

# The Canadian Philatelist.

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IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

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WHOLE No. 37.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

## QUERY.

Was it on a Kansas prairie,  
In the days of '49,  
Near a smashed up prairie-schooner,  
That I saw that fearful sign?  
Was it that which down in Texas,  
Broke off short our driver's "cuss,"  
With the Llano Estacado  
Twenty miles to South of?  
Was it high up in the Rockies  
That it told its tale of woe,  
Blinding blast and then starvation,  
'Neath a monstrous drift of snow?  
Was it in Nevada's desert  
That I saw it, stark and white,  
With an arrow through one eye-hole  
An I no other thing in sight?  
Was it with the vultures near it?  
Did coyotes sneak away?  
Ah! I know now where I saw it,  
It is all as plain as day—  
That grim cow's skull, white and death-like,  
That I have been looking for,—  
On the stamps of old Roumania,  
On my album's page, I saw,

CHAS. E. JENNEY.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

## WHY THIS MANIA?

CAN anyone advance a reason for the collecting of postage stamps? A *real* reason; not a superficial theory. It will generally serve to rehearse the advantages of collecting as an aid to the study of history and geography; that the pursuit fosters the study of art, color and design; that in the making of a collection, neatness and the habit of close observation are formed. These, and many other ideas never before thought of, are brought forth to prove that stamp collecting is the most profitable amusement on earth. But do you collect these interesting bits of paper for instruction or amusement alone? I am sure you do not, and although I will not undertake to solve the problem unaided, I can at least present some ideas for consideration.

Perhaps in the first stage of your collecting career you are attracted toward those stamps whose brilliant colors or unique designs appeal to your artistic eye. Perhaps, while looking over a friend's collection, you are seized with a desire to emulate him, either by securing a greater number of varieties or possessing a larger lot of Seebucks. You like to see the pages of your album slowly filling. After a few months this rivalry becomes monotonous, and you find that there is pleasure in filling up certain pages of your album, learning about the various stamp issuing countries, etc.

As an advanced collector, you delight in examining slight varieties, errors and such matters. You collect what pleases you, and let all other stamps alone. Perhaps each country is represented by one stamp only, and yet you delight in your collection as much as if it were ten times as large. Can you give the reason of this?

You glance through a catalogue, and pick out, one by one, the stamps you expect to secure. Then a number of want lists are sent off to various dealers. The stamps come, and with what delight do you examine the specimens with a view to purchase! How pleased you are to receive the much desired specimens in an immaculate, unused condition! And what a pleasant task to mount them in the spaces assigned.

I reverse the memory of William Shakespeare, who, with his usual foresight, truly said, "There is method in this madness."

WALTER A. WITHROW.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

## GENERAL CANADIAN NEWS.

The new 1c. and 2c. letter cards are having a very small sale, and may be withdrawn.

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At the recent election of officers of *The Toronto Philatelic Club*, Mr. W. H. Brouse, the well-known B. N. A. specialist, was elected president.

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Mr. W. S. Wetherston, the Canadian Vice-President of the P. S. of A. has resigned, as he intends to remove from Toronto to New York City.

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The *Ontario Philatelist* has just appeared from St. Catharines, Ont. Although typographically poor, its contents are readable, and I wish the publishers every success in their venture.

\* \*

The first auction sale of the Montreal Stamp Club takes place Thursday, April 23, at 8 p. m. Mr. E. W. Stanton, of 398 St. Andre St., Montreal, Que., will, I understand, furnish a catalogue of the sale on application.

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The auction sale of Mr. T. S. Clark, held in Toronto, on March the 18th, was well attended, but, as a rule, prices realized were only fair, and a number of the best stamps were not sold, being bid in by their owner.

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There appears to be a large number of the red weight and measure stamps on the market at present. Within the last few months the price of this stamp has dropped from \$10 to \$2 for unused copies; used are seldom met with.

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In handling some 5c. current Canadian stamps, I secured two unused strips of four, bearing imprint of British American Bank Note Co., and plate numbers 1 and 2. These are the first Canadian stamps that I have noticed with plate number. I will keep a careful lookout for others.

\* \*

I have seen the current Canadian post card on thick, spongy card-board, instead of the hard glazed card in general use. It looks as if only a few of these were issued, as my post office only received one lot of the cards on the thick spongy card-board, the lots subsequently received being printed on the hard glazed card-board.

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To the best of my knowledge, there are only three philatelic papers being published in Canada: *The Canadian Philatelist*, *The Canadian Philatelic Magazine*, and *The Ontario Philatelist*. However, three new papers have recently been announced. From London we may expect *The London Stamp and Coin Journal*, a quarterly, to be published by the London Stamp Co., and "Stamp Lore," a monthly, which will be issued by the Commercial Printing Co. From the prospectus of this last named paper I am led to look for something out of the ordinary. The promoters of the paper state that it will be printed in three colors. If both these papers of having three philatelic journals, *The All-around Stamp Advertiser* is announced to appear from St. Hyacinthe, Que., and will consist of advertisements only. There are several philatelic journals of this class published in Europe, but none in America.

W. CULLEN BROWN.