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TORONTO PHILATELIC JOURNAL



DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, CANADA, NOVEMBER, 1885.

No. 9.

WHAT BECOMES OF OLD POSTAGE STAMPS?

A Parisian paper has set itself to discover what becomes of the old postage stamps—a question which has vexed the souls of many curious persons on this side of the Atlantic. It was alleged that they were collected for the defrauding of the revenue, the post-marks being obliterated, and the stamps re-used. Obviously however the small scale upon which such a fraud could be conducted would not account for the millions of used stamps which were known to be collected by the convents. It appears that the convents convert their pupils and their pupils' parents into collectors, and, when a million stamps have been amassed and sorted as to countries and values, they are sold to the dealers in foreign stamps, who pay from fourteen pounds to sixteen pounds per million for them. It is calculated that their retail sale and export to other countries leaves the dealer an average profit of eighty-four pounds per million. Philatelists will be interesting in knowing, on the authority of our contemporary, that the one-franc stamps of the Republic of 1849 are now so scarce that they command about eight pounds each.

A French colonial fourth of crown, 1670, limited at \$325; only two of these pieces are known on this continent, one is in the Dominion Government collection at Ottawa. The only two others known are in the cabinets of wealthy Frenchmen, who estimate their value at 5,000 francs each, and who, under no circumstances, would part with pieces which they consider to be the very gems of their cabinets.

To the Editor of the T. P. Journal:

SIR—The October No. of your interesting paper is to hand, and I am glad to see it again under the old management. I note in your columns a letter from W. E. Skinner, of Lynn, Mass., containing some statements which are calculated to mislead, as they are utterly without foundation and made with malicious intent. This party states that he had Mr. Emory, of this city, arrested for libel. It gives me great pleasure to be able to nail this as a deliberate falsehood as I am fully acquainted with all the facts of the case. Mr. Emory, in his paper, the *New England Philatelist*, exposed Skinner as a dealer in counterfeit stamps. Not long afterward a letter arrived from Skinner in which he threatened, unless a public retraction of the charges was made, to sue Mr. Emory for \$1,000 damages in the Superior Court of Massachusetts. Also some bluster about "my attorneys" was included in this amiable epistle. Far from being terrified, Mr. Emory replied backing up his statements and defying Skinner to bring the case into court. About this time I saw Skinner in Boston, and he assured me that he bore no ill-will. He backed right down and wrote Mr. Emory in a most peaceable and wanted him to exchange an advertisement with his paper. Now Skinner tells behind his back how he "shut up Emory, of Fitchburg," or how he had him arrested. Skinner is a contemptible slanderer, and his statements in this connection are black lies. One word as to the clause that Mr. Emory has left the business in disgust. The gentleman has retired from the stamp trade for the time being, as he is away

at present engaged in the prosecution of his studies. Skinner is hardly likely to arrest you as he is only a boy.

W. K. JEWETT.

Fitchburg, Mass., Oct. 24.

NEW ISSUES

That have appeared, or are about to appear:

Argentine Republic.—We have seen the 2, 4 and 8 cent stamps surcharged "official."

British Honduras.—The 6 penny is now green.

French Colonies.—Will issue hereafter and receive double or reply post cards. They will be impressed on each half with a stamp of the value of 1d., 1½d., or 2d., according to their destination.

Labuan.—Has issued a provisional stamp, 2 cents on the 16c.

Mauritius.—Has issued a new 16c. stamp; color, brown.

Mexico.—The "Ph. W." announce that the present set will be changed as follows: 1c. pale-green; 2c. carmine; 3c. ochre; 4c. red; 5c. blue; 6c. brown; 10c. orange; 12c. brown; 25c. blue.

Natal.—Half-penny is now yellow.

Norway.—The color of the 12 ore is now brown.

Transvaal.—The "Ph. M." chronicles the 3 penny, orange, surcharged "Halve Penny."

Austria employs 14,450 officials in her postal service, England 91,000, Germany 79,884, France 53,299, Italy 18,790, and Russia 15,557. During 1888 Germany showed the largest amount of business and England the largest surplus over expenses.

TORONTO PHILATELIC JOURNAL

Published on the 15th of every month by

TORONTO PHILATELIC CO., 18 Orde Street,
TORONTO, CANADA.

GEORGE A. LOWE EDITOR.

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TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1885.

Mr. George A. Lowe, chief editor of this journal, and manager of the Toronto Philatelic Co., sailed on the 24th ult. for England to purchase stock for his winter trade. He will return about December 21st with a stock equal to that of any dealer in America.

Our exchange column has been discontinued.

We have received No. 1 of the *Philatelic Magazine*. It presents a very good appearance.

We were obliged to leave out our list of new issues last month, owing to a rush of ads. on going to press.

We receive no stamps in exchange for ads. except current unused stamps of the lowest denomination, which we will accept at face value.

Mr. Ph. Heinsberger, 151 Franklin street and 89 Delancey street, New York, is our authorized agent to receive advertisements and subscriptions.

Mr. A. R. Stewart, of Derculich, Scotland, complains that Mr. M. D. Batchelder, of St. Louis, has swindled him out of stamps to the value of \$20.08.

Stamp and coin dealers will find the "T. P. J." an excellent advertising medium. It is the only monthly stamp paper published in Canada, the circulation being 1,000 copies monthly, which is sent to hundreds of collectors that other papers fail to reach.

Through the kindness of the author, Dr. Joseph Leroux, we have received a copy of "The Collectors' Vade Mecum." This valuable work, printed in the English and French languages, is a book

which has long been used by collectors and dealers of stamps and coins.

We have received the following papers up to date, publishers please accept our thanks:—The *Hermes*, *Gen*, *Alert*, *Orient*, *Ornithologist*, *Philatelic World*, *Philatelic Tribune*, *Foreign Stamp Collector's News*, *Curiosity News*, *Collectors' Library Table*, *New England Philatelist*, *Keystone Stamp and Coin Gazette*, *New York Collector*, *Southern Geologist*, *Capital City Philatelist*, *Butler's Philatelic Observer*, *Carson Philatelist*, *Tidings from Nature*, *Collectors' Companion*, *Empire State Philatelist*, *Agassiz Journal*, *Michigan Philatelist*, *Philatelic Monthly*, *Philatelic Journal of America*, *Philatelic Magazine*.

* * * Publishers will confer a favor on us by sending two copies of their paper, and we shall be happy to do the same in return.

NOTES.

More than 60,000 stamps are found every year loose in the letter-boxes of the United Kingdom.

According to a New York coin collector a complete collection of American cents is cheap at \$500.

The silver United States dollar of 1804 has realized the following prices: \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000.

Some people think the injunction on the face of the postal card should be "postmasters will read only this side."

Some person dropped a check in a letter box in London without an envelope, while another wrote a letter on the back of a postage stamp and posted it.

To keep postage-stamps in the pocket or memorandum book without sticking, a post-office clerk advises people to rub the sticky side over the hair two or three times. The oil of the hair coats the mucilage and prevents it from sticking.

The ex-postmaster of Baltimore has been presented with a bronze clock, a punch bowl and ladle, and a gold-headed cane. A valuable coincidence, as he can tell by the clock when he is tarrying too long at the punch bowl, and the cane may be useful if he forgets to look at the clock.

Letters bearing several stamps are most easily robbed of valuables. The stamps are removed, a slit made, and the hole covered again by the stamps. For letters containing money and bearing more than one stamp the French government advises that the stamps be placed an eighth of an inch apart.

An inhabitant of Liverpool, influenced either by curiosity or by economy, wrote last year a letter containing 26 words on the back of a penny stamp. It was duly delivered, as was a second letter of the same kind. When an attempt was made with a half-penny stamp, the despatch became liable to a charge of a penny, as an insufficiently prepaid letter.

On some of the German postal cards is a printed formula designed to save time in imparting news transmissible by this medium. It runs as follows: "Only a few lines to-day," then follow five lines, on which to write, then "God be thanked, I am in good health and hope to hear that you are also. The weather is—: write soon and give my love to all. In haste," and here follows the signature. There is even place reserved for postscript.

An ordinance of Louis XIV. issued in February, 1670, by which the coinage of twelfth and fourth crowns for "the islands and mainland of America" was decreed. This ordinance specifies that the obverse shall be similar to the French issues of the same denominations, while the reverse shall bear the legend, "Gloriam regni tui dicent," etc. By the same authority we are able to state that the *Gloriam Regni*, $\frac{1}{4}$ Crown, is not in the French national collection.

In Japan the postman wears a uniform that consists of a suit of blue cloth, a wide, butterbowl hat, and straw shoes. The mailbag swings under his arm, or is pushed along in a little two-wheeled cart. He is always running or trotting along. In Japan men do nearly all the work that horses do elsewhere; so you see the Japanese postman hasten along from station to station, traveling on a quick run mile after mile, up hill, down dale, never stopping until he reaches the place where another postman is waiting to receive the mail and run on with it in his turn. So the mail

is carried in the greater part of the Japanese Empire.

A good old Kentuckian who has been waiting twenty-five years for a postmaster's berth owns a fine dog, which is his constant companion. The other day the dog had been having a run in the sunshine, and was resting in the porch with his tongue hanging out. "That's a boss dog!" said a tradesman, who had been selling the old man some goods. "You're right; he is," said the old man proudly. "What makes him stick his tongue out in that way?" "Politics." "Politics! How?" "Why, sir, that dog knows Cleveland is elected President, and he knows I want a post-office, and he's got his tongue out ready to begin licking the stamps!"

NUMISMATIC DEPARTMENT.

ONTARIO, QUEBEC AND DOMINION OF CANADA
BY J. HOOPER.

1. Obv. crowned head of Queen Victoria to left; around circle, "Victoria dei Gratia Regina, Canada." Rev. 50 cents, 1870, in three straight lines surrounded by wreath of maple leaves and surmounted by crown. The dates of issue are 1870, '71, '72, '74, '75, '80, '81, '82. There has been an issue of 1872 without the initial H. under bust. Silver, size 20, milled edge.

2. Obv. same as No. 1. Rev. 25 cents, 1870, wreath and crown as No. 1. Issues, 1870, '71, '72, '74, '75, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85. Silver, size 16, milled edge.

3. Obv. laureated head of Victoria (to left); around circle, Victoria dei Gratia, Canada. Rev. "within wreath of maple leaves, 20 cents, 1858, surmounted by crown. There has been only one issue of this piece. Silver, size 16, plain and milled edges.

4. Obv. same as No. 3. Rev. same as No. 3, 10 cents, 1858-70-71-72-74-75-80-81-82-83-84-85. Silver, size 12, plain and milled edge.

5. Obv. same as No. 3. Rev. same as No. 3. 5 cents, 1858-70-71-72-74-75-80-81-82-83-84-85. Silver, size 9, plain and milled edge. There has been issues, 1872, 50c, 25c, 10c and 5c, with and without the initial H. under bust.

6. Obv. laureated head of Victoria to left; inside beaded circlet and around outer circle, "Victoria dei Gratia Regina, Canada." Rev. inside beaded circlet "one cent," 1858. Copper, size 16, plain edge.

7. Obv. and rev. same as No. 6, 1859 issue.

8. Obv. crowned head of Victoria to left; inside beaded circlet on outer

circle, "Victoria dei Gratia, Canada." Rev. same as Nos. 6 and 7; dates of issues are 1876, 1881, 1882 and '1884. Copper, size 16, plain edge.

9. Obv. ship in full sail to right; around circle, "For public accommodation." Rev. "Canada, half penny token," in two curved and two straight lines; 2 eight-leaved patras on outer centres.



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