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## JOURNAL + OF + PHILATELY.

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## J. L. THOMPSIN

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## TORONTO

OURNAL OF PHILATELY

Vol. I.

TORONTO, MAY, 1892.

No. 1.

A HISTORY OF PHILATELY.

#### CHAPTER I.

Everything in this world has a history, and I think a short sketch of the origin and growth of our pet hobby may prove of interest to the readers of this journal.

The question as to who the first collector was is rather a matter of doubt. The first collection of any kind that I can get any reliable information on was made by Mr. Jno. Bourke, Receiver-General of Dublin, in 1774. These were not postage stamps, however, but fiscals.

Sir Rowland Hill may be said to have made the first collection of postage stamps, as he preserved specimens of all the English stamps as they were issued, and also of the various foreign stamps. But the first genuine Philatelists seem to have been Mr. Mount Brown, of London, Eng., and Monsieur Moens, of Brussels, who both started to collect about the same time.

I take the following from a letter from Maj. E. B. Evans. He says :--"As far as I am personally concerned I can only say that when I commenced

In 1861, the trade in stamps had fully started, and I know that in the first number of the Stamp Collectors' Magaziuc, Feb. 1st, 1863, the editor states that he remembered being asked for stamps some eight or nine years previously, by a young lady, who had been even then collecting for some time. This would take us back to about 1853, as a date at which there must have been collectors in England."

This information, coming from such a source, is sure to be reliable, and goes to show that it did not take long after their introduction for stamps to be collected as objects of curiosity and instruction.

The first collector in America was Mr. Geo. Dill, of Prince Edward Island, who began a collection in 1859. Mr. Preble, of Portland, seems to have had a lot of stamps about this time, but merely saved the most curious-looking of them, and did not not attempt to sort them into countries or issues. In 1862-3 a great impetus was given to Philately by the publication of a number of catalogues and of the Stamp Collectors' Magazine, of London, Eng. One of the first . catalogues was that by M. Potiquet, which contained about 43 pages and catalogue between 700 and 800 stamps. The first regular album for stamps was issued in the same year by Justin Lallier, who was a member of the French Society for the Preservation of Historical Monuments of the Archaelogical Societies of Orleans This album was published and Sens. in English, French, German and Spanish editions, and must have been a bonanza to the collectors at that time.

Shortly after this it became quite a fashionable fad for collectors to gather in the parks and squares of Paris on Sunday afternoon, for the purpose of exchanging and purchasing stamps from one another, and in this was originated the celebrated Paris Stamp Exchange, which is held every Sunday afternoon in the Avenue Gabriel, Champs-Elysees.

This idea quickly spread to New York, and a number of dealers soon sprang up. John Bailey, who kept a candy and coin stand on the park railings, and Wm. P. Brown were among the first. The fashion was then to place the stamps on a board and keep them from blowing away by placing a tack through them.

I think the postage (or express) charges would soon ruin all our dealers if they sent out stamps on approval in that way now.

To J. W. Scott, the proprietor of the J. W. Scott Co., of New York, belongs the honor of being the first regular dealer in America. Perhaps the first price list ever issued on this side of the Atlantic was that of Thomas R, Jenkins, of Halifax, N.S., in July, 1863. There were six or seven other dealers at this time, but I do not know of any of them issuing lists.

The prices asked for stamps at this time would make an 1892 collector fairly groan. A dealer who would have asked more than \$1.00 for a stamp at that time would have been promptly locked up in a lunatic asylum as a positively dangerous case.

In 1868 Mr. W. P. Brown catalogued a Battleboro' at the exorbitant(?) price of \$1.00. Oh that I could put time back for twenty-five years and buy up a few hundred of them ! But I digress.

Stamp collecting could now be said to be past its period of baby-hood and although its progress was through many a conflict, many a doubt, yet it was sure and steady.

There is an old saying that "there are tricks in all trades," and it did not take long for tricksters to get into Philately's ranks. Someone conceived the brilliant idea of counterfeiting rare stamps and selling them to collectors. Some were honest enough to advertise them as fac similes, but the majority left that matter for their customers to find. Until within about five or six years ago this was the collector's greatest stumbling block, and I think more people became disgusted with Philately through this cause than any other. But by a united effort on the part of our prominent Philatelists and the Philatelic press, we have been rid of this nuisance, and it has to be a very clever man that can cheat you with counterfeit stamps these days.

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Such is the history of the origin of Philately, and is as much information as I have on hand at present. up to the year 1870.

If any of my readers find any errors in the above, or have any additional information they can give me, I will consider it a favor if they will communicate with me before next month, and I will put it in as an addition to this chapter before going on with chapter II.

I have a Canadian postcard which was posted in St. Louis, Mo., and arrived in Toronto all O.K.

The "Canadian Philatelist" is publishing a series of "Philatelic Handbooks' quarterly, number one of which is already out. This is a move in the right direction.

#### THESE NEWSPAPER ARTI-CLES.

Every few weeks some newspaper comes out with a highly original article entitled, "The popular mania," "The latest fad," or something of that These articles are generally sort. intended to give the public an idea of what stamp collecting is, but invariably fall very far short of the mark. They usually start off with an account of some enormous collection; sometimes it belongs to a Spanish prince and sometimes to a very wealthy Frenchman, but he always has every stamp but one, and is willing to give half his fortune for that precious stamp.

This is generally about all the probable matter the article contains, the remainder being a badly mixed account of shark dealers, counterfeiters, approval sheet frauds etc., etc. It is little wonder that we are sometimes laughed at.

Philately has among its followers many clever writers, who could make up as good a newspaper article as anyone, and what is wanted is for a few common-sense articles to be written in a way that will convince people that we are not the lunatics they take us for. It would do no harm to try the experiment, and if it only gave folks a better opinion of us it would be a great deal of good accomplished.

We intend adding a number of new features next month, one of which will be an exchange column. Send in an exchange notice of not more than forty words with your subscription and we will see that it is taken care of.

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## TORONTO Journal & of & Philately.

#### TORONTO, MAY, 1892.

It was our intention when we commenced publishing this Journal to act in the capacity of official organ for the United Philatelic Association, under the name of the United Association Philatelist, but it appears that the Washington Philatelist has obtained that position in the Society. When things come to pass that the president of an association is so ignored by the other officers that they do not deem it advisable to ask and receive his opinion in a matter of vital importance to such society, then it is time for the president to say something. In the matter of choosing an official organ for any society, a number of journals should be nominated and their terms obtained, and then submitted to the members of the association to vote upon. In this case none of these proceedings have been taken, as they merely applied for the terms of one paper and appeared to be perfectly satisfied with that.

We do not, on the whole, appreciate their taste in appointing a journal that has only issued its initial number, when there are others to be had, perhaps, with more satisfactory terms. However, if the majority of the members approve of this move on their part, we

can on'y wish them the success which we would if they had chosen another paper.

#### READ THIS CAREFULLY.

What we want is your subscription to this paper. Just for the present we have decided to reduce our price to twenty cents a year; and if you don't get your money's worth it won't be our full.

But in order to show you that we are determined to do the right thing, we are making the following offers:—

To everyone sending in a yearly subscription, we will give the choice of the following premiums :—

Set of 3 var. Chilian Telegraphs, or set of 9 var. Egypt, or packet of 50 var. fine foreign stamps.

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Any one of these premiums is worth the price we ask for the paper. Be sure and send right away before they all go. A hint to the wise is sufficient.

Mr. Hy. Gremmel, of the "Post Office," wants everybody's opinion on the consolidation question. As far as we are personally concerned we are for amalgamation every time. Societies with only a local interest will never have an international growth, and in consequence will never be so far reaching in their benefits. Mr. Davidson and Mr. Gremmel are to be commended for the business-like manner in which they are taking hold of this matter, and we wish them every success.

#### REVIEW.

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One Dime is received, but no material change is discernible.

The Philatelic Journal of America for April is in every particular an excellent number.

The Canadian Philatelist is composed mostly of the reports of the Philatelic Society of Canada.

The first number of the *Washington Philatelist* is before us. The design upon the cover is said to be copyrighted.

The Queker City Philatelist contains an abundance of society reports. Some interesting items on stamps would be acceptable.

The Collector this month is very good. it contains the constitution of the Sons of Philatelia, which society, by the way, is rapidly increasing in membership.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the auction catalogue of C. H. Holden, Port Dover, Ont., S. B. Bradt Co., Chicago, Ill., and D. S. Wylie, New York.

The Canadian Philatelist contains very interesting matter and is a splendid number throughout. After its first volum is completed it is to be enlarged to thirty-two pages.

Isn't Bro. Stanton going too far in forcing a mere price-list upon a suffering philatelic public, under the name of *The Philatelic Tribune*. Only lifteen

cents a year, but give us its worth in reading matter.

No. 2 of the *Washington Philatelist* is not a very inviting number, the principal feature being the cover. The editors would do well to till up the spaces at the bottom of each page with some philatelic news, instead of leaving such a gap.

The American Philatelist and Collector is very neat and contains some very interesting articles, one, entitled, "The Post Office in Turkey," gives all the manœuvres "a turbaned ottoman" goes through on the occasion of purchasing a postage stamp. On this side of the "pond" I am doubtful if the clerks would stand it.

The Eagle Philatelist is a veritable "thing of beauty," and it will be a "joy forever" if, every month, it comes out in the style of the April number. Mr. Roy F. Greene, who was editor of the late Spy Glass, is serving in the same capacity for the E. P., and, therefore, we cannot but expect good things hereafter from that paper.

With the May number of the above paper Mr. J. R. Hooper will commence an article on Canadian Stamps. It will give you the real value of each stamp and will, when completed, be an excel' lent catalogue of Canadian stamps, as Mr. Hooper is an authority on the stamps of Canada.

The Eastern Philatelist has, as usual, some very interesting articles. "Canadensis" relates a "plain, unvarnished reminiscence," in which "a young lady"

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takes a leading part. She has some rare stamps, which she will dispose of to the art or science of stamp collecting. for a small amount. Our worthy "Can" sends her the requisite amount, but is dissapointed "'hen he receives an epistle from her relating the death of the rarities, which was occasioned by the servant burning those "bits of paper."

The young collector who reads in his stamp catalogue, under the head of Gibraltar-" Bermuda stamps surcharged 'Gibraltar',"-very naturally supposes that a portion of the surplus stock of Bermuda had this surcharge applied to meet an emergency at Gibraltar. But on examining the colors of the surcharged stamps, he will find that the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d. and 1 sh. differ in this respect from the same He is therevalues of the Bermudas. fore forced to conclude-quite correctly, too-that these stamps, prior to their being surcharged, were never in use, nor intended for use, in Bern.uda. They were printed from the Bermuda plates, but in colors especially intended for Gibraltar, and which would correspond with those of a new issue for that community, the plates of which were then in course of preparation.

Why is a sheet of perforated stamps like distant relations ?

Because they are slightly connected.

"Philately" is the Greek name given

The Shah of Persia is said to be an enthusiastic stamp collector.

Mr. J. K. Tiffany is the highest authority on the stamps of Peru.

The Chicago Philatelic Society is the largest of any city in the United States, but regarding stamp dealers that city is not up to the time, excepting one or two.

It is not generally known that the 50c. yellow and 100c. orange Mexico 1882 issue are scarce, and catalogued entirely too low.

The Museum of the Mint of the Republic at Paris, France, exhibits a complete set of the first issue of U.S. stamped envelopes, surcharged "specimen." This set was presented by the U.S. to the French Government in the reign of Napoleon III.

I recently saw a Canadian Post-Card, present issue, that had instead of "The address to BE written on this side," had "The address to BF written on this side.

If the 600,000 collectors in the world had an average of only 500 var. of stamps in their collections, it would mean that if the stamps were placed side by side in one line, that line would be over 2,500 miles long.

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Sample copy of "Missouri Philatelist" free. Collectors send for large retail list. Dealers and those wishing to go into the stamp business, send for wholesale list. U.S. and Foreign stamps bought. No rubbish in the following. All genu- ine specimens co-taining many rarities. 119 stamps, all diff. St. 50% stamps, all diff. 52, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 36% stamps, all diff. 52, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 36% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 36% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 36% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 36% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 36% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 36% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 36% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 50% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 50% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 50% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 50% stamps, all diff. 59, 200 stamps, all diff. 51, 50% stamps, all diff. 50% acid layer between the stamp stamps all diff. 50% acid layer between the stamp sta	W. WEATHERSTON, 13 Peter Street, TORONTO, CAN. Send for List of Sets. I HAVE A FEW SETS OF CANADA
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