Congress concluded to give the petitioners leave to withdraw their papers.

The principal grounds taken by the remonstrants were that the transportation of the mails and delivery of letters and newspapers on the Sabbath were in violation of the day set apart by the Divine Being for cessation from worldly employment, as much so as the opening of the banks or stores would be, and justifiable on no principles but expediency and worldly advantage; and that the postal regulation in question infringed on the rights of conscience as well as indicated an opinion of the National Legislature that it was right to pursue secular callings on that day. To this it was replied, that the safety and due regulation of society demanded the employment of some of its agents, of which the post-office was an important one, on the Sabbath; that speculators and others would send forward expresses on that day (giving one part of the community advantages over the other) if the mails were stopped on Sunday; that the diffusion of information important to the promotion of the intellect and virtue of the country would be retarded in a degree corresponding with the delays of the mails; all which

made it an act of mercy as well as of necessity to send them forward; that the new postal regulation did not interfere with the rights of conscience, because all who entered upon the service of the post-office establishment did so voluntarily; that the according of the prayer of the petitioners would amount to a legislative decision of an ecclesiastical question; that all history proves such interference by the State with religious questions to be detrimental to the peace of society; that the powers of Congress were limited by the Constitution, and did not extend to questions of this class; and that the State authorities alone were competent to make the interference proposed. Two lucid and beautifully written reports, generally attributed to the pen of the Rev. O. B. Brown, a Baptist clergyman at Washington, handed to the House of Representatives by the chairman of its Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads, in 1829 and 1830, had an important influence in fixing the sentiment of the public and of Congress adverse to the proposed change in the postal regulations.

Return Jonathan Meigs, of Ohio, was commissioned Postmaster-General on the 7th of March, 1814, at which period the establishment had grown to considerable importance—having nearly 3000 postmasters and over 43,000 miles of post roads in opera-

tion, and a gross annual revenue of \$730,000.

At this period a part of the postmasters deposited their collections in banks in their vicinities; the residue transmitted their funds in bank notes to the department. This afforded an opportunity to Mr. Bradley, the Finance officer of the establishment, occasionally to accommodate, on their application, the commissaries of the Government, and members of Congress, with an exchange of bills and checks. The practice had, however, the unpleasant effect about this time of getting up a charge against him of speculating in the funds of the department. A Congressional investigation was had, which resulted in nothing prejudicial to the fair fame of that high-minded and accomplished officer.

In 1816, a postal Act was passed fixing the postage rates as they stood from that time till 1845, viz., 6 cents for single letters going less than 30 miles, 10 cents under 80, 12½ cents under 150, 18¾ under 400, and 25 cents for greater distances. Thanks to the National Legislature that these high rates, under which the country so long

groaned, are among the things that were.

(To be continued).

IS IT AN ERROR?

TRANSLATED FROM "" LE TIMBRE POSTE," BY K. T. C.

E have been notified that in the series of arms in relief of Peru, errata have been found by chance. A I peseta, green (the color of the I dinero of 1868), with Ayabala in blue in a pinched oval. Our correspondent attrib-

utes this stamp to an error in printing, and we have his opinion as follows:

"The stamp in question has the frame of the I peseta of 1858 and the arms of I dinero of 1868. To admit an error in printing, it is necessary that there has been, first, an error in engraving, and, second, an error of the printer, which seems to us not admittable. It would appear to us, rather, after having engraved the coat of arms of the I dinero, they had wished to have the I peseta the same style, but had afterwards given it up. The arms of this value has always appeared in white, but it is in order to judge without doubt from the design that they have engraved this in green, but the shading does not resemble the I dinero of that issue, and that it deserves the title of proof. But that the printer did not notice the error is not improbable, as these stamps are not engraved by copper-plate, where a mistake would be easily made, but by means of a machine (Leccoq) that only gives a stamp at a time; in fact, this machine grinds out stamps the same as the organ of Burbaire does music. M. De Tenair does not believe this to be a fraud, as he found it among a lot of old stamps; but we are not disposed to give a decision in this case, as every once in a while we come across similar cases that often turn out to be frauds."

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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No back numbers supplied.

A cross opposite this notice signifies that your subscription has expired. Please renew.

NOTICE TO PHILADELPHIA SUBSCRIBERS.

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 Philabelphia 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.

Philadelphia Subscribers can obtain their papers at our Branch Agency, E. R. Durborow 203 S. Tenth St., Philadelphia.

THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST has just passed through a most successful year. Its finances are in an extra healthy condition, from the fact, that it has earned over \$250. This showing is due to our large circulation, never less than 2500 per month. Advertisers know, when using our columns, that they are getting an equivalent for their money invested. If they did not think so, how many would use our columns? Therefore, in looking after the interests of our advertisers, we are advancing our own prosperity.

Our subscription list has advanced, during the last four months over 375 new subscribers.

FIVE THOUSAND COPIES OF the March number of The QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST will be issued. Take advantage of this.

For the last three years our March number has been a specially large edition. This March will be no exception—5000 copies.

To DEALERS who advertise: Our March number will go to 5000 stamp buyers. Won't it pay you to show your card to them?

WE have over 12,000 names of *live* collectors on our "sample copy" list. Nearly 5000 of them will receive our March number. Here is richness for the enterprising dealer.

Andrew Hamilton was Postmaster in 1696, and was the first Postmaster of Philadelphia by authority. Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster for many years and instituted many reforms and improvements.

PERSONALS.

Mr. Hubbard, in the January Stamp World, tells how he got "on the fence" regarding the Hill-Chalmers question, by saying that, as he was only sent one set of Jubilee stamps, they brought him from the Hill side to the top of the fence, and if two sets had been sent, he would have been forced, out of gratitude, on to the Chalmers side. We opine that Mr. Hubbard, while being on the fence, has both feet on the Hill side, in case of a fall to come right side up.

MR. MEKEEL told us last month, when in Philadelphia, to look out for the January number of the *Philatelic Journal of America*. Great credit is due our Western friend for his enterprise and push.

MR. H. McAllister has unearthed another new variety of Blood's locals. He lacks two varieties to have a complete collection of these very interesting and rare locals.

MR. CHARLES E. HUTCHINSON has given the revenue collector much valuable information in his articles on "The History of the Issue of United States Revenues," just completed in the *American Philatelist*.

MR. JOHN R. HOOPER, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Canadian Philatelic Association, well known to most of our readers under the name of *Canadensis*, is one of our best philatelic writers. Mr. Hooper's articles are of great philatelic interest and information.

MR. P. M. Wolsieffer has written us, that he is preparing a bomb for our gratification, caused by our remarks in the January number of this journal. If the bomb blows us up our readers will know the perpetrator, and take measures accordingly.

MR. JOHN S. BIXBY, from all accounts, was on a "raquet" celebrating the New Year. Mr. Bixby is always leading in all advertising ideas, and deserves the patronage of all collectors.

MR. MILLARD F. WALTON'S countenance beams on us from the P. J. of A. Take off your hat, Millard.

REV. HENRY S. HARTE'S forthcoming work on Canadian stamps should be a success—the critics are fault-finding already.

EXCHANGES.

The Philatelic Journal of America for January has given the philatelic world a treat; the only objection is that we will not have it every month. It contains seventy-six pages of readable reading matter, a full page illustration of Major Evans' genial countenance, and a review of the American Stamp Trade, with the counterfeit presentments of our more prominent dealers. Philadelphia is represented by Messrs. Hanes, Walton and Beamish. Altogether it is the most progressive stamp journal we have seen.

THE Collectors' Ledger gives a photo of Harrison L. Hart, Treasurer of the Canadian Philatelic Association, and of M. D. Batchelder, one of our progressive dealers.

THE Philatelic Press is the pink (color) of perfection.

THE Flour City Philatelist, a new candidate, presents a favorable impression as a comic philatelic journal.

THE Philatelic Gazette sends out a new year greeting, on January 1, and each month a philatelic greeting in the shape of their journal full of good things.

AN EARLY ENGLISH POST.

BY WILLIAM A. WARNER.

"There comes a voice that wakes my soul, It is the voice of years that are gone, They roll before me with their deeds."

-Ossian.

HE institutions of learning situated at Cambridge, England, have for many centuries been the centre of education for Great Britain, and attract students from all parts of the country.

The attendance upon lectures making a residence in Cambridge a necessity, it was essential that a rapid post to the metropolis should be maintained as from London communications could be forwarded in all directions.

This want was met by the coach and express of Thomas Hobson.

In 1570, Hobson, then twenty-six years of age, began his carrier business between Cambridge and London and continued regularly for sixty years.

At this late date but two things remained to tell the story of this, the most inter-

esting of English posts.

The works of Milton long will tell its history, and when other carriers have been long forgotten and their works are buried in the depths of by-gone ages, then lovers of English literature will read of "Hobson."

The second memento is an imprint on the old college records, and this imprint is what may be termed a forerunner of the present postage stamp, and the inscription reads

thus:

"Cambridge and London." Six-pence. "Th -- s. --- Hobson."

The plague that broke out all over England in 1630, put an end to Hobson's post,

as the quarantine regulations would not allow him to run.

Hobson died in January, 1631, and it seems that no one had the ambition to continue the business that had made Hobson one of the solid men of Cambridge.

Milton has two poems to his memory, and in one says:

"But had his doings lasted as they were, He had been an immortal carrier. Obedient to the moon he spent his date In course reciprocal, and had his fate Link'd to the mutual flowing of the seas, * Yet strange to think his wain was his increase, His letters are deliver'd all and gone, Only remains this superscription." -London Letters to an American Collector.

MAURITIUS, 2G. ON 13G.

TRANSLATED FROM "LE TIMBRE POSTE," BY K. T. C.

NOME sharp words have passed between the journal *Le Mieuxunsergue* and some collectors in Mauritius. The former say that they have no right to declare counterfeit certain 13c. surcharged 2c., but we have just received the following from

The postmaster, seeing that some of the letters from one of the districts were stamped with a 13c. and 13c. surcharged 2c., declared the surcharges counterfeit and confiscated the letters, and threatened to persecute any one who used them, and, to put an end to the abuse, he has decided to call in all 13c. in the island, and have them burned.

This has all happened lately, and from the above our French brothers had a right to

denounce these counterfeit surcharges.

FOREIGN PHILAMELIC GOSSIP.

BY CANADENSIS.

THE new issue of Bulgaria—a beautiful set, ten stamps, in two colors—will be issued shortly. M. Karapiroff, of Sofia, says they are of the same values of the preceding issue.

The Societe Française de Trimbrologie have decided that the surcharge second on the reunion stamps is an error. The postal authorities in the colony state that the figures surcharging second were in one instance transposed, causing the error, which was not found out until after some were issued for use. The errors remaining on hand were destroyed.

The French and Holland societies are uniting for international exchange.

A new international society is being formed in France, with branches or agencies in every country.

Have the Spanish stamps been surcharged for the Caroline islands? A present issue, 25c. blue, has been found surcharged in red "Carolina."

A Parisian dealer offers a set of United States War at the modest sum of \$2.50, and

a Memphis 2c., blue, for 75c.

The latest "fad" in Europe is the reimpressions, claimed to be authentic, of the Sardinia envelopes of 1819 and 1821. A set of six cut square sell for 50c. The Sardinia stamps of 1853 and 1854 have also been reprinted from the *original* plates.

American collectors will shortly see the *fac-simile Geneve* and *Vand* stamps; they are called genuine reprints (!), and sell for a few cents each. They are manufactured and sold openly in Switzerland. If they are reimpressions, as claimed, they will no doubt be exceedingly dangerous to the younger collectors.

We will issue * *	*		*	*	*	* All of them
5,000 copies of the	*	Ctantinm	*	*	*	will be sent to
March Quaker City *	*	Startling!	*	*	(Collectors in the
Philatelist * * *	*		*	U	nit	ed States only.

Most papers send to all parts of the globe; these copies will only go to active Collectors in the UNITED STATES (the Collectors that BUY). Send in your advertisement at once.

5000 copies Quaker City Philatelist for March, 1889.

Chili, 3 var \$0 15 Sweden, 1872, 1♥ var 6 *Baden, Land Post, 3 var 5 *Bergedorf, 5 var 8 *Siam, 5 var 60 *U. S., War, 11 var 85 *Unused. 85

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Flour City Philatelist.

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In lots of over 500 of one kind 10 per cent discount.

These stamps are finely assorted from fifty to eighty varieties in each hundred, and in 500 lots there will be 150 to 250 varieties.

I do not issue a wholesale list and so dispose of surplus stock in this way.

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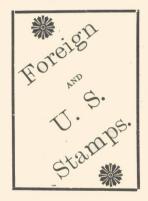
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