

Canadian Philatelist.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. III. No. 3.


LONDON, NOVEMBER 1, 1893.

WHOLE No. 27.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

COLUMBIAN STAMPS.

BY THOS. G. SUTHERLAND.

TRICTLY speaking this year has been the year in which Columbus has been the central figure. Honored in a hundred different ways, by having the greatest fair ever held, the World's Columbian Exhibition of the United States, dedicated to him in honor of his discoveries. Millions of coins and medals have been issued in his honor, and bearing his bust; billions of stamps issued in memory of his discoveries. It is on these stamps I desire to write, those commemorating the discoveries and life of Columbus.

1893 is not the fourth centennial anniversary of the discovery of America; 1892 was the year, but as the World's Fair set the fashion by being a year behind time in its celebration, this seems to have made some of the stamp issuing countries lose track of the date of the fourth centennial anniversary of the discovery; inasmuch that we find many of the Columbian issues did not appear until 1893, or a year late. This shows us that a philatelic paper is not the only thing in the world that is apt to be late. Several billions of stamps appeared late this year, else had they appeared in 1892, and the fair held in 1893, it would have made the fair appear out of place and untimely, and perhaps ruined the fair. However, Uncle Sam foresaw an emergency, and fearful lest it would hurt his pet project, the W. C. E. postponed using the stamps, and in that way secured the success of his little show. I shall now attempt to give a list of these stamps, describing their design, etc., with a few remarks thrown in, for which latter I make no extra charge.

Argentine Republic.—On October 12th, 1892, two stamps, 2 centavas, pale blue, and 5 centavas, deep blue, were issued by the Argentine Government. The design represented the fleet of Columbus, approaching the land; above, the inscription, "Republica Argentina;" below, "2 centavas," or "5 centavas," as the case may be. On the left hand side, "12 Octobre 1892;" on the right, "12 Octobre, 1892." These stamps were on sale one day only, October 12th, 1892. When placed on sale at the Postoffice, on the morning of that date, so great was the rush for them that it is said the crowd struggling to obtain entrance to the po-toffice resembled a crowd of rioters. Only a limited number of stamps were sold to a single person, and yet the entire issue of 400,000 were exhausted in a few hours. Letters stamped with these stamps were quite frequently missing, the postal clerks having caught the stamp fever. The stamps were watermarked a sun, and perforated 11½. By the evening of the day of issue, they were selling readily in Buenos Ayres at \$5.00

each; but about a month later this price dropped to about \$2.00 for the set; however, at present they are again commanding \$5.00 per set.

Honduras.—The 1892 Seebecks for this place, have a design which represents Columbus (and company) standing on the deck of a ship, and pointing to some object, (probably Chicago, as that is the only place big enough to be seen at a distance of 2000 miles); on the deck are the words "Oct. 12, 1492." The set consists of 1c. slate blue, 2c. deep blue, 5c. yellow green, 10c. blue green, 20c. red, 25c. lister, 30c. ultramarine, 40c. orange, 50c. chocolate, 75c. carmine, and 1 peso mauve. In addition to the preceding adhesives, a set of envelopes smaller in design were also issued, as follows: 5c. dark green, 10c. dark blue, 20c. carmine, 25c. red brown, amber paper. A set of wrappers also appeared; 1c. slate, 2c. carmine, 5c. dark green, and 10c. dark blue, buff paper.

Nicaragua.—In 1892 a set of stamps (Seebecks of course) were issued representing Columbus on the deck of his vessel. The set consisted of, 1c. yellow brown, 2c. red, 5c. green, 10c. slate, 20c. carmine, 50c. purple, and 1 peso brown, 2 peso green, 5 peso carmine, and to peso orange. This set of adhesives was also issued surcharged "Franquer Officiat," for official use, in red. The envelopes issued at the same time are, 5c. blue, salmon paper; 10c. slate, blue paper, 20c. red, 30c. red, and 50c. purple, cream paper. The wrappers were, 1, 2, and 4c. blue, on salmon paper.

Paraguay.—A special Columbian envelope was issued on Oct. 12, 1892. It was the 5c. envelope of 1887, with an additional stamp at the left of the original stamp. It seems to have been printed with a hand stamp. The design consists of a bust of Columbus in the centre, with "Colon" at the base, (similar to the stamps of Chili); "Republica," at the top; "15 Centavas, Del Paraguay," at the bottom in four lines; "12 Octobre," at left, "1492-1892" at right; color blue and black; on cream; size 151x85 mm. The 10c. blue adhesive which was issued at the same time, was also surcharged for the good of Columbus. The surcharge was as follows, "1492-12 De Octobre-1892-," in three lines.

Salvador.—The Seebeck issue of 1892 has for its design, the landing of Columbus. The set consists of 1c. green, 2c. light brown, 3c. ultramarine, 5c. gray, 10c. vermilion, 11c. brown, 20c. orange, 25c. maroon, 50c. yellow, and 1p. carmine. The envelopes and wrappers are of a similar design. Envelopes, 1c. green, white paper; 5c. blue, blue paper; 10c. carmine, amber paper; 11c. brown, salmon paper; 20c. orange, and 22c. dark blue, salmon paper; wrappers, 2, 3, and 6c. brown, blue paper. Three new stamps were issued for 1893, which are rather "high," both in denomination and price. They are, 2 pesos green, "Foundation of Isabella;" 5 pesos, violet, "Embarkation at Palos;" and 10 pesos, orange, "Monument of Columbus in Genoa." *The Philatelic Era*

advises collectors to either let these things alone entirely, or collect them while in use, or in a used condition*. That's very good advice, brother Jewett, but how are we to get these high values at face value with our pocket books the next thing to empty? Neither can I see how we are to get used specimens, as it is rather doubtful whether such high values will be required for postage in more than a very few instances. If any used specimens are captured by collectors or dealers, they will be held at a very high figure.

United States.—The Columbian stamps of this country are too well known to need much description, but as my list would not be complete without them, I list them: 1c. blue, Columbus in sight of land; 2c. maroon, Landing of Columbus; 3c. green, Flag ship of Columbus; 4c. ultramarine, Fleet of Columbus; 5c. chocolate, Columbus soliciting aid of Isabella; 6c. purple, Columbus welcomed at Barcelona; 8c. carmine red, Columbus restored to favor; 10c. dark brown, Columbus presenting Natives; 15c. dark green, Columbus announcing his discovery; 30c. sienna brown; Columbus at Rabida; 50c. light blue, Recall of Columbus; 1 dollar salmon, Isabella pledging her jewels; 2 dollar red, Columbus in chains; 3 dollar light green, Columbus describing his third voyage; 4 dollar carmine, Portrait of Queen Isabella and Columbus; 5 dollar black, Portrait of Columbus.

The Special Delivery stamp was changed to orange, because the S. D. boys mistook the 1c. blue, Columbian for the Special Delivery stamp; and often delivered letters franked with them. There is a peculiar puzzle in the fifty cent; by turning the stamp sideways so that "Christopher" is nearest the ground, a ridiculous picture of a man's face is presented. The head of the officer who is saluting Columbus forms the eyes, and his horse resembles a "plug" hat which has been badly smashed. A plainly marked shadow forms the nose; while a horse in the background forms the mouth.

The envelopes are of the denominations 1, 2, 5, and 10 cents, and are all on white paper. The following is a list of the different sizes; size A, 140x82 mm. 1, 2c.; size G, 219x98 mm. 2, 5c.; size H, 241x104 mm. 2, 5, and 10c.; size J, 257x111 mm. 2, 5, and 10c.; size N, 133x107 mm. 1, 2c.; size P, 148x92 mm. 1, 2, and 5c.; size L, 160x95 mm. 1, 2, 5, and 10c.; size R, 142x111 mm. 1, 2, and 5c. They are watermarked with a picture of Columbus and Liberty in centre. Above is small U. S. in monogram like the 1887 issue, and 1492. Below 1892, to left, Liberty; and to right, Columbus. There are a great many die varieties of the envelopes, but I won't mention them here, for want of space.

Uruguay.—A special cancel mark was in use here during the three days of the Columbian celebration.

Venezuela.—This country issued a Columbian stamp of the value of 25 centimes. The design represents the discovery of the main land by Columbus in 1498. The great discoverer is shown as holding a banner in his left hand, while with his right he steadies a cross which another man is pushing down into the soil of America. At the top, "1492-1892" with the value; below, the title of the picture; color, lilac mauve. This, I believe, completes the list of Columbian postage stamps.

*NOTE BY EDITOR.—Cancelled to order specimens of Seebecks are beginning to appear; so that one may secure used specimens if desired.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

MY FRIEND JONES.

BY ROY F. GREENE.



My friend Jones is a logical man, at least in his own estimation. He is not content with the simple knowledge that a thing is a fact, he must know the reason, and the outcome of it is that he reasons it out for himself, and his conclusions are oftentimes overdrawn.

Jones is not a stamp collector, but many of his friends are, and at first he derided the pursuit in his peculiar and matter-of-fact way. He at first classed it as a boyish pastime, but since looking at the photographs of lawyers, clergymen, doctors and editors, who are stamp collectors, that I have framed and hanging on the walls of my study, he concluded that he was mistaken, and of course he had to form other conclusions. The other day I met him and our conversation turned towards stamps and stamp collectors. He explained to me his latest conclusions off the subject, and I present them to show how untrue are the excuses he would make for stamp collecting. He has it figured out that philately is predominant among the residents of warm countries, that it flourishes in the climates most affected by heat. He says that the natives of these torrid countries are naturally an indifferent, lazy set of people; they will not work, and must of necessity have means to pass away the time; consequently they have turned to stamp collecting, and have found it a pleasant occupation of their time, which hangs as a burden upon them. Of course there are collectors in temperate and frigid climes, but they are exceptions to the rule. Now what do you think of that? It appears to me that my friend Jones is grievously in the wrong. Yet not more so than many others who seek to fathom the reasons why stamp collecting has an existence. His rehearsals gave me food for research, and I busied myself with hunting out statistics among musty volumes of philatelic lore in order to prove the falsity of his statements.

Stamp collecting first began in Paris, France, about fifty years ago, and made great progress in Paris before it spread to other cities and countries. The largest number of stamp collectors in any one country is claimed by the United States, while France, Belgium, Austria, Germany, and Gt. Britain are following closely behind. Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, and Turkey, which are much warmer climates than the foregoing, are possessed of a much smaller number of philatelists. Russia, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, have a greater number of stamp collectors than the whole of India, Egypt, and the rest of Africa. Now it seems to me that this is conclusive evidence that philately was not born of a torrid climate. Going farther, I would venture to say, though I have no statistics for this, that the Dominion of Canada possesses a larger number of philatelists than the whole South American Continent. I may be in error here however.

Philately has the largest number of devotees among the English speaking races, and who can say that these people are lazy, and idle dreamers, taken as a whole? The truth of the matter is that Mr. Jones don't know what he's talking about. He jumped at conclusions, and that is the case with many of our would-be critics. All the proof goes to show just the opposite from what he claimed.

Philately has its stronghold in the temperate climes, and any American collector can tell you that there are more collectors in the Northern States than there is in the Southern members of our National Union.

And again, friend Jones, Philately is not taken up as a means to while away dull hours which drag heavy on our hands. Nine-tenths of its followers are hard-working, earnest men of business, or boys who are studiously applying themselves to their books, all of whom realize the truth of that old verse:

"Life is too short to while away the hours;
All must be earnest in a world like ours."

No, Mr. Jones, you'll find your idle boys out on the street somewhere, or possibly down to some billiard hall or saloon; its the active, energetic boy who is collecting stamps. I've known of lots of idle boys commencing the collection of stamps, but they a.i gave it up early in the game.

So, friend Jones, do you not think you'd better rake up some other excuse for stamp collecting? And remember that the next time you make a statement you'd better have the facts on your side.

NOTELETS.

BY THOS. G. SUTHERLAND.

COLLECTORS had better be keeping their Canada registration stamps, as no more are to be issued. The current 5 cent stamp has been withdrawn. These and the 15, 20, and 50 cent denominations of the postage, are well worth saving.

I have a specimen of the 5 cent, 1862-'63 stamp of Switzerland, on bright pink paper, and one of the 20 cent with blue threads running through it. By the way, why doesn't Scott list the watermark which appears on most of the perforated Swiss stamps? It is a cross enclosed in a two lined circular oblong frame.

Postal card collecting will probably advance rapidly when the new catalogues appear, as cards are now going to be listed. It is a pity we cannot have a catalogue of all revenue, telegraph, local, and railway stamps.

Acting Observer Clerly, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, has made arrangements to furnish postoffices within a convenient distance of Kansas City, cards giving the weather indications. They are large postal cards to be sent out daily, and posted in a conspicuous place in each postoffice. Before sending out the cards he sent several hundred letters to postmasters, explaining what he proposed to do, and asking them to post the cards. To each he sent an envelope with the Weather Department's frank for a reply. The answers are coming in, and Mr. Clerly says he can tell a new postmaster's letter from one written by a "hold over." Some of the new postmasters put a big Columbian stamp over the frank, to make sure that they are not violating the law. It is said that stamping a franked envelope is nothing new in Tennessee, but this is the first time in history that a Kansas office-holder has been known to pay for what he could get free.

In a lot of stamps I received some time ago, from a correspondent in England, is an officially sealed, found-open stamp used in that country. The following is the description: In cer're, oblong space for postmark; to left, "Found open;" and to right, officially sealed. Above crown and "V R.," perforated; color black. It is postmarked "Newark, Jy. 11, 93." I wrote to the party who sent it, to find out whether it was a local or government issue. He replied that it was a government issue. A friend of mine also has a specimen, which he obtained from the same source.

Some of the U. S. "Penalty Envelopes," are watermarked. I have one watermarked "P. O. D." in monogram. Another is watermarked with a jumble of letters, but the paper is so coarse, that I cannot make it out.

A short article appeared in the *Youths' Companion* for Aug. 31, on Mr. J. W. Palmers' "Chamber of Horrors," which, as you probably know, is a room papered entirely with count. feit stamps. I give a couple of extracts. "It is estimated by Mr. Palmer, who is the largest stamp dealer in the world, that these stamps would be worth five million dollars but for the unfortunate circumstance that they are not genuine." "This crazy patchwork shows a specimen of every known stamp in the world." It strikes me perhaps a few of those "common continentals," as well as some other stamps, were among the counterfeits; and what is the matter with Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of London, England, in regard to the largest dealer? The writer of the *Youths' Companion's* article is surely not a collector, and evidently believes all he hears.

If you have not seen a postal card, or envelope, with all the writing in Native Indian or Egyptian characters, you have missed something. It looks exactly as if a bird had stepped into a bottle of ink, and then walked all over it, (the card, not the ink bottle.)

I have a dead letter envelope of Canada, which has in the right hand corner, a large figure 3 to represent the postage. Should not this be classed as a sort of official stamp?

I have something of a curiosity in the shape of a watch company's advertising card, made in imitation of an envelope. The envelope appears to have been torn open, revealing a letter praising the watches, etc. In the right hand corner of the envelope, is an exact imitation of the 1 sen green, and the 2 sen rose, Japanese stamps. The stamps are slightly raised, so as to appear as if stuck on the envelope. The 1 sen stamp has apparently been torn when the envelope was opened.

The *Youths' Companion* is still offering as a premium, Mekeel's American catalogue, Popular Stamp Album, and a packet of 200 foreign stamps. In regard to the catalogue, they say: "The stamp collector of to-day is becoming a specialist. He endeavors to secure all the stamps of some one country, and become an authority in that direction. This catalogue is for an American specialist." They are also offering two new packets of stamps singly.

The Canadian Philatelist :

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L. M. STÄBLER, EDITOR & PUBLISHER.

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EDITORIAL.

An Apology. We must make an apology to our readers for lateness of our October and November issues. The cause

of the delay was Mr. Staebler's extended absence from home. The December number will be mailed a few days after this reaches you. Owing to our lateness, this number is a little smaller than usual.

Against Victoria's Title. The Legitimist Jacobite League, the name by which the society of crack-brained individuals who dispute

Queen Victoria's right to the throne, now prefer to be known, has again been playing at treason by printing a postage stamp "for private circulation," says the *Loyal Sun*. The stamp is blue in color, and it bears the effigy of the Bavarian princess who, according to these latter day Jacobites, ought to be now installed in Windsor castle. The league leaders had arranged to mint some coins with similar design, but precipitately abandoned the scheme on learning that it would render them liable to penal servitude.

A Change in U.S. Postal Cards. The U. S. Postmaster General, Mr. Bissel, has decided to abandon the three sizes of postcards now in use, and substitute one size. The

specifications of size which were sent to prospective bidders, inform us that the size will be 3½ x 5½ inches; this is known as the international, it being used generally by the countries composing the postal union. The reply card will still be continued, but will be somewhat reduced in size. These two cards will take the place of the small or ladies' card, the medium, the large and the large reply card. The Postmaster General has appointed a commission to go to Castle-town, New York, and make a thorough test of the paper which is being offered by contractor Woodworth.

The P. P. A. The latest circular of the Philatelic Protective Association warns collectors against the following forgeries:

Holland.—Unpaid letter stamp, 1881, 1 gulden, blue and red; Mr. J. K. Koning of Amsterdam reports a very dangerous forgery of this stamp. *Turkey.*—Current 10 and 20 faras, 1 and 2 piastres, surcharged with the word "Taxe" and the equivalent in Turkish characters; (2) complete set of current issue, surcharged "Imprint" in red; (3) unpaid letter stamp of the former issue, 20 paras and 1 piastre, surcharged "Imprint" in black. The above surcharges are all false, and have never been in use in any postoffice in the Turkish Empire. *United States.*—1868, 90c. blue; 1870, 6, 10, 15 and 24 cents, with forged grille. Fresh forgeries have been lately offered. Only the above values have been seen at present, but others probably exist. The grille in those that have been examined was too oblong in shape, and the points composing same were too far apart.

Stamp Collecting was Dangerous. We glean from the *Detroit Free Press* an amusing incident, which happened in 1873, when Don

Carlos was fighting for the throne of Spain. He considered the provinces of Biscay, Navarre and Catalan as conquered, and he had the idea of creating for the provinces a series of postage stamps bearing his effigy, on which were inscribed the following words: "Imposto de guerra" (war tax). He forbade under penalty of death any inhabitant of the three provinces to make use of any other postage stamps. Unfortunately for Don Carlos, Alphonse XII., King of Spain, heard of the proclamation, and decreed the same thing in regard to stamps with his effigy. So the poor inhabitants, being menaced on both sides, very wisely decided not to write at all. Such things only happen in Spain.

A New Exchange Club. The Fiscal and Postal Exchange Club is the latest. It has just been formed in Plymouth, England, with the purpose in view of facilitating the

exchange of postage and revenue stamps, particularly the later, between collectors. The address of the Secretary is, A. Preston Pearce, of 8 Clarendon Place, Citadel Road, Plymouth, England, who will forward circulars to those desiring additional particulars.

The Canadian Philatelic Weekly. As will be seen from an announcement in another portion of this month's issue, our new publication the *Canadian Philatelic Weekly* will appear promptly on January 4th, and will in every respect be the best philatelic weekly published. We refer you to the announcement, and shall be pleased to receive your subscription. Sample copies may be had on application.

Our Handbook No. 5. Our Handbook No. 5, "*The Postage Stamps of the United States*,"

which is announced as ready in this and the two previous issues of the CANADIAN PHILATELIST, is not yet ready. The covers of the paper on which it is advertised were all printed at one time in the month of September and at the time same were printed it had been expected to have the book ready for delivery by the time the papers were mailed. However, the time and labor involved in the preparation of the book has been so much greater than was first expected that at present appearances we will be unable to mail the work before February 5th. We trust that our patrons that have ordered this work will pardon delay. The book is of such useful nature that we feel assured that it will, when issued, repay purchasers for the delay in receiving it.

Our Christmas Issue. The CANADIAN PHILATELIST has become so late that it will be impossible to issue the special Christmas edition promised in our September issue, on time.

The special edition in question will appear in February, and will be in every respect a very fine number. Our December issue is now in press and will be mailed a day or two after this number. An apology is due our readers for the small size of this and our October issue, but we were so late that it was impossible to get a larger edition out without being put still farther behind.

Our Catalogue. We have received from the publishers advanced pages of *Our Catalogue*, which is being published by a syndicate of American dealers. The catalogue presents a very neat appearance, yet we do not believe it will prove a very dangerous rival to the Scott Stamp and Coin Co.'s *Catalogue*, which seems to be the favorite.

Another Swindle. We desire to warn the readers of the CANADIAN PHILATELIST against a certain E. E. Raulb, of Hyde Park, Mass., who has of late been swindling collectors and dealers to a great extent. This party succeeded in securing from us a small wholesale lot valued at about \$10, which lot we are now minus. Legal proceedings will be taken against this party, and any of our readers who have lost by him are requested to forward full particulars, with their claims, to us at once. We shall be able to give our readers further particulars shortly.

Mr. Dawson A. Vinden. Mr. Dawson A. Vinden, whose portrait we had intended to present the readers of the CANADIAN PHILATELIST in this issue, had not arrived up to the date of publication, and we are compelled to go to press without it. It will appear next month.

Correspondents' Column.

[This column is open to all, and we hope you will take the opportunity to express yourself on any Philatelic question. Those who want any information should send in their queries, which will be answered in the following number.]

CANADIAN COLLECTORS.

EDITOR CANADIAN PHILATELIST,

It has been thought that a society having membership limited to Canada would do good work. With low dues, reliable officers and active departments, such a society should do well. Please write if interested. Suggestions thankfully received, which should be discussed and passed on. In writing kindly give opinion upon such matters as dues, age limit of officers, working methods of departments, and general policy of Society. Write,
ALEX. M. MUIRHEAD, Halifax, N. S.

THE "WITNESS."

The Montreal WITNESS is now offering the remainder of the present year free to new subscribers for next year as an encouragement to give that valuable paper a trial. The WITNESS, both WEEKLY and DAILY, has, during the year, adopted what it declares to be the model form, with neat, small, convenient pages, being enabled, by the possession of one of the most complete printing presses ever built by the Hoes, of New York, to vary the number of pages at will. The paper enters the press at two places, on rolls broad or narrow as required, and the newspapers come out at lightning speed folded, pasted and cut. Besides the improvement in form, there is a remarkable improvement in Typography, the type being set by the wonderful Linotype machine, which attains the speed of five men, and casts a new type face every time. The proprietors invite visitors to Montreal to see these machines. The picture element has so greatly developed in the WITNESS, that it may now be fairly called an illustrated paper. The WITNESS has moved to the busiest corner in Montreal, the junction of Bleury and St. Peter Streets with Craig Streets, and has a spacious building there, which is in some respects as fine a newspaper office as is anywhere to be seen. The price of the DAILY WITNESS is \$3, and of the WEEKLY WITNESS \$1, while the little pioneer paper, THE MESSENGER, costs only 30 cents.

Collectors who have not as yet seen the new price-list of the Standard Stamp Co. should send for a copy at once. It consists of 80 pages, fully illustrated, with a handsome cover. A copy will be sent free upon application by addressing above firm at 4 Nicholson Place, St. Louis, Mo. (Advt.)

Clippings.

All Clippings from newspapers thought by the Editor to be of interest to Collectors will be published in this column. Subscribers are invited to send clippings, which always prove acceptable.

The world now uses 13,000 kinds of postage stamps.

The postoffice and telegraph office at Lexington, Miss., are in charge of a woman.

The Columbian stamp was designed in compliment to a Chicago girl's foot.

The Chinese postal service, which is slow and crude, is controlled by many private companies.

The new Columbian stamps are very popular in Japan. They build houses of paper over in Japan, you know.

During the complicated process of manufacturing stamps they are counted 11 times in order to guard against pilfering.

The postoffice at Mott, Ind., pays the smallest salary of any office in the state—51 cents annually. Don't all speak for it at once.

In addition to the 10 World's Fair cards first issued, two more were issued, towards the close of the exposition. You now have to buy several sets, and run your chance of getting these two.

An international postage stamp is suggested by Swiss journals. It would be convenient in making small remittances to foreign countries, and it would give the stamp collectors something more to do. Have any objections, anything to say?

The postoffice department is making efforts to work off its stock of Columbian stamps, of which none will be sold after Jan 1, 1894. Mr. Wanamaker's issue was a failure chiefly because he gave people too much paper for their money.

Postoffice officials in Portland, Me., were surprised to have among the mail deposited there a day or two ago, a registered letter that would have gone for the usual 10 cents fee and postage, but bore a stamp of the \$4 denomination. The stamp collecting had been suggested as an explanation, the stamp that had been used being regarded by its enthusiasts as more valuable than an uncanceled one.

A good story concerning Gladstone as a book hunter was told to-day. Some time ago one of his marked catalogues, ordering a batch of books, was surcharged by the postoffice as being in the nature of a letter. It was enclosed in a half penny wrapper and bore Gladstone's customary scrap of writing to forward the volumes checked. The bookseller added the extra postage of two pence to the account, and Gladstone paid up; but he relieved his feelings by having a merry hit at the postoffice for its marvellous red tape.

There are 68,000 postmasters in this country. Only sixty-five of them were charged with criminal offenses during the past year.

He was lean and dyspeptic, and over his face had settled the gloom of despair, as he wildly wandered along the dark street, chilled through by the quivering air. He sought a physician, and when at last he confronted a dealer of men he fainted, and fell on the cold pavement stone, and hasn't been living since then. The coroner's jury empaneled to search the cause of his death, found that the immediate trouble arose from having exhausted his breath; and further, 'twas stated, "dyspepsia he had, and colic and all sorts of cramps, induced by the drain of his fluids entailed in licking Columbian stamps."

The largest postage stamp ever issued measured 4 inches by 2—the size of the old United States 5 cent stamp, restricted to packages of newspapers and periodicals, posted in bulk and never intended for letters. The penny Madagascar stamp second in regard to size, 3 inches by 1½ inches, was used to prepay postage on letters posted at the British consulate at Antananarivo, where there was no other postoffice in 1886. The private postage stamp of Robinson & Co.'s express, with the figure of a bear, is 2¾ by 1½ inches. The stamp entitled "California penny postage from the postoffice, care of Penny Post Co." for 1885 is in size 2½ by 1½ inches. The quarter schilling stamp of Mecklenburg-Schwerin which was issued in 1881 is the smallest ever issued—less than one-fourth the size of the current penny English stamp—and it would take about fifty of them to cover the surface of the largest issued by the United States.—Collector.

A discussion regarding the advantages of the postal card in a recent gathering brought up the question as to the proper use of that convenient piece of pasteboard.

One woman, not quite so young as she once was, complained bitterly of the habit of hers had of always sending her the most affectionate messages in this open way.

"The worst of it is she writes just like a man," said the afflicted one, "and signs herself 'yours with undying love, K. M.'"

Another said she could not explain the coolness of a certain fastidious young man, except that perhaps he was displeased with her for sending a postal to his club asking something about a book.

Besides those who merely dislike receiving postal cards there are some who would be seriously offended at being addressed in that manner, so it is best always to avoid their use as far as possible.

Appointments with the dressmaker, orders to the grocer and like business may with all propriety be conducted by means of cards, but for friends and acquaintances a sheet of note paper and envelope are what etiquette requires, says the *St. Louis Republic*.

Are your Files

OF THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST complete? If not, now is the time to complete them. The supply of back numbers is small. While they last they can be had at the following prices: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 at 10c. each. Nos. 7, 16, 25 and 26 are 25c. each. Complete your files before it is too late.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS—One-half cent per word each insertion, payable in advance. No exchange notice will be received for less than 15 cents. No display allowed.

WANTED! Canada 1/2d., 6d., 7 1/2d. and 1rd.; Nova Scotia 1d., 6d. and 1s.; New Brunswick 3d., 6d. and 1s.; British Columbia, 1st issue; United States, 1865, 90c., used and unused; Newfoundland, orange and vermilion. Used and other rare stamps for exchange or cash. Henry W. Hall, Canterbury Road, Croydon, England. (28)

PATRONIZE THIS DEPARTMENT.

The following is a sample of the many testimonials we receive:—

L. M. Staebler, London. Midland, March 1.
 DEAR SIR,—
 My exchange advertisement in the February number brought me nearly 40 answers * * * I am, yours truly,
 ARTHUR CORBMAN.

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Collections of Stamps, 1,000 to 6,000 varieties. Highest prices paid.

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1000 well assorted foreign stamps, including Mexico, etc., post-paid, 20 cents

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