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New England Stamp Co., 292 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

VOLUME 2. . . September, 1898. . . NUMBER 7.

The ..Ontario Philatelist..

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Devoted to the Interests of Stamp Collecting.

R. G. WIDDICOMBE, PUBLISHER,

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The Ontario Philatelist.

A MONTHLY FOR COLLECTORS.

VOL. II.

SEPTEMBER, 1898.

No. 7.

The Stamps of Ste. Marie de Madagascar.

The island of Sainte Marie de Madagascar, which does not appear upon the maps of the American edition postage stamp albums, is situated at the north-east of the main island of Madagascar, between Choiseul on the north and Foulpointe on the south. Lake Alaotra is nearly opposite.

In 1892, when the set of stamps for Diego Suarez et Dependences was issued, the French colony of Ste. Marie de Madagascar was one of the dependencies of the government of Diego Suarez, and consequently the stamps Diego Suarez and dependencies were in use in Ste. Marie de Madagascar.

But later on some differences were raised regarding money valuations, for a dollar in one town was sometimes worth only 75 cents in another, causing a loss for the colony on the sale of postage stamps. Therefore a set of stamps of the same type as those used in other colonies was ordered from Paris, with the name of the colony, Ste. Marie de Madagascar, printed on them.

During the time required to print the stamps the following values of the Diego Suarez colony were surcharged "Ste. Marie de Madagascar" in a double-lined circle; in blue ink. This was in April, 1894, and the values were as follows:

1—On the 1881 issue of French colonies, perforated: 35c., black on orange.

2—On the 1872 issue of stamps of Diego Suarez et dependencies: 1c., black on blue; 2c., brown on buff; 4c., claret on lavender; 5c., green on greenish; 10c., black on lavender; 15c., blue on white quadrille paper; 20c., red on green; 25c., black on rose; 30c., brown on straw; 40c., red on straw; 50c. carmine on rose; 75c., black on orange; 1f., bronze-green on straw. These stamps were only surcharged for the needs of the colony, without any speculative purpose, and were not intended to be sold to stamp dealers. As only from 30 to 35 of each value, so surcharged are known to exist, it can safely be inferred that those provisionals are the scarcest of all the French colonial stamps, and come next to the Reunion, 1852 issue, in point of rarity.

In all probability those stamps were only used for one mail, as the sets with the name of the colony, "Ste. Marie de Madagascar," printed in Paris, were received in May, 1894, and consisted of 13 values, as follows:

1c., black on blue; 2c., brown on buff; 4c., claret on lavender; 5c., green on greenish; 10c., black on lavender; 15c., blue on white quadrille paper; 20c., red on green; 25c., black on rose; 30c., brown on straw; 40c., red on

straw; 50c., carmine on rose; 75c., black on orange; 1f., bronze green on straw.

The above stamps have since been replaced by the set bearing the name Madagascar and dependencies, issued in 1896, as the colony of Ste. Marie de Madagascar was attached to the government of Madagascar after the conclusion of the peace, and the annexation of this colony to France. Therefore all the stamps of Ste. Marie de Madagascar are now obsolete, and since the correspondence of this small island never amounted to much, these stamps will some day become rare.

GEORGE CARRION.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS.

A Monthly Review, Conducted by Fred J. Garraty.

PAPERS RECEIVED.

American Collector, May.
American Journal of Philately, August.
Columbian Philatelist, June.
Herald Exchange, July.
Little Wave, July.
Montreal Philatelist, August.
Melita Philatelic Chronicle & Advertiser, July.
McKeef's Weekly Stamp News, Nos. 394, 395, 396, 397.
National Philatelist, August.
New York Philatelist, July.
Philatelic Advocate, August.
Philatelic Bulletin, July.
Perforator, July.
Pennsylvania Philatelist, August.
Stamp Reporter, July.
Texan Philatelist, July.
Virginia Philatelist, August.
Western Philatelist, July.

The Montreal Philatelist has changed printers and the number before us is a great improvement typographically over the former numbers. The usual notes, etc., appear, but the leading features this month are the Editorials and Press Review.

Our friend "Napoleon" adorns the first page of the Perforator. Miss Swift, in her essay on "The

Home of a Collection," gives some new ideas in the way of arranging ones collection in a blank album. There are also notes from the north, south, east and west. In September the Pennsy will be consolidated with the Perforator, which will be published by the new firm of Stowell & Kissinger.

The Stamp Reporter has the pictures of Messrs. Alex. M. Muirhead, Jas. H. Peckham, Ed. A. Whalen, and C. S. Applegath.

The Columbian Philatelist has changed the color of its cover from blue to white.

The Philatelic Bulletin's "Mid-Summer Trade Boomer" special has a very pretty cover in blue and red. The usual features appear.

The "Convention Number" of the New York Philatelist contains pictures of Miller's Hotel, Messrs. J. W. Stowell, Georges Carrion, C. W. Kissinger, and the officers of the Empire State Philatelic Society. Mr. J. F. Farrell has a very concise description of the principal places of interest in New York City.

This month Mr. J. E. Allemon occupies the place of honor in the Virginia Philatelist. The D. P. A convention report, together with the photo of the members who were present, is the best we have seen yet. Editorials and notes make up the remainder of the number.

The Western Philatelist, hailing from Humboldt, Kansas, is the best initial number of any philatelic paper from the west we have ever seen. It contains

sixteen pages with a handsome cover.

No. 2 comes to hand with name changed to "National Philatelist,"—contents as good as No. 1. Keep it up Editor Cox.

Manitoba Notes.

By request of the publisher of this journal, I will give notes from this province each month to the best of my ability. First of all I will give the readers of this paper an idea of the stamp business in Winnipeg. There are 3 stamp dealers, and about 125 collectors, mostly beginners, although some have very good collections and they make a very bright showing.

As Winnipeg has the third largest amount of mail matter passing through its hands each year, a general idea will be shown by the latest report from the P. O. here, viz: that 2,539,915 letters and 355,998 postal cards were actually mailed at this office during the year. Over one and a quarter million letters and cards were delivered throughout the city by the official carriers. The sale of postage stamps last year amounted to \$98,086 in the Winnipeg office.

It would be a good idea to form a branch of the D. P. A. here, for many would hail it with delight. Will our brothers in the east give us some information on this point?

Quite a number of collectors from North Dakota and Minnesota took advantage of the cheap excursion to this city in the middle of July to attend the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition,

on "American Day." Before leaving for home, some of them secured a large number of Jubilees and old and new Canada issues. We hope a larger number will visit us again next year.

It is with deep regret I learn that one of Toronto's best dealers has been committed to imprisonment for 60 days. I am glad to note the stand the D. P. A. members have taken in expelling him from the Association. Let others take warning.

Stamp dealers here and at the coast report trade improving although it was very dull at the beginning of the season, and I hope it will continue good everywhere.

C. T. KIRKBY.

Received.

Wholesale Exchange List, No. 8, of F. Noyes, Alice, Texas; Buying List from W. L. Davids, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Price List from R. L. Deitrick, Lorraine, Va.

Thanks!

We received an invitation to attend the Third Annual Convention of the New England Philatelic Association, which was to be held at Manchester, N. H., on August 27th. Distance prevented us from showing up.

Come Again.

Mr. H. E. French, of Toledo, Ohio, an old-time St. Catharines' collector and publisher, called on us a couple of weeks ago, but only for a short time, as he was in a hurry to catch the train.

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Address all communications to

R. G. WIDDICOMBE, Editor and Publisher,
 ST. CATHARINES, ONT., CANADA.

OUR SAY.

This month will see the opening of the busy season, and dealers have every reason to believe that it will be the banner year in the history of collecting. Business was good up to July when it seemed to fall off somewhat, though no doubt this was partly due to the Spanish-American war. But notwithstanding this, it has been better during the past summer than ever before, with the probable exception of the summer of 1897. The hot weather is now nearly over, and people will be getting back to their business where they will have more time to give to their stamps than when away from home, where pleasure was the only thing thought of. And again, the war might now be said to be practically over, which will mean that business will again go on in its usual way, with no rumors of battles and bombard-

ments floating around. Many collectors who are at present "gone to the war" will soon return, and doubtless take up their hobby with renewed interest, probably wondering how long it will be before they are specializing in the stamps of United States and her colonies; but at present quite busy securing the numerous new issues that have appeared during their absence. From present indications stamp business will be very brisk this winter, is the verdict of all the dealers.

* * *

Before getting away from our subject let us impress upon you, if you intend to continue in business, the necessity of keeping your name always before the public. Unless you do so, your customers and others will begin to think you have probably quit, and will go to some other dealer. You can reach a good class of collectors through these columns. Why not place your ad. with us this season? Let us send you a contract blank?

* * *

The editor took a trip to Toronto a couple of weeks ago, and called on half a dozen of the dealers. Those who occupy offices down town pronounce trade over the counter as unusually good for this season of the year.

* * *

Mr. J. F. Dodge has sold one of his trio, the Rocky Mountain Stamp, and will continue his unique career by still publishing the other two as usual, both of which are very creditable magazines.

* * *

We are sorry to learn that Mr. W. A. Lydiatt, of Toronto, has

been expelled from the D. P. A. The real cause of his expulsion was that he tried to sell a rented bicycle, and was caught, convicted, and sentenced to sixty days in jail; though numerous complaints had been laid against him by members, and this course had been previously threatened.

* * *

We are sorry to say we don't get the St. Louis Weekly any more. Our subscription has expired and Mr. Mekeel does not seem disposed to exchange with such papers as we publish. We might add that the publishers of such journals as the Weekly Era, Metropolitan Philatelist, Post Office, Virginia Philatelist and Perforator exchange regularly, and any of these are fully as good, if not superior, to the Weekly.

* * *

Unless a few parties settle up with us very soon, we will turn them over to the not very tender mercies of a well known collecting agency. Take heed!

* * *

We did not receive the reports of the New York conventions in time for this number, but they will appear in our next. We have secured a well known writer and ex-publisher to write the reports for us, and we can assure our readers of them being right up to the mark.

The Busy Season.

The busy season with stamp dealers has now fairly started. Every dealer expects that he will do more business this winter than in any previous year. Our next number will appear on October 1st, and if you have not begun

your Fall advertising now is the time—you should not leave it longer. The dealers that advertise catch the trade, and will often get orders for stamps from your own customers, for the simple reason that they saw it advertised at what they considered a fair price. Had your ad. been there you would quite likely have done the business.

Did you ever advertise in a Canadian stamp paper before? If not, you don't know what you are missing. American collectors are not the only ones who have money to spend for stamps. Why not try THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST this season? Many Canadian collectors read it every month, and at the same time the circulation extends to the United States and foreign countries.

Contract blanks are now ready and will be sent to anyone on application. Can we not send you one?

Attend to the matter now!

Over the Border.

Nutmeg Gratings.

Stampic matters do not seem to me to have been as dull this summer as ordinarily, notwithstanding the fact that war has been going on. The bringing out of the Omaha issue at the time they appeared has helped to make things lively, and no doubt had a share in keeping up the interest in other emissions. The New Zealand^s have appeared to sell well, and the fact that a pretty stamp in this set had an "error" has had its good effect also. The Portugal set, although considered and advertised as

"speculative," has been eagerly sought after, and buyers do not seem to be satisfied with one country of the Vasco da Gama series and are willing to look at them in seven different places, and I presume I shall be one of the weak ones in this respect. Although somewhat pronounced against speculative issues, I do not feel always in love with S.S.S.S. ideas, and collect everything that does postal duty, and—a good deal of latitude is given.

The way philatelists have gobbled up the Omaha issue, and the way they are sold, partly in consequence, will have speculative attachments no doubt. In Hartford, on the 1st of August, I was told that there were no Omahas on sale except a few of those bilious-looking 4 cent "terriers," and that there would probably be no more ordered. It must be remembered, however, that there has been no such thing as having to buy a whole set in order to get a newspaper stamp. At any post-office the great trouble with the issue as far as my knowledge goes, has been the poor perforation, it being a rarity to secure good centred stamps. At Hartford I inquired for \$1 and \$2 Omahas, and was told that the lot received was so poorly perforated that they had to order—or ask for—a better lot. I am inclined to think the better lot never came, as I couldn't get hold of any. Collectors who want good stamps in the album will not pay \$1 and \$2 for "off centres."

It has been amusing to read the ideas of different people on the merits of the Omahas, and

some foolish ones are almost ready to fight because the other fellows disagree with them. I know of more than one case where prominent experts who have been considered "way up," have been dubbed as incapable of judging of fine work because they did not see fit to crack up the issue. (I wish to make a correction here. In my letter of last month I intended to say that the 8c. seemed the best in the lot, but the word "not" appeared and changed my meaning).

Before this letter reaches the public eye, the five societies that hold their conventions in New York will have gathered together and probably enjoyed themselves immensely. As there are sixty or seventy members of the A. P. A. resident in the metropolis, and as they are determined to do "their prettiest," a grand time is looked for. As the writer belongs to "all of them," and barring accidents will certainly "be there" perhaps he can tell a story later. It isn't often that so many societies gather together one after the other at one place.

From the Ohio Valley.

In our country we have many stamp papers—many very bad, some very good, and a few excellent. As far as my observation goes, and from the gossip of others, it seems that Canada is not a very productive country for GOOD stamp papers. It is seldom that one is lauded as far above the others of its country as has been THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST. On all sides we hear good things said of the O. P. It is gotten out in proper shape

and in this country we welcome it warmly. It is no compliment to say it is the best paper in Canada to-day.

The influence of a good stamp paper on philately is indeed great; yes, it is powerful beyond appreciation. It is papers that hold a position like this paper that makes the life of a collector happy, and helps to lend spice to the pleasure. The venerable, sturdy dry bones of philately have their representatives, but give us the spicy paper.

The summer months have had their effect upon collecting from a dealers standpoint and no doubt the stamp business has suffered the annual lull, but as planing for fall and winter trade is so extensive we look for a lively trade and prices will go up.

ROB ROY.

Our Lateness.

For several reasons we were unable to get out on time this month, but hope it will not happen again.

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Exchange! I will give a 1c. or 2c. Omaha Exposition stamp for every 1, 2 or 3c. Canada Jubilee. Don't send less than 15. Address in full, R. L. DOAK, Pearl, Ohio, U. S. A.

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I have a lot of Omaha stamps, also United States 1898, 5 cent blue. What stamps have you to exchange? CHAS. T. LIEP, 385 East 55th Street, Chicago, Ill.

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Number 6 cannot be bought singly. While they last I will give purchasers of 15c. from above list an Ontario Philatelic Directory and a 20 lepta Olympian Games stamp.

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