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* THE CANADA STAMP AND COIN JOURNAL. *

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PHILATELY AND NUMISMATICS.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, MAY, 1889.

NO. 11.

EDITORIAL.

The June issue of the CANADA STAMP AND COIN JOURNAL will complete the first volume. On July 10th we shall publish the initial number of our second volume, under the title of

"THE CANADA STAMP JOURNAL"

and devote its entire space to Philately. The Numismatic Department is to be transferred to a new magazine, of which announcements will shortly appear. The "CANADA STAMP JOURNAL" will contain not less than eight pages each month, exclusive of cover and advertisements. The subscription will be ten cents per annum. We respectfully solicit the support of collectors, and shall strive to merit the same.

To dealers we wish to say, that our circulation will never fall short of one thousand copies, which will reach a good class of collectors. Our rates will, until further notice, be as follows :

A 3 line advertisement one year in "Directors Directory," 50 cents.

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185 Agricola Street, - - - HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

"PHILATELY" is the title of a new magazine that has lately appeared from New York. 12 pages and a cover. Contents and make-up, first class. Messrs. Holmes and Wylie are the projectors.

Gold and Silver Coins Current Before the Christian Era.

HERBERT THOMPSON.

CHAPTER I.

PERIOD OF ARCHAIC ART.

The Lydians in Asia Minor, under the rule of the illustrious dynasty of the Mermnads, began, about seven hundred years before the Christian Era, to stamp small ingots of gold ore, obtained from the washings of the river Pactolus, with an official mark as a guarantee of weight. This rendered an appeal to the scales on every fresh transaction no longer a matter of necessity. These stamped ingots of gold were the first coins.

The official marks on these coins consisted merely of the impress of the rude unengraved punches, between which the ingot was placed to receive the blow of the hammer. Soon, however, the art of the engraver was called in to adorn the lower of the two dies (the obverse) with the badge of the State or the symbol of the local divinity under whose auspices the currency was issued, it being generally supposed that the earliest mints were within the sacred precincts of a temple.

The Greek cities studding the coasts and islands of Asia Minor soon adopted and improved this simple though remarkable invention, and probably the credit is due to the Greeks of substituting engraved dies for the primitive punches, and of inscribing them with the name of the people or ruler who issued the coin.

Phidon, king of Argos, is said to have been the first to strike money in European Greece, after which the Eubœan cities (Chalcis and Eretria), as well as Corinth and her colonies, and Athens soon followed his example.

From these places the invention spread far and wide, to the coasts of Thrace on the north, to those of the Cyrenaica on the south, and to Italy and Sicily on the west. The weights of the standard coins in each dis-

trict were carefully adjusted in proportion to the talent there in use for weighing the precious metals, these talents being different in the various localities, but nearly all traceable to the Babylonian origin.

The form of the ingot of most of the early coins was bean shaped or oval, except in Southern Italy, where the earliest coins of Achaean cities were flat and circular. The device usually consisted of the figure of an animal or the forepart of an animal; the heads and figures of gods and men being rare in this early period. The reverse side of the coin did not at first bear a device, but only the impress, in the form of an incuse square, of the upper of the two dies between which the ingot was placed. The early coins of some of the cities above mentioned are characterised by having devices on both sides (generally the same) on the obverse in relief and on the reverse incuse.

The coins of the two centuries previous to the Persian Wars exhibit considerable varieties of style and execution. In common with the other remains of archaic art which has come down to us, and with which it is instructive to compare them, they may be divided into two classes. The earlier is characterised by extreme rudeness in the forms and expressions in the actions represented, the later, by a gradual development into more clearly defined forms with angularity and stiffness. The eye of the human face is always drawn, even when in profile, as if seen from the front, the hair is generally represented by lines of minute dots, the mouth wears a fixed and formal smile; but withal, there is in the best archaic work, a strength and touch which is often wanting in the fully developed art of a later period.

There are altogether 108 coins exhibited in the first period.

There is exhibited the earliest coin that is known to have been circulated. The obverse is a striated surface, while on the reverse is an oblong sinking between two square sinkings. It weighs 100 4-5 grains.

The next coin which attracts attention is one with an inscription in archaic letters meaning, "I am the sign of Phanes;" this is the earliest inscription known. Phanes was a Halicarnassian. He was an important man in the court of Amasis, king of Egypt, whose service however, he deserted for that of Cambyses, king of Persia, whom he assisted in his invasion of Egypt during the year B.C. 525. As this coin was found at

Halicarnassus, it is very probable that it was struck there, though it is also very probable that it was struck by an ancestor of Phanes. On the obverse is the inscription and a stag feeding, while on the reverse is an oblong sinking between two square sinkings. Its weight is 216½ grains.

The next of interest, a Persian gold coin of the earliest style, was struck in the reign of Darius I. On the obverse is the Great King holding a bow and spear, while the reverse is incuse. This coin weighs 129 grains.

Then comes a silver coin, which is perhaps the earliest coin of that rich Ionian city, Clasmenna. The obverse is a lion devouring his prey, while the reverse bears the fore-part of a winged boar in an incuse square. Its weight is 226 grains.

—From Herdman's Miscellany.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

IMPROVED POSTAL CARD.

A postal card with a flap to cover the writing would be a good thing and would meet a popular demand. The postal card is one of the articles that become indispensable the moment they are once used, but many people are prevented from using them by the fact that privacy is impossible. The device which Senator Culom has brought to the attention of the Senate Post Office Committee provides for this in a simple but effective way. The card is double and the back is split diagonally from the centre, where the four points can be attached in the same way that an envelope is sealed. Of course the writing could not be inspected without loosening the flaps, and ample protection to the correspondents would be secured. There would be a small addition to the weight of the card, but we are rich enough to carry a few pounds more in the mail bags without serious embarrassments to the country's finances.—The American Stationer.

We shall publish an INDEX with our next number, which completes the first volume. Free to subscribers and exchanges; to others, five cents.

LITERATURE.

Periodicals, books and pamphlets, catalogues and price-lists, are acknowledged in this column. Publishers and authors are requested to send us copies of their publications, for impartial review.

Periodicals received during April :

American Philatelist iii-7, Amateur World 4, Buffalo Philatelist 4, Badger State Philatelist ii-5 Curiosity Collector 5, Collectors Miscellany 2, Dominion Philatelist 4, Eastern Philatelist 14, Eastern Press 5, Eureka Philatelist ii-4, Fitchburg Philatelist 5, General Anzeiger fur Philatelie viii-4, Hoosier Philatelist 4, Herlman's Miscellany 17, International Collector iv-3, LeCourier du Timbrophile 25, One Dime ii-5, Philatelic Beacon 7, Philatelic World 76, Philatelic Gazette 56, Philately 2, Park City Collector 6, Plain Talk 46, Philatelic Press 7, Progressive Age ii-4 Quaker City Philatelist 40, Stamp World 33, Tribune and Advertiser 33, Welt Post 25.

Miscellaneous Literature :

WHOLESALE PRICE LIST OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POSTAGE STAMPS. London, England : S. Hellier, 16 Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, W. Gratis.

This is Mr. Hellier's wholesale list number 10, for April to September, 1889.

FOURTEENTH AUCTION SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS. New York : R. R. Bogert & Co., Tribune Building. Priced copies, after sale, \$1.

The above sale will be held on Monday and Tuesday May 20th and 21st.

PRIX COURANT No. 1.—TIMBRE-POSTE POUR COLLECTIONS Guatemala, Central America : Paul Jacops, s.n. 1r Fevrier 1889. Gratis.

PRICE LIST OF CANADIAN CHURCH TOKENS. Belleville, Ontario : P. C. Jones, Box 475. Gratis.

PRICE LIST OF CANADIAN COPPER COINS. Belleville, Ontario : P. C. Jones, Box 475. Gratis.

—Texas is again represented, by the resuscitation of the "Texas Philatelist," which failed about two years ago. It is now the "Texas Philatelic Journal," and presents a neat appearance ; but the contents are of an inferior order.

—The second number of the "Flour City Philatelist" is quite a bulky affair, and it is a great pity that so much space should be thrown away on foolish and slangy remarks, sensational and abusive paragraphs, and circus pictures. It is about time that such publications as these were done away with, and then the outside world would have a better opinion of philately and those connected with it. If you cannot be anything else, brother publisher, be at least gentlemen.

EXCHANGE NOTICES

Notices of 30 words or less inserted free for subscribers. Must be genuine exchanges ; not advertisements. Must offer one one specific article for another. Cash offers not inserted.

—L. E. Smith, Box 431, Halifax, N. S., desire stamps in exchange for the following coins : U. S. cents (copper) 1820, 1822, 1837, 1838, 1845, 1851, 1858 Bronze cent, 1803. Canada, P. E. I., 1805, Fisheries and Agriculture copper. N. S. ½ cent 1861, 1864.

—G. W. Green, 65 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, N. H. will exchange other papers for the following : Badger State Philatelist, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 of vo' I ; Eastern Philatelist, 1, 3, vo' I, and 1, 3, 5, vol. II ; Halifax Philatelist 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, vol. II ; Eureka Philatelist, 1, vo. II.

—J. L. Pender, Box 934, Portsmouth, N. H., has a large number of books to exchange for philatelic papers. Send lists.

—W. L. R. Filton, Prairie Depot, Ohio, has a number of rare U. S. Dept. Envelopes that he wishes to exchange for a type-writer or photograph outfit. He so wishes to correspond with collectors.

—H. R. Donahoe, 16 Cliff St., St. John, N. B., will give good exchange for Figaro vol i no 4, Stamp vol i nos 5 6 7 12, Western Philatelist vol i nos 3 5 11 12 vol ii no 5.

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