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Vol. 1.

August, 1893.

No. 6.

THE
NOVA 
SCOTIAN
PHILATELIST.



A monthly journal in the interest of stamp collecting.

25c per annum.

PUBLISHED BY

THE NOVA SCOTIAN PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO.

Amherst N. S. Can.

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I will buy all kinds of stamps, cards and envelopes Old issues preferred. Correspondence Solicited.

R. B. DAVISON, Amherst, NS.

I want to exchange North American stamps for South American.

The Nova Scotian Philatist.

Vol. 1.

AMHERST, AUGUST, 1893.

No. 6

SOME POINTS FOR CANADIAN COLLECTORS.

(BY CANADENSIS.)

To become a proper Philatelist it is desirable that a collector should be posted upon the postal laws of the world. Particularly should he be able to give a correct explanation of anything concerning his own country. Philatelists are above everything correspondents, and the number of foreign letters addressed by them would probably be greater than by any other class of people. Next to studying the stamps themselves, we must be fully acquainted with all the numerous little regulations that go to make up our vast postal system. By carefully reading such pointers and study, you may become, at least, aware of what is expected from people not collectors. The deficient postage on short-paid letters from Postal Union countries is reckoned in the first place in centimes, not cents, five centimes being the equivalent of one cent, and Postmasters in Canada, have sometimes been misled by this circumstance into making excessive charges on the delivery of such letters. Thus a double-rate letter from England or France prepaid one rate only, would be marked by the despatching office with the figures "25", signifying 25 centimes (equal five cents), short prepayment to be doubled on delivery, making a charge of 50 centimes or 10 cents. It is the duty of the Exchange Office receiving such letters, to indicate in Canadian currency the exact amount to be collected, and to cancel the figures representing the centimes.

The Post Office Department does not sell Postage Stamps, Post Cards, etc., direct to the public. These must be obtained through Post Masters or licensed Stamp-vendors.

No cards posted within the Dominion, can pass as Post Cards, except such as are issued by the Canada Post Office, and British and Foreign Reply cards. Post Cards are to be post-marked only on the face or address side of the Card, both at the office where posted and at the office of delivery, leaving the other side of the Card entirely clear for the use of the sender. In post-marking, care must be taken to avoid interfering with the address.

To be Continued.

Some of my Opinions.

One would hardly expect to find an item regarding Stamps in a volume of law reports. Yet I discovered an item which bears upon Stamp collecting, the other day, and I reproduce the sentences for your benefit. They are taken from the report of the case, *Mullaly vs. People*, and the opinion from which I quote was delivered by Robert Earl, Judge.

"In nearly every household in the land can be found chattels, kept for the mere whim and pleasure of the owner, a source of solace after serious labor, exercising a refining and elevating influence. and yet they are as much under the protection of the law as chattels purely useful and absolutely essential."

If the above words do not accurately describe the Stamp albums to which collectors are so much devoted, I am badly mistaken. Philatelists should rise up and call Judge Earl blessed.

* * *

I was reading Edna Lyall's "We Two", not long since, when I ran on to a pretty little scene, in which a street letter box figured rather prominently. Erica, the heroine of the book, meets her lover at the box. Both are posting letters. Erica is sending out notices of an athiest meeting. Her lover is mailing circulars which relate to a Home Missionary society. The two, standing in the crowded streets of London, note with amusement the strangely different characters of their two errands, and then follows a long and serious conversation regarding the absolute democracy of the letter box, which is no respecter of the parcels it receives. Of course this prepares the way for a long train of moralizing.

* * *

Mark Twain's "Innocents Abroad", contains several references to Postage stamps. I shall call your attention to only one of them. In the course of its travels, Mark's party visited the pyramids. Before the giant Cheops, a portion of the crowd paused; the other members of the party made haste to reach the summit of the vast mass of rocks. "Then," says Mark, "we looked up and saw them waving Postage Stamps at us; no, they were not Postage Stamps, they were handkerchiefs; but they looked no larger than Postage Stamps from where we stood."

* * *

Now, that I am started on Mark Twain, I might as well tell you of another reference to Postage Stamps which he makes in "A Tramp Abroad." The great humorist has a French friend who resolves to fight a duel with a person who has injured him. Mark agrees to act as his aggrieved companion's second. All arrangements for the deadly meeting are made, and the weapons, pistols, are chosen. When the time to load the awful weapons arrives, the famous second "takes from his pocket a Postage Stamp, and carefully unfolding it, reveals the bullets wrapped within its sticky folds."

My readers should bear in mind that at the time "A Tramp Abroad" was written, such a thing as a "Columbian Stamp" had never been heard of. This being the case, Mark's statement seems all the more ridiculous. In case the Columbian issue had been familiar at that time, bullets could very easily have been accommodated. This is vouched for by

GUY W. GREEN.

Afghanistan Stamps.

Undoubtedly the most curious stamps in the world are those issued by Afghanistan. To a collector they are indeed puzzling, but afford genuine Philatelic research. To an outsider, or one who knows nothing of stamps, they appear as veritable curiosities, and more likely to satisfy the curious taste of the non-Philatelist than even a 12 penny Canada would. The stamps used in Afghanistan are all native engraved, cancelled by tearing a piece of the stamp after it is placed on the letter. consequently there are no used copies in perfect condition. This only serves to make these stamps appear more ludicrous. The many different designs of tigers heads ought to suit the taste of the most fastidious. (CANADENSIS.)

How to Study Stamps.

The study of a stamp begins with the design. The key to success in this study is comparison. Two stamps which

seem at first glance alike often differ in small details. Every line and every figure should be compared in turn. Two years ago I went carefully through the four hundred stamps I had set aside as duplicates and from them added twenty varieties to a collection of fifteen hundred. Perhaps I was more careless than other collectors, but I think not.

The next point for study is the color. Stamps which appear the same at a distance frequently show marked differences of shade. Some of the rarest stamps differ only in shade from more common ones. A sensible and universal color standard is greatly needed.

The method of production should now be discovered. Most stamps are either lithographed, typographed or engraved *taille douce*. If the hand be rubbed over a lithographed print, the surface appears very smooth. Lithographs contain fewer fine shading lines than prints produced in other ways, hence they appear to the eyes less finished. Stamps engraved in *taille douce* are rough to the feeling and appear to the eye richer than any others, on account of the great number of very fine lines. Nearly all United States stamps are made in this way. British stamps of the later issues are typographed. Stamps made in this way feel rougher and have finer lines than lithographed stamps, but lack the peculiar richness of steel engravings.

Perforation must next be noted. Perforations are gauged by the number of indentations in two centimeters. Rouletted stamps are prepared by impressing a dotted line, with or without ink, upon the space between stamps.

The paper upon which stamps are printed is either laid or wove. Laid paper is thinner in some places than in others, so that it appears in lines when held to the light. These lines are called *vergures*. Wove paper is of nearly uniform thickness, showing light dots irregularly distributed over the surface.

Watermarks are produced in the same way as *vergures* of laid paper, by pressing a design upon the paper in process of manufacture. The watermark can best be seen by holding the stamp, back up, not quite directly below the eye in a position where a bright light falls upon it. The stamp should be held about half way between a vertical and a horizontal position. It can also be seen by wetting the back of the stamp slightly.

U. S. Notes.

The S. of P. has now one thousand and four members.

A Stamp that you can't buy—The stamp of a gentleman.

Philatelic Puck is dead. Only one number was issued.

A party in Philadelphia contemplates starting a stamp paper. Better not.

The Philatelic Journal of America, commenced its tenth volume with the July number.

Mr. I. A. Mekeel, editor of the Weekly News, has left for an extended tour through Europe.

A movement is on foot to place Mr. H. E. Deats. Flemington, N. J., in the president's chair of the A. P. A.

The Philatelic Advertiser is announced by R. A. Willis, of Bloomington, Ill. It is to be issued twice each month.

The Philatelist will hereafter be published by a stock company, and shares at \$2.50 are offered. There are 200 shares, 80 have already been taken.

The Pennsylvania Phil. is authority for the statement that L. G. Quackenbush, was born in 1884, began collecting stamps in 1887 and graduated from high school in 1891.

The demand for Columbus Stamps, both adhesives and envelopes, has fallen off, and it is thought many remainders will be left in the hands of the Government at the end of the year.

Shades in the two-cent value of the Columbian issue of this country promise to be as prolific as in the three-cent rose of 1863. This is due to the difference in shade of the ink used in printing, and also to the susceptibility of the ink to change from atmospheric conditions. Specimens have turned up showing all the shades from a delicate lilac to the darkest purple-brown.

SOMETHING ABOUT COLLECTING ODDITIES.

(BY HARRY W. HOAX.)

One of the most interesting branches of Philately is the collecting of oddities. There are very few collectors who go in for oddities as a specialism. Some may have a few, but they take no pleasure in seeing them in their albums. Mr. J. R. Hooper, is, we believe a most enthusiastic collector of oddities of the stamps of British North America. He has some very rare combinations of the old Provincial issues, in his collection.

Mr. Alvah Davison, is also a collector of oddities. In his collection of U. S. adhesive stamps, he has every distinct shade, embossing, perforation, grill, paper, error and die.

Mr. H. E. Deats, is one of the most hearty exponents of the collecting of oddities, in America, and has one of the finest collections in that line, in the U. S.

The 3 cent of 1851, 1861, and 1870, are noted for their number of odd varieties and hardly a year passes, but some new odditie is chronicled.

Entire envelopes offer an innumerable variety of oddities for collection. Shades, patent lines, watermarks, color of paper, sizes, and dies embrace "elements necessary for the grace of the collection".

Oddities too generally command higher prices than distinct varieties. For example, take the 3 cent green envelope of 1874, the regular watermark is worth about 25 cents used and \$1.00 new. The same envelope watermarked (error) U. S. C. is worth \$2.00 used and \$4.00 new.

Revenue stamps are also noted for the number of oddities they embrace in paper, surcharges, watermarks, etc. Private revenues also offer a large field for the collecting of oddities.

The United States is not the only country that has its oddities; almost—in fact we may say all countries have their lists; South America countries and Britain are perhaps most noted.

You ask why it is that some collectors prefer this style of collecting? We ascribe the reason, to the fact that his search and labor is rewarded by some odd find that gives him a desire to further extend his researches in that line

Canadian Notes.

Mr. G. A. Lowe, has sold his International Phil. to the Philatelic Journal of Canada.

The 15 cent stamp is not to be withdrawn, it having been decided to keep it in use.

Who has seen the Canadian Stamp exhibit in the Liberal Arts Department of the Canadian section at the Fair?

A number of Canadian collectors are going to the World's Fair this month, they will also attend the Auction Sale to be held by the Western Stamp & Coin Co.

Some members of the P. S. of Canada, are in favor of abolishing such a thing as an official organ, and instead get out monthly or quarterly reports.

The 5 cent Registration Stamp of Canada, is to be retired. The new 8 cent Stamp will soon be on sale at all the offices. It will be used to cover the ordinary letter rate and the registration fee.

The C. P. A. convention opens in Quebec city on Aug. 23rd. The following is a list of nominations to fill the various offices: Pres. E. F. Wurtele, Quebec; A. A. Bartlett, Charlottetown; Vice Pres. D. A. King, Halifax; Sec'y-Treas. F. A. Clarke, Belleville; Ex. Supt. W. K. Hall, Peterborough; C. C. Morency, Quebec; Librarian, A. E. Labelle, Montreal; Count. Dect. H. H. Fowler, Toronto; Trustee, C. E. Cameron, L. Gibb, J. E. Schultze, Montreal.

The P. S. of C. convention, will be held the last of September, in Montreal. The following are nominated to fill the various offices of the society: Pres. H. Ades Fowler, Toronto, Ont.; Henri Lionais, Montreal, W. McManon, Toronto; J. S. Robertson, St. Thomas; R. F. McRae, Montreal; J. R. Hooper, Ottawa,

Vice-Pres. Ontario, H. Woods, St. Catherines; J. W. Beatty, Ottawa; H. F. Moores.

Secy Treas. E. H. Jaques, Montreal; H. F. Moores, Kingston; Ed. H. Jaques, Quebec.

Editorial Notes Etc.

The Detroit Philatelist for July, is full of interesting matter.

Venezuela has followed the example of the U. S., in issuing Columbus Stamps.

A change has lately been made in our business, Mr. S. W. Schurman, having retired.

The editor leaves this week for a trip through Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and hopes to meet with a number of the prominent dealers and collectors.

An advertisement in the N. S. P. will pay you. Our rates are low and our circulation large. Give us a trial advertisement, but don't forget to send the cash.

The P. S. of C. are again on the look out for an official organ. The Nova Scotian Philatelist will be a candidate for the honor, and if successful in securing the contract, will guarantee to give satisfaction.

Look out for Mexican reprints of the 1856-61-62 issues, fraudulently surcharged and postmarked. They are being offered for sale by Mexican postal officials. Collectors should only buy these stamps of well known dealers.

Are you a subscriber to this journal? If not send us the small sum asked for a years subscription. You won't regret it. We will endeavour to make improvements with each number, and will before very long enlarge to 16 pages.

All collectors in the Maritime Province should join the Maritime Philatelic Association. Although only a young society, it has grown wonderfully of late. Full information regarding the Association, can be had on application to E. R. Morrison, Sec'y, Amherst N. S.

It is said that the A. P. A. exhibit at the World's Fair is not what it should be, as many collectors who promised to show their Stamps failed to do so. This is to be regretted, but does not reflect on the efficient committee, who have done all in their power to make the exhibit a success.

DONT FORGET

to send for a catalogue of GREAT WORLDS FAIR CONVENTION STAMP SALE which will be held in CHICAGO during AUGUST. If you are going to CHICAGO You will want it. CALL AND SEE THE STAMPS WHICH ARE THE LAST OF THE HOOPER COLLECT-ON. Catalogue sent free.

The sale will be held in
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Time your visit to the WORLD'S FAIR so as to include these dates. Send at once for free catalogue of this great sale.

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