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# CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

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## Washington.

IN looking over a collection of vignettes of George Washington, which were copied from paintings and busts taken from life, an idea struck me that the artists or sculptors of the profiles, etc., of "The Father of his Country" are, by name, not known to many stamp collectors, although all know the face of the first American president. To all it will be interesting to know who were the famous delineators or chisellers of portraits which adorn so many varieties of the stamps of the United States.

The collection of vignettes that lie before me are twenty-eight in number, and fully one-half of them have been reproduced on the postage or revenue stamps of the great republic

The two cent denomination of the current issue postage is taken from a bust moulded by Hondau in 1785, who came to America for that express purpose from France. This bust has on other occasions been brought into use as model for the engraver, but maybe we had better commence at the foot of the stamp list, which bears a portrait of our subject; and by so doing, can cover space more rapidly. The three cent stamp of 1851-56 was also taken from the model of Hondau, and to all appearances the same denomination of the issue 1861-68 is from the same bust, but it is by some (who are supposed to know) thought to have been

copied from a painting made in 1795 by Jas. Peale.

The three-quarter face bust as shown on the ten and twelve cents stamps of both 1851-56 and 1861-68, are from a painting by Gilbert Stuart in 1796. This Stuart was the most prominent American painter of that time, and so far as vignettes of Washington are concerned, is to the present day, since this picture has been re-produced several hundred times on bank notes, stamps, coins, medals and various other illustrated articles.

The medallion on the twenty-four cent stamp of the two series 1851 and 1861, show the same portrait, but taken from the opposite side, which change gives pleasing variety to portraits of him who could not tell a lie.

The ninety-cent denomination of the 1851-6 series is a very handsome stamp, bearing a full bust reproduction of a painting made in 1793 by Wertmuller, a noted Swedish painter, who came to America (Philadelphia) in 1876. At this period Washington was 61 years of age. Look at the stamp of same value for next series (1861-68). In viewing the features of the face closely, you are led to think that it is taken from a later design, but such is not the case—in fact it is the reverse. This portrait is taken from a painting by Edward Savage, made from life, in 1785.

The profile on the three-cent stamp of 1870-88, is from a bust modelled in 1791