

DECEMBER, 1892.

VOL. I. NO. 3.



THE

OTTAWA PHILATELIST.



A MONTHLY JOURNAL IN THE INTREST
OF PHILATELY.



W. J. SABOURIN,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

262 CLARENCE STREET,

OTTAWA, CANADA.



Entered as Second class matter at the Ottawa Post Office, Oct. 15th 1892.



The Ottawa Philatelist.



W. J. SABOURIN,

Editor and Publisher.

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AN EVENING WITH THE PHILATELIC POETS.

[BY CANADENSIS.]

Apparently poetry has come to stay with philately. The stamp poet is a fixture and no amount of abuse will drive him from his pursuit of dreamy effusions in Elysian fields. For my own part, although guilty of the unpardonable offence of writing so-called poetry, or rather doggerel rhyming. I disclaim any pretext to be classed as one who thinks his rhyme is *AU FAIT*. I have started a philatelic poetry album, and in it will be found the gems from all the well-known authors. My first page starts off with a composition given in the October 2. C. P. and written by myself:—

Summers may come and winters may go,
But never another will be, I know,
So full of poetry, glory and gaities,
So laden with errors and many rarities,
So full of surcharges, intangible lore.
Ah! there was never summer like this before.

—Canadensis.

Of the regular writers the two leading claimants to philatelic laureateship are Guy W. Green and Roy F. Green. They have both composed enough to fill several pages of my album, and it is a "toss up" who is the best. "Billy McGee's Sad Fate," by Guy W. is one of his best efforts, It portrays a boy who started to collect stamps with such enthusiasm that he grew weary and ill. The last verse tells the tale:—

Out on the hill is a new-made grave,
And sadly one reads on the stone;
"Here lies in his youth, a boy who in truth
Succumbed to Philately alone.

Guy W. is not very old, being born in 1873, but he has been a success as the editor of the "PHILATELIC FRAUD REPORTER. His "Philatelic Fairie's Revelry" and "Ode to an old Album" are fair samples of his poetry. One of his latest productions is entitled "My Phantasy" depicting a collector who apparently had a good supper late at night then got a "Jag" on and went to bed. It says:—

I dreamed of an album, whose covers
With myriad figures were traced;
Of demons, hobgoblins and witches
Who swift over their surfaces raced.

Roy F. Greene, is the publisher of the "EAGLE PHILATELIST" and has written several poems. His poem on "The Baby" written on the sixth birthday of the baby King, Alfonso XIII, is a notable example. Another one, entitled "Through a Glass," is a tirade against counterfeit stamps and counterfeit philatelists. A verse:—

I confess it looks honest as any in sight;
The engraving is perfect, the color is bright,
But though we may praise it, and call it first-class,
Quite rough it appears when you look thro' a glass.

"A Philatelic Wai!" is another of Roy F's productions, and he was evidently tired of receiving so many of those little amateur efforts under the guise of stamp publications, so he wrote four verses to express himself, one of which was:—

'Twas a philatelic journal
Called the "Stamp Friend's Monthly News,
[Volume I. likewise the number,]
Here I sit and idly muse.
'Tis to fill a long felt-want, and
Belongs to that vast tribe,
Coming monthly now to greet us—
"SAMPLE COPY. PLEASE SUBSCRIBE."

A parody on this appeared in the Oct. no. of The Stamp, by "Shepard," as follows:—

"SAMPLE Copy, Please Subscribe," in a phrase we all have seen,
Stamped upon all sorts of papers in inks of every hue.
It sometimes makes us weary, but there's one far worse than that,
"Your subscription has expired. Please renew!"

A. A. Bartlett, in his stamp "Reminiscences" falls into poetry, warning collectors that they cannot achieve fame without years of toil:—

Let us then be up and doing
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing
Learn to labor and to wait.

When those large U. S. post-cards first came out they were compared to a board and a shingle. The Oakland Enquirer says:—

'Twas not some legal document
That knocked me out so hard;
No, the postman only brought
A new style postal card.

The following egotistical effusion is from the pen of "Rex." :—

I can scribble stampic verses
 Full of smothered groans and curses,
 I can write up catchy headlines that will suit philatelic taste.
 On the slightest provocation
 I can thunder an oration,
 That will silence all collectors and scatter them post haste.

Frank Brown, the editor of the American Philatelic Magazine is responsible for the following:—

There was a maid in Ashantee
 Whose clothing was awfully scanty,
 To keep out the damp
 She stuck on a stamp
 'Twas found in the hut a Fantee.

This is called nursery rhymes, or the "Excelsior" style of poetry, of which "Canadensis" is very fond.

THE COLLECTOR recently had a poem by "Jack" entitled "A Bucket of Stamps" in which he says:—

How dear to my heart are the stamps in my album,
 As in turning the pages I present them to view;
 There are the finest locals and departments so handsome,
 And most every stamp the catalogue knew.

The rythm of that rhyme however is not correct. The first line has twelve syllables, the second twelve, the third fourteen, and the fourth at the most, eleven, by pronouncing "ev-e-ry" as with three syllables. This is the point in poetry; to be a success you must have correct grammar, with a clear meaning. The verse above should have been written either with 12 and 10 syllables alternately, or 10 and 8, although certain styles with 9 or 11 all through are frequently met with.

There are a number of perpatetic poets who occasionally fly off the handle with a verse or two "C. H. P. R." in the Worcester Co. Philatelist gives us the following:—

'Twas deep within the night's dark watches
 Where thick the shadows fell;
 A man who sought a "postage" stamp
 Dared ring a Druggist's bell;
 The Druggist, though he slumbered sound,
 Was very soon on deck:
 And then that fellow got that stamp,
 With both feet on his neck.

L. S. Morton, of New York, is getting quite a reputation as a verse producer. Here is one of his latest:—

Full many a gem, that might an album grace
 The dusty chests in some old garret hold,
 Full many a stamp was born to fade its face
 And waste its rareness in the dust and mould.

Speaking of the bogus stamps and the counterfeits, "Brit" an English correspondent says:—

So long as the world goes round,
 Will fakers and fakes abound;
 The people who make them
 Will find folks to take them,
 So long as the world goes round.

A couple of suggestive lines written by C. B. Corwin last year come to my memory much clearer in the light of past events. He says:—

If so soon I was done for,
 Pray what was I begun for.

There are a large number of writers like H. H. Zobel, B. L. Drew and H. F. Kantner, who occasionally quote their favorite poet. The first mentioned sticks to Longfellow, the second to Shelly, and the last to Charles Mackey. My favorite poet is dead! Tennyson—sweet name to me; but his works still live!

"The Philatelic waltzes" and "Postal Card Galop" composed by Hans C. Warner and Wm. A. Pond, Jr; are pretty productions in the musical line. One of these was dedicated to P. M. Wolsieffer. A song and chorus was got up on the retirement of the old 3 cent green U. S. stamp:—

Good by, old stamp it's human luck,
 That ends our friendship so;
 When others failed, you always stuck,
 But now you have to go
 Good-bye, old friend of many years
 Good-bye, old stamp, good-bye!

Another aspirant for poetical honors is our young friend Cleve Scott. He has only entered the ranks of the poets but bids fair to out-rival a goodly number, Jewett's PHILATELIC MOCKING BIRD to the contrary, notwithstanding. One of his latest is on "Morgan, the Fraud," a verse of which runs thusly:—

"Where is Morgan the stamp man of Camden, N. J.
 The "Publisher of the Columbian Philatelist" they say.
 Stamp out the stamp fraud as he enters the ring,
 "Philately clear of frauds" we philatelists must sing.

Another of his attempts is intitled "A Philatelic Musing," depict-

ing a dream. While not as good as the former still it has certain redeeming features, which can only be found upon reading the whole. One of the verses runs thusly:—

Two's the diligent brain of Wanamaker,
The king of all his class,

Who worked for the good of philately and all its jolly mass.
Sebeck's speculation, busted clear unto the core,
His speculation worsted, his schemes were no more.

With age this poet can improve. Above all things correct rythm must be observed,

Then we have the doggerel ryhmesters, ALIAS boy poets, a good example of which can be found in the PENNSYLVANIA PHILATELIST for November, and it goes under the FOXY name of "Why we Shout!" It is the richest thing in its line seen for many a day. No attempt is made at correct rythm, but we give the best verse of all, which runs as follows:—

Then, oh then, with joyous shout
Let us rent the air about,
In an ecstasy of unadulterated bliss and cheer,
And proclaim to every one,
Who is longing for a gun

The common reason for our shouting—"Winter'll soon be hear!"

Everyone who reads it no doubt longs for a gun and at the same time a tender wish that the "only boy poet" would have in sight. Freddy get your gun! The following memorial verse was written after recovering from a bilious attack consequent upon reading "Why we Shout?":—

Without the smile from stampic beauty won,
Oh! what, a poet? A boy without a sun,
And yet, perhaps not quite as bad as that
For there still remains the solace of a foxy cat.
"Requiescat in Pace!"



SOME OF MY OPINIONS.

And now comes a new prophet into the philatelic world. It is no less an authority than the LADIES HOME JOURNAL, which recently contained a short article on the million postage stamp story, and a few hints touching these bits of paper so dear to collectors' hearts. The strangest part of the whole matter is that the JOURNAL advises cutting the stamps from envelopes and post cards. Yea, verily a new prophet has arisen.

The NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW is a staid, philosophic, old magazine, which goes on its way with increasing prosperity, and seldom, if ever, mentions the smaller delights of this mundane sphere. I noticed a few lines in it recently, however, which will doubtless interest collectors. In an article by H. W. Lucy on "Electioneering Methods in England," the author speaks of plurality of votes, and tells of one of John Bull's subjects who was possessed of forty of these commodities. Mr. Lucy then goes on to say that "As some people give themselves up to the craze of collecting china or first editions of books, this gentleman had devoted time and money to the acquisition of this rare, probably unique, collection of Parliamentary votes." "But," states Mr. Lucy, "As the liberals intend when their choice comes, not only to establish the principle of "One man, One vote," but to fix all the polling at a general election to take place on one day, plural votes are already a drug in the market, and will presently become of as little value as albums of old postage-stamps and other curios that have had their day." We are sorry that Mr. Lucy imagines postage stamp collecting has had its day. Possibly some one will be kind enough to set the distinguished author of "A Diary of Two Parliaments" right on this matter, as it is really lamentable to see such ignorance manifested in this enlightened age of the world.

"In the dear dead past," as the poet says, I wrote my first contribution for the philatelic press. I made the mistake that all young philatelic authors make. I imagined that in order to interest the world of stamp collectors I had only to relish some statistical article from the daily press. This plan succeeded admirably for a time, and "all went merry as a marriage bell." But, as is often the case in this life, some thing happened. I forwarded one of my pet articles to a philatelic magazine, and it was excepted; but in his reply to my letter the editor said: "would it not be well in the future to leave postal statistics to the ordinary newspaper?" I took the hint and immediately thanked the editor for his advice. That was the beginning of my reformation, and that may account, in some measure, for the fact that the publication of postal extracts in the philatelic press is opposed by

Guy W. Green.



CANADA'S CRITICAL CRITIQUE.

[BY A CRITIC.]

The following is a "horoscope" of the November numbers of the various stamp periodicals:—

The WEEKLY PHILATELIST appears to be keeping up to time, and each week brings fresh gossip. It however is very small.

The YANKEE PHILATELIST is not a very good attempt but may improve with age. "India Mail Service" look as if it came from that big statistical book of P. Heinsberger.

The PENNSYLVANIA PHILATELIST is not a bad effort for amateurs. All its redeeming features are spoiled by the writings of one Frederick S. Fox.

The STAMP NEWS, London, Eng., published by Theodor Buhl & Co., is something good and solid.

The INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIST has nothing but notes. The two most important items are the ones in which it says the editors of the New Jersey Philatelist are "brainless," and the other treating those who do not exchange with them with having their death notice inserted free.

The QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST is always welcome. "Philatelys Pulchritudes" is even better than the Reverie of the previous month as well as being something original.

The AMERICAN PHILATELIST now looks like a professional magazine. Mekeel should have had it long ago. The printing and paper are away ahead of previous efforts.

The WEEKLY STAMP NEWS ought to have a large circulation in Canada. There are more Canada news in one of its numbers than all the Canadian journals combined, and up to date. Mr. Mekeel will send it on trial ten weeks for ten cents.

The PHILATELIC ERA tries to "ape" the Review of Reviews (England) and in so doing has set half-a-dozen other "reviews" going in the U. S. If they would only devolve something original in their own heads, and not steal other persons ideas, it would prevent them being made a laughing stock. It is SMALL.

The STAMP official organ of the P. S. of C. is a hustler. The society did well to get a paper that comes out on time and regularly every month.

The AMERICAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE is a neat paper, but their remarks about Seebeck being a "blood-sucker" is a little too fresh for kids of their calibre. Mr. Seebeck is quite legitimate in his dealings with the South and Central American republics.

The PHILATELIC JOURNAL of AMERICA is the best magazine for philatelist on the continent. Like all Mekeel's work it is A No. 1.

The MISSOURI PHILATELIST has also got the review craze, but it is the best on this continent, at least.

PHILATELIC FACTS AND FALLACIES is a very windy attempt from

Frisco. Its pages are awfully dry. The editor appears to be suffering with biliousness. The old stale story of "Paid if the darned thing sticks" printed in all the boys' amateurs of ten years ago is here produced as something original!!

The EASTERN PHILATELIST always contains good reading matter. "Philatelic Platitudes" is decidedly rich and hits off some of the philatelic doings of the day in grand style. Bro. Pinkham always manages to have three or four good articles and fresh notes.

The AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY is a magazine worth looking at. It does not contain any rehashed reviews and is a model of neatness.

The PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF CANADA is improving slowly, and expresses sorrow for this paper! Thanks!

The CANADIAN PHILATELIST is fast approaching the pinnacle of fame. It is wonderfully free from the childish remarks generally seen in stamp papers such as the review "rot" now being imposed upon unfortunate philatelist through Jewett and Small's PHILATELIC ERA. They should change its name to the MOCKING BIRD.

The METROPOLITAN PHILATELIST contains very interesting reading. John Walter Scott's name carries weight with it in philatelic circles and we respect the "father of philately."



OTTAWA NOTES.

The regular meeting of the P. S. of C. branches have begun in the Canadian Institute Hall.

If you have not already done so send in your dues to the Secretary, and avoid having your name published as expelled.

Auction sales are quite a feature of the different society meetings.

Secretary Mooers, of Kingston, says SOME of the Ottawa boys are slow in paying up. Who are they?

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I consider your article "Science of Philately" in the STAMP as the best ever written. -R. P. Spooner

We think Hooper's "Postage Stamps of Canada" in the EAGLE PHILATELIST as the best article of the season for philately. -Roy F. Greene.

The most prolific philatelic writer on the continent. -Stamp Collector

With such correspondents as "Canadensis" the freshness of whose style is so well known, it is little wonder that Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News has been such a success. -Western Philatelist.

The excellent series of articles in the Eagle Philatelist of the Stamps of Canada from the pen of Mr. J. R. Hooper, is really the best production given about our own stamps. -Ottawa Philatelist

In the Quaker City Philatelist "Canadensis" contributes a clever article, a Philatelic Reverie" containing a large number of verses chiefly fashioned upon those of "Lear's Nonsense Book," which will well repay the reading. -J. W. Scott, "The Father of Philately," IN METROPOLITAN PHILATELIST.

One of the philatelic lights of Canada, making an especial study of counterfeits & watermarks. -Canadian Philatelist.

The organizer and promoter of Canada's two leading societies and the former publisher of two professional papers, he is producing articles well worthy of translation into our language. -Nederlandsche Postzakkunde. (Amsterdam.)

"Canadensis" vigorously inveighs against the forgery collections, and protest against cheap and nasty Journalism. Mr. Hooper is the author of a capital article on the "Stamps of Canada" -Review of Reviews. (England.)
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