

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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

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HISTORY OF THE POSTAGE CURRENCY.

THE suspension of specie payment by the banks in December, 1861, caused a disappearance of the gold and silver coins from circulation with marvelous celerity.

The scarcity of these coins produced great inconvenience in business. It became almost impossible to make change in the ordinary purchases from dealers and merchants. Shinplasters began to make their appearance to supply the deficiency. In the rebellious States these were not only issued by individuals and private corporations, but by States, counties, cities, towns, and all other municipal corporations. A collection of these rebel shinplasters upon all kinds of paper, from white writing to brown wrapping, would now be an interesting memento of the war, but in a pecuniary sense absolutely worthless.

The credit of devising a lawful and adequate remedy for this inconvenience belongs to General Francis E. Spinner, Treasurer of the United States. He found it impossible to facilitate as he desired to do the payment of the soldiers and sailors, and to conduct the business of the Treasury with the small coins at his command. He therefore arranged with the Post-office Department to redeem in unused stamps such postage stamps as might be used for currency. In a short time his department manufactured and introduced a new issue. All the denominations were of uniform size. A piece of paper with one stamp pasted on it was five cents; one with two stamps, ten cents; five stamps, twenty-five cents; and ten stamps, fifty cents. In this way, at the cost of a little labor, a considerable amount of small change was manufactured. This currency became so popular that, instead of using stamps, plates were engraved for each denomination, in imitation of the manufactured notes, the impressions from which had the same legal qualities and were used for the same purposes. These impressions were called the "postage currency." They were afterwards authorized by the Act of July 17, 1862, which directed the Secretary to furnish to the Assistant Treasuries "the postage and other stamps of the United States to be exchanged by them on application for United States notes." These stamps were receivable in payment of all dues to the United States of less than five dollars, and could be exchanged for United States notes when presented in sums of not less than five dollars. The same act put an end to the further issue of shinplasters by making the issue or circulation by private persons or corporations of notes or tokens for less than one dollar punishable by fine and imprisonment.—*L. E. Chittenden, in Harper's Magazine.*

DUTCH INDIES.

A CORRESPONDENT kindly sends us the following translation of a circular which appears to have been sent over from Batavia. The *fac simile* attached to it shows that the so-called stamps in question are of the most primitive design possible—a plain, single-lined circle or oval, containing crossed swords(?), and numerals followed by the letters "St."—exceeding roughly executed, which is perhaps

in their favor. The long list of values, however, some in two colors, sounds a little too good to be true; but we will leave the document to speak for itself:

"At the beginning of this year were discovered amongst some old Government documents at Batavia some curious and hitherto—whether here or in Europe—unknown postally used envelopes, with value indicated, which are entitled to the keenest interest of all philatelists. In the time of Louis XIV it is believed that postage stamps existed, but nobody has been able to bring them to light, consequently we have in these hand-stamped envelopes of the Dutch East Indian Company absolutely the oldest documents of philatelic lore.

"The letter-sheets are all made from the same paper, and are all of the same size—namely, about 23×19 centimetres; whilst the side which is most interesting to us—the 'address' or 'stamp' side—is folded to a size of 103×88 mm. Up to the present the following values have been found:

" 3 stivers, black.	6 stivers, black <i>double</i> ; two
5 " " " stamps side by side.	
5 " red.	10 stivers, black.
6 " black.	10 " red.
	15 " "

"On the address side is no date stamp, and no indication of the office of departure; also the figures denoting the year are only discernible on the seal of each letter. On the specimens hitherto found are the dates from 1794 to 1809, but it is quite possible that other values may be unearthed. So far, of all the above values together, only about thirty specimens are known. Notwithstanding much trouble, nobody has been able to bring any more to light. I give you a *fac simile* of one of the specimens of 10 stivers, black, which I was fortunate enough to obtain. The date on the seal of the letter is 1809.

"These envelopes came from various places in the Dutch Indian Archipelago. Further and closer information about them will doubtless be elicited before long; moreover, I hear that possibly one or two specimens which a large collector has in duplicate may be offered at one of the auction sales in London.

"Indisputably these envelopes rank amongst extreme rarities, and the above-mentioned specimens will surely not be suffered to go for less than £40 each.

"Against guarantee, I should be willing, for purposes of philatelic study, to send my specimen over for inspection. I shall be pleased to give any further information."—*Philatelic Record*.

A. P. A. NOTES.

THE appeal of many prominent New York members, among them Messrs. Clotz, Adenau, Bogert, Wuesthoff, Davison, against abolishing *The American Philatelist*, received over 325 replies, thereby compelling the President to order a vote as to whether *The American Philatelist* shall be abolished. It will take a two-thirds vote to change the present Constitution. All members should vote to retain *The American Philatelist*. Perhaps before this number is issued the Trustees may have mailed the ballots. Be sure to mail your vote immediately upon receipt of blank ballots.

Mr. Corwin has boasted that he never undertook any scheme that he did not carry out. It now looks as though he has bitten of more than he can chew. Therefore, his record will be broken. We believe he will try to move heaven and earth to carry through his scheme to make *The Metropolitan Philatelist*—of which he is editor—the official journal. Will you help him?

It is rumored that Henry Calman will be offered the Superintendency of the Sales Department, in consideration of his having voted for *The Metropolitan Philatelist*.

Our Canadian members were well represented at the Convention in Messrs.

Ketchesson, Hart and Major Grenny. Messrs. Ketchesson and Hart paid a flying visit to Philadelphia, and took in all the sights.

The "Snow Drift" mentioned by Mr. Stone is apparently moving. *The Metropolitan Philatelist* is just beginning to feel it. Will its editor be lost under it? It is not too late yet to crawl out. Better follow Bob Acres' example and run.

SURCHARGED ENGLISH STAMPS.

THE following is a full list of all the English stamps which have been surcharged for official use, together with the dates of issue. As these have never—so far as I know—been correctly stated, they may, perhaps, prove useful to you. I have copies of all the stamps in the list.

GREAT BRITAIN.

"I.R. OFFICIAL."

{	½d., green . . .	(type 1880)	issued 17.10.1882	Wmk. 1880 Crown. Anchor. 1880 Crown. Orb.*
	1d., lilac . . .	(" Dec. '81)	" 14. 9.1882	
	6d., gray (pl. 18) .	(" 1881)	" 23.11.1882	
	½d., slate . . .	(" 1884)	" 9. 2.1885	
	2½d., lilac . . .	(" 1884)	" 30. 1.1885	
	1s., sea-green . .	(" 1884)	" 30. 1.1885	
	5s., carmine. . .	(" 1884)	" 30. 1.1885	
	10s., blue . . .	(" 1884)	" 30. 1.1885	
	£1, brown violet .	(" 1884)	" 30. 1.1885	
	½d., orange vermilion	(" 1887)	" 21. 1.1888	
{	1s., dull green . .	(" 1887)	" 15. 3.1889	
{	£1, brown violet	(" 1888)	" in 1889 (?)	Orb.*

"GOVT. PARCELS."

{	9d., sea-green . .	(type 1883)	issued 21. 7.1883	1880 Crown.
	1s., brown red . .	(" 1881)	" 20. 7.1883	
	. (plates 13&14)			
	1½d., lilac . . .	(" 1884)	" 17. 4.1886	
	6d., sea-green . .	(" 1884)	" 17. 4.1886	
	1½d., purple and green	(" 1887)	" 29.10.1887	
	6d., brown on rose	(" 1887)	" 19.12.1887	
	9d., purple and blue	(" 1887)	" 16. 7.1888	
	1s., dull green . .	(" 1887)	" 28. 2.1890	

*Unchronicled. I have a copy.

—Philatelic Record.

"A POSTAGE STAMP STORY.—A story of some interest to stamp collectors may be told apropos of the City Postal Jubilee celebration. A London broker, having dealings with Holland, is, according to the London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post*, accustomed to send parcels of bonds to Amsterdam at letter rate, and the postage frequently amounts to 17s. or 17s. 6d. But, by an arrangement with the receivers, he places upon the parcel a stamp for £1, the apparent loss being turned into a real gain by the fact that English stamps of that denomination are so rare in Holland that Dutch philatelists readily pay for them 9s. apiece."

The above has been going the rounds of the papers, and is another instance of the tales that get believed by the general public. As any dealer in Holland can purchase the used £1 stamps from London at about 3s. each, we do not think the Dutch philatelists are such fools as to pay 9s. Of course, if you substitute other figures, the tale is probably true, as it is well known that many firms receive back the stamps used on their letters to the Colonies.—*Stamp News*.

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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Two inches	\$1 35		
One half column	2 10		
One column	3 90		
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Copy of advertisements for the October number must be in by Oct. 6th.

Terms of Subscription : 15 CENTS PER YEAR. ABROAD 30 CTS.

Subscriptions must begin with current number.

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

THE August number of *The American Philatelist* appeared on the 15th of September or about one month late. It contains 56 pages and cover, 1200 copies, and cost the Association altogether fully \$180. The Convention number (October) last year contained 72 pages and cover, 2000 copies, and was issued ten days after the Convention adjourned. It cost the Association \$231.

The last (August) number, 1890, does not compare in any way in quality of material used, typographical effect, or presswork, with the October number, 1889, and a careful calculation of the price charged makes the last issue much more expensive, when the number of copies and number of pages are considered.

The TIME occupied in issuing it was ridiculously LONG, over a month being wasted.

We consider any other comment superfluous, as the members of the American Philatelic Association have now before them a SAMPLE of cheap (?) printing.

WE understand that the Literary Board of the American Philatelic Association have a crow to pick with some one who re-edited their copy and eliminated several things which they specially wished in *The American Philatelist*. Mr. J. W. Scott cannot crawl into his hole in regard to this.

WE have no doubt that all members of the American Philatelic Association will vote to continue *The American Philatelist*.

It can be well printed on good paper at as low a price as before, although the former printers decline in future to have anything to do with it.

EVEN Corwin has voted for the submission of the amendment. He won't vote for it, of course, as "Our worth" is too plainly evident to him.

WE are still in the land of the living after surviving much more than the usual existence of a stamp paper, and we are ready for business at the same place. We hope to have yours.

SO MR. SCOTT will not figure longer as Trustee, the new Board being all Chicago members. We are not personally acquainted, but understand that they are good men for the positions.

By the untruth of the *Figaro*, as you think, MacCalla had a snap on *The American Philatelist*. Do you really know what the snap was? Do you know that the printers were obliged to carry bills against the Association for from five to six months all the time? How would you like to lend the Association from \$500 to \$1000 ALL THE TIME? This is only part of the alleged "snap."

MR. WATSON, editor of the *Post-Card*, has the following regarding the American Philatelic Association Convention :

"Out of the 311 votes that were cast to change our Constitution so that Mr. Corwin could be our Vice-President, 171 of these votes were cast by Mr. Corwin himself. Just think of it? What do you think of it?

"We think that when it comes to a man voting himself into office it's about time for us to call a halt.

"Mr. Corwin tells us, 'I have got along six years without office and can get along two years longer.'

"Then why under the sun were you so anxious to have the Constitution changed so that you could take office this year? And, by the way, if you had waited for two years longer, what office did you expect the Association to elect you to? Could you not have waited for four years?

"Mr. Corwin starts off his accounts of the Convention by pitching into our Secretary, Mr. Walton. We presume the latter did not support the former. These attacks on Mr. Walton will remain on him about as long as water will on a duck's back.

"We feel proud in being a member of the 'Spartan band,' as Mr. Corwin has seen fit to call those who opposed him.

"There were two sides to every question raised at the American Philatelic Association Convention—the wrong side and Mr. Corwin's side."

JOTTINGS.

A WONDERFUL discovery, in the shape of a black Sydney view, was announced a few weeks ago, but on examination it turned out to be the blue two-penny oxydized.

PROBABLY the largest letter ever sent through any post-office was mailed recently in Australia, weighing 238 ounces, and the value of the postage stamps on it amounted to nearly \$53.

AMONG some stamps lately sent to London by a Sydney collector, was a magnificent two-penny "Sydney View," with "crevit" omitted, the feature of the stamp, a corner one, being its perfect color, and full original margin untouched in any way. A noted Brisbane collector is said to have a copy of this rare error in perfect unused condition.

THE reduced rates of postage to England from her colonies commences from the 1st of January next, viz.:—Letters 2½d. per half oz. and Post-cards 2d. each. This change will necessitate the issue of a stamp of a new value for each of the seven colonies, and probably those not already provided with a five-penny stamp will issue one of that

value also. It is sincerely to be hoped that the six months' interval before the change takes place will be taken advantage of to obtain or prepare new plates, and that no surcharged provisionals will be foisted upon the public.

THE FORMOSA POSTAGE STAMPS.—Philatelists, or stamp collectors, have lately taken considerable interest in what are called "Formosa stamps." The British Consul of Tamsui, in Formosa, in his last report says that many letters have been received at his Consulate from collectors anxious to be in possession of this rarity, and it will therefore be news of interest to a large class that the supply has come to an end, and that their value must necessarily increase as time goes on. The Formosa stamp in question has had a curious history. It is so far a genuine postage stamp that it was originally produced for postal uses, but as a matter of fact the intention was never carried out, so that it has been impossible to obtain specimens authenticated by a post-mark. From a philatelic standpoint it has never been more than an "essay," but it has come into practical use as a railway ticket on the Formosan Government line. The supply issued for this purpose is, however, now exhausted, and, though a quantity are still in stock in the Governor's hands, they are not likely to be issued, and the Formosa stamp is therefore now virtually unprocurable. After having served as railway tickets, these stamps were canceled by cutting off a corner, and have, it is said, since been destroyed. Had the Governor but known it they would have found a ready market in London, and had they been disposed of at a uniform price of 6d. each (they actually fetch 10s.) his Excellency might have recouped the whole expense of their original production by the sale of his used-up railway tickets.

A RARE ERROR.—In the official "History of the Post-office and of the Issue of Postage Stamps in New South Wales," published recently by the Government, we find the following remarks: "*Private Envelopes:* Many of these have been issued; but as their name is legion, and as they are printed on any envelopes that may be sent, it will be understood that any attempt to catalogue them, at the present time, would be useless. The only one that deserves mention is that printed in August, 1889. Messrs. Harrison, Jones and Devlin, desiring to send out a large number of circulars, forwarded to the general post-office 3000 envelopes, to have a two-penny stamp impressed on each. Through some blunder, the Government printer received the order from the postal authorities to impress *one-penny* stamps on them. This was done, and the envelopes were returned to the firm. Naturally they declined to take them, and returned them to the postal authorities. The question then arose, as to how they could change the one-penny stamp into a two-penny. After some consideration, it was decided to print another one-penny alongside the first. We have thus the great curiosity of an envelope with two impressed one-penny stamps side by side." Curiously the same mistake occurred early this month in the case of 1000 envelopes required by the Sydney agents for Robertson's whisky, and as the envelopes had an advertisement printed on the back in two colors it became necessary to treat them in the same way as the former lot of 3000. Strict instructions have been given by the postal authorities to prevent a repetition of the blunder in future, and therefore these error envelopes must become rare. Of the first 3000 not more than a hundred copies were secured by collectors, the others having been forwarded throughout the colony, and destroyed. Of the second lot of *one thousand* the majority were used without having been noticed by collectors.
—*Vinden Philatelic Monthly.*

CURIOSITIES OF THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.—A picture of the geographical proportions of the United States as it appears in the mind of an Italian peasant, a writer in a New York paper says, would be interesting. It would doubtless make the map of the Homeric world appear exact and complete in comparison, for in it the United States would be situated in the State of New York, and the entire country would be represented as about the size of Lombardy. Almost all letters from Italians, whatever may be their point of destination in the States, are directed to New York. They may

be correctly addressed to State, town, county, and lastly, to the United States of America, but "New York" always comes last, which to the writer evidently includes all within the shore-line of that island, far out in the Atlantic, to which his friends have wandered. The mistake of directing letters to North America, New York, without city or street, is quite common. Some amusing results arise from Italians learning a few words of English and placing them at the end of a letter. The unsuspecting friend thinks this is part of the address, copies it on the back of his answer, and the next letter sent to America has, in place of the city, county, and State, a tender message or piece of news, usually in very bad English. For example, here are some copies of Italian envelopes, the name being omitted: "Good Ry. Farewell. Verget me not. Nord Amerika." "Marg Christmas, Aest Mainstraat. I come enzee you again. 133 America." "News know I nothing it is better I stop. C. Witherheat, Nord Amerika." "Ei kom bok in main kontrie nechst sommer. N. Amerika." "Well nohn, please, Dear Brother Reght riedowae, I ligh to hoer from you in Amerika." "Karl Heigler Kind regards to Mother, Father, Brother, and Sisters. Amerika." This man had evidently left the old country with the police at his heels—"Gud bay fou evri Body dijis di never si yis nomor, bicas ajemfreid kom tudi olekontrie. Amerika." This was probably meant to read—"Good-by, every one, if I never see you any more, because I am afraid to come to the old country."

PHILATELIC DIRECTORY

A 2-Line Card under this head,
\$1.00 per year, in advance.

BALTO. STAMP CO., 506 E. Lombard St., Balto., Md., Agents wanted. 1*

BEAMISH, CHAS., JR., 1424 Marshall St., Philad'a., Pa. Agents wanted, 30 per cent com. 1

KEystone STAMP CO., 217 E. King St., Lancaster, Pa. Cheapest Stamps out. Ag'ts wanted, 33½ p.c. com. 8

MILLER, D. H., 1309 Pine St., Phila. Agents wanted at 50 per cent commission. 12

MULFORD, HARRY C., 313 Lincoln Ave., Salem, O. Approval sheets 33½ per cent. Rare stamp free. Send quick.

PADDOCK, B.C., JR., Box 2612, N. Y. C. Send for price-lists. Agents wanted. 1

P. NIESSEN, Rue d'Allemagne, 96B, Brussels, Belgium, Stamps. Exchange wanted. 8

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FOREIGN & UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTIONS.

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I will pay good prices for U. S. stamps on or off Envelope, Locals, Unperforated Revenues, Confederates on Envelopes, or anything good in the stamp line.

Collections bought and sold. Send for my buying prices of U. S. stamps.

Correspondence with dealers and collectors all over the world solicited.

I want agents to sell stamps from my sheets. Send good reference and 2c. stamp and receive by return mail an excellent sheet of stamps on approval at 33½ per cent discount. Book, for advanced collectors at 25 per cent discount. I have catalogued my stock of U. S. stamps of all kinds and will send a catalogue upon receipt of 6c. stamp to cover cost of printing and postage. You will find it to your interest to do so.

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200	varieties, very good value,	only 30c.
150	" " "	only 20c.
100	" " "	only 12c.

Postage on the above is extra.

People who know a good thing when they see it will not hesitate to send in orders for the above at once, as it is very likely that at these prices they will soon be exhausted, our stock being limited.

FREE.—Send for our new large 20-page retail price-list, containing prices on over 600 sets and packets, and also a complete list of all U. S. stamps sent post-free. New sixteen-page wholesale price-list sent to dealers only. Approval sheets to responsible parties only. Largest variety, low prices, highest discounts.

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