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Toronto Philatelic Journal.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE



DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

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APRIL, 1886.

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PUBLISHER,

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THE Toronto Philatelic Journal.

Vol. II.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1886.

No. 2.

Record of New Issues.

Any information our readers can give us at any time, regarding recent emissions or changes, will be gratefully received and credited.

Bermuda, a post card, 1½d. carmine on buff, has been issued.



British Bechuanaland. For this colony the following values of Cape of Good Hope have been surcharged. ½ penny, ; black, 1 penny, rose ; 2 pence, brown ; 6 pence, violet. See annexed cut.

Ceylon, a new 5c. stamp has been issued, color, lilac, with the head of Victoria to left in oval, "Ceylon" above, "postage" at left, "revenue" at right, and "five cents" below.

Finland. The 10 pennia carmine, is now in use.



Gibraltar. The following new surcharges have appeared. 1 penny, rose ; 2 penny, brown ; 4 pence, orange ; 6 pence, violet ; and 1 sh., light brown, of Bermuda, and ½ penny cards and wrappers of Natal.

Guatemala. *The World* gives the following:—A decree dated February 12th, authorizes a provisional issue of stamps of 25c., 50c., 75c., 100c., 150c. These consist of the stock of stamps used for the payment of the Northern Railway tax, with new value surcharged. They have the portrait of General Barrios in oval band inscribed "Republica de Guatemala." Above on scroll "Ferrocarril al Norte" and below on straight label "Vale un peso." They are large stamps measuring about 24x30 mm. and printed in

red (C. C. 123.) Perforated 12. The surcharge is as follows: at top "Correos Nacionales" in the middle "Guatemala" and at the foot the value. The value is also repeated four times at the sides, and there are besides various type set ornaments, in the three lower values links of chains and in the 100 and 150 somewhat like those on the Cuba 1883, but smaller.

Gwalior. The following values have appeared: 1 anna and 6 pies brown ; 3 annas orange ; 6 annas brown.



Reunion Isles. Of the surcharges known to be genuine, are the 5c. on 40c. (Eagle, 5c. on 40c. (Liberty) 5c. on 50c. (Figs of Commerce). 5c. on 30c. (Napoleon laureated), 10c. on 40c. (Figs of Commerce), 25c. on 40c. (Eagle). See illustration.



Santander. This month we illustrate a new type that has been prepared for the three values in use in this state. The colors are unchanged, they being as following: 1 centavo, blue ; 5 centavos, red (see cut) ; 10 centavos, violet.

Tobago. A post card 1 penny has been issued and the 6 pence adhesive, surcharged ½ penny in black.

Tolima. Mr. Bogert chronicles a 20c. stamp lilac. The usual arms are in the centre with "Correos del E° S° del Tolima" in two lines in a curved label above, supported by pillars at the sides. At the bottom is "Centavos" and the figures "20" in circles in lower corners.

Uruguay. There has been a new post card issued, it is 3x3 green on violet.

Victoria. The three pence orange of 1866 and 4 pence carmine of 1881 have been surcharged "Stamp duty."

ABOUT PIGEON POSTS.

BY WILL M. CLEMENS.

The first well-known and authenticated instance of the use of the carrier pigeon as a means of conveying letters by post was during the siege of Paris in 1870. No mention of the postal affairs of France would be complete without some notice of the pigeon service during the siege. The subject has been written about before, I candidly admit, but the financial side of the question does not seem to be unduly dwelt upon. It is somewhat startling to learn that during the siege of Paris each carrier bird in the postal service carried £11,520 in postage. The rate was in round numbers about four pence per word and there was a registration fee of about twelve cents in United States money.

The postage on letters during the siege sent by pigeon post averaged about one dollar each, so that on two hundred letters sent by this service the post amounted to over \$800. The letters were written in groups of two hundred on a screen, and were then photographed down as if for the microscope, on to one of the tiny pages carried by the pigeon. These pages were a sixteenth of each pellicle, so that each pellicle realized sixteen times £40 or £640, and as each pigeon carried eighteen pellicles, we get the total of each bird's mail as worth eighteen times £640 or £11,520, and it was well worth it, considering that a pigeon would sometimes bring in from Tours, as many as 50,000 despatches and that the balloon with the birds had first to make its way out of Paris over the German lines. The men in charge of the balloons had however much to be thankful for, for notwithstanding Krupp's postal guns and various other devices, only seven balloons were captured by the Germans.

At the present time a pigeon post is at daily work in the Fiji Islands. The letters and communications from island to island being carried on by birds. The Fijian exports are chiefly fruits, and as the fruit would spoil if left too long in store, means were necessary to give early notice of when the picking would take place and the news of the arrival of various steamers is now sent out through the colony by pigeon post. Until

recently the important telegrams in the English papers were sent by pigeons from Point de Galle to Colombo, seventy miles higher up the coast of Ceylon. In different countries and at different times the carrier pigeon has been a letter carrier ever since the days of Anacaron.

A PERMANENT STAMP ALBUM.

BY W. G. WHILDEN, JR.

At the present time, when the market is flooded with every kind of albums, collectors are sometimes troubled to know which kind is the best. All albums have certain merits. But the following plan, which I have successfully tried myself, is, I think, a method that will please the most fastidious. For collectors of United States stamps exclusively, it is especially adapted. Have an album made about $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches, containing 48 leaves (96 pages), of the finest quality of white paper, almost as thick as cardboard, with guards between the leaves to give the album the proper appearance. The pages on the left side are to be ruled, while those on the right are to be perfectly blank. The stamps are to be inserted on the blank pages, and a complete description, exact date of issue, etc., should be written on the left. There should be no spaces laid off for the stamps; therefore you can arrange them in any desired way your fancy may suggest. After which a neat border should be ruled around each stamp, to "show it off." If you are very fastidious you might first mount the stamps on rectangular squares of cardboard. This will make them look much better, but of course it will be more troublesome.

In regard to the cost of the album. I would say that it should not cost over \$3.00, if it is bound in morocco and gilt. Of course, a cloth binding would do. But a morocco one will look much better, and will not cost very much more.

I know that the above plan is a *good* one by personal experience, and therefore I can recommend it. Some persons prefer the stamps to be mounted, *first*, on a rectangular piece of white, and *second*, on sheets of grey cardboard; but you can use your discretion in the matter. In regard to mounting the

stamps according to the last method. a first-rate plan is as follows: Obtain some *pure, refined* gum arabic, and dissolve it in a small quantity of clean, warm water. Dip a *small* sized camel's hair brush in the solution and run it across the top of the stamp. Attach this to the cardboard "mount," which should be securely fastened to the pages of the album, with a piece of gummed paper.

The album described above is a permanent one in every sense of the word, and one that will suit all classes of advanced collectors. It will, of course, take practice to arrange the stamps tastily, but when you have once succeeded you will be proud of it, and you will not be ashamed to show it to your friends and acquaintances.—*The Youth's Ledger.*

STAMP COLLECTING IN THE FUTURE.

BY SPENCER COSBY.

A number of articles have been making the rounds of the philatelic papers with such titles as "Stamp Collecting in 1986," "A Stamp Collector 200 years from now," etc. The idea is nearly the same in all of them, and usually runs about as follows: The philatelist of 1986 or 2086, or of whatever future century he may be, owns a collection numbering anywhere from fifty thousand to one hundred and fifty thousand varieties, contained in a dozen or more folio volumes, and requiring several days to be looked over. His greatest rarity is some such stamp as the two cent U.S. 1883 issue, or the three cent 1870 issue, or some other stamp common perhaps in the 19th century, but whose origin and use is now clothed in obscurity.

Articles of the above nature may be amusing, and indeed I suppose that is their object, as I do not think they give at all a correct idea of what stamp collecting will be in the future. It seems much more probable that as the number of stamps increases, collectors will become specialists and devote their attention to certain branches of philately only. This is the case in numismatics, for we only find young collectors taking coins of all nations and of all ages indiscriminately. By the time that thirty or forty thousand different stamps have been issued the number of collectors will

probably be three or four times as large as it is now, and the value of obsolete stamps will have increased proportionately. The consequence will be that persons of moderate means and with no great amount of spare time will find it an utter impossibility to obtain a complete collection, and only dealers who devote their whole time to the business, and persons with plenty of money who make it their hobby will even attempt to collect stamps of all kinds. The great majority of philatelists will take up some branch suited to their means and in which they feel particular interest. Some will only collect the stamps of their own country, others will select certain countries and confine their attention to them, others again will collect only those stamps issued between certain dates.

In fact, although the number of postage stamps that have appeared up to the present day is comparatively small, many collectors have already become specialists, and a movement in that direction seems to have already begun. In Europe nearly all the advanced philatelists collect all kinds of stamps, postage, revenue, telegraph, postal cards, etc. In this country very few collectors care for revenues, and those who do keep them separate from their postage stamps. Postal cards seem also to be generally neglected, and it is only lately that persons have begun to collect envelope stamps on the whole envelope, as many consider them to have lost much of their value if cut from it. There is a large and growing class of collectors who collect only U.S. stamps and some few are beginning to discard all provisionals.

This movement toward becoming specialists will, in all likelihood, steadily continue, and it will not be long before it will be an exception to find a person collecting even all varieties of postage stamps. Of course this will only be the case if new issues continue to appear as often as they do now, and from present appearances we should judge that they would. But none of us know what the future may have in store for philately, and indeed in the onward march of invention it is not at all improbable that some new and improved system of prepayment of postage may be devised which will entirely do away with the use of stamps, so that but for collectors their very existence might be forgotten a few centuries hence.—*The Stamp and Coin Gazette.*

TORONTO

PHILATELIC JOURNAL

Published on the 15th of every month.

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United States and Canada, 25 cents a year; Foreign Countries, 35 cents.

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Except amounts under \$1.00, which may be remitted in one and two cent stamps.
Address all communications to

H. MORELL,

Editor and Publisher,

76 BALDWIN ST., TORONTO, CANADA.

Horace C. Jones, of Minneapolis, Minn., has turned out to be one of the worst frauds of the season. He has cheated nearly all the stamp papers out of money for his advertising, and those parties who have sent him money have not received any returns. His advertisement appeared in last month's issue of this paper. When sending his advertisement he wrote on a letter head of "The Rector's Messenger" and referred us to his father, the publisher of the above paper, Rev. Melville C. Jones. It has been ascertained that there is no such a paper published as "The Rector's Messenger," nor is there such a party as the Rev. Melville C. Jones. The first that we heard of the affair was the following letter:

GEORGETOWN, MASS., April 4th, 1886.

H. Morell, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—No 1 of Vol. 2 of your paper to hand and contents noted. In it is an advertisement of Horace C. Jones, of Minneapolis, Minn. I received a letter a few days ago from the P. O. Inspector of Chicago in which he said that Horace C. Jones had

been complained of as a fraud and wanted to know if I had sent him goods or money. I am happy to say I had not. I hope you will warn your subscribers against him.

Yours truly,

FRANK DONOHUE.

THE U. S. SPECIAL DELIVERY.

The special delivery service of the postal department does not grow in popularity. On the contrary, the number of letters carried in the mails under this stamp has grown smaller every month since the system was started, and the total for February was only sixty-five thousand one hundred and fifty-nine, against eighty-six thousand one hundred and twenty-three in November. There is nothing strange about this, for the service has little to recommend it. Anybody who really demands celerity is pretty sure to prefer the telegraph or the messenger service, and the possible field is thus very restricted. Then, too, the system causes no little inconvenience to recipients of letters. A letter bearing this stamp, if received at the office at any moment before midnight, must be delivered that night, and the result is that people are waked out of their sleep at half-past twelve or one o'clock to receive letters which would be brought around by breakfast-time at the first carrier's round, and which they do not care about getting before that time. The amount of midnight profanity caused by this special-delivery business in the course of a year is by no means inconsiderable.

A lady has succeeded in writing two thousand words upon a postal card. Ordinarily it would require at least five cards to contain that number of words, which is a clear saving of four cents towards a new sealskin. But how few men there are who can appreciate these little economies in a wife.

The postmaster general has received a letter from Cheyenne, W. T., signed "From a Christian," containing \$140, which the writer says he stole twenty years ago from two letters in the Peru, Neb., postoffice. An owner of the \$40 has been found at North Platte, Neb., and search will be made for the owner of the balance.

Among Our Exchanges.

We desire to exchange with every paper in the world published in the interest of, or having a department pertaining to Philately.

Publishers, please send us two (2) copies of your paper each month, and we will be pleased to reciprocate.

The Philatelic Journal of America has, with the March number, entered into its second volume. It contains a very good article on the Postage Stamps of British Guinea by Jas M. Chute, also a lengthy subject on Confederate Stamps by the well-known writer, R. S. Hatcher.

The Stamp and Coin Gazette is really a first-class paper. Every month it brings out something new, both for philatelists and numismatists.

The Collectors' Science Monthly, Vol 1, No. 1, to hand. It is one of the best journals published. It has illustrations for every department and comes out with twenty pages and cover.

Quaker City Philatelist for March to hand. It contains a very good piece of philatelic poetry by Yum-Yum and full reports of the Q.C.P.S.

Collectors' Companion. The March number contains thirty-two pages and cover and is very interesting from beginning to end.

The Philatelic Star. In the March number Mr. Herdman goes for the "leading dealers" for not paying cash for their "ads." but gives reprints of stamps to publishers inserting their advertisements.

We have also received the following papers. Publishers please accept thanks: *Monthly Journal*, *The Chemung Review*, *Brufmarken-Zeitung-Universum*, *Deutsche-Brufmarken-Zeitung*, *Youths' Pilot*, *Philatelic Tribune*, *Philatelic Mercury*, *Philatelic Herald*, *National Capital Philatelist*, *Stamp World*, *Genius of Youth*.

In all 256 bags have thus far been recovered of 598 despatched by the Oregon.

Mr. Lyman H. Lowe has favored us with a copy of "Hard Times Tokens." Collectors of this class of coins would do well to send for a copy of it.

STAMP AUCTION

An auction sale of foreign and U. S. postage stamps will take place in St. Louis, early in May. The sale will be catalogued by C. H. Mekcel, of the Carson Stamp Co., and Chas. Votier, of the St. Louis Postage Stamp Co. Catalogues may be obtained from either of these parties.

The sale will be of interest to both collectors and dealers, as the catalogue will contain some rarities, as well as some very fine lots of South and Central American stamps, suitable for dealers.

There will also be a lot of foreign postals and revenues offered, and a few U. S. entire envelopes and revenues, among which may be mentioned the rare \$200.00 revenue.

The stamps will be sold without reserve, at public auction. Place and date will be named later. Bids will be executed by all St. Louis dealers.

HOW TO TELL FORGED STAMPS.

It is a great shame that stamps should be forged to deceive the young Philatelist, but it is done so much now, and such exact imitations are procured, that it deceives both the young and the old; but, readers, I am glad to say it is being stopped now.

To find out a forged stamp, see below:— Take a magnifying glass and look at the stamp which you think is a forgery and compare it with another and you will see (if it is a forgery) that the lines are much coarser and the gum at the back is laid on very thick (as a rule) and is more yellowish; you also find a forged stamp perforated very badly, or not at all. You should then hold the stamp to the light and look for a watermark, as you rarely find one on a forged stamp. Readers, by following the above examples you can keep yourself from buying forged stamps.—C. F. C. in the *Stamp Collectors' Journal*.

Why is a postage stamp like a schoolmaster? Because one sticks with a lick and the other licks with a stick.

There were 7,084 Post Offices in Canada in 1885.

Numismatic Department.

BY J. HOOPER.

All correspondence and information intended for this department should be addressed to J. Hooper, Esq., Box 145, Port Hope, Canada.

CORRECTED DATES OF ISSUE OF NEWFOUNDLAND COINS.

- \$2, gold, 1865, '70, '72, '80, '81, '82, '85.
 50 cents silver, 1870, '72, '73, '74, '76, '80, '81, '82, '85.
 20 cents silver, 1865, '70, '72, '73, '76, '80, '81, '82, '85.
 10 cents silver, 1865, '70, '72, '73, '76, '80, '82, '85.
 5 cents silver, 1865, '70, '72, '73, '76, '80, '81, '82, '85.
 1 cent copper, 1865, '70, '72, '73, '76, '80, '85.

The above list of dates are verified by the agent of the Union Bank, St. John's, Newfoundland, in a recent letter to me.

The new issue of 1886. Dominion silver and copper, is making its appearance through the various banks.

W. H. Banfield, machinist and die maker, Toronto, has issued three varieties of bronze medals for distribution at the Colonial Exhibition to be held at London, England, this year. One variety has on Rev. "Exhibition Souvenir," (around outer circle), and the following in three scrolls in centre: "Fish Creek," "Batoche," "Cut Knife." The medals are well got up and reflect credit on the issuer.

The medals to be given to the soldiers, who bravely volunteered and went to the North-West, have arrived in Ottawa and are being engraved with each recipient's name on the edge. A formal presentation will no doubt be given.

In tearing down the old ferry house at Halifax, N. S., lately a few of the valuable little tokens were found under a board where they had slipped while being handled by ferry agents. Parties corresponding with J. H., box 145, can get further particulars.

We understand it is in contemplation to issue a Brant memorial medal this summer, also a medal to commemorate Toronto Musical Festival to be held this summer. Further descriptions will be given at time of issue.

Among a valuable collection of American coins which I purchased lately was the "Tin Continental Currency Dollar." Legend continental currency, date 1776 below. "Mind your business," below the dial; "Fugio" near the sun and under "Continental." These pieces are as large as a silver dollar. On the obv. thirteen rings linked bears the name of a state.

A very handsome medal to commemorate the International Demonstration of Odd Fellows held at Brockville, July, 1884. Obv. in centre, a camp, on each side a guard with spear; above, the all seeing eye; under tent, three links with initials F. H. C., one letter in each link; "Brockville, July, 1884," in raised letters around two-thirds circle. Rev. two flags crossed; Stars and Stripes to left, and Union Jack to right. I. O. O. F., in raised letters between upper portion in semi; the two flags are bound together at bottom by the three links with F. L. T., one letter in centre of each link. Around the upper circle "International," and the lower sweep "Demonstration."

White metal, size 20.

The new twenty-five cent pieces are not as well executed as the other previous dates. The absence of Ralph Heaton's initial H. below the wreath, has led to the impression that they are counterfeit. They are pronounced all right by the authorities.

The 1804 dollar is the rarest piece among the American series. Many of them have been sold for \$1,000. The reason of their rarity is that in 1804 was the war with the Barbary pirates. An expedition was sent over from the United States. The expedition staid much longer than was expected, and as money was needed, the whole amount of the 1804 dollars coined was sent there. The sailors who received these dollars gave them to the natives for supplies and for presents for their friends at home. The natives used them as "amulets" or charms, and most of them were carried far into the interior.

Exchanges.

In order to facilitate the exchange of duplicates, and with a view to bringing about more intimate relations among collectors, we offer a column per month, *free of charge to our subscribers only*, wherein they may state what they have to dispose of and what they desire in exchange. Notices must be written on a separate sheet of paper.

Old Canadian and Provincial stamps and coins to exchange for those not in my collection. Some good books for coins or stamps. Send list of what you have. Address, M. A. MacDonald, Eldon, Prince Edward Island.

Will exchange any of the following, viz: all kinds of bill stamps, U. S. Special Delivery stamps on original envelopes, specimens of coal fossils, plants, ferns, etc., for good foreign or old Canadian stamps not in my collection. State what you have. All letters answered by return mail. T. J. McMinn, 102 Rose Avenue, Toronto.

We will give 50 foreign stamps (all different) for every one of the following countries: Chili, Tobago, Cyprus, Dominica or any central American and South American countries. Send list. Gibson Bros., Ingersoll, Ont., Canada.

A woman was sentenced in an English court to six months' hard labor as a rogue and a vagabond, her crime being that she was in the habit of carrying a sealed and addressed envelope in her hand, and soliciting from passers-by a penny to buy a postage stamp.

The *Utica Observer* a few days ago received a returned letter that was sent out from its office over ten years ago. It was directed to "G. C. Gilbert, Esq., care of the United States Consul, Lima, Peru," and where it has been all these years even the many United States and Peruvian postage stamps with which the envelope is decorated fail to tell.

An epistle of a novel character passed through the Portland, Oregon, postoffice. The novelty consisted in the material upon which it was written, which was a gentleman's linen cuff. There was nothing unusual in the contents, which was simply a dun couched in the following language:—"Please call around and pay your wash bill. Your Laundryman." The cuff was adorned with a two-cent stamp.

Correspondence.

We solicit, and are prepared to insert under this heading, any information or suggestions that may be thought of interest to the Philatelic world. Should anyone wish to have any point explained, upon which their mind is not quite clear, we shall be glad to insert the problem in this department, and in the next number will insert the solutions as given by our readers, so that the questions will be fully answered by different parties, and from different standpoints. Those who think they can give any information on any of the subjects inquired about, are cordially invited to give their ideas by writing to the editor of this paper, mentioning the signature to the query, and the communication will be published in the next issue also. We hold ourselves in readiness to give here such information as lies in our power, and are prepared, at all times, to assist Philatelists in the solution of such questions as we are able to.

H. P. (Berlin).—We cannot accept your offer.

Philadelphia.—No. Morell's Philatelic Directory is 25 cents, post free.

E. S. (Galt).—Your stamp is an Austrian receipt stamp.

A Subscriber in New York.—The value of the blue stamp was 1 kreuzer, that of the yellow 10 kr., and that of the rose 50 kr. They served to prepay one, ten, or fifty newspapers at once, and were exclusively for home postage. The large "double-headed eagle" journal stamps were used for foreign postage only.

John Moncrief.—Look in another column and you will find the information you desire.

Subscriber.—The stamp you describe is a Japan not a China.

Collector (Perth).—You can be supplied with volume 1 at this office, price twenty-five cents.

L. B.—Durbin's catalogue will answer, it is not illustrated but it gives a very good description of every stamp.

The year before the introduction of cheap postage into England the average number of letters written by each person in a year was three. The next year it was seven; it is now thirty-six. In 1839 there were eighty-two million letters posted, of which about one in every thirteen was franked. In 1840 the circulation rose to one hundred and sixty-nine million, although franking was abolished. At the present time it has reached the astonishing total of one thousand two hundred and eighty million.

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