

SEPTEMBER '97



# THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE

INTERESTS OF PHILATELY IN VIRGINIA

VOL.

I

NO.

1



VIRGINIA PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO.  
RICHMOND, VA.

SECOND

EDITION



# R. F. ALBRECHT & CO.

90 NASSAU ST., - - NEW YORK.

## STAMPS ON APPROVAL.

—SEASON, 1897-'98.—

In our Approval-sheet Circulars of last season we offered three premiums to the largest buyers. After scrutinizing nearly 3,000 accounts, we ascertained that there was in some cases only a few cents' difference in the amounts bought by the various customers. We have therefore decided to distribute 10 more premiums, thus allotting a prize to the next ten names on the list.

The following is the list of the prize winners:

1. P. G. TESSIER, (30c. Justice, used).
2. WM. C. H. DUENSING (\$1.00 Columbian, unused).
3. T. A. HAYWARD (Set of Interior Department, unused).

A SET OF CABOT-ISSUE NEW FOUNDLAND STAMPS TO:

4. WM. N. RIDDELL.
5. G. FRED. RALPH.
6. DR. R. REHRE.
7. F. M. FORBUSH.
8. EDW. S. STEBBINS.

CANADIAN JUBILEE STAMPS, EIGHT DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS TO:

9. DUNCAN KAY.
10. WILLIAM A. SMITH, JR.
11. WILLIAM J. McQUADE.
12. EUGENE DEBLIN.
13. M. H. MIZENER.

To afford a wider opportunity for all Collectors during the season 1897-'98 we offer the following prizes:

A.—5 Prizes to the 5 Collectors who buy the largest amounts from our books.

B.—5 Prizes to the 5 Collectors *under twenty-one years* who buy the largest amounts from our books.

C.—5 Prizes will be known as "*Law and Order*" premiums, and which will be given to 5 Collectors who return the books always promptly within the time limit of 10 days. Only Collectors who received at least 10 consignments and bought over *five dollars'* worth during the season will be entitled to participate in this contest.

Prizes for class A and B will consist of 5 per cent of the amount bought, to be taken in stamps from our sheets.

Prizes for class C will consist of 10 per cent of the amount bought, to be taken in stamps from our sheets.

Our books, each containing 60 stamps, have been rearranged, and are all ready to be sent to applicants upon short notice.

We do not send anything unsolicited, and would therefore be pleased to hear from you.

## R. F. ALBRECHT & CO.,

90 Nassau Street, New York.



# THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST

VOL. I.

RICHMOND, VA., SEPTEMBER, 1897.

No. 1.

## MR. JOHN F. MAYER.

**I**N presenting a series of portraits of prominent Virginia stamp collectors to our readers, THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST could make no better choice to adorn its initial number than by the selection of Mr. John F. Mayer; for in him are blended all those traits which go to make the ideal collector—geniality, kindness, and generosity, combined with the inherent qualities of the Old Virginia gentleman.

John F. Mayer, agent of the Old Dominion Steamship Company in Richmond, is a Virginian by birth. He is an "old Confederate," having served in the army as well as in the Confederate Government Departments.

Mr. Mayer has been collecting stamps for more than twenty-five years. His collection contains over 8,000 varieties, and is considered one of the finest in this State. Though not a "specialist," he takes the greatest pride in his United States and Confederate stamps, in which lines his collection is nearly complete. Many rare Locals adorn the pages of his

album, and a 10-cent *perforated* Confederate on the original cover, cancelled, establishes beyond all doubt the existence of this scarce variety.

His British-North American, South American, and obsolete European are exceptionally fine, in fact this applies to his entire collection.

Mr. Mayer is very fond of his superb collection, and like most veteran stamp collectors—who began before the word "Philatelist" was coined—really loves his stamps for the pleasure they afford, and for the memories linked with them. He is one of that fast-diminishing, old-school species, whose treasures are not for sale, but whose natural



JOHN F. MAYER.

kindness toward the novice in particular, ever prompts him to dispense from his vast store of stamp lore and duplicates.

His duties are such as to leave the tireless worker little time to devote to his stamps, but it does not prevent him from keeping abreast with all matters pertaining to Philately.

The writer, in presenting this sketch, is but rendering a grateful tribute to one of Virginia's most popular adherents of Philatelia.

D——.

# THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE

VIRGINIA PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO.,

Office, 13 N. Eleventh St.,

FRANKLIN L. KERNS, President.

AUG. DIETZ, Editor.

900 W. Clay St., Station A, Richmond, Va.

FRANKLIN STEARNS, JR., Business Manager,

P. O. Box 6, Richmond, Va.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

United States, Canada and Mexico, per year, 30c.  
All other Countries in the U. P. U., per year, 40c.

## ADVERTISING.

SPACE.	1 Mo.	3 Mos.	6 Mos.	1 Year.
One Inch, . . .	\$ .50	\$ 1.25	\$ 2.25	\$ 4.00
Two Inches, . . .	.90	2.25	4.00	7.00
Half-Column, . .	1.50	4.00	7.00	12.50
One Column, . . .	2.75	7.00	12.50	22.50
One Page, . . .	5.00	12.50	22.50	40.00

Copy should reach us by the 15th of the preceding month to insure insertion. To change standing ads, copy must be in by the 20th.

We will exchange one or two copies with philatelic publications.

Authorized Agent for Canada:

JNO. EDWARDS, 58 Rivard St., Box 379, Montreal.

RICHMOND, VA., SEPTEMBER, 1897.

## Salutatory.

In greeting the adherents of Philately with the initial number of "The Virginia Philatelist," we desire to present a brief outline of its mission.

The primary objects in publishing "The Virginia Philatelist" are to form into an Association upward of 700 stamp collectors of this State; to give Virginia her first representative philatelic magazine; to compile and issue a complete and reliable directory of Virginia collectors and dealers, and to foster the interests of Philately in general.

This is the task the publishers of "The Virginia Philatelist" have set for

themselves, and, with the hearty co-operation and deserved support of every Virginia collector, this end will be attained to the benefit of all concerned.

Neither pains or expense will be spared to place "The Virginia Philatelist" in the front ranks of American philatelic publications, and to keep it there by virtue of those attributes which go toward making a first-class publication—neatness of appearance and quality, not quantity, of substance.

To the novice "The Virginia Philatelist" will prove an adviser and friend; to the advanced collector a companion and benefactor, inasmuch as it will open to him a wide field for the exchange and sale of his duplicates. To the dealer it will present the surest means of reaching Virginia collectors.

We shall attempt to voice the sentiments of the collectors of our native State, and articles, brief and to the point, in the interest of Philately are solicited for our columns.

Personal controversies will find no place in our publication. Frank and fearless, a friend to all, in fear of none, for the advancement of Philately, shall be the slogan.

In conclusion, we bespeak for "The Virginia Philatelist" that kind reception which we trust its mission merits.

We desire to thank our friends for the numerous tokens of good will, congratulations, and cheering communications elicited by our prospectus. Our most sanguine expectations have been realized. From every county in Virginia, from nearly every State in the Union, from Mexico, Canada, Europe, and the West Indies, from far Australia, come cheering letters bidding success to The Virginia Philatelist.



### Thank You, Gentlemen.

We take this opportunity of returning thanks to the patrons of our initial number, who have shown their confidence in our publication to the extent of placing an advertisement with us. We appreciate this the more from the fact that space was contracted for in good faith before a single number of *The Virginia Philatelist* had appeared.

It is to our interest to accept and present to our readers the advertisements of such parties only whose repute for integrity is unchallenged, and when so accepted to use our every endeavor to make their investment remunerative. It is to our mutual interest to do this, and we shall exert ourselves to display our patrons' advertisements in such manner and in such prominent positions as to prove most attractive.

Differing from the great majority of stamp papers published by stamp dealers, in that we have no ads. of our own liable to prove detrimental to the interests of our patrons, we feel this fact alone should convince advertisers of the value of an ad. in *"The Virginia Philatelist."*

We are gratified to note a revival in Richmond philatelic circles, occasioned, we suppose, by several good "finds" within the past few months, among them five or six Petersburg and two Lynchburg locals—with two exceptions, fine specimens—and on the original cover; quite a number of the Confederate general issue, among which were several strips of the 10c. rose and TEN small blue Jeff. Davis, single and on the original cover; also, six black horseman carrier stamps of both varieties on the original cover. Most of these were found by a local collector. Others were secured by a local dealer, and found ready sale at good prices.

The tendency to specialize in modern vocations has not escaped philatelists. In the large and valuable collection of postage stamps on exhibition in July and August, at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colors, in London, the estimated value of which

was £250,000, "specialized" collections were regarded as the chief feature. This was considered by the committee to be the most varied and valuable collection of stamps, scientifically arranged, that has ever been brought together, and may be taken as a fair criterion of the desire of modern philatelists to devote especial attention to the stamps of particular countries or groups of countries. There were 302 entries in this exhibition, the Duke of York lending, in addition to other stamps, a complete collection of the stamps of the De la Rue series, represented by imperforate copies from each plate registered, on being put to press, including the new Ga., prepared many years ago, but not yet issued.

We present in this issue the first instalment of a series of articles written expressly for *"The Virginia Philatelist,"* on the "Natural History of Stamps." These articles are from the able pen of an ardent philatelist, and will no doubt prove exceedingly interesting to the stamp collector who really loves his stamps, and who is ever ready to derive that educational benefit from them, which they offer.

Another article, headed "A Hobby," appearing in this issue, will delight our readers. It is an able vindication of such of us as ride some hobby. We have always had sympathy for the man who had no hobby wherewith to while away a long winter night, and agree with our author in toto, who succeeds so well in his definition of "A Hobby."

\* Just as we are about to go to press a batch of choice articles philatelic reach us from our London correspondent. Our readers may anticipate a keen pleasure in store for them in our October number.

*"The Virginia Philatelist"* solicits suggestions from collectors as to the best plan on which to establish a State exchange for duplicates. The most practical schemes will be selected and published.





Since the issuing of our Prospectus, and prompted thereby, several prominent collectors of Richmond have organized the Virginia State Philatelic Society. Come, Virginia collectors, join your own State Society! Mr. Franklin Stearns, Jr., P. O. Box 6, Richmond, Va., is acting secretary pro tem., and any information desired relating to the Society will be cheerfully given, if addressed as above.

From the way Cuban stamps are floating about it seems to us the Spanish Government must be running an entire print-shop to supply the world (or some one else is doing it), and gets enough pesos out of the guileless Cuba sympathizing collector to carry on the slaughter business at our doors.

A few varieties, on the entire cover, used, are worth double an entire set unused, as offered to-day.

Why can't we get the Canadian Jubilee  $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and 6c. without buying the entire set, including the \$5 variety? If that isn't bare-faced speculation, what is it? Such issues go further toward putting the chill on the ardor of young collectors than any Seebecks ever did. Nail them as "speculative," and leave them "severely alone."

Just fifty years ago, in 1847, Uncle Sam issued his first general postage stamps. Will any notice be taken of this fact by our government, and will we get the jubilee issue craze again?

And what about it, if we get Hawaii? Will we have surcharged Hawaiian or regular U. S., or an entire new "U. S. Colonial" set?

From our Australian correspondent we have a specimen of the new 2 penny Queensland. The figure 2 appears in all four corners. General design and color same as previous issue.

It will interest Virginia collectors to know that the bust of Washington,

which adorns our present issue 2-cent stamp is taken from the famous statue of Washington by Houdon, in the Capitol at Richmond. This statue is said to be the most faithful "counterfeit presentment" of the Father of our Country.

Latest advices from our Hawaiian correspondent tell of great activity among Hawaiian stamp dealers. He reports a few finds of first issue by a collector of Honolulu, and states that Provisional Government stamps are on the rise.

We desire to secure an agent and contributor in every Virginia city and town. Address our Business Manager, Mr. Franklin Stearns, Jr., P. O. Box 6, Richmond, Va., for terms.

We would call attention to the advertisement of J. G. Griffin, Esq., of Sydney, N. S. W., presenting an opportunity that all our readers should avail themselves of.

Subscribe now to Virginia's first stamp magazine, "The Virginia Philatelist." Within United States and Canada, 30 cents; foreign countries, 40 cents.

Our London correspondent writes of rumors of an entire new series to be issued for Great Britain.

### Grill vs. Embossing.

Philatelists have a tendency of late to do away with the old familiar term, "grill," and to substitute therefor "embossing." There is a great difference between the two, and misuse of the term is misleading and confounding. A grill is any number of small punctures pressed into a stamp, slightly breaking the paper, for the purpose of absorbing the cancelling ink, and to guard against its being effaced. Embossing is the raising of a design in relief for the purpose of adding to the appearance of a stamp. Some United States and Peruvian stamps are "grilled"; early Portuguese and United States envelopes are "embossed."



### Confederate Stamps.

Confederate stamps are steadily advancing in value, and the fact that there is a growing demand for them should induce Virginia collectors especially to exert themselves toward securing as many as they can.

Virginia is a store-house of wealth in this article; but, alas! Virginia collectors pay too little attention to Confederate stamps. Agents of Northern dealers are scouring our counties, gaining access to places where for years have lain stowed away these treasures, securing them in quantities at the lowest price and finding ready sale for them at home.

We have met several of these gentlemen of late returning from such an exploit, who exhibited stamps secured in our counties to the value of several thousand dollars, for which they paid, no doubt, less than so many cents. Ten-cent pink and rose, dark and light-blue, as well as the TEN small blue, in sheets, strips, single, and on the original cover, many of the latter from and to parties of late war fame.

Confederate States stamps possess an interest to the true stamp collector as no other stamps do. Short-lived as was their existence, and far from being gaudy, yet there seems to hover about them the halo of their glorious epoch. Each one is history; each one seems to tell the mute tale of the "storm-cradled nation that fell"; each one seems to still carry with it an air of old-time Southern chivalry, and each one should be dear to every Virginian—to every Southern philatelist.

Start out, then, Virginians, to secure your old Confederates; if not for the love of them, then for the profit that is in them. But secure them at any rate while you can.

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### Kind Words.

"Am glad you have taken this step, as I know it will be of great interest to Virginia collectors. Hope it will meet with success."—Carroll L. Spitzer, Luray, Va.

"In acknowledging receipt of 'Announcement of The Virginia Philatelist,

ist, would say that I wish your venture every success."—John Edwards, 58 Rivard street, Montreal, Canada.

"We are confident this first Virginia stamp magazine will meet with a hearty reception at the hands of Virginia collectors."—Saturday Independent, Staunton, Va.

"Think your cover is very appropriate. I sincerely hope you may make a success of the magazine."—Irving E. Patterson, 80 Michigan avenue, Detroit, Mich.

"I must congratulate you on your grand frontispiece, which is certainly handsome and artistic."—Wm. A. McDonnell, 1646 Madison avenue, New York.

"I will be glad to subscribe to the magazine. It will be a great help to the philatelists of old Virginia."—W. E. Saunders, Norfolk, Va.

"Success to The Virginia Philatelist! The whole State's honor is at stake."—John C. Seibert, Treasurer Norfolk (Va.) Dispatch.

"I was glad to learn that Richmond is going to have its own philatelic paper."—R. Hamilton, Box 10, Manchester, Va.

"I wish you all success with your Philatelic magazine."—J. G. Griffin, Equitable Building, 350 George street, Sydney, N. S. W.

"Will you please put my name down for one copy of each issue of The Virginia Philatelist."—Joe. F. Beard, Muscatine, Iowa.

"We wish you success with The Virginia Philatelist."—J. M. Bartels & Co., 359½ Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, D. C.

"We need a good Philatelic paper in Virginia. I wish you the greatest success."—D. F. Holmes, Luray, Va.

"May you have good success with it."—Miss Amy L. Swift, Whitman, Mass.

"We wish you every success."—The Home Worker, Knoxville, Tenn.

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Send in your name and address, and state whether collector or dealer, for gratuitous insertion in the "Virginia Philatelic Directory."





### New South Wales Jubilee.

We have received from our Australian correspondent the set of New South Wales Jubilee stamps, 1d., red; 2d., blue; and 2½d., imperial purple. These stamps were put on sale June 22d, and supercede the 1d., violet; 2d., blue; and 2½d., blue, of the 1888 issue. The last named three will still be current until the end of the present year. The designs of the 1 and 2d.



are good, but the 2½d. is an entire departure in stamp designing. It is unique and pretty: it is striking in design and color, and is the first instance of modern arrangement of wording and modern treatment of design on a postage stamp, and we could best style it a "Bradley" design, embodying, as it does, all that boldness and grace of the famous Bradley and Beardsley posters. The most commendable feature of this Jubilee set is that there are but three—the lowest values—within the reach of every collector and should be secured by all.

### New U. S. Postal Cards.

The Post-office Department will, at an early date, issue two new postal cards with the vignette of John Quincy Adams. The cards of this department will be somewhat smaller than those now in use, and the designs will

also be an improvement on the present issue. The larger of the two will be about one-fourth of an inch narrower than the present card, the smaller will be an inch narrower, and three-fourths of an inch shorter.

### Canada.

A set of sixteen different stamps, commemorative of the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's reign has been issued. The denominations and numbers of each issued are as follows:

½ cent.....	150,000
1 cent.....	8,000,000
2 cent.....	2,500,000
3 cent.....	20,000,000
5 cent.....	750,000
6 cent.....	75,000
8 cent.....	200,000
10 cent.....	150,000
15 cent.....	100,000
20 cent.....	100,000
50 cent.....	100,000
\$1.....	25,000
\$2.....	25,000
\$3.....	25,000
\$4.....	25,000
\$5.....	25,000

All of these stamps are of the same design, presenting portraits of the Queen in 1837 and 1897, the only difference in the stamps being in the colors. The ½c. and 6c. can only be obtained from the post office by purchasing the entire set, which, with a postal card, of which 7,000,000 were issued, will cost \$16.21½. The plates from which these stamps are printed are to be destroyed as soon as full number in foregoing list has been issued.

### Newfoundland.

Commemorative of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the Island of Newfoundland, by John Cabot, and of the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's reign, a set of stamps has been issued comprising the following denominations: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, 35, and 60 cts.

### St. Vincent.

On July 13, 1897, the Government of the Island of St. Vincent issued two new stamps, 2½d. blue, and 5d. brown, of the type of the 1d. carmine, to supercede the current surcharged 2½d. black on 1d. blue and 5d. black on 6d. carmine.



**VON STEPHAN MEMORIAL FUND.****A Debt of Gratitude Owed by the World of Philately.**

To commit to posterity a lasting memorial of the famous characters who moulded her history is the noble duty of a grateful nation. And when Germany, who within the present age has given to the world men who made history, erects monuments to the great statesmen and warriors of her "blood-and-iron" epoch, she cannot but render the deserved tribute to a man who so faithfully and well performed his part in the masonry of that noble structure—the new German Empire—whose sphere of action extended beyond the confines of his fatherland; whose life-work has proven a boon to civilization, and whose memory philatelists especially, the world over, have every cause to honor and cherish. It is Heinrich von Stephan, late Postmaster-General of the German Empire.

Before submitting to our readers the plan that has suggested itself to us, we will present a brief sketch of the man and his career, feeling confident it will awaken the proper interest in every stamp collector.

**Heinrich von Stephan.**

The late Postmaster-General was born in Stolp, a small town of Pomerania, on the 7th of January, 1831, the son of a mechanic. He received his education in Stolp, graduating from the high school of that place. Entering the postal service his energy brought to him rapid promotion. In 1856 he was called to the General Post-office in Berlin. He had then acquired some fame in postal circles through his essays on subjects of national economy as well as historical, prominent among which is his work, "History of the Prussian Post." Promoted to higher positions in 1858 and 1863 he attained the highest places in the Prussian postal service in 1865 and 1869, managing at that time more or less the entire postal system of the kingdom. Stephan was the main agent in acquiring for the crown of Prussia the postal rights of the old Thurn and

Taxis regime, thereby forever removing that last remnant of fiscal postal systems. This was effected at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, January 28, 1867.

April 26, 1870, he was nominated Postmaster-General of the North German Confederation. Making a splendid record during the Franco-German war by the establishment of an unsurpassed field postal service, forwarding during the campaign nearly a half million letters and parcels to the armies invading France, he at once gained fame. The wonderful improvements in the postal and telegraph services of Germany, which he combined, are mainly due to him. Upward of 2,000 new post-office buildings, among them some of the finest structures in Germany, were erected under his supervision.

But his foremost and greatest work—one that will entitle him to the highest esteem in the regards of philatelists the world over, was the founding of the Postal Union, an arrangement connecting nearly all countries of the world, the boon of international commerce.

The first Postmaster-General of the German Empire was repeatedly distinguished by William I. The title of nobility was conferred on him in 1885, and in 1895 the reigning Emperor, William II., raised him to the rank of Minister.

Von Stephan has gone to rest. The tireless worker, the congenial, humane man is no more. On the night of April 8th, after a severe illness, he passed away, leaving the world to mourn one of her greatest benefactors.

"The Virginia Philatelist" ventures to inaugurate a movement in Virginia—in America—and to suggest a unique plan, trusting that philatelists everywhere, and editors of philatelic literature, especially, may take it up and show to the world that a great nation can honor and recognize true merit in a son of a foreign—yet closely befriended nation.

**The Plan.**

Let every philatelist, the world over, contribute to a fund styled "The von Stephan Memorial Fund," towards the placing of a suitable monument in the



city of Berlin, or any American city, ONE UNUSED STAMP OF THE LOWEST DENOMINATION OF HIS RESPECTIVE COUNTRY'S ISSUE. The result would be something wonderful! And surely, after reading von Stephan's life every true philatelist will feel indebted to the extent of the contribution.

Let this work begin at once! Let publishers of philatelic literature join hands to this end! Let the cause inspire us all.

Rally, Virginia philatelists and show to the world that the sons of the State that has given to this country her greatest historical characters, are first to recognize greatness everywhere!

"The Virginia Philatelist" will receive such contributions, and requests the donors to enclose one unused 1c. or 2c. stamp along with their autograph signature. Credit will be given, therefore in the following issue of "The Virginia Philatelist," and the autographs arranged in an album provided therefor, and subsequently forwarded with the amount received to the proper authorities in Berlin—the amount to be appropriated to the fund for a monument, the autographs to be presented as the first gifts from a foreign nation, and placed in the archives of the city of Berlin. A. D.

#### **An Anecdote on von Stephan.**

A characteristic anecdote of von Stephan is just now making the round of German papers.

It happened while von Stephan was making a tour of inspection of the post and telegraph offices of Germany, that he was standing near the telegraph apparatus in the post-office of a small town, when the following message was received:

"Dear Comrade, I have the information that von Stephan is on his inspecting tour, and may reach your station shortly. Prepare for him—the fellow gets his nose into everything."

Von Stephan promptly transmitted the following reply: "Thanks. Message too late—he's had his nose in it—Stephan."

(Tableaux at the other end.)

#### **"Fakes."**

There have been presented to us for our opinion several "oddities," which, after careful research in one case and examination in the other, we must put down as "fakes," and warn our young collectors against investing in them. They are a "TEN" CENTS Confederate Jeff. Davis; same design as the London print FIVE, and about the same shade of pale blue, though with a bit of violet tinge. There never was such an issue, and they are merely prints from an altered plate, or an all-round forgery. Further, there are so-called "shades" of the Columbians. For instance, there was shown us a 4c. "Fleet of Columbus" in light brown, a 6c. in "sick" blue, and a 1c. in greenish blue. They are all fakes, and were changed in color by the simple means of applying lemon juice.

#### **Watermark Detector.**

Actual experiment shows that benzine is the proper thing to use in detecting watermarks. It not only discovers the watermark, if there is one, but, what is of great importance, it does not, in the case of unused specimens, injure the original gum in any way whatever. This, then, must be a very important item to the collector of rare specimens. The simplest method is to place the stamp, face downward, on some dark article—for preference, a piece of Japanned tin—then coat over freely with the benzine, by means of a soft brush or raw cotton, and the watermark will appear plainly. The benzine will evaporate quickly and not injure the stamp in the least.

#### **From Our Exchanges.**

The rarest United States revenue stamp is the \$20 Probate of Will imperforate.—The Perforator.

Bermuda is to have a new issue of the Leeward Islands type.—The Home Worker.

Brazil, 1894, with inverted center, is a counterfeit.—The Perforator.





### New York Jottings.

BY LENNOD.

Having been appointed to represent this important center of Philately, I take these means to introduce myself under the above nom de plume. I will endeavor to please all, and the most pessimistic of my readers will have no grounds for objections. I will be impartial to all, or favor my own interests. My jottings will be of my own information or from good authority, and I can vouch for any writings under the above heading.

At the Philatelic Sons of America Convention, held recently at Atlantic City, New York was elected the next Convention (1898) seat. Omaha, who claimed the support of the entire West, must feel rather sore over this defeat. "Never give up the ship," Omaha; open the campaign (?) for 1898, and you may possibly elect Omaha for 1899. But take one factor under consideration, that there are plenty of members residing in the East and the SOUTH. If New York should also be fortunate enough to be elected the next convention (1898) seat of the American Philatelic Association, which Society convenes at Boston on August 24th, I predict the largest gathering of philatelists that ever assembled at one place, in any part of the western hemisphere. The Empire State Philatelic Society will be another Society to hold a convention in this city, it being the first of that prosperous and promising organization. This latter Society is in existence but a few months, and has nearly one hundred members. The date of convening has not yet been decided upon, but I believe it will be a day or two before the other meets, giving visiting Philatelists plenty of time to attend all the meets, and leaving allowances for pleasure and sight-seeing. Even without the A. P. A. meet we can have a glorious time.

It is the intention of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company to issue the 58th

edition of the Standard Catalogue, earlier this year than formerly. They announce the appearance of the catalogue in November, and as the 57th appeared in January, we could truthfully say that two catalogues were issued in 1897. The advance sheets of the 58th will appear the latter part of September. It would be more preferable hereafter to issue the catalogue during the dull months—July or August. This would enliven trade to a more marked extent than by any other medium. Business is always good in the winter, and will remain so, whether the catalogue is issued then or during the summer. A change would be all gain and no loss.

The Herald Exchange for August completes the second volume of that publication, and the first year of its existence. This publication covers a field entirely its own, principally the further advancement of exchange relations between dealers and collectors in all parts of the world. The editorial page is always interesting and a regular feature is Mack's Items of Interest.

I have learned that Henry Gremmel, of this city, wants to sell out his entire stock and good-will, including the monthly publication, the "Post Office." His asking price is \$1,500. If the "Post Office" has as many subscribers as Mr. Gremmel claims (3,500), it would be a paying investment, if some one of our large dealers would take hold of it, for instance, E. T. Parker. This gentleman does considerable advertising, and it would be money in the pocket for him to run the paper on the same principle as Gremmel does—a house organ.

Bogert & Durbin, the auction people, intend to run on an average three sales a month the coming season. Sales have already been scheduled for September, October, and November. They are booking consignments of stamps for these and other sales. Catalogues for the first sale are now in press.

On January 1, 1898, Brooklyn and the surrounding country will be annexed to New York city, and will be known as "Greater New York." The post-office authorities are alive to the



wants of the populace and the quicker delivery of mail matter, and many improvements are contemplated. The most important is the pneumatic tube system of mail delivery. Pneumatic tubes are now being placed under ground in this city, and it is the intention to carry the tubes across the East river (which separates New York from Brooklyn) via Brooklyn Bridge and then underground to Brooklyn main post-office. By the aid of compressed air, small iron cars shoot through these tubes every two seconds, and as each car has a capacity of 320 letters, over 10,000 letters an hour can thus be despatched. This system saves an enormous amount of time and expense, and dispenses with the slow wagon delivery.

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#### Canadian Notes.

Hereafter we will act as regular correspondent for the "Virginia Philatelist," and will give the latest news in a newsy style. Our comments will always be free and unbiased, and Canadian readers desiring to correspond with us may address us in care of the editor of this magazine.

Windsor, Ontario, collectors have probably as small a stock of Canadian jubilee stamps as any collectors in Canada. The Detroit contingent crossed the river and carried off the valuable ones the morning they were placed on sale.

Irving E. Patterson, ex-Secretary and Treasurer of the Dominion Philatelic Association, has removed from Guelph, Ontario, to 80 Michigan avenue, Detroit, Mich., where he will reside in future.

The Dominion Philatelic Association's second annual Canadian contemporaries may give us a little news, outside of campaign items, in future.

With the exception of Toronto and Hamilton, Philately is very quiet throughout Ontario, and the average collector seems to have forsaken his stamps.

Mr. Weldon, in an Eastern contemporary, condemns Alex. M. Muirhead's paper for the course it has taken during the past campaign. We are personally acquainted with Mr. Muirhead

and know him to be a thorough, high-minded gentleman, who would tell the truth at all costs and irrespective of the parties concerned. Brother Muirhead may have hit some of the Toronto Club pretty hard during the past campaign, but we have never seen any of his charges proved to be untrue.

How many of our literature collectors have seen a copy of the "Canadian Advertiser," published at Brantford, Ontario, in January, 1896? The paper is unlisted, so far as we know, and the one number issued is very rare.

Some of the Toronto daily papers express a wish that the government run off some more ½ and 6c. Jubilee stamps, and thus defeat the speculators who are cornering these values. Governments are not built that way, however, and the chances for a re-issue of these values are exceedingly small.

The new paper expected from St. Catherine, Ontario, has not put in an appearance yet. Possibly the would-be publishers have looked before they leaped. CANADIAN.

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#### Washington Letter.

*Editor The Virginia Philatelist:*

I had sent to me some very interesting stamps, which I have not seen catalogued, from a place in Europe that is seldom heard of, the \*neutral District of Moresnet on the frontier of the Rhine Province of Prussia and the Belgian Province of Liege. Moresnet is under the joint government of Germany and Belgium. The Code-Napoleon is in force there, and the District pays tax to both countries.

The stamps sent me, while not of the best workmanship, are neat and modest. A numeral within an eight-pointed star is in the centre of each stamp, and the star is surrounded by a circle. Above the circle is an inscription in German, and below is one in French, as might be supposed from the dual form of government. The stamps

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\*We are certain this is a Local of the same order of current German locals, but we have been unable to locate a "neutral District" of Moresnet on any atlas at our disposal in this city.—EDITOR.



in my possession are 1 pfennig, green; 2pf., blue; 3pf., violet; 4pf., orange; 5 pf., chocolate, and 50 pf., red. Also an envelope, 20 pf., gray. The postmark reads "Kelmis, Moresnet."

It would seem that there should be values intermediate the 5 pf. and 50 pf. of the adhesives.

Whether these stamps have been used for international postage or not, I have not been able to find out, and would be glad to know more about them.  
HJALMAR OJRIE.

[Since the above has been put into type we have another communication from our correspondent, describing in detail these stamps. Above the double circle the wording reads: "Helmscher Verkehrs-Anstalt. Neutrales Gebiet von Moresnet;" below: "Poste Interieur, Territoire Neutre de Moresnet." In addition the value is given "5 PFENNIG." In right and left upper corners a winged wheel; lower corners, a posthorn.—EDITOR.]

—o—

### The Natural History of Stamps.

Of all postage stamps bearing illustrations of animals, none can afford greater interest than the various Australian stamps that bear pictures of the kangaroo, and it is proposed to devote a series of articles to Zoology as taught by stamps, and in this first number to the great gray kangaroo in particular, inasmuch as it is the picture of this interesting animal that adorns the stamps of some of the Australian colonies.

It seems best, before describing this particular species, to give some account of that class of animals to which the kangaroo belongs, as the various members of zoological classes have many interesting characteristics in common. Of course, the kangaroos belong to the great class, Mammalia; but this class is divided into two great sub-classes or groups, according to the comparative state of development of the young at birth. Those of the first and higher sub-class are called Placental, or Eutherian mammals, since their young are brought into the world in a more or less high state of perfection. This high degree is due to the connection between the circulatory systems of the foetus and maternal parent, during the greater portion of the inter-uterine life, by an organ termed the

placenta, which allows almost as complete oxygenation of the blood of the foetus as of the parent.

With this sub-class we have nothing to do in this article, but will turn to the second or lower order, called Implacentals or Metatherians. The young of this sub-class are born at a very early stage of development, and are in an exceedingly helpless condition, being little more than living bits of shapelessness. During the inter-uterine life of the foetus there is no placental connection between its blood vessels and those of its parent; so oxygenation is very imperfect, and at its birth, in a very rudimentary form, it is transferred to the teats of its parent, to which it tightly adheres for a long period, its lips, for this purpose, being formed into perfect sucking organs. In most cases the young of the Implacentals are protected in folds of the skin on the abdomen of the female, forming pouches, in which the teats are contained, and hence the name "Marsupial" or "Pouched mammal" applied to this variety of the Implacentals.

It is a singular fact that, with the exception of the egg-laying mammals, almost the entire Mammalian family of Australia is formed of the Marsupials, and that they are nowhere at the present day found outside of Australasia, with the single and well-known exception of the opossums confined to America. Though the young of the Marsupials cling for a long time to the teats of the parent, they do not extract milk by sucking, as do the Placentals, but have it periodically injected into their stomachs by the contraction of certain specially developed muscles overlying the mammary gland of the female, the young being prevented from choking during this process by a special arrangement of the wind-pipe, which, during the period that the young remain in the pouch, extends all the way up to the hinder aperture of the nostrils, the milk flowing on each side of this tube without danger of strangulation. When there is no longer any necessity for this injection process, the larynx is shortened by nature, and breathing and swallowing are carried on in the usual manner. Having described the princi-



pal characteristics distinguishing the Marsupials from the Placentals, to which former sub-class belong the kangaroos, we will now give some account of the various characteristics of those interesting animals, which, by the way, cannot be called typical specimens of the Marsupials, inasmuch as they have been specially modified for a peculiar mode of progression—leaping—this special modification removing them very far from the typical Marsupials, though they otherwise possess all essential characteristics of that type.

The fore legs of all kangaroos are very short and feeble, but the hind legs are very long and powerful, enabling them to take very great leaps. They are all also purely vegetable feeders and were the ruminants of their habitat before the introduction of domestic animals. The family Macropodidae, to which all kangaroos and their allies belong, is divided into numerous genera, in the first of which is classed the great kangaroo, the subject of this sketch.

The first great gray kangaroo to come under the notice of European scientists was a specimen killed by members of Captain Cook's crew in 1770 at the mouth of the Endeavour river, in New South Wales. This specimen was examined and reported on by Sir Joseph Banks, a naturalist, who was a member of the expedition. The great kangaroo is familiarly known by the colonists as the "boomer," "old man," or "forester," and naturalists have given it the name of "Macropodidae giganteus." Full-grown specimens attain the length of 115 inches from tip of nose to tip of tail, the latter consuming 52 inches of that number, and reach the weight of 200 pounds. This species is of a graceful build, with soft hair, grayish-brown above and almost white on the under parts and legs, the middle of the muzzle being hairy between the nostrils. It lives in the open plains, and is the source of great sport to hunters, who pursue it with dogs as is done with the deer and fox in Europe and America, its fleetness eminently qualifying it for the sportsman's fastidiousness, as well as its vicious and powerful kick with its hind legs when at bay, which it delivers

while using its tail as an additional leg for support. F. S., Jr.

### A Hobby.

Webster says that a hobby is any favorite object. He also says that a hobby is that which a person pursues with zeal or delight. Now, it is the intention of this article to do more than to call attention to the meaning of the word hobby, and it is the earnest desire to indicate the fact that those persons who have hobbies—and the more abundantly the better—fill a most important place in this world's economy, both from an intellectual as well as a moral standpoint.

Now, to collect postage stamps is the favorite object of a great many persons of this present day; it is almost the newest of the collectors' hobbies; in fact, the handling of them is so convenient, a thousand postage stamps can be placed in an envelope and sent anywhere by mail for a trifle. A book that can be carried under the arm will hold hundreds of thousands of them. This is not to the same extent the case with coins, medals, arrow-heads, fossils, minerals, old china, relics, pictures, books, etc., etc. They are all comparatively more or less bulky and expensive, consequently less popular.

There are hobbies innumerable. The above mentioned do not comprise a hundredth part. One man fancies this, another that; and the man with a hobby has the general satisfaction of knowing that, notwithstanding his often intense delight when he has acquired anything new, rare or strange, perhaps that he has been long searching for, his fellow-man will allow that his pleasure is harmless. Yes, let it be repeated over and over again, harmless—no speculation, no gambling, no intoxication, nothing more than pleasure, satisfaction, often delight, and pleasure and delight of such a pure kind. The most puritanical person that ever existed, if he were to watch one returning home with a postage stamp or a coin in his pocket just acquired, and watch his happy expression, and then, on his arrival at his home, the feeling that he possesses it, and again,



when he has quietly settled down, watch him examine over and over again, probably with a magnifying glass, his new treasure, and this treasure very likely not worth a nickel, and all this pleasure and delight from a thing not worth a nickel. Yes, it is a fact, and all because it is his hobby, his favorite object—the thing which he pursues with delight pure as well as harmless.

There is greatness in hobbies also. To what do they lead? Collections begun in a very small way rise from individual to sectional, from that to national, and then to collections of world-wide importance and incalculable value, filling thousands of rooms, such as the Pope's collections in the Vatican Palace at Rome.

It is not pleasure of the purest kind only that comes to the collector, but those who are steady and persevering often make great gain. It stands to reason that as stamps and coins, etc., become old they become rarer and therefore more valuable. A picture collector's treasures were sold by auction a short time since. They realized over \$400,000. They had all been acquired during the collector's lifetime, and mostly at prices much less than those realized. Collections of postage stamps, coins, etc., are constantly being sold for large sums, and as they happen it shall be recorded in these columns; for, however much the enthusiastic collector may despise that which is sordid, he finds it extremely interesting to learn the prices others put upon objects he may own or be in search of.

In conclusion, those who have hobbies are valuable members of society. The arts would be dead without them, and science would hardly have worked its way into existence—nay, civilization—without the acquisitory tendency; would not have raised man above the troglodyte. G. W. C.

### The Queen's Postage Stamps.

The reign of Queen Victoria spans the whole period since the introduction of cheap postage, and the use of adhesive stamps for mail purposes. The Queen ascended the throne in 1837; and in that very year Sir Rowland

Hill published his famous pamphlet on "Post-office Reform," which prepared the way for penny postage.

Adhesive stamps for the prepayment of postage were put on sale May 1, 1840. A leading daily newspaper of that date described them contemptuously as "bits of sticking plaster for dabbling on to letters," and Sir Rowland Hill himself was not sanguine that they would come into general use; but the demand for them was so great that the presses of the Stamp Office, though they worked night and day, were not able to supply them fast enough. Other countries soon adopted the innovation—Brazil and Zurich in 1843, Geneva in 1844, and the United States in 1847, after several earlier local experiments in New York, St. Louis, and elsewhere.

The device printed upon the first British adhesive stamp was the head of the young Queen in profile. British conservatism and British loyalty are both well illustrated in the fact that this same youthful portrait is still the favorite device.

There was another and very attractive portrait of the Queen, a front view, with a crown, which was used on Canada and Nova Scotia stamps of 1851, and later in some form on those of New Zealand, Van Diemen's Land, the Bahamas, Queensland, and several other Colonies. But for some reason it was not continued in use, and all the issues carrying it are now obsolete.

Still another portrait of the youthful Queen, a full-length figure, seated upon a throne, appeared upon the stamps of the Colony of Victoria in 1862, and was retained for several years. It seems not to have been a favorite; at least, it was not used in any of the other colonies.

No stamp collector can long pursue that diversion without being impressed with the extent of the British possessions, and the multitude and variety of the colored bits of paper presenting the portrait of the Queen; for, though some of the Colonies have always retained distinctive designs of their own, like the ship of British Guiana or the swan of Western Australia, most of them have preferred the Queen's portrait.—Scottish-American.





"The Weekly Philatelic Era," of July 31, 1897, is before us. Its editor very kindly acknowledges the receipt of our prospectus, which from all other sources, elicited only compliments and good wishes for the success of "The Virginia Philatelist." This particular editor, however, appears quite brotherly (?)—doubts our "intentions" expressed in the prospectus, and altogether, receives the announcement of our forthcoming with delightful synicism. It is our announced policy to fear none, be friendly to all, and to avoid all personal controversies, hence it is with regret we feel called upon to resent such unkindliness shown us in our infancy. We trust that the general appearance of this, our initial number, will convince our Portland contemporary that we are not unlike the boa constrictor—capable of shouldering the responsibilities of life from birth, and that in the future our relations will be entirely amicable.

"The Herald Exchange" for August is at hand. An exceptionally fine paper! Part of this publication is printed in German, which is a most commendable feature, being, as far as we know, the only German-American stamp paper in this country. Success to "The Herald Exchange!"

"The Home Worker" for July is to hand. Up-to-date, as always. Philatelic poetising is generally a failure, but the Home Worker has a good one in this number: "A Costa Rican," by "Keras."

As we are about to go to press, No. 5 of "The Home Worker" makes its appearance. Its eight pages and cover are full of matter of interest to philatelists, also another philatelo-poetical effusion by "Keras."

The first philatelic exchange to reach us was the July "Perforator," published by Henry A. Chapman. In contents

and general appearance it is a credit to both publisher and printer.

We trust Mr. Chapman has enjoyed his vacation trip, and will have his little story to tell in the August number.

Vol. I, No. 3, of "Philatelic Literature" is at hand. Full of readable matter from cover to cover.

We acknowledge receipt of E. F. Gambs' price-list of stamps, "The California Philatelist."

### Steel-Plate, Lithographed and Type-Printed Postage Stamps.

The greater majority of stamp collectors cannot distinguish the difference between, steel or copper-plate print, lithographic print, and type-print. It will, therefore, be of interest to many of our readers to learn the distinguishing features of the three processes as applied to the printing of postage stamps.

We shall begin with the Copperplate stamps. The impression, that most stamps are printed from steel-plate, is erroneous. Copper-plate, steel-faced by the galvanic process, is in general use, being better adapted than steel-face plates.

The design is either engraved on the plate by hand, as was the case with the obsolete Sydney stamps, or by means of the photo-mechanical process, the latter being in general use to-day where plate-printed stamps are issued.

The grooves cut into the plate by the engraver are filled with ink, the sheet is laid upon the plate and subjected to great pressure. The ink is "lifted out" adhering to the paper, and appears "raised." Such prints are easily distinguished by holding the stamp aslant to the light, which will reflect on the raised design, leaving the surrounding paper in shadow. If one has a sensitive touch the raised print may be readily felt by passing the finger over the face of the stamp. The first issue of Prussia will serve as example. Any beginner can try this with accurate results.

The next class of stamps are those

produced by the Lithographic process. The design is drawn on stone, which has the quality of absorbing oil and water. The design is in oil, to which the ink, applied by hard leather rollers, adheres, the blank places, being first dampened by moist cloth rollers, do not "take" ink. These stamps are perfectly smooth on their face as well as back. The design, generally speaking, lacks the sharpness of the engraved plate, especially noticed where sharp lines occur in the design. For example see the first issues of Baden and Oldenburg.

The third and most generally employed process—being cheapest—is the Type-print, including movable printers' type, wood engravings, stereotype and electrotype plates. It is the principle

of plate print reversed. In plate-print the design to be produced is cut into the plate; in type-print the design to be printed, is left raised and the blank spaces cut out. Ink is applied by means of a roller touching only such parts as are left raised, and depositing no ink in the grooves. The print in all three cases is produced by pressure, and with the type-prints is readily distinguishable by holding them aslant to the light, when the effect will be just reverse from that of the steel-plate, the design remaining in shadow, the white parts appearing raised. As a result of the pressure in printing from type, a slight impression is noticeable on the back of these stamps. For example see the present issue of Germany.

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5 — registration, 2, 2, 5, 5 and 8c.....	1 75	4 Portuguese Indies.....	10
3 — *envelope, 1, 2 and 3c, cut square.....	12	7 Queensland.....	10
4 — *cards, entire, 1871-97.....	10	14 Roman States, perf., imperf., reprints.....	10
40 — revenues, splendid value.....	1 00	100 Revenue stamps, many different countries.....	50
30 — *ribbon fiscals.....	5 00	14 Roumania, various issues.....	10
7 Cape of Good Hope, including triangular.....	30	13 Russia, an attractive set.....	10
7 Chili, various issues.....	04	12 *Salvador, 1895, unsurcharged, 1c. to 1p.....	45
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