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TORONTO PHILATELIC JOURNAL



DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, CANADA, JUNE, 1885.

No. 4.

Written for the Toronto Philatelic Journal.

THE UNITED STATES STAMPS.

BY H. A. MALIN.

The United States was one of the first countries to issue postage stamps. In 1842 the postmaster at New York, authorized by the government, issued two three-cent stamps; one was buff, and the other was brown. In 1845 he also issued a five-cent stamp, which was black. In 1846 Providence issued two stamps, oblong in shape, and both black. They were the five and ten cent denomination. About this time the famous Brattleboro stamp was issued by the postmaster at Brattleboro, Vt. It was a five-cent stamp, oblong in shape, and had Brattleboro above, P. O. on sides, and 5 cents underneath, while the initials of the postmaster were in the centre. Baltimore then issued an oblong stamp, with the name of the President across the face. In the following year New Haven, Conn., and St. Louis, Mo., issued stamps. The first issued a five-cent stamp, red, and the latter issued three varieties; the three, ten and twenty cents, all black. Then came the carriers' stamps issued by the government, the first of which were issued in 1849. They were round in shape, having U. S. Mail above, one cent in centre, and prepaid below; all of which was inside the circle. There were three colors: rose, yellow and buff. In 1845 three more varieties were issued, all of one cent denomination. The first two were black, and the third red. The general issue was issued. The first was issued in 1847. It composed a set of two varieties, a five and ten cent; the five-cent was brown, while the ten was black. In the issues of 1850 to 1860, there were eight kinds: the one, blue; three, red; five, brown; ten, green; twelve, black; twenty-four, lilac; thirty, orange, and ninety, blue. In 1861 there was another set of eight kind issue, nearly like the last issue except in design. In 1863 a two-cent, black, was issued, and in 1866 a five-cent was issued with the head of Lincoln. In 1869 another set was put in circulation, which

was composed of ten varieties. The first had a head of Franklin, and was brown in color; the two-cent had a man on horseback, and was also brown, but of a darker shade; the three-cent was blue in color, and had a locomotive on it. The fourth or six-cent had a head of Washington on it. The ten had an eagle and a shield, while on the twelve-cent could be seen a ship at sea. The fifteen had a picture of the landing of Columbus, and the twenty-four had an engraving of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The thirty-cent was similar to the ten-cent, and the ninety-cent was adorned with a head of Lincoln. Then came the issue of 1870-1, part of which was withdrawn, when the postage was reduced. It was composed of the one-cent, blue; two, brown; three green; six, brown; seven, red; ten, brown; twelve, dark purple; fifteen, orange; twenty-four, purple; thirty, black, and ninety, carmine. In 1875 the two-cent was changed from brown to vermilion, and a five-cent, blue, was also issued. In 1879 a set of Unpaid Letter stamps were issued. It was composed of a one, two, three, five, ten, thirty and fifty-cent stamp; all of which were brown. In 1882 the Garfield stamp was issued. It was a five-cent, very dark brown, and was noted for its poor engraving; and in 1883, when the postage was reduced, the two-cent, brown, and the four-cent, green, were issued and are still in use. In all probabilities the newspaper and department stamps are the hardest to get, as there is a law prohibiting the sale of them. In 1879 there were three large stamps issued for newspaper postage. There was a five, ten and twenty-five; and they were blue, green and red in color. With them also were issued a set of twenty-four varieties of a smaller kind and ranging in price from two cents to sixty dollars. The first seven were black, and the rest were of different colors. There were nine Departments; the first was the Agricultural, having nine stamps of a straw color; second was the Executive, with five, all carmine; third, State, with fifteen, ranging from one cent to

twenty dollars. Next was the Navy Department, and it had eleven; and the Treasury Department had also the same number, and were brown in color. Departments of Justice and Interior each had ten stamps, and were the same in denominations. The first was purple, and the last vermilion in color. The Post Office and War Departments each have ten stamps, not including the envelopes, of which the first has six, while the last has eighteen of two different issues. Of the Locals, the principles are Allens, Boyds, Bloods, and Wells, Fargo & Co.'s, while the others are too numerous to mention. The United States was the second to adopt the postal card, Germany being the first. In all the United States has issued about five hundred stamps, and on 1st July, 1885, two more will be circulated. One a ten-cent, green, for speedy delivery in the large cities, and the other will be a one-cent newspaper, and the same color as the smaller denominations as the 1879 issue.

AUTOGRAPHS.

There is hardly any calculating the extent of the autograph business. President Cleveland receives books every day with applications for his signature. Some of the books that are received already contain hundreds of pages of autographs. One of them received last week contains the autographs of every administration since Buchanan's. Besides this, the book contained the name of almost every man who has served in Congress in either branch since that time, as well as hundreds of prominent State politicians, literary men, preachers and actors. The book is valued at \$3,000 and represents nearly twenty years of work. It has been sent to Europe several times for autographs.

It is stated that the Postal, Bankers' and Merchants' Telegraph Companies have been consolidated.

The original manuscript of Byron's farewell lines to his wife was sold at a recent sale in London for \$85.

Toronto Philatelic Journal

Is published on the 15th of every month by

TORONTO PHILATELIC CO.

18 ORDE ST., TORONTO, CANADA

GEORGE A. LOWE . . . EDITOR.

Subscription, 25 cents a year; Foreign Countries, 35 cts.

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Remit money by P. O. Order, or small amounts in one or two cent stamps.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1885.

NOTICE!

The Toronto Philatelic Co. have removed their office. Kindly address all correspondence as follows:—Toronto Philatelic Co., 76 Baldwin Street, Toronto, Canada.

NOTES.

It is suggested that the mucilage on postage stamps would be improved if flavoured.

We want agents in every city and town in the world to get subscribers for this paper.

The small boy learning the alphabet is like a postage stamp. He gets stuck on the letters.

We send you a copy of this paper as an inducement to subscribe if you have not already done so.

We have received from Mr. Aug. von Glahn a copy of the Constitution of the Chicago Stamp Collectors' Union.

Mr. Lyman H. Low announces for sale a very rare Cabinet, known as the Athole Collection. The sale will take place on 18th June.

Mr. W. G. Whilden, jr., has favored us with a copy of the "International Collectors' Guide." We commend it to the study of collectors.

Every day the London postmen walk a distance equal to twice the circumference of the earth. There are 4,030 of them, and they average 12 miles a day each.

The total number of letters delivered in this city by carriers during the week ending 30th May, 1885, was 126,068. Of these 3,981 were registered. Total number of newspapers, 39,266.

'In many of the railway stations in England boxes are placed, acting automatically, to supply travellers with a postal card, or envelope and sheet of paper. Drop a penny into an aperture on the top of the box, and open a little drawer and there is the postal card, drop in two pennies you get the envelope and paper. It is so nicely adjusted that it will not respond to a bad coin. Such a convenience shames Yankee invention.

The hoard of 800 Roman coins unearthed in Cobham Park, England, in the spring of 1883 is supposed to be part of the treasure sent from Gaul by Magnentius shortly before his overthrow in A.D. 353. They belong to him and to the Emperors Constantius II. and Constantius Gallus. The argument rests on the unworn condition of the coins.

The oldest bank note probably in existence in Europe is one preserved in the Asiatic museum at St. Petersburg. It dates from the year 1399 B.C., and was issued by the Chinese Government. It can be proved from Chinese chronicles that as early as 2697 B.C. bank notes were current in China under the name of "flying money." The bank note preserved at St. Petersburg bears the name of the Imperial bank, date and number of issue, signature of a mandarin, and contains even a list of the punishments inflicted for forgery of notes. This relic of 4,000 years ago is probably written, for printing from wooden tablets is said to have been introduced in China only in the year 160 A.D.

An extraordinary capture of coiners took place at Birmingham, England, recently, two convicted thieves, named George Davis and William Bermingham, were charged with manufacturing spurious coin. For some time past the prisoners had been suspected of making counterfeit coin, and one day Detective Gartfield and another officer went to the place and found both men busily at work in the manufacture of half-crowns, florins, and shillings. The battery and a large number of unfinished coins were seized, and the prisoners taken into custody. They both admitted the offence, and Bermingham added that he understood Mr. Gladstone wanted to raise 14,000,000 of money, and they thought they could help him out. Prisoners were remanded.

British postal savings banks have \$223,868,865 on deposit.

The Toronto Philatelic Society held a meeting on 29th May at 76 Baldwin street. The President in the Chair; Mr. H. Morell, Secretary, and Mr. T. J. McMinn, Treasurer, were appointed to write up a constitution and submit it at the next general meeting.

The London *Lancet* warns people against the danger of licking adhesive stamps and envelopes, adding that it is a most perilous practice, producing local irritation and sore tongues, whilst occasionally other diseases are propagated by the habit. It gives the following instance of the danger it points out:—An envelope was received from a person who habitually took large quantities of morphia hypodermically; the receiver of it reclosed the envelope by licking the adhesive surface. He became violently sick, the mere touch of the tongue of the taker of morphia having rendered the gum intensely nauseous. Though one may reasonably doubt whether many people would choose this way of reclosing an envelope, it is clear that even with new stamps and new envelopes it is better to wet them in some other way than by licking them.

A "newspaper dog" of a very remarkable character flourishes in one of the suburbs of London. It is a greyhound, and its habit is to follow a particular postman on his rounds with the object of stealing one or more of the newspapers he has to deliver. It tries door after door through which the postman in question has pushed a paper, until it finds one that yields to pressure, when it seizes the paper lying on the floor inside, and darts off with it at a rate rendering pursuit hopeless. It would be very interesting to know how this trick was acquired, and what the greyhound does with the papers it takes so much trouble to obtain.

We have received the following stamp papers up to date:—American Journal of Philately, The Philatelist, Canadian Philatelist, The Museum, The Collector, Tidings from Nature, Capital City Philatelist, Collectors' Companion, Philatelic Herald, Our American Youth, Pine and Palmetto, Philatelic Monthly, Keystone Stamp and Coin Gazette, Stamp Collec-

tors' Journal, Empire State Philatelist, Spark, Echo, Exporter, Foreign Stamp Collectors' News, Hoosier Minorologist and Archaeologist, The Inter-Quarterly Change, Philatelic Journal of America, General-Anzeiger für Philatelie, Independent Philatelist, Philatelic Star, Dealers' Advertiser and Collectors' Exchange, Phonetic Herald.

* * Publishers of philatelic papers will confer a favor on us by sending two copies of each issue, and we shall be most happy to do so in return.

NEW ISSUES

That have appeared, or are about to appear:

Azores.—The new 20 reis, carmine, has the small surcharge; also the 30 reis card.

Barbados.—The new type has appeared, 3d. violet.

Corea.—Issued five new stamps: 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 M.

Dominican Republic.—Five new stamps are as follows: 1c. green, 2c. carmine, 5c. blue, 10c. orange, 20c. brown.

Jamaica.—The 1d. has changed color as well as the ½d. and 2d.; the color is now carmine.

Paraguay.—The 1c. is green, 5c. vermilion, and 10c. blue.

St. Christopher.—The 1d., rose, cut diagonally and surcharged "Half-penny."

Surinam.—The new stamps are as follows: 1c. lilac, 2c. yellow, and 12½c. blue.

Victoria.—Bearing the inscription, Stamp Duty: ½d. green, 1d. red, 2d. violet, 3d. bistre, 4d. carmine, 6d. blue and 8d. carmine.

NEWS OF INTEREST.

To write in haste and repent at leisure is the experience of many an impetuous correspondent, who is ignorant or oblivious of the rule that a letter once posted can never be taken out of the box, that it becomes the property of the postmaster-general until it is delivered. The reports give many instances of the painful results of haste and carelessness: "On one occasion a gentlemanly-looking person called and expressed a fear that he had enclosed two letters in wrong envelopes, and that all his prospects in life depended on his having his letters back, and correcting the mistake; inas-

much as they revealed plans which he had adopted to save two mercantile houses in the same line of business, whose interests clashed at every point." A similar blunder occurred in a more delicate affair, when a young lady was most urgent to have her letters returned, as she had accepted the wrong offer of marriage. The local postmaster was unable to resist her earnest entreaties, and thus prevented a painful catastrophe. But a whole romance might be written on the following incident:—A young lady, who had been engaged to a prosperous young manufacturer, was informed, a few days before the marriage was fixed for, that the firm was insolvent. Not a moment was to be lost, and a letter was written and posted, breaking the engagement; when, within two hours, it was discovered that the report was entirely unfounded. The report continues: "The daughter with her parents rushed to the post-office, and no words can describe the scene—the appeals, the tears, the wringing of hands, the united entreaties of the family, to have the fatal letter restored, but, alas! all was vain, the rule admitted of no exception."—From *The Royal Mail*.

Payments are made in Madagascar generally in money, though I have found some tribes still using the primitive method of barter. The only coin at present recognized as currency is the dollar either of France (the 5-franc piece in silver), of Germany, Holland, Italy, Russia, or Spain. For smaller payments than 4s., these coins are broken up and weighed. They are cut into all sizes and shapes, having no distinctive value attached to each piece, and the worth is only ascertained by careful weighing. For this purpose everyone carries a pair of native scales and weights. These are made with so great exactitude that the variation of the 720th part of a dollar can be detected. Buying is a tedious process, rendered more so by the fact that a single weighing is seldom accepted by the native, who almost invariably puts the money first in one pan of the scales and then into the other, to be quite certain that the balance is perfectly true. But such a cumbersome method, reminding us of the time when Abraham weighed his pieces of silver, must disappear before the onrush of civilization and commerce. At least one offer has already been made to the Prime Minister by an English firm to supply the country with a coinage of its own. But before this can be accomplished many conservative prejudices have to be overcome, and the suspicious distrust of the people to be surmounted. After having been accustomed to weigh every piece of silver, and to reject every smooth dollar, it will not be easy to induce these people to accept coins of a nominal value only;

more especially as with them time is not an article of very great value, and the haggling a long while over the just balancing of a penny worth of silver is a daily amusement. — From *Madagascar and France*, by Geo. A. Shaw.

: WEST INDIES :

We desire to enter into correspondence with collectors in the West Indies with a view to a mutual exchange of postage stamps.

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TORONTO, CANADA.

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INTERNATIONAL COLLECTORS' GUIDE.
25 cents.

W. G. WHILDEN, Jr., Publisher,
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In answering Advertisements you would oblige the publisher by mentioning this paper.

- THE MUSEUM -

A new 10-page, illustrated, monthly magazine for Collectors of all classes and young Naturalists.

It contains ably conducted Departments of *Natural History, Mineralogy, Archaeology, Philately, Numismatics and Curiosities*; also a special department for Reports and Correspondence of the *Agassiz Association, A Young Contributor's Department* for original illustrated articles by young correspondents, and an *Exchange Department*. In addition, each issue contains a large number of addresses of collectors, descriptions of private and public collections everywhere, answers to correspondents, descriptions of rarities in various collections, and a large amount of other valuable matter not found in any other journal. It contains illustrated articles by the most eminent scientists and collectors, written expressly for young people.

Amongst the contributors are Prof. Edward D. Cope, Prof. Joseph Leidy, Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., Mr. Ernest Ingersoll, Dr. Charles C. Abbott, Prof. J. T. Rothrock, Prof. Thomas G. Gentry, the Marquis de Nadailiac of Paris, France, and many others. Subscription price, \$1.50 per year. Send 15 cents for a specimen copy.

Address **THE MUSEUM, 1220 SANSON ST., Philadelphia, Pa.**

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- 1 California Gold Quarter
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- Choice Album Quotations
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The above articles if bought singly would cost 90 cents, but for the next 60 days we will send the entire lot for only 50 cents.

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