

**TORONTO  
PHILATELIC JOURNAL**

Published on the 15th of every month by

TORONTO PHILATELIC CO., 76 Baldwin St., TORONTO,  
CANADA.

H. MORELL, . . . . . EDITOR.

Subscription, 23 cents a year; Foreign Coun-  
tries, 35 cents.

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ONE INSERTION.		THREE INSERTIONS.	
One inch, . . .	\$ 50	One inch . . .	\$1 25
Two inches . . .	80	Two inches . . .	2 00
Half column . . .	1 50	Half column . . .	4 00
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TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1886.

**NOTES.**

Mr. E. B. Sterling has favored us with a copy of his catalogue of the postage stamps and envelopes of the United States. Every collector of U. S. stamps should have one.

No. 1 of volume 3 of the *Philatelic Star* has come to hand, it presents a very good appearance in its new form and contains a well-written article by Peso on Buenos Ayres, its postal system and stamps.

At the Paris Museum of the French Mint there is a complete set of the first issue United States envelopes, with the surcharge "Specimen" said to have been presented to the French Government under Napoleon III, by the United States.

We have lately received forgeries of Servian stamps 1 and 2 paras of 1886, from an English dealer, whose name we will not mention as he pleads ignorance of their character. They can readily be distinguished by examining the right hand ornament under the letter A. In the originals this touches the inner circle while in the forgeries it is some distance from it.—*The Philatelic World*.

An interesting Philatelic event will take place in New York on February 15th. There will be two auction sales of stamps at the same hour, 7 p. m. One will be held at Geo. A. Leavitt & Co.'s, and the other at Thos. L. Bucken & Co.'s. As these rooms are on Broadway, within two blocks of each other, collectors can amuse themselves by running to and fro from one

to the other. There are some good things in both and we can supply catalogues. Also we offer our services as buyers to those who cannot attend.

A sympathetic ink, for writing on postal cards, is simply diluted sulphuric acid—one part, by measure, of acid to seven of water. When the ink is applied the card will at first show roughened traces of the writing, but after drying these disappear and the writing is as invisible as though done with water alone. Of course only a gold pen or a quill should be used with this acid ink. If it is desired to avoid the suspicion of sympathetic ink having been employed, the card may be written upon across the first writing with tincture of iodine, which will entirely fade out when heat is applied to develop the sympathetic ink.

We have received the following papers up to date, publishers please accept our thanks :

*Minnesota Philatelist, Empire State Philatelist, Garden City Philatelist, Philatelic Magazine, Philatelic World, The Monthly Journal, Collectors' Monthly, The Arizona Pride of Philately, The Gem, Philatelic Monthly, The Monthly News, National Capital Philatelist, Quaker City Philatelist, Collectors Companion, The Wasp, Youth's Ledger, Tidings from Nature, The Boomerang, The Observer, The Philatelic Star, Stamp & Coin Gazette, Carson Philatelist, Capital City Philatelist, The Stamp World, The Canadian Philatelic and Curio Advertiser, Le Commerçant, Philatelic Herald.*

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*Montreal, February 4th, 1886.*

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