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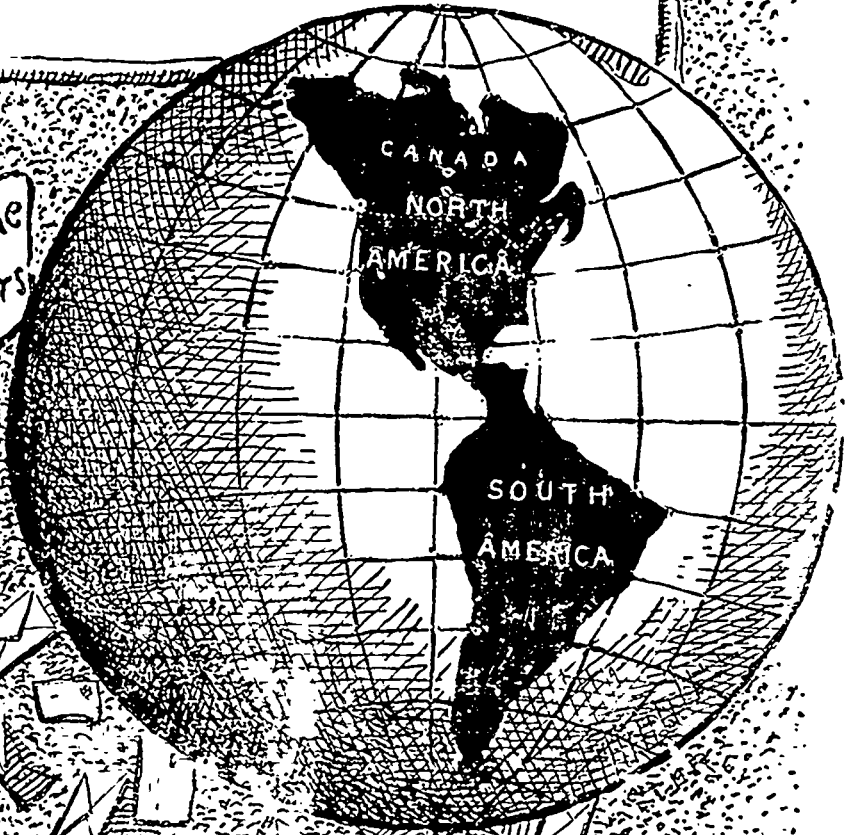
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OCTOBER

1887.

Toronto Philatelic Journal



A Monthly Magazine
For Stamp Collectors

TORONTO PHILATELIC COMPANY,
106 HURON STREET.

TORONTO CANADA.

R. S. HARRIS & CO.

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.....1879	5c. Env.	.95	
Barbadoes.....1842	40. Reg.	.25	
Brazil.....1873	300 R.	.50	
Bosnia.....1879	25kr.	.13	
Bolivia.....1857	100c. Blue	.90	
.....1869	50c.	.60	
.....1871	100c.	.50	
Cyprus.....1886	1d. wrapper	.09	
Congo.....1834	50 R.	.12	
Cyrt.....1881	1 P. unpaid	.04	
.....	2 "	.01	

—Unused sets—

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British North Borneo, 3c. to 10c.....	7 "	.60
Cashmere, 1883.....	3 "	1.00
Heligoland, including wrapper.....	21 "	.75
Fetsia, Official.....	4 "	.25
Peru (Chilian arms) 1c to 7c.....	6 "	2.50
Simoon, 1885 P. to 1a.....	1 "	.27
U. S. Post Office Dept. complete.....	10 "	4.25
Interior.....	10 "	2.00
" Agriculture.....	5 "	1.75
" State..... 1c. to 9c.....	11 "	4.25

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In answering Advertisements please mention this paper.

Toronto Philatelic Journal.

VOL. 2.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1887.

No. 4.

Canadian Philatelic Association.

Owing to strenuous efforts put forth during the past summer, the formation of the C. P. A. has become a thing of reality, and the advent of this society, will undoubtedly make philately boom in the land of the beaver and maple leaf. In looking over the list, instead of finding the Queen City of the West represented by at least two score, there are only a solitary *two*. Surely we should let our friends down by the sea know that we are heart and hand with them in this, the most enlightened and intellectual of pursuits,—“Philately.” The following is the official list of members, with their numbers:—

- 1.—John R. Hooper, 124 Slater St., Ottawa, Can.
- 2.—Fred J. Grenny, P. O. Department Brantford, Ont.
- 3.—J. A. Leighton, Box 194, Oran, eville, Ont.
- 4.—H. F. Ketcheson, Box 499, Belleville, Ont.
- 5.—J. C. Niesser, P. O., Toronto, Ont.
- 6.—R. F. McRae, 573 St. Urbain St., Montreal, P. Q.
- 7.—Geo. H. Harrison, 629 Dufferin Ave., London, Ont.
- 8.—J. H. Todd, Box 26, Brandon, Manitoba.
- 9.—Ernest F. Wurtele, 93 St. Peter St., Quebec, P. Q.
- 10.—Henry S. Harte, “The Rectory,” Petitediac, N. B.
- 11.—F. E. Book, Niagara Falls South, Ont.
- 12.—H. A. Simpson, Belleville, Ont.
- 13.—N. E. Carter, Box 314, Delevan, Wisconsin.
- 14.—H. E. French, Box 60, Niagara Falls South, Ont.
- 15.—Chas. E. Willis, Box 140, Petitediac, N. B.
- 16.—A. J. Craig, Box 20, Pictou, N. S.
- 17.—John R. Findlay, Box 185, Halifax, N. S.
- 18.—Don. A. King, P. O., Halifax, N. S.
- 19.—F. O. Creed, 6 Smith St., Halifax, N. S.
- 20.—Olof Larsen, 40 Lockman Street, Halifax, N. S.
- 21.—S. DeWolf, Box 219, Halifax, N. S.
- 22.—H. L. Hart, Box 231, Halifax, N. S.
- 23.—Theo. Larsen, 40 Lockman Street, Halifax, N. S.
- 24.—Henry Hechler, 184 Argyle Street, Halifax, N. S.
- 25.—H. Mathers, Box 573, Halifax, N. S.
- 26.—Chas. G. Woodworth, Box 3003, Denver, Col.
- 27.—Williston Brown, P. O. Departm't, Charlottetown, P. E. I.
- 28.—Frank C. Kaye, Halifax, N. S.
- 29.—J. M. Sheridan, 22 St. Felix Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- 30.—E. F. Smith, 89 Spring Garden Rd., Halifax, N. S.
- 31.—J. A. Caron, Ste. Luce Station, Rimouski Co., Que.
- 32.—J. J. Palma, Jr., 124 East 14th St., New York.
- 33.—George A. Lowe, 106 Huron St., Toronto, Ont.
- 34.—Edmund A. Smith, 58 Robie St., Halifax, N. S.
- 35.—A. Lohmeyer, 933 Milton Place, Baltimore, Md.
- 36.—P. F. O'Keefe, Mansfield Valley, Pa.,
- 37.—Wilson Willey, 106 Yorkville Ave., Toronto, Ont.

In the above list there are included

lawyers, doctors, government officials, ministers, professional gentlemen, military officers and aldermen. This is a splendid showing, and the above list includes mostly advanced philatelists who have helped to make stamp collecting a science.

It is to be hoped that all good philatelists will send in their names to the Secretary *pro tem*, Jno. R. Hooper, Ottawa, who is registering those who wish to become members. The fee is only 25c. and the annual dues will be settled by a vote when the election of officers takes place.

Two or three names have already been mentioned for the presidency, among whom are Major Hechler, of Halifax, and Mr. Ketcheson, of Belleville. Both are gentlemen of ability, and well-qualified. Vice-presidents will be elected for each province, who will superintend the work to be done in their jurisdiction.

Representatives are wanted in British Columbia and the North-West Territories.

The Secretary spent his vacation in corresponding *re* the C. P. A. He reports several applications on hand.

Written for the T. P. J.

Some Valuable Collections.

BY SULLEXAS.

Paris can boast of the largest collections in the world. The collections of Herr Von Ferrary is generally admitted to be the largest and most valuable.

It is said to be worth over \$300,000.

The following are among his rarest stamps:

British Guiana, 1856, 4c., worth about \$200.

Mauritius one penny and two penny first issue worth about \$1,000 the pair, the rare mauritius envelope worth about \$200, and a pair of Reunion's worth about \$300.

A portion this collection belonged to Mr. Philbrick for which he paid \$40,000 and a portion to Sir Danial Cooper to whom he paid the sum of \$20,000.

After Herr Von Ferrary's collection

they are generally admitted to rank as follows:

Mr. T. K. Tapping's M. P., second; M. M. Caillebotte's, Paris, third; Baron A de Rothschild's, Paris, fourth; Dr. Legrand's, Paris, fifth; M. Donati's, Paris, sixth; Mr. J. K. Tiffany's, St. Louis, seventh.

The Continental, Colonial, & British Post Offices.

To the Editor of the T. P. J.

Sir,—Having for some months had my attention directed to the shortcomings of the British Post Offices, as compared with the same department elsewhere, allow me to give your readers some of the results of the information I have received from nearly every country in Europe and in America in reply to questions addressed to their postmasters. I give the results as to various forms of mail matter.

1. Post Cards: We took them from Germany, and adopted a halfpenny post for letters on cards. We were soon after deprived of it, and made to pay 16½ per cent more than a halfpenny for the use of a small piece of rather thick paper. For the poor man who buys a single card even this concession does not exist; he must pay really a penny, farthings being rare. The department adds 600 per cent for a woodcut on a piece of wood pulp. No other country in Europe or America charges a fraction for the card itself, and Italians can buy a duplicate for a reply, or two cards, at the price of card and a half. The card we give the public is, besides, the smallest in the civilised world. Italy and Greece give a quarter more, Sweden, France and Turkey nearly a half, and Roumania gives almost twice the size. It is also a fact which free traders cannot find fault with, though English paper makers may, that the Post Offices buys the card itself on the Continent and pays 2½d. to 3d. per lb for it, charging 1s. 6d. per lb for the printing.

2. Sample Post: We had this at a quarter of the then letter postage, taking

the weight into account, until 1870, and then, as regards the British trader in his own country, it was withdrawn. Anything pulped, whether sheathing, press board, paper for rollers and roofs and walls, is charged now two ounces for $\frac{1}{2}$ d., but samples or patterns of anything that will make these things, or anything else, pay letter rates. A great firm sent a quarter of a million of 2oz. samples to France the other day to be posted to English dealers for 1d. each, and saved $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each. Foreigners may send by pattern post to England, but not Englishmen to Englishmen.

3. Newspapers: Every four paged paper all over the Continent goes for about the fifth of a penny; every small circular or printed notice for the tenth of a penny in some counties, in others for one-fifth of a penny. Every Canadian paper or periodical is franked to subscribers anywhere in Canada or in the United States, or to newsagents, free; papers or periodicals, between man and man, go at half the British rate, and in New South Wales, where 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ papers per head go by post, in Queensland, West Australia, Tasmania and Trinidad also. In Malta newspapers are also free and printed matter generally is carried $\frac{1}{2}$ lb for $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

4. Small Parcel Post: A halfpenny for 4oz. conveys all over the Dominion seeds, roots, cuttings, scions, grafts and bulbs. *Bona fide* samples of anything besides go at the same. Newspapers in the United States are carried free to subscribers in the same county as that of publication, an area of about 1,000 square miles, from post office to post office. If delivered by post carrier, a cent is charged in addition. If sent beyond a county, a cent a copy. But by a certain easy plan they can go in bulk through the post office, 500 for 5s. or $\frac{3}{4}$ d. of a penny each. There is also a universal inland sample post at a uniform rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for one ounce. Transient or casual newspapers are a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each. Printed matter and books at British rates.

5. Letters: By the world's post offices these are variously charged. In most

there is an equivalent to penny postage, but in Canada it is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Italy and France 2d. In Belgium a folded card of liberal size is sold for one centime, which an adhesive stamp makes private, and which can take the place of sheet and envelope. In nearly all European states, cards announcing births, deaths and marriages, and Christmas, Easter, and New Year exchanges, with names of senders, go in an envelope with an unsealed flap at less than $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each. In Belgium travellers' advices are one centime in envelopes with unsealed flaps or on cards, and the post carrier, at the wish of the sender, will deliver sealed a bill with a certain form, and the post-office will, if the debtor wishes, take the money and give a receipt.

6. The field of free matter in colonial and American offices is large. In England the only free matter is a parliamentary petition not over 2lb. In Canada no postage is charged on any blue books or reports, or any other matter emanating from or going to the Legislature in any province, or on books for or from the parliamentary libraries, and all documents connected with deaths, births, or marriages (census reports), and those on agriculture, and letters to members of Parliament on parliamentary business are free also. In the United States it is very nearly the same, and greenbacks, or National Bank notes, can in separate parcels be sent, if not free, at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per ounce all over the Union.

There are many other interesting details of the foreign and colonial offices on which your space forbids me to enter.—

Yours &c., J. H. R.

The carrier pigeon is still a matter of great importance in Paris, where these interesting birds have come into a system of organisation, second only to a postal service. The last siege was an occasion when these birds did incalculable service, when all other means of communication had been cut off.

**TORONTO
PHILATELIC JOURNAL.**

Published on the 1st of every month.

Geo. A. Lowe.

Jos. Hooper.

ED. PHILATELIC DEPT.

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Toronto Philatelic Co.

106 Huron St.

Toronto, Canada.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1887.

The Journal still lives. After a lapse of a few months, we again make our appearance.

The TORONTO PHILATELIC JOURNAL proved to be the greatest success of any stamp magazine ever published in Canada. It was organized March, 1885, and suspended June, 1886, owing to the publisher not having sufficient time to devote to it.

We have now established the journal on a firm basis, and with the strong band of contributors we have secured, it is bound to rank with the leading philatelic journals.

We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. H. E. French, the Niagara Falls stamp dealer last week. Mr. French was in Toronto to complete arrangements for the publication of the *Canadian Philatelist*.

Forgeries.

On the establishment of the postal system, a system now exciting the admiration of the civilized world, whose denizens have testified their approval in that sincerest form of flattery imitation, and before the issue of stamps had become an established fact, the greatest possible care was taken to prevent their forgery in any shape or form. For instance, the groundwork of the adhesive stamp was a marvel of fineness obtained by means of engineering. It defied competition, and could not be done by hand, and the design could only be seen to advantage by the aid of a powerful magnifying glass; while the threads of coloured silk introduced through the sheets intended to be made into envelopes and covers was of a material entirely beyond the reach of a common counterfeiter. As regards the labels, it was contended that forgery was in itself impracticable, because no forger could have the command of very powerful, delicate, and therefore costly machinery, requiring for its management skilful, and highly-paid workmen. If the Queen's head had alone constituted the effigy, something in imitation might have been done by the aid of lithography, or some other such copying process; but this would have failed when applied to the extremely delicate lines already mentioned as constituting the background. Then the introduction of silk threads into the paper, it being woven in the pulp, made it difficult to manufacture, and very expensive, and with the vigilance of the Excise, forgery was rendered next to impossible.

As a result of these precautionary measures, it has been left on record that "only two attempts at forgery have been made, both of a very bungling character, though in one the author was cunning enough to escape personal detection. In the other which occurred in Ireland, the offender was convicted and punished; the detection occurred through the fact that a young man had written to his sweetheart

under one of the forged stamps, and enclosed another for her to use in reply." Since the substantial line-engraving gave place to the current type-set adhesives, the contrivances for the detection of fraud, on which the authorities of 1840 plumed themselves, have been swept away.

There is only one imitation of the Mulready known to have passed the post. It has the date "London, 9 My 77" obliterated with the modern circular post-mark is an almost sure means of detection, because, at the date of its circulation, all genuine specimens were cancelled with an ornamental Maltese cross struck in red sealing-wax. I have advisedly said "almost" for it should be borne in mind that these, as well as any other obsolete British stamp, are all quite capable of franking letters through the Post down to the present day. But there happily exist many salient points of difference between this forgery and the "true blue," or rather "true black," for no forgery of the two-pence—which is the blue—is known. The genuine being printed from a brass plate in *talledouce*, stands out from the paper in relief, while the copy is simply typographed and presents quite a smooth surface. Between the two designs there is no perceptible unlikeness, but a close inspection and comparison of the copies betrayed the absence of a stop after the engraver's name, and a similar error is found in the letters R. A. appended to that of the artist. The large transverse oval is conspicuous by its absence, as are also the silk threads in the paper; and the design being printed on a modern gummed envelope, this should of itself be sufficient to warn everyone of its spurious character.

In a competition among stamp connoisseurs a prize was awarded to a gentleman for producing an exquisite copy of the design found on genuine specimens. So skilfully did the successful competitor accomplish his task that in design, colour, even the tint of the very paper on which the drawing stood, the copy was a pre-

sentment of the original. Being folded as the envelope, with blue edging lines, and showing, in addition, what one would have thought almost impossible of achievement by pen or ink, the word POSTAGE worked on apparently engine-turned ground, exactly as seen in veritable blue Mulreadies, it would have been as much matter for surprise if, on presentation at the Post office, its nature had been detected; as if it had passed unchallenged. In conclusion, to show the nicety attainable by carefully designed pen-and-ink sketches, I will relate a curious case of forging a postage stamp lately reported from Odessa.

An engineer of that town advertised for a draughtsman, requesting all competitors to send in with their application a sample drawing. Both were to be forwarded by post, as no personal interview would be granted. Amongst the letters was one which, on being opened, did not contain any drawing, but called particular attention to the postage stamp on the envelope, which on examination turned out to be a very clever imitation of the seven kopeck postage stamp, drawn by hand with a crow quill and colours. Unfortunately the talented executant did not enjoy any benefits from his skill and ingenuity, for one of the unsuccessful competitors, with more spite than sense, denounced the affair to the authorities, with the result that the young artist was tried and punished for forging a public document with a view of defrauding the Russian revenue of seven kopecks.—*T. M. Wears.*

A carat of gold receives its name from the carat seed, or seed of the Abyssinian coral flower. This was at one period made useful when gems or gold were to be weighed, and so came about the peculiar and now general use of the word. Twenty-two carats fine means that out of twenty-four parts twenty-two are gold and all the rest alloy.

NUMISMATIC DEPARTMENT.

All correspondence in this department should be addressed to Mr. Hooper.

A Coin is in itself a history. There was once a lost city which owes its place to a coin.

For over a thousand years no one knew where Pandosia was. History told us that at Pandosia, King Pyrrhus collected those forces with which he overran Italy, and that he established a mint there; but no one could put their finger on Pandosia.

Eight years ago a coin came under the sharp eyes of a numismatist. There were the letters Pandosia inscribed on it: but, what was better, there was an emblem indicative of a well known river, the Crathis.

Then everything was revealed with the same certainty as if the piece of money had been an atlas, and Pandosia, the mythical city, was at once given its proper position in Bruttium. Now, a coin may be valuable for artistic merit, but when it elucidates a doubtful point in history or geography, its worth is very much enhanced.

This silver coin, which did not weigh more than a shilling, because it cleared up the mystery of Pandosia, was worth to the British Museum £200, the price they paid for it.

The "1838 Bank of Montreal Penny Token," (side view,) in uncirculated condition, realised \$80 at W. Elliot Woodwards sale in New York, Aug. 18th last.

The Jubilee Coinage of Her Majesty Queen Victoria appears to give universal dissatisfaction, the work is poorly executed. It is expected that it will not pass into circulation, and as the dies appear to be the same for the silver and gold series, and no denomination inserted to designate value, this would give a great opportunity for gilded frauds. The present Jubilee Coinage will become a rarity, already fancy figures are being asked and paid. The Government will no doubt issue another, and more creditably executed

series of coins to perpetuate the 50th anniversary of our beloved Queen's reign.

The 1887 Dominion Cent is to hand, and is of the same type and pattern as the previous years. We should like to see a creditable Jubilee issue for the Dominion and await anxiously its appearance.

Robert McLachlan, Esq., Montreal, is busy preparing the manuscript for a supplementary issue to his recent work. We are promised 450 new and old features. This will include some 120 communion tokens. A feature which Mr. McLachlan has taken up and is being followed by others. Canadian numismatists will be laid under a debt of gratitude to the author for his very able work and aids in this line:

Dr. Leroux also promises shortly an Illustrated Supplement with an extensive series of new features and corrections, we would like to see the Dr.'s corrections of his Sou series, as this has been a brain splitter to many a numismatist, somewhere from 50 to 65 varieties are claimed of these interesting pieces. The issue of the Dr.'s first book cost him some 600 dollars, he states that it has paid all expenses in the sale it has had.

There appears to be quite a difference of opinion, among even advanced Numismatists as to what shall be recognized and admitted into their cabinets. - In *Canadian Coins, Medals and Tokens*.

F. J. Joseph, recognizes only government issues.

R. W. McLachlan, any piece of Canadian origin; but must be struck from Dies with raised letters, etc., whilst

A. J. Boucher, F. R. Campeau, J. Hooper and F. J. Grenny, recognize any metallic piece, that has been used as an advertisement, or medium of exchange, or check in the past or present, even if the inscription is done with a sunken punch. However we leave each to follow his own idea in this line, but cannot see

why such tokens (as Cast) by "Oshawa Knights of Labor." (*Iron*), The Griggs House, London, Ont., "Jewett House, Lindsay," etc., etc., should not be accepted.

Mr. A. W. Franks has presented to the British Museum a most remarkable coin, lately received from India. It is a decadrachm of the Bactrian series, the first ever met with, and bears on the obverse a horseman charging with his lance an elephant, on whose back are two warriors; and on the reverse, a king or zeus standing, holding a thunderbolt and a spear: in the field is a monogram composed of the letters A B. The obverse records some victory of the Greeks over the barbarians, and the reverse may be a representation of Alexander the Great. The coin evidently comes from the district of the Oxus, and was struck about the middle of the second century B.C.

New Medals.

Messrs. P. W. Ellis & Co., Toronto, Ont., have issued two new medals for the Dominion and Industrial Exhibition, Toronto.

The largest size 40 millimetres.

Obverse: Exhibition Main Building with wreath of Maple Leaves on outer circle.

Reverse: British and Canadian Coats of Arms on three district shields surmounted by a sheaf of wheat, oak and maple leaves intertwined, and on the outer circle, the words, "Dominion and Industrial Exhibition, Toronto, 1887."

A description of the smaller medals will follow. These medals are issued in gold, silver and bronze by the firm for the Association, and are intended to be given with the prizes awarded. The Numismatists of Ontario justly feel pride in the excellence and beauty of the various medals this firm has contributed to their

collection of "The Medals of Ontario." The work showing evidences of a superior workmanship and execution.

Rare U.S. Dollars and their Value.

1794.- \$35; 1798. with small eagle, \$2; 1799, five stars facing, \$2; 1804-\$8; 1830-\$5; 1838-\$25; 1839-\$15; 1851-\$20; 1852-\$25; 1854-\$6; 1855-\$5; 1856-\$2; 1858-\$20.

RARE HALF-DOLLARS.

1794-\$5; 1796-\$40; 1797-\$30; 1801 \$2; 1802-\$2; 1815-\$4; 1836, "reeded," \$3; 1838, "Orleans," \$5; 1852-\$3; 1853 "no arrows" \$15.

RARE QUARTER-DOLLARS.

1796-\$3; 1804-\$3; 1823-\$50; 1853 "no arrows" \$4.

RARE 20C. PIECES.

1874 proof \$10; 1877 proof \$2; 1878 proof \$2.

RARE 10C. PIECES.

1796-\$3; 1797, "16 stars," \$4; 1797 "13 stars" \$4.50; 1798-\$2; 1800-\$4; 1801 to 1804 each \$3; 1804-\$5; 1805 to 1811-50c.; 1811-75c.; 1822-\$3; 1846-\$1.

RARE 5C. PIECES.

1794-\$3; 1795-75c.; 1796-\$2; 1797-\$2; 1800-75; 1801-\$1.50; 1802-50c.; 1803-\$1.50; 1805-\$3; 1846-\$1.

RARE 50c. PIECES.

1851 to 1855-15c.; 1855-25c.; 1856 to 1862-15c.; 1863 to 1873-50c.

RARE U. S. CENTS.

1793 "with wreath" \$2.50; 1793 "with chain" \$3.50; 1793 "with liberty cap" \$4; 1799-\$25; 1804 has sold at \$200; 1809-\$1.

RARE HALF CENTS.

1793-\$1; 1796-\$10; 1831, 1836, 1840 to 1849 and 1852-\$4.

It is said there are only seven genuine 1804 dollars in this country. 1801 issues have been changed by counterfeiters to 1804 so as to almost defy detection.

Exhibition Medals.

Gold and silver medals prepared and struck by Messrs. P. W. Ellis & Co., Toronto, for the Toronto Exhibition of 1887:

Obverse: Side view busts of the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne, surrounded by wreaths of maple.

Reverse: Two shields on outer belts, "Dominion of Canada," "Industry, Intelligence, Integrity:" "1837," "1887." Underneath, a sheaf of wheat, etc., surmounted by a crown. Intertwined a wreath of Roses, Shamrocks, Thistles, and Maple leaves; on outer circle, "Dominion and Industrial Exhibition, Toronto, 1887." This is one of the best medals issued by this firm so far and bears evidence of a superior workmanship in its execution.

Money.

Of very ancient origin is money. It is mentioned as a medium of commerce in the Bible, in Genesis xxiii, where Abraham purchased a field as a sepulchre for Sarah, in the year of the world 2139. Homer speaks of brass money as existing 1184 B. C. The invention of coin is ascribed to the Lydians. Their money consisted of gold and silver. Iron money was used in Sparta, and iron and tin in Great Britain. Julius Cæsar was the first person who obtained the express permission of the Senate to place his image on the Roman coins. Earlier they had placed the image of their deities on the coins. The Romans called their silver *moneta*, because it was coined in the temple of Juno Moneta, 269 B. C. Money has been made of different materials, even of leather. It was made of pasteboard by the Hollanders as late as 1574. The North American Indians in early times used shells strung together, which they called wampum. Coins were made in

many different shapes. English coins were partly square, oblong and round, until the Middle Ages, since when round coins have only been used. The Chinese and Japanese coins are round with a square hole through the centre. The names of many obsolete pieces are met with in Shakespeare and some other English authors, such as the angel, angelot, groat, guinea, etc. The first silver coin struck in England was the ancient silver penny. It was struck with a cross so deeply indented that it might be easily parted into two for half-pence and four for farthings.

Collecting Stamps.

The collection of old or used postage stamps is usually encouraged in the young as affording harmless amusement, with the collateral advantage of tending to excite an interest in the study of political geography and contemporary history. The intrinsic value of these curiosities is so trivial that few persons were, at first prepared to find that their acquisition could become an absorbing passion. Yet there is not a civilised country where the mania has not infected a more or less numerous class of enthusiasts. The prices offered in France, for instance, for some of the rarer specimens of *timbres-poste* are extraordinary—reminding us of the sums once lavished by Dutchmen on a rare bulb, or given, in the present day, by Englishmen for a choice orchid. Thus, an old Tuscan stamp of any year prior to 1860 is now fetching £5 in Paris. A sovereign is offered for any French stamp of the year 1849. But these are trifles. A stamp of British Guiana for 1835 will readily fetch from 500 to 1,000 francs; while no less than 2,000 francs (£80) will be paid for an 1847 stamp of another British colony—the Isle of Mauritius. In Paris there are upwards of 150 wholesale Dealers, and the Collectors are numbered by tens of thousands.—*Stamp Collectors' Journal*.

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