

# OTTAWA 

PHILATELIST


A MONTHLY JOURNAL IN THE INTEREST OF PHILATELY.
$\qquad$
 -: EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, :-

262 CLARANCE STREET,
OTTAWA, CANADA. $\mathrm{Fa}^{\mathrm{m}}$ Entered as Second class matter at the Ottawa Post Office, Oct. 15th. 1892.

## IHE ОT小АWA PHILATELST.

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## W.J. SABOURIN,

## * The Ottawa Piliatelist.

VOL. I. NOVEMBER, 1892. NO. 2.

## HOW TO COLLECT STAMPS.

This subject has been disturbing the minds of stamp collectors for some time, our answer is to form a general collection, and at the same time take up a certain country or division as a specialty. This is the proper way to "specialism"-so called, you will not get half the benefit of Philately by only collecting one country, but you are at liberty to make a specialty of your choice of say: British, North America. The Canadian Philatelist recently had some articles on "specialism vs. General Collecting," and in a late number of the Philatelic Journai. of Great Britain:-

Mr. J. Bernstein, Jr., has been leading the crusade against specialism in vigorous, if scarcely logical fashion. *** He uses the stock arguments against specialism, that after a time a specialists collection contains every obtainable variety, and then the collector's pastime practicaly ceases, his enthusiasm waves and in all probability he ends by selling his collection; that the specialist moves in a groove, and not only loses touch with other branches of philately but finds stamp literature flat, stale and unprfiotable. He admits that specialism, as regards one's own country, shows nothing worse than harmless patriotism, but most illogically condemns the same thing as applied to foreign countries, after answering (or attempting to answer) the various arguments of many of his opponents on this question, Mr. Bernstein gets tired, and drops it. He says:-
"I may add, in conclusion, that should any other such impetuous remarks made by my opponent appear, they will be answered with the silent contempt they deserve,"-which apart from its inexcusable rancor, is rich, exceedingly rich. To treat an opponent with silent contempt is very often a feat both courageous and commendable, but to tell him of silent contempt is surely a fearful and wonderful manenure. Mr. Bernstein's contribution concludes the controversy which, from the point of view of the reader who avants something for his money, must have been a consummation devontly to be wished. Such controversies conducted in a spirit of rancorous pig-headedness serve us useful purposes. Mr. Bernstein is doubtless still ffored to specialism and his opponents are probably not a whit impressed by his domineering illogicality. Even if somebody has been convinced of something, he is probably like the man we read of in our "Butler,":-

He that complies against his will,
Is of the same opinion still.
So much for the critisim of the P. J. of G. B. moral-Collect what you like and pay no attention to those who may wish to direct your path. Nine cases out of ten the party with his advice has not even had the experience in philately you have had.-Rex.

## SURCHARGED STAMPS.

In the American Philatelic Magazine for October there is a furious tirade againts surcharges. Despite the fact that certain persons and certain papers have tried their utmost to stop the branch of collecting, it is painfully evident that their united efforts have come to naught, and to-day the surcharge is one of the principal things sought after by the collector. It has come tostay. With philatelic surcharge the scientific collector should be able to draw the line, but the most interesting part of philately is when you come to the genuine surcharge, standing out boldly as the oasis in the desert. As long as one collector will have surcharges there will be a certain value to them, and as long as there is a value to them nine-tenths of the collectors will not throw them away. The A. P. M. states he has no objection to Nova Scotia surcharges!! If he will point out one genuine case of real goverment surcharge in Nova Scotia he will be able to clear up a mystery. The writer has three N. S. 3c. stamps, on one is a large figure " 3 ," on another " 5 ," and still on another in a lined oval" 5 c ." These are not surcharges but hand stamps put on the specimens after they were ported. British Bechnanaland posesses the best series of surcharged extant geniune and authorized. Because they are counterfeited, are we to cease collecting the geniune. Not much! put the countfeit in prison is the proper mode. In conclusion this writer, who, by the way assumes a very appropriate nom de plume, i. e. "QueerCuss" asks what ought to be done! We would advise him to learn the sad fate of the late lamented Anti-Surcharge Society, which rose like a meteor in the Easternsky, but sank to rise no more-the laughing stock of Philately. "Requiescat in pace."-Canadensis.

## THE PHILATELIC OUT-LOOK IN CANADA.

As the season advances it becomes more apparent that stamp collecting has been given a decided boom during the past year. With our national association, The Philatelic Society of Canada incorporated and properly equipped collectors have better facilities than ever become acquainted with the art, science or hobby of "Philately," The stamps of British North America have risen in value wonderfully and before many years some of them will be quoted as unobtainable, except for very large sums. Take for instance the 1. shilling Nova Scotia, sold for $\$ 27$. in $1890 \$ 36$. in 1891 and this year reached $\$ 45$. and $\$ 51.25$ at sales. There is no better investment for your money than rare stamps. There is no better pastime than collecting stamps. There is no better educator combining pleasure with profit, than in a
collection of stamps. And it is certain that in the matter of language, colors, heraldry, geography history, etc., it will educate where other means fail. The poor fools who thought some years ago; that stamp collectors were crazy are, kicking them-selves over the fact that Philately is booming in Canada.-Canadensis.


## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The execllent series of articles in the Eagle Philatelist on the Stamps of Canada from the pen of Mr. J. R. Hooper, is really the best production given about our own stamps. The prices listed of the comparative value of the pence issues, with the water-mark and shade varieties, is something our so-called "standard" cataloguers can take a pointer from.

Canada has now five fairly good stamp magazines, but they are ail in Ontario. Halifax and Montreal were the former stamp centres, but London and Ottawa have cut them out. Westward the . Star of Philately wends its way.

The Quaker City Philatelist and the Eastern Philatelist are now publishing some comic sketches pertaining to stamp collecting. While they touch on current topics, they have also a decided moral, with strict originality.

The Ottawa branches of The Philatelic Society of Canada (incorporated) are re-organizing for the winter's campaign.
We wish to congratulate Brother Spooner on the selection of the Stamp as the official organ of the P. S. of C. We don't pretend to be hoggish, like some others we know of, and must say the Stamp makes a satisfactory choice and able to serve the members interests just as well as if it were published in Canada.

We take the following from a late number of the Philatelic Record published by the world-renowned firm of Theo. Buhl \& Co., London, England:- "The clouds that have lately obscured the horizon of Philately in the Dominion are now showing their silver lining. After a period of disintegration, a new body has arisen in veritable phœenix style entitled The Philatelic Society of Canada, with branchs in all the principal cities of the dominion. Mr. J. R. Hooper, of Ottawa, whose name is well known on this side of the Atlantic, is the President. We have much pleasure in noting this flourishing aspect of stamp collecting in the dominion and hopethat as the President modestly expresses himself in his address, that in Philatelic work as in numbers, the Canadian Society will leave all others in the wake."

In our answer to correspondents will be found some interesting facts relating to Philately which every collector should know. Read them.

A writer in Philatelic Era undername of "Colonailus" deliberately steals news items from other writers and passes them off as his own. His other notes go to show that the writing of this correspondent can be but little depended upon.

Through an error of the printer the two articles in our last number credited as written for this paper, instead of the Eastern Philatelist.

> BELLEVILLE NOTES. by G. A. w.

The Belleville boys say the P.S. of C. is THE society.
Messrs H. F. Ketcheson G. S. Clark two Belleville dealers in stamps have been away shooting out north of Bancroft for a few days. They shot a skunk and a crow.

Mr. S. J. D. Inse a gentleman from the West Indies passed through here carrying with him some 80.000 stamps from that place: He intends to keep them as they will be valuable in a short time.Heemployed negroes to gather them.

Mr. A. A. Allison will remove to Montreal. He runs quite a stamp business and has a very fine collection including some very rare stamps.

The Philatelic Journal of Canada has appeared. Would look better if donned a cover as the winter is fast approaching and there is danger of it's falling as others have fallen even with a cover.

While mailing some letters the other day I was somewhat surprised to see a young lady go over to the counter, buy five or six 5 c . stamps then produce a small tin box from her satchel from which she took a small wet sponge and wet the stamp with it instead oflicking them. A friend of hers standing by, asked her why on earth she did not lick them instead. She replied that it was a disgrace to Queen Victoria.


REVIEWS
The Philatelic Journal of Canada for October is a very good number. Quantities of notes can be seen from different quarters.

The International Philatelist is to hand. The publishers would oblige its readers by giving them original articles on philately:

The Quaker City Philatelist for October contains an article entitlcd "Philatelist Review" by Canadensis, worth reading. It fills nearly five pages. The remainder of the number is made up of Society matter.

The Philatelic Journal of America is always up to the standard. It is one of the best Journals published. The October number contains an article on "Habiltaldo Stamps" of Spain, that every collector should read.

In The Philatelic Era, for October appears an article entitled "Is Philately a Science?" and for down-ward stupidity it takes the prize. We wonder Jewett allowed such nonsense in his paper. The only other article in the issue is by Mr. Quackenbush and it is a deserving one. Some of the notes are stale, and the one about the P. S. of C. convention shows the writer don't know what he is talking about. There are numerous Typographical errors, in one of which it is stated that Newfoundland issued stamps with a FIST engraver thereon !!! Better fire your proof-reader brother Jewett or hire the printer's devil to do the work.

The Post Office, for October has 20 pages filled with adv. Six of which is Mr. Gremmel's. A little more reading matter would be of benefit to collectors.


## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. T. A.-Corean and Samoan stamps are about on a par and rank a trifle above the sor disant, Hamburg locals. The internationa! Postal Convention do not recognize them.

EngUIRER-1-Your name entered as a subscriber for two years. Thanks. 2-Sir Rowland Hill was the inventer of postage stamps as applied to the present system of uniform rates. He originated the scheme, and until this was practicablestamps were not reqired. 3-Yes, there have been numerous claiments but all have been proved frauds.
J. W.-Montreal-The first person to discover why the 12c Canada of 1851 was called "Twelve Pence" instead of " 1 shilling" was Mr. J. R. Hooper, (see Metropolitan Philatelist of 1890.-1.)
X. Y. Z.-Yes, you are right in your contention that Dr. Legrand is the inventor of the milli meter or perforation guage.

Philo.-We advise you to join The Philatelic Society of Canada. Dues are only 50 cts . a year. Address the Secretary, H. F. Mooers, Box 638, Kingstor., Ont.

Rex.-Enclose your full name and address, as your MSS. on the "Philatelic Frauds" contains several reflections on certain dealers.
J. Mals.-The P. S. of C. was the first incorporated stamp association on the continent.
R. T.-New York.-We cannot insert your Pill acht, as our readers do not need liver regulators. You can easily get lots of other stamp papers to accede to your wishes, however.
M. G.-No we do not want any poems or stories; we are willing to pay cash for guniune articels of merit of interest to philatelist, and proseing scientfic research.


## LATE DELIVERIES

For a considerable time past Postmaster Gouin, has been receiving strong complaints against the present delivery and despatch system in the city post office department. These mummers of discontent and protest embrace irregularity and late delivery in the local mails, also the late, and sometimes non-delivery of mails coming into the city from abroad. An important case in point which demands investigation, and which Mr. Gouin has taken in hand; is that of a letter of importance written and posted in England by Lord Aberdeen over his own signature to an Ottawa gentlemen who snould have received imperative instructions at the proper time. This letter was posted on August 9th. arrived in this city on August 22d. but was not delivered until Friday, October 14th.

There are many other cases of a similar kind reported in regard to late deliveries; and recent British mails brought the intelligence to friends and commercial men here: that letters had been delayed weeks and often not delivered at all up to , time of writing, months after they were due and expected. It is also said in these letters from the other side that previously the raails from Ottawa and Canada generally could be depended as upon the rising and setting of the sun. It is looked upon as a serious matter, and is exercising the minds of many of the citizens here.-Daily Citizen.


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## PRESS COMMENTS:

I consider your article "Science of Philately" in thestamp as the best ever written.-R.P.Spooner We think Hooper's"Postage stamp of Canada" in the Eaular Piilathlist as the best article or the season for philately.-Roy F, Greene.
The most prolific philatelle writer on the con-tinent.-stamp Collector.
With such correspondents as "Canadensis"the freshness of whose style is so well known, it is little wonder that Mekeel's Weekly stamp News has been such a success.-Western Philatelist.
One of the philatelfc lights of Canada, making an especial study of counterfetts \& watermarks. -Canadtan Philatellst.
The organizer and promoter of Canada's two leading socleties, and the former publisher of two professional papers, he is productng articles wellworthy of translation into our language.-NederLand Postzegelkunde. (Amsterdam.)
"Canadensis" vigorously invelghs against the lorgery collections, and protest agatnst cheap and nasty Journallsm. Mr. Hooper is the author of a capital article on the "stamp of Canada"-Revlew of Reviews. (England.)
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