

# The Philatelic Messenger

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## *Magazines of Yesterday.*

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Second only to the Columbian issue the Omaha stamps have caused more comment among American philatelic circles than any other postal emissions of recent years.

The city from which these much discussed varieties take their name has always enjoyed a varied prominence in the miniature world of philately, and collectors of three or four years standing will remember Omaha as the home of the *American Philatelic Magazine*. This was in many respects a very creditable journal and when in the early part of 1897 its sudden and unexpected demise took place there was felt a distinct loss to the current literature of the pursuit. During a successful career of four years in which forty eight numbers were issued the *American* maintained a high standard, and from a typographical as well as literary standpoint was always up to the mark. Among the regular contributors were such well known writers as J. P. Glass, Crawford Capen, Louis G. Quackenbush, Alvah Davison, Geo. F. Crofoot, Gordon C. Corbally and the original Veritas. Puritan, the Chicago correspondent, created much excitement by his caustic remarks and bold criticisms and naturally many inquiries arose as to his

identity.

The leading feature of the *American Philatelic Magazine* was however the editorial page. Our editors do not as a rule make as much of this department as they might. Outside of the news of the month and the comment on same there is very little more to be found. Mr. Brown however possessed a higher idea of an editor's prerogatives. His independent discussion of the questions of the time, written in a masterly and forcible manner, were always read with interest and pleasure by the collecting public. The fight against the cumulative ballot and the political manœuvres of Kissinger and ultimate victory over both are largely due to the A. P. M. It is a significant fact that thereafter the "Pennsy" when referring to the Magazine spoke of it as a "dirty sheet and collection of filth" which is a description at once so contrary to fact and so rankly low and coarse that it even provokes a smile on the lips of highest breeding.

As there was but one Gus Luhn so also the *Southern Philatelist* is alone in its glory. It was published in Charleston by the Southern Stamp and Publishing Company for the purpose of advertising their business. Its brilliant record began in 1890 and lasted for six years. With the great rank and file of collectors the *Southern* immediately became a favourite