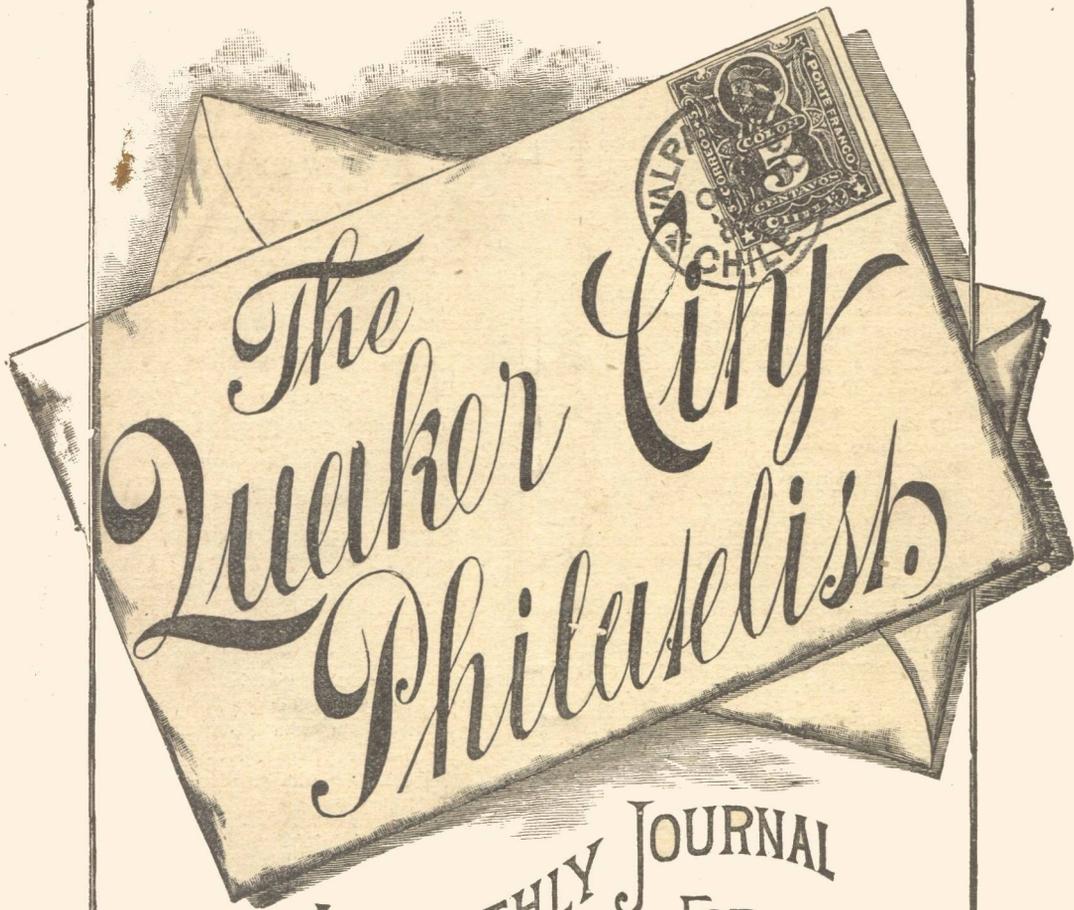


Vol. VIII.

JUNE, 1893.

No. 90.



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR
STAMP COLLECTORS.



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The Quaker City Philatelist.

VOL. VIII.

JUNE, 1893.

No. 6.

IS IT WISE TO COLLECT SHADES ?

BY C. E. SEVERN.

IT is known that an increasing number of collectors are given to the collection of shades, and they evince a special ardency in their quest for them and are often led to outlay considerable sums of money for the purchase of shades of color of the commoner stamps. The collecting of shades is quite in keeping with philately in its scientific sense, and there is a fascination about their collection which appears particularly to persons of the more refined sensibilities, and to those who have an eye nicely suited to distinguish between tints of color. No one would presume to question a collector's right to collect shades and expend amounts of money in accumulating them; but to one who has reflected just a trifle upon the subject, collecting shades appears to be an indication of indiscretion on the part of the collector. The reason for such an opinion is, that there is a sort of instability about them, that renders it unwise to expend much for them. It is true that there is a field of immense proportions in the collection of legitimate shades of color; but how is one to discriminate, and know which are the real and which the manufactured shades ?

The study of chemistry has become quite general, and many collectors at some period of their career dabble in it, with more or less beneficial results.

A stamp collector in beginning its study is immediately impressed with the fact of its offering unlimited scope for the manufacture of shade varieties.

One possessing a respectable knowledge of chemistry could "discover" shades of boundless number, and none could positively say, from *prima facie* evidence, that they were not legitimate varieties of shades. By a judicious use of chemical reagents, the unscrupulous chemist-collector could effect reactions changing the tint of the specimen, and none could know it as not being a genuine difference of shade of color. By continually experimenting one could perfect one's self and be enabled to produce rare color varieties without number. This could be accomplished with such skill that even an expert philatelist could be deceived.

There are some stamps whose colors undergo considerable change simply from continued exposure in the air, through oxidation; and if this be so, what radical changes would occur should such stamps be subjected to an atmosphere of pure oxygen! In time the chemist would become very proficient, and what were hitherto obscure reactions would now be plain to him, and on short notice he would be prepared to supply any shade of any stamp in any quantity.

The rationale of the manner in which color varieties are manufactured is: mineral matter is often employed in the manufacture of the color, and this being treated by some chemical reagent potent enough to effect a reaction between the ingredient in the color of the stamp and the chemical salt used, a change of tint necessarily ensues. Of course, there are many ways by which collectible varieties of shade are made.

In the mixture of inks there is allowance to be made for wide latitude of shades of color.

Then, changes of tint result from exposure of the stamp in certain sorts of atmospheres, and again, the matter enclosed in the envelope, on which the stamp prepays postage is sometimes such as to cause a difference of color. Other natural causes tend to this same result, but all in all it does seem unwise to collect on lines of so unstable a quality as those governing the causation of shades.

NEW ISSUES.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

Azores.—We have the 100r. brown for Augra Horta and Pouta Delgada, also envelopes with stamp of same type, 25r. green and 50r. ultramarine, both on buff paper.

Bavaria.—We note two new cards, 3+3k. yellow-brown wmk., vertical zigzag lines, and 3+3k. dark-brown wmk., vertical wavy lines.

Barbadoes.—The 1d. band has been surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in violet. There are said to be varieties of surcharge.

Bolivia.—An order of December 21, 1892, authorizes the use of the 5c. and 10c. blue stamps of "Transacciones" for the prepayment of interior postage, the regular postage stamps of those values being completely exhausted.

Brazil.—We have failed to note a new 100r. rose. It is as beautiful as the other late issues of this country.

Diego Suarez.—We have the tax stamps 10, 15, 20, 30c. surcharged for this colony.

French Colonies.—In the new issue of stamps, the names of colonies are type set. As is usual in such cases, errors are made. We note a few. *Conco* for *Congo* in 2 and 5c. The cedilla is omitted from the c in français in some of the 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20 and 25c. The 75c. is sometimes printed on yellow paper, and not on yellow surface tinted paper. Côte D'Ivoire. Cote without accent on 1, 2, 4, 5, 25c. Doubtless many others exist.

French Levant.—The stamps usually employed in the Levant, 5c., 10c., 15c., 1 pi on 25, 2 pi on 50, 4 pi on 1fr., have been surcharged Cavalle, Dedeagle and Port Lagos, for use at these three ports of Turkey in Europe where French post-offices exist.

Luxemburg.—We neglected to mention last month the 1, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 francs. Also that the entire new set has been surcharged S. P.

Maderia.—As for Azores, the 100r. brown and two envelopes have been issued, 25r. green and 50r. ultramarine.

Mozambique.—For newspapers (?) the 40r. 86 has been surcharged 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ r. in black, 5r. in blue and in red.

Nossi Be.—During February, 1893, the following surcharges were made on the stamps of the colonies of 1881: 25c. on 20c., 6500; 50c. on 10c., 3500; 75c. on 15c., 1500; 1fr. on 5c., 1000, all in black.

Obock.—We have now received the tax stamp 5c. and 60c. surcharged OBOCK, which completes the series. We now have 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 60c. black, 1, 2 and 5fr. brown.

Portugal.—We have the 25r. violet, 1887, surcharged "Provisorio" in red, diagonally. We have also of the 100r. similar surcharge. The 50r. ultramarine envelope is also issued.

St. Thomas and Prince.—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ r. in large type on the 5, 10 and 20r. of 1886.

Tonga.—Stamps have been printed of the new type, of all the values in use, in blue and surcharged with large capitals in red, G. F. B. These are called officials. Now that King George is dead, we naturally expect a new issue soon.

West Australia.—There is a 6d. violet current type. *Le Timbre Poste* also mentions a surcharge "One Penny" on 3d. in black.

ANOTHER USE.—Bella—"What have you done with that dear little stamp box that Charlie gave you last summer?"

"Well, you know, it isn't large enough for stamps now, so I've taken it for a handkerchief box."

THE Columbian stamp has done more to make man a liquor fiend than any influence of this generation.

STAMPS AT AUCTION.

BY JOSEPH F. COURTNEY.

IF any old collector who has not seen an auction catalogue for a long space of time, say five or ten years, was to read over some of the auction catalogues published at the present day, he would run across many things entirely foreign to his comprehension.

Such notes as good, very good, medium, badly damaged, fair, slightly nicked, few perforations gone, reprint, proof, perfect, etc., would be among the many items, tending to show the condition of the stamps listed, which would stray across his surprised vision.

Notes of the above character might not seem to be of much consequence to the uninitiated, but they mean many dollars either way in the purchase of a rare specimen.

Any old philatelist who would stray across the above items for the first time, would almost invariably say to himself, "Why! what is the meaning of all these notes having their position after the names of the countries from which the stamps are issued? Has philately advanced to such a degree that a collector must be informed in regard to the *exact* condition of a specimen before he is willing to make a bid upon it? If stamp collecting has made such wonderful strides as that in the public mind since the time I was an active philatelist, its progress must have been indeed something very much out of the common.

"In my time a stamp had but two stages of life, good and bad. By a good specimen we understood a stamp to be anywhere from just out of the printer's hands to a condition in which it would not be in a torn or very heavily canceled stage of its existence. A bad specimen occupied all the space outside the area taken up by the good one. But it now seems that these two stages of a stamp life are not nearly sufficient explanation to satisfy the demands of the modern philatelist."

A stamp collector receiving an auction catalogue, at the present time, can almost imagine the stamp list as lying before him, so perfect does the catalogue delineate the specimen.

Any collector making a bid on a stamp listed by any one of the many well-known auction catalogues, may rest assured that the condition of the specimen is just as represented, as it does not profit the reputable dealer of the present day to make any misrepresentations.

Many collectors have allowed the erroneous idea to take possession of their thinking faculties, that a rare stamp can be purchased for less than half catalogue value. In fact they seem to think that the auction sale is the place where collectors send in their collections to be disposed of at *any* price.

It is a fact that many bids of 25 and 50 cents are made on stamps that catalogue at \$1 and \$2, and which easily command full value.

It is an established rule that a stamp collector always desires to obtain as great a bargain as he possibly can, but in many instances he misses exceptional bargains by adhering to this rule. A specimen that is worth possessing or, better still, that you desire to fill a long vacant space in your album, is well deserving of full catalogue value.

Philatelists, do not allow the expectation to gain possession of your mind, that you will obtain scarce stamps at half or three-quarters value at an auction sale, especially any specimens of the United States, for as a general rule desirable stamps of the United States persuasion usually command more than catalogue value.

THE Jacobites of England, in their devotion to the cause, are said to be contemplating the issue of special postage stamps with the legend "Maria IV," to replace that of Victoria Regina. It is designed to place them on letters along with the regular stamp, but with the latter turned upside down.

FRICTION AMONG PHILATELISTS.

BY C. E. SEVERN.

IT was our pleasure to have read recently, a philatelic contribution which had for its text, "The discord that was prevalent in certain quarters of the philatelic world."

This sketch was inspired by a kindly motive, and was chiefly creditable as reflecting the benign disposition of the author, inasmuch as the writer regretted and deplored that contention and bickering should have occasion for existence among philatelic brethren; and furthermore, he suggested as a method by which all this unpleasantness might be avoided, that collectors cultivate a feeling of greater friendliness and charity for one another. Such expressions are suitable as coming from one of optimistic tendencies, but they show a lack of reasoning and worldly knowledge. The Utopia our friend longs to build will never be reared so long as philately is dominated over by the same sort of men and principles that now hold sway. When this is said no detraction is intended; it is a natural and just assertion, one that is borne out by logic.

Philately numbers among its followers men of many minds, men of varying ambitions, and men who collectively represent the whole gamut of human emotions. Would it be possible, or better put, would it be natural, for such men to commingle and have intercourse without some clashing and encounters? At almost any date in philatelic history, we find there is a cloud of more or less dimensions in the blue sky of philately. Sometimes it is a squabble between members of a philatelic society; oftener a war of words between certain philatelic papers, or, perhaps, one faction of collectors arrayed against the other, in the heated discussion of a pertinent topic. Such a state of affairs is, if anything, a hopeful indication; it proves that the interest of collectors in all things appertaining to the hobby is intense.

If, for instance, an editor of a stamp paper objects to the remarks of a brother editor, and proceeds to vigorously "ctss" his contemporary, who in turn gives back as good as he receives, the result is, after the cruel war is over, they admire and respect each other more than ever. Nothing is more conducive to the welfare of philately than to have all the great body of collectors constantly on the *qui vive* to spy out irregularities, to contradict statements not in accord with their opinions, to condemn impositions and to do what they think to be right, regardless of the protests of those holding opposing views. This, of course, will beget differences and quarrels, but that is nothing out of the ordinary current of life; it is simply the old, old contest of human ambitions and aspirations. Not for any thing should we say, speed the day when the sea of philately is not to be roughened by the turmoil and strife of philatelic affairs. The sea that is ever calm loses its individuality, and becomes tiresome and monotonous to the senses.

An estimate has been made by the *London Philatelist* of the extent and value of existing postage stamp collections, based in great part upon an actual census taken for the purpose. The conclusion arrived at is that the 115 members of the London Philatelic Society resident in this country possess collections of the total market value of £125,000. The collections out of Great Britain are put down at £100,000.

COIN DISAPPEARANCE.—Nobody ever stops to find out what becomes of all the pennies annually coined by the Government, but, as a matter of fact, they are being continually turned out at the rate of several millions a month. Being of such small value, very little care is taken of them, and the Government is called upon for more. The demand is a source of profit to the Government, as it buys the pennies in blank form from a Connecticut firm at the rate of 1000 for \$1, and merely has to coin them at the Mint in Philadelphia. Among the millions of small coins which have mysteriously disappeared are 119,000,000 old copper pennies, 4,500,000 bronze two-cent pieces, 3,000,000 three-cent nickel pieces, and 800,000 of the old copper half-cents, of which not one has ever been returned to the Government. Samples of these coins turn up once in a while, but they are extremely rare.

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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IN AND ABOUT FRISCO.

BY H. H. ZOBEL.

I HAD the pleasure of inspecting several fine collections of A. P. A. members lately and was quite struck by the utter absence of United States and foreign envelopes. Envelopes hardly attract any attention in California, and philatelists state that they have always been at a very low ebb.

For a local organization the growth and influence of the Philatelic Society of San Francisco has been simply phenomenal. The Society was created last August by five collectors, and to-day presents a roll of over forty philatelists, among whom are W. Sellschopp, J. N. Luff, E. Gesvret, E. T. Randall and Dr. W. G. Sylvester, D.D.S.

Generally speaking, business has been very fair during the past few months and prospects are unusually bright for a good summer trade. However, San Francisco's climatic conditions are excellent, and being so, philatelic seasons are not as rigidly observed as in the Eastern States.

The A. P. A. may well be proud of the magnificent efforts of her Executive Committee to make the World's Fair Exhibition of stamps a success. The city representatives—Loy and Sellschopp—are proving themselves fully equal to the occasion, and as a result they have received both cash and hearty congratulations.

The Hawaiian provisionals were received on May 31. Their appearance is very crude. "Provisional—Government—1893," in three lines of dull rose ink is the only difference. I suppose there will be many varieties; mine being very low on the stamp.

The United States two-cent greens of 1888 are for sale at our Post-office. Why these ugly emissions are "again for sale" has proven a problem for all; but the "powers that be" might answer.

Since the appearance of a journal devoted to fiscal stamps and their devotees, the revenues of California have slightly advanced in price. I am of the opinion it is but temporarily.

SOME OF MY OPINIONS.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

NOT long ago I read Mark Twain's famous book, *Roughing It*. Mark Twain is one of the few American writers whose works never lose their popularity and hence I feel justified in giving an extract or two from the book. It will be remembered that Mark crossed the plains by stage in an early day. As he reached the summit of the Rocky Mountains he encountered a stream which divided, the one portion flowing into the Gulf of California after many wanderings, and the other into the Gulf of Mexico. Mark stood at the strange dividing point some time and then—but let him speak for himself. He says: "I freighted a leaf with a mental message for the friends at home, and dropped it in the stream. But I put no stamp on it and it was held for postage somewhere." Alas! for the unfortunate letter and its thoughtless sender. But for the latter's negligence who knows but what the missive he consigned to the stream might have safely reached its intended destination.

* * *

During his residence in Esmeralda, Mark had many queer adventures, of which I shall mention one. On one occasion he and his partner, Higbie, left town in search of a fabled mine. Mark fell behind his companion, attracted the attention of some miners, and was shot at. "Then," he says, "I flattened myself out like a postage stamp." He must have been very flat indeed. Probably this accounts for his fortunate escape.

* * *

The *Congregationalist* contains a Japanese missionary department. I notice that several enterprising Young Americans have already obtained stamps by means of it. There is nothing so noticeable about the youth of our country as this desire to grasp every opportunity that offers of making some one else exert himself in his behalf. Missionaries who are bothered by requests for stamps have evidently realized this act to their sorrow.

* * *

The *North American Review* for March contains an excellent article by Jerry Rusk, former Secretary of Agriculture, on "American Farming a Hundred Years Hence." Among other interesting things, Mr. Rusk says: "Should the present Postmaster-General be privileged to revisit the scenes of his earthly labors, he will find his dream a reality, with a rural mail delivery which will carry mails daily to every farmhouse in the land." It appears from this that Uncle Jerry is very sanguine of the future prosperity and progress of our farming districts, since the very best criterion of the condition of any region or country is the efficiency of its mail service. At least that is the opinion of Guy W. Green.

NOTES.

BY "DIXEY."

Kissinger's Philatelic Postal Card is once more among us, looking as healthy as ever, notwithstanding the reports of its demise circulated in various papers.

QUITE a little war is being waged by the various candidates for offices in the Sons of Philatelia; a friendly rivalry only, however. Clifford Kissinger, of Reading, and Dr. Russell are the only candidates so far for President, with Kissinger undoubtedly in the lead.

THE *Canadian Journal of Philately*, the new magazine that received so much free advertising by its high subscription price, has just reached me, and is one of *the* publications of the year. By the way, the year '95 has brought forth several good efforts in the philatelic paper line.

ANOTHER good number has just reached me, the Columbian number of the *Pennsylvania Philatelist*, a particularly bright, newsy number, well worth more than the price asked, ten cents, as philatelic literature goes.

THE Ohio Philatelic Society has been fully organized, and will soon be in running order. It is to be hoped that it will now follow in the footsteps of its predecessor.

THE World's Fair A. P. A. exhibit is in place now in the Government building and is open to the gaze of the curious public. Perchance our display at this, the greatest exposition of the world, may create more worshippers at the shrine of the Goddess Philatelia by this display of its beauties and interesting features.

"WE have received a copy of the St——" Dull thud. Coroner's verdict, death from overexertion of the brain produced by reading the same "puff" so many times. And still they come.

THE *New York Dramatic News* reproduces in its June 8 number the front of an envelope addressed to the "Most Prominent Dramatic Paper, New York, N. Y.," with a two-cent 1890 stamp. While it is a very good reproduction, it is against the laws and should not be tolerated by the powers that be.

THE *Eagle Philatelist* is one of the neatest magazines that reaches me, published as it is by two old philatelic friends of mine, which serves to make it doubly interesting to me. To whom the most credit is due for its success, Reimers or Greene, is hard to tell, but I always did maintain that the man that managed the production of anything in the line of papers was responsible for its success or its failure, so I think Charley Reimers deserves more credit than he gets.

WANTED: A philatelic reviewer who never uses the expression "well worth the price asked." Large salary, short hours and ice cream three times a day.

THE rarest number of a philatelic paper, and the hardest one to get, is No. 9 of Volume I of the *Garden City Philatelist*, published in Chicago six or eight years ago. Only one copy is known, and that is in the library of H. E. Deats; it was formerly the property of Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer, who refused an offer of \$20 for it before he sold it to Mr. Deats.

ANOTHER State society in the soup, the "Iowa," which has followed most of the other ones and fallen into a state of "innocuos desuetude."

THE plate of United States stamps that is to come each month with Henry Ad. Fowler's journal, the *Canadian Journal of Philately*, will be to us United States collectors its most important attraction, and will probably cause a great many more collectors to fork over their "three" than anything else. The idea of putting a border around the stamp of the same color as the stamp is a good scheme, and gives a better idea of the exact color of the stamp.

QUEER, isn't it, that no one has been nominated for office in the A. P. A. yet. The election takes place in August.

A CITIZEN of Canton, Ga., has a Confederate silver half-dollar bearing date of 1861. It is the same size and make as the present United States silver half-dollar, except on one side the design consists of a shield enclosed in wreaths of wheat and cotton-stalks, on which are seven stars and bars, and around the outer rim the words "Confederate States of America." The reverse side is the same as that on coins of the present day—the Goddess of Liberty, thirteen stars, etc.

IT will interest stamp collectors to learn that the passing of the Home Rule Bill might lead to the issue of a new distinct series of Irish postage stamps.

MR. WANAMAKER had better wrap one of his Columbian stamps around him and close the Fair gates himself.

ENOUGH OF IT.—“You don't chew gum now, Mamie,” said the bookkeeper to the typewriter.

“No; I get all the gum I want licking the new postage stamps for the letters I mail every day.”

“It beats all!” exclaimed Uncle Josiah, as he handled his first Columbian stamp; “it beats all how everything's growin' in this growin' country. Why only last month postage stamps were only little insignificant things, and jest look at 'em now.”

THE FIRST POSTMISTRESS.—Chicago's lady manager is Mrs. A. L. Chetlain, the wife of Gen. Chetlain. She was the first woman appointed Postmistress in the United States. President Lincoln, in 1862, signed her commission for the position and she held it for a long time.

THE STAMP PROBLEM.—“It's a shame,” said the economical wife, “I thought I had a splendid idea, but these new postage stamps are too small!”

“Too small!” echoed her husband.

“Yes. I wanted them to use for window shades.”

OUR DOMESTIC JEWELS.—“Here, Bridget, run and put this letter in the box, and be quick about it.”

“And shall I wait for an answer, miss?”

WHOLESALE

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SAN MARINO PROVISIONALS.

5sh. 30d. brown, 5sh. 10d. blue, 10sh. 20d. red, 10sh. 10-20d. red, complete set of four, post-free, on registered letter (are unused), 10sh. (\$2.50); three sets, 24sh. (\$6).

Please write by letter-card and send only 6d. and 1sh. stamp (America by 4c. envelopes and send only 5 and 10c. stamps or banknotes).

OTTO BICKEL, Rep. San Marino, Italy.

Please mention this paper when buying.

The Popular Packets.

None of the Packets in the following list contain duplicates. Numbers 23 to 39 inclusive are entirely different from each other. The seventeen Packets, containing 529 distinct varieties, will be sent post-free for \$14.00. The stamps in these Packets are not common stock, but all are scarce and desirable and many rare. Dealers can make 50 to 100 per cent. profit by buying these Packets and retailing stamps from them :

- No. 23 contains 15 stamps from Australia, including Sandwich Islands, Fiji Islands, Western Australia, etc. Price, 25 cents; by mail, 27 cents.
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