
* THE CANADA STAMP AND COIN JOURNAL. *

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PHILATELY AND NUMISMATICS.

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EDITORIAL.

The June issue of the CANADA STAMP AND COIN JOURNAL will complete the first volume. On July 10th we shall publish the initial number of our second volume, under the title of

"THE CANADA STAMP JOURNAL"

and devote its entire space to Philately. The Numismatic Department is to be transferred to a new magazine, of which announcements will shortly appear. The "CANADA STAMP JOURNAL" will contain not less than eight pages each month, exclusive of cover and advertisements. The subscription will be ten cents per annum. We respectfully solicit the support of collectors, and shall strive to merit the same.

To dealers we wish to say, that our circulation will never fall short of one thousand copies, which will reach a good class of collectors. Our rates will, until further notice, be as follows :

A 3 line advertisement one year in "Directors Directory," 50 cents.

A 1 inch advertisement three months, 75 cents.

For one insertion : 3 inches, 50 cents ; 6 inches, \$1.00 ; 9 inches, \$1.50 ; 12 inches, \$2.00. No discount for repeated insertions.

Our terms are CASH WITH COPY. It is useless to send ads. unaccompanied by the money.

Any further information cheerfully furnished, if a stamp is enclosed to defray mail charges.

Address all communications and exchanges :

THE CANADA STAMP JOURNAL,

185 Agricola Street, - - - HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

"PHILATELY" is the title of a new magazine that has lately appeared from New York. 12 pages and a cover. Contents and make-up, first class. Messrs. Holmes and Wylie are the projectors.

Gold and Silver Coins Current Before the Christian Era.

HERBERT THOMPSON.

CHAPTER I.

PERIOD OF ARCHAIC ART.

The Lydians in Asia Minor, under the rule of the illustrious dynasty of the Mermnads, began, about seven hundred years before the Christian Era, to stamp small ingots of gold ore, obtained from the washings of the river Pactolus, with an official mark as a guarantee of weight. This rendered an appeal to the scales on every fresh transaction no longer a matter of necessity. These stamped ingots of gold were the first coins.

The official marks on these coins consisted merely of the impress of the rude unengraved punches, between which the ingot was placed to receive the blow of the hammer. Soon, however, the art of the engraver was called in to adorn the lower of the two dies (the obverse) with the badge of the State or the symbol of the local divinity under whose auspices the currency was issued, it being generally supposed that the earliest mints were within the sacred precincts of a temple.

The Greek cities studding the coasts and islands of Asia Minor soon adopted and improved this simple though remarkable invention, and probably the credit is due to the Greeks of substituting engraved dies for the primitive punches, and of inscribing them with the name of the people or ruler who issued the coin.

Phidon, king of Argos, is said to have been the first to strike money in European Greece, after which the Eubœan cities (Chalcis and Eretria), as well as Corinth and her colonies, and Athens soon followed his example.

From these places the invention spread far and wide, to the coasts of Thrace on the north, to those of the Cyrenaica on the south, and to Italy and Sicily on the west. The weights of the standard coins in each dis-