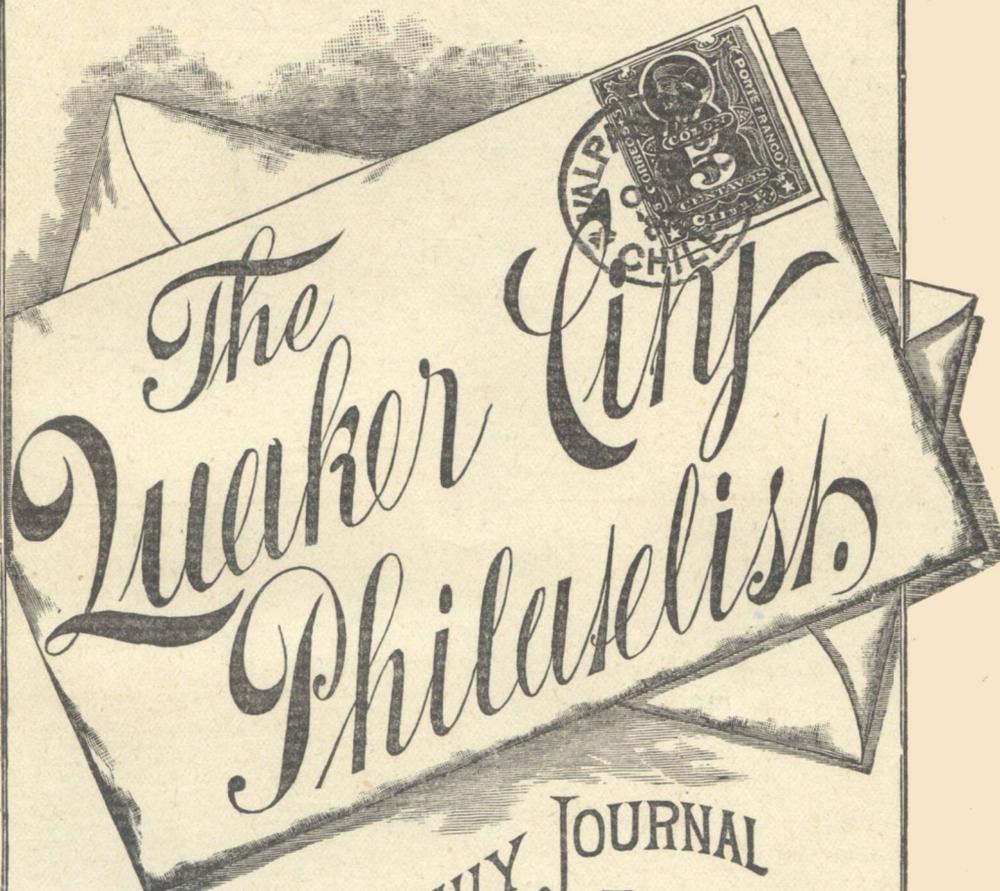


Vol. VI.

APRIL, 1891.

No. 64.



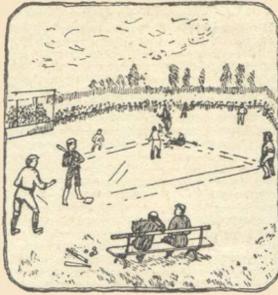
The
Quaker City
Philatelist

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR
STAMP COLLECTORS.



15 CENTS A YEAR.

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MEKEEL'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO. 1007-1009 and 1011 LOCUST STREET

VOL. 1, No. 3.

ST. LOUIS MO., JANUARY 21 1891

5 CENTS PER COPY
IN ADVANCE \$1.00 PER YEAR

THE WEEK

Our first number was prepared in the last part of the old year and the date 1890 was inserted in error. Singularly it was not noticed and remained the same in the second number.

A cash dividend of 10 per cent has been declared on the capital stock of the Philatelic Publishing Co.

The above company owns the *Philatelic Journal of America* and other copyrights that are handled by the publishers of this paper.

A difference in paper of the Colombian registration stamp has been noticed



recently. The stamp now comes on a thin white tough paper the first specimens were on thick yellowish white paper.

The Boston Stamp Co., 48 Congress street, Boston, Mass., and the Columbia Stamp Co., Watertown, Mass., are the latest to embark in the stamp traffic in New England. According to their announcements they are engaged principally in the approval sheet business.

NSE	NSE	NSE
25 c.	0.25	25

The above surcharges each appear on the following current French Colonial stamps, 20c, 75c and 1 franc making nine varieties in all, for use in the Nossi Be.

It is only fair to give collectors due notice of our intention in regard to the mailing of this paper.

All subscriptions must commence with the number for the Wednesday preceding receipt of the subscription, and all numbers over one week will be sold while they last, at 10 cents a copy.

The following is an extract from a circular letter announcing the sale of Pemberton, Wilson & Co.'s business.

"We have much pleasure in informing you that we have purchased the entire stock and good will of the old established and well-known stamp dealers business of Pemberton, Wilson & Co., which has been carried on for many years at Palmerston Road, Wood Green.

"Our purchase includes the remainder of the celebrated 'Caillebotte' collection, the well-known stock of stamps of Afghanistan, and the large number of rar-

ities which have been accumulated during eighteen years, together with the copyright of the *Philatelic Record* and other celebrated publications.

"All liabilities of Pemberton, Wilson & Co. will be paid by Mr. A. H. Wilson, and all orders will be executed by us. We have decided to continue the *Philatelic Record* and the *Stamp News*, as separate publications, entirely independent of each other, and each will be published on the same lines as hitherto.

[Signed] THEODORE BURT & Co.



PHILIPP VON FERRARY

The above portrait is of the great est stamp collector in the world, Mr. Ferrary, a resident of Paris, France, although a member of a noble Austrian family. Notwithstanding the very absurd statements that have appeared about himself and his collection, it is of great value and wonderful in size. Our illustration was made from the photograph in the *Philatelic Record*, for December, 1889, which observes as follows:

"According to their usual custom the publishers of the *Philatelic Record* present the subscribers with a frontispiece to the annual volume. This year they are permitted to give a portrait of Herr Philipp von Ferrary, whose name is known to most of our readers as a great collector, and the 'master of many legends' of stamps. Although the entire collections of two Presidents of the Philatelic Society of London have passed into his hands, it must not be supposed that he has merely formed his large collection by wholesale purchases. It is now some five-and-twenty years since we first remember seeing him undauntedly ransacking the shops of all the Paris dealers, even to the stamp bourse, in hopes of finding additions to his then growing collection, and this spirit of earnest search has continued ever since with unflinching perseverance. He has not been a great contributor to philatelic literature, though what he has written has been very much to the purpose; but he has been, and still is, an enthusiastic collector, and has spared neither pains nor money to make his collection as complete as possible."

CINCINNATI LETTER

I recently received the January issue of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, and I read with regret the suggestion of its editor to name the weekly paper 'The Scandalmonger of the Mississippi Valley.' This indicates that the "large guns" east of us, who are of the minority, propose to vent their spleen in more ways than one. I believe every contributor to your weekly paper will take pride in having it a success, and consider himself personally responsible for its character, and will strive to elevate our cause by the tone of the articles or "gossip" in its columns. I for one wish to see, and certainly expect to behold the "Weekly" grow in popularity, display its purity of purpose, and so strengthen the bonds of Philatelic union that it will overtop its fellows, and by example, force the editor of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* to realize the beauty of its policy and change the character of his own sheet.

Very little of interest can be noted this week about philately in Cincinnati. The holidays just passed were fraught with such interesting experiences of other nature, that stamps were relegated to the rear.

I wonder if any of your readers can give me the address of Mr. Frank P. Kellogg, formerly a prominent philatelist of Cincinnati, and for twenty-five years a student. The last I heard of him, he was with an engineering party in Oklahoma. He had his stamp fever then as violently as ever. I would like very much to re-new my correspondence with him.

Some five months ago I became acquainted with Mr. P. C. Browne, who is a son of the man who had the local penny post in Cincinnati, and who issued the now very scarce Browne, 1c and 2c locals.

He had in his possession a pair of the 2c stamps and was kind enough to present me with one of them. He stated they were all that were left to remind him of the profitable business his father once had acting as postmaster for the community at 1 cent and 2 cents a post. I have a 1 cent on the original envelope—a splendid specimen that I found among some old papers in his house—which he turned over to me for all there might be in them. This was the only "find" there was.

A. N. SPENCER

Samples of this number go to some collectors who did not receive a sample of numbers 1 and 2. To such of these as mention the fact and subscribe for one year, we will let their subscription commence from the start, and send them the first numbers.

We are obliged to crowd out several interesting notes and letters this week, and thank our correspondents for their kindness.

A new 1 centavo, Green-Colum Republic of Colombia was received in the last mail, we shall illustrate it next week, the design is similar to the last—Arms, etc.



The board of managers of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* on the 9th inst. sold the interest of the National Philatelic Society in that paper to J. W. Scott. Mr. Bogert opposed the deal, but he was over-ruled by the other members of the board. The consideration was purely nominal, being \$5, which one of the members of the board, R. F. Atchelt, volunteered to pay in event of Scott's declining to. The board excuses its action on the ground that it was done to promote harmony, but as its action was without the slightest authority it is by no means final.

The meeting at which the Staten Island Philatelic Society transferred its interest in the paper to Scott was attended by five members, three of whom voted to sell the paper, and only one of whom was a resident of Staten Island. Besides this the meeting was a special one, called to prevent a full vote turning out.

If the action of the board of managers of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* be endorsed by the National Philatelic Society, it will probably issue a paper of its own without the assistance of the other societies. In fact, the sooner it cuts loose from them the better.

A meeting of the New York members of the Dresden Society has been called for to meet on Friday, January 23, at the office of Hy. Gremmel, for the purpose of forming a New York section.

A new society is to be formed in New York for advanced collectors. Mr. C. B. Corwin is at the head of it. Only collectors admitted—no dealers need apply.

The board of managers of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* at the last meeting of the National Philatelic Society advised the society to "set out its share in Mr. J. W. Scott, who had made a bid of \$5 for its share above all debts. This offer was accepted, so that Mr. Scott now owns the whole paper.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan 16 1891.
C. H. Mekeel, Editor WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

DEAR SIR—I note the remarks made in your No. 2 on the Mexican revenues. I cannot agree with my friend DeJongue about the color of the Documentos stamp, 1883-84, of 10 pesos being ochre and black. The one in my collection is green and black, as given in your catalogue, and unless there were two varieties issued the colors are correct. The 25-cent of the same issue varies in shade from light yellow to deep red. Your catalogue gives only one color each for the centavo and peso issue of the Reata.

You can't afford to be without the *only* weekly Stamp Newspaper published. Single copy 5 cents, \$1.00 a year. Subscriptions received at same rate for 3 or 6 months.

C. H. MEKEEL, 1007-1011 Locust Street, St. Louis, Mo.

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AGENT FOR THE SALE OF THE

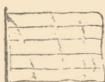
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SERIES OF 1890.

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The Quaker City Philatelist.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WESTERN PHILATELIC UNION, PENNSYLVANIA STAMP COLLECTORS' LEAGUE, AND SECTION PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONALER PHILATELISTEN VEREIN.

VOL. VI.

APRIL, 1891.

No. 4.

THE MULREADY ENVELOPE

AND ITS IMITATIONS, CARICATURES, etc.

THE great majority of Stamp Collectors, especially of those who commenced collecting some twenty or thirty years ago, when their appetites were more omniverous than at the present day, must be familiar with some of the curious imitations and caricatures, published in 1840 or a few years later, of Mulready's design for a stamp to be impressed on Postal Envelopes. Not a few of them contain allusions and portraits which admit of their inclusion in collections of Political Squibs, etc., and some were designed by artists who afterwards became famous; such as John Leech, H. K. Browne ("Phiz"), and Richard Doyle, thus giving them an intrinsic value as



works of art, apart from the subjects which they represent, or the original which they caricature. Thus—although in the following notes I propose to deal with these designs principally from the point of view of their connection with that of a postal envelope—I hope that I may also succeed in interesting some of those to whom the joys of Stamp Collecting are still unknown.

To collectors of postage stamps these curiosities are chiefly interesting on account of

the effect which they assisted to produce, which was no less than the withdrawal from issue of the first of all stamped envelopes; and in many old collections specimens may be found, which seem to have been included on the grounds that, if not actually stamps themselves, they were to some extent the progeny of one of the ancestors of all stamps.

But before proceeding to describe the imitations, I wish to give a short account of the original. Its design is so well known that I should not think it necessary to describe it in detail, but for the fact that I shall have occasion to allude to particular objects in it, in describing some of the caricatures. The main part of it occupies the upper portion of the space, enclosed by an oblong rectangular frame, 5.27 x 3.38 inches;* the central device is a figure of Britannia, standing (or seated upon a very high seat) on a pedestal of rock in the midst of the ocean; at her feet lies the British Lion, and against her left knee leans a shield, on which is depicted the Union Jack. The arms of the figure are stretched out in the act of despatching two winged messengers on each side, or, perhaps I should say, one winged messenger to each of the four points of the compass, in fact, to parody Macaulay,

She bids her messengers fly forth
East and West, and South and North.

It should be noted that the uppermost of the flying figures on the right (not of Britannia, but of the design) is drawn with only one leg!

Below these figures are a Laplander, in a sleigh drawn by a reindeer, on the right, and ships in full sail on the left, with a range of mountains in the distant background. To the right again is a group probably intended to represent William Penn negotiating with a party of Indians; further on are some women and children under a palm tree, and in front of them appears to be a planter, in a broad-brimmed hat, superintending the heading up of two casks. These are no doubt emblematic of the West. On the left we have Oriental groups; first, Chinese with very conspicuous pigtailed; then a pair of laden camels, and then two elephants apparently about to be laden, while a Turk or Persian in the foreground is seated writing a letter. Finally, at the sides of the rather limited space left for the address, are groups of larger figures, the one on the right showing a mother reading a letter of good news to her two children, and that on the left, a son (or daughter?) reading what is evidently bad news to a parent.

The whole is beautifully drawn, and although some parts of it are somewhat incongruous, it is eminently suitable as an emblematic design, showing the benefits of cheap postage introduced by Great Britain, and plainly destined to spread to all parts of the world. Unfortunately, this design, however beautiful as a work of art, was altogether unsuited to the prosaic purpose for which it was intended. At the present day, accustomed as we are to a small stamp affixed or impressed on one corner of an envelope, we wonder how so elaborate a device could ever have been adopted. It is unbusiness-like, and that, to "a nation of shopkeepers," was doubtless enough to condemn it. But it is indeed curiously open to ridicule; with the most serious intentions I have been unable to avoid indicating one or two anomalies, and to any one who studied it with a view to caricature, the task was only too easy.

The history of its adoption, however, shows that an artistic design was deliberately chosen, with a view to elevating the public taste, and I am afraid it must be acknowledged that it shared the usual fate of such well-meant endeavors. In studying this history I was surprised at finding certain contradictory accounts. In the book† compiled by Messrs. Philbrick and Westoby, page 162, it is distinctly stated that "among the designs sent in to the Lords of the Treasury, in reply to their invitation, was one

* This is the size of the frame as measured upon the engraved block, or upon the impressions taken direct from it. The casts from which the envelopes and covers were printed varied somewhat in size, no doubt from the material of which they were made shrinking in drying. Two impressions before me measure 5.17 x 3.29 inches and 5.07 x 3.29 inches respectively.

† "The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain," by Frederick A. Philbrick and Wm. A. S. Westoby, 1881.

for the face of a cover and envelope, consisting of a pencil sketch by the late William Mulready, R.A., which, after having been submitted to the Council of the Royal Academy, was ultimately selected by 'My Lords,' and the highest prize awarded to it." This account I should not have hesitated to adopt, as the work is the standard authority upon the subject, had I not found quite different stories related in other books. Some of them even hinted that the leading features of the design were inspired by divers exalted personages, and one account even stated that it was devised by Queen Victoria herself, and that Mulready only carried out what Her Majesty (with perhaps some assistance from Prince Albert) had suggested to him. This did not sound very probable, and in my difficulty between conflicting statements I applied to Mr. Pearson Hill (the son of Sir Rowland Hill), to ascertain if he could tell me whether there was any foundation for these legends, and also if he could put me on the track of the truth. This he very kindly did, not only pointing out to me where the history of the transaction with Mulready is related, but also allowing me to make some extracts on the subject of both the adoption and the abandonment of the design, from the journal kept by Sir Rowland Hill in 1839-40.

The history of these transactions is to be found in the memoirs of Sir Henry Cole, K. C. B.,* from which I have also copied some other extracts bearing upon the matter. The invitation, alluded to above as issued by the Lords of the Treasury, was contained in a Minute of the 23d August, 1839, and included the following paragraphs:

"In the course of the inquiries and discussions on the subject" (the introduction of a system of prepayment of postage) "various plans were suggested; viz., stamped covers, stamped paper, and stamps to be used separately, and to be applied to any letter, of whatever description, and written upon any paper.

"Before my Lords can decide upon the adoption of any course, either by stamp or otherwise, they feel it will be useful that artists, men of science, and the public in general, may have an opportunity of offering any suggestions or proposals as to the manner in which the stamp may best be brought into use. With this view, my Lords will be prepared to receive and consider any proposal which may be sent in to them on or before the 15th day of October, 1839.

"All persons desirous of communicating with my Lords on the subject, are requested to direct to the Lords of the Treasury, Whitehall, marked 'Post-office Stamp.'

"My Lords will be prepared to award a premium of £200 to such proposal as they may consider the most deserving of attention, and £100 to the next best proposal.

"My Lords will feel at liberty to adopt, for the public service, any of the suggestions which may be contained in any communications made to them, except, of course, where parties have any right secured by patent.

"The points which this Board consider of the greatest importance are—

"1. The convenience as regards the public use.

"2. The security from forgery.

"3. The facility of being checked and distinguished in the examination at the Post-office, which must of necessity be rapid.

"4. The expense of the production and circulation of the stamps."†

It may be noticed that this Minute did not call for designs for "stamped covers," etc., so much as for suggestions entirely different to those which had already been made, and for schemes for the production (mechanically) of suitable stamps of the different kinds proposed, and for their distribution. The suggestion of a design might, of course, be included in a scheme for its reproduction in the form of a stamp; but it does not appear to me to be directly asked for in the Treasury Minute.

In reply to this invitation some 2700 proposals were submitted, and amongst them one from Mr. (afterwards Sir Henry) Cole himself. In regard to all these plans, however, it is stated, that "Though valuable suggestions were offered by several, no

*"Fifty Years of Public Life of Sir Henry Cole, K. C. B.," 1884.

† *Ibid.*, p. 59.

one was deemed sufficient in itself. In the end there were selected from the whole number of competitors four whose suggestions appeared to evince most ingenuity. The reward that had been offered was divided amongst them in equal shares, each receiving £100;”* the premiums announced by the Treasury having been increased to a total of £400.

“The names of the successful competitors were as follows: Mr. Cheverton, Mr. C. Whiting, myself, and, I believe, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. Mr. Hill, on the 19th December, informed me of the Treasury Minute awarding me one of the prizes.”†

Mr. Cole had taken a very active part in promoting the adoption of Uniform Penny Postage. He was now appointed to assist Mr. Hill at the Treasury, in the elaboration of the details of the system. He describes some of his duties as follows:

“But my principal work, in fact, became the superintendence of the production of the three forms of stamps which it had been resolved to adopt; namely, an adhesive stamp to be attached to any letters; envelopes; and a stamp to be embossed upon paper of any kind sent to the Stamp Office. For the adhesive stamp Perkins’ process was employed. Mr. W. Wyon, R.A., was commissioned to produce a head of Her Majesty as a medallion, to be embossed on any paper, which is still in use. I was charged to obtain a design for the postage cover. I first consulted Sir Martin Archer Shee, the President of the Royal Academy, who suggested that I should communicate with Sir Richard Westmacott and Messrs. Cockerell, Howard, Eastlake and Hilton, all Royal Academicians. After making these inquiries, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Francis Baring, wished me to see Mr. Mulready. On the 13th December, 1839, I made my first visit to Mr. Mulready, and began an acquaintance which lasted till his death in 1863. He readily entered into the idea, and promised to make a trial. I called upon him on the Sunday following” (the 15th), “when I found that he had produced the highly poetic design which was afterwards adopted, and Mr. John Thompson was commissioned to engrave it upon brass—a most difficult and laborious work—which he did not complete till April, when the stamps produced from it were officially sanctioned. It will be observed that one of the flying angels is drawn without a second foot! Mulready, Mr. Thompson, and others, had been watching weekly the engraving of this design without discovering this defect, which the public instantly detected, and the omission was made the subject of a caricature, but corrected in the original drawing given to Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., which he greatly appreciated.”‡

I believe that Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. were not the recipients of one of the prizes mentioned previously, or indeed competitors at all; but the above extract shows plainly that Mulready was not one of them either, and also that the design, which he drew in a couple of days, was not derived from any external inspiration.

An entry in Sir Rowland Hill’s journal, under the date January 4, 1840, states that “Mr. Mulready’s design for the envelope” was “approved by Mr. Baring” on that day. I find further mention of it as follows:

“April 1st. Received from Thompson some proofs of the stamp for the cover, and sent some in to Mr. Baring.”

“April 2nd. Mr. Baring * * * is much pleased with the stamp for the covers.”

“April 3rd. Mr. B. has sent a proof impression of the cover stamp to the Queen, with a memorandum from Mulready and Thompson explanatory of the design.”

This finally disposes of the legend as to the Queen having had anything to do with devising it. It would be very interesting to know the contents of the *Memorandum* in question.

“April 6th. Met Thompson, Pressley and E. H.” (Mr. Edwin Hill, who had been appointed to supervise the manufacture of the stamps, etc.) “at Clowes’s, to

*“ Fifty Years of Public Life,” p. 62, a quotation from Rowland Hill.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Ibid.*, pp. 62, 63.

superintend the arrangement of the several parts of the covers and envelope stamps. Left Clowes's people taking stereotype casts under the direction of E. H."

"April 8th. Went to Clowes's; they are busy casting the stereotype plates."

"April 10th. Called at Clowes's. Went to the National Gallery with specimen of the covers. Much approved by the R.A.'s, who were met in Council."

"April 13th. Went to Thompson's, according to arrangement with E. H. yesterday, to take away the plates which Thompson had had at home to repair. Found that Clowes had, contrary to the arrangement made with him by E. H., taken away twenty-four plates last night. I took the remaining twelve, and arranged with Thompson to send two assistants to complete the work at Clowes's. Found them making ready their machines."

"April 14th. Went to Clowes's and Perkins's to satisfy myself as to the day on which it will be safe to fix the introduction of stamps. Beginning to print to-day at both places."

"April 29th. Wrote to Col. Maberly, calling his attention to the necessity of instructing the officers to strike the oblitative stamp on the Britannia of the covers, etc., in order to prevent its being covered by a label and used again. If the Britannia were always struck, it would be fair to assume that a label placed over the Britannia was put there to cover the oblitative stamp, and to charge accordingly."

The difficulty thus indicated was a strong argument against the use of a design, of which only a small portion would be covered by the obliteration.

"May 1st. Stamps issued to the public to-day (in London) for the first time. Great bustle at the Stamp Office."

"May 2nd. £2500 worth of stamps sold yesterday."

"May 6th. Stamps came into use to-day. Cole went to the P. O.; reports that about half the letters were stamped."

"May 12th. I fear we shall be obliged to substitute some other stamp for that designed by Mulready, which is abused and ridiculed on all sides. In departing so widely from the established 'Lion and Unicorn' nonsense, I fear that we have run counter to settled opinions and prejudices somewhat rashly; I now think it would have been wiser to have followed established custom in all the details of the measure where practicable. The conduct of the public, however, shows that although our attempt to diffuse a taste for fine art may have been imprudent, such diffusion is very much wanted. If the current should continue to run so strongly against us, it will be unwise to waste our strength in swimming against it; and I am already turning my attention to the substitution of another stamp, combining with it, as the public have shown their disregard and even distaste for beauty, some further economy in the production."

We see from the above that the actual date of issue to the public of both stamps and covers was May 1, not May 6, as usually stated, but that the latter was the date on which they were first used. The opening for ridicule afforded by the design on the covers was immediately seized upon, so much so, that within a week its withdrawal, in favor of something more commonplace, was recognized as necessary.

[To be continued.]

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

POSTAL CARDS WITH PAID REPLY.

THE introduction of postal-cards with paid reply, each half of the card bearing a 2-cent postage stamp, into our international postal service would, in my judgment, prove a great convenience. Under existing regulations the postage-stamps of one country are not valid for the prepayment of postage on articles mailed in another country. Consequently, articles mailed abroad bearing United States postage stamps are required to be treated as if no postage were prepaid on them. It is useless, therefore, for persons in this country to send United States postage stamps to their correspondents in foreign countries for the prepayment of return postage; and as

the transmission of coin by mail is, as a rule, prohibited, there is at present no convenient way by which provision can be made by persons in the United States for the prepayment of the return postage on their correspondence from abroad. But the regulations provide that the reply-half of a double postal-card issued by any country of the Postal Union shall, when mailed in any other country of the Postal Union addressed for delivery in the country which issued the card, be forwarded to its destination as a fully prepaid article; and hence, if the United States issued such cards, the present difficulty would to a certain degree be removed.

PARCELS POST.

If the heavy matter put in the mails by the various Departments were sent to the express offices, and if paper-covered books now carried in the mail under a ruling of the Department at 1 cent a pound were to be unloaded from the mail upon the express companies, where such work belongs, there would be abundant compensation to them at their rates in this transfer of business for what they would lose if the Government extended the limit of weight of mailable packages from 4 to 8 or 11 pounds. Nearly every country in Europe has established a parcels post and managed it successfully to the great satisfaction of the people. The conditions of commerce are much the same all over the world, and if there are no objections from business people in the old countries after years of experience with the parcels post, there would not be objections here after it was fairly tried. It can only be a question of time before it will be undertaken in some better form in this country. The system now in operation allows the express companies to bid under postal rates and get the short hauls, while the long and expensive hauls are left to the Department, whose rates are fixed irrespective of long or short distances. The data obtained by the recent weighing and count of mail matter will show the profit or loss of this particular part of the postal business. Losing the short hauls and doing a business limited to four pounds does not permit the most favorable test. While the Post-office buildings in most of the large cities are greatly crowded by the postal business, there is ample room for extension in three-fourths of the offices. The postal cars and express cars are coupled together on the same train, and the same set of men could take charge of both and use the space interchangeably and economically. I am in favor of a full parcels post, but think 1 cent postage on land and sea should take precedence over every large postal departure.

CURIOSITIES OF THE DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.

Pains were taken some months ago to ascertain why so much mail matter continually comes to the Dead-Letter Office. The evidences are convincing that the miscarriage and non-receipt of such letters and parcels as reach that office are due in the main to carelessness and omissions on the part of the public, and in very small measure only to any fault either in the system or in the work of the employees.

Of the more than six million and a half of pieces of mail matter received annually at that office, nearly five millions and a half contained nothing of value, and it is almost inconceivable, but none the less true, that about one-half of this number contained no signature which would enable the Department to return them to the writers. They consist in the main of letters from one member of a family to another, or letters passing between intimate friends; and the signature may be, for example, "Mother," "Jack," "Your affectionate sister," or some equally indefinite appellation.

About 5½ per cent. of the whole number, or, in round numbers, 319,000, of all letters opened contained valuable enclosures, either of money, negotiable paper, postage stamps, or miscellaneous papers and articles. The money enclosures alone amounted to over \$40,000, and those representing negotiable paper to over \$1,400,000. There were nearly 11,000 letters which contained lottery tickets, and nearly 200,000 contained pictures and papers of a character unfit for circulation. These were all destroyed.

Of the more than six and a half million pieces received about one-half a million were of foreign origin and were returned to the countries whence they came. One-fifth of a

million were restored unopened to the owners; a million and a half were restored to the respective owners after they had been opened, the information necessary to such restoration having been ascertained from the contents. Nearly 300,000 which contained enclosures were returned to the owners, and about three and three-quarters million pieces, on failure after every effort had been made to reach the owners, were destroyed. Parcels of merchandise unclaimed for two years are annually disposed of at auction. Last year there were offered nearly 39,000 such parcels, the proceeds amounting to \$2766.53.

If people who use the mails would only be careful to observe a few simple requirements, trifles in themselves, but in the aggregate of vast account, the force of the Dead-Letter Office could soon be reduced one-third. All writers of letters may not care to place their names and addresses upon the corner of the envelope, but if they would do so there could be few undelivered letters. Cultivation of the habit of scanning the address of a letter after it has been written would prevent nine-tenths of the mistakes due to deficient or erroneous addresses. It is purely a matter of business habit, and the remedy is the simplest. There is no law or regulation which can require an affectionate sister to place her full name and address in a letter to her absent brother, but if mothers and sisters and brothers would in some corner of the paper do this, there would be a million and a half more letters restored to their owners every year.

That the mails are not used solely for the transmission of intelligence is proved by the curious collection of articles deposited in the museum of the Dead-Letter Office. Ingots of gold, specimens of valuable ores, kid gloves from the wreck of the *Oregon*, imported colognes wrapped in dried herbs to conceal them from the customs officers, Indian pipes and tomahawks and a birch bark canoe, lava from the Modoc beds, cocoons of the silk worm, agate from Lake Superior, reading cards for the blind, birds' eggs, cakes, fruits, medicines, knives, pistols, rings and watches, live bees, serpents, horned frogs, and centipedes are a few of the articles representing the varied assortment rapidly accumulating here.

A POSTAL MUSEUM.

Steps were taken in March of the current year to establish in Washington a museum that should represent the progress of our postal system from its inception, and should illustrate the work of the United States postal service, as well as that of foreign countries. A general notice was given to all postmasters and postal employees to make search through their offices and to send to the Department whatever they might find that would be desirable for exhibit in such a museum. They were also requested to endeavor to interest their patrons in the subject and transmit to the Department all articles which might be donated for the purpose in view. At the same time a letter was sent to each of the leading postal administrations in the world, inviting attention to the work undertaken, bespeaking their interest, and suggesting contributions such as would convey to visitors some idea of the postal work of foreign nations. The responses have been very liberal. There is at present scarcely room or force adequate to arrange and classify properly for exhibition the contributions received, but the room will be supplied before long upon the completion of a new building rented by the Department for the Sixth Auditor. This will vacate some of the rooms in the main building. I have felt more than warranted in asking from Congress an appropriation of \$1000 for miscellaneous expenditures on account of this museum, and of \$1200 for a competent man to put in charge of it. The material on hand, together with that already accumulated in the museum of the Dead-Letter Office, will amply repay the expenditure in point of interest and utility.

PNEUMATIC TUBES.

Between fifty and sixty miles of pneumatic tubes are buried in the streets of Berlin, connecting the substations with the main post-office. Similar use of pneumatic tubes is made to a lesser degree in Paris and in London. The rapidity with which a letter

goes from one side to the other of a city as large as Berlin is a wonder even to an American. Two gentlemen, at different times, one of them an expert, at the request of the Department, visited the large postal centres of the world to study the pneumatic system. Their reports are not yet ready for publication; but it is hoped that the way may be clear to connect the Executive Departments and the Senate and House of Representatives with the Washington city post-office as the first experiment in this direction, and that the system may then be extended to the substations and post-offices of large cities. I should especially like to see a pneumatic system working perfectly in Chicago by the time the World's Fair is in progress, so that the postal exhibit there would really show this high development of the service.

CANADIAN POSTAL AFFAIRS.

BY J. R. HOOPER.

THERE are a few things connected with the Canada Post-office service which may be of interest to those who are not fully acquainted with such. For instance, how many philatelists know what the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp is issued for? Do you? Is it for some $7\frac{1}{2}$ c. or $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. rate to some country? No. Have you ever seen it alone on a cover without any other stamp, yet paying full and lawful rates? You are likely to say "no" in this case also. Well, the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp is not issued for any special combination with other stamps but for local purposes, as it will pay postage on a newspaper under 2 oz. in weight. There was formerly a $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. rate to foreign countries, but there is no such rate at present, and the $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp has been withdrawn.

The reasons for having a special stamp for registry purposes are: 1. Easily distinguishable among ordinary mail matter. 2. Facility in assorting. 3. The exact rate is bound to be put on. 4. A letter mailed after hours or dropped in a letter-box with request for a receipt will be attended to. The 8c. stamp was used to prepay the rate to the United Kingdom, and two 8c. stamps (16c. regular rate) were required for Australasia. The 2c. registry stamp was used for the Canadian fee and also in 1870-4 for making up a 10c. fee to the Sandwich Isles, South American countries and Mexico, when sent through the United States. The only stamp now in use is the 5c. green, the fee for registration to Postal Union countries, and 15c. to Australia.

The reasons of placing the words "Twelve Pence" on the *one shilling* stamp are explained fully by me in copious notes, together with proofs and documents, in *The Metropolitan Philatelist*, and I flatter myself that this philatelic problem has at last been settled. When the French-Canadians called 20 *sous* or cents a shilling and the English-Canadians called it a different way, the Post-office Department very wisely foresaw the danger, and had the stamps engraved "Twelve Pence," thus obviating the misconstruction that would be put on the words *one shilling*, which in sterling currency and French monetary system had a different value.

A United States postal card mailed in Canada will be treated as a dead letter and be sent to the Dead Letter Office. A United States card bearing a Canadian 1 cent stamp may be sent to its destination in Canada as a short-paid letter subject to the collection of 4 cents upon delivery.

Another use for the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp is in posting unaddressed circulars, hand-bills, etc., for letter-box distribution, and which are prepaid $\frac{1}{2}$ c. each.

There are only eight values of postage stamps now in use, viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ c., 1c., 2c., 3c., 5c., 6c., 10c. and 15c., registered stamp 5c., Canada post card 1c., reply cards 2c. and foreign cards 2c. One variety of wrapper or post band sold four for 5c., one variety of the 1c. envelope sold ten for 13c. There are two sizes of the 3c. envelope, one sold at 33c. per 10 and the other or larger size at 34c. per 10.

The general Post-office regulations state that the *corner of the envelope* as well as the gummed side of the stamp should be slightly wetted.

Never seal letters for the East or West Indies or other hot climates with wax. Such a practice is attended with much inconvenience, and frequently with serious

injury, in consequence of the melting of the wax and the adhesion of the letters to each other. In all such cases, use either wafers or gum, and advise your correspondents in those countries to do the same.

There is one very peculiar thing in connection with the Canada postage stamps that no doubt has puzzled a few of our philatelic students, and also has rattled some of our writers, who, apparently, when they touched on the subject, dropped it again instantaneously. It is the reason *why* the effigy of Her Majesty faces to the right, while on all other colonies both on stamps and coinage the head is faced to the left. This is a matter that has never been plainly elucidated and I will now proceed to give the true version of it.

Apparently the system of "facing," as it is called, was taken from the mint authorities in England, who, when the reigning monarch dies, the successor's head is placed in the opposite direction. For instance William IV's head on the coins faced to the right, and when the King died and Victoria became Queen her head was faced to the left, and when she is succeeded by the Prince of Wales, the latter's head will be faced to the right, and so on. Evidently the Stamp Office on issuing stamps for the first time adhered to this rule, for no one denies that rule there was, as is evidenced in the many hundred different engravings where Queen Victoria faces to the left. Even take the Natal and New Brunswick stamps, where the shoulders are three-quarters to the right, yet the face is turned and looks to the left.

Why was not the custom carried out on the Canada stamps? When the change from currency to the decimal system took place, the contract for making stamps was taken from Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson (afterwards the American Bank Note Co.) and given to the British-American Bank Note Co., who issued the first "cents" series of Canada stamps in 1868. No instructions regarding the facing of the Queen's head were given and the company knew none, consequently the matrix for the mother die was engraved from a coin, which was done by the engraver on the die exactly as it appeared to him. As a consequence, when the electrotypes were made from the original matrix the head appeared reversed or facing to the right. It was clearly an unintentional mistake, and one which it was not worth while correcting, being principally a matter of sentiment and custom.

It has been stated that the design of the 1868 issue for Canada was taken from the Nova Scotia 1860 issue by the British-American Bank Note Co. The American Bank Note Co. issued this Nova Scotia issue and they placed the head facing to the left, so if the 1868 issue was copied, it was reversed as explained above. It will be noticed that the 7½d. and 12d. of 1851-57 are in the same style as the Natal issues, shoulders to right, with face looking over to the left. The ½d., 1c. and 2c. are faced full to the left, and were supplied by Rawdon, Wright & Co., New York. The 12½c. is also similar to the 6d. sterling or 7½d. currency. Thus the die, once reversed, has been kept that way, although a new issue may bring a change. It will be noticed that the envelope stamps are all right, both the 1860 and 1877 issues facing to left, while the wrappers face to right. The Newfoundland issues, with effigy of Queen Victoria in widow's weeds, were copied from the Canada 1866 third issue bill stamps. The philatelist will probably notice that all the *male* effigies in the Canada stamps, as well as some of Newfoundland and the 17c. of New Brunswick, are faced to the right. All cases where the Queen's head has been faced to the right will be found to have been done by local or colonial authorities, who were probably not aware or did not care about the well-established rule observed by the stamp makers of Great Britain.

Canada became a member of the Universal Postal Union in 1878, the rates to which are 5c., except in a few cases, which are 10c. The rates on letters, etc., between the United States and Canada are governed by a special convention, made by these two countries. The registration fee to all Postal Union countries is 5 cents.

The deficient postage on short-paid letters from Postal Union countries is reckoned in the first place in *centimes*, not *cents*, French being the official language of the International Convention. Five centimes is the equivalent of one cent, and sometimes this circumstance misleads postmasters who make excessive charges on delivery. Deficient

postage is generally marked on a letter by a stamped letter **T** meaning *taxe* or "due" and written after it the figures 25, signifying 25 centimes, which equals 5 cents, the fee for an overweight letter.

A special 2c. card is issued by the Canada Post-office for foreign countries, but a 1c. card with a 1c. stamp attached will be permitted to pass.

Prepayment is not required on letters, in Her Majesty's service, posted in Canada, or addressed to Imperial State officers, civil or military. Also all official correspondence entitled to pass free in either the United States or Canada, is exchanged by both countries, and delivered at destination, free of postage.

Letters sent and received by private ship to or from Great Britain are chargeable 2 cents each.

A new stamp I have recently unearthed antedates all previously known. It consists of a circular stamp, black, typographed on white laid paper. It was used in Lower Canada in 1850, possibly earlier, on the line of the present Grand Trunk R. R. The inscription on it is as follows:—"Richmond and Quebec Railway Letter—Conductor No. 1—East." In the centre is a space for placing the amount on the stamp. Mail conductors were supplied with these stamps which were affixed with gum or wafers to way letters handed into the mail car, and thus we have the first known variety of stamp used in Canada, which was an adhesive stamp used for prepaying postage.

CHICAGO NOTES.

THE question is being asked, What has become of that incorporation committee? and it looks as if there would be no report before the next Convention. One of our New York friends writes as follows: "Don't trouble yourself about that matter of incorporation, as it is not likely to assume definite shape before the next Convention, which will no doubt be more fun than a circus. Incorporation means a new election, in fact it means a new deal all around, and there are some of the officers who know for a positive fact that they could not be re-elected. This being the case you can judge of the opposition that will be developed towards this important and necessary provision. The members, however, are wide awake this trip and when the proxy solicitor comes around, will want to know what they are going to do about it."

AUCTIONEER BRADT had a stamp sent him, to include in the May C. P. S. sale, which is of great historic value. It is the stamp or seal which was used during the time that Great Britain tried to enforce the Stamp Act on the colonies. Revenue stamp collectors will have a chance to bid on it.

ROBERT S. HATCHER made another of his flying trips to Chicago last week. We hope to have him as a permanent resident ere long.

I FIND that unconsciously and unintentionally I have stirred up the animals. The great editor goes out of his way to take me to task, for saying in the February issue of this journal, that "the majority of collectors prefer short articles and notes, to a long chronicle of new issues and heavy articles, written by an advanced philatelist," and further states, my *Chicago Notes* are *twaddle*. Thanks, kind sir, but please bear in mind, that all do not think as you do, which perhaps you have found out ere this. But pray when did you change your mind, sir, about *anonymous* writers? At this point it might be interesting to know your learned opinion about one, ARGUS, who hailed from New York (although he greatly desired it to appear that he was from Boston) and set the fashion for *nom-de-plumes* in philatelic journalism, even going so far as to write in a disrespectful manner about himself, and then contradicting the assertions made over his correct name. Those were halcyon days, were they not, but the evidence of letters written and manuscript preserved still remain to confront us. Though in my quiet way, I have received unlooked-for prominence, I shall continue with my *twaddle*, feeling assured that my modest and friendly *Chicago Notes* will be read with

less criticism by the fair-minded majority of collectors, than will the egotistical editorials and self-praising items of this disgruntled editor who cannot afford to overlook *Arcus* in his condemnation of anonymous writers. Had the note in question been written in connection with a favorable mention of the mighty editor's paper, it would have been perfectly satisfactory, but because it was *Mekeel's Weekly News* that received the favorable notice, I am made an example of. Better keep your peace, Mr. Editor, for Chicago will not be bulldozed, and again it is not scientific or English, you know, to notice anything unscientific. Also please notice that my remarks were addressed to *Stamp Collectors* and not Philatelists.

GEO. H. WATSON and wife made Chicago their home for a few days this month. Mr. Watson stated that he was simply on a pleasure trip and was not looking for scalps. He gave us some idea of his post-card collection and promised us a view of it when we attended the Convention this year.

ALL the boys that met G. C. F. Helm agreed that his portrait in the *MARCH QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST* was an excellent one. Don't forget, Mr. Editor, to give us a likeness of MacCalla and McAllister, otherwise known here as the two Macs.

THE W. P. U. seems to be catching on in this city. Nothing like competition to make things lively. Mr. Hosmer, its Secretary and Treasurer, is also the Vice-President of the C. P. S., and he is pushing it because he thinks it will make a good substitute for a Western National Association. It is not a competitor of any other society and stands on its merits. Mr. Wolsieffer, the President of the C. P. S., has sent in his application for membership and other members are going to join.

THE *Cream City Philatelist* was not granted second-class rates. Editor Taylor is at present making Chicago his headquarters and expects to issue his paper from Milwaukee, about the 25th of each month and mail it at regular rates, *i. e.*, one cent per copy.

AT the last meeting of the C. P. S., offers to publish proceedings and act as official journal were received from three well-known stamp papers. The members decided not to appoint any official journal at present. They have contracted for one page per month in *The American Philatelist*, and wish to await future developments, as there are several new projects under consideration.

WONDER if friend Mekeel is making his *Weekly Stamp News* pay? I hope he is, for we are getting so used to seeing it now every week that we would miss it very much if it was to be discontinued. However, it is promised us for a year sure and Mekeel's enterprise will do much to make it a success and keep it a permanent feature. At every meeting of the C. P. S. some member says, "Did you see *Mekeel's News* this week?" or refers to something contained therein. There are always several copies circulating around among the members.

A STOCK company is being talked of among the collectors to deal in stamps and publications of a philatelic nature. It is expected that the shares will be \$100 each and 100 shares issued. A limited number of shares will be sold to collectors outside of Chicago, and those wishing to embark in the enterprise can obtain full particulars by addressing Phil. H. Dilg, 1530 Diversey street, Chicago.

MR. JANSSEN's *grilled*, 1875 Taylor 5c. blue is receiving considerable attention. While it is doubted in some quarters, there are others who believe it to be genuine. We all know how hard it is to convince some people even with proof, and philatelic authorities don't like to admit they are wrong when they have rendered an opinion. A. R. Hughes, of Oakland, Cal., claims to have two of them that are undoubtedly genuine.

DISPERSION.

MARCH 28, 1891.

CHRONICLE.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

Belgium.—The 35c. is printed in yellow ochre, and has the inscription in French and Flemish.

Bolivia.—The new 100c. is said to be yellow. It will not then differ much from the 1868 issue.

Br. North Borneo.—The 25c. is surcharged "Two Cents," in two lines.

Br. South Africa Co.—Additional values, 2s. vermilion, 2s. 6d. violet, 5s. orange, 10s. green. Larger size, £1 blue, £2 rose, £5 sage green, £10 brown.

Ceylon.—We have the 10c. card with the surcharge THREE over the word TEN; also with surcharge THREE—CENTS in two lines and original value erased. The 3c. card is also surcharged 3 CENTS and value erased.

Congo Free State.—There is a 10fc. stamp, yellow ochre, according to *L. T. P.*

Ecuador.—Letter cards, 5c. blue on red; 10c. orange on blue; stamp of type of 1881.

Fiji Islands. The 1d. is printed in lilac and surcharged "Four Pence" in black, as well as the 2d. stamp.

Gold Coast.—The 2½d. is printed in blue with value in orange.

Greece.—Letter cards are expected.

Hyderabad.—The card is to be replaced by one with an inscription signifying "H. H. the Nizam's Government." In the meantime the omission has been supplied by surcharging a crescent and star with inscription. The 1 anna of first issue is in use as a fiscal, printed in vermilion for judicial and blue for other revenue purposes. Both have been seen with postal cancellation. Above from the *Monthly Journal*.

India.—The envelope, 4a. 6p. yellow has been surcharged around the oval "India Postage, two annas and six pies" in black.

Italy.—The 5c. has been surcharged 20c. in the same manner as the 30c. and 50c.

Jamaica.—We have a 2½d. lilac and blue, same type as the 1d. and 2d.

Martinique.—The stamps noted last month are "05" on the 10, 20, 30, 35 and 40c. and "15" on the 20, 25 and 75c.

Mauritius.—*L. T. P.* has just received registered envelopes, 8c. blue, of several sizes.

Mexico.—The same journal chronicles, 4c. and 6c. envelopes, both red.

Orange Free State.—There are at least three types of numeral on the 1d. on 4d.

Perak.—There is an official card, without stamp, black on yellowish white.

Straits Settlements.—Registry envelope, 5c. blue.

Switzerland.—There is a 3fc. stamp, yellow brown.

Tasmania.—There is a 1d. stamp, vermilion, impressed on envelopes and wrappers to order. It somewhat resembles the 2d. envelope stamp, but is surrounded by 24 dotted scallops.

Tunis.—The 15c. envelope is of dark blue paper instead of pale blue.

Wurtemberg.—The *I. B. J.* says, the 5pf. wrapper is now dark green on bluish, and the official wrapper dark green on salmon.

GENUINE STAMPS WITH FORGED CANCELLATIONS.

The Schleswig-Holstein stamps of the first issue, being much rarer used than unused, are now the object of special care by the counterfeiters, who (desirous of obtaining higher prices) are operating on the unused stamps and offering them with forged cancellations. Care has been taken to offer them on original envelopes, and but for a few errors in the dating and other details, many experts would have been taken in by them. Collectors should, therefore, be rather shy of these stamps, and purchase only after careful examination and comparison with genuinely canceled specimens.—*Stamp Collectors' Journal*.

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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EDITORIAL.

WE are rapidly forging to the front as the leading philatelic paper of the country and subscribers and advertisers are equally appreciating this fact. We are spending money on the paper, and our effort in making **THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST** a leading journal is becoming a well-established fact in the minds of stamp collectors. Subscriptions are coming in almost faster than we can record them. Why? Simply because we give a magazine which the editors are sparing no efforts to make in every way satisfactory. We shall probably, in the autumn, enlarge our paper. All we want is encouragement to do this, and plenty of it seems to be forthcoming. We do not intend that advertisers shall have a few copies circulated for their benefit one month and probably a larger edition next time; varying all the time, the editions will probably be larger as our subscription list has already justified us in increasing our circulation and we shall reach 5000 circulation per month by next September, if appearances point in the right direction. Advertisers say to us, "Please continue ad, I am making money from it; your paper seems to pay the best of any," and so on *ad infinitum*. It does not take long to convince a man who advertises in **THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST** that he is not wasting his money in making such an investment. Another thing we want to call your attention to is that this paper will be issued promptly and its regularity will be another of its strong features.

We are in correspondence with several well-known writers, and shall most probably secure the best philatelic writers of the country to contribute to our columns.

We shall also probably illustrate our "Chronicle," which is issued under the management of the genial R. R. Bogert, of New York city. Just think of all we are doing and only charging you the same old price, 15c. If it is too much, let us know and probably we can take up a collection with the assistance of our office cat, who has been asleep, but woke up when he found a "hustler" at the helm of **THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST**.

The Buckeye State Collector is to be resuscitated under the management of E. J. Smith and Ed. E. Coriell, of Portsmouth, O. We wish them all the success in the world.

—THE—

Western Philatelic Union.

—Organized April 15, 1889—

President, LIEUT. J. M. T. PARTELLO, Fort Davis, Tex.
 Vice-President, E. L. RAISH, Vermillion, South Dakota.
 Secretary and Treasurer, A. P. HOSMER, 44 Bellevue Place, Chicago, Ill.
 Exchange Superintendent, FRANK KÖENIG, 122 Kearny St., San Francisco, Cal.
 Purchasing Agent, G. FOLTE, 526 California St., San Francisco, Cal.
 Official Editor, MILLARD F. WALTON, Box 38, Philadelphia, Pa.

Any Philatelist desiring membership application blanks, can have them sent post-paid, by addressing the Secretary. All members are entitled to vote, irrespective of age.

The Exchange Department is for the use of members only. Blank Exchange Sheets can be had of the Superintendent at five cents each. A charge of five per cent. made on all sales.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

NEW MEMBERS.

- No. 58. George W. Frank, 217 Sansome St., San Francisco, Cal.
 No. 59. Fred. S. Kordt, 928½ Broadway, San Francisco, Cal.
 No. 60. T. R. Ferris, 86 North Clark St., Chicago, Ill.

APPLICATIONS.

- A. Robert Hughes, Box 330, Oakland, Cal. References, C. H. Holden, F. Koenig.
 P. M. Wolsieffer, Drawer 707, Chicago, Ill. References, A. P. Hosmer, "A. P. A."
 William R. Manierre, 6 Rush St., Chicago, Ill. References, A. P. Hosmer, S. C. Stevens.
 Robert L. Parsons, 5477 Cornell Ave., Chicago, Ill. References, A. P. Hosmer, B. S. Ross.
 Leroy D. Walker, Silver Creek, Neb. References, M. F. Walton, A. P. Hosmer.

AFTER a month's hard work I am enabled to report great progress, and five first-class members is the result. Applications for membership blanks still come in, and I think that the future prosperity of the W. P. U. is assured. I wish that more local branches might be organized by members in the larger cities. The remarkable success of the Chicago Branch since its organization in January only shows what may be accomplished by the united efforts of members living in the same locality. What is true of Chicago, may be equally true of other cities which contain many collectors, who only need a little urging to be brought under the banner of the latest and best of philatelic societies, the Western Philatelic Union. New York especially contains many enthusiastic collectors, who would be more than willing to join us, provided a competent person was found to push things to a successful issue. I earnestly hope that members will give this matter their serious consideration, and that the future will bring a movement in the right direction.

The election of officers is now being held and the result will be made known as soon as ballots are counted by the election committee.

The nominations as made meet with universal favor, and the fact that there is little or no opposition bespeaks much for the society.

MARCH 30, 1891.

A. P. HOSMER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF EXCHANGE.

Filled sheets to the value of \$345.86 have been received since my last report.

I will repeat what I mentioned in said report, that stamps are put entirely too carelessly on the sheets, as I have since then received several complaints from different members. The hinges used are good, but are not moistened sufficiently to make them hold on the sheets.

I also respectfully wish to call the attention of our members to the last article on the back of an Exchange Sheet, and I would like them to strictly adhere to that rule, as it is of extreme necessity to me in regulating the different circuits, as some members only desire to receive but one book a month, and others once in two months, and by keeping me notified as to the whereabouts of each book, I can thereby know the time it is received, and regulate my different circuits accordingly.

FRANK KÖNIG,

Exchange Superintendent, pro tem.

CHICAGO BRANCH, No. 1.

The first *regular* meeting of the local branch will be held on April 14, in the palatial apartments of the Auditorium Hotel, and the prospects are that the meeting will be very lively. *Local officers will be elected and a course of action decided on for the future.*

A cordial invitation is extended to all STAMP COLLECTORS.

Mr. S. C. Stevens, the well-known stamp dealer, has been afflicted with that disease common to all, "the gripe." All danger, however, has been overcome, and friend S. is still doing business at the same old stand.

Another "Taylor grill" has turned up. B. S. Ross is the fortunate possessor, having obtained same on an old family letter.

The local branch added three well-known collectors to its list of members last month. We shall not stop till we have all the first-class collectors in the city with us.

The local branch holds its first auction sale on Tuesday, May 5, 1891. A glance at our list on another page will give an idea what we are going to offer for sale on that memorable night. The sale teems with rarities from beginning to end, and we confidently assert that it will be the greatest sale ever held west of New York. To enumerate all the rarities would be to cite the entire sale, but we call especial attention to the superb lot of United States offered, the Guadalajara local, Mexico Gothic surcharge unperforated, New Zealand used postally, Canada envelope 1860 unused, and entire Philippine Islands, and last of all the Baton Rouge local used on the entire envelope, Scott, No. 295. This stamp is extremely rare, and is the gem of the sale, a star of the first magnitude, in a constellation of philatelic rarities. A close inspection of the United States offered is desired. This will doubtless be the last opportunity to procure these fine stamps previous to the next advance which is sure to come. In conclusion, I would ask every W. P. U. member as well as all others to send in as many bids as possible, to make this our first sale, the grand success it deserves.

MARCH 30, 1891.

A. P. HOSMER, *Local Manager.*

G. C. F. HELM, JR., has shown us the 2c., 1889, U. S. envelope, with the E of "postage" misprinted F, the lower part of the E being entirely dropped, forming a perfect letter F.

WE call special attention to the auction sale of the Western Philatelic Union advertised in this month's issue. It contains some very good lots of stamps and bids ought to come in pretty lively for such a class of stamps.

—THE—

Penna. Stamp Collectors' League.

—Organized October 18, 1883—

President, R. S. ELLIOT, Germantown, Philadelphia, Penna.
 Vice-President, MILLARD F. WALTON, Lock Box 38, Philadelphia, Penna.
 Secretary, H. B. WILBER, White Gravel, McKean Co., Penna.
 Treasurer, W. J. DAY, 78 W. Spring St., Titusville, Penna.
 Exchange Superintendent, A. R. FREY, 499 Vernon Ave., Long Island City, N. Y.
 Librarian,
 Literature Exchange Superintendent,
 Board of Trustees: { L. K. SHELLINBERGER, Germantown.
 { R. W. MCCLUNE, 57 Summer St., Bradford, Pa.
 { R. M. MILLER, New Chester, Penna.

Official Correspondence and Reports.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Following is the

LIST OF APPLICATIONS NO. 9.

Doeblin, E., Allegheny City, Pa. References, A. P. A., H. B. Wilber.
 Spencer, R. M., Nordhoff, Cal. References, A. P. A., C. P. A.
 Clarence S. Mackie, 619 Spruce street, Philadelphia, Pa. References, Millard F.
 Walton, W. A. MacCalla.

CHANGE IN ADDRESS.

Johnston, T. R., Saltsburgh, Pa.

In regard to the cases of Messrs. O'Keefe and Sidley, I am glad to learn that Mr. Sidley has settled his account with the Exchange Department, and I have the contents of the Library in my possession awaiting the appointment of a new Librarian.

The following mistakes occurred in the list of members published in the February number:

E. O. Sidley should have been E. A. Sidley.
 Edw. W. Hevringer should have been Edw. W. Heusinger.
 H. R. Frey should have been A. R. Frey.

P. F. O'Keefe's name has been dropped from the rolls by order of the Official Board.

MARCH 10, 1891.

H. B. WILBER, *Secretary.*

LIST OF ENGLISH COLLEGE STAMPS.

St. John's College.—College crest being Evangelist's Eagle, three-quarters length, springing from a crown, printed in scarlet on unwatermarked paper; perf. 12; value $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Queen's College.—College crest being a boar's head within a garter, inscribed "Queen's College" at the top, and "Cambridge" at the bottom. Printed in green and white on unwatermarked paper; perf. 12; value $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Selwyn College.—Arms of Bishop Selwyn, with "Selwyn College, Cambridge" on a scroll at the bottom. Printed in black on pink on unwatermarked paper; imp.; value $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

These stamps were used to frank letters delivered by College messengers to members of the different Colleges, but in 1885 the Post-office authorities interfered and prohibited both the system of messengers and the use of stamps.—*Stamp Collectors' Journal.*

EXPERT POST-OFFICE OFFICIALS.

BY CANADENSIS.

IN Great Britain and some of her colonies, to secure safety for registered letters, a better class of envelopes was required. This brought out the present linen-lined envelope. But it is now found out that their very strength is their weakness, because if you put a paper-knife in the folds of the envelope, or under the flap, it will lift it up without tearing, and may be closed again without showing traces of being tampered with. This can be done where linen comes to linen, or where linen comes to paper, but where paper comes to paper you cannot separate the parts without leaving traces behind. Post-office servants everywhere acquire marvelous expertness by the touch in determining whether a letter contains bank notes or stamps. Besides being registered in an ordinary envelope it should be sealed. It is possible for expert post-office clerks to detect the presence of stamps by the sense of smell. A lot of twenty letters were made up and five containing stamps were picked out by a post-office clerk by the sense of smell alone. One letter he was baffled on, because it was perfumed with eau-de-cologne.

FORGERIES.

STILL another forgery to chronicle, which is also of home (British) manufacture, viz., the Victoria one shilling, blue, of 1854, imperforate. The design is well executed, so I trust your readers will exercise caution in buying specimens of this stamp:—*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*.

A GREAT deal has been said about "reprints" of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, pence issues, for several months past. We have made a very careful investigation of the matter and find there is no truth in the statement, and collectors can take our word that no reprints of these stamps have been made. We also think we have solved the mystery. About fifteen months ago we were offered a collection of B. N. A. stamps by an unknown collector, and on examining same found a number of clever forgeries of N. S. and N. B. stamps; on making further inquiries we learned that the collection had been made about ten years previous, and so the owner could not tell where he purchased them; they were well engraved but the colors and paper were not correct.—*Dominion Philatelist*.

RAILWAY STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Specialists in the stamps of Great Britain will no doubt be pleased to add 87 or more new specimens to their collections, which have been, or may be, issued by the various Railway Companies, for the use of the public, in connection with the arrangement made by the Post-office Department with the Railway Companies, for the conveyance of single post letters by railway. It is a matter of opinion as to whether these labels are collectible as postage stamps, for they are not issued by the Post-office Department, nor do the letters franked by them pass through the Post-office. They are, in fact, labels used by permission of the Department, under certain conditions, and are evidence of a permitted infringement of the Department's letter-carrying monopoly, and are of no more philatelic value than the various Railway Parcels stamps that have been in use for some years.—*Stamp Collectors' Journal*.

EARLY in 1866 a Mr. Brydone started a Circular Delivery Company in Edinburgh and Leith, and emboldened by the success attained there, extended its operations to London and the principal English towns. The Company undertook the delivery of printed circulars within the different towns where they were represented, and issued stamps of the value of $\frac{1}{4}$ d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $\frac{3}{4}$ d. and 1d., for the prepayment of the charge for delivery of the circulars. There was no book-post in those days, and this cheap way of delivering circulars was largely taken advantage of, so much so that the Post-office instituted proceedings against the Company in London, in August, 1867, for infringement of their monopoly, with the result that the weaker rival had to go to the wall.

FIRST AUCTION SALE

Of the Western Philatelic Union, to be held TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1891, at the AUDITORIUM HOTEL, Chicago, Ill. Bids, to be by the piece, will be executed FREE OF CHARGE by A.P. Hosmer, 44 Bellevue Place, Chicago.

UNITED STATES.		FOREIGN.	
Lot.	No.	Lot.	No.
1. 1847, 5c., *10c.	2	58. Brazil, 1843, 30r., 60r.	2
2. 1851, 1c., 3c., 10c., 12c.	4	59. " " 60r.	1
3. " *5c., extra fine	1	60. " " 90r.	1
4. " 10c., on env.	1	61. " 1866, *10r., blk., perf.	1
5. 1856, 10c., 12c., 24c.	3	62. " " *10r., blue, perf.	1
6. " 5c., extra fine with ornaments	1	63. " " 20r., blk., perf.	1
7. " 5c., red brown, a beauty	1	64. " " 30r., blk., perf.	1
8. " Another, better	1	65. " " *30r., blue, perf.	1
9. " *5c., without ornament	1	66. " " 60r., blk., perf.	1
10. " 5c., on env.	1	67. " " 90r., blk., perf.	1
11. " *30c.	1	68. " " 180r., blk., perf.	1
12. " *90c., beautiful	1	69. Brit. Honduras, 1888, *2c. on 6d., rose, small surch.	1
13. " 10c., on env., hand stpd. "U.S. six-pence"	1	70. " " 1888, *3c. on 3d., small surch.	1
14. 1861, 5c., brn., 10c.	2	71. " " 1888, *20c. on 6d., small surch., pair	2
15. " 5c., variety in shade	2	72. " " 1888, *2 on 1d., 10 on 4d., 20 on 6d., small surch.	3
16. " 5c., pair on env.	1	73. " " 1888, *50 on 1sh., large sur.	1
17. " 5c., block of three	1	74. Belgium, 1884, 1c., gray, <i>error</i>	1
18. " 5c., oddities, one with double perf. on side	2	75. Ceylon, good lot	7
19. " 5c., <i>yellow</i> , on env.	1	76. China, good lot, 1 unused, 2 Macao	7
20. " Another, on env.	1	77. Cape Good Hope, 1853, 1d.; Victoria, 1859, 6d.	2
21. 1862, 5c., choc., on part env.	1	78. Ceylon, *official, Scott No. 306	1
22. " Ditto on env.	1	79. China, 1885, 1c. (4), 3c. (3), all on env.	1
23. " Another	1	80. Cyprus, revenues, used postally, <i>scarce</i>	6
24. 1857, 3c., pair, outer line, double perf. on top and bottom	1	81. Columbia (Bolivar State), 1884, complete, one unused	6
25. 1868, 10c., grill on env.	1	82. " " " 1885, compl.	6
26. " 12c., grill on env.	1	83. Dutch Indies, 1864, 10c., perf. and unperf.	2
27. 1869, *1, 2, *3, 6, 10, 12c.	6	84. " " 1870-77	9
28. " 30c., slightly clipped	1	85. " " 1874, 10c., 15c., 20c., unpaid, 3	3
29. " *30c., without grill	1	86. " " 1882-8, incl. unpd. and env., 11	11
30. " 90c.	1	87. Hong Kong, 1862-77, fair lot	14
31. 1870, 7c., grill	1	88. " " 1862, 18c.	1
32. " 10c., grill	1	89. " " 1885, 20 on 30, 50 on 48, 1d. on 96	3
33. " 12c., grill	1	90. " " 1874, 2d., 3d. rev. used postally	2
34. " 15c., grill	1	91. Hungary, 1874-88 compl. except 3fl.	14
35. " 24c., grill, cor. slightly nicked	1	92. Hawaii, good lot	8
36. " 24c., grill, " " "	1	93. India, good lot, incl. service	26
37. " 90c., grill, fine	1	94. Japan, incl. 3 unused	16
38. 1872, *30c., black	1	95. Mexico, *½r., Gothic, Scott No. 42, fine and rare	1
39. 1890, 90c., orange	6	96. " " *½r., Gothic, Scott No. 42a, fine and rare	1
40. " Ditto	6	97. " " *8r., Gothic, Scott No. 47, fine and rare	1
41. *Agriculture, complete	9	98. " " Guadalajara, un real, <i>green wove paper</i> , uncat. variety, rare	1
42. *Interior, complete	10	99. " " "En Los Reyes," uncat. local on env., rare	1
43. *Post-office, complete	10	100. " " 1872, *50c., blue, <i>error</i> , Scott No. 75	1
44. *State, 1 to 90c.	11	101. N. S. Wales, 1856, 1d., 2d. and 3d., fine.	3
45. *War, complete	11	102. N. S. Wales and N. Zealand, good lot	14
46. *War, 1 to 90c., justice, 3c. proofs	12	103. New Zealand, 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 6s., 10s., £1, rev., used postally	6
47. *Agriculture, 12c.	1	104. " " 2s., 2s. 6d., 3s., 4s., 5s., rev., used postally	5
48. *Agriculture, 24c.	1	105. " " 6s., 7s., 8s., 9s., 10s., rev., used postally	5
ENTIRE ENVELOPES.			
49. 1861, *10c. green, white and buff p.	2		
50. 1864, *6c., purple, buff p.	1		
51. " *6c., pink, buff p.	1		
52. 1874, *6c., pink, white p., Wells-Fargo frank	1		
53. 1883, *2c., red, fawn p., the error, round "O"	1		
54. Boyd local, 2c., on env.	1		
CONFEDERATE STATES.			
55. 1862, 5c., blue, lith., on env., pair	1		
56. <i>Baton Rouge</i> , 5c., on original env., Scott No. 295, beautiful and rare.	1		
57. New Orleans, 5c., brn., on blue paper	1		

FIRST AUCTION SALE—Continued.

Lot.	No.
106. New Zealand, £1. rev., used postally . . .	1
107. " £2. rev., " . . .	1
108. " £3. rev., " . . .	1
109. " £5. rev., " . . .	1
110. " £10. rev., " . . .	1
111. North Borneo, 8c. on 2c., brown, Scott No. 694, rare	1
112. Persia, incl. 5 and rofr., good lot	7
113. Philippine, 1872, *12c.; 1874, 12c., 62c.; 1864, 6 2-8c.	4
114. " 1875-8, 2c., 12c., 25c., 125m., 25m	5
115. " Good lot, incl. 1890, 7 unused, 18 Surcharged, Scott No. 134, 137, 139, *162	4
117. " Surcharged, Scott No. 256, scarce	1
118. " Ditto, *139, 165, 206	3
119. " Ditto, 138, scarce	1
120. " *1859, block of four, 5c., showing the four varieties, Scott 2098, fine	1
121. Siam, good lot	11
122. Shanghai, 1884-88, 20c., 20c., 60c	3
123. " " 20c. (4), 60c. (2), 100c., yellow, all on env.	1
124. St. Settlements, incl. 10c. on 6c	5
125. Victoria, fair lot	20

ENTIRE FOREIGN ENVELOPES.	
Lot.	No.
126. Canada, *1860, 5c., 10c., fine	2
127. Great Britain, *compound env., 13d., 14d., 15d., 16d. and 18d.	5
128. Germany, 1g. over 1gr., Prussian, 1863	1
129. *German-Prussian, 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, fine and rare, 5	
130. *Hamburg, 1866, 1/2, 1 1/2, 2, 3, 4, 7, originals and wmkd.	6
131. India, 1879, *9 P.; 1881, 4a., 6d	2
132. Meck. Schwerin, 5s., blue, Scott No. 12	1
133. " " 1 1/2s., green, Scott No. 14, and two 1/4 Scott 1 on the env.	1
134. " " 1 1/2, green, Scott 14, error in inscription, and two 1/4s. on the env., Scott 5, 1	
135. " " *3s., Scott No. 15, error in inscription	1
136. *Mexico, 1874-9, 4c., 10c. and 25c.	3
137. * " " 10c., 25c	2
138. * " " 10c., 25c., shades wmkd.	3
139. * " 1874-82, 5c. brown, 5c. chocolate, 10c. green	3
140. * " Habilitado, 10c., 25c	2
141. * " " 25	1
142. * " 1883, 10c. (5x5)	1
143. * " " 25c. (10x10x5)	1
144. *Sweden, 4, 5, 12 ore	3

*Unused; perf., perforated; unperf., unperforated; rev., revenue; env., envelope.

B. S. ROSS, Auctioneer.

F. G. A. RICE, 1122 Putnam avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements for this paper, and any matter, communicated to him in regard to THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST will be cheerfully and properly attended to.

ACCORDING to the strict letter of "The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1881," the only fiscal stamps which can be allowed to do duty as postage stamps are "Penny adhesive stamps not appropriated * * * to any particular description of instrument;" that is the "Inland Revenue" stamp of that value, of which there exists several varieties.

THE first sale of stamps by auction took place in the rooms of Messrs. Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., New York city, on the 28th of May, 1870, nearly twenty-one years ago. A set of three Sydney Views unused sold for the sum of \$1.75. Ye gods—wouldn't we like to have a whack at them for that price to-day.

The first auction sale in England took place at Sotheby's in the Strand on the 18th March, 1872. A certain gentleman by the name of Pemberton obtained at this sale also a set of three Sydney Views unused and a poor 3d. unused, for three guineas.

PARAGUAY.—The 5 and 10 pesos stamps turn out to be bogus, and as being sold by the usual gang of swindlers in London.—*Mekeel's Weekly News.*

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 31 N. FIRST ST., - - - Kansas City, Kansas.
 Send for our Approval Sheets at
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 Samples of Philatelic papers wanted.
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No. 1, 100 varieties	\$0.10
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No. 4, 400 varieties	1.00
No. 5, 500 varieties	2.00

Postage extra.

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—OF—

STAMPS.

*China, 1885, 3 var.	\$0.30
*Cora, 5 var.35
*Confederate States, 1863, 5 var.35
*Cuba, 1888, 6 var. . . . .	.10
*Cuba, 1890, 6 var. . . . .	.09
*Heligoland, Wrappers, 3 var. . . . .	.06
*Mexico, 1864, 4 var. . . . .	.20
*Nicaragua, 1867-78, 4 var. . . . .	.25
*Persia, Off., 1881, 4 var. . . . .	.25
*Porto Rico, 1882-84, 6 var. . . . .	.09
*Salvador, 1887-89, 7 var. . . . .	.50
*Servia, 1869, 7 var. . . . .	.18
Baden, 10 var. . . . .	.25
Bosnia, 7 var. . . . .	.25
Brazil, 15 var. . . . .	.25
Bulgaria, 9 var. . . . .	.20
Ceylon, 10 var. . . . .	.20
Chili, 1878-86, 7 var. . . . .	.20
Denmark, 1864, 5 var. . . . .	.15
Gold Coast, 4 var. . . . .	.20
Hungary, 1874, 5 var. . . . .	.05
Hungary, 1888, 8 var. . . . .	.20
Italy, 11 var. . . . .	.10
Japan, 15 var. . . . .	.20
Mauritius, 9 var. . . . .	.30
Norway, 1877, 8 var. . . . .	.09
Peru, 10 var. . . . .	.25
Roumania, Unp., 5 var.20
Sweden, 1872, 10 var.07
Sweden, Off., 11 var.17
Sweden, Losen, 10 var.18

*Unused.

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1000 well mixed Continental stamps, 29 cents, post-free.

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United States Stamps FOR SALE.

Send list of wants, with a good reference, and we will send them on approval. We have all issues complete.

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	UNUSED.	USED ON ENV.
1861, 5c., green		\$0.35
1861, 10c., blue50
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1862, 5c., blue35
1862, 10c., rose		2.00
1863, 2c., rose20	2.00
1863, 5c., blue03	.06
1863, 10c., blue02	.05
1863, Ten Cents, blue	2.25	2.75
1863, 20c., green05	1.50
1864, 1c., yellow15	

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Wholesale price-list sent to dealers only.

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The best ever sold. Purchasers wonder how we can sell so cheaply.

No. 6 contains 10 varieties of Confederate stamps, all on the original envelopes, \$1.

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No. 8 contains (25) Confederate stamps, on and off the original envelopes, used and unused; same includes pair rare New Orleans Locals on original envelope, and rare 2c. green, unused, \$10.

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"The Southern Philatelist,"

a 16 to 32 page and cover monthly magazine, only 25 cents a year. Every person buying 25 cents' worth of stamps from us gets a year's subscription free. Sample copy free.

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We are extensive dealers in Confederate money
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the money at the following low prices: Shinplasters,
10, 15, 25, 50 and 75 cents, 25c. each, or the
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\$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5, \$2, \$1, 50c., \$2 per set;
\$500 bills, \$1 each; \$100 bills, 15c. or two for 25c.;
\$50 bills, 10c., or two for 15c.; \$5, \$10 and \$20,
5c. each. 50c., \$1 and \$2, 25c. each. Address
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Scott's Challenge Album, paper	12
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We will give to every person who, from now
till April 15, 1891, sends us 25 cents for a year's
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RUBBER STAMP with your name. Designate
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