

The Halifax Philatelist.

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No. 8.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

THESE interesting stamps of American (U. S.) Telegraph Companies, unlike the Telegraph Stamps of Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceanica and South America, were issued by a private corporation to facilitate the payment of telegrams and to accommodate their patrons. They were sold in books at \$5 and \$10, the \$5 book containing some \$6.25 worth, and the \$10 book \$11.25.

They were issued to the public on April 14th, 1885, four values, 1, 5, 10 & 25c., engraved by the American Bank Note Co. of N. Y., colored impression on *white wove* paper. Size 20 by 25 mm., perforated 10.

The general design is the same, being a *horizontal* lined Maltese Cross, lighter at the top, bearing on its center a solid *label*, framed with ornaments, and in the label the block letters "B. & O." in white; the cross is in a solid square, framed on *dexter**, *base* and *sinister*† by a beveled, shaded band, at the center, on sides, in five white *bands sinister*, the center having three solid dots on it. In upper corners is a curved *greek* ornament, and at *top center* two vertical bands, solid, containing twelve white pearls and horizontally shaded bands; framing, a solid panel, containing numeral of value in white, (on the 1c. there is three white horizontal lines at each side of the numeral of value; and on the five cent four vertical white pearls.) At the base of center frame an *Assyrian ornament*, under which is a solid label framed with a beveled frame, ornamented at base with five rayed ornaments, the label contains the word "*Commutation*" in white block letters. All on beveled shield.

1ST ISSUE.

1c. vermilion (C. C. 120) perf. 10, type S. C. 18	}	April 14th, '85
5c. blue " 43 " " "		
10c. puce " 91 " " "		
25c. orange " 5 " " "		

Same reissued but with book *number*, surcharged on bottom of Maltese Cross in colors, red and blue.

2ND ISSUE.

1c. vermilion (C. C. 120) surcharged in blue, } ty. 18.	
5c. blue " 43 " red, } June 1st, 1885.	
10c. puce " 91 " blue, } August 1st, 1885.	
25c. orange " 5 " " } Sept. 25th, 1885.	