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THE

# ONTARIO PHILATELIST

A Monthly Magazine

published in the interests

of Stamp Collectors

W. A. BEATTY

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

88 KING STREET, ST. CATHARINES, ONT., CANADA

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# The Ontario Philatelist

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

VOL. I

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## Letter from Ed. Bee

### HE TELLS OF THE FORMATION OF THE DUETT PHILATELIC CLUB, TORONTO

#### The 1847 Issue of the United States

Nearly every collector of postage stamps belongs to some philatelic society, and I am no exception. But my society is different, perhaps, from the general run of such bodies.

Most everybody has an Uncle John, and so have I, and he lives in our fair Toronto. Ever since I can remember, he has been heart and hand with me in anything I do. A while ago I had a collection of tobacco tags, and Uncle John helped me out wonderfully, until my collection was the envy of all the boys. Last year I had the bicycle fever, and Uncle and I were a club in ourselves, and had many a "club run;" but this year I somehow got started at stamp collecting, and after having searched over garret and old letters, and paid visits to the neighbors, I thought I would try Uncle John.

Imagine my surprise when he told me that he had been a collector for years, and when he showed me his collection I was thunderstruck. I had not the slightest

idea that there were two of us. Well, the outcome of it all was that we formed a philatelic society to be known as the Duett Philatelic Club, and we are to meet once a week and discuss matters philatelic. To begin with, Uncle read, or rather told me about, the 1847 issue of United States. He said the United States first authorized the postage stamps by the act of the XXIX Congress. According to the law and custom a contract for the printing and engraving of the stamps was let to Messrs. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson for four years. They furnished 4,400,000 five-cent stamps and 1,050,000 of the ten-cent stamps, of which 3,712,000 five-cent and 891,000 ten-cent stamps are officially reported to have been distributed to postmasters for sale. Stamps to the value of \$12,038.55 were, however, returned to the department and exchanged for a subsequent issue. The issue was of two values only—five-cent, portrait of Benj. Franklin, and 10-cent, with a portrait of Washington. Between the border and the stamp proper on the bottom are the initials of the contractors, "R. W. H. and E." The plate impression of each was  $10\frac{1}{2}$  x  $23\frac{1}{2}$  m. m., and the color of the five cent was bronze and the ten-cent black on faintly bluish paper. According to the American Journal

of Philately of April 1871, this issue was withdrawn from circulation about June or July, 1851.

The Duett Philatelic Club then adjourned, it being most bedtime, and we are to meet again next week, when our president will read a paper on the issue of the United States of 1851. I've sent in an application to the Sons of Philatelia and am going to join others soon. It's a good thing. ED. BEE.

## Canada's Registration Stamps

*W. A. Beatty*

The Government of Canada in the year 1875 issued stamps of a special character for matters of registration only. Over and above the ordinary rate to all foreign countries except the United States, the fee at that time was 8 cents; but favor was granted the United States, the fee being 5 cents, and in Canada 2 cents. Three kinds of similar designs were engraved by the British American Bank Note Co. of Montreal, on white wove paper, but some of the 5-cents have been discovered watermarked. They were narrow, oblong and scalloped at the top and bottom, with labels with value in full at the two ends. There is a small, straight label above, inscribed "Canada"; a large curved label in the centre, with "Registered"; and a small curved label with the words "Letter Stamp" in white Roman capitals. Large Arabic numerals of value are in the upper corners.

The 8-cent stamp was first issued on November 15th, 1875, and from that date to the end of the fiscal year, June 30th, 1876, 100,000 were issued, and during the follow-

ing year, 25,000, making 125,000 the total number issued.

In 1878 this stamp was withdrawn from circulation, and the remaining 75,000 were destroyed by order of the postmaster general. In a few years this will be one of Canada's rarest stamps. The 2-cent stamp was withdrawn from circulation during 1889-90, owing to the United States kicking on the account of the increase in the registration fee, and was increased from 2 cents in Canada to 5 cents, making a uniform rate; and during the year 1893 the 5-cent was also withdrawn from circulation, and the present 8-cent postage stamp was introduced, making a registration and postage stamp combined.

## A Warning to Stamp Collectors

One of the most dangerous habits that exists in philately is the prevailing one of putting foreign stamps to their mouths, and the sooner the philatelic press sounds the key-note of warning the better it will be for the lives as well as the health of our collectors. A case came to our knowledge recently of a man who had contracted a disease through putting foreign stamps on his tongue, causing him untold agony and suffering. Nine hundred and ninety-nine persons out of every thousand put new stamps to their tongues when they wish to stick them upon letters, and while it may be harmless to do this, there are a number who forget that possibly 50 per cent. of those 999 may be diseased, and the germs can lie on the letter under the stamp with the gum; and if anyone is foolish enough to trust a previously licked stamp to his

mouth, he is running a great risk to say the least, as well as being a standing menace to society, and the day will come when he will be sorry he ever did such a thing. And let this be a warning to all, whether they are stamp collectors or not.

Foreign countries such as India, Russia, and those of Asia, particularly, spread the cholera germ and diphtheria, as well as fevers of all kinds (and there may be some of your family so afflicted) can be communicated by the bad habit of touching the mouth to the stamps. Always soak the paper off the stamps by means of a pan of hot or lukewarm water (as that kills all the germs), and wash the hands well afterwards. If you stick a stamp on a letter, wet the letter and not the stamp. Large quantities of stamps before being handled should always be disinfected by being put in a drawer for a few days, closed tightly, with some powerful disinfectant, which can be procured at any druggist's. No idea is known of the great extent which the bad habit above referred to is responsible for the various diseases, such as sore throat, miasma, etc. Let this warning be sounded far and wide through the press of this country, whether it is philatelic or not.

The Canadian Philatelic Association, who held their convention in Montreal some time ago, has been re-organized, and the outlook for philately in Canada this winter is that business has never been so encouraging in the stamp lore for years, and, with four philatelic papers and two societies, you may expect us to be one of the leading stamp centres of the world.

## It is Reported

That the current 15-cent slate Canada will either be dropped or change its color.

That L. M. Staebler of London, Ont., will shortly revive the Canadian Philatelic Weekly.

That a new paper is to appear from New Chester (Pa.), with R. M. Miller as editor and publisher.

That the Minnesota address book will not appear, the reason being that the publisher cannot spare the time.

That the Lindsay Stamp Co., conducted by I. E. Weldon, will shortly open an office on Yonge street, Toronto.

That the new issue of Canada postage stamps with the queen in widow's weeds, similar in design to the third issue of Bill stamps, will appear about October, 1896.

That the contract for the printing of the United States stamps will be transferred to the American Bank Note Co. on January 1st, 1897, on account of the unsatisfactory work done by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The city clerk to-day received a letter from Victoria, B. C., stating that the corporation had endorsed the resolution adopted by the Toronto city council in favor of a 1-cent rate for local drop-letters. It has been suggested that if the Government changed the engraving on the stamps every two or three years the revenue from stamp collectors alone would more than cover any deficit arising from such a change. In the United States there are clubs of stamp collectors representing a membership of 30,000.—*Toronto Daily Mail and Empire, June 10th.*

## THE - ONTARIO - PHILATELIST

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

To Canada and U. S., per year .... 20c.  
To Foreign Countries, " .... 35c.

Subscriptions must begin with Current number. Payable in Advance. Back numbers 5 cents each.

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We wish to exchange two copies with all philatelic publications.

Address all communications relative to above to the Publisher,

W. A. BEATTY

88 King Street,

St. Catharines, Ont.

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## Editorial

If you are an advertiser, you should send us an ad. at once, as our magazine goes right into a good class of buying collectors, and you will reap the benefits that are surely to be had.

If you are a stamp collector, and have not sent us your subscription, read premium offer, and send us the same at once, for you are missing one of the best stamp magazines that has ever been published at 20c. per year.

It is also our intention to start a Writers' Competition. Full particulars will appear in our next issue. Send us your subscription, that you may have a chance to win one of the many prizes that we will offer.

The D. P. A. annual convention will be held at Toronto during fair time, in September, which will no doubt enable a greater number to attend, on account of the reduced rates on all the railroad and steamship lines at that time.

Mr. Irving E. Patterson is also running for international secretary in the P. S. of A., and also for office in the L. A. P., and has proven himself a very efficient worker in all societies that he is a member of, as can be ascertained by his work as secretary of the D. P. A.

The larger cities in Canada are endeavoring to secure a reduction in the local postage from 2 cents to 1 cent. The latter rate was in favor a few years ago, and business men doing considerable local trade feel the effects quite severely, and hope it may be discontinued.

Recent visitors to our office are Mr. J. Shack of New York and Mr. George A. Lowe of Toronto. The first named gentleman is engaged in the wholesale tobacco business, and travels through Canada and picks up many good stamps on his journeys. The latter named gen-

tleman is one of Toronto's leading stamp dealers, and was on his way to Buffalo and Rochester. While here he showed us some good stamps in the way of rarities in B. N. A. and U. S., which were priced extremely low.

The editor paid a visit to Buffalo and Niagara Falls (N. Y.) on May 25th. While in Buffalo he visited the Raynor Hubbell Stamp Co., which carries a fine lot of stamps. Consult their ad. in another column of this paper. On his return to Niagara Falls he called upon Mr. Edward C. Biggar, who runs a job printery at that place, and collectors visiting this interesting locality will please call, when they will be made welcome. Mr. Biggar was at one time editor of the *Philatelic Lasso*, *Western Philatelic Empire*, and the *Nebraska Stamp News*, while he resided at Frémont, Neb.

We will give a set of 6 green F. F. Canada law stamps from 10c. to 60c. to every subscriber who sends us his subscription during the month of June. A stamped envelope must accompany each subscription sent us, or premium will not be sent. For every five subscriptions sent us we will give the one sending such a year's subscription free, also premium for his trouble; and, besides, each of the club will get the premium. Remember, this is only for the month of June, and as we have only 100 sets they will not last long.

In a recent letter from Mr. St. Kelsey Hall of Peterborough, he wishes us to inform our readers that he will be pleased to receive proxies for the convention of the A. P. A., P. S. of A. and S. of P., which he will attend. As we have known Mr. Hall for a long time, we can assure members of these societies that such proxies as are tendered the above named gentleman will be looked after, and he will show no partiality towards anyone. Mr. Hall is also a candidate for exchange superintendent of the P. S. of A. for Canada, and a vote for him would prove to be the election of one of the best officers in that department that it has ever had, and we wish all our readers to promote his election.

There is a leading Canadian dealer, we are sorry to say, who has been owing us an account for over two years, and frequent letters to him have been of no avail. We made his acquaintance during the P. S. of A. convention at Niagara Falls in 1894, and on our return home we sent him some stamps at his own request. He sent us a cheque for about a tenth of the price he offered, which cheque was promptly returned to him, with the statement that we would like the price he offered us, or the return of the stamps, and we have not heard from him since. A marked copy of this paper will be sent to him, and unless we get a settlement before our next issue we will be obliged

to go into the full details of how mean some people can act, and he will be published in our paper until we can get a settlement from him.

## Notes and Comments

A fifteen cent Canada ribbed paper recently sold for \$30 to a prominent American collector residing in Ufanie.

The plate of the Canada officially sealed stamp now in the possession of the British American Bank Note Company of Ottawa has been destroyed. Only one lot of these stamps were printed, and you may expect to hear of an advance in prices in the near future.

This month the general elections will take place, and the Conservatives and Liberals will battle for supremacy as to who shall rule in the next Canadian Parliament. One of the platforms of the Conservatives is the annexation of Newfoundland to our fair dominion, which would mean that Newfoundland would discontinue using their stamps and use those of Canada. Another is that we are promised two-cent letter postage and one-cent postage for city drop letters. And it is to this party that we owe the granting of second-class mail matter to our paper, and we fear if the Liberals are returned to power that these privileges will be taken away from us. As for our

part, we have always been rank Tories, and intend to support the Conservatives in their present contest, and ask all true Canadians to do the same.

## Dissolution of Co-Partnership

The partnership of Widdicombe and Beatty in the publication of the ONTARIO PHILATELIST is this day dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. Widdicombe retiring from the business. All communications, advertisements and subscriptions will be attended to by the undersigned, who became sole owner and proprietor. It is the intention of the publisher that, with careful and strict attention to business, he will merit a continuance of the patronage given hitherto, and will endeavor to make THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST one of the most readable periodicals in the interests of stamp dealers and collectors.

Address all communications to WM. A. BEATTY, 88 King street, St. Catharines, Ont.

In regard to the foregoing, I beg leave to state to the patrons of THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST that owing to other engagements I find it will be impossible to continue as one of its owners, and trust that our patrons and friends will favor my successor and late partner, Mr. Wm. A. Beatty, a hearty support in his endeavor to cater to the philatelic world.

ROBERT G. WIDDICOMBE.

## Applause

The first issue of THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST is to hand, and surpasses many journals in their first attempts. We wish the new venture every success. — *Canadian Philatelic Magazine*.

Number one of THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST has been received. It is an excellent first attempt, and if the managers will only continue as they have commenced the journal is surely destined to be one of the few successes we have. — *The Washington Philatelist*.

Canada is also to the fore with Vol. I, No. I, of THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST, "a creditable little paper introduced by Messrs. Widdicombe & Beatty. 'T is a long time since we received a paper from British North America, and we wish our contemporary long life and prosperity. — *April number Monthly Post, England*.

We thank all our friends for the words of encouragement that we have received, and it is our intention to present a better magazine each month than the preceding one. We ask the support of every true philatelist, with their advertising and subscription patronage, both of which will be well cared for.

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## Exchange Column

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Free to subscribers. Limited to 30 words. All others half a cent a word each insertion. Notices must be written on separate pieces of paper, and the same notice cannot be inserted twice unless paid for. No display allowed.

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Correspondence desired with collectors who have B. N. A. postage stamps to sell or exchange. Write me at once. R. G. WIDDICOMBE, 29 Elizabeth St., St. Catharines, Ont., Can.

## Papers Received

Canadian — *Canadian Philatelic Magazine, The All Around Stamp Advertiser*.

American — *International Philatelist, Philatelist, Washington Philatelist, Bay State Philatelist, Post Office, Philatelic West, Columbian Philatelist, Oregon Naturalist, Pennsylvania Stamp, Texan Philatelist, Evergreen State Philatelist, Dixie Philatelist, Mekeels Weekly Stamp News (4 numbers), Junior Philatelist, Midland Philatelist, Fireside Philatelist, Philadelphia Stamp News, Niagara Philatelist, The Youth's Comrade, Bee-Hive Philatelist, Philatelic Literature Collector, International Stamp*.

Foreign — *The Monthly Post, Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, Revista De La Sveciedo, Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser*.

There are still some philatelic papers published which have not put us on their exchange list, and we wish they would do so at once, as we intend to start a Literary Review next month, and ask all papers to comply with our request if they wish to see their papers appear in our review column.

In future all exchanges will oblige us by sending two copies to W. A. Beatty, 88 King street, St. Catharines, Ont., and not to Mr. Widdicombe, as he has severed his connection with this paper.

The rarest stamp now known is the 10-cent Baltimore, on white paper, which was found lately by a party on the hunt for rare stamps. The value of this rarity is placed by some at \$5,000.



## New York Notes

*By Gotham*

The market here is very dull at present.

"B. N. A.'s" are somewhat lower than they were.

Mr. Needham of Hamilton is offering some good stamps.

U. S. revenues of the better grades are about all there is really any great demand for.

Our millionaires are off for Europe, and the lesser lights are paying more attention to their bicycles and watering-places, than they are to "waterworks."

## When You Visit Niagara

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30c. claret, unused o. g.	...	1
50c. claret, unused o. g.	...	1
30c. '94 unwatermarked, unused o. g.	...	1
50c. '94 unwatermarked, unused o. g.	LIGHT	1
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1859 1 cent pink, used.....		06
" 5 cent beaver, unused	.....	30
" 10 cent violet, used	.....	35
" 12½ cent green, .....		30
" 17 cent blue.....	1	20
" 2 cent pink .....		80
1868 1 cent red brown.....		14
" 2 cent green.....		08
1869 1 cent yellow .....		20
1893 20 cent red .....		11
" 50 cent blue .....		27

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