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THE
NOVA SCOTIAN
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A MONTHLY JOURNAL IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING

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- 1894 -
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SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO, Ltd

18 East 23rd St.

NEW YORK

The Nova Scotian Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

Amherst, December 1893.

No. 9.

THE MANUFACTURE OF THE PLATES FROM WHICH STEEL ENGRAVED STAMPS ARE MADE

Although much has been published both in newspapers and philatelic journals about the printing and subsequent stages of a sheet of postage stamp before being finally desposed of for the purpose intended, never to my recollection have I seen or heard of an article on the manufacture of the plate from which the sheets are printed. In this article reference is only made to steel engraved stamps, and not lithographed or wood-printed ones.

Undoubtedly many suppose that the die for each stamp has been engraved separately and wonder how it is that it has been made with such mathematical precision. After a design has been agreed upon, it is engraved on a plate of soft steel the size desired and when completed highly tempered. The steel used in the engraving plate (as well as in the cylinder and printing plate hereafter described) is of an excellent quality and very soft, but capable of being highly tempered.

A cylinder, the length of which is sufficient to admit of the required number of horizontal dies, has one end rolled over the tempered die by hydraulic pressure. Just as if one rolled a cylinder of wax over a cent and obtained an impression, so by rolling the soft steel over the tempered, one of the die is obtained. After the impression is satisfactory the plate is adjusted for the next and when this is done the others are finished the

same until the cylinder contains the required number, after which it is highly tempered like the die.

The cylinder is now rolled, also by hydraulic pressure, over a plate capable printing the sheet, and the necessary number of vertical impressions made. When completed, the slightest imperfections (should there be any) are remedied and the plate tempered. It is now ready for the press and from the one die originally cut, one hundred (or whatever number may be on the plate) stamps are printed simultaneously.

"Collector."

NEW BRUNSWICK STAMPS.

The first N. B. stamps were issued in August 1851 and consisted of three varieties printed in colors upon blue tinted paper.

Three pence red, 6 pence yellow and 1 shilling violet, and were diamond shaped with the design placed diagonally across it.

They contain the British Crown in the centre, with roses above and below, a shamrock at the left, a thistle at the right, numerals in each corner and "New Brunswick above the value and "Postage" below and were not perforated.

They were manufactured in London Eng., by an engraver who it is said produced the first Nova Scotia issue. The color of these stamps, alone present a very interesting study there being some twelve or fifteen different shades. Nine years after these stamps were issued the decimal currency was introduced, necessitating a new issue,

which appeared in May 1860, but the "pence issue" as they are called remained in use until May 24, 1861.

The new issue consisted of six varieties, the values in cents; viz, 1, 5, 10, 12 1-2, and 17 cents. The design of the one cent was a locomotive in an oval, surrounded by "New Brunswick Postage one cent," with numerals in each corner, they were printed in brown and violet. The design of the 5 and 10 cent stamps consists of a portrait of Queen Victoria in oval surrounded by "New Brunswick" and value in words, the 5 cent had numerals in each corner, the 10 cent had "X" in the upper and "10" in the lower, corners also "X" above the "10". Colors were green and vermilion respectively. The 12 1-2 cent, dark blue has a steamboat in oval, "New Brunswick Postage" around it, the value in letters, also the value in small figures in the upper corners, large ones in the lower, the words "cents" in engraved label at the bottom. The 17 cent value has a portrait of Prince Albert in a Highland dress in oval surrounded by "New Brunswick Postage," the value figures in the corners, the word "cents" below oval, these stamps are printed in black. (A description and history of the "Connel" stamp of this province will be given next month.)

CANADIAN COLLECTORS

It has been thought that a good sound Society having membership limited to Canada would prove beneficial. Collectors interested in the formation of such a society will please write to the undersigned. Suggestions thankfully received, which will be duly published and discussed. Please write Alex M. Muirhead, Halifax, N. S. or the editor of this paper.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co's catalogue will be ready for delivery about the 27th. The prices of the U. S. department, stamps will be considerably higher than last year.

The Indian government has decided to issue stamps of the value of 2,, 3 and 5 rupees respectively for postage purposes.

The result of the preliminary investigation in Hooper case has been that he is held for the murder of his wife. The trial will begin about the middle of December and will likely last for many days. Hooper is at present in the Joliette County Jail. He may be guilty or not guilty of the crime of which he is charged. The judge and jury will be asked to decide that, but from the evidence already given by Miss Stapley, regarding his profession to her that his wife was dead and showing her printed notices clipped from the newspapers to that effect, winning her affections and promising to marry her, we have no hesitation in saying that he is no gentleman, and his appeal to philatelists for assistance should not be listened to, as we are informed he has ample means to provide for his defence.

We have received No. 2 of the Canadian Philatelic Magazine of Halifax. It is improving.

It is said that in London alone 3,000,000 letters are posted every day, and on an average 2,500,000 are delivered.

How do you like the improvements we have made this month in the appearance, etc.

If you want to do a good stamp business in Canada the U. S. or in any foreign country advertise in this paper, the rates are very low.

The Oakland Tribune, Nov. 16th con-

tains an account of the capture of Geo. Williams charged with robbing W. H. Hollis of 105 O'Farrell St. San Francisco of \$3000 worth of postage stamps. Williams was arrested in Oakland while trying to sell some of his illgotten gains to J. H. Makins. It is believed that Williams is in reality Lewis Bishop of Denver.

Mr. Crawford Copen who is well known to the philatelic press under the non-de-plume of Crawford is to edit the stamp department in the well known juvenile publication St. Nicholas. This will indeed be a great boom for philately.

25 cents will bring you the Nova Scotian Philatelist for one year, a U. S. stamp catalogue at 25cts and an exchange ad in this paper one year. You will be getting your money's worth. Try it.

The C. P. A. have canceled their arrangements with the Canadian Journal Philately, that paper having been unable to fill their part of the contract. The Dominion Philatelist will therefore act as Official Organ for the rest of the year, or in other words to the date of the next convention.

The American Philatelic Advertiser is announced to appear from Brooklyn, Ont. soon. It will be devoted entirely to advertising.

Don't forget to have an advertisement in our Jan. number, it will be introduced, necessitating a new issue a dandy.

JOIN A PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

It is necessary that the active philatelist of today be a member of one or more stamp societies. Some collectors are withheld from joining a philatelic organization, by reasons of a strange conservatism. The collector-accumulating public, then stamp societies there is strength and nothing can do

more to place stamp-collecting on a proper plane in the estimation of the non-collecting public, then stamp societies, which by their great number of members and influence will surely make a favorable impression on the mind of the out-sider. Some collectors allege as their reasons for not joining philatelic societies, that they do not relish the manner in which they are usually managed, and that they further dislike the notoriety attendant upon membership in organizations of such character. If the latter is the case, it is a matter on which nothing need be said, but if the former is advanced, we say, join the society, push yourself to the front and endeavor to reform matters not in accord with your ideas, and have a voice in the management of affairs. By all means join at least one good philatelic society, and remember that if you do not derive any benefit from membership, it is your own fault. The benefits are there and you may grasp them, if you will.—Eagal.

A SOUTH-AMERICAN POSTMAN.

A recent traveller in South America gives us a little picture that show us the great blessings we enjoy in our own favored land.

In a four days' journey across lower Brazil, he tells us, I met but one civilized being, and this was a postman. This man I met travelling alone on foot, carrying his provisions, cooking-pot and sleeping gear on his back, going from Jatahy to Castro, a distance of one hundred and forty-five miles, more than half of which was through the wild uninhabited forest. I had a short conversation with him, for, on journeys such as these, travellers never think of passing each other on the road without speaking. He found time to tell me that he per-

formed the double journey of two hundred and ninety miles once a month and that, though he might have a mule, if he chose, he preferred travelling on foot, as he could thus save money. His pay was about ten dollars for the double journey, which usually occupied him about a fortnight. This journey was remarkable, not so loneliness, for along the whole route there were but three points where the man could sleep under shelter. Three nights at least had to be passed in the gloomy solitude of the forest, or upon the desolate prairie.

A FEW HINTS.

I have been a philatelist for a number of years, and during that time many thousand stamps have passed through my hands. I have had to learn a great many of the minor details of philately by experience and perhaps a few hints may help fellow collectors especially the young collector.

First; keep an account of all your philatelic business. Have a small diary, to note down in it all the letters you receive, when received and from whom, cash expended, philatelic papers received. If you do this you can know just how you stand at the end of the month or year.

File all your letters, make a note in one corner when received and when answered. Perseve all philatelic papers, price lists, catatogues etc. you never know when you may want to refer to something you have seen in some paper, and its is handy to have them just where you can find what you want in an instant. Subscribe for as many first class philatelic papers as you can afford. When you receive a large quantity of stamps no matter how common; always look over them carefully. Nothing is more

humallating than to despose of a lot of duplicates to somebody, and then learn that they have found some unknown variety, or watermark among them.

Always disinfect all the stamps you receive. Five cents expended in this way may save you, and perhaps a number of your friends from decease.

Keep an "Oddity Album" your album in which you put your collection is no place for freaks, and you can get enough of them to make an interesting collection by themselves.

Do not try to become a dealer before you are a collector. It does not fore you are a collector, IT does not pay. When you have a good collection together, plenty of time and at least \$50.00 that you don't want you may think about dealing, but until then do not attempt. Always encourage and help collectors younger than yourself and be willing to show them your collection.

R. T. F.

U. S. NOTES.

The Columbian 2c. is being chemically changed to blue.

Lewis Bishop of Denver, Colo. is 6 feet 1 inch in hight and is still at large. Now the pen is said to be mightier than the sword, but in dealing with our festive friend the later seems infinitely preferable.

Chas. W. Greving is again editor of the "Stamp," already a number of improvements have been made in it.

The Weekly Philatelist of New Chester, Pa. has completed his first volume. It has never missed a number and is always on time. We expect to have another weekly about Jan 1st from Reading, Pa.

The Philatelic Era will issue a handsome Christmas number, the first thing of the kind Brother Jewett has ever attempted.

The U. S. is sure to have some new stamps for 1894, if not a new series, at least same dollar values to correspond with the 1890 issue.

Certain dealers are advertising the used Columbian dollar values at ten and twenty cents over face value.

One third of the original contract for the Columbians has been canceled.

Scotts 54th catalogues is still being eagerly looked for by the collectors.

It is pretty certain that at least one U. S. stamp will be lower in the 54th catalogue than the 53rd, that is the 3c. Newspaper.

Study your Columbian envelopes carefully, and you will be surprised at the number of varieties you will find, they appear with and without periods, with three bars on left side of shield, with large and small ornaments at side, with and without meridian back of Columbus head, with and without meridians between the neck of Columbus and eagle's wing, and sharp and blunt wings; about seventy varieties can be found of the two cent alone.

WHAT TO COLLECT.

The young Philatelist, as he starts out, generally imagines that it will be no very difficult matter to gradually fill his album and some day have a complete collection; but it does not take him very long to realize his error, for he finds that there are not a few countries whose stamps possess a present value far exceeding his limited means.

I remember when quite a boy, what pleasure it afforded me to complete any of my sets and how proud I was of my 2500 varieties, nicely mounted, but one day I had the good fortune to meet our late philatelic brother, A. Gerald Hull, and after looking over

his two magnificent volumes, filled with the rarest gems, I could not refrain from feeling that my hitherto precious album was a mere gaudy nothing.

Of late the tendency of most philatelists has been to forgo the idea of general collecting and to adhere to the stamps of a single country or government. This furnishes, in itself, quite a wide field in which to pursue our favorite study.

The choice of a specialty is governed of course, by the fancy of each individual, the favorites being the United States, Mexico, and the British Colonies. The first is to us, naturally the most interesting and popular. The stamps as a rule, are pretty and varied, and in addition to their pecuniary value, they cause us to become acquainted with the history of the great Republic. Many specimens are quite rare and difficult to obtain but money thus invested is not lost but well secured.

Mexican stamps are greatly sought after and to such an extent as to warrant the publication of an album for their special use. The government not to have picked out the handsome faces to adorn them with, but the colors are bright and make quite an attractive display. But beware of reprints.

The collector of British Colonials has a much larger sphere to move in. The old adage says, "the sun never sets on England" and truly, her provinces are scattered far and wide, each one furnishing to the philatelist an opportunity of increasing his store of treasures.

In addition to the above mentioned three, we might add, the German States, South America, France and Spain, besides many others; but let us as Americans, should we be in doubt as to what line to follow out, give the preference to our own country and take pride in preserving her stamps. —Detroit Phil.

SHALL WE BE COLLECTORS OR
PHILATELISTS.

It is by experiment that all knowledge is gained. Our theories are very good and often lead us to useful experiments by which we learn much; but after all, it is from the experiment, and not from the theory, that we learn. Most of us have heard of the very learned discussion which took place among some wise men of old, on the question of "Why it was that a live fish placed in a tub of water would occupy no space, while a dead fish placed in a tub would run the water over." The men grew eloquent on both sides, until finally one suggested that they experiment with a tub of water and the fish, when it was found that a fish alive or dead occupied the same amount of space. We must see in our journals as to whether philately is a science or not. Experience might lead us to better conclusion on the subject. Some contend that it is only a pleasant way to pass away spare time, but as it affords a great deal of pleasure to a great many it should be encouraged. At the other extreme are those who claim that we can learn almost anything from our stamps. Perhaps a little actual experience may help to solve the question. In one of our western cities where many of the streets are paved with asphalt, among the questions asked at the examination in the High School was, "from where does the asphaltum with which our streets are paved come?" The scholars had not studied the the sub-

ject and it was put in as a test of general information. Most of the pupils failed on it entirely, but one answered it correctly, and it was interesting, a few days later, to hear him tell of how he had gained his information on the subject. It was substance this: At a meeting of the Philatelic Society a short time before in looking over the U. S. Stamps, it was noted that only one naval officer—Perry, had ever had the honor of being placed on one of the stamps, and they studied the question of why he was there. In doing so, they learned a great deal about the battle of Lake Erie, and the famous message which Commodore Perry sent to Washington at its close. They then followed his career until they found him landing at Port Spain on the Island of Trinidad, one of the West Indies, where he was seized with the yellow fever and died. This led to the studying of the island and that wonderful lake asphaltum. So from the study of this stamp, this boy had learned much of history and geography, and had the satisfaction of using it in a practical way in improving his standing in his class. There are many other stamps of our own and other countries which would develop as interesting a line of study. We may learn not only history and geography, but much of art, printing, engraving, and the different colors directly, and there is almost no end to the auxiliary studies. Some one will suggest at this point that if we take up almost any subject and follow it in this way it will furnish much information, but it will be by study and we should use our stamps as a recreation. Just here is where the difference appears between being simply a collector or a true philatelist, and each one must decide the question: which will you be?
—Era.

HELP THE BOYS.

Yes! The boys need help. They are to be the future supporters of our science, pastime, or hobby (whichever suits you best) and we more advanced collectors must give them help, so they may do so successfully. If they are not properly started, they may become discouraged, and give up their collections, never to return to them.

We should tell them the truth in all cases, about counterfeit, reprints, etc., as if they collect a few hundred varieties, and find a large number of them are counterfeit, and consequently valueless, they will be liable to quit. Don't be backward about imparting your knowledge to the young collector. Encourage him by every means in your power. If you have any spare duplicates, which are of no use to you, give them to the young collector, and you will be rewarded by the pleasure you give.

Explain to them the difference between perforated and unperforated, what water and grills are, and you will earn their undying gratitude, and at the same time feel that you have done your duty.

MY SPECIALTY.

In the course of my collecting I have found it necessary to specialize, in some degrees, and in casting about some interesting country I settled upon British North America. As things have turned, I did the best thing, peculiarly, that was possible though at the time I was attracted by the general beauty of their design and coloring.

By far the most attractive series of stamps of B. N. A., in my estimation, is that beautiful issue of Canada:—The Bill, Law, Liquor, etc. stamps. Many collectors have an interest in them but very few have com-

plete sets.

Following them in the interest are the general issue of Canada; perhaps not so pretty in design and color as in monetary value. The stamps of Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are all pretty in face and character.

These Colonies will be found a Paradise for the young or conscientious collector. No wretched surcharge can be found in any of them, no trouble is found in determining reprints and counterfeit, and as an investment it cannot be beaten in the Continent, so, Brother Collectors, take my advice and make British North America your specialty and profit thereby as I have done.

K. Phillip.

PHILATELY AS A SPECULATION.

There is no doubt that a large number of philatelists who follow the suit, though chiefly attached to their collection because of their love of stamps, are also interested in them to a great extent from a financial point of view, and a collection often proves to be a good speculation, as has been demonstrated in many cases well known to all stamp collectors.

A collector often purchases a rare and valuable stamp, not only to fill up a long vacant space in his album, but because said stamp is a valuable one and he expects that it will increase in value considerably as time goes by, thereby paying him interest as it were, on the amount he originally paid for the specimen. And again as there are chances that a stamp may be counterfeit or a reprint (and this is often the case especially with the younger and less experienced collector) the buyer risks his cash to a greater extent, thereby making the investment more of a spe-

ulation than ever, as in either case the specimen is worthless.

There is not the slightest doubt that if the prices of rare stamps go on increasing in proportion to the way they have increased during the last ten years, a good collection will be a very paying speculation.—Detroit.

THE STAMPS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The first postage stamp of this colony were issued on Sept. 1st, 1853. They consisted of two values only, 1d. red and 4d. blue. The design is of a triangular shape, figure of Hope in centre, "Postage" on left, value on right hand side and at bottom, "Cape of Good Hope," the three corners being filled with ornaments. The stamps were printed from steel plates consisting of 240 specimens and 15 horizontal rows of 16 stamps, which were arranged in 8 squares. The original die, which had the value of "One Penny" upon it, and from which the dies for the other values were afterwards made, was engraved by Mr. W. Humphreys, an artist in the employ of Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co. London, who were the printers of these stamps. The paper used for printing was white, and watermarked with 240 anchors, placed in position so that each stamp would get one, but owing to careless printing some stamps have got two halves, a few have got two anchors, and as many have no watermark excepting perhaps the tips of the anchors. The last two varieties I find are very scarce. The paper which was originally white appears now on stamps of this issue as blue, which is owing to the combined action of ink, gum and paper. It is not yet known with certainty which ingredient caused

this change, nor when the use of them ceased: but it was very likely that their use was discontinued before as none of the stamps first issued in that year are found on blue paper.

The inland postage was 4d. per 1-2 oz. for letters and 1d. for each newspaper, and the rate to England was 6d. for 1-2oz.

In December, 1857, two new values 6d. lilac and 1s. green, were printed in London from new plates of same pattern as the 1d. and 4d. values, on white paper watermarked anchor, as before. These were issued to the public in the colony in February 1858, the 6d. being intended for correspondence to England and the 1s. for some foreign countries. These stamps remained in use for about six years. The paper varied much in that time, being rough and thin in the beginning getting finer and more glazed afterwards. Specimens of all values are also known rouletted. I have only the 4d. in this state, but this was only officially, when, where and by whom is not known. The colors varied greatly, the 1d. from a dark red to a very light rose, the 4d. from light to very dark. The so-called black specimens known as errors of printing are only chemical changings although I have a specimen on part of original envelope which shows that time has also discolored some; perhaps the ink and gum did not agree, thus causing the blue to turn black. The 6d. lilac and 1s. green stamps do not vary so very much, owing, no doubt, to that but a few printings of these took place. I know of only three distinct shades of each—very high, middle and dark color. On 15th September, 1860, a local delivery of letters was established in Cape Town, and the rate fixed at 1d. per 1-2oz. On 1st May, 1861 the same was established in Port Elizabeth, and after that the cheap rate was gradually extended till, on 1st January, 1889, the rate of 1d. became uniform for the whole colony.

In the beginning of 1861 the authorities ran short of 1d. and 4d. stamps, and while awaiting the new supply ordered in England they had recourse to a local printing firm, Saul Solomon & Co., in Cape Town, who printed a supply of both values, and these were issued to the public about the middle of April, 1861.

IF You are a stamp collector, it is a duty which you owe to yourself to join

The Philatelic Sons of America

the most progressive society in America. Fine Exchange Department, and a separate one for Canada. Fee 10c., dues 25c. For benefits, etc., address R. W. ASHCROFT, 120 No Fifth Street Philadelphia Pa.

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