

THE Canadian Philatelist.

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The Canadian Philatelist

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. III. No. 6.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 1, 1894.

WHOLE No. 30.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

ABOUT POSTAL CARDS.

BY A. O. EAST.

THE editor has requested me to furnish the readers of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST with a few jottings each month in reference to the collecting of postal cards, and I feel that this new department is one which will be appreciated by the readers of this journal, as post card collectors have been increasing very rapidly of late. Regarding my notes on the subject I do not claim that they are all original, yet I shall gather from various sources only such matter as I believe will interest my readers.

•
The Postal Card, that little sheet so useful to every card collector, has reached its 117th number, an age which comparatively few publications attain.

•
An interesting discussion has been going on during the last month or two, regarding the Provisional cards recently issued in Bermuda, and after reviewing the evidence, on the whole I feel inclined to believe that they are not an issue that should be collected, as it appears that they were never on sale to the public, being made only to gratify a certain P. O. official.

•
Belgium has issued two new cards, the stamp in the corner being the same type as the Sunday stamp. There is a 5c. green on buff paper, and a 10c. carmine on blue paper. The former card with arms, and the latter with head of the king.

•
Perak has issued two new cards with the tigers head, which appears on the stamps. They are 1c. green, and one by 1c. reply.

•
I see by *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, that a postal card sent from Berlin to Bremen was returned after eight years, and as it had become obsolete in that time 10 pf. postage due was charged.

•
Travancore has issued a reply card similar to the single cards now in use. The card is folded at the top and perforated: eight by eight cash, pale red on buff.

•
Every post card collector should join *The Post Card Society of America*, which is the only Society in the world devoted solely to the interests of card

collectors. It is also one of the few societies whose benefits are real. In many societies the benefits exist only in the minds of the officers. Mr. Geo. H. Watson, of 223 W. Grand St., Elizabeth, N. J., will supply application blanks and additional particulars on application.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

NEBRASKA NOTES.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

Cleve Scott was offered the unsevered pair of Livingstone, Alabama, locals that were afterwards discovered to be counterfeits. These were offered him by the New England Stamp Co., but had he purchased them the money paid would have been refunded, as the New England is one of the firms that a man runs no risk in dealing with.

•
Louis Brodstone's article in the *Christmas Penny*, favoring the holding of the next P. S. of A. convention in the west, has been well received by Nebraska collectors. Every effort possible will be made to have the convention held in our section of the country.

•
Ed. W. Wilkinson, of Lincoln, who has heretofore contributed liberally to the philatelic press under a *nom-de-plume* will hereafter use his own name. Mr. Wilkinson is a forcible writer, and I am surprised that he has not decided before this to come out from behind the concealment of a pseudonym.

•
In a letter recently received from a prominent Nebraska collector he states that he knows of one case at least in which the experiences of a man have been similar to those of my hero in the poem, "What Philately did for Revolla," which appeared in the *Christmas Penny*. In the case he mentions, a philatelist knew a young lady, but was not particularly impressed with her charms until he discovered that she collected stamps. And then—well, a wedding is to occur in the near future.

•
I notice, in reading a recent copy of the *Fullerton Journal*, that Dr. J. S. McAllister, of that place, recently went down to Genoa and extracted a lot of teeth without pain. (Whether without pain to himself or the patient is not stated.) The Doctor is quite a pooh bah. Besides a wholesale trade in stamps, coins and souvenirs, he is a dentist, a physician, and he runs a photograph gallery.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

THESE ARE NOT PHILATELISTS.

BY ROY F. GREENE.

SINCE the question has arisen as to the qualifications and necessary attributes of a philatelist, as to who has the right to that cognomen and why, it would not be amiss to air my views as to the class who should be denied the name and my reasons therefor.

The word *philately* has been defined as "the love of stamps," and necessarily a PHILATELIST must be *one who loves stamps*.

The person who collects stamps with the sole object of pecuniary gain, of realizing a profit on his investment, cannot lay claim to the title of philatelist, for it is a love of money, not of stamps, which prompts him to accumulate these treasures, and it would be sacrilege to allow him to use the name.

The writer for stamp journals, who is forever playing the role of pessimist, continually prophesying the decline of our hobby through cross-fancied or real, whose articles have a tendency to make us think less of our hobby rather than to love it the better, surely he can lay no claim to the title, philatelist.

If his love of stamps was deep and unswerving he would magnify the virtues and overlook the vices of our pursuit.

The collector who only imbibes pleasure from his album and stamps in the sequestered seclusion of his own room, who has never spoken a good word for the pursuit, who never comes out boldly and acknowledges his allegiance to the fair Goddess, but who acts as though he were ashamed to let the fact become known, shall we speak of him as a philatelist? Shall we allow him to wear the laurels which belong solely to those who fight the battles and proclaim the virtues of our Goddess Philatelia?

There must be an element in his makeup which makes love subservient to pride, and the fear of being ridiculed for his passion makes him play an inglorious part. Surely we shall not call a being with a lack of stamina a true philatelist.

It has seemed to me that a true love of stamps carries with it a brotherly feeling for all those associated with him in the pursuit. An affection which overlooks errors, which turns a deaf ear to bickering and strife, and which exerts a benignant influence upon the individual and elevates as well as instructs.

Thus the true philatelist, whom we shall consider worthy the name, shall treat with disdain all covert attacks upon his brothers in the hobby. Shall spurn with contempt the political intriguer and disbeliever in the potent influences of our hobby towards the elevation and enlightenment of those who embrace it.

And it follows as a sequence, that those of the opposite complexion we cannot, in justice to ourselves, and with the proper respect for our hobby, and the delightful Goddess who rules o'er us all, bestow upon these the honored name of philatelists.

Of course these are only opinions, others may look at the matter in a different light, and the subject is at least open to discussion.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

"WHAT FOOLS WE MORTALS BE"

BY WALTER A. WITHROW.

AT the succeeding meeting Rogers told his tale:

"A few years ago, when I was a 'kid,' I thought that anything I did not know about stamps was hardly worth studying over. At that time I had not all the cash I desired, for of course I would have purchased some Executives, dollar value States and such trifles.

About this time also was it that I cast about me for a means to replenish my attenuated treasury, and it occurred to me to turn my talents in the philatelic line to some purpose. I soon hit upon an idea, and it rebounded and struck me very forcibly.

I knew the first perforated issue of Canada was much scarcer than the unperforated series issued before it, and it occurred to me that as the perforated issue was so much desired by collectors that it would be an excellent idea to earn some money, and, at the same time, give collectors what they were piping and wasting away for the lack of.

So it was that I soon laid in a good stock of unperforated Canadians, particularly of the three and six pence values, the majority being on the original cover. I bethought me of the best means to perforate these stamps, for, although I did not care how it was done, I recognized the fact that good imitations of the regular perforation was desirable. Although there will be no difference in a stamp, simply because of a few perforations, thought I, it will be best to give my fellow collectors the worth of their money.

I finally selected a darned needle, not because it was the best means, but rather because no other means was available. I longed to see how a stamp would look when perforated, that is, a Canada six pence, and in my hurry I entirely forgot that there should be twelve perforations in the space of a millimetre. Catching sight of a smile on Brown's countenance, Rogers realized that he had made a mistake, and he hastily said "I mean in the space of five millimetres."

Of course that stamp was spoiled, which meant two dollars. But I was not discouraged, and said to myself, "Rogers, old boy, you're in for it now. You must retrieve your lost fortune," or rather I meant that two dollars, and so the next time I was exceedingly careful. I marked off the distance on the margins and carefully pricked the holes with the darned needle, but the result did not come up to my expectations, for the holes were but temporary, and when the stamp was pressed the holes filled up, instead of making the mathematical cut hole of the perforating machine.

I thought of going to our local printing office and getting the stamps perforated, but soon gave up that idea and eventually the whole job. But I was not discouraged and soon another popped into my head. Try the provisionals, was what it said.

Here the narrative was interrupted by Gauthier, who claimed that he was sleepy, and that it was time to go to bed, and he added, looking over at Rogers, "You might continue that yarn at the next meeting. It will give you more time in which to *enlarge* upon the subject." And it was unanimously agreed to give Rogers the floor at the next meeting, that he might conclude his story.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

OTTAWA NOTES.

BY W. J. SABOURIN.

Mr. Edgar Nelton, the well known Canadian philatelist, was in town last week with the famous "Zera Zemon Co." He had in his possession a lot of rare penny issues, which he exhibited in the window of a popular drug store, during his stay in this city.

A 1 sh Nova Scotia postage, owned by an Ottawa member, was put up at auction at our last meeting, but it could not be bought for seven bills of ten dollars each. It was a very fine specimen.

I received on approval, from several U. S. dealers, officially Sealed stamps of the U. S. black on white, and every week the postman brings more. Surely the 3c. Canadian postage is worth more than those labels. The other day in opening a letter I came across forty of them, and the dealer could swear that \$1.25 for the lot was a bargain. I will not be able to return them if they continue to come in, as it will take too much postage. Money spent in buying such stuff is money lost, they are not worth 5c. a thousand to collectors.

Fifteen members were present at the last meeting of the Ottawa Philatelic Society, and a great deal of business was done about the exchange department, etc. Mr. Nelton was introduced, and the city boys were glad to meet him and look at his treasures.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

THE MAN WITH THE STAMP ALBUM.

BY H. E. FRENCH.

HE HALTED in front of a stamp dealer's office and drawing from under his coat a parcel he inquired of the dealer who sat by the door.

"How's trade?"

"Pretty fair for hot weather," was the answer.

"Are you open for bargains?" continued the stranger, as he opened the parcel and presented one of Scott's first edition stamp albums, which seemed to have been kicked about the house ever since the close of the war.

"Humph," said the dealer as he contemptuously surveyed the album.

"You may 'humph' and 'humph' and 'humph' all you want to," exclaimed the stranger in a loud voice. "But if you want to invest in an article that will sell, this is the article."

"I don't think I want to invest."

"You don't?" Gracious goodness! but I took you for a man of talent and enterprise."

"There is but little sale for stamps or stamp albums this time of year."

"I know it is a little late, and therefore I am willing to throw off something. I shouldn't have the face to ask over 50 cents for this here stamp album."

"And I shouldn't want to pay that price," replied the dealer.

"You wouldn't? Merciful stars, but is it possible you would take bread from the mouths of

starving children, my innocent darlings, who don't know a stamp album from a bologna sausage."

The dealer was silent and the stranger pressed the precious album to his breast and continued.

"I'll go before any court in the land and take a solemn oath that this is one of the best albums offered in the market for the past fifteen years.

"I don't think I want to invest in any just now," quietly replied the dealer.

"You dea't? Is it possible that you will deliberately let this great bargain slip through your fingers? No, I can't believe it. Dozens of dealers in this city want this album—want it so bad that they can't keep still. But I was recommended to come to you and I am here."

"It don't quite suit my fancy," said the dealer, as he glanced at it the second time.

"It ain't? Here mister, shoot me, draw your revolver and send a bullet right through my quivering breast."

He dropped the album and held his coat and vest open, but as the dealer didn't shoot, he presently picked up his merchandise and continued in a sad voice. "Mister, do I look like a pirate, a robber, or a liar? Do you suppose I would go and tell you a deliberate lie and peril my chance of ever being at rest for the sake of selling you this album?"

"No, I suppose not," replied the dealer, leaning back in his easy chair.

"Oh no, I wouldn't. I ain't purty, and I don't wear many store clothes on my person, but I'm honest—yes, as honest as the day is long. If I should so far forget my early training as to tell you a lie about this album, I never could enjoy another night's rest, never."

"Well, I guess I don't want it," said the dealer.

"Heavens, is it possible you will let me return to my loving wife and fond children without bread to appease their hunger? Will you deliberately and wilfully sit there and see me tie this up and walk away, when I am offering it to you for one-half its value."

"You can, perhaps, sell it elsewhere."

"I know I can. I know a dozen dealers who want it; but they are not men of your reputation. When you hand me 50 cents I know it is a genuine scrip and go away satisfied. The others might pass counterfeit money on me, and I might be arrested and jailed and my family be exposed to the scorn of this cold world."

"I don't wish the thing," again replied the dealer, "but if your family are suffering for the want of food, I'll give you 15 cents for it and throw it back in the loft."

"Fif-fifteen-fifteen cents!" exclaimed the stranger, dropping the album and springing off the steps. "Now let the angels look down and weep. If life has come to this let me die at once."

The dealer picked up the newspaper, and the stranger waited two or three minutes, sighed heavily and then handed out the album and sadly said:

"Take it and give me the paltry pittance. I am going home to die in the bosom of my family. I'll gather them around me once more, take a last farewell, and then I'll drop in the turbid river and be seen no more."

The money was handed him and he passed down the street two blocks, turned to the left, and as he kicked open the blind door of a saloon, he said to the bar tender: "Grog for one and fill the glass chuck up."

The Canadian Philatelist :

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

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L. M. STAEBLER, - EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST,

185½ DUNDAS STREET,

LONDON,

CANADA.

VOL. 3.

LONDON, ONT.

No. 30.

EDITORIAL.

The 5 ore green, Sweden, is said to exist tete-beche.

Mr. H. F. Mooers, of Kingston, Canada, states that the P. S. of C. is defunct.

Messrs. A. Cameron & Co., of Jersey, Eng., have favored us with a copy of their wholesale list No. 9.

The current 5 ore wrapper of Denmark is now printed in a yellow-green color, in place of the old blue-green shade.

The Mekeel Company have just published another edition of 25,000 copies of their *Stamp Collector's Souvenir*.

A man in Ottawa offers \$100 for a 12d. Canada. If anyone is fortunate enough to obtain one it is not likely they would sell at that price.

M. Maurice Renoy, Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, will shortly issue a new monthly philatelic paper, to be called *The Buenos Ayres Postal*.

We shall have to advertise several accounts for sale unless payment is soon made. If this paragraph is marked it signifies that you are a candidate.

Mr. E. T. Parker, of Bethlehem, Pa., has favored us with a copy of a neat little book suitable for carrying unused postage stamps in the pocket.

We have received further complaints against R. Hoolaar, of Rotterdam, Holland, and we now have no hesitation in stating that he should be avoided by all who wish to escape loss.

The genial William Brown, of Salisbury, Eng., is now busy compiling a reference list of the stamps of the Straits Settlement. It will prove very useful to advanced collectors.

We have received a neat little calendar from the Queen City Stamp Company, of Plainfield, N. J. The office boy took a fancy to it, and we believe sent it as a valentine to his best girl.

The Duke of Cambridge is the only member of British royalty whose letters are forwarded free. He secures this privilege through being commander-in-chief of the British army.

It is reported that the firm of D. M. Ferry & Co., of Detroit, Michigan, who are among the largest seed dealers in the world, used some 150,000 3c. stamps in mailing their 1894 catalogue.

It is stated that some 2c. vermilion register stamps were in a safe somewhere in Nova Scotia. Burglars blew it open, and the powder smoke caused the stamps to turn brown. Hence the brown registers.

We see by the daily press that ready sensitized post cards are now being sold by the German Government so that travelers of a photographic turn of mind can despatch prints of the pictures taken to his friends and relatives at home

The *Nuismatist* for January comes to hand greatly improved, we must congratulate Dr. Heath upon the success which he has achieved with this paper. The issue before us is additionally improved by a new engraved cover.

A new departure in the line of a philatelic paper is the *Stamp Dealers' Advertiser*, published by Messrs. William Cornish & Co., of Walthamstow, Eng. The paper contains no reading matter whatever, and is entirely devoted to advertisements, principally of a wholesale character.

The *Nova Scotia Philatelist* has reached its tenth number. Its typographical appearance is somewhat poor, but the reading matter is up to the standard. We are pleased to see Eastern Canada with such a good representative and trust it will have long life and abundant success.

Penang, one of the Straits Settlements, is situated near the entrance of Malacca Strait. It has a population of 60,000 and is also known as the Prince of Wales Island. It is a place well known to most of our readers through its stamps although its situation may not be known to all.

A writer in the *Philatelic Era* says, "The designs of some of those Native Indian States stamps are enough to stop a clock. A friend of mine recently stuck one on the back of his watch and — Oh well, that is what he said any way, and you know truth is stranger than fiction."

Mr. L. S. Graham, of Merriton, Ont., informs us that, as soon as he gets second-class rates, the first number of his paper, *The Canadian Philatelic Journal*, will make its appearance. It is an eight page and cover publication, and the size will be the same as the *Detroit Philatelist*. We wish him success.

Australia has of late sent out several new philatelic papers. Prior to this we had given our Australian brothers credit for having a little more wisdom in this direction than the other English speaking nations, however, when we see them going into philatelic publishing it changes our opinion.

Mr. L. H. Benton has gone to the trouble of counting the number of stamps and cards listed in Scott's 54th edition with the following result: He notes that there are 2,438 postal cards, 231 letter cards and 27,358 varieties of stamps catalogued. It can readily be seen the amount of work that is involved in a work of that nature.

We quote the following choice item from a philatelic paper which was published some nineteen years ago: "Support the stamp periodicals, it is your first duty; without them the dealer cannot advertise his wares, the collector does not know where to make his purchases, or who is reliable and who is a swindler, and he will finally give up in disgust." There is not a little truth in the above, and it is well worth considering. If the above were given more attention how much greater the progress of stamp collecting would be.

Mr. Guy W. Green writes to inform us that a certain item which appeared above his name, and among his notes, in a recent issue of the *Weekly Philatelist*, was not written by him, but by the editor of the above paper. The note in question was a criticism of *The Canadian Philatelic Weekly*, which was somewhat unfavorable to that paper. We are surprised that our contemporary sought to put the item among those of another writer instead of in its proper place, among the editor's writings.

Canada has just adopted a method of keeping track of second class mail matter, similar to that in vogue in the United States. Previously the publisher paid the postmaster for the amount of postage, but now all publishers of periodicals are provided with a book in which, each time they mail papers, they place stamps of the amount of postage, which are cancelled by the clerk. When a book becomes full it is sent to Ottawa and a new one provided. At present the ordinary postage stamps are being used, but a set of newspaper stamps may be issued later on.

We see by the *Philatelic Journal* of Great Britain that Joseph Freudmann, of Bucarest, Roumania, has been arrested for forging stamps. It is said that his imitations were so exact that the greatest experts find difficulty in distinguishing between the forgeries and the originals. The stamps were sold extensively among the dealers of France and England. Bigsan, a Servian, who did the printing, is also in prison. This pair have also forged many other stamps, and the latter party also made false Bank of England £5 notes which were put into circulation by Freudmann, who it seems [was in the Roumanian Bank.

Many of our readers will doubtless be sorry to hear that the publication of the *Canadian Philatelic Weekly* has been discontinued. The Canadian Post Office department refused us second class rates, and after careful consideration of the matter, we decided that the best course would be to dis-

continue the paper. Eight numbers were issued, and although a comparatively young paper, it had a very large subscription list. We have refunded all subscriptions and take this opportunity of thanking our many patrons for their liberal support of this venture.

In looking over a recent number of the *Quaker City Philatelist* we were considerably surprised to see that the editor was publishing contributions from P. H. Heinsberger, who has had so much from free advertising of late. It our contemporary accepts articles from this party it looks very much as if he was encouraging his fraudulent schemes. We ourselves have recently refused a number of his contributions for the simple reason that we do not desire to have any but reliable parties among our contributors and advertisers. Every paper should take this stand, even though they lose money by it.

The thirty-eighth auction sale of Messrs. Ventum, Bull & Cooper will take place on the 19th, 20th, 22nd and 23rd of February, beginning every evening at 6 p. m. The catalogue illustrates the rarer varieties which are being offered. Among these are the 4c. Vaud; Winterthur, block of four; Zurich 4r. (the five types); Naples, 3t., arms; Woodblock errors; Spain, 1851, 2 reals, unused; Canada 12d, used; Tuscany, 3 lire; Moldavia, 10Sp; U. S. A. 1869, 90c.; Newfoundland 1/-, etc. The stamps comprised in this sale are among the finest ever offered by this firm. In addition to the above there are a large number of stamps which are equally as rare. We expect to have a list of the prices realized at this sale for our next issue.

Some of our readers will doubtless be pleased to know the exact number of Columbian stamps issued. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* gives the following figures: 439,253,350, one cent; 1,461,290,750 two cent; 11,228,850, three cent; 18,027,600, four cent; 35,248,050, five cent; 4,330,250, six cent; 10,650,650, eight cent; 16,485,263, ten cent; 1,547,790, fifteen cent; 600,300, thirty cent; 200,710, fifty cent; 55,520, one dollar; 24,079, two dollar; 19,331, three dollar; 18,469, four dollar; 19,035, five dollar; a total of 2,000,000,000 stamps, the face value of which was \$40,077,950. These figures are supposed to be correct, and at any rate we believe them to be tolerably so. The above will also be a subject for study to any ambitious dealer who desires to get a corner in Columbians.

A change of venue has been granted J. R. Hooper, and he will be removed from Three

Rivers, Que., and be tried in Montreal. Attorney General Hon. T. Chase Casgrain and the crown counsel, Messrs. Cornellier and Macmaster, have consented to the change. Hooper will also gladly accept, and the \$100, which is necessary for such change, has been furnished. Hooper's reason for accepting the change is on account of his ill health and the firm conviction that, if tried in Montreal, he will pass the ordeal and obtain his freedom. An incident citing the facts of the attempt upon the life of Mrs. Hooper by her husband at Louisville, on September 13th or thereabouts, will be laid before the grand jury in Montreal on March the 1st, and a trial, if a true bill be returned, will take place soon after. Mr. Hooper expects to leave for Montreal about the 26th of this month. This change is very satisfactory to him as he feels confident of acquittal, and of course this is very much pleasanter than if he had to wait till next June to be tried. We trust that the result of the trial will be that he will be exonerated from the charges brought against him.

The fifth annual meeting of the Philatelic Society, of South Australia, was held at the Society's rooms, Hassell's Chambers, on Wednesday evening, October 23rd, 1893. The Rev. P. E. Raynor, M. A., President, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. In his annual report the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. L. Peck, congratulated the members upon the flourishing condition of the finances of the Society, whose membership had increased. The exchange-book system, through the agency of which members had the opportunity of inexpensively increasing their collections, had been very successful, notwithstanding the severe handicap imposed upon the circulation of the sheets through the arbitrary imposition by the Post Office authorities of letter-rate postage on the exchange sheets. This expense meant prohibition, so far as the country members are concerned. Notwithstanding that a deputation waited upon the Postmaster-General with reference to the matter; he could not be induced to waive the point, and so a separate selection of sheets had to be prepared for the benefit of the country members. The Exchange Superintendent, Mr. F. C. Krichauff, reported the success of the exchanges. Stamps amounting in value to £446 had circulated during the year, of which £72 worth had been taken by members. The officers were thanked for their services and re-elected. Two new members were elected, and several motions passed relative to the working of the Society.

The 22nd regular meeting of the Buffalo Philatelic Society was held Tuesday, Jan. 16th, 1894, in

the new room in the American block. Mr. Hoyt in the chair and nine members present. The minutes of the preceding meeting were not read. The Treasurer's report, after having been read, was adopted. The Librarian's report was read by Mr. Comstock, Mr. Becker being absent. He reported that several volumes of papers were being bound, and that \$1.35 had been spent. Mr. Comstock offered three amendments to the Constitution: First, The consolidation of the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. After considerable discussion the motion was lost. Second, That the Governing Committee consist of the officers and five other members. After considerable discussion a compromise was effected, and as a result, the Governing Committee consists of the officers and one outsider. Thirdly, That the office of Auction Manager be dropped; each member should sell his own stamps, and the President to appoint a clerk at each meeting to keep account. The election of officers followed with this result: President, A. L. Becker; vice-president, R. Ashcroft, jr.; secretary, I. M. Cohn; treasurer, I. M. Cohn; librarian, D. Comstock; governing committee, F. R. Hoyt and R. Hubbell. Mr. Shew said too much money was being spent in binding. After considerable discussion a committee was appointed to look into the matter. An auction sale followed. The meeting adjourned at a late hour. The society is increasing steadily; two or three new members are proposed at nearly every meeting.

Under the title of "The 2c. Reay and Plimpton," a contemporary gives the following, which may prove useful in distinguishing between their dies: "The periods are square in both the Reay die and in the Plimpton B, C and D, but round in the Plimpton A. Therefore look further, and in the 2c. Reay you will find the center of the 'O' of postage, a plain long narrow oval; the 'O' of two is similar in shape and is crossed by a diagonal line; the figures at the sides are broad and in circles; the head is small and the net work even, while the 2c. Plimpton 'A,' besides the distinguishing mark of round periods, badly made, the net work is uneven and the circles of the 'O's' are round and both show the crossed lines. The 2c. Plimpton 'B' is easily distinguished from these by the figures being large and broad and in ovals, a very large head with a big projection on the front of the bust, the net work is uneven, particularly the bottom, and the round center of the 'O' of postage, showing the crossed lines, while that of the 'O' of two is either plain or shows the crossed lines also, distinguishing it from the 2c. Plimpton 'C,' which is the common die, and is printed in red as well as in brown. The centers of both 'O's' are

very small, but oval, with no lines or dots in them. The figures in the side ovals are smaller than in B. Plimpton C is a very rare die and is printed in red, has a diagonal line across the small oval center of the 'O' of 'postage' with crossed lines in the 'O' of one. The head is entirely unlike any of the others, and the lower back line of the bust is very much curved inward, in fact, is nearly the quarter of a circle.



The editor of the *Bristol County Stamp News* has gone to considerable trouble in ascertaining some statistics in regard to Scott's catalogue. Under the heading of "Pertinent Philatelic Paragraphs" he gives the following: "There are 2,438 varieties of postal cards catalogued in the new 54th. Austria, the first country to issue cards (1869) leads the list with 133; being second to accord with the various Provincial dialects, they count up rapidly. Next in order comes Mexico with 112 varieties, many of which are literally (also figuratively) priceless. They are on various colors of card board. Dominican Republic has 78, Luxembourg 74, Wurtemberg 69, Germany 64, Bavaria 59, Uruguay 53, Norway 52, Servia 48, Venezuela and Finland 43 each, France 42, Switzerland 41, Turkey 40, etc. Postals are issued by 63 countries, whereas adhesives are issued by nearly (or perhaps a little more than) five times as many places. There are in this same 54th edition, 2,734 varieties of United States stamps listed, besides 87 from the Confederate States. They are divided as follows: Provisionals 32, general issue 151, carriers 30, special delivery 3, newspaper 29, unpaid 19, envelope 298, letter sheet 1, department adhesives 101, department envelopes 54, postal cards 13, telegraph 93, locals 578, document revenues 408, medicine 535, perfumery 69, playing card 28. The total number of postage stamps is 718. Stamps from 16 new places (or at least 16 new names) have been added in the new catalogue. They are Anjouan, Benin, Cavalla, Central American Steamship Company, Dedaagh, Eritrea French Guinea, French India, French Oceanic, German East Africa, Ivory Coast, Mayotte, Mazagan, Niger Coast, Oil River; Port Lagos, Oil River and Niger Coast are identical the latter being a later issue of the former under a new name. There are some heavy postage stamp figures in the new catalogue, and postals and letter cards are not counted in at that. Variety in papers, perforations, plate nos., etc., swell the aggregates wonderfully. Look: Great Britain, 1497 (many envelopes on 14 varieties of paper); New South Wales, 1,048, plate varieties of Sidney views, etc.; United States 718; Egypt, including Franks, 691; Turkey, 659; Mexico, 610; Victoria, 492; etc."

STRAY HUMOR.

Old lady (sharply to boy in drug store)—"I've been waiting for some time to be waited on, boy."
 Boy (meekly)—"Yes'm; wot kin I do for ye."
 Old lady—"I want a 2 cent stamp."
 Boy (anxious to please)—"Yes'm. Will you have it licked?"

Proprietor (of grocery store to boy)—"Well, James, did you make any sales while I was out!"
 Boy (proudly)—"I sold 25 2-cent postage stamps."

Proprietor (hopefully)—"Oh well 50 cents is not so bad. Did you put the money in the drawer?"

Boy—"No sir. The lady had 'em charged."

Shrill feminine voice—"What is the cause of the delay of the mails, Mr. Stamp?"

Postmaster (absently)—"Your age, I suppose, same as usual, Miss Sophronia."

Why is a woman's character like a postage stamp? Because one black mark will ruin it.

The Columbian issue are not favorites if we may judge by the following comments: "Don't forget to put the envelope on the stamp when mailing a Columbian." "Write your letter on the stamp and send that." "Good chest protectors" "Make first class wall paper." "Who can lick them all at once," etc., etc.

Why can't the postage stamp learn the alphabet? Because its always getting stuck on a letter.

Miss Langham—"You Americans use the name of George Washington very frequently, do you not?"

Mr. De Yank—Yes, indeed. Why George Washington has been on every one's tongue since postage stamps were invented."

People sometimes hear odd things on the street cars, observes the *Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph*.
 The other day a sweet young thing in seal furs said to a sweet young thing in dark green:

"Alice, is it true that the Columbian stamps will not be used after this year?"

"That is what I understand," replied the sweet young thing in dark green.

"I'm so sorry."

"Why?"

"You know Frank Simson, don't you?"

"Of course. He went away to college last September."

"Well, we correspond with each other. Did you know that?"

"No; isn't that nice!"

"Yes, but mamma permitted the correspondence only on the condition that she reads the letters. We are so young, you know, and she is dreadfully afraid we'll write love letters to each other."

"What have the Columbian stamps to do with it?"

"Just this. We write all our love messages on the envelopes and paste the stamps over them. The stamps are easily soaked off, you know. You would be surprised to know how much we can put under a Columbian stamp, when we write a real small hand."

IT IS SAID

That there are nearly 690 varieties of the Egyptian official stamps.

That Mr. C. W. Kissenger's new weekly will be out some time in April.

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	Scott's Price.	Our Price.
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*Barbados, 1852, 1d. blue, blue paper	4 00	2 00
*Barbados, 1852, 1d. blue, white paper		2 00
*Ceylon, 1861, 1sh. and gd. green	15 00	7 50
*Ceylon, 1861, 2sh. blue	8 00	4 00
*Ceylon, 1861, gd. dark brown	5 00	2 50
*Mauritius, 1858, green	35 00	17 00
*Peru, 1857, 1r. bluish paper	12 50	6 25
*Peru, 1857, 2r. carmine, bluish paper	18 00	9 00
*Queensland, 1860, 1d. carmine	2 50	1 25
*Queensland, 1861, 3d. brown	4 00	2 00
*St. Vincent, 1866, 1sh. slate, (Scott's No. 5)	5 00	2 50
South Australia, 1855, 1sh. orange	8 50	4 25
Transvaal, 1870, 1d. red rouletted	2 50	1 25
Transvaal, 1870, 6d. blue, rouletted	1 00	50
Transvaal, 1870, 1sh. green, rouletted	2 50	1 25
Transvaal, 1871, 3d. mauve, rouletted	3 00	1 50
*Queensland, registered, yellow, 1865	3 00	1 50
*Trinidad, 1851, 1d. red, bluish paper	7 50	3 75
*Trinidad, 1851, 1d. brown violet, bluish paper	8 00	4 00
*Trinidad, 1851, 1d. deep blue, bluish paper	7 50	3 75
*Trinidad, 1851, 1d. brown, bluish paper	3 00	1 50
*Trinidad, 1854, 1d. dull violet	8 00	4 00
*Trinidad, 1857, 4d. grey lilac	7 00	3 50
*Trinidad, 1859, 1sh. blue black	7 50	3 75
U. S. Interior dept. 1c. vermilion	20	15
New South Wales, 1853, 2d. blue, (wmk. 1)	3 00	1 50
New South Wales, 1853, 2d. blue, (wmk.)	90	45
Canada, 1853, 3/4c. pink, ribbed paper	15 00	7 50
*Confederate States, 1863, 3c. rose	35	17
*Confederate States, 1863, 20c. green	10	05
Tasmania, 1853, 4d. orange	4 00	2 00
*U. S. Interior dept., 2, 3 and 6c.	25	13
U. S. 1851, 10c. green	30	15
U. S. 1855, 10c. green	75	38
British North Borneo, 1889, \$5.00 violet	7 00	3 50
British North Borneo, \$10.00, brown, 1889	14 00	7 00

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Packet No. 4.—Contains 25 varieties of very fine unused foreign stamps, including, U. S. Officially F. used, Guinea, Oboczi, Bogota, Patalia States, Congo, St. Vincent, French Indies, Martinique, Mexico 1864, Havaris, H. Simon, Masoritz, etc. This packet defies competition for both quality and cheapness. A dealer can coin money by placing the stamps on sheets and retelling them. **Price, 25 cents.**

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