

# The Ontario Philatelist

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

VOL. I

JUNE, 1896

No. 4

## Letter from Ed. Bee

### HE TELLS OF THE FORMATION OF THE DUETT PHILATELIC CLUB, TORONTO

#### The 1847 Issue of the United States

Nearly every collector of postage stamps belongs to some philatelic society, and I am no exception. But my society is different, perhaps, from the general run of such bodies.

Most everybody has an Uncle John, and so have I, and he lives in our fair Toronto. Ever since I can remember, he has been heart and hand with me in anything I do. A while ago I had a collection of tobacco tags, and Uncle John helped me out wonderfully, until my collection was the envy of all the boys. Last year I had the bicycle fever, and Uncle and I were a club in ourselves, and had many a "club run;" but this year I somehow got started at stamp collecting, and after having searched over garret and old letters, and paid visits to the neighbors, I thought I would try Uncle John.

Imagine my surprise when he told me that he had been a collector for years, and when he showed me his collection I was thunderstruck. I had not the slightest

idea that there were two of us. Well, the outcome of it all was that we formed a philatelic society to be known as the Duett Philatelic Club, and we are to meet once a week and discuss matters philatelic. To begin with, Uncle read, or rather told me about, the 1847 issue of United States. He said the United States first authorized the postage stamps by the act of the XXIX Congress. According to the law and custom a contract for the printing and engraving of the stamps was let to Messrs. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson for four years. They furnished 4,400,000 five-cent stamps and 1,050,000 of the ten-cent stamps, of which 3,712,000 five-cent and 891,000 ten-cent stamps are officially reported to have been distributed to postmasters for sale. Stamps to the value of \$12,038.55 were, however, returned to the department and exchanged for a subsequent issue. The issue was of two values only—five-cent, portrait of Benj. Franklin, and 10-cent, with a portrait of Washington. Between the border and the stamp proper on the bottom are the initials of the contractors, "R. W. H. and E." The plate impression of each was  $10\frac{1}{2} \times 23\frac{1}{2}$  m. m., and the color of the five cent was bronze and the ten-cent black on faintly bluish paper. According to the American Journal