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VOL. III, No. 4.

THE Canadian Philatelist.

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L. M. STEBLER,

185½ DUNDAS STREET, - LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

The Canadian Philatelist

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. III. No. 4.

LONDON, DECEMBER 1, 1893.

WHOLE No. 28.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

SUE'S STAMPS.

BY CAPTAIN MILDMAY.

IT was an awful situation that a boy by the name of Wilkinson got me into. He wrote a beautiful story in a stamp paper telling how he had fooled his sister and made her believe that some robber-man had stolen all her stamps, but when she had done fainting he told her it was only a joke and got the stamps for her. I thought it was a beautiful story, but I have found out since that it wasn't, and I think that people ought to know just what kind of a boy Wilkinson is.

After the trouble Sue got me into about the ice cream, though it wasn't my fault at all, I thought I would do just as the Wilkinson boy did, because it would be a good way to get even with her. We ought never give way to these bad feelings, however, but keep on doing good no matter what happens. But when you get even with people they have more respect for you and treat you better in the future; so I thought that just for once I would get even with Sue.

One afternoon when Sue and mother were out making some of those horrible calls, as Sue calls them, I got her stamp album, and with a paper-knife cut out all the stamps and put them in a box. Of course I didn't mean to keep the stamps or give them away to anybody, I only wanted to teach Sue a lesson, and I intended to give her back the stamps whenever she would promise to be more considerate of my feelings. So I hid the box in my room and put back the stamp album where I got it.

I couldn't help laughing all afternoon when I thought how astonished Sue would be when she saw her stamp album and all her stamps gone—of course she would think that some robber-man had stolen them—and wouldn't she laugh when she found it was only a joke.

The next evening Mr. Thompson, the minister, called to see Sue. Now, the minister is such an old acquaintance, and father thinks so much of him, that Sue had to ask him in, though she didn't want to see him. It was getting dark and Sue was expecting Mr. Atkins every minute, and after a while, when she thought she heard him at the gate, she said, "Oh! Mr. Thompson, would you excuse me for a minute, I must see what the cook is doing. Here is my stamp album you can be looking at while I am away." Mr. Thompson took the album and thanked Sue, but he looked dreadfully queer when he opened it, but then, perhaps he thought that Sue was trying to fool him. When Sue came back Mr. Thompson said, "My dear Miss Brown, I think you must have made a

mistake, there are no stamps in this album." "No stamps?" cried Sue, looking as if she had seen some disgusting ghosts, "let me see." When Sue saw the album she shrieked and fainted right away. Mr. Thompson was dreadfully frightened, and said, "Run, Jimmy, and get the cologne or bay rum or something." I ran up to Sue's room as fast as I could and felt around in the dark for Sue's cologne bottle, which she always keeps on her bureau. I found a bottle in a minute or two and took it down to Mr. Thompson, and he bathed Sue's face with it as well as he could in the dark (for Sue had upset the lamp and broken it when she fainted), and in a minute or two she came too.

Just then the door bell rang, and who should come in but Mr. and Mrs. Downs and Miss Downs, who's the minister at the other church. Sue jumped up and ran into the far parlor to light the gas, and, of course, Mr. Thompson went to help her. They just got it lit as the visitors came in. Mr. Downs looked as if he had seen a ghost. Mrs. Downs said, "Did you ever," and Miss Downs said, "Oh my!" but father just burst out laughing.

You never saw such a sight. I had made a mistake and brought down a bottle of liquid shoe blacking and Mr. Thompson had rubbed it all over Sue's face and she was jet black except the end of her nose, and then he had rubbed his hands on his own face so that it was all black spots.

Sue really tried to make out that I had brought down the blacking on purpose. But father said it served her right and that he wasn't going to punish me for her carelessness, and of course I was dreadfully sorry about it. Mr. Thompson wasn't a bit angry, but Sue says that she is never going to speak to him again after disgracing her in such a heartless manner. As to Mr. and Mrs. Downs, they think that Sue and Mr. Thompson were having a private circus, and mother says that they will never come to the house again.

After Mr. Thompson had gone I told Sue about the stamps, that it was only a joke and that she could have them if she would promise to be more considerate of my feelings. I expected to see her burst out laughing just as Wilkinson's sister did; but instead of laughing she called father and told him what I had done. Father looked dreadfully angry. He said he'd teach me to respect sacred things, and told me to go up stairs while he got his cane. I haven't the heart to relate what happened upstairs, but I think that the Wilkinson boy ought to be punished, and if I had him in our yard I don't care if he was ever so big, I'd show him that he couldn't get innocent boys into scrapes without getting hurt.

I am not quite able to sit up this morning, and my heart is broken. I think there ought to be a law to keep men from selling canes to fathers unless they haven't any children.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

TALES OF A PHILATELIST.

I.—The Missing Albums.

BY R. S. WALTERS.

MY uncle was a strange man, at least in the opinion of all except his most intimate friends, and as he was a man of a thoughtful and reserved nature, these latter were few in number. Rich beyond measure, there was no wish he could not gratify; yet he lived simply, on his estate which was situated a short distance from London. He was single (happy man! I would that I were again in that blessed state), and a man who had graduated from Cambridge with the highest honors, and who might have signed himself "Geo. A. Walters, B. A.," had not his plain and simple nature caused him to leave off the degree. He never mingled with the social world, as it was to him only an empty void.

As I have before said, he lived quietly on his estate, his only attendants being an old negro and negress whom he had brought with him from South Africa, where, among the diamond fields he had accumulated the greater part of his large fortune.

I was one of the intimate and occasional companions, of which he had so few and saw even less frequently, and I know not but that if it had not been for a certain tie that united us we would have seldom met. We were both enthusiastic stamp collectors and consequently the bonds which united us were of a permanent nature.

Regarding my own collection, I once told the readers of *The Canadian Philatelist*, how by a fortunate occurrence while at school, I made some very important additions to it. A period of some six years had elapsed between the time referred to and that of which I am writing, and having just completed my college course, and had again turned my stamps which, although I had only about three thousand varieties, contained a few stamps which might be considered rare.

My uncle's collection was, on the contrary to my own, very large. Unlimited means at his disposal and years of travel had given him exceptional opportunities of procuring many rare varieties, such as are longed after by many collectors but possessed by few. Briefly, there were but few vacant spaces in his albums. He, happy man, lived before the day of "Seebecks" and annual issues. His collection was one of the greatest pleasures he had, and no amount of money would have induced him to part with it. I had frequently spent a pleasant afternoon looking through the two large volumes between whose covers rested so many priceless gems.

On one occasion a few weeks after I left college, I was spending an afternoon with my uncle looking over his albums. I noticed that he was not in his usual spirits. He seemed worried over something. On my inquiring as to what it was he replied: "Bob, I cannot tell you what it is, for I do not know myself. I am in my usual health, yet I feel that something is hanging over me, and that I may not be alive to-morrow."

"Nonsense," I answered, "we all have such feel-

ings at times, they are but clouds that precede the sunshine."

"Well," replied my uncle, with an attempt to laugh, "you are probably right; a good night's sleep may set me right again."

We parted soon after, and as I rode away he called after me, "Bob, you might drop in to a few of the large dealers and see if they can fill any of my wants."

This was the last time I ever saw my uncle alive. The next morning we received a telegram informing us of his death.

The day after the funeral my uncle's will was read and by it he left almost his entire estate to my father, while on me he settled £1,000 a year and his albums.

We took possession of our inheritance a short time after, but although the old mansion was searched from cellar to garret, no trace of the albums could be found. After a couple of almost ceaseless weeks of searching, one night I gave it up in despair and threw myself down in the old leather arm-chair, which, with all the rest of the furniture of my uncle's library, had been left undisturbed out of respect to his memory when alive, for it had been his favorite retreat. Completely exhausted I fell asleep and slept soundly until the tower clock struck two when I awoke. The light was burning dimly, and as I was about to rise to leave the room, I heard footsteps outside the door which opened noiselessly, and as I looked a sudden chill passed over me, for before me stood my uncle. Raising his hand he motioned me to follow him, and I instinctively followed him up the large oaken staircase and through two long halls, until he entered that room which had been his sleeping apartment, which was situated on the extreme left wing of the building. He entered, moved to the side of the room and pressed some hidden spring and a door sprang open, and lo! there on a shelf lay the two lost albums. A sudden dizziness came over me and all became a blank. I was awakened at about ten o'clock the next morning by the sun shining brightly and casting its rays into my face as I lay across the bed.

How I got on the bed was a mystery, when I lost consciousness I was in a remote corner of the room. I cannot explain how I got there, unless my uncle carried me thence after I lost consciousness.

I sprang quickly up and looked toward the part of the room where the hidden vault (for such it was), was situated. The door was still open and upon the shelves lay the albums. I was overcome. Taking them from the vault I replaced the panel and proceeded to my room, where I spent the remainder of the morning turning over in my mind the strange event of the night.

At dinner I rehearsed the night's adventures to the family, who turned the laugh upon me and informed me that I had been dreaming, and that finally I had become so engrossed in my dreams that I had begun searching for the albums in my sleep and had entered my uncle's room and had run against the wall and had touched the hidden spring which had disclosed the missing treasures.

I could not be led to believe that my adventure had been a mere dream. I am certain that my uncle appeared to me from beyond the grave, and that it was only through his aid that I found

THE MISSING ALBUMS.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

GUATEMALA.

BY GEO. B. KLEBS.

GUATEMALA, the country which produces the stamps I am about to write of, is the most northern of all the Central American Republic. It became independent in 1839, after having formed a part of the Central American Confederation for eighteen years. Although it has not as large an area as Nicaragua or Costa Rica, its population is twice as great as both of them together. With this brief description I will proceed to the object of this article, viz, the stamps.

The first stamps ever issued by this country came out in 1871, thirty-two years after it became independent. The rising sun above, and a wreath below a shield, with the whole enclosed in a double-line oval, with "Correos de Guatemala" above and the value in words below constituted the design. A one centavos, buff; five centavos, brown; ten centavos, blue; and twenty centavos carmine, made their appearance at this time and continued to prepay the postage of the loyal Guatemalans until one year later, when they were supplemented by two more varieties of a different though somewhat similar design. These consisted of a scroll in the centre of a shield surrounded by wreaths and other emblems, while the shield was surrounded by an oval frame similar to that of the first issue. At this time a four reales, lilac; and one peso, orange, made their appearance. These two stamps are now quite rare. These stamps, however, seemed to prove unsatisfactory, for three years later an entirely new emission was put in use. The laureated head of "Liberty," to left, appeared upon these stamps, and the frame surrounding it was slightly different on each stamp, though not enough so to require description. The emission consisted of a one fourth real, black; one-half real, green; one real, blue; and two reales, carmine. Barrios, who at the time of this issue was ruling the country with a rod of iron, probably considered the head of "Liberty" on these stamps as a personification of himself. What the people thought would be more difficult to say.

In 1878, the most beautiful set of stamps ever issued by this country, and I have nearly said by any other, was put in circulation. The design was an Indian head in oval, with the words "Correos de Guatemala" on an arched scroll above, with the value in words below, and numerals of value on scroll in each of the lower corners. Tropical birds and fruits ornamented the upper corners, while wreaths are at each side. A one-half real, green; two reales, carmine; four reales, lilac; and one peso, orange composed the emission.

In 1879, two new varieties made their appearance of an entirely different cut, representing a parrot in the centre of the stamp, with the value in the upper corner. A one-fourth real, brown and green; and one real, black and green were all that appeared at this time.

In 1881 four surcharges were put in circulation. The one-fourth real of 1879 was surcharged "1 centavo" in two lines, the numeral "1" being above the word "centavo," and the remaining surcharges were printed in the same manner. The one-half real of 1878 was surcharged "5 centavos;" the one real of 1879 was converted into a "10

centavos" stamp, and two reales of 1878 was made to do duty as a "20 centavos." These continued in use but a short time, and are correspondingly rare.

In 1882 there appeared another set, the design was very much similar to that used in 1879 issue, and consisted of five values, as follows: one centavo, black and green; two centavos, brown and green; five centavos, carmine and green; ten centavos, violet and green; and 20 centavos, orange and green. The bird upon these is called a quetzal, and one of the national emblems of Guatemala. A large proportion of the inhabitants are Indians, which probably accounts for the design of the 1878 issue.

In 1886 the stamps which were used for the payment of the Northern Railway tax were surcharged with new value for use as postage. They bear the portrait of Gen. Barrios in oval band inscribed "Republica de Guatemala," "Ferrocarril al Norte" above on scroll "Vale un peso," below on straight label. Color carmine, black surcharge value 25c., 50c., 75c., 100c., and 150 centavos. The same year the present set made its appearance, its design is probably familiar to all, consisting of eleven values as follows: one centavo, light blue; two centavos, light brown; five centavos, purple; ten centavos, red; twenty centavos, emerald green; twenty-five centavos, orange; fifty centavos, sage green; seventy-five centavos, carmine; one hundred centavos, maroon; one hundred and fifty centavos, dark blue; and two hundred centavos, orange. One year later we find that the one, two and five centavos of 1886 engraved, and in 1891 the ten centavos red appeared.

In addition to the adhesive described above, envelope stamps appeared in 1875. The stamps consist of the laureated profile of "Liberty" to the left on an oval disc, with "Guatemala" above and the value in words below, and numerals of value enclosed in ovals at the sides. The values and colors corresponded to the 1875 issue of adhesives, and are as follows: one-half real, green; one real, blue; and two reales, red. A newspaper wrapper of the same design, black on manilla paper, and of the value of one-fourth real, made its appearance at the same time.

In 1890 there appeared two more envelope stamps, which are in use at the present time, viz: five centavos blue; and ten centavos, carmine. A newspaper wrapper, black on manilla, value two cent. brown also appeared at this time. The stamps heretofore mentioned are the only ones issued by this country, at least to my knowledge, and I hope that the list is a complete one. Guatemala was, as you see, behind her sister Central America Republics, in issuing postage stamps; however, the deficiency was more than made up when they were issued, for I consider that in artistic designs, richness of color, clear and accurate cuts, and distinct prints, they excel all others, and with the exception of our own U. S. stamps, they are the pride page of my album.

NO DETAILS NEEDED

Mrs. Blank—The paper tells of a postmaster who was appointed by John Quincy Adams, and has held the position ever since. Was he an unusually good man, do you think?

Mr. Blank (an experienced citizen)—Oh, not at all, not at all. It was an unusually poor office.—*New York Weekly.*

The Canadian Philatelist :

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L. M. STAEBLER, - EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST,

185½ DUNDAS STREET,

LONDON,

CANADA.

VOL. 3.

LONDON, ONT.

No. 28.

EDITORIAL.

An Apology. An apology is due for the lateness of this and the two following issues.

Our January and February issues are under way and will be mailed within two weeks' time, and we can in future promise that the paper will be mailed promptly on the 1st of the month.

P. Heinsberger Again. It is quite evident from a piece which appeared in a New York paper of recent date that we have not seen the last of this party and

his *German-American Philatelic Association*. This swindle was exposed some time ago in the columns of the *Canadian Philatelist*. The society, as we stated, consists mainly of P. Heinsberger and F. R. Phillips, who are one and the same party. The plan of this swindle is to secure members, and of course the so-called president and treasurer pockets the dues, which, it is said, prior to the exposure of his schemes brought him a snug little income. We again warn our readers against this society. The officers elected, it will be seen, are collectors who are unknown to philatelists, and probably

originated in this party's somewhat fertile mind. We append a bogus report of a meeting of this society which was taken from a leading N. Y. daily. We have every reason to believe that no meeting whatever was held. "The German-American Philatelic Association, 'Germania,' of New York, held their fifth annual convention yesterday (Jan. 15th) at the rooms of the association. President Frederic Heinsberger opened the convention at 10 a. m., and welcomed the members from various states. The president in his annual address reviewed the work of the association during the year 1893. There are now 595 active members and 75 corresponding members of the association in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. According to the treasurer's report the financial condition of the association is good. The dues have been reduced to \$1.00 per year. The librarian reported that the "Curio-Annex" of the association numbers now 75 curio collectors in America and Europe. Officers were elected to serve for the year 1894 as follows: President, Frederic Heinsberger; Recording Secretary, A. Schumacher; Treasurer, H. Heaman; Librarian and International Secretary, F. R. Phillips; Trustees, A. Salinger, Vermont; S. Cramer, Illinois; H. Meier, Kentucky." We trust that our contemporaries will not fail to expose this swindle.

Advance in Prices. We have received the pocket edition of Scott's 54th Edition Catalogue, and owing to the fact that so many improvements are introduced in this

edition we cannot but give an extended review of the same. A new feature, which will be appreciated by many collectors, is the introduction of a prize catalogue of all varieties of post cards, which, from the brief inspection we gave it, seems to be very complete. U. S. and Canadian stamps have advanced greatly in many instances. The U. S. 1847, 10c., has advanced from \$2.25 to \$3.00; the U. S. 1861, 5c., yellow, has advanced from \$4.50 to \$5.00; the 1890, 90c., orange, has gone up to 40c.; the 90c., purple, or the 1889 issue, has been advanced to 75c., which price, considering the large quantities held by dealers for the purpose of speculation, is far too high. The Columbian set are priced in used condition at \$18.25. Among the department stamps there are a few marked changes, that of the Justice set being especially noticeable. Canadian collectors will appreciate the cataloguing of many varieties of British North American stamps which the firm have hitherto omitted. Among the Canadian the different sizes of perforation, varieties of paper, and the watermarked issue of 1868, are now for the first time listed. Among the advances in Canada

the 3d., red, laid paper, has advanced from 75c. to \$1.00; the 10d., blue, formerly priced at \$1.50, is now worth \$6.00; the 4d., pink, has advanced from \$1.50 to \$2.50; the 4d., pink, on ribbed paper, is catalogued at \$15.00; while the 4d., pink, perforated, is placed at \$5.00; the 6d., perforated, is a stamp which is rapidly advancing in price, it now being worth \$25.00. In the 1859 issue the 10c., violet, is now catalogued at 30c.; the 12c., green, at 30c.; and the 17c., blue, at 75c. The 1869 1c., yellow, has gone up from 10c. to 20c.; and the 1875 5c., olive-green, has advanced from 25c. to 40c.; the 8c., blue register, is now worth \$1.50. In the principal stamps the following advances have been made: The Nova Scotia 1sh., violet, is now listed at \$60, and the 1sh., mauve, at \$75; the New Brunswick 1sh., violet, has advanced to \$50, and the 1sh., mauve, to \$70; while the 5c., brown, Connell, hitherto unpriced, is listed at \$100. There are a few other advances in the stamps of New Brunswick, but too small to mention. In Newfoundland we notice a general advance in prices, especially those of the scarlet- vermilion pence issue. In Prince Edward Island the different sizes of perforation are at last catalogued, as also are the compound perforations of the issue of 1865. We believe the price for the 1861 issue to be much too low. The 1d., buff, has advanced from 50c. to \$1.; the 4c. and 12c. of the 1872 issue are priced at \$5, which price we believe to be fully five times too high, as our publishers quite frequently sell the same stamp for 75c. and \$1 in used condition. The same stamps are priced at 10c. each unused, which will be quite a temptation to unscrupulous collectors and dealers to forge the cancellations. Reviewing the catalogue on the whole, we consider it to be one which will necessitate a considerable amount of labor for any firm who attempt to sell it. It has improved considerably since the 53rd edition, and we notice that many stamps, hitherto unpriced, now have the prices attached. The pocket edition is a very convenient size, is well bound in red cloth, and we believe that its size will be even more popular than the regular edition.

* *

New Issues. The new United States post card, which will appear next month, is to be smaller in size than the large card now in use. It will replace the three sizes now being issued, and will be new in design. The first of the new issue of Cape of Good Hope has appeared. In design it consists of a figure of Hope resting upon an upright anchor, with a view of Table Bay, Cape Town, and the surrounding hills

in the background. The stamp is brown in color, and the design a very attractive one. Austria is preparing a set of unpaid letter stamps with the effigy of the Emperor. The set will consist of six varieties, brown in color, and will be ready shortly. Following the example of Hankow, the City of Catfoo, China, has issued a set of local stamps of five varieties. The new 15c. unpaid letter stamp of Curacao, has just appeared. India is to have a new set of stamps of the value of 2, 3 and 5 rupees. The stamps will be printed in two colors and will be about the same size as the current 5sh. stamp of Great Britain. The 30 and 50c. U. S. postage due are now bright claret in color. Porto Rica is to issue a special 3c. centavos Columbian stamp in commemoration of the discovery of that island. The current French stamps have been surcharged for use in the French post office at Zanzibar as follows: $\frac{1}{2}$ anna on 5c., green; 1 anna on 25c., black on rose; 5 annas on 50c., rose; 10 annas on 1c., bright olive. The 325 and 50 pf. of the current issue of Germany have been discovered in unperfected condition. Holland has issued a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ gulden, blue and rose, with the Queen's head. The 1d. Great Britain stamp, surcharged "Oil Rivers," has been cut in two and each half surcharged " $\frac{1}{2}$ d." The Natal government have surcharged the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. post cards " $\frac{1}{2}$ d." The 4d. post card of Western Australia is now printed on white paper. The 6d. of St. Helena has been printed in blue, and surcharged "2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d." with a short bar. If we were to say that fully two thousand new varieties have been issued during the past year we would not fall far short of the correct figure. The number of new issues that are constantly appearing, many of them for speculative purposes, is killing the general collection.

* *

Warning. We desire to warn our readers against a certain R. E. Pentecost, of Aurora, Ill., who has been swindling dealers and collectors all over the continent. On inquiry the postmaster states that this party has left for parts unknown. Mr. W. C. Benson complains of R. Hoolaar, of Rotterdam, Holland, to whom he sent a selection of scarce American stamps, and although the same were sent over a year ago no returns can be obtained. Mr. Frank Kline, of Spring City, Pennsylvania, warns collectors and dealers against Lachin Campbell, of Church Point, Nova Scotia, and Ottawa, Ontario. We are taking legal action against E. E. Raub, of Hyde Park, Mass., who has swindled so many dealers and collectors. Parties having claims against him are requested to forward to us full particulars, as it is our desire to obtain all the possible evidence we can against him.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

PERSONAL PENCILINGS.

BY WALTER A. WITHROW.

MR. LEWIS BRODSTONE, the prominent collector of Superior, Nebraska, is at present attending school at Des Moines, Iowa. He has made several 'cycle tours in the past year, and in this way managed to pick up a very respectable lot of United States stamps.

Mr. C. E. Severn, of Chicago, who won the first prize of fifty dollars, for the best review of Mekeel's Postage Stamp Album of the World, captured the second prize in the second writers' contest of the *Weekly News*.

Roy F. Greene has "departed for pastures green and new." He recently discovered that writing for the philatelic press did not pay, and that writing for other magazines did. Roy, although he may not be another Howells, will score success, we are sure.

This will make the third "departure" from the ranks of our philatelic writers. First Quackenbush, then Benton, and lastly Greene. These three now devote their entire time, outside of a necessary time for slumber, to literary work, and although they are heard of occasionally, their articles are becoming less frequent. We are not sure but there are others who would be pleased to step out, if they possessed the necessary qualifications.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

THIRTY YEARS AGO.

BY NAUTILUS.

IT WAS about ten years previous to this time that the mania for collecting foreign postage stamps, now so prevalent, had just set in, and many an old philatelist can remember with what feelings of joy he, the happy possessor of a hundred used stamps which the owner exchanged with him for a box, a knife, and six quills. This was the first instance of used postage stamps having a marketable value, though even at this date rumors of something wonderful happening to anybody who had patience and folly enough to collect a hundred used penny stamps were prevalent. They were hardly credited even by that much abused species of humanity—the schoolboy.

The youths of this day were by no means inclined to consider a taste for old stamps childish or futile. They held the pursuit to be just as sensible as a taste for numismatics, and far in advance of butterfly collecting and other entomological pursuits.

We have said that the first instance of stamps having a marketable value had its genesis in trading at school; probably the next stage, an easy one, was dealing in schoolboy fashion.

Not long ago we had the pleasure of learning from a non-philatelic source the story, or whatever you choose to call it, of a gentleman whose firm had been in the stamp business nearly four years previous to 1865, and whose trade was equal to that of all other dealers put together. As the story might possibly be interesting to some collec-

tors we will give the tale, but in a condensed form.

About the year 1860 a cousin of the above mentioned gentleman, a boy of thirteen, came to him and asked him if he could exchange some foreign for him. He had none, being then a merchant's clerk, but he noticed that his cousin, even then, was able to purchase stamps from his friends, and suggested that the two should raise as much money as possible and start in business as stamp dealers. To this the young boy readily agreed, and they managed to get £5 with which they began transactions. The way to procure stock, however, was somewhat difficult; used foreign stamps given them by their friends did not amount to much, and they were therefore compelled to write the postmasters of large cities, of foreign countries, and ask them to enclose unused stamps to such an amount, for which they enclosed remittance. As may be supposed a great risk was attached to this method, and many a pound sent out was never heard of again. By advertising in such papers as were likely to give the best returns, a good business soon sprang up, and they found that they could dispose of large numbers of foreign stamps as fast as they could be procured.

A connection gradually sprang up in foreign countries, and they were therefore able to get stamps direct from their correspondents whenever they required them.

Their business gradually increased, and the firm who spent ten shillings a month for advertising at the start, in 1864 spent £360. At this time their stock comprised about 2,000,000 stamps valued at £3,500.

The receipts of the firm were about £300 per month. £100 may be considered a very good profit, yet each of the partners cleared £600 per year.

Here might have been a chance for many an enterprising young man to make a fortune, but stamp collecting was a fleeting fancy, and one bright morning when already to embark in the business, the would-be stamp dealer might have found the taste for stamp collecting entirely flown from the minds of the public. We, however, know that such a thing did not happen.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY.

IHAVE always been very fortunate in my exchange relations with foreign collectors, not in the way of obtaining great bargains at little or no expense, but in finding intelligent collectors who were willing to exchange on fair and equal terms and who understood the comparative value of stamps. Many American collectors complain that they receive ridiculous offers from their foreign correspondents, offering worthless continentals for complete sets United States departments or other valuable stamps. I have never struck such a one yet. All my correspondents have been selected from the advertising and exchange lists of foreign and domestic philatelic papers, those making big offers having been avoided, and those simply asking for exchange with United States collectors, value for value, being usually selected. I have exchanged with collectors in about every country in Europe and have never been obliged to get an interpreter yet to translate my letters, although I can read

only French. Collectors in Russia, Sweden, Italy, Portland, Spain, Switzerland, Greece, Egypt and many other countries, have answered by letters, written for the most part in English and French. This speaks well for the average intelligence of collectors the world over. I received one or two letters in Spanish, Italian and German, but have always been able to make out the sense of them, although I probably did not take a very literal translation. But the majority of letters I have received from Europe have been written in French. It is the language used more than any other in Europe. It is used altogether in France, Belgium and Switzerland.

Another thing I must mention, and that is the good penmanship displayed by the majority of my foreign correspondents, although, perhaps, not so remarkable as that noticed in my United States correspondents, whom I have found almost invariably to write a smooth, legible business hand. I have found several of my foreign friends very fond of seeing all their titles used when addressed, such as president of such and such a society, or major so and so, and they have seemed to feel that I lacked respect for them when I address them simply by their name without putting on their full titles, and in fact I seldom even take the trouble to prefix Mr. or M. In my next letter I would be requested to address Sir William Blank, Lieutenant colonel of Her Majesty's Dragoons, Strawberry Villa, Pountah Road, English Quarter, Bombay, India, etc., etc. This is a sample and is a whole letter in itself. Life is too short to follow this practice, although I do it when requested. Just enough address to enable the letter to reach its correct destination is all that should be required. I have found this relish for titles more noticeable in the English colonies than elsewhere, but, in fact, it is rather an exception than the rule. I exchanged for a long time with a certain baron in Belgium, who never wrote his title at all, and I should never have known it had I not learned it through other sources. It is hard work to get the names of collectors in South American countries even if you subscribe to philatelic papers published in those countries, as most of the advertisers are dealers. I have more than once sent letters to countries in the postal union prepaying all the postage asked at this office, and afterwards received word from the addressee that he had to pay postage due on it. This has happened several times and I have had my letter returned with the postage due stamps on them by the collectors, thus proving their words. Can it be that the letters absorb moisture or dirt in being handled and re-handled and so become heavier. I can explain it in no other way. In some countries a letter from the United States with postage due on it, if not delivered, will be returned to the writer, and he does not have to pay anything to get it back again, even though the foreign due stamps be on it. In other countries the letter is returned to the United States dead letter office and you have to forward the postage due on it before you can get it. I usually send my stamps first when exchanging with foreign collectors, as it saves both time and postage, and have rarely lost a lot, which speaks well for the honesty of philatelists, for there is no international law that could touch them, and even a broad advertisement in the philatelic press would not be of very great harm to an obscure foreign collector.

WRITTEN FOR THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

THE TREATMENT OF STAMPS.

BY WALTER A. WITHROW.

TRANSLATED from an ancient manuscript recently found in the possession of an Egyptian mummy, supposed to be about two thousand years of age, and modeled especially for *The Canadian Philatelist* by Walter A. Withrow.

For a proper understanding of the article, for scientific articles are proverbially scientific, a series of annotations are added in italics, by the translator, with the hope that they may prove of value, especially to the young collector.

Too often the collector forgets that stamps are possessed of a sensitive nature and in consequence does not treat them as is their due. In this article I cannot particularize the many indignities heaped upon the innocent, defenseless stamp, and warn you as to the same, but my general advice is, "Put yourself in their, or its, place," etc.

In the treatment of postage stamps, too much care cannot be taken, and having had an experience of two hundred years—*It is well to keep in mind that in those days people lived to a very ripe, almost rotten, old age*—with these interesting bits of paper, I propose to give my fellow-beings the benefit of my experience.

One of the greatest crimes of which a collector can be guilty is to break in upon a happy married couple and separate them, leaving away their dwelling, and destroying their dream of domestic bliss. *Although I am not positive, I think that this refers to removing from the original envelope, and separation of an unsevered pair.*

Another heinous offense, which should be punished by imprisonment for life, is the practice of removing from the back of the stamp, the adhesive layer, known as the gum, depriving as it does the specimen of sustenance; for having made an exhaustive study of this matter, I am of the opinion that the stamp draws from the aforesaid gum much nutriment, and to do thus is to deprive said stamp of life. *The gentleman probably makes this sting at Alvah Davidson, who advises collectors to remove the gum from their three-cent pinks, providing, however, that they have any.*

Another point about which collectors are rather careless is the practice of washing or cleansing the face of the stamp with soap-suds. You who have endured the agony of having been washed in this substance can have some idea of the sufferings of the more beautiful and delicate little stamp. *From these two very important facts may be deducted. The Egyptian boy held in mortal horror that alkaline composition known as soap, even to the extent of the American small boy, and that the human has outstripped the stamp in point of beauty within the past two thousand years.*

There is another point which I wish to impress upon your minds and that is to use your best efforts toward the prevention of the practice of perforating stamps. Did it ever occur to you that this operation hurt them? As I understand it, they are irreparably injured. Putting yourself in their places, how would you like to be punctured all around your sides or, if as it often happens, you were not placed under the perforating machine correctly, to be punched full of holes?

From these remarks it may be concluded that the

perforating machine is not of modern origin and also that the operator of the machine was sometimes cross-eyed, as is always the case in the modern times.

Another point upon which I wish to speak and I am through. *Thank heaven!* Collectors should never become angry and abusive in the presence of their stamps. Besides learning the stamps bad habits, the sulphuric charged air will, in some cases, change the color of a stamp. *The five-cent, yellow, United States 1861, is probably referred to in this connection, for this yellow shade will be changed to the common brown color, if exposed to sulphuric air.*

There was some less important advice in the manuscript, but in the interests of humanity and myself, I will forego the pleasure of translating it. However, since I translated the above it has occurred to me that, as postage stamps were not introduced for some years after the venerable Egyptian's demise, he possibly did not refer to these particular bits of paper, and it may be that he meant to give some advice concerning money, if the slang expression for cash was current at that time.

But, as I do not wish to lose the time I spent in the translation, I have made arrangements with Mr. Staehler for the publication of same, paying him the sum of ten cents for so doing.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

THE PROS AND CONS OF POSTAL CARD COLLECTING.

BY M. MORRIS.

THE collecting of post cards is becoming more general every year. A few years ago one scarcely ever met a Philatelist who collected postal cards, but recently a very large number have embraced this very interesting branch of Philately. I will endeavor in this article to state a few of the reasons why I collect cards, and also why a certain friend of mine does not.

I will first state my reasons for being a post card collector. Firstly, at the present time the price of most cards is low enough to place them within the reach of all. I do not know of more than twenty kinds of cards that are worth over \$5 apiece, while most of them range in price from 5 to 50 cents. While every reader of this paper is acquainted with the prices which are paid for some varieties of stamps, there are in reality some thousand varieties which are worth over \$10 each. The question of cost has a great deal to do with the size of a person's collection. A stamp collection of ten thousand varieties is not so very unusual, while a post card collection of five thousand varieties is considered a very fine one. Secondly, by being a post card collector I can collect from all over the world. Among stamp collectors nearly every one is a specialist, in one way or another, at the present time, and one of the principal reasons for this is the number of stamps which are necessary to begin to make an album look full, while a specialist only has to complete his favorite country; but to do this he reluctantly has to give up collecting the stamps of the rest of the world, which he as a rule does not like doing. It is not necessary that a post card collector become a specialist, as there are not over eight thousand varieties of postal cards, while there are

some fifty thousand stamps in existence. Thirdly, the engraving on the postal card is where the engraver gets in some of his fine art. On the postage stamp there is not sufficient room for him to fully display his skill, and in order to display it he must enlarge his stamp, which has proved a failure, as is amply illustrated by the manner in which the general public received the Columbian issue. In engraving the post card, however, he has all the room he wants. By this I do not mean to say that all the post cards issued at the present time are the finest possible specimens of the engraver's art, for many of them are meant for use and not for show, and consequently have the least possible amount of engraving on them. Such are the cards of the United States, Canada, France, Tunis, etc. The cards of Salvador, Honduras and British Central Africa are some examples of the fine engraving that appears on some of our postal cards. Another argument in favor of postal cards is that they have never been surcharged to any great extent, or counterfeited. A collector of cards does not have to fill his album up with surcharged cards, for cards have not been very extensively surcharged, and those that have been are principally legitimate issues for use in correspondence and not made for to sell to collectors. I know of but one or two exceptions where cards were made for the purpose of selling to collectors, one case of which occurred recently in the cards of Bermuda. Only three of the French colonies have surcharged their cards, while nearly all of the colonies have surcharged their stamps. The collector of cards does not always have to be on the lookout for counterfeits when he is buying cards, for only the cards of Japan, first issue, and Heligoland 1876 5x5 pf green, and this card surcharged in 1879, have been counterfeited, while hardly any varieties of stamps either common or rare, have been exempt from the efforts of counterfeiters.

Now, as to the reason why my friend does not collect cards and my answer to his arguments. In the first place he states that cards are too large to handle readily and too bulky to keep arranged nicely. In reply to this I told him that cards were far easier to handle than the entire envelopes which he collects; as to their bulkiness, a collection of cards can be kept as nicely as a collection of stamps, although I must admit they take up a little more room. However, publishers are beginning to make albums especially for postal cards. Secondly, he stated that they were harder to obtain than stamps and that they contained too many printer's errors. In reply to the first part of this objection I would say that a great many of the dealers in America deal in postal cards, while it is quite easy to obtain the new issues through the purchasing department of the Postal Card Society of America, and the American Philatelic Association. As to the number of errors, a collector is not under any obligation to collect all the varieties of errors although they have a special attraction for me, he may collect only one each of the principal varieties. Still what are the errors on the cards compared with the errors that occur on many of the stamps?

In conclusion I will say that it is my candid opinion that there is more pleasure to be derived from the collecting of postal cards than there is from any other known branch of specialism that exists at the present time.

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

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