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MARCH-APRIL, 1894.

VOL. I. - - - - - No. 5.

THE

**Canadian**

**Philatelic**

**Magazine.**

Official Journal of The Canadian Sons of Philatelia.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

**A. M. MUIRHEAD, EDITOR,**

30 Hollis Street, - - - Halifax, N. S.



[ENTERED FOR TRANSMISSION AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.]

# The Canadian Philatelic Magazine.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Vol I.

MARCH—APRIL, 1894

No. 5

*Written for C. P. M.*

## OUR FRIEND THE FORGER AND HIS NUMEROUS LITTLE WAYS.

BY M. S. R.

To acquire even a passing knowledge of the many counterfeits, fakes, etc. in circulation, one must possess a good magnifying glass, a color chart, perforation gauge and a collection of literature bearing on the subject. A book should be kept containing full particulars of each counterfeit handled, giving all the differences noticable however minute. Sketches should be made of the cancellation marks, where with such forgeries are obliterated. In the case of rare stamps similar records should be kept of each specimen handled as to perforation, cancellation and quality of paper.

In the case of stamps which are available for revenue as well as postage, for example the high value Great Britain, a new and formidable difficulty is presented. Persons for object of gain, will remove the writing by which revenues are generally cancelled, and obtain a postal cancellation through a friend in the employ of the post office department.

To discover the fraud a strong glass will be needed, which will generally show the mark where the composition erasing pencil was used to remove the writing cancellation. Reprints postally cancelled through favor trouble many, but reprints were never yet manufactured but that *some* differences may be detected, wherein they differ from the

originals. Here your literature will come into use as to observed differences.

In the case of stamps of which few were used, but of which there exist many "remainders" (causing used specimens to command a premium over unused) the forger exerts himself in the manufacture of a die for cancelling now, as a postmark is very seldom a work of art the counterfeiter has an easy field for his nefarious operations. Now your "collection of sketches of genuine postmarks comes into requisition. In case the stamps have been a long period, obsolete the ink used in cancelling has generally put on a hue that nothing save time itself can reproduce, consequently the ink used by our friend the forger is of a brighter and fresher color.

Split values such as a 6 pence stamp cut in half and used as 3d. are also frequently forged. The collector demand such provisionals on entire original cover. The forger says "All-right you shall have them dished up in any way that suits your fancy." Our festive friend accordingly, takes an envelope on which rests a stamp of the same issue, but on which the cancellation marks has fallen so lightly as to mark the stamp only. He removes this stamp, and carefully washing off the gum that has remained on the envelope substitutes therefore and in its place and instead doth put the half of the higher denomination. Having cancelled this gem with a false marker he palms the fake off on some blissfully ignorant collector. And, in truth,

what's the difference? Does not the cancellation strike both stamp and envelope?—and is not the mark of the receiving station on the back? Thus reasons the collector. But an expert can detect the difference, smart though the forger may be differences may be detected

Watermarks, although once thought proof against the forger, have in these modern days cleverly counterfeited by means of a steel die. To detect these you will see that whilst the genuine watermark is in the substance of the paper, the forged watermark has been pressed onto the paper and shows the fact. Counterfeit grilles may be detected sometimes by measurement and by other little differences.

If this imperfect essay may be the means of causing the ejection of some forgery from some collectors album, the writers object shall have been realized

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### EDITORIAL WISDOM(?)

The "Evergreen State Philatelist" and "The Philatelic Kaleidoscope"

and "Philatelic Californian" deserve success, and we hope they will get it. The last mentioned is the most instructive paper we receive.

Although, in our five months of existence, we have not been overwhelmed with success, and although subscriptions have not exactly poured in, we're gettin' on werry vell considerin' and hope to continue in that more or less blissful state.

We've scratched a great big hole in our editorial' cranium trying to think some more wisdom, but its no go, so our readers will be spared further torture till next month, for which they ought to be thankful, we'll be dinged if they had'nt ought to.

### A PHILATELICAL LIBRARY.

BY "PHILECTOR."

The collection of literature relating to stamps and stamp collecting, has of late years become very prevalent. In 1862, as most every collector knows, the first magazine, devoted to philately exclusively, was started. Since then papeas by the hundred have been "sprung" on an unoffending and long-suffering philatelic public. It was 12 years after the advent of our first philatelic paper that John K. Tiffany of St. Louis conceived the idea of recording and collecting all papers, relating to philately. Since then the advent of new journalistic efforts has kept him busy, and many have been the addenda to his Philatelic Library Companion. Other collectors have not let Mr. Tiffany be in passion of the only philatelic library and now several are following pretty close to his heels, notably H. E. Deats of Flemington, N. Y.

Fully fourty per cent of all collectors preserve all stamp papers they receive.

Most of these in a more or less modest way a library, and do exchanging with other collectors similarly inclined. There is a certain fascination about building up a library of philatelic papers which, to a collector, is second only to that of the stamps themselves. Philatelic journalism has, by some cynical persons, been regarded as a disease. The cynical persons aforesaid have gone so far as to give it a name "Philatelic Cholera" and to make up prescription for it. This disease, which tends to add another paper to our philatelic journalistic plentitude, is very contagious and consequently the collector of stamp journals is particularly liable to the malady. This may be proved by observation.

This is the only drawback incident to forming a philatelic library and now a brief summary of the advantages pertaining thereunto may not be out of place.

The collector, who has a library, necessarily learns more concerning stamps than others. Again a library is a great reference article, fairly stowed with matter, valuable and interesting to the philatelist, which may at any moment be consulted and which is always "on the spot." Some collectors bind their volumes whenever they complete them. This is the neatest and best way, but you will find it very expensive, providing you are no relation to Creosos. You might try a little amateur book-binding yourself if your purse is not as plethoric in greenbacks as you would desire. If you would have your library complete you must subscribe to all papers regularly published, keeping a sharp lookout for back numbers and for transient papers. In conclusion I would saw persevere, do all the exchangeing you can and keep your library in order.

#### THE CANADIAN SONS OF PHILATELIA.

We are progressing favourably. Since last month we have enlisted the forces of W. S. Weat'erston, of Toronto, who promises to get us at least 15 members. Mr. W. is a friend worth having! All collectors in Canada should apply to the secretary for application blanks. Initiation fee is 10c., dues 25c per year, all members get this paper free. Rev. A. Sims, of Uxbridge, Ont., is nominated for president, and C. Della Torre, of Halifax, for vice-president. All interested should write. A full list of members will appear next month. Address A. M. Muirhead, Sec. *pro tem*, Halifax, N. S.

Written for C. P. M.

#### PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

BY KING PHILIP.

I am not going to bias the reader's opinion at the very beginning of this article by declaring the nonsenscẽ common to a few contemporary writers about the tyrannizing editor, etc., forcing it from me. The readers would not believe it and the editor might feel like kicking himself for such an act of indiscretion as asking for it. My subject is one which has been much written on in the philatelic journals of the past year. It has been presented in all its possible forms. It has been dinned into our ears until seemingly, everyone has been convinced that there are too many philatelic societies, but just the same, every now and then a new society springs into existance with the same old cry, "We are here to fill a long felt want." In some cases it dies out after a brief struggle and is heard from no more.

[To be continued.]

**THE COUPON ON THE COVER.**

Our readers will notice that we have a special coupon on our outside cover. Cut it off. It entitles the holder to one vote in our competition, as to which is THE MOST POPULAR STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED in the world. A good plan is to save up the coupons till near the close of the competition, sending them in a bulk, thus saving postage. Write the name of the publication for which your vote is cast *on the back of coupon*. The termination of contest will be announced in plenty of time for you to send in your accumulated votes. Vote early and often, vote as many times as you have coupons. The "Eastern" is ahead so far.

The "Canadian Philatelic Weekly" has discontinued publication. Its publisher asked for second class rates—the P. M. G. shook his head; eight numbers were issued and then it was dead, and it never came back any more. Editor Staebler will now devote his time to the "Canadian Philatelist," which paper perhaps we soon shall see up to what it used to be.

The new Hawaii stamps have come up to time. They constitute a nice set and form a pleasing change from those missing-period-error-inverted inside out-surcharges. The U. S. Special Delivery stamp has been withdrawn.

Papers received:—"Philatelic Era," Vol. VII., No. 12; Vol. VIII., No. 1; "Eastern," Vol. XIII., No. 1; "Phil. Kaleidoscope," No. 5; "Phil. Californian," No. 6; "Evergreen State Phil," No. 2; "Nova Scotia Phil," No. 10; "Collector," Vol. IV, No. 5; "Canadian Phil.," Vol. III. Nos. 4, 5, 6; "Minnesota Phil.," No. 3.

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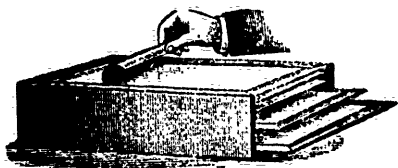
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Editor C. P. M.;

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