

# TORONTO JOURNAL OF PHILATELY.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, MAY, 1892.

No. 1.

## A HISTORY OF PHILATELY.

### CHAPTER I.

Everything in this world has a history, and I think a short sketch of the origin and growth of our pet hobby may prove of interest to the readers of this journal.

The question as to who the first collector was is rather a matter of doubt. The first collection of any kind that I can get any reliable information on was made by Mr. Jno. Bourke, Receiver-General of Dublin, in 1774. These were not postage stamps, however, but fiscals.

Sir Rowland Hill may be said to have made the first collection of postage stamps, as he preserved specimens of all the English stamps as they were issued, and also of the various foreign stamps. But the first genuine Philatelists seem to have been Mr. Mount Brown, of London, Eng., and Monsieur Moens, of Brussels, who both started to collect about the same time.

I take the following from a letter from Maj. E. B. Evans. He says:—  
“As far as I am personally concerned I can only say that when I commenced

In 1861, the trade in stamps had fully started, and I know that in the first number of the Stamp Collectors' Magazine, Feb. 1st, 1863, the editor states that he remembered being asked for stamps some eight or nine years previously, by a young lady, who had been even then collecting for some time. This would take us back to about 1853, as a date at which there must have been collectors in England.”

This information, coming from such a source, is sure to be reliable, and goes to show that it did not take long after their introduction for stamps to be collected as objects of curiosity and instruction.

The first collector in America was Mr. Geo. Dill, of Prince Edward Island, who began a collection in 1859. Mr. Preble, of Portland, seems to have had a lot of stamps about this time, but merely saved the most curious-looking of them, and did not attempt to sort them into countries or issues. In 1862-3 a great impetus was given to Philately by the publication of a number of catalogues and of the Stamp Collectors' Magazine, of London, Eng. One of the first