

• THE •

# CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING

VOL. III.

DECEMBER, 1896.

No. 10.

## YOU MAY KNOW THEM.

When King Cacambau of the Fiji Islands in 1871 issued the postage stamps for that country he did not forget to show his conceit, by having the letters C. R. (Cacambau Rex) placed in the centre of the stamp, and again it seems that he was not the only vain ruler of that small domain, since a very short time elapsed before we find that Her Britannic Majesty Queen Victoria, found good advertising space by surcharging her initials over those of Cacambau, those of (Victoria Regina) V. R. There may not have been the slightest vanity on the part of either rulers, but often such trivial cabalistic meanings or logograms, as it were, are more puzzling to many collectors than a whole book of Euclid, and in this article I will endeavor to solve a few of the most intricate riddles. Of course all collectors know that U. S. stands for United States, C. S. A., representing the Confederate States of America; N. F., Newfoundland, and many others might be mentioned but for their well understood meaning.

The abbreviations on many of the South American stamps are more interesting, the United States of Columbia afterwards, the Republic of Columbia, being very prolific, in the number of varieties of abbreviations: For instance E. U. de Columbia have the same meaning as E. E., U. U. de Columbia viz United States of Columbia; in this republic the various states such as Panama, Santander, Tolima et c. etc., have the

letters E. S., meaning Estada Soberano, or in our language Sovereign State. Some of the stamps of this country have the words Correas Nales and on some again, in Spanish, the same meaning, only a little longer drawn out Corros Nacionales the meaning of those is "State Postage," or may represent not only a "State," but the whole union of States.

The first stamps issued by the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) in 1851, of which the 13 cent denomination was an international label which is represented by the letters H. I. and U. S., postage meaning Hawaiian Islands and United States, seems to an amateur collector rather vague since at that time the United States of America and the United States of Columbia were both in existence at that time although the latter country did not issue postage stamps. Maybe that confusion of names etc., etc., may account for the great scarcity of the stamp in question. The early issue of Sarawak contains in the corners of the stamp the initials of the ruler J. B. R. S., which is an abbreviation of the prince, James Brooke Rajah Sarawak. In the following issue are the letters G. B. R. S., being the initials for the Rajah's son—Charles Brooke Rajah of Sarawak.

Of the many peculiar manners for spelling the word postage is noted on the first and second issues of Greece, by the abbreviations in upper part of the stamp, Ell Gramm, whose meaning when properly spelled (Ellenikon Grammatosemon) is just the simple word postage. The early issue of Denmark 4 R. B. S., was