

PHILATELIC

SPECTATOR

VOL. 2, NO. 4. BERLIN, ONT., APRIL 30, 1900. WHOLE NO. 6
A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO PHILATELY.

CONTENTS

PAGE	ARTICLE
19	Interesting Notes.
20	Transvaal Stamps.
21	Advertisement.
22	U. S. Notes.
23	Editorial.
24	Our Review.



—EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY—

GEO E MUELLER,
BERLIN, ONT, CAN.

PHILATELIC SPECTATOR

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF
PHILATELY.

VOL. 2, No. 4.

BERLIN, ONT., APRIL 30, 1900.

WHOLE No. 7.

INTERESTING NOTES.

At the present moment, while the unpleasantness between Great Britain and the Transvaal is occupying a prominent place in the daily press, it will be interesting to learn that on the very eve of the declaration of war a stamp collectors' club was formed at Kimberly. It is named the "Gripua and West Philatelic Society."

Since it has been decreed by Russia that Finland shall have no more distinctive stamps, it will be necessary for collectors to buy in a stock before they disappear from view. It is a matter of congratulation that the list is not excessively large. In fifty-five years, the whole of the issues of stamps, envelopes, cards and wrappers number only one one hundred and fifty type varieties.

Although catalogue prices are lower discounts still flourish. The average is twenty-five per cent, but an offer of fifty per cent is not frequently made.

As collectors are supposed to know the market value of stamps, they should be able to judge for themselves whether they are getting fair value.

Strange as it may appear, there will be no postage stamps to commemorate the Paris Exposition. This is due not to an oversight, or because the value of such an issue was not realized, but because the Minister of Commerce could not decide on a new design. The present issue has been in use for twenty seven years, and in 1894 new designs were made, but they did not meet with favour. Now that other designs are asked for, the designers are backward about compliance. They may, however, be exhibited in the Exposition, and the new stamps be issued before the end of the year.

The little wheel which has appeared on the Salvador stamps for the past eight months appears to be used in place of the word "official."

An entire new series of postage stamps is said to be in course of preparation for Sarawak.

TRANSVAAL STAMPS.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE)

In the current Transvaal one or two values are getting very scarce, and if they cannot be got in further quantities from the source of supply, they may appreciate considerably in value. The chief of these is the 4d value. Of this stamp the supply either used or unused is apparently very short and must our dealers. Of course there is the chance that supplies may be got via Lourenzo Marques. The 2d and the 1s values are by no means plentiful.

But a much more interesting question is what is happening just now in the Transvaal in the matter of postage stamps. Before the war broke out I heard that some values were all but exhausted, and already reverted to, the 2½d being surcharged 1d.

Then again, Mr. Kruger's portrait was being engraved for a new series. The probability is that the portrait has been completed and put into circulation. Who will be enterprising enough to secure a supply. I imagine a supply of Kruger's portrait stamps would sell like hot cakes.

Meanwhile the Capetown correspondent of the London Daily Mail says the Boers have surcharged Cape stamps "S. A. R." and value, for use in the occupied portion of, Bechuanaland. This does not look genuine. It has more the appearance of clever plant or speculation of some stamp speculator. In the first place the Transvaal would be much more likely to overprint their

own stamps with the word "Bechuanaland" as they did in the case of Swaziland than to overprint such old lots of Cape stamps as they might find in the local offices. Again, they certainly would not surcharge "S. A. R." but as before "Z. A. R." for they call their country "Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek," and the initials would therefore be "Z. A. R."

No doubt the war will give rise to some rarities in the way of emergency issues, especially when the British once more occupy Pretoria. And, then what a rush there will be for Transvaal. Then those of my readers who have taken my tip and gone in for Transvaals will not rue the day they did so.

A. J. of P.

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ors for only 45c.

U. S. NOTES.

The United States Post Office has reached a definite decision to sell stamps not only in sheets but also in small books, with intervening waxed leaf between each to prevent the stamp from adhering to one another. The necessity of protecting stamps in this manner is made imperative by the condition of the stock of many of the Post Offices in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Postmasters at those places have complained that during the rainy season stamps become so moist that unless they are carefully separated they will stick to each other. Much inconvenience and loss has been occasioned as a result. The Post Office Department then decided to issue stamps in a new form for use in the tropics, and arrangements are now being made with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to this end, all Government stamps being printed in that establishment. It has been decided that there shall be six stamps between each pair of leaves, and each package or book will contain thirty stamps. Smaller books containing twelve stamps may also be issued. An extra charge is to be made for the books, but it will be a mere trifle—one or two cents.

The Hunter collection was sold recently in New York for \$28,918 in 3321 lots, at auction. A stamp of British Guiana, issued in 1850, brought the highest price, \$1700, and an early issue

of Tasmania sold for \$125. All illustration of the fact that collectors now have for acquiring "freaks" was also shown when the two pence stamps of Western Australia, issued in 1869, was put up. Ordinarily it is sold at about 50 cents, but in this case, through a printer's errors, it was lilac instead of the regulation blue. There was spirited bidding for it, and it was sold for \$51. It took nearly twenty years to make the Hunter collection, and the sum realized is said to give the owner a handsome profit. F. H. W. S.

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THE PHILATELIC SPECTATOR.

EDITED & PUBLISHED BY
GOE. E. MUELLER,

BERLIN, -- ONT., -- CAN.

Subscriptions with fine premium, Canada and U. S., 15c per year. To all other countries, 30c.

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1 page	1	1.50
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An X opposite this signifies that your ad reached us too late for insertion this month but will appear in next issue.

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We wish to exchange one or two copies with every stamp paper.

Send MSS and receive terms entered at the post office, Berlin as second class mail matter January 1st 1900.

Subscription and advertising agent,
Chas. Bachman, Berlin, Ont., Can.
THE PHILATELIC SPECTATOR,
BERLIN, ONT.

Editorial.

The Philatelic post is now to be published as a weekly paper.

In Energy P. I. Weaver is asking questions but the printer was likely out of interrogation marks and so they were omitted.

Canadian publishing firms are still using cuts to illustrate their papers.

The Treasurer of the D. P. A. has announced that nominations for that society must be in by April 25th. The convention is to be held at St. Catharines, Ont. on July 2nd and 3rd. The society has now \$51.67 on hand.

The Weekly Stamp Tribune has been consolidated with the Allegbeny Philatelist. Any more?

For the spring season we are offering this paper one year and an inch ad in same for only 15c.

To anyone sending us \$1.00 before May 24th we will give ten inches in ad space. Ads may be inserted any time. Better send at once.

Owing to our paper being out earlier our editorial column is short.

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OUR REVIEW

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NAME	VOL.	NO.
Clipper	1	5
Evergreen State Philatelist	13	4
Northwestern Philatelist	1	5
"	1	6
Ohio Philatelist	2	1
Philatelic Advocate	8	4
Philatelic Inter Ocean	2	39
Philatelic Critic	2	1
"	2	23

The Clipper as usual, contains a large directory of philatelic publications.

The Evergreen State Philatelist has for April, on the front cover a cut of "A Kitchiat Bravo." It contains 12 pages.

Ohio Philatelist contains a likeness of Tremont Babcock, the publisher the Juniors' Collector. It contains almost nine page of ads to a little more than two of reading matter. I think the difference is too great. Otherwise the paper is a very creditable one.

The Philatelic Advocate although a little later than usual is very interesting.

The Phil. Critic was the first paper to reach us since last report. The publishers claim that they are the first to have the name of the paper ending with the word "Critic." This is not so as there have at least been two philatelic papers with names ending with that word. "You're not the only one" Mr. Hatch. That paper is also filled with non-philatelic love stories.

PREMIUMS.

For 15c we offer this paper one year, a 30 word ad in Bargain Column and any one of the following.—

- No. 1. Philatelic Advocate one year.
- No. 2. 10 blank approval sheets with your name and address neatly printed on.
- No. 3. 30 word Bargain ad inserted 10 times.
- No. 4. 1 inch ad in this paper.
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- No. 6. Beautiful fac simile of Canadian Imperial Map Stamp and a history of Canadian postage stamps, size 10 x 15 inches.
- No. 7. 25 packet envelopes with your name and address printed on.

an inch ad for 15c

THIS PAPER 1 YR

OR

WE WILL GIVE 12 thirty WORD BARGAIN AD AND THIS PAPER ONE YR. for 15c

THIS IS OUR BARGAIN MONTH.