

# The Ontario Philatelist

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

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## DUETT STAMP CLUB

### Another Letter from Ed. Bee

He Tells of the Two Conventions  
and the Great Fair at  
Toronto, Ont.

The Issue of 1851

To the Editor of the Ontario Philatelist.

Well, the great fair is over, and the conventions are things of the past. Our president, Uncle John, has just returned from St. Paul, Minn. I've found out where he goes every summer now; it's to the stamp conventions, and he has promised that I may go with him next season.

There was a stamp convention in this city the last week of the fair, but I did not get to it. I didn't know anything about it until it was all over.

Last Wednesday night was our regular meeting night, and there was a full attendance at the club parlors at Uncle John's house. The secretary (which is I) read the minutes of the last regular meeting (we're running the Duett Stamp Club on strictly business principles), which were adopted, and the club proceeded with the order of business, which was in part the

discussion of the reason of the 1851 issue of the U. S. stamps. Our president gave us the following:

"The one-cent was required for newspapers and other printed matter; the three-cent paid the usual letter rate, and two or more were required for double, triple, etc., letters. The single postage to California was 6 cents, and it seems singular that a stamp of this value was not issued, as it was also the double letter rate. In its place were used two three-cent stamps, or a twelve-cent was cut diagonally from corner to corner (our president showed me one so used). The twelve-cent, therefore, must have been the double California rate. For foreign letters the rate was, unless provided for by treaty, 10 to 20 cents. Soon followed an act of Congress in March, 1855, to reduce the postage; and then followed the fifteen-cent stamp, issued in that year. It consisted of a portrait of Washington, after Stewart, on an oval disc with lathed ground, bordered with a colorless line between two fine colored lines, on a lathed background, bordered by outline foliations which formed small ovals. In each of the upper corners was a colorless "X," with "U.S. postage" in like capitals between them. There are thirteen colorless stars on the ground above the oval, and "Ten cents" in colorless capitals