

The Philatelic Canadian

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WHY SOME STAMPS WERE ISSUED.

Most stamp collectors seem to have no knowledge of the reason for certain stamps having been issued, which should be one of the special studies of collecting. Of course every stamp was issued for a purpose, but some varieties may call for special mention. Canada has produced several oddities of this kind, notable among which are the 2 cents issued in 1834, also the same denomination of New Brunswick, 1831, and Nova Scotia, 1892, all of which were struck off to pre-pay soldiers letters to Great Britain (who had been sent to Canada in 1862, on the occasion of the Slidell Mason affair.) Another Canadian stamp was the 12 pence, black, which, as most collectors know is almost unique in rarity, was struck off to be duty for postage to India, is said by some officials in government circles to have been issued in error, as the postage at that time was only ten pence.

The 17 cents Canadian, 1859, was struck for postage to India, also the 12½ cents of the same year was issued expressly for letters to Great Britain. The stamps of Prince Edward Island, for their odd denominations might cause collectors to imagine that they were issued for some special service, but we have never heard of such.

The 8½ cents Nova Scotia was issued for letters to Newfoundland.

The 13 cents Newfoundland was issued for letters to Great Britain. These are the principal varieties issued

in Canada for postage out of the usual run.

The United States have issued a few denominations for special service: the 24 and 90 cent of various issues are an odd figure; the 7 cent of 1870 was a value placed on postage to Germany for letters. The official stamps were issued for the use of the various departments they represented, and could not be used by any outside parties which is the cause of the great rarity of some of the department denominations such as Executive and high value State.

The Executive stamps were used by the President, and Vice-President of the United States: therefore, philatelists having used specimens have not only a philatelic treasure, but have also a historical relic.

The Australian colonies have issued very few stamps for any special duty, and with the exception of a very few European, very few exist outside of America.

In fact economical postage for specified countries seems to be peculiar to America as regards odd values. Most of these stamps are noticeably scarce and should be made a great study of as any other.

IRREVOCABLE.

To write in haste and repent at leisure is the experience of many an impetuous correspondent, who is ignorant or oblivious of the rule that at a letter once posted can never be taken out of the box, that it becomes the property