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THE
**ONTARIO
PHILATELIST**

A Monthly Magazine
published in the interests
of Stamp Collectors

W. A. BEATTY

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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The Ontario Philatelist

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

Vol. 1

AUGUST, 1896

No. 5

The Duett Stamp Club of Toronto

**Another Letter from Ed. Bee,
which Reports the Second
Meeting of this Peculiar Club**

To the Editor of the Ontario Philatelist.

The second meeting of the Duett Philatelic Club was a success, and our president, Uncle John, was on hand promptly and called the meeting to order. After a little talk on the coming convention season, I showed him my Sons of Philatelia membership card, and the official ballot which was mailed on the 4th of July. As I was unable to go to the convention, he witnessed my proxy and I mailed my ballot. Next came my new possessions that I had made for the past week, and he gave me a pointer or two about using the hinge. He said to gum it flat to the top of the stamp first, and then bend it and gum into its place in the album. I've only got a cheap album now, but he has promised when the Toronto fair opens to buy me a good one. I have not yet decided what it shall be, but I guess it will be like his, and that is only a letter book the same as one copies letters in. It makes a fine

album—clean, white tissue paper, and it seems to show off the stamps so well and not cost much either.

I then read a letter addressed to the society by a collector in the city who wanted to join, and after some discussion it was laid on the table. The president's address came next, and was as near as I can remember as follows:

By the act of the 31st Congress, entitled "An act to reduce and modify the rates of Postage in the United States and for other purposes." The stamps of July 1st, 1851, were issued in pursuance of that act. The one-cent was blue in color, and had a bust of Benjamin Franklin in profile. In outline capitals above is "U. S. Postage." Below the oval in the same sort of a letter is "one cent." The stamps were very near each other on the sheet, which accounts for the blue streak on one side on the one you have in your collection, the stamps having been separated by scissors, and sometimes the postmaster got a little careless. The plate impression is 19 x 22 m m, on white paper. The three-cent has a bust of Washington in profile to the left, similar to the one-cent, and above in colorless capitals "U. S. postage," and below "three cents." Plate impression 20 x 25 m m, color red. The twelve-cent bust of Washington, after Stewart and

above bust, in same sort of letters as in the one and three-cent stamps, is "U. S. postage," and below "twelve cents," plate impression 19 x 25 m m, color black. On September 29th, 1851, there were two stamps issued, as it was desirable to keep the amounts collected and paid for delivery by carriers separate. One-cent bust of Franklin in profile to left, the inscription above was "Carrier's," and below "stamp." It was very similar to the 3-cent stamp, and was 19½ x 24 m m in size, printed in indigo blue ink on white paper. This stamp gave way in November of the same year to the "eagle carrier stamp." One cent, eagle poised for flight, turned to the left, resting on a branch of laurels, above in colorless Roman capitals was "U. S. P. O. despatch," below "Prepaid, one cent." The plate impression was 19 x 25 m m, and it was printed in blue on white paper. These stamps were printed by Messrs. Toppan, Carpenter, Cassilar & Co. of Philadelphia, and were used principally in Philadelphia, Washington and Cincinnati.

After a little debate as to why these three values were issued, our president promising to enlighten the society further at our next meeting, we adjourned.

ED. BEE.

Convention Reports

American Philatelic Association

The eleventh annual convention of the American Philatelic Association was held August 11, 12 and 13 in the Hotel Lafayette, Minnetonka Beach, Minn. About thirty-four members were present, Mr. C. W. Kissinger at the afternoon ses-

sion of the first day withdrawing his nomination, owing, no doubt, to the grave charge of buying votes and proxies, which charge was pressed against him by Mr. H. Gremmell of New York. The following officers were elected:

President—F. Polney.
 Vice Presidents—Messrs. W. C. Vanderlip, G. L. Toppan, J. L. Kilborn.
 Treasurer—N. W. Chandler.
 Secretary—Joe F. Beard.
 Assistant Secretary—H. B. Phillips.
 International Secretary—E. Doeblin.
 Supt. of Sales—Geo. D. Mekeel.

The members of the Association accepted the invitation that was tendered them to visit St. Paul and Minneapolis. As we go to press we have not learned where the next convention is to be held, but we suppose at some summer resort.

Sons of Philatelia

Late reports announce the following officers elected, with the number of votes polled for each successful candidate:

President—Benj. P. Thomas, 234.
 Vice-President—J. E. Tahn, 102.
 Secretary—R. M. Miller, 292.
 Treasurer—P. L. Messer, 256.
 International Secretary—R. J. Russell, 139.
 Librarian—Fred M. Townley, 184.
 Supt. of Sales—Chas. E. Shaw, 254.
 Auction Manager—E. L. Kelland, 207.
 Purchasing Agent—Leon G. Lambert, 175.
 Counterfeit Detector—Frederic Noyes, 150.
 Attorney—J. A. Wainwright, 185.
 Trustees—H. A. Parks 186. H. F. Dunkhurst 181. W. F. Ward 159. Washington, D. C.

The motion of Mr. Kissinger to make *Pennsy* the official organ was lost. The next convention will be held at Nashville, Tenn.

Philatelic Sons of America

Reports reach us that Mr. Oney K. Carstarphen has been elected

President, and that the Ashcroft ticket has been defeated.

A better report of the Conventions will be given in the September number.

The D. P. A.

The Dominion Philatelic Association was organized in September, 1894, with a charter membership of 20. For a short time this organization enjoyed a healthy growth, so that about six months later a total membership of 63 was registered.

For some reason unknown to me the affairs of the Association seemed to proceed slowly after this little start-off, and by December 1895, or about nine months later, only about thirty more had joined. It was at this time that a great change was necessarily made, and since that time the membership roll has increased rapidly. This change was occasioned by the secretary-treasurer, Mr. W. S. Weatherston of Toronto, removing to New York, so of course another officer had to be chosen to fill the vacancy. This was Mr. Irving E. Patterson of Guelph, formerly of Wyandotte, Mich., who has since proved his ability to manage the affairs of the Association, and the way things have advanced since his election is marvellous. Verily I say unto you: "He is the greatest worker the D. P. A. ever had," and the most efficient officer ever elected. He is running for the same position again this year, and who is the member who would not vote for him? Vote for men who will work for the interests of the Association, and not to gain fame for themselves. The membership roll is

fast approaching the 200 mark, and we hope by the end of the year to have 300 members attached to the list.

Mr. Patterson announces his intention of remaining in Canada another year, and we are pleased indeed to learn this, as the D.P.A. is sure of success. It was his intention to return to Michigan.

Vote for A. M. Muirhead for president, L. S. Graham for vice-president, Irving E. Patterson for secretary-treasurer, and the *Ontario Philatelist* for the official organ.

With this strong combination there is a sure success for the future welfare of the Dominion Philatelic Association.

Special to Advertisers

We will make a special offer of one inch, three insertions, for only \$1, or a three-inch ad., one insertion. As a further inducement, we will give a year's subscription, besides the three inches of ad. space, to each dealer sending us \$1. This is made to test our columns as an advertising medium, and you should not pass it by. Remember, this is good for only two months, and will not be repeated. You will be so pleased with results that you will become one of our regular patrons.

The *Advertiser's Friend* is announced to appear from Stoughton, Mass.

The first number of the new *Michigan Philatelist* has appeared, but we have not seen it.

With No. 5 the *Philatelic West* commences its second volume, sporting a new cover. A change in size is also noticed.

THE - ONTARIO - PHILATELIST

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88 King Street,
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Editorial

We are the first monthly Journal that has a report of Conventions, and will in future be first in everything.

The *Canadian Weekly Stamp News* is announced, to appear from Toronto, Ont., with W. R. Adams as publisher.

Have you read our "Special premium offer"? Do so, and send your subscription to us at once, as we know it will please you.

Special attention should be paid to the advertisements of Messrs. H. D. Ruchlman of Sharon, Wis., and A. Loewitt of New York.

A recent visitor to our sanctum was Mr. C. A. Needham of Hamilton. We are sorry that we were unable to see him, as we were otherwise engaged.

The *Ontario Philatelist* is in the field for the official organ of the D. P. A., and we ask all members to give us their support, as we intend to make this paper one of the best that Canada has ever seen.

Owing to the intense heat it was impossible for us to issue a July number. Subscribers will not lose by this, as their subscription will be extended one month. We promise, however, in the future to appear on the fifteenth of each month.

The A. J. of P. states that the two-cent Canada 1868 issue has been discovered, on ribbed paper. We also note in the *Canadian Philatelic Magazine* that one of their correspondents has a vertical pair of 1868 half-cent black on thin laid paper.

On September 9th and 10th the Dominion Philatelic Association will hold their annual convention in the city of Toronto, Ont., when the great fair of Canada will be opened. The days chosen are on

the programme as American Citizens' day and Farmers' day—two of the very best days. Everything will at this time be in full running order. The fair itself is not equalled anywhere in America. The committee of arrangements have prepared plans for an excellent and enjoyable time. There will be a tour of the fair, trip around the city on the electric cars, including a visit to the great parks for which Toronto is justly famous, a visit to Toronto's Coney Island, and, if the visitors are willing, a dinner down town or at the fair. If you want an enjoyable time do not fail to come, and see if the Canadians cannot give you a right royal reception.

Notes and Comments

Elections are all the "go" at present.

The *Daily Stamp Item* has been reduced to one dollar per year.

Be sure to read our special premium offer, and then send your subscription to this paper.

I have seen the Texas and Michigan Philatelic directories. Both are nicely printed on very fine paper.

The firm of Stanley Gebbons recently purchased a collection for \$10 that cost the original owner just \$345.

Two deaths have occurred in New York lately: that of Mr. R.R. Bogert's mother, and a young son of Mr. C. Witt.

"Better late than never" is the May number of *Philatelic Facts*, arrived July 16. Though typographically poor, its contents are good.

Collectors in Paris, France, are having an epidemic of thieving. Five or six roughs have been arrested lately, and a vigorous prosecution will ensue.

The *Lone Star State Philatelist* has consolidated with the *Texas Philatelist*, the *Michigan Philatelist* with the *International Philatelist*, the *Seneca* with the *Philatelic Paragraph*, and the *Groveland Stamp* with the *Boston Philatelist*. Next?

A new Confederate local has been discovered which was issued by the postmaster of Milledgeville, Ga. A local of the 5c. denomination is known and catalogued, but the new visitor is said to be a 10c. stamp issued in 1861. Later information has been received to the effect that the above is a stamped envelope, and the popular Washington dealer, Mr. C. F. Rothfuchs, has it in his possession. R. W. G.

This is the reply which a man sent to a bill from his bookseller: "I never ordered the book; if I did you didn't send it; if you sent it I never got it; if I got it I paid for it; if I didn't I won't."

Clippings

A New York dealer in medicinal tablets received some time ago an order to send six dozen boxes of his goods to a druggist doing business in San Francisco. The entire shipment weighed sixteen pounds. To send the goods by express would cost \$3, that being the rate for twenty pounds adopted by the express companies, and sixteen would not be carried for less. The goods were finally forwarded by mail at a cost of \$2.46 cents—a saving of 54 cents; but to go at this price they had to be divided into six packages, each one separately addressed and prepaid by 41 cents in stamps affixed.

UNUSED STAMPS

How Uncle Sam Redeems Envelopes that are Spoiled or Misdirected

One of the most interesting branches of the postal service is that which is devoted to the redeeming of stamped envelopes which have been misdirected. A person of an observing turn can spend a very profitable half hour there any time listening to the stories told by the men and women of how they came to spoil so much valuable stationery. Indeed, it is a remarkable thing how so many envelopes get misdirected, many large firms returning them in lots of several thousand at a time. The clerks who have to count them say that it is all gross carelessness, and they point to the way in which the envelopes are returned—some back to back, and others folded and twisted into every possible shape. All this means extra work for the

clerks, who have very little spare time on their hands.

The envelopes are redeemed in all cases possible, many packages being received which have obviously not been misdirected. For instance, if a firm goes out of business and has a quantity of envelopes left over, the chances are that a marking brush will be drawn over the edges instead of a few pen scratches being made on each envelope. There are many ways in which envelopes can be spoiled for business purposes, and if a list of all the peculiar cases were made it would fill a book. One man recently brought in a boxful over which he had spilled a bottle of ink, while another had a large quantity that had been badly damaged by fire, and a third appeared with a lot that he claimed had been gnawed by mice.

The government, of course, loses nothing by these transactions. It has been already paid for the envelopes and printing, and it redeems only the face value of the stamps. The New York office makes payment not in cash, but in postage stamps, and these stamps have to come out of the regular supply, as the department at Washington will not recognize any demand until the misdirected envelopes have been counted.

The Postmaster-General is urged in some quarters to face the music of the postal rates, and go back to the one-cent letter charge in cities, and a uniform charge generally. U. S. letters, for instance, come to Canada at a 2c. rate, and ours go to the U. S. at 3c. Then the charge of 5c. for registering is pointed out as unreasonable. Two

cents would be ample. The rate used to be two cents throughout Canada and five cents to the United States and the United Kingdom. Why not come right down to a uniform rate, and reduce the charge to two cents all round, no matter what the destination of the letter or parcel registered may be?

Papers Received

Canadian—All Around Stamp Advertiser, Canadian Philatelic Magazine.

American—Post Office, Texan Philatelist, Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, Monthly Observer, Evergreen State Philatelist, Dixie Philatelist, American Journal of Philately, Philatelic West, Philatelic Paragraph, Oregon Naturalist, Youth's Comrade, Philatelic Free Lance, International Stamp, Bay State Philatelist, Philatelist, Boston Philatelist, Fireside Philatelist, Stamp Collector's Directory, Philatelic Facts, Badger Philatelist, Niagara Philatelist, International Philatelist, American Collector.

Foreign — Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, Monthly Post, Phil Chronicle and Advertiser.

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Dealers Attention!

Have you sent your ads. to H. D. Ruehlman for Wisconsin Phil. Blue Book or Minnesota Stamp? If not, write at once for rate, etc. It will pay you.

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and every collector should take it. Remember, to obtain the premium a self-addressed and stamped envelope must be enclosed with your remittance or else premium will not be sent.

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