

# The International Philatelist

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## N. Chas. Sparks.

Born at Ottawa, 1869, studied at Collegiate Institute there, took one year at University College, Toronto, studied law in Toronto two years, has been collecting since very young;—general until lately—now B. N. A. only has shilling Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, used and unused, and New Brunswick, and pair 7<sup>d</sup> Canada, lacks 1<sup>2d</sup> Canada and Connell and one or two British Columbias to be complete; will shortly remove to Ottawa.

## Shades in Canadian Postage Stamps.

We assume that no cause succeeds unless by some prior agitation, and so desire to bring before our readers a subject that is interesting to us, and also, we hope to them, trusting that "The Powers that be" may condescend to weigh them well before any further catalogues are issued.

In the first place, is a certain stamp only to be considered and catalogued as such, simply because in a new issue the Government have officially stated the "sixpence" will be in violet? If so, we have nothing further to say in support of shades, or, what is more distinct, colors.

It will readily be seen that space has been given to shades as varieties; that, in fact, in view of this proposition, do not, or never did exist. We, however, do not accede to this point; for governments, like individuals, often, or, rather, too often, fail to adhere to their stated policies, as we all know, and so possibly, through an evolution as it were, or, perhaps more abruptly, distinct and varied shades become adopted.

Take for instance the sixpenny Canada

1851, only mentioned, so far as we can find, in several standard catalogues as "violet or purple black." Was this stamp never issued otherwise? Our readers can satisfy themselves by taking a number of copies of this very desirable stamp, and they will observe that while a considerable proportion will be in those colors a few will be totally different. For instance, we have seen a large number of copies of a pronounced gray, others of a steel brown, brown purple or olive black, while several copies have recently been seen here in Toronto of as marked a black as the "twelvepence" of the same issue. In fact, no difference, so far as comparison in shade with the latter is concerned, can be discerned. We can only find the "Fifteen cent, 1867," catalogued as "violet" and "purple" and as these two are not very dissimilar, it is safe to say that they exist in at least three or four other colors, notably there is a fair proportion of this fifteen cent stamp that will be found to be as blue as the "twelve cent" of the same issue.

Now, we ask, are these shades not more defined than the "three cent U.S. 1861," "red, said to be in 'pink,'" also the Cape of Good Hope "one shilling, green," that is classed as "emerald green," which, for that reason, are now highly valued. The list would be too long were we to attempt to enumerate all the instances, especially in Australia.

We are pleased to note that there are many close observers, specialists, etc., and also Mr. Ketcheson in his handy manual and list of Canadian stamps, who accord shades to those of Canada, that we have named, a distinctness and variety as yet the "high and mighty" compilers of catalogues do not up to the present recognize. Surely no further delay to acknowledge