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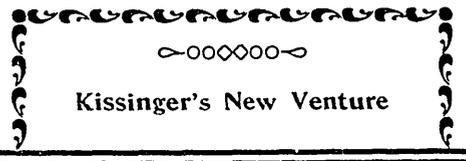
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STAMP-LORE

A CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE.

Vol. 1.

LONDON, ONT., JUNE, 1896.

No. 1.



The Latest Out!

TO ALL, GREETING:

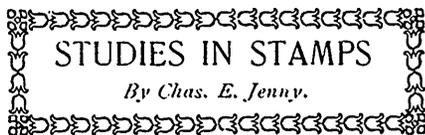
WE have felt for some time that Canada was very poorly represented in the field of philatelic journalism, and after canvassing among the leading Canadian collectors as to the need of such a publication, this journal is launched.

Being printers ourselves, we can get out the magazine in not only the best style but at the least minimum of cost.

New features will be added and nothing spared to make it one of the best.

That it will meet with the approval of all true lovers of Philately, is the sincere wish of

THE PUBLISHERS.



1—VARIETIES OF THE 2d LINE-ENGRAVED STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THE 2d blue stamp first issued was imperforate, watermarked a small crown, and had no white line below "Postage" at the top and above "two pence" at the bottom. Date 1840—This stamp is worth about 25c with a red or black Maltese cross cancellation, while with the barred oval cancellation it is considered worth \$2.00.

In 1841 the stamp was issued with the white lines at top and bottom. Varieties are found with inverted watermark, worth \$1.25. There is also a variety with hair-lines across the lower corners, worth about 60c. Variety No. 3 consists of a hair-line running horizontally across the bottom of the stamp just under or through the words "two pence." This line is blue. Variety no. 4 has the words "two pence" printed twice, one partly over the other. These are caused by a worn plate and are worth about 75c. Variety no. 5 is on pelure paper and is rarely met with. It is quoted at \$2. Specimens are also rarely met with which are pin perforated and rouletted, but these stamps are doubtless the work of some postmaster who rouletted them for his own convenience, as no sheets were ever officially sent out to the offices in that condition. As to cancellations, the black Maltese cross is considered worth 12c; the red and the blue one, \$2.50; the black cross with number in centre, 50c; the black barred oval, 4c; the blue and red ones, \$2.50; and the green one which is scarcely seen, \$5.00

In 1853 the 2d appears perforated, at first 16 and then 14. About 1856 the watermark was changed to a large crown and plate numbers used, the first being No. 5. This comes with perforation 14 and also 16. Plate no. 6 has also both these perforations. The white lines at top and bottom are much thinner in Plate No. 6 and the following numbers than in the preceding ones. The small crown is found inverted on both perforations 14 and 16, and the large crown on perforation 14. This is worth \$1.25. Some of the stamps received a double perforation vertically, resembling a rouletted stamp. These are of some rarity and are catalogued at \$12.50. With the previous issue the Maltese cross cancellation went out of use and only the barred oval and local, or postmark cancellations were used. The oval in green ink is the rarest, red next and then blue, while the black one is the cancellation commonly met with. The 2d, perforated 16, large watermark, plate No. 6, appears surcharged with a large "M" for use in Malta.

In 1858 the 14 perforation had become perma-

NOTE—"Studies in Stamps" will be one of the regular features of STAMP-LORE. Mr. Jenny and possibly other popular authors will contribute. [Ed.]

nently established. Plates No. 8, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were issued, no. 12 being the least often met with and worth about 37c. All plates are found with inverted watermark not infrequently. Some specimens are met with the value double printed and are worth about \$1.50. Those surcharged "M" were for use in Malta. Some of them have double letters in the lower corners, caused by a worn plate, and are worth from 50c up. Some of the larger English collections contain unperforated specimens, which are worth \$10.00 or more. Those 2d stamps cancelled with "A 25" were also used in Malta, as this is the number assigned to that colony.

2—VARIETIES OF THE 1/2d AND 1 1/2d LINE-ENGRAVED STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

IN 1860 the first 1 1/2d stamp was issued. It first appeared unwatermarked and on both white and blue paper. It is doubtful whether the color of the paper was originally blue in this latter, or whether the gum, in the course of time, produced that effect. At any rate, this stamp is rarely met with in either variety in this country, and is quoted in England at \$10.00 in an unused state. Few cancelled copies are known. The large crown watermark soon appeared on the 1 1/2d stamps, from which two plates were printed. Plate 1 has no number on it, but plate 3 has the number on each side in the net-work, about one quarter of the distance from the bottom of the stamp. These are both common, being worth but 5c. A 1 1/2 stamp with the crown watermark, and on blue paper, is found imperforate, and English catalogues put it at \$15.00, but we believe this to be nothing more than a proof. Both plate Nos. 1 and 3 are found with inverted watermark, but are somewhat scarce in that condition.

The small 1/2d stamps were first issued in 1870. They are watermarked "half-penny" in script, the full watermark requiring 3 stamps horizontally. Plates numbered from 1 to 20 were issued; with the exception of numbers 2, 7, 16 and 17. Plate number 9 is of some rarity, being worth about \$2.00. Plate No. 1 is worth 25c and all the rest are common. Strips of 3 showing the whole watermark are held at about 40c. Some of the early plates are found imperforate, and are valued at from \$6.00 up. Plates 3, 4, 11, 12 and 19 come with inverted watermark. It is possible that there are others but we have not heard of them. They are worth from 50c to \$1.00. Those stamps which are occasionally seen with firm names on back, underneath the gum, are worth about 30c. Those post-marked "A 25" were used in Malta, and are worth \$2.50.

If interest in the minor varieties of English stamps seems to warrant it, we will at some future time, take up the "Embossed issue," and later, the "Surface-Printed" and deal with their varieties errors, and cancellations, as recognized by English specialists.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

A few words touching upon a National Association for Canada, at this moment, may not prove altogether of no value, and therefore in answer to the kind invitation of the Editor to write something for the initial number of STAMP-LORE, the above title is taken as an appropriate one.

Having looked carefully into the system of two or more Associations of a National character endeavoring to exist at one and the same time, one cannot but conclude that the general results are against the interests of Philately as a whole. Advantages are looked for in each individual case to the detriment of the other, and too much attention is given to getting a large number of members on the roll, irrespective of quality or merit. The result has too frequently been that after the period of a year or two, large numbers are dropped for non-payment of dues, which in a few years means generally; that these members were induced to join, not altogether on account of the advantages to be derived from membership, but to add to the number of members, in many cases for the purpose of making an appearance of superiority over that of another society of a similar character.

In order to obviate what may rightfully be termed a disadvantage to Philately and its progress, it would be well to fully consider at the present time the question of one National Association for Canada, and in so doing, to keep constantly in view that steps be taken to prevent the usual dropping of members for non-payment of dues, by admitting only such who are interested in Philately to a greater extent than merely membership in one or more Associations. To bring about such a measure will doubtless take some time as at the present moment there are two Associations upon a somewhat similar basis; however with broad-minded views the question could be handled properly and the results would serve to show that collectors can better benefit themselves by being banded together as outlined herein than being broken up in separate groups and working not altogether with one common purpose.

These remarks, of course, only refer to Associations of a non-residential character, and in no way effect local ones, the latter having advantages over the former due to their location and interests which cannot be overlooked, nor is it desirable to do so.

Canada with a fair average of advanced collectors should be able to maintain a good Association, worked upon business methods and presided over by officers of experience. Such an undertaking would undoubtedly prove beneficial and an encouragement to beginners, who could be gradually taken care of until they would in turn become useful members and replace such as leave for various reasons. A constant number could always be counted upon as energetic and anxious to place the Association upon a level with Associations of other countries.

It is to be hoped that measures will be taken to promote such a step and that the Philatelic Press will deal with the matter in a manner to treat with the subject fully.

Ernest F. Wurtzle.

THE PRIVATE POST-CARD.

A correspondent of the London Advertiser says that there is too much red tape about the private post-card regulations. Writing from Woodbridge Ont., he says:

"Some time ago I sent a private post-card to a friend in London, Ont. It was the size of the ordinary kind but somewhat lighter, and the paper was somewhat thinner, though it was not tissue. Of course I put a 1 cent stamp on it. My friend had to pay 4 cents for it, that is, 2 cents for the deficiency in a letter rate and 2 cents as a fine. In all, said card cost 5 cents 'lawful money of the Dominion of Canada,' for which amount one can send a letter to London the Great. I wrote to the Postmaster-General about it. In his reply he took the part of the London postmaster. He said that a private post-card must be of the same kind of paper as the ordinary one, and have written or printed on the address side the words 'Private Post-Card,' otherwise it is treated as a letter. Well 'forewarned, forearmed.' If I send a person a private post-card made of paper thinner, and of course lighter than an ordinary one, he must pay 4 cents extra, else the card will be made to pass through the fire to Molock. If the paper be thicker, and of course, heavier, ditto. If I omit to put on the Address side near the top, the words 'Private Post-Card,' even though anyone who can see at all can see it is one, ditto. Why shouldn't it be also 'ditto' if I omit writing or printing on the Address side the words 'The address to be written on this side'? Yes, why not? I sent cards of the same kind to other friends, but they refused to pay the 4 cents extra for each one."

The Advertiser does not make any comment, but while we think the post-office authorities could easily have seen that the card was meant for a 'Private Post-Card,' still by letting every variety of card go through would be giving them unnecessary work. A person could send a piece of paper or a piece of straw-board and one cannot tell where it all would end.

INTEREST YOUR FRIENDS.

THE editor of *The Canadian Philatelist* in a May editorial speaks of the need of every collector to endeavor to interest his friends and acquaintances in the great science of Philately. He tells of different plans adopted by some of the leading dealers, the favorite being to give away small packages of continentals. If you have a number of duplicates which are of little value to you, we would advise you to dispose of them by giving them to your non-philatelic friends. They will, perhaps, be the means of adding many a collector to our ranks. Don't be ashamed of Philately. It is past child's play, and is indeed something to be proud of.

STAMP-LORE

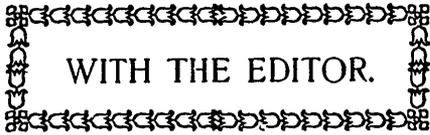
Canada's Representative Philatelic Magazine

Published Monthly by

THE COMMERCIAL PRINTING CO.,
at 211 Dundas St., - - London, Ont.
(For further information see eighth page.)

JUNE 20, 1896.

"There is Method in this Madness."



WITH THE EDITOR.

Our Future.

THIS journal is launched at a time when Philately is supposed to be dead, or at least, sleeping. That we are here to fill a "long-felt want" is not for us to say, although judging from what leading collectors tell us, there is a "long-felt want" to fill. That *we* will fill it to the satisfaction of everyone is a rather difficult question to settle, especially at this time. If the articles which we have in hand and arranged for, be any criterion, we will at least, we think, please somebody. There have been and are, Canadian journals published, but strange as it may seem, they appear to take no interest, to any extent, in the stamps of our own country. This we want to remedy as far as it lays in our power—not that general Philately will be neglected, by any means. Our correspondents will keep you informed on general topics, but we want to make the stamps of Canada our speciality. Specialists and others interested in stamp collecting, will we hope, find much to interest and instruct them in these columns during the next twelve months. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

A Modern Stamp Society For Canada.

CAPT. WURTELE of Quebec, president of the C. P. A. has contributed an article, which, we are sure, will appeal to every true Canadian collector. While other countries have three societies or more, Canada has only one, and that one not strictly national in its character. We have had them, and even the C. P. A. at one time in its career was a very useful and progressive society but since the withdrawal of second-class rates from the two leading Canadian journals, things philatelic seem to have taken a drop. It is not the fault of its officers, or at least some of its officers, as a president to equal Mr. Wurtele would be hard to find anywhere. His

article then, at this time, is of more than passing interest, and we trust at least every Canadian collector will get in line and help him in his reformation. Everyone interested should drop him a line, stating what his or her opinion is in the matter. Don't let it rest here but "push it along."

An Old-Time Phrase.

THAT old-time phrase "cash paid for good MSS." is, in our opinion, just about worn out, judging from the trash that is continually being inserted in our most widely circulated journals. You will generally find on making inquiries, that a certain amount of advertising space will be offered, regardless of quality of MSS. submitted. You cannot but notice, in looking over the majority of magazines, that some of our best writers are writing merely to fill space, their articles nearly always being accepted. What is the reason of this? Is it because they have run out of subjects or because the remuneration usually offered does not prompt them to put more time and thought into their work? Perhaps both can be given as two reasons for this state of affairs. If editors generally would put both feet down on these "space fillers" it would not be appreciated any more by the reading public than by well-meaning authors themselves.

Notes.

THIS journal is purely and simply a business enterprise. We are not issuing it as the tool or plaything of any philatelic political party, or to depend for existence upon any stamp concern. STAMP-LORE will occupy a strictly independent and impartial attitude in political matters, and rely for its support on the stamp collecting fraternity generally.

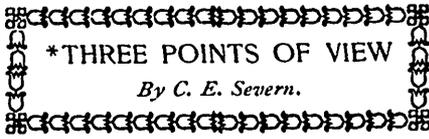
NIKOLA TESLA's new electric light can only be produced when he succeeds in finding a perfect vacuum. It would be a small thing for anyone to insinuate that he ought to use the heads of some of the philatelic political leaders.

WHAT Philately needs to-day is a little less politics and a little more recruiting. This perpetual placing of politics before everything else in Philately is simply sickening.

PEOPLE connected with stamp journals in Canada say there is not room for a fourth paper. Perhaps not. But may be there is room for a first.

Collectors should read the ads in this month's STAMP-LORE. That's what they are there for. They are all from reliable firms.

What's in a name? "A rose," etc. You know the rest.



A GOOD ALL-AROUND STAMP.

NEARLY everyone who has tried to get the stamp has come to the conclusion that the 10 cent, *violet black*, of Canada, is by no means a common stamp. Others, who wish to find out what a task it is to secure this stamp which catalogues but \$2.50, should essay to get it.

In the last edition of the catalogue, three shades of the 10 cent 1859, are listed; previously, the single 10 cent violet did duty for all. The 10 cent violet black is priced at \$2.50 and it is worth it; some collectors think it is worth more. Its position is somewhat analogous to that of the celebrated 3 cent pink 1866, U. S. When a collector has a real pink, he has a scarce stamp, and when he has a true violet black, he has an uncommon stamp. The collector who possesses a dark violet shade of the 10 cent must not think he has the violet black; but if he persists in calling it the latter, treat the specimen with a little per-oxide of hydrogen. Then, you can, perhaps, make merry at the expense of the chagrined collector, for, like as not, the stamp will be restored to its original hue, violet or red lilac.

A few philatelists may have exaggerated ideas as to the value of the stamp. Still, they have legitimate reasons for entertaining their beliefs. For instance, one collector, who has long specialized Canadian emissions, took an especial interest some years ago, in gathering as many shades of the 10 cent violet, as it was catalogued then, as it was possible to procure. He gathered twelve distinct variations of color, such as the ordinary eye could easily discriminate between, and among the stamps was a black one, the only one of that color ever met with by him. He often tried to discover a second specimen of this shade, but his search, though a zealous one, proved futile. Later, when he saw that the stamp had been catalogued in its color, violet black, he was of the opinion, very naturally, that the stamp was priced at too modest a figure.

It looks as though the real violet black 10 cent is to have a future. There is little doubt as to the scarcity of the stamp, and if interest centres on it and the demand for the stamp becomes brisk, the price will do the rest.

* Mr. Severn's "Points of View" will be found on this page each issue. Although not always confined to "three" we are sure they will always be found timely and interesting. [Ed.]

SUGGESTED BY THE "DAILY."

WHEN a philatelic writer wishes to emphasize his point, he says that so-and-so marks a philatelic era or an era in philately. If we are to take the philatelic pen people at their word, philately is marked by an era every other week or so. However, when the man who writes for the philatelic papers said that the issue of a daily stamp paper marked a philatelic era, he stated the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

The first daily can rank with the first stamp album and the first philatelic publication, in its era-marking qualities. Philately has been wonderfully enriched by the advent of that daily stamp paper—a copy for every day of the year except Sunday. It is not every pursuit of a technical sort that can point to so extended a representation journalistically as philately can. Then too, the tone of the philatelic press has been strengthened and manifestly improved during recent years, and the ones who complain, sincerely enough, perhaps, about the literature of philately, are finding themselves without an occupation.

A daily, weeklies, monthlies; exponents of typographical art, magazines that rival the daintiest creations of the outside world; solid, sensible publications, etc., go to make up a literature that rises superior to the carpings of an idealist.

As has been said, it is an exceptional pursuit that has a daily and so commanding an array of publications devoted to its welfare as stamp-collecting has, and the reason for this is, that outside of philately, they could not be supported. This is an argument bespeaking the liberality of the philatelic public, and it shows their loyalty to their science or hobby.

COMMON STAMPS AT WHOLESALE.

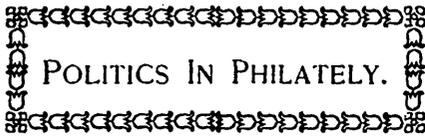
THE many collectors who live in the small cities and towns throughout the country do not know anything about the wholesale stamp market. If, for instance, a friend made you the recipient of half a million of the 3 cent red of the current issue Canada, you would be somewhat embarrassed, perhaps, as to what to do with such a batch. You would wish to sell them, but you would not know just how to go about disposing of them.

In some of the largest cities, there are wholesale dealers in stamps, or stamp brokers as some of them designate themselves. As a rule they do not advertise and consequently their names are unfamiliar to the philatelic public. If you would take half a million 3 cent Canada to a dealer of this class, he would make you an offer, which if accepted, would mean payment on the spot. He

will buy anything in the stamp line. A million 2 cent carmine U. S., or 100,000 of the 3 cent green are, each, acceptable. He buys a million stamps as nonchalantly as you purchase an eight cent Canadian register. When you heard the broker in his "den" and tell your errand, the first question is: "What have you?" His second is: "How many?" Then he "talks business." His buying and selling is done almost exclusively in the commonest stamps, although he will of course, buy single stamps if he gets them at advantageous prices.

An outsider is amazed when he sees what an enormous traffic is done in the stamps which singly, have practically no value.

The wholesale dealer is a great institution. He will, as a rule, buy any stamp however common, in quantities. He does not give much for some stamps, but that is not to be wondered at—it is a wonder that he buys certain stamps at any price.



OUR Candidate for Canadian Vice-President of the P. S. of A. is Mr. Alfred F. Wicks of this city whose portrait we present below.



Mr. Wicks is a Philatelist who is an ornament to any Society. But he would be not only ornamental but very useful. He has had considerable experience in Society matters. He is Secretary of the Sons of England, Secretary for the Railroad Teamsters (whose picnic every year is the largest in the city), and he is also President of the Conservative Bicycle Club which has a member-

ship of over one hundred and not yet 3 months old. His experience would stand him in good stead as a re-organizer of the P. S. of A. forces in Canada, which is badly needed. We are sure any of the members voting for him will not find their confidence misplaced,

The New York and Boston members of the A. P. A. do not take kindly to the re-election of Mr. Kissinger as Secretary of that Association. Mr. Walter S. Scott in a note to the *Weekly Philatelic Era* says: "New Yorkers are extremely anxious to elect their candidate for Secretary. The youth who now holds the office has made himself so obnoxious to the older members, that he must be beaten. The boy is all right amongst boys but his youthful impudence is too pronounced to hold office in the A. P. A. In ten years time we have no doubt but that he would make an efficient officer."

Some of the candidates for office in the P. S. of A. appear to be making political capital out of the incorporation of that Society. There are many objectionable features in the incorporation as it now is, the principal one of which seems to be the possibility of a number of members holding a controlling interest in the Association. But we have it from one of the "leading lights" that this will be changed at the Convention.

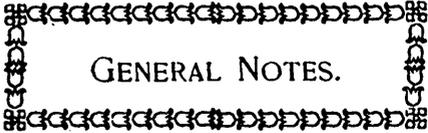
The next Board of Directors of the A. P. A. will probably consist of:

President, F. F. Olney; vice-president, H. B. Phillips; secretary, W. C. Stone; treasurer, N. W. Chandler; exchange superintendent, G. D. Mekeel; international secretary, E. Doebelin; trustees, W. C. Van Derlip G. L. Toppan and J. L. Kilbon.

Mr. Patterson of Guelph, but formerly of Michigan is an aspirant for office in the P. S. of A. He wants to be International Secretary. From what he has done in the past in connection with this and other societies, we think he would be a painstaking and capable officer.

Here's to Mr. Tiffany, one of the grandest Philatelists of the United States. His work in connection with the A. P. A. is, or should be, appreciated by all the members of that organization. May his shadow never grow less.

A Mr. Olney, of Boston, was registered at the Walker House, Toronto, recently. Wonder if he is the same Mr. Olney who is to be the next President of the A. P. A.



GENERAL NOTES.

CANADIAN.

Mr. T. S. Clark of Belleville announces his intention of retiring from the stamp business. One by one the old veterans keep moving out.

A new set of Canadian Revenues has been recently issued for Electric Light Inspection. They are similar to the Weight and Measure and Gas stamps, are red in color, and have the registered number printed in blue across the centre. The following values compose the set; 25 and 50 cents, \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 and \$10.—*Canadian Philatelist*.

The first auction sale of the Woodstock Philatelic Society will be held June 26th. Among those to be put up will be 10c 1859, 7 on original cover, 2 red-lilac and 5 unsevered violet-black; 10 pence, fine copy but narrow margins; 6 pence laid paper, very fine; $\frac{1}{2}$ pence, imperforate, unused, o. g., very fine; etc. The sale comprises 53 lots.

Benjamin and James Harris were discharged by Judge McDougall on the charge of cleaning postage stamps at Markham. The Crown could not prove the charge against the prisoners who are brothers with rather bad records, each having served time in the Central. A charge of assaulting a man named Ball, who spoke to one of them while they were selling the stamps, was also dismissed.—*Toronto Globe*.

The cancelling machines have been adopted by the Canadian Government. These are a decided acquisition, and no doubt before long they will be in use in all parts of the Dominion. In conversation with one of the officials he stated that the public were well pleased with the new cancellation. They had been "long-suffering" with the old style of obliteration. The types in use are Union Jacks and are something like those in the United States.

Some time ago circulars were sent out to all the Boards of Trade in Canada, with a resolution favoring the appointment by the Dominion Government of a regular staff of commercial agents general, one to each of the continental countries of Northern Europe, and a petition to the governor-

general-in-council, asking for a revision of the postal rates and classification of mail matter that would provide for a uniform rate of two cents per ounce, on letters for carriage within Canada, and from Canada to Newfoundland and the United States. Answers have been received from 130 Boards, situated in every Province in the Dominion endorsing both propositions.—*Daily Stamp Item*.

AMERICAN.

Business is reported good over here. Not even the hot weather seems to have affected the buyers.

Three new papers are announced from different parts of the States. Better take time to cool off gentlemen. Perhaps you won't be so anxious later on.

The *Boston Stamp Book* has changed hands, the editor, Mr. Kilbon, having assumed control. The same policy that has brought it up to its present standard will be pursued.

The project for a Philatelic club in this city (New York) appears to be receiving the support of a large number of the leading collectors. It is in the hands of a very strong committee.

Mekeel's *Daily Stamp Item* has been giving its readers portraits of the different candidates for office in the A. P. A. By the way, I hear this lively little infant is going to be given for \$1 per year to commence with the new volume.

"Are you going to the Conventions?" If I had a dollar for every time I have been asked this question, there wouldn't be any doubt whether I would go or not. Politics seem to be the order of the day over here just now.

The rarest stamp in the world (10 cent Baltimore) which was recently sold to Mr. Castle for \$4,400 by the C. H. Mekeel Co., will no doubt have lost some of its rarity on account of the finding of another which is held by Mr. A. C. Townsend of Washington.

I am sorry my notes are not in better shape, but promise to do better next time.

Bart. Howland.

FOREIGN.

We are disappointed in not receiving notes from our foreign correspondent but assure our readers they will be regular in the future. [Ed.]

STAMP-LORE

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PUSH
LUCK
PERSEVERANCEThese three Ps belong to
STAMP-LORE, London,
Ont., Canada.

An Up-To-Date Color Chart

BEGINNING with the next number of STAMP-LORE, we will run throughout the volume, a complete chart of all the colors used in printing all varieties of postage stamps. We have gone to a great deal of trouble and expense in connection with this but we think the results will warrant the expenditure. Any inaccuracies noted by our readers will be corrected at the earliest possible moment. Just now the only chart sold brings 75 cents, so that collectors subscribing for this alone will get full value for their money.

TWO WELL-KNOWN AUTHORS

MR. L. H. Benton of Taunton, Mass. and Major C. W. Egan of Washington, D. C. are each engaged on an article for STAMP-LORE, which we know will be appreciated by our readers. At this time we are unable to announce the subjects, but

hope to do so next month. Their contributions will probably appear in the Sept. number.

ARTICLES ON CANADIAN STAMPS.

ARRANGEMENTS are just about completed for a series of Canadian articles of particular interest, which will appear from time to time, and which will appeal to every true philatelist, whether a specialist of the stamps of B. N. A. or not. After reading one you will anticipate the next with the keenest interest.

CAN YOU WRITE AN AD ?

TO the reader sending in the best-written advertisement each month, setting forth the merits of STAMP-LORE, we will present \$1 in cash. Remember a long-winded ad is generally not as good as one, short, pithy and to the point. Try it and perhaps you will surprise yourself.

TO THOSE WHO WRITE ARTICLES.

WELL-WRITTEN ARTICLES are continually in demand by the publishers of this journal. We will pay the highest cash price unless the author wishes advertising space. We are down on "space-fillers" so don't send your article if it is one of this character. We want the best or none at all.

Authors would do well to read the last page of cover of this issue. We will stick by it to the letter.

THIS MEANS YOU.

IF you will show STAMP-LORE to your philatelic friends and secure for us three new subscribers, sending us twenty-five cents for each, we will give you a year's subscription for yourself in return for your trouble. If you have already subscribed your subscription will be advanced one year from end of present one, whether our rate be advanced or not. You should take advantage of this offer.

Two Specials...

WE have decided to issue TWO SPECIAL NUMBERS of "Stamp-Lore" particulars of which follow:

Convention Special...

This number takes the place of the regular issue, and will probably be the best convention number issued this year.

The leading feature will be:

"THE CONVENTIONS THROUGH A CAMERA"
from Photographs taken especially for this number.

The "write up" will also be exceedingly attractive, altogether forming a splendid number.

"Revival" Special...

October being the month in which a great many collectors start "pasting" again after the holidays, we will issue a SPECIAL NUMBER for that month.

It will be larger than usual and the contents especially bright.

All our "regulars" and some "specials" will take part.

3000 copies will be printed to meet the extra demand.

Full announcement of contents later.

Transient Ads will be inserted at the rate of \$8 per page; other space in proportion.

Subscribers wishing extra copies to distribute among non-philatelic friends, may secure same in bundles of not less than 5, at 2c each, by letting us know in advance.

Non-Subscribers may secure any number of copies at 5c each.

Your order is respectfully solicited.

Commercial Printing Co.,

211 DUNDAS STREET, LONDON, CANADA.

Stamp-Lore Prize Article Competition.

WE take great pleasure in announcing that a first prize of **\$10.00**, and a second prize of **\$6.00** will be awarded by the publishers of STAMP-LORE, for the two best original short articles, not exceeding *one thousand words* in length that are submitted to this publication before December 1st next.

Though our preference is for articles on the stamps of Great Britain and Colonies, we place no restriction whatever, upon authors taking as their subjects the stamps of any other country, nor do we stipulate that a competitor must be a subscriber to this journal. All MSS. will be judged entirely on their merits, the prestige or standing of an author having no weight whatever in the competition.

Competitors would do well to observe that the following rules governing the competition will be strictly adhered to:—

(1) All articles must not exceed one thousand words; Competition closes Dec. 1st, 1896. Prizes awarded and paid Dec. 20th, 1896.

(2) The publication reserves the right to purchase at its current rates, which are without doubt the highest allowed by any philatelic publication, as many of the articles submitted as it desires. This publication agrees to return all unsuccessful MSS. and all MSS. not purchased by it if stamps are sent for the purpose, subject, however to rule 3.

(3) Attached to each article must be a sealed blank envelope containing stamps for the return of the MSS., and the contributor's name and address in full, *but in no other place must the contributor's name and address appear*. The object of this rule is obvious, guaranteeing as it does a *bona fide* competition free from all favoritism. This rule will be strictly enforced and all MSS. submitted by contributors who do not conform to it will neither be read nor returned; all MSS. intended for this competition must be addressed as follows:

THE EDITOR.

STAMP-LORE,

LONDON, CANADA,

(Prize article competition.)

(4) An author may send in as many articles as he pleases, but no author will be allowed to take more than one prize.

It will be seen from the above that contributors have from now to Dec. 1st to prepare and submit their contributions, but a good article cannot be written in a day. *Remember, a writer may send in as many articles as he pleases.*

All MSS. when opened will be read by the Editor of STAMP-LORE, and the best ten contributions selected. These will then be handed to Mr. Robertson, Barrister, of St. Thomas, for final selection.

The points upon which articles will be judged are:

- 1st, Originality
- 2nd, Novelty of Subject
- 3rd, Excellence of Treatment.