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CANADIAN Philatelic Magazine

VOL. 2

MARCH 1895

NO. 5

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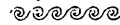
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CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE.

VOL. 2.

MARCH, 1895.

NO. 5

PROBLEMS OF THE HOBBY ; THE STAMP FRAUD

BY LOUIS HARRY RAY

With the rapid increase of Philately in the last few years, there have arisen questions which confront both dealer and collector. In a series of papers, it is our intention to deal with these from a standpoint, as far as possible, entirely unbiased. The first question that claims our attention is the stamp fraud.

Those who study such things divide criminals of all classes into two great and well marked divisions, the occasional criminal and the habitual criminal. So also we might divide stamp frauds into two like classes, the stamp fraud who, from surrounding circumstances, keeps stamps, and the fraud who endeavors to retain all the sheets which chance places in his possession. In their methods, these two classes are very different. The occasional fraud, perhaps, retains only one selection of stamps, and is never heard of again. The professional fraud, on the contrary, does not scruple to use an alias when sending for sheets, if his true name happens to be well-known to the public. The occasional fraud does not operate from any particular motives, but rather appears not to see the moral aspect of his actions, in fact, the line that separates my possessions from thy possessions, is but dimly perceived by him. The habitual fraud, unlike the occasional, is usually influenced by a moving passion, generally a love of gain, in acquiring other people's stamps. As we have said, the methods of the latter fraud are more complex, and, in their planning and carrying out, exhibit a higher degree of mental ability. Chiefly in these respects do the two frauds differ.

It is possible for a non-habitual fraud to become an habitual one if treated wrongfully on the occasion of his first offence. The applicant may have lost the sheets or had them stolen while in his possession. The dealer writes and, naturally, if no explanation be offered, regards the silence of the writer as that of the professional fraud. Unless the stamps be of some considerable value, the dealer hardly ever sends the delinquent a special letter, but, after a card or two

has him advertised. The fraud in a very human manner, considering himself unfairly treated, endeavors to "get even" with that dealer by any means in his power. Having begun his depredations, it is a very easy thing to continue them, and, not only does the dealer first concerned suffer, but also the other dealers. The occasional fraud thus becomes habitual, and only stops his career when the firm arm of the law casts him behind prison bars.

The fact that an habitual fraud may become so from an occasional fraud, does not infer that every habitual fraud was originally an occasional. There are in Philately, as everywhere else, unfortunates who appear to be almost wholly wanting in that moral sense of right and wrong which governs most men. This class forms the habitual criminal, who feels no compunction whatever in appropriating the things of others. So much for the theoretical aspect of the fraud, let us now consider the practical side.

How shall we treat a fraud? Shall we endeavor to drive him beyond the pale of stamp collecting, or, shall we make an effort to reform him? Is it possible to reclaim him? To this last question we answer yes or no according as the query relates to an occasional or habitual fraud. To the question preceding we would answer, that for the habitual fraud, the only proper method is prompt and complete separation from the ranks of collectors. For the occasional, we would say in answer that it is our duty to endeavor to reform, for, if not treated with great care, he is liable to become an habitual, and therefore dangerous fraud. By all means let us endeavor to reclaim this fraud.

To speak more particularly of the methods to be followed in dealing with frauds of both classes will now be our subject. If a fraud is advertised extensively through the country, he is probably an habitual fraud. To deal with him is comparatively simple. The dealer, if wise, retains all correspondence in relation to sheets so he will have the application of the fraud filed. The dealer should write him a letter in a plain envelope, demanding a return of his property. In this letter the dealer should state that he will use every endeavor to secure his stamps, and if no return be made at an early date, measures of an unpleasant nature will be adopted. If no answer be forthcoming, the dealer should write to the local postmaster if it be a town, or to some honest collector residing in the portion of the city from which the fraud writes. Maps of the larger cities may easily be procured by the dealer. In writing to the collector, the dealer should try and learn (1) if the fraud is under age, (2) if so, who is his guardian, (3) if he works on a salary. (4) If he writes under an alias? Armed with this information, the dealer should address the fraud's guardian or his employer, state the case, and request assistance or returns. Should these letters effect nothing, the next step on the dealer's part would be to write the post office inspector of the district, placing all correspondence in his hands, and charging the delinquent with "use of the mails with intent to defraud." This may effect a settlement of some kind. The dealer can also make use of collection agencies, or local lawyers on commission, if he desires it, but we should not advise that plan as other than a last resort. The dealer ought meanwhile to advertise the delinquent as extensively as possible as an habitual fraud. If these steps are taken, two good results will be brought about, the hobby will be rid of one criminal, and the dealer will not lose his stamps or their value.

In the treatment of the occasional fraud, or one who has not been previously advertised, the dealer should write him, telling him the gravity as well as the necessary consequences of his act if persisted in, for, in ten cases to one, the occasional fraud does not think seriously before committing the deed. The dealer should speak of the disgrace following the act of being advertised as a fraud. In his letter he should also mention that, if the stamps have been lost or stolen, he is open to offers of reparation, either in money or in other stamps.

The probabilities are, that this one letter will end the business, Should it not bring about a satisfactory result, the dealer will have to apply gradually severer methods as in the case of the habitual fraud.

Of course, there is the objection, that this method of securing returns is very troublesome, but the dealer and collector both will perceive that it is better to save an occasional fraud from becoming an habitual one, who will do vastly greater damage, and it is better to expel an habitual fraud from philatelic ranks than have him commit his depredations unchecked.

In a great many respects this paper is not what it ought to be, but we trust there may be found in it some useful thought on the stamp fraud, as well as some new ideas on treating the fraud by old methods.

This essay, from its nature, can only deal with the most common case of frauds, but it may give a hint at the treatment to be meted out to such as are but variations from one original Lewis Bishop type.

Next month we hope to deal with the speculative issue of stamps.

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It is bringing together in a bond of friendship, men who have possibly no other two opinions, or interests, that are identical.

It is keeping three hundred thousand boys from spending two hundred million hours in mischief every year, and this means that they only devote two hours a day, for six days in the week, to their stamps.

It is training all of its followers to a closer observation of the minor details in everything, and in this way is presenting to the world an army of men who are of more value to themselves and everybody else than they would otherwise be.

It is causing between forty and fifty million pages of reading matter to be printed every year, and circulated into every part of the civilized world.

It is giving a great deal of assistance to teachers in our public schools in teaching geography. The boys and girls who collect stamps are always at the head of the geography class.

It is teaching forty nine out of every fifty among those who take it up, more governmental history of the world, than they would otherwise ever think of learning.

It forms an opening for the judicious saving, and investment of small sums, that in the aggregate have saved many a man from financial trouble, in which he has become involved in other ways.

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Bid ten cents for a stamp worth six dollars and expect to get it next mail. "Don't try to."

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The Canadian Philatelic Magazine

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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Advertising rates 50 cents per inch strictly in advance.

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I. E. WELDON, } EDITORS.

WALTER McMAHON, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

We most humbly crave the pardon of our readers for the many typographical errors and other mistakes which appeared in our last number, owing to a mistake, quite an amount of the proof of the last issue was not read and corrected, with the result that quite a few errors crept in. Instead of this paper being published under the management of the Canadian Philatelic Association as announced in the last number, it is published by the Dominion Philatelic Association. We must also ask the indulgence of our readers for the late appearance of both the last number and this. It is undoubtedly a bad plan to begin the management of a paper with a number of apologies but in atonement for our sins, we promise in future to have each number mailed by the 20th of each month. We might also add that in future we hope no occasion for apologies for anything in connection with this journal will arise.

As to the maintenance and continuance of this journal, there need not be the least doubt that in so far at least as finances are concerned this, the C. P. M., is established upon a solid basis.

The Dominion Philatelic Association is the coming society of Canada. The dues, 50 cents a year, have been placed at as small a figure as it is possible to conduct a first-class society.

We have been sent a rather long circular entitled "An Appeal to British Justice," and addressed "To the justice-loving people and the press of Canada." This is an appeal to the people of Canada for the mitigation of the punishment of J. R. Hooper now doing time at St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary for the crime of attempting to murder his wife. There is no doubt that Hooper has received too severe a punishment for the crime for which he was convicted. It is likely that a monster petition will be circulated throughout Canada.

On first thought a casual reader is inclined to think that if Hooper committed the crime of which he was convicted, he deserved all the punishment to which he has been sentenced, twenty-five years. But, fellow philatelists, let us

not forget that we are brothers, and what brother would see another languish in prison for a life-time, no matter what crime he has committed, without making an effort to have him released, if, as in the case of Hooper, the conviction has been upon evidence wholly circumstantial. Let us season justice with mercy! No doubt a petition will be circulated among all our Canadian readers. Let them then forget all about J. R. Hooper, the reputed wife murderer, and only remember J. R. Hooper as Canadensis.

We were very sorry to see Mr. W. W. Jewett and Messrs. Mekeel, the publishers of our most popular contemporaries engaged in a very heated argument as to the authenticity of a certain U. S. stamp. After following the various arguments and contentions of both parties during this somewhat extended wordy encounter, we have come to the conclusion that our friend away down in Maine has been actuated by no personal ill-feeling, but has been animated by a desire to further the best interests of philately. It requires considerable courage for any financially disinterested person to take the stand Mr. Jewett has taken.

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Secretary's Report

NEW MEMBERS.

- 51 B. J. Thomas, Pemberton, N. J.
- 52 W. C. O'Grady, Wallaceburg, Ont.
- 53 W. A. Beatty, St. Catharines, Ont.
- 54 R. G. Widdicombe, " "
- 55 H. P. Hewson, Box 28, " "
- 56 L. J. Kramer, Elkader, Iowa.
- 57 Geo. E. Cleaver, 1132 Perkiomem Ave., Reading, Pa.
- 58 I. E. Patterson, Wyandotte, Mich.
- 59 Chas. G. Hart, Pipestone, Minn.
- 60 J. W. Miller, Ste. Luce, Quebec.

The following members of the International Stamp Exchange, which amalgamated with the D. P. A., have been elected members.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 61 C. C. Morency, | 64 G. A. Moore, | 67 W. A. Howlett, |
| 62 R. Hitchman, | 65 J. F. McLean, | 68 E. Dewey, |
| 63 G. A. Lowe, | 66 H. Beasley, | 69 H. C. Stork, |

Membership cards will be mailed to above new members on receipt of their dues, amounting to 50c, each.

APPLICATIONS

- R. W. Lake, 267 Wellington St. W., Toronto, Ont.
Refs. W. S. Weatherston, W. McMahan,
- W. de Haan, c/o Forbes & Walker, Fort, Colombo, Ceylon,
Refs. W. S. Weatherston, W. McMahan,

- F. H. Pinkham, Newmarket, N. H.
 Refs. W. S. Weatherston, H. A. Peters,
 N. A. H. Moore, Gananoque, Ont.
 Refs. G. A. Moore, Walter McMahon,
 J. H. Bronsdon, Toronto, Ont.
 Refs. G. A. Lowe, W. M. Mahon,
 R. F. Young, Simcoe, Ont.
 Refs. A. F. Wicks, W. A. Young.

The above applicants will be admitted to membership on March 31, provided no one files an objection before that date

NOMINATIONS

The following nominations have been received :

- For President—E. J. Phillips, Toronto,
 Vice Pres.—C. C. Morency, Quebec; A. M. Muirhead, Halifax,
 Sec'y-Treas.—W. S. Weatherston, Toronto,
 Counterfeit Dec.—J. S. Hambly, Port Hope,
 Librarian—C. A. Atkinson, Dorchester, N.B., J. Edwards, Montreal,
 Exchange Supt.—G. A. Lowe, Toronto,
 Official Collector—A. F. Wicks, London,
 Trustees—
 W. McMahon, }
 W. J. Wells, } Toronto,
 I. E. Weldon, }
 L. S. Graham, }
 W. A. Beatty, } St. Catharines,
 H. P. Hewson, }

Members will please send in their votes on a postal card to W. S. Weatherston 13 Peter St., Toronto, Ont., AT ONCE. Officers who are elected will serve until annual convention in September.

Philatelists are cordially invited to join the D. P. A. Dues 50c, per year. Address for full particulars.

W. S. WEATHERSTON, Sec'y pro tem.
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Lot		No. in Lot
1	British Columbia, 3d. used; 2c. unused, both slightly damaged.....	2
2	Canada, 3d wove, laid and ribbed, very good.....	3
3	— 1859 1c., 5c., unused, fine.....	2
4	— Register 2c., 5c., unused, fine.....	2
5	— Envelope, 5c., cut round.....	2
6	— 1888, ribbed paper, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10; fine.....	5
7	— Bill stamps, 1st issue, 1 to 50c., fine.....	14

8	— — 2d issue, 1 to 50c., with 300., scarlet, all fine.....	15
9	— — 3d issue. 1c to \$3.00, complete, fine.....	18
10	New Brunswick, 3d on part of cover, fine.....	1
11	— 1c., brown, used, fine.....	1
12	— 1c., violet, block of 12, unused. no gum.....	12
13	— 5c, green, block of 25, unused, no gum.....	25
14	— 17c., black, block of 15, unused, full gum.....	15
15	Newfoundland, 3d green, block of 4, unused, o.g., fine.....	4
16	— 5d violet-brown, block of 4, unused, o.g., fine.....	4
17	— 4d and 6d, lake, unused, gum, very good.....	2
18	Nova Scotia, 1c., pair on part of original cover, fine.....	2
19	— 10c., vermilion, used, few perforations missing.....	1
20	P. E. I., 1c., used, damaged.....	1
21	— 3c., used, fine copy.....	1
22	— 3c., used, small tear, fine.....	1
23	Quebec, Law, 10c. to \$1 all fine.....	10
24	— Registration, 5, 15, 30 all fine.....	3
25	U. S., 1851, 1c., strip of 3, fine margins, fine.....	3
26	— 1851, 1c., and 10c., fine.....	2
27	— 1851, 5c., trimmed at corners, otherwise fine.....	1
28	— 1851, 10c., pair, very good, used.....	2
29	— 1851, 10c., pair, extra fine, used.....	2
30	— 1856, 5c., small tear, used.....	1
31	— 1861, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 12c., all fine.....	6
32	— 1861, 12c., four single specimens on part cover, fine.....	4
33	— 1869, 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, all good, used.....	5
34	— 1870, 1, 2, 3, grilled, used, all fine.....	5
35	— 1872, 7, 12, 24, used, all fine.....	3
36	— 1872, 30 and 90c., good.....	2
37	— 1888, 30 and 90c., used, picked specimens.....	2
38	— Agriculture, 3c., used and new, fine.....	2
39	— Treasury, 90c., choice specimen.....	1
40	— Cardboard proofs, 1861, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, 90.....	10
41	— Due brown, complete, cardboard proofs.....	7
42	— Periodical, \$6/0 cardboard proof.....	1
1A	Canada ½d, wove, fine margins, rather heavily cancelled.....	1
16A	Newfoundland, 5c., black, small tear.....	1
32A	U. S., 1869, 24c., fine copy.....	1
9A	Confederate States, 10c., blue, outer line on part of original cover..	1

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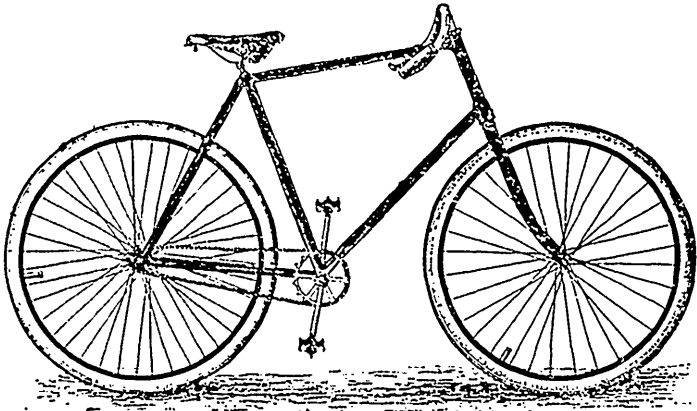
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NOVA SCOTIA

3d. dark blue,	\$1 00	10c.	-	\$1 00
3d. light "	1 25	3d. orig. env.	1 25	
1c.	45	2c. "	"	50
2c.	35	5c. "	"	25
5c.	15	3d. N.B. "	"	3 00
Newfoundland	2d.	Orange Fine	6 90	
"	1sh.	Lake "	85	
"	4d.	" sheet wmk.	11 00	
"	6c.	Rose used	10	
"	6c.	Cim. unused	10	
"	2c.	rouletted "	60	

Sheets Sent on Approval.

Send reference. I want New Brunswick, 1
6d. used and unused, Newfoundland,
4d. and 6d. carmine vermilion.

H. L. Hart,

71 Gottingen St.

Halifax, N.S.

TO BE ROBBED

Is exceedingly disagreeable, but if you wish stamps (not trash) I can supply you with

WHOLESALE LOTS

OR APPROVAL SHEETS.

SEND ME YOUR WANT LIST.

I QUOTE:—

British Guiana	1c. and 2c.	40c. per 100
Chili assorted		35c. " "
Portugal "		25c. " "

Others just as cheap. Postage extra.

U. S. 1830—24c. fine, only \$5 50

WRITE ME.

W. S. Weatherston,

13 PETER ST.

TORONTO, CANADA.