

PHILATELIC NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By W. O. LOOMIS.

The first U. S. Stamp was issued by the U. S. City Dispatch Post (that is of governmental origin). It was authorized by S. R. Hobbie, who was the First Assistant Post-Master-General under Tyler's Administration.

Dr. Geo. F. Heath, in the *Detroit Philatelist*, when speaking about the early collecting and study of stamps, sums it up as follows: "That the great majority of stamp collectors up to 1865, the world over, were under fifteen years of age; that the average age of collectors is increasing, and that the large majority of the members to-day of our leading societies throughout the world are over twenty-one years of age.

Mr. G. W. Ebner, St. Louis, was the lucky one who received the \$40 in gold for selling the largest amount of stamps from Approval Sheets for C. H. Mekel & Co.

The *Eagle Philatelist* for April, contains a photograph of Mr. S. B. Bradt with sketch of his life, and the *Post Office* contains the photographs of Alvah Davison and Henry Greimmel, the former being the Editor, and the latter its Business Manager.

Mr. Millard F. Walton, of Philadelphia, who was at one time one of the largest wholesale and retail dealers in the U. S., has retired from the stamp business for lack of proper time to attend to it. His collection, which is said to be rich in U. S. Stamps, will be disposed of at auction by the Durbin & Haines Co., N. Y.

The editor of the *Detroit Philatelist* says that he recently secured some scarce stamps on original letters from an old Detroit firm. Among the lot were six New York 5 cent black, also Pomeroy locals, red and one yellow on black, with part of another attached; also unsevered pair of U. S. 5 cent, 1847, and 10 cent black, 1847, including many others. What a rich harvest that would have been for a young collector to find, as well as an advanced one. Yet such harvests are brought to light almost every day, although sometimes not so rich in scarce stamps as the above mentioned lot were. And it stands everyone in hand to look over the old chests and trunks in the garret of their fathers and grandparents and may be some of their friends, if they will permit them to, and such stamps found by the owner will be more interesting to him than stamps bought from the Approval Sheets and Packets. At least I found it to be so.

MONTREAL NOTES.

BY SANA.

A MISSING MONEY LETTER.—The missing \$100 letter in the post office of Kingston is the subject of conversation on the streets and in the shops. The *Whig* gives the following information concerning the disappearance of the money letter. It seems that on the afternoon of March 30th, a clerk in I. Simpson's office, registered a \$100 for a man in Glenvale, Ont.

One post office clerk made out a receipt and entered it on the mail book, another clerk noted the arrival of the letter in the Kingston and Prescott mail clerk's book for March 31st. This entry was made after 5.30 o'clock on March 30th, this clerk left the office at 6.30 p.m., and came back to the office on the morning of the 31st, arriving at 8.30 o'clock. He missed the letter at once and since then no trace of it has been got. The time for tracing it has elapsed, and the clerk who received it has been asked to put \$100 up. He contends that he is not responsible, and does not think that he should make good the loss. Before he left the office on March 30th he locked all the registered letters, including the missing one, in a safe; others opened the safe the following morning and left the registered letter department in a disorderly state. One letter was wrongly stamped, and others were lying out of their proper places. A clerk who had charge of the department left it for some time, and registered letters were left close to the wicket. The clerk says he will not put up, but will demand an investigation, the evidence to be taken under oath.

The post office at East Farnham was broken into about two o'clock on the morning of April 17th, its safe blown open, and postage stamps and cards to the value of \$55 stolen, also \$4 in cents.

A letter carrier named Armour Veir has been arrested for opening money letters and appropriating the money, at Toronto.

ENGLISH NOTES.

BY C. J. COX.

Trade is very good over here at present, owing no doubt to the excitement occasioned by the trials of the "fakirs."

One million of the new Letter Cards have been printed, but it is rumored that a further supply will be issued as soon as these have been exhausted.

New Stamp Papers and Philatelic Societies seem to be on the increase, two new journals being commenced in April, and the doings of the different societies being published monthly in the Philatelic journals.

The International Philatelic Union, commenced in 1888 with 27 members, still increases its membership, which now amounts to nearly 300 members, and has a great many foreign collectors amongst its members.

The Spaniard, Placido R. de Torres, charged with swindling several U. S. dealers by means of counterfeit Spanish stamps, appears to have transferred his operations to America; doubtless he found it did not pay in Europe. He was charged by the Spanish government for offering forged Spanish stamps for sale, and also proceeded against by an English dealer for swindling him out of £76. For these frauds he was sentenced to 7 months imprisonment, and ordered to pay a fine of 1,200 marks, at the Court of Bremen, in July 1888. He also went under the name of R. Fernandez.