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TORONTO PHILATELIC JOURNAL



DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, CANADA, JULY, 1885.

No. 5.

Written for the Toronto Philatelic Journal.

PROVISIONAL STAMPS.

BY F. H. BEST.

There is possibly no branch of stamp collecting which affords more interest and study as provisional stamps do, and collectors having specimens of this class generally look upon them as being a special novelty of their collections, and are themselves entitled to be considered energetic and quick-sighted collectors. It is particularly necessary with a provisional stamp to seize the earliest of obtaining it, for to pass a specimen frequently results either in failure to get it at all, or in having to pay a price which, during its brief currency, would have purchased maybe a hundred. Provisional stamps can be divided into probably a dozen classes, a number of the most prominent causes for their existence may be given here, viz.:—

1. Stamps issued by a provisional government.
2. Stamps issued in time of war.
3. Stamps issued during a temporary failure of supplies of the kind generally used.
4. Stamps temporarily issued on the first introduction of a new or independent postal system.
5. Stamps issued owing to a previously current series, or value having been forged.
6. Temporary stamps having been issued on a change of postal rates.
7. Stamps issued on the absolute transfer of the ownership of a country.
8. Stamps employed from motives of economy, that is to use up an old stock.

1. *Stamps issued by a provisional government.*—These are very numerous, more so than any of the other classes. Chief among them are the various series issued in the Italian States, namely, Naples, Sardinia and Sicily; the HABILITADO stamps of Spain, Porto Rico, and the Philippine Islands, issued in 1868-9, the resuscitated early Mexican with gothic surcharge which were used in 1867 after Maximilian's death, the stamp of Guadalajara also came under this class. Many stamps that come under this class are very scarce, especially obliterated specimens of Mexico and Guadalajara.

2. *Stamps issued in time of war.*—The chief representatives of this class are, of course, what are commonly called Alsace and Lorraine stamps; and to the best of my collection the 1864 Holstein or some of them were issued under similar circumstances. Some of the stamps issued by Confederate postmasters, prior to the general issue authorized by the Confederate government, may also perhaps be included under this head, and these are all more or less rare. The Alsace stamps are still, and are likely to be for some years to come, very common, and the Holstein are catalogued at a low price.

3. *Stamps issued during a temporary failure of supplies of the kind generally used.*—This is a very extensive class. The British colonies alone offer a fair variety. Beginning with the rare provisionals of British Guiana, 1856 and 1862, those of the Cape of Good Hope (wood blocks and surcharged), Trinidad (wood blocks), Shanghai, Bermuda, Western Australia (surcharged), and the "Service" stamps of India, formed out of revenue labels, may be instanced. The necessity for the issue of these stamps appears to have arisen from the colonies in question obtaining their supplies from the mother country. The 1865 Brazil (figure, perforated) comes under this head. The rarity of stamps of this class depends to a great extent on the length of time they were in use, and of course on the number prepared for use. In several cases the supplies printed were very small.

4. *Stamps temporarily issued on the first introduction of a new or independent postal system.*—It has occasionally happened that, when a country adopts the system of prepayment by stamps, it is desired to bring it into operation without delay, and pending the preparation of stamps of a suitable design, some temporary label has to be used, as the postoffices of New York, Providence and St. Louis.

5. *Stamps issued owing to a previously current series or value having been forged.*—Spain stands nearly alone in having been obliged to issue stamps of this class, for, notwithstanding the almost

annual emission from that country, the 20 centimos, 1866, and 10 centimos, 1874, had to be specially issued to counteract forgery. The COUNTERSEAL on the 1872 Salvador stamps is surcharged for a similar purpose, though a person would have thought that, if a really dangerous forgery of such well engraved stamps had been conceived, it would have been easy also to copy the surcharge, which is frequently so badly struck on the genuine stamps as to be illegible.

6. *Stamps issued on a change of postal rates.*—The Buenos Ayres (steamship, 4 reales and 1 peso) and Uruguay, 1866, surcharged, are examples of this class.

7. *Stamps issued on the absolute transfer of the ownership of a country.*—There is only one marked case of this kind, and that is the double surcharged stamps of Fiji, another example cannot very well be cited unless we take the Peruvian stamps, surcharged with the Arms of Chili.

8. *Stamps employed from motives of economy.*—The Argentine Republic, 5 cent surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 cent; the 10 cent surcharged 8, are examples of this class, and are generally scarce in an obliterated form. These stamps are perhaps not admissible as forming a class of provisionals, as they could be also placed under class 3; but, as they can come under two different classes, there is no reason why they cannot be admitted as provisionals. There may be some other classes of provisional stamps, such as LOCALS, which, a few collectors maintain, are provisional until superseded by an authorized government issue. But we cover that point under class 4 as regards strictly provisional stamps.

In conclusion I would recommend all collectors, and more especially those who have only recently started, to lose no opportunity of acquiring provisionals of all kinds, for they may not be equal in design and execution to some of the more permanent issues, yet they often afford curious examples of native workmanship, and of the straits to which postoffice may be reduced.

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TORONTO, JULY, 1885.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

We beg to inform our patrons that we have bought out the entire stock of Mr. George A. Lowe (including THE TORONTO PHILATELIC JOURNAL). We shall not continue the collecting of accounts, as our time will be wholly devoted to the stamp business. Kindly address all correspondence as follows:

TORONTO PHILATELIC CO.,
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NOTES.

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

Mr. W. G. Whilden, Jr., Pelzer, S. C., has been defrauded by Mr. Fondren, of Langstan, Ala., and warns all parties against him.

The postmaster of New York finding that deaf-mutes could be used for certain work, there are now three in the post-office engaged in stamping and one in sorting. "When we get two noisy men," says the assistant superintendent, "we put a 'mute' between them, and so secure quiet."

A French lady, accompanied by her maid, went into a postoffice to purchase a stamp to affix on her letter. As soon as she had been furnished with the stamp she made a sign to her maid, who immediately offered her tongue, over which the lady gently passed the stamp, and then affixed it to the letter.

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

Mr. W. G. Whilden, Jr., of Pelzer, S. C., is our authorized agent to receive both subscriptions and advertisements.

We have received the following papers since our last issue, publishers will please accept our thanks:—Stamp Collectors' Journal, Capital City Philatelist, Current, Gem, Orient, Museum, Collector, Exchange, Foreign Stamp Collectors' News, Canadian Philatelist, Collectors' Companion, Youth's Leader, Briefmarken-Zeitung, Empire State Philatelist, Keystone Stamp and Coin Gazette, Buck's Monthly, Tidings from Nature, Youth's Gazette, Agassiz Association Journal, Pine and Palmetto.

NEW ISSUES

That have appeared, or are about to appear:

Angola.—Postal cards of the value of 20 and 30 reis are in use.

Bermuda.—A stamped 1/2 penny card has been issued, so it is said.

Cape Verde Islands.—Two other postal cards are announced, viz: 20 and 30 reis.

Finland.—The stamp on the 20 penni envelopes is now printed in orange, and that on the 25 penni blue. The stamp on the postal card has been changed to red.

Gunica.—The set has been seen surcharged in small type.

Luxembury.—The 10 centime card comes printed carmine on buff.

Macao.—Another provisional has been received, 20 reis on 50 reis, green. There are also a couple of postal cards, 20 and 30 reis.

Mozambique.—This colony also rejoices in a couple more postal cards of the value of 20 and 30 reis.

Peru.—There are said to be two other values of the provisional stamp with the date (1883-1884) at the sides, viz: 25 centavos, blue, and 1 sol., brown.

Sirmoor.—A series of stamps, bearing the head of the native prince, has been issued. They are as follows:—3 pies, brown; 6 pies, green; 1 anna, blue; 2 annas, rose.

Sorouth.—There is a 1 anna red of the first issue which somehow we have never

mentioned, and it is also missing from our catalogue. It is of the same design as the 1 anna blue.

St. Christopher.—A 1 shiling orange has been added to the current set.

St. Domingo.—The 5 cent envelope has appeared on amber paper.

St. Thomas & Prince.—This colony has also been supplied with 20 and 30 reis cards.

St. Vincent.—The colors of the 1 and 4d. have been changed to lake and claret respectively.

Timor.—The complete set of Timor stamps is as follows:—5 reis, black; 10 reis, green; 20 reis, red; 25 reis, violet; 40 reis, yellow; 50 reis, blue; 80 reis, gray; 100 reis, lilac; 200 reis, orange; 300 reis, brown. Post cards: 10, 20, 30 reis.

Trinidad.—The penny news bands have been surcharged "Half Penny" and used for the lower value.

SOMETHING ABOUT STAMP COLLECTINGS— FANCY PRICES PAID FOR OLD STAMPS.

Some time ago the following interesting but somewhat doubtful item went the rounds of the associated press:

"Yesterday a rag-picker, Joseph N. Harkins, found an old letter containing a cancelled stamp of the Brattleboro, Vermont, Postoffice. A stranger immediately offered him three hundred dollars for it. Believing him insane Harkins took the money and suddenly decamped. There are eight Brattleboro stamps extant, and these are uncanceled. A gentleman here who owns one values it at one thousand dollars. The only one cancelled was that found by Harkins, and it is held to be of great value."

This now turns out to be nothing more than a hoax and a contrived scheme on the part of some enterprising New York stamp dealer, who received an ingenious and gratuitous advertisement, his name having been mentioned in nearly all the stamp and coin publications. It was proved the other day and exposed, as he was unable to show up the rare Brattleboro stamp when asked by the editor of a philatelic journal. There is such a stamp in the possession of a San Francisco collector, however, not on the original envelope, but nevertheless a genuine original for which the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars has been frequently refused. There are a number of very large collections of stamps in San Francisco; one of these owned by a gentleman containing 8,500 varieties, which, besides containing a very rare

fancy border Sandwich Island first issue valued at two hundred dollars or more, has an almost complete collection of Australian, Central American and Provincial stamps; another containing 6,000 adhesive and envelope stamps; still another consisting of 4,750 kinds; while collections ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 varieties are quite numerous. A leading San Francisco dealer has a sufficiently large enough number of varieties to supply any one who may wish them, with some 5,000 different kinds at any moment. His importations of stamps from foreign countries would count into the millions, and no less than half a million "continentals" or mixed European stamps have been received by him in one single instance from London. The growth of "philately" has grown to vast proportions on the Pacific Coast, and is constantly on the increase. Within a year or two past there has also sprung up various journals devoted entirely to the science of stamp collecting. The first stamp publication was published in Boston, Mass., in 1866.

It is estimated also that there are at least three hundred thousand active postage stamp collectors in America, who collect for their own amusement, and an immense number who collect Match Medicine, Document, Tobacco stamps, etc.

A new rage, and the latest is the collecting of unused entire United States stamped envelopes, some of which are sold at fabulous prices. In New York, Philadelphia and Boston monthly auction sales of stamps take place which are well attended by stamp buyers and are very popular.

The following is a partial list of single stamps, all exceeding rarities which brought five dollars and over at a most remarkable recent New York sale at Leavitt & Co.'s auction rooms: Brattleboro, 5 cents, \$175; New York, 3 cents, buff, \$75; New Haven, 5 cents, \$25; Nova Scotia, 1st, mauve, \$16; St. Louis, 10 cents (Arms of Missouri), \$15.25; Geneva, double stamps, \$11.50; Tuscany, 2 soldi, \$9.25; Tuscany, 60 cruze, \$9; Buenos Ayres, 8 pesos, green, \$9; Brazil, 500 reis, italic, \$5.25; Spain (Madrid), 3 cents, bronze, \$5; Mauritius, the rare one penny of 1850, brought \$5.—*Grass Valley Union.*

SWINDLING THE LITTLE ONES.

Rather an odd question has been raised in the Postoffice Department growing out of the rapid increase among the young folks of this country of philately, or the desire to collect postage stamps in albums. A prominent New York journalist has written to the department that he has discovered 12,000

stamp collectors among the children in the New York public schools, and that these children are imposed upon by firms who manufacture fac-similes of postage stamps and sell them as genuine cancelled stamps, thus swindling the little ones. He has requested that these firms be proceeded against by the Post-office Department for counterfeiting foreign stamps. Inspectors have been directed to report upon the matter, and a thorough investigation will be made by the department.—*Phila. Press.*

The letter carriers' delivery on the Island commenced for the summer on the 25th ulto.

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