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# THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

VOL I.

QUEBEC, FEBRUARY, 1872.

NO. 2.

## WHAT SHALL WE COLLECT!

In our first number, we advocated the study of watermarks and perforation, but in doing so, we would not wish it to be understood, that we recommend collectors going to such extremes as the editors of the European publications do. Our plan of collecting varieties is, as a general rule, to accept all those differences which are *plainly* evident to the eye; there are of course exceptions to this, which we will explain as we proceed. Before continuing our subject we would say a few words to the leaders of the different systems, or schools, as they are usually called;—let every man enjoy his own opinion, why should an American collector be despised by an English, because he does not happen to see through the latter's spectacles? or why should an American editor use all the hard names and slang terms he can think of, towards one across the water, because the Englishman devotes his columns to the description of varieties? What is wanted by almost every editor is *impartiality*, and as soon as they have it, the science of Philately will be able to expand, to a much greater degree, than it ever has heretofore.

To return; we would advise all collectors to include watermarks. We think we hear someone say "You break your rule at once, as watermarks are not plainly evident to the eye," which we immediately deny, as the back of a stamp is of as much importance as the front, in fact the Greek stamps have a design (a simple one, but yet a design) upon their backs; if only one side is to be looked at, which side of the above mentioned stamps is to be left uppermost? In recommending the study of watermarks we do not think it necessary, to include, either differences in the quality and thickness of the paper, or errors of watermark; this forms one exception to our rule. Our reasons for rejecting errors of watermark, are that they are, so endless, there are inverted watermarks, reversed watermarks, and watermarks used for the wrong stamp, so that if the collector can obtain a complete series of each proper variety, we think he can leave out the errors.

With regard to perforation, we would be very sorry to go back to the time, when the only varieties were perforated and unperforated, but would include varieties in the size of the holes, when they can be easily distinguished, without applying the two centimetre scale. Of course stamps perforated by *roulette* should be distinguished from those perforated in the ordinary manner.

We now come to the last division of varieties, namely shades. Much can be said for and against the collection of varieties of color, but when a variety, which is not changed by any cause, other than official, can be secured, we think it is perfectly deserving of a place in our albums.

We hope that from our remarks, no new beginner will imagine, that we wish him to immediately commence variety collecting, for such a wish would be absurd and foolish. When a collector begins to really know something about stamps, when he can see the value of collecting, then it is time for him to decide what varieties he will include and what reject.

Under our heading we might very well treat of locals, revenue stamps, telegraph and official stamps, besides a great variety of disputed points, but as space will not permit us we will have to write separate articles on each subject. However we must find room to express our disapproval, of the practice, of selling to collectors, such worthless rubbish as the Hamburg locals, not one of the 116 varieties was ever used, and the sundry packets of 100 or 200 U. S. locals, most of which are the manufacture, of that bright genius, S. A. Taylor, whose vile dealings in forgeries, we are happy to say, have now been almost entirely stopped.

The only way, in which this practice could be checked, would be for dealers, who have the cause of philately at heart, to agree neither to sell nor buy any such trash, and for the compilers of albums to leave out the spaces for them; the latter especially would have a very beneficial effect.

## NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

## THE PRESS.

*German Empire.*—Imperial arms embossed in circle, above in a curved line "Deutsche Reichs-Post," below value, the ground outside the circle, is composed of a fine network, the whole is surrounded by a heavy line of the same color as the stamp.

$\frac{1}{4}$	groschen	mauve.
$\frac{1}{2}$	"	green
$\frac{1}{2}$	"	orange
1	"	rose
2	"	blue
5	"	stone
$\frac{1}{2}$	"	green, news paper band
1	"	rose, envelope
1	kreuzer	green.
2	"	orange
3	"	rose
7	"	blue
18	"	stone
1	"	green, news paper band
3	"	rose, envelope

*Nicaragua.*—At last the long expected 1 cent stamp has appeared. The inscription is like that of the 5 cent; the color is brown.

*Madeira.*—We unintentionally omitted from our list, in our January number, the issue of this colony. Same as Portugal surcharged 5 reis black, 10 yellow, 20 bistre, 25 rose.

*United States.*—The 15 cent envelope, vermilion, turns out to be merely an essay. In chronicling this stamp all the magazines seem to have copied one another.

*Finland.*—Post-card, 8 pennia, green on buff.

*Hungary.*—In addition to the 2 and 5 kreuzer of the head series, there has appeared the 3 green, and 10 blue.

*Ceylon.*—A new issue is announced with the values expressed in *rupees* and *cents*.

*France.*—The Philatelist mentions the appearance of stamps, of the value of 15 and 25 centimes, with a figure of *15* in the centre.

*Servia.*—Post-card from this principality are reported.

*New Zealand.*—We have seen the 1d printed in brown and the 2d in blue, instead of vermilion and brown as hitherto.

*Canada.*—Just in time for the present No., we have received on a letter from one of our correspondents, the 6 cents, small size; the head is from the same die as before, the corner ornaments are slightly different from those of the 3c, the figures of value at the bottom are in ovals, and the word "cents" is in a straighter line than in the 3c stamp.

"*The Stamp Collector's Guide.*" In noticing this paper last month we inadvertently said that it was published by the American Stamp Co. In July last it was sold over to Tredwell, Rogers & Co., Elizabeth, New Jersey, by whom it is still published. We have received from the publishers all the numbers to date, and can confidently recommend it to our readers. The January No. contains a portion of a very good article on the Confederate locals, a list of newly issued stamps, and an article on forged stamps, besides several notices etc.

"*The Stamp Collector's Record.*" As we have promised to notice all publications we receive, we are compelled to mention a most blasphemous and insulting sheet bearing the above title. The publisher is that prince of rogues S. A. Taylor of Boston, Mass. and we only wish he had kept his paper to himself. In future we will consider ourselves justified in passing over this paper with the contempt it deserves.

"*The Philadelphia Monthly.*" Is a very good amateur paper, and contains a Philatelic Department. In the December Number is the commencement of a paper on "The Brazilian Stamps," which promises to be of some interest. Address Box 2870 Philadelphia, Penn.

"*The Stamp Collector's Magazine.*" The January number of the above periodical is on the whole a very valuable one. It opens with the 16th. installment of "Papers for Beginners" in which the stamps of Brunswick are discussed. In another part of the number there is most decided proof given, for the rejection of the long doubtful stamp, of Hayti. Lately the editor has begun to unflinchingly expose dealers in forgeries, this a step in the right direction, and we have much pleasure in seeing some of the unscrupulous rascals, who advertise in the boys magazines, shown up in their true colors.

"*The Philatelist.*" In the number for, last month, under the heading "The Spud Papers" there are described the miserable forgeries of the 1865 New Granada and 1863 Venezuela, also the very good imitation of the set of Heligoland. There is a very valuable article by W. Dudley Atlee called "Philatelic Literature," in which there is a list of all stamp publications since 1868.

"*Le Timbre-Poste.*" In No 108 for December the article on envelopes by Dr. Magnus is continued; there are also two valuable letters one, on the "Old Swiss stamps," and the other on the forgeries of the 1867 issue of Spain.

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

We clip the following from a United States exchange: "As the United States Government is likely to adopt the post-card system, the various objections to it are being discussed by the papers with some eagerness. With the view of doing away with the publicity which now belongs to them, two plans have been suggested at Washington. One inventor proposes a card which will fold in the centre, the edges being supplied with gum-arabic. Another suggests a card with a lappet of brown paper folding over the written matter. Either of these plans seem simple and convenient."

An old lady from one of the rural districts astonished a clerk in the Post-Office a few days ago by inquiring if he had any "yalley developments such as they did up letters in."

Some difference! In Mr. W. P. Brown's catalogue the market value of the Brattleboro stamp is set down at \$20; but Mr. Taylor can sell the *genuine* (?) article for one cent.

We hear that "The American Stamp Mercury" is soon to be revived, under the management of Mr. F. Trifet.

## TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

Once upon a time the congregation of a certain parish church, resolved to present their minister, with a barrel of cider, in return for his valuable services. The plan adopted was, that each member should bring a bottle full, and pour it into the cask. But one man, being rather stingy, thought that if he brought his bottle full of water, it would make no difference, among so many bottles of cider. When the barrel was tapped there flowed forth a stream of nothing but pure water, for each man expecting that all his neighbours would bring cider, had poured in a bottle of water.—We relate the above old story, for the benefit of those of our correspondents who have decided not to send in their names until the subscription is reduced to 35 cents. Remember that the sooner you subscribe so much the sooner will the price be reduced, and you can always be certain of having your money returned to you, so don't liken yourselves to the congregation in the fable.

We have had a good many enquiries as to what our stamp lottery will contain. We have made but few arrangements for it yet, but will mention that there will be 300 tickets at 15c. each; 50 prizes, from 25 cents to \$10, amounting in all to about \$40. The prizes will consist of Stamp albums, collections, packets, sets and rare stamps, full particulars will be given in a future issue.

## THE CANADIAN POST:

FROM THE EARLIEST TO THE PRESENT TIME.

By F. N.

Although much has been written on the above subject, still we think that there is quite room enough for another article, for the benefit of those collectors, who are just starting on their Philatelic career and have not had the opportunity of reading the foreign magazines. Before beginning we would say that everything stated in this article can be perfectly depended upon, as nearly all is taken from Official documents.

The earliest record we have of a post office is in the year 1750, when the renowned Benjamin Franklin was Deputy Postmaster General of North America. His salary amounted to £300 a year, but even this small sum was more than the Department could Under the management of this able man the revenue was soon greatly increased, and we find, that in a short time he was able to hand over £3000 a year to the British Government. At this time the postal accommodation was of the most scanty kind, as will be seen by the following advertisement taken from the Quebec Gazette.

"Post Office, Québec, August 1st. 1764.

The Post for New York sets out on the first and third Monday of every month. All persons are intreated to put their letters into the Office before 10 o'clock, as the bag is shut at that hour precisely, and Letters cannot possibly be taken in a moment after.

The Post returns from Montreal every Saturday at 11 o'clock at which hour the Letters will be delivered out, and attendance given till two, when those remaining will be delivered to the Penny Post."

When the war of the American independence broke out in 1775, Franklin, having taken sides with the colonists, was succeeded by Mr. Hugh Finlay, who had been formerly postmaster at Quebec. This gentleman seems to have introduced some improvements, as a regular monthly mail to England was first started during his term of office.

In 1800, the third Deputy Postmaster General, Mr. Geo. Heriot came into office, he had under his control the postal service of, not only Canada, but also that of the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick.

Mr. Heriot having resigned in 1816, was succeeded by Mr. D. Sutherland, and at the same time, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island were withdrawn from his control; New Brunswick was also withdrawn in 1824, thus leaving only Canada proper under one administration. The first regular Postmaster General's report was made out in 1827, by which we find there then

were, 101 post-offices, 2368 miles of post route; the number of letters were about 340,000 and of newspapers 400,000. At that time publishers of newspapers used to employ their own couriers.

The postal arrangements continued on the same old system till 1841, when regular steam communication between Halifax and England was established, and, at the suggestion of Mr. T. A. Stayner, the postmaster, the rate of postage, between any place in Canada and Great Britain, was fixed at 1s 2d sterling.

Mr. Stayner continued in office till April 6th. 1851 when the post office was transferred from the home government, to that of the Canadian authorities. The first thing that was done by the Hon. Jas. Morris, the first Postmaster General, was to reduce the rates of postage, to 3d per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce to any place in Canada, and fix the rate for newspapers at a halfpenny per ounce.

In June 1851 postage stamps were issued, they were engraved by Messrs Rawdon & Co, and were of the following values and designs.

3 pence, oblong, beaver, vermilion.

6 pence, rect, Prince Albert, brown.

12 pence, rect, Queen Victoria, black.

On thick unwatermarked paper, and unperforated.

Only 820 of the 12d stamps were issued for sale, of these very few were used, so that a specimen is now very rarely seen, as no Canadian stamps have ever been reprinted. Those that are sometimes offered for sale as reprints, are either the original stamps, or proofs marked with the word "specimen," of which a considerable number were struck off, before they were issued.

(To be continued.)

## OUR LETTER BOX.

B. W. P. Montreal; H. G. Toronto, Charles, L. Mc, and others. Accept our thanks for your kind wishes, we will be most happy to receive any contributions from you.

J. G. Belleville.—We cannot take trade for our journal.

C. M. Boston.—Yes, we are successors to D. Cameron & Co., and will send their price list, with a supplement of new issues, for 10c. We cannot give any more information at present, about the lottery, than you will find in our article headed "To our Correspondents."

H. S. P.. New-York.—All our prices are same, for Greenbacks or Canada currency.

REMEMBER, this is the last number we will send round gratis, only subscribers need expect to receive No 3, therefore subscribe at once.

## THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP CO. QUEBEC, CANADA.

We have on hand a large stock of Stamps which we will sell very cheap.

Send for packet list.

Following are some of our prices for Unused Stamps.

Bahamas 1d. 5c. Bermuda 1d. 5c. British Guiana 1c. 3c. French Colonies 20c. 18c. New Zealand 1d. 5c. New South Wales 1d. 5c. Nevis 1d. 5c. Prince Edward Is. 1d. 5c. St. Lucia 1d. 5c. St. Vincent 1d. 5c. South Australia 1d. 5c. Transvaal Republic 1d.-red (unper) 6c. 1d. red (perf) 6c.-1d. Black 5c. Uruguay 1c. 5c. Virgin Isles 1d. 5c.

### NEW "GERMAN EMPIRE,"

$\frac{1}{2}$  AND  $\frac{1}{2}$  GR. UNUSED 5 CENTS EACH.

Sheets on approval on receipt of postage

Best prices in Exchange or Cash given for used Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, Newfoundland and rare U. S.

A Liberal Discount to Dealers.

Price List ready soon, 10c, post free.

All Stamps sold guaranteed genuine.

### NOTICE.

A limited number of advertisements will be inserted in this column, at the rate of \$1 for 8 lines or less. 1 cent for every word over 8 lines.

### WANTED.

No. 5 of the Stamp Collector's Magazine. We will give 50 cents or 2s sterling for a clean copy of the above.

### THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

Published monthly by Birt, Williams & Co., Box 309, Quebec, Canada. Terms 50 cents a year, only in advance, post free. All subscriptions for the year will commence with the first No. Should we receive 300 subscribers before the publication of the April No., we will reduce the subscription to 35 cents, and parties who have paid 50c can either have their money refunded, or receive a ticket for a grand stamp lottery, which will be drawn for in May. *Induce others to subscribe and you will benefit yourself!*

### TO PUBLISHERS.

Parties publishing stamp journals are particularly requested to send them in exchange. Any publication we receive will be duly noticed in our columns.

E. VINCENT, Printer & Book-Binder.  
No. 18, St. John Street, Without.