

NOVEMBER, 1897.



THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST

VOL
I

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF PHILATELY IN VIRGINIA

NO
3



VIRGINIA PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO.
RICHMOND, VA.

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— (3) 2 cents yellow	25 00
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1c. on 4c. " 1876, " 10	3 75
1c. on 6c. " 1876, " 10	7 00
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2c. on 2c. " 1876, " 10	4 25
1c. on 48c. rose of . . 1863, " 10	3 75
2c. on 96c. bistre of . 1876 " 10	2 00
1c. on 96c. (new) of 1876, " 10	1 25
1c. on 48c. official of 1876, " 10	4 00
2c. on 12c. " 1876, " 4	7 50
2c. on 12c. " 1876, " 10	2 25
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2c. on 24c. " 1863, per 10	17 50
2c. on 24c. " 1876, " 10	2 50

ANTIGUA.

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— 6d. green	50

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(Blue Paper.)

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— 1d. blue	1 50
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(White Paper.)

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(Watermark, Star.)

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— 1d. blue	12
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— 4d. red	4 00
— 6d. vermillion	1 25
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1d. on left half of 5/- pink	50 00

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(Grayish Paper.)

1861—1d. rose lake	4 00
— 6d. lilac gray	7 00

(Watermark, Crown C C.)

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(Watermark, Crown C A.)

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THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST

VOL. I.

RICHMOND, VA., NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 3.

V. E. A. SPOTT,

AMONG the Richmond followers of Philatelia, there are few more devoted to their stamps than the subject of this sketch, Mr. V. E. A. Spott, proprietor of the old firm of W. A. Spott & Son, jewelers. His calling may account for this fondness of stamps, for he is one of the leading engravers of Richmond.

V. E. Albert Spott is a native of Richmond. He was born October 11, 1854, and first began collecting stamps twenty years ago. At that time his collection was considered quite valuable, but, as has been the case with many "old time collectors," the stamps were sold for a trifling sum to a gentleman whose collection is now one of the finest in Virginia.

Some years ago Mr. Spott was taken with a serious relapse of philatelic fever, and from the symptoms—trying successfully to "make up for lost time," his condition is at high temperature.

Mr. Spott is a general collector, and has no inclinations to become a "specialist," but he is collecting, as far as possible, unused specimens only.

His collection, containing between 2,000 and 3,000 choice stamps, is a thing of beauty. Many of his Departments are complete, and his collection of Con-

federates is very fine. At present he is engaged in mounting his most valuable stamps, and such of which he has complete sets on cards of uniform size. The stamps are arranged in designs, covered with a thin sheet of isinglass, a printed frame neatly covering the whole. A short hinge is attached to the bottom of each stamp, and the frame being left open at the bottom, it may be readily

removed for inspection. These sheets present a beautiful appearance.

Recently Mr. Spott secured an entire sheet of the common 10-cent Confederates "perforated." This perforation resembled rouletting rather than perforation, and was evidently effected by means of a sewing machine or rouletting wheel. They were the first in sheet ever seen in this city, and the party from whom Mr. Spott secured them—

a countryman who knew nothing of the value of stamps—left no room for doubt as to their genuineness.

V. E. A. Spott is one of the organizers of the Virginia Philatelic Association, and by his zeal in the cause, has induced a number of gentlemen to become members. He is a general favorite among Richmond collectors, always ready to "talk stamps," and one of the most whole-souled, congenial gentlemen as ever stuck a hinge. D.



V. E. A. SPOTT.



OFFICIAL ORGAN
OF THE
VIRGINIA PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

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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.

Entered at the Post Office at Richmond, Va., for transmission through the mails at Second-class rates, Sept., 1897.

RICHMOND, VA., NOVEMBER, 1897.

A Matter of Business.

Notwithstanding the dire prophesies of many wiseacres for a short-lived existence of THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST, we are still here. But we are not here for "the fun of it"—though the work is a pleasant one—but we are here for business, and such legitimate profits as a venture of this class merits.

Our aim is to represent philately in Virginia, yet this must not be construed to imply that the circulation of our magazine is limited to our native State, nor that we do not look beyond the

boundaries of the Old Dominion in striving to foster Philatelia's interests.

We do not claim an unreasonably large subscription list—though ours is rapidly increasing—but we do claim to distribute 1,500 copies of our publication to 1,500 stamp collectors and dealers in this country and abroad.

The philatelic directories of our States and many of foreign countries are at our service, and we exhaust every issue of THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST in mailing sample copies to these addresses, besides those to our regular subscribers, leaving us no back numbers on hand. In short, the advertisements we carry reach 1,500 collectors throughout the world. We shall continue this method of distributing indefinitely; we have increased the number of our pages with this issue; we shall continue to advance, and let Bellamy "look backward."

Now, to business. The busy season is before us. Do you wish to profit by it? *Advertise.* But do so judiciously. We would regret placing a poor advertisement, one that we are confident will not bring returns, from the manner of its make-up—one that will not "catch." There's a "knack" in advertising. It is this: "Blood and thunder" advertisements have seen their day; it's "afternoon" for this species now. But if you have a bargain to offer state it; give your price, and promise only what you can give. Say little in your advertisement, but say that little well, and it will go a long way. If you have no bargain—nothing worth buying or selling to offer, don't advertise. You are wasting money. We are candid with you. We would see your investments prove remunerative. It would be to our mutual benefit.

We do not claim to issue the "only" magazine in the country, but we are publishing a first-class one, and shall keep it up to this standard. We invite

a comparison at your leisure, and are willing to abide by your judgment.

We have nothing further to say; a candid talk will set you a-thinking. Are you in for dollars and cents this season? With us both it is a matter of business.

In his "Notes" to the *Eastern Philatelist* for October, the Canadian correspondent takes us to task for our derogatory remarks in our October number re the Canadian Jubilees. The sincerity and enthusiasm of our esteemed Canadian friend is worthy a better cause, and we can but admire his loyalty and his manner of championing these stamps, yet we may be pardoned in pointing out a few facts to our cousin across the border.

It is true the United States established a precedent for commemorative stamps on this side of the pond, and there is no objection to a *bona fide* emission of this kind as long as they are not "speculative."

But, friend, when this Government issued the Columbian series, if you wanted the 1c. stamp and couldn't afford to buy the \$5.00 stamp, *you could get the 1c. stamp*, or as many as you desired to purchase, *or of any of the other values* as long as the supply lasted. If you were enthusiastic and able to do so, you secured the set. But to secure the ½c. Canadian Jubilee stamp, you must be a patriot to the extent of the face value of the entire set, all of the same design, by the way, (because it was cheaper to prepare them thus). And besides all that, your Government forced you to *keep* the entire set when once bought, by amending her postal law to the effect that (contrary to past usage) *Jubilees were not redeemable!*

These are facts, friend, and that issue—the fundamental principle thereof—can never be construed to imply a mark

of loyalty to Her Majesty, your honored Sovereign, but it was a speculation at the expense of patriotism.

Like yourself, we submit our views to every fair-minded American for reflection.

The attention of our readers is called to the photo-engraving of Napoleon III., illustrating the ably-written philatelo-historical paper on the *Coup d'Etat* of 1851, by Mr. Franklin Stearns, Jr., the first instalment of which appears in this number. This engraving is a reproduction of an original photograph in the possession of the author, which was presented to a member of Mr. Stearns' family residing in Paris at that time.

The conclusion of this article will appear in our December number, illustrated with a photo-engraving of the Empress Eugénie, whose rôle in that dramatic epoch of French history was a very prominent one.

We have secured for a continued series of articles a manuscript entitled "Chats on Counterfeits," the first instalment of which we present in this number. We shall illustrate these articles as far as the nature of the counterfeit stamps will permit of reproduction, and are confident our readers will glean some valuable information therefrom.

We desire to express our gratitude to Miss Katie Don Leavy, editor of *The Catholic Friend*, of Richmond, Va., for the flattering editorial comment on our publication. There are two things we regret: That Miss Don Leavy found it impossible to attend the convention of authors, and—that she is not a stamp-collector!

We would direct our readers' attention to the advertisements carried in this number, and to suggest that they take advantage of the bargains offered.



Compliance with the resolutions adopted by the representatives of the Postal Union countries at the last Postal Union Congress at Washington, to the effect that such stamps, the denominations of which are equivalent to 5 cents (rate of foreign postage to all U. P. U. countries), be printed in blue, will cause a change in color in the current stamps of the following countries: Brazil, Canada, Queensland, and Victoria, and those of a few South and Central American countries. The majority of foreign stamps of value equivalent to 5 cents, are now printed in blue.

It is announced that the design for the new issue for Canada has been decided upon. The center of the stamp will contain a portrait of the Queen taken at the time of the Jubilee, approved and signed by Her Majesty as the best existing likeness of her. The Canadian national emblem, the maple leaf, will appear in the corners. They will be printed at the American Bank Note Company's plant in Ottawa.

An interesting article on the postal services of Great Britain and the United States appears in this number, from the pen of the author of "The Natural History of Stamps."

From reports of different auction sales of stamps it would seem that U. S. Departments are either catalogued too high or else are in no great demand.

Those French are disgusting epicures. They are now devouring Carion.

Sarawak joined the Universal Postal Union on the 1st of July.

Advance, Philatelia!

Philately is advancing, and of that there is no doubt. Speculators, speculative issues, counterfeit stamps, and counterfeiters, approval sheet frauds, and the bad eggs of philately, so to speak, most certainly do a great deal of serious harm to our hobby (or shall I say science?), but all the disgusting parts of non-philatelic schemes and frauds put together do not stop the onward march and progress of the "Science Philately"; but, on the other hand, the science of philately often stops the onward march of the speculator, counterfeiter, and approval sheet fraud.

Photographic reproductions of stamps thrown on the screen by the stereopticon lantern, showing up in minute detail the difference between the genuine and the counterfeit stamp, the surcharge measure, perforation gauge, watermark developer, magnifying lens, deoxidizer, color chart, and specialism in stamps of certain countries, make it a most unprofitable business to tinker with stamps.

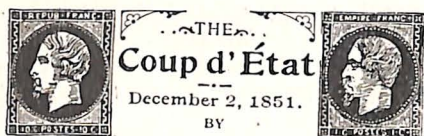
Medium and rare stamps of all countries will still command fair prices, while every year sees certain stamps go beyond reach, as far as the average collector's pocketbook is concerned. A certain rare stamp has been added to the superb collection of Mr. So-and-so, filling up a vacant space and greatly adding to the value of his collection. Then, who will say philately does not advance? J. E.

Virginians, join your State Association. Build it up. Be a power in the philatelic world. Address Mr. Franklin Stearns, Jr., P. O. Box 6, Richmond, Va., for further information.

Subscribe now to "The Virginia Philatelist," the finest stamp paper in the South.

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

Austria is said to be issuing a new set of postage and fiscal stamps on the 1st of January, 1898.



FRANKLIN STEARNS, JR.

No lover of his stamps, no true philatelist, can, without emotion, open his album at the above two stamps, or gaze on the features of Napoleon III., displaying simultaneously concentration and hallucination, determination and vacillation, indifference yet animation, indolence and activity and energy with moderation, a key to the character of the man who, from the Presidential election to Sedan, was the protagonist in revolutionary France and stood on the proscenium of the political world.

Between the dates of issuing of these two stamps occurred one of the most startling events of French history, replete with *coups d'état* as are the chronicles of this restless people.

Louis Napoleon, the exile, banished for the revolutionary attempt of Strasburg, condemned to perpetual imprisonment for that of Boulogne, the political essayist of Switzerland, the man of fashion in England, the student in the castle of Ham, startled the civilized world and caused the Powers of Europe to tremble for fear of a Napoleonic recurrence.

Something of this man: Born at Paris April 20. 1808, the son of Louis Bonaparte, king of Holland, and Hortense Eugénié de Beauharnais, daughter of the Empress Josephine by her first husband, Viscount Alexandre de Beauharnais, he was both the nephew and step-grandson of Napoleon I., whose meteoric career of glory seems ever to have been his inspiration.

With his family he resided in France during the first Restoration, but on the second was banished, retiring to Switzer-

land, spending the next fifteen years at Arenenberg and Augsburg, at the latter of which places he was educated.

Prior to 1830 he attracted no attention outside of his immediate surroundings, but in that year he took part in the revolt against the rule of the Pope in Romagna, which was quelled by Austrian troops. Recovering from an attack of fever in Italy, he went to France with his mother, but remained only twelve days, being banished to England, whence he returned after a few weeks to Arenenberg, where he published several political pamphlets, for one of which he was honored with a captaincy of artillery by the authorities of Berne.

In 1832 the death of his cousin, the Duke of Reichstadt, known as Napoleon II., made him presumptive head of the house of Bonaparte, and filled his head with the many ambitious schemes for power and reform which in later years were to a great extent effected.

On October 28, 1836, he engaged in the Strasburg plot to overthrow the government of Louis Philippe, and met with partial success, being welcomed by the Fourth Artillery Regiment but was arrested and imprisoned by the infantry, being subsequently, without trial, sent by the king to America. He very shortly returned from the United States and was present at his mother's death on October 5, 1837.

A pamphlet on the Strasburg affair, published at his instigation, led to a demand by the French Government for his expulsion from Switzerland, which was refused. However, to avert imminent Franco-Helvetian difficulties, he voluntarily withdrew to England, where he remained two years, leading a life of fashion.

In 1840 he made his second attempt to dethrone Louis Philippe, landing at Boulogne with about fifty companions.

Here he met with no semblance of success as at Strasburg. No one welcomed him, no one joined his standard, and within a few hours after landing, all of his party were shot, drowned in attempting to escape, or imprisoned. He himself was condemned to perpetual confinement in the castle of Ham, on the Somme. From this prison, after six years spent in studying and in publishing essays on various social and economical subjects, he escaped, disguised as a workman with a plank over his shoulder, May 25, 1846, and returned to England.

The revolution of 1848 having cost Louis Philippe his throne, Louis Napoleon went to Paris and offered his services to the Provisional Government, but was requested to withdraw from France, which he did, returning to London. While serving there as a special constable early in the year 1848, he was elected at Paris and in three Departments to the Assembly, but did not appear therein until September 26th following.

On the 5th of October, 1848, the question of the mode of electing the President of the Republic came up in the National Assembly. This question was the pivot on which the career of Louis Napoleon turned. Theretofore he had been cursed by dismal fatality. Every enterprise had been miserably wrecked. He was disgraced, ridiculed, disowned. But suddenly, unaccountably, fortune adopted him as her favorite, and he was launched on his ambitious career, as-

cending in power and glory for more than a score of years, not without laudation, not without credit for the many improvements, the many advancements he instituted for France and the French. Much of the good he did was undoubtedly from selfish and ambitious motives, to fortify his exalted position, nevertheless it redounded in material benefits to his country.



CHARLES LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

General Cavaignac was the favorite of the Assembly. Had that august body decreed that the election should be by itself, Napoleon's career would have ended. The result was different; universal suffrage was the mode selected, and its chief advocate, M. de Lamartine, the founder of the Second Republic, thus prepared its downfall.

An amendment to the Constitution was offered, to the effect that "No member of the families which have reigned in France may be elected President or Vice-President of the Republic." Napoleon was present. Immediately he was called upon to disclose his views. He arose, ascended the tribune, and, with well-affected difficulty, much stammering, and many pauses, uttered the words which stamped him a nonentity and brought him imperial robes: "I do not come to speak against the amendment. Certainly, I have been recompensed sufficiently in regaining my rights as a citizen to have no further ambition. But it is in the name of the three hundred thousand electors

who have elected me that I come to protest against, and that I disavow the name of pretender which people are always throwing at my head." The Assembly laughed at this exhibition of mediocrity; the supporter disdainfully withdrew his amendment, declaring that the necessity for it no longer existed, and gave Napoleon his throne, Louis now had nothing more to dread; people no longer thought him dangerous; they would allow him to become a candidate for the Presidency. The election began; it attracted the eye of all Europe. Cavaignac developed great strength. He would have been the victor, but an unforeseen antagonist appeared—a shade—an opponent from the tomb. Cavaignac was defeated by a name. "Napoleon I. made Napoleon III.," and gave him over five and a half millions, out of a little more than seven and a half millions of votes. The Prince-President was now well on his ambitious road; his effigy soon appeared on the stamps of the "REPUB. FRANC." and by adopting the policy outlined by his mother, of putting in office men of the most opposing factions, and using elements most antipodal, he prepared the way for his *Coup d'état* by destruction of all united opposition.

[To be Concluded.]

The changing of color of our 1c. and 5c. stamps to green and blue respectively, will probably necessitate a change of color of the 10c. and 15c., as they are now in green and blue, unless lighter shades of these colors are adopted for the new varieties.

At a recent sale in Boston a \$5 Columbian, used, in good condition, sold for \$2.30. A block of four 6c. Canada Jubilee sold for \$3.25.

The Von Stephan Memorial Fund.

RECAPITULATION.

THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST, in its initial number, proposed the project of erecting a monument to the late HEINRICH VON STEPHAN, founder of the Universal Postal Union, and originator of the postal card. To this end philatelists everywhere



HEINRICH VON STEPHAN.

are invited to donate to the VON STEPHAN MEMORIAL FUND *One Unused Stamp of their respective country's issue, accompanied by the autograph signature of the donor.* Such donations will be credited in these columns; the stamps sold at auction, and the proceeds, along with the autographs mounted in an album forwarded to the proper authorities for the purpose above stated. Ed.

DONATIONS.

W. G. Mahone, Va. three 2c. current issue.
 Mrs. Ada S. Word, Va. 6c. current issue.
 Mrs. Adele Adkins, Va. 5c. current issue.
 Miss Florence L. Clark, England, 5c. current issue.
 John S. Calvert, Va. 2c. coin.
 Roy Childrey, Va. 2c. coin.
 Miss Irene L. Halsey, Va. 6c. current issue.
 Miss C. Virginia Halsey, Va. 6c. current issue.
 Basil G. Butler, Va. three 2c. current issue.
 J. Arthur Wainwright, Mass. 4c. red.
 Joel H. Du Bose, Ga. 1c. current issue.
 C. P. Davis, Va. 5c. current issue.
 James W. Gentry, Va. 10c. current issue.
 Emmet C. Gill, Va. 5c. current issue.
 Charles F. Markey, Va. 1c. and 3c. current issue.
 Willard B. Dobbins, Ohio. 2c. current issue.
 E. Keesee, Va. 5c. coin.
 James H. Stone, Va. 5c. coin.
 John T. Anderson, Jr., Va. 2c. coin.
 V. E. A. Spott, Va. pair 5c. Columbian.
 Charles A. Pohlig, Va. 2c. Columbian.
 W. O. Twogood, Mass. 2c. current issue.
 Miss Mollie Anderson, Va. 2c. current.
 Miss Lelia Davison, Va. 2c. current.
 Miss Eva Burruss, Va. 2c. current.
 Miss Carrie Davison, Va. 2c. current.
 Miss Louise Victoria Branch, Va. 2c. current.
 Miss Rosina Wilhelmina Schumacher, Va., 2c. current.



The Home Worker for October, with its second instalment of "A Romance of Philately," is on time. Albert H. Hall is the author of chapter II. of this unique romance, and we must say that we are growing more and more interested. Never mind about the *use* of this "Progressive Fiction," questioned by some; we agree with you, "a little nonsense now and then," etc. Go ahead with it.

The extremely flattering notice given our publication fills us with gratitude for our friends "'way down in Tennessee." Limit of space prevents a detailed review of all the interesting matter contained in this number.

The Philatelic Monthly (Bogert & Durbin) for October gives a brief history of the "Post Office" Mauritius, taken from the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, stating that only between two and three hundred of these extremely rare stamps were ever used.

Another article on the Leipzig Postage Stamp Exhibition is interesting. This exhibition is said to have excelled the recent London exhibition in value and beauty of display. Dr. Mutzenbacher's collection led, being the most complete, and containing every stamp known excepting the two "Post Office" Mauritius and the 13c. Hawaii.

El Monitor Filatelico, edited by Regino Farias, from the City of Mexico, for August and September, has paid us its first visit. *Sentimos decir que no hemos entendido ni una palabra*, as it is printed in Spanish! But we will say with Whittier (if we are not "off" on the author):

"I shall learn Spanish some of these days,
Just for that one sweet word's sake."

At any rate, *estimado Señor*, though we are not "well up" on your beautiful language, we shall be pleased to welcome the *Monitor*.

The Texan Philatelist for October contains a leading article on "International Postal Service Statistics." In this article the author gives the origin of the word "postes," or post, informing us that Louis XI. established in 1464, in France, a messenger service, to be especially used for forwarding official mail. These messengers on horseback were called "postes," and there the word originated. The remainder of the eight pages and cover are devoted to general philatelic matter.

The Perforator for October is on hand as regular as Old Sol. Now, *now*, now, Br'er Chapman! You're growing to be as great a favorite with the ladies as you are with us of the stronger sex! Twelve solid pages and cover of solid matter, besides three half-tones and biographies—those of Miss Bingham, and Messrs. Benton and Beringer. *The Perforator* is a live journal; there's a live man running it—that's Henry A. Chapman, with a big C.

The Philatelic Advocate for October, from Berlin, Ontario, has come to hand. Our Canadian friends are eternally "scrapping." The editor has a feud on hand with his contemporary the *Halifax Philatelic Magazine*, and has come out in a gory-tinted cover for the occasion. Take our advice, old man, and "make up"; or if you can't do that thing, why—"fight, you ain't no kin"; but don't tell us all about it—we have troubles of our own.

The Philatelic Bulletin for September contains an excellent leading article, "Why Some Stamps were Issued," in which C. Allen Hall gives the reasons for certain odd values of stamps for special service. The article states that the U. S. 7c. of 1870 was designed for postage to Germany—7 cents being the amount required on letters to that country. Withal the eight pages and cover contain matter of interest to philatelists.

The Lone Star State Philatelist for September has just put in its appearance, and looks better than ever. All right, old man; didn't mean ill by our remarks last month. Don't know who you're "whacking" at in your editorial. Neither cap fits us—the "doubling numbers" nor the "cutting down size," as you'll find when counting our pages this time. Hope you'll have a good time at Nashville, and tell us all about it.

The New York Philatelist for October contains a leading article by 'Veritas,' on "The Question of Discounts," in which the author attributes the blame for the existing high rates of discount allowed by dealers, to the catalogue-makers. *The New York Philatelist* begins Vol. III. with this number. Accept our congratulations and wishes for a long life of such a neat publication.

The Young Collector, of Red Lion, Pa., is a neat eight-page magazine with cover. The leading article on "A Postal Curiosity in Formosa Isle," is quite an interesting one, telling of the unsuccessful attempts of the Chinese to establish a postal service; where and why the Formosa stamps were printed, and their career. The remaining pages contain much of interest to stamp collectors.

The Columbian Philatelist for September is a thirty-two page magazine, full, yea, brimful, of up-to-date matter. The leading article is, "On the Value of English Stamps," ably written by Charles E. Jenney. Nine columns of extracts from Scott's 58th will be appreciated by its readers. Editor Dodge is demonstrating the fact that he can run two or more magazines and—run them well.

The Pennsylvania Philatelist for October lies before us. The "Pennsy" is too well and favorably known to need further comment. Choice articles from such prominent philatelists as Withrow and Patterson appear in this number, extracts from Scott's 58th, biographies and half-tones, and what-not-all. Indeed a fine magazine!

Le Timbrophile Gaulois, from Malzéville-lès-Nancy, France, for September, contains illustrations of the entire Cabot issue Newfoundland. An article in this magazine states that the largest registered package on record left New York for Pretoria recently, the amount of postage on which was the modest sum of \$187.

The Herald Exchange for October, with its ten pages, is always prompt in appearing. *The Herald Exchange* has the "pull" with its German department; and we know is appreciated by its many Teuton readers, for the matter is crisp and abreast of the times.

The Boston Stamp Book for October has come to hand. Among its many interesting articles is one on the "Catalogue Prices in 1871." We quote a few of interest to our readers: 5c. of 1851, 10c.; 24c., 20c.; 30c., 25c.; 90c., 75c. 1869: 90c., \$1.25.

Philatelic Curios.

—
BY ARMINIUS.
—

THERE are few advanced philatelists whose collections do not contain some "stampic curios," or oddities which, for various reasons, they prize very highly. It is to a description of some of these freaks that this article is devoted.

Omitting the valuable *inverted medalion* stamps of the 1869 series, there are other curios—less rare—but treasured by the fortunate owner for the circumstance, cause, or epoch that produced them. They are "philatelic abnormalities," and quite a number have come under my observation, or have been embodied in my collection.

To begin with our own stamps, there are first the so-called "*albinos*," envelopes which have received the impression of the die but not the ink. The oval of the stamp, the lettering and effigy are clearly visible embossed on the blank paper. It is interesting to learn how this oversight (for such it is) occurred. United States stamped envelopes are printed in sheets—being formed into shape by the envelope machine which cuts, folds, and gums the envelope. These *albinos* are the result of two sheets of paper "sticking" together, and thus "fed" to the printing press, unnoticed by the printer. They have then again evaded the eye of the careful workman and reached the envelope machine in this condition, and been formed into an envelope in double. They are generally found *within* a properly printed envelope, and can only be secured by destroying the covering (outer) envelope. They are very rare, and during a period of five years, in which employees of various printing establishments have been on the lookout for me, I have been able to secure but four varieties.

Again there is a double stamp envelope—rarer than the *albino*—where a sheet has received, by a seemingly impossible oversight, a double impression. Of this variety I have been able to obtain but one, and this one has since gone astray.

Misprints of two-color stamps are not so rare. I do not mean *inverted* prints, but those faulty in register (*i. e.*, where one color design does not fit nicely in the other—this is technically termed "bad register"), for instance, the present stamps of Brazil show careless workmanship in this respect, and a well-registered specimen is a rarity with this series.

There are also innumerable so-called "errors" in foreign stamps, but these do not come under this heading, as they are really neither oddities nor curios.

In enumerating historical curios let us begin with the stamps of the Confederate States. What collector would not prize an envelope bearing both a Confederate and a United States stamp? Peacefully the erstwhile bitter foes "stick" together like brothers to a common cause—the envelope. They are styled "Flag of Truce letters," and have passed through the lines.

Then there are letters from Northern and Southern prisons, stamped "Prisoner's Letter," calling vividly to mind the sufferings of the unfortunates of our "late unpleasantness." What missives did they not carry in their dark day—the unwritten pages of our country's history.

Confederate envelopes themselves are curios. The Southern private did not carry a stock of scented and monogrammed stationery during the latter part of that dreadful epoch. The envelope containing the letter from home was ingeniously reversed and served its purpose a second time. Young collectors especially may profit by the advice to *look*

within every Confederate envelope they secure for the other stamp. I have found a fine TEN by this precaution.

Gum was very poor on some of the Confed's, and frequently they were attached to the envelope by means of *soap* or *molasses*. In one instance I have seen a Confed. *sewed* to the envelope. The envelopes themselves present a great "variety" of papers—some were made of wall-paper, some of brown straw-paper, and others of newspaper. Torn Confederate money was mended with unused stamps representing a value in excess of that of the damaged note.

United States stamped envelopes on hand at the breaking out of the war were covered with a Confederate stamp, and thus served their purpose.

All these are merely curios, and are not enumerated in any catalogue, still they possess a charm for the intelligent collector by virtue of their historical value.

In my next article I shall write on modern curios and oddities philatelic.

A Postal Curio.

Mr. Henry Orth, of Washington, D. C., has presented us with quite a curiosity in the shape of a 1c. United States postal card, posted to him from Paris, France. The postmarks "Paris" "New York—Paid All," and "Washington, D. C.," are distinctly imprinted thereon. Truly, the French post officials are an accommodating set.

The following figures give the total of the Jubilee stamps issued for Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat and Virgin Islands: 15,600 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps; 15,600 1d.; 15,000 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 6,000 4d.; 3,480 6d.; 3,480 7d.; 1,800 1sh.; 900 5sh., the total value of which is £857.5.0.

Virginia Philatelic Association

FRANKLIN L. KERNS, President.
FRANKLIN STEARNS, JR., Sec'y-Treas.
JOHN PAALZOW, Sales Manager.
C. F. W. MOSER, Counterfeit Detector.

Official Organ: THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST.

Association meets on the 10th of every month, at 8 o'clock p. m. at 13 N. Eleventh St., Richmond, Virginia

RICHMOND, VA., October 19, 1897.

Fellow-Members of the V. P. A.:

I herewith submit to you my report of the second regular monthly meeting of our Association, held at No. 13 north Eleventh street.

Members present: Messrs C. F. W. Moser, W. P. Shelton, Jno. Paalzow, E. P. Lyons, Jr., Henry C. Scott, Jr., Franklin Stearns, Jr., August Dietz, J. T. Anderson, Jr., Thos. Christian, and V. E. A. Spott.

In the absence of the president, Mr. Franklin Kerns, Mr. Thomas Christian presided. It was moved by Mr. Dietz, and seconded by Mr. Moser, that Mr. Jno. Paalzow be elected Sales Manager, and unanimously carried. A juvenile exchange department was discussed, but its creation deemed to be inadvisable. Moved and seconded that Mr. C. F. W. Moser be elected counterfeit detector; election unanimous. It was further decided that the postage and registration of out-of-town stamps sent to the counterfeit detector for examination be paid both ways by the owner of the stamps.

After adjourning, the gentlemen indulged in "stamp talk." Collections of several members were shown and admired, and Mr. Christian related a number of experiences while on the stamp hunt. Mr. Paalzow has promised an article of great interest to collectors for our next number.

Respectfully submitted.

FRANKLIN STEARNS, JR.,
Secretary-Treasurer V. P. A.



Boston Bits.

BY BOSTONIAN.

THE first fall meeting of the Boston Philatelic Society occurred Tuesday, September 21st. Members were out in small number, and the entertainment that had been promised and looked forward to, did not take place, as several of the participants were, by unforeseen circumstances, unable to be present. A very interesting paper was read by Mr. Kilbon, the publisher of the *Boston Stamp Book*, on certain stamps of Uruguay.

Mr. Needham, a well-known dealer of Canada, was present. It is stated that he is the possessor of at least a thousand of the ½c. Canadian Jubilee stamps, and many eyes were cast upon him during the evening, as he is looked upon as one of the lucky ones.

Dealers report trade as picking up materially, and look for a prosperous year. Several of them are on the verge of auction sales, and things will soon be humming in that line. I shall probably be able to give the readers of THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST prices that are realized at these sales as the season advances.

The advance sheets of the new catalogue seem to cause some discomfiture to collectors who do not take stock in shades and minor varieties, and it seems to me that they are rather over-doing the thing.

The issue of St. Vincent 2½d. blue, and 5d. brown, have made their appearance in Boston, and now collectors are on the still-hunt for the 2½ and 5d. surcharged blocks being especially sought for.

Many of the Boston speculators are disappointed in Scott's 58th prices.

In the Gambia CC's, the 4d. brown, which was sure of an advance for unused copies, is simply left unpriced.

Mr. Wiley, Boston correspondent for the *Columbian Philatelist*, has started in business here under the name of the Otis Stamp Company.

New York Jottings.

BY LENNOD.

The business outlook is rather discouraging from a dealer's standpoint. Sales of rare stamps are few, and then at a great sacrifice to the owners. What I mean by rare is stamps catalogueing at \$250.00 and upward. There is quite a lively trade in medium rare stamps priced at \$100.00 and under, but the sales cannot be compared with those of a year ago. Collectors as a general rule do not care to go as deep into their pockets as formerly—they prefer purchasing five \$20.00 stamps to one for \$100.00. From the medium class collectors the demand for stamps priced between twenty cents and five dollars continues unabated. One of the dealer in Nassau street has a very low stock of these stamps, which is an unusual occurrence. Dealers claim that the catalogue is responsible for the dull trade.

Mr. F. W. Bradley, of Washington, D. C., was in town this month. He is the party who purchased for two dollars the 12c. 1861, *August* "premier gravure." The stamp is a handsome specimen with the exception of a small piece missing from the upper right hand corner. I am informed that his asking price is \$200.00.

The secretary of the Manhattan Philatelic Society (local) has mailed several hundred circulars to non-members inviting them to visit the rooms of

the society in the Collectors' Club Building. Many responses have been received, and Secretary Williams is well satisfied with the returns. Twelve new members have been added since, and quite a number have promised to become members later.

One of our well-known dealers has discovered a new variety. The stamp is the 15 bani red Roumania, 1869 issue. It was purchased for 12 cents from an A. P. A. sales-book, is on *laid* paper, and is not catalogued by Scott. I understand that it has already been sold for something like \$15.00 but it is impossible for me to verify the statement of the price at the present writing.

Catalogues are sent for Geo. R. Tuttle's ninth sale to be held at the Collectors' Club on November 3d, in the evening. The sale comprises 504 separate lots.

October 12th was the 27th anniversary of the formation of the National Philatelic Society. This organization is the leading local society. Its existence commenced in the early seventies and it was incorporated in 1892. Since its foundation it has had a most prosperous career, and all the most prominent collectors are members.

Bogert's auction catalogue termed the cornered values of the Canadian Jubilee stamps the "puzzle of the scientific world."—what next?

Canadian Notes.

Galt, Ontario, recently ran out of three-cent stamps, and a philatelist from a neighboring town profited thereby. He procured a six, cut it in two, and affixed half to each of two letters. After considerable discussion the letters were allowed to proceed and arrived at their destinations all right. While these stamps have no real value, they are unique and valuable for an oddity collector.

Just what will become of the dollar values of the Jubilee issue remaining unsold is a difficult matter to determine. The Government is in a similar predicament to the man in "Wang," with an elephant on his hands.

One of our correspondents calls Muirhead "the Dodge of Canadian literature." Compliment both ways.

We are glad to see that old Canadian philatelist, Staebler, actively engaged in the stamp business again. Mr. Staebler has probably met with more reverses at the hands of the Canadian Post Office Department than any other Canadian publisher, past or present, and we trust that he will be more fortunate with Uncle Samuel's officials.

Mr. John R. Hopper has been transferred from St. Vincent de Paul's prison in Quebec, to Kingston, Ontario, where he is now engaged in washing dishes in the kitchen. Hopper bears his confinement well, and is probably buoyed up by hopes of release at almost any time.

Nothing more is heard of the once powerful Canadian Philatelic Association. It is too bad that the proposed union with the D. P. A. fell through, as such a union would have blended all elements of Canadian collectors. We believe that had the dues been placed at 50 cents and Captain Wurtele elected president of the proposed organization it would have been a success from the start.

Prices on Nova Scotia remainders are stiffening, and the day of large discounts is fast passing away.

I would advise your readers to procure a supply of Canadian stamped envelopes before the new issue comes out, as they will be scarcer than you may think, very few being used. CANADIAN.

The Canadian Post-Office Department has decided to sell the Jubilee plasters in sets from $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 50c.

Chats on Counterfeits.

BY ALAN R. FERRALD.

Philatelists cannot be too guarded or too particular in the examination of rare stamps for the detection of counterfeits, which, owing to the importance of Philately, are very plentiful, and in this series of papers I shall endeavor to expose such counterfeits as have passed through my hands or may do so from time to time and find a final resting place in the counterfeit album.



While counterfeits of Roumania are not by any means met with unfrequently, a couple of unusually clever specimens were recently submitted for my examination by a collector who had purchased them with a very good general collection. They were the 18b. rose of the 1868 issue and the 10b. blue of 1869.

The most glaring defect in the 18b. counterfeit lies in the color, which is very dull and has a tendency to a salmon shade, while in the genuine it is clear and true. The outline of the head is a little uneven at the base and forms a sharp angle, but the profile is well executed and differs little from the original. Another noticeable point lies in the corner ornaments, which consist of a well-formed X in white on a colored ground, with inner tracings of color in the genuine, but which is represented in the counterfeit by a poorly executed cross with a dot in the center. The work is evidently that of a skilled artist, and while at times it shows signs of carelessness, the general effect is very good and deceptive.

The 10b. is even a better representation than the 18. and has a remarkably

good color. The shading of the head is its weak point, being curled at the sides and almost straight at the base.

I also have in my possession a fairly good counterfeit of the 4b. of 1868, printed in a blue-green and on heavier paper than the original.

Sungei Ujong 2 cents carmine, Straits Settlements, surcharged for use in this State, has a close resemblance to the 1881-'83 issue, No. 25 in Scott's 57th catalogue, but yet differs materially from it in some points. The upper surcharge measures $12\frac{1}{2}$ m. and the lower 15m. The letters are thin and nearly three millimetres in height and the impression somewhat rough.

The Costa Rica 1863 1 penny orange is quite an old offender, but, nevertheless, an interesting one. The color tends to a sickly yellow. The perforation, gauge $12\frac{1}{2}$, is rather rough. The ornaments are missing in lower part of frame, and the right stem of the letter "U" in "Un" is slightly smaller than the left and is very indistinct.

The St. Thomas and Prince Islands 1869 Reprints, $\frac{1}{2}$ r. green and 2r. red, perf. 15, are found with a bogus cancellation consisting of four concentric rings.

In a collection recently purchased by me was found a choice selection of German lithographs, including a specimen of the Cape of Good Hope 6d. grey and 1s. 1853 triangular on white paper. The 6d. presents the better appearance of the two, the background on the 1s. stamp being poorly executed.

St. Helena 6d. blue 1856, perf. 12, 1 shilling light green, and 5 shillings yellow of the 1864 issue. The cancellation on the 6d. and 1s. consists of small dashes, while that on the 5s. is a bar cancellation.

In my next I shall describe some very clever forgeries of the Italian States stamps, and feel certain that my readers will be interested.

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.

British and United States Postal Services.

THEIR ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT.

BY STET.

Undoubtedly the protoplast from which were evolved the modern perfected postal systems was the earliest use by governments of couriers for the transmission of public dispatches. We are left in ignorance of the date at which these were first licensed to carry private letters, but the first record of such a license having been granted is by the Spain and German Empire in April, 1544, and it is well known that in a few years from this date the Counts of Thurn and Taxis were drawing a considerable revenue from their postal rights as hereditary postmasters of Spain and the empire, which continued in their possession until January 28, 1867, when, through the instrumentality of von Stephan, they were acquired by the crown of Prussia.

The earliest evidence we have of the transmission of private mail by public couriers in England is in existing letters of the fifteenth century, possibly a few in the fourteenth. On the continent there had been established as early as the thirteenth century by some of the universities more or less crude systems of inland postal service, which were kept up for many years, and many of the European mercantile guilds established posts at a very early date. All of these systems were, however, under government control, and may be considered to have been government posts.

The government of Great Britain has ever been the most progressive in all matters postal, and here we find the first record of a postmaster-general, who was Sir Brian Tuke, appointed in 1533. The first salary paid to a postmaster was also by Great Britain, consisting of "100 marks" and all "profits," granted to James, Lord Stanhope and his son, Charles Stanhope, jointly.

In 1619 was created the office of "Postmaster-General of England for Foreign Parts," with the two Matthew De l'Equesters, father and son, enjoy-

ing the emoluments. They, however, at a later date assigned the concession, and the consignees, in the early part of the seventeenth century, made a contract with the Counts of Thurn and Taxis for a bi-weekly mail service between London and Antwerp and Brussels, the transit to occupy two days, there formerly having been a weekly service that consumed four days in transit. The internal postal rates at this time on a single letter were 2d. for a distance of 80 miles or less; between 80 and 140 miles, 4d., and 6d. for all distances over 140 miles. The rate to Scotland at this time was 8d. The scheme of a penny post was first conceived about the middle of the seventeenth century by John Hill, a lawyer of York, who, in 1659, published the details of his plans in a pamphlet called "A Penny Post."

By the end of the seventeenth century the postal service in England had become quite expeditious, it being possible to receive in five days an answer to a letter sent to a point distant 300 miles. Municipal sub-stations were established in London about this time, there being seven in number, with several hundred boxes for the deposit of letters, from which there were collections every hour, also ten daily deliveries of mail. Taking into consideration the comparative smallness of London at that time, this was a creditable advancement in postal conditions. Under the reign of Queen Anne all the various English postal systems were consolidated, and continued under this charter until the reforms of Sir Rowland Hill in 1838-'50. A few years after the passage of this consolidation act the cross-roads and rural posts were farmed to Ralph Allen, who was Fielding's "Squire Allworthy" in the classical "Tom Jones," and this worthy reaped therefrom an annual income of many thousand pounds.

The mail coach was first used in August, 1784, and had to be protected from the numerous highway robbers by an armed guard, which reminds us somewhat of the conditions that existed on the western plains of America before the building of the trans-continental railways. The plan of the mail coach was conceived by one John

Palmer, a theatrical manager, and for it he was granted an annual pension of £3,000, with an additional sum of £50,000.

To Edinburgh, Scotland, belongs the credit of the first dead-letter office, which was established in 1784.

Modern writers of love and other letters would have been much annoyed had they lived in the eighteenth century, for letters were quite frequently opened by postal clerks, and an act of Queen Anne authorized this now unusual proceeding, provided a special warrant for each opening was obtained from a principal Secretary of State; but this proviso was greatly ignored, and the opening of letters became so frequent that there was much general protest and some agitation in Parliament over the subject, but no immediate results were obtained thereby, and the practice gradually died out.

To Sir Rowland Hill are due the greatest reforms in the postal service of Great Britain. These were inaugurated in 1837 by the publication of his pamphlet, "Post Office Reform," suggesting a uniform rate of postage of 1d. for each $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce and the sale by the post office of stamped covers at a price to include postage, which would thus be collected in advance. His plans immediately became popular, but were condemned by the postal authorities. However, public pressure finally led to the passage on August 17, 1839, of the act enabling the Treasury to carry the reforms into effect. Sir Rowland Hill superintended them, and his first step was a reduction of the London district postage to 1d. and the general inland rate to 4d. the $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. This was followed on January 10, 1840, by the uniform penny rate throughout the kingdom. The postage was to be prepaid, or double rates charged, and the first postage stamps were introduced the following May.

The money order division of the post office was first established in 1792, as a sanctioned private enterprise, by three post office clerks under the firm name of Stow & Company, with a capital of £3,000. The charges were at the rate of 8d. per pound, out of which 3d. each were paid to the receiving and paying postmasters, and the other 2d.

accrued to the firm. On December 6, 1838, this private enterprise was purchased by the government and converted into an official department. The rate of commission was first fixed at 1s. 6d. for sums from £2 to £5 and 6d. on all sums of £2 and under. In 1840 they were reduced to 6d. and 3d. respectively, and later still further reduced. In 1877 the postal note was issued, payable at any post office without previous notice, and of small fixed denominations.

Postal savings banks were first suggested in 1860 by Charles W. Sykes, and the suggestion was approved by Mr. Gladstone; whose bill to establish the system received royal assent May 17, 1861, and went into operation September 16th following.

The telegraph lines were transferred to the Post Office Department in 1876.

The early postal service in the United States was very crude and rates were very high, being proportioned according to distance. In Virginia the system was by relays, if one could so term it, as mail was carried by one planter to the next plantation and delivered to its owner, who, in his turn, carried it to the next plantation, and in 1657 we find a law requiring the planters to do this under penalty of forfeiting a hogshead of tobacco for non-compliance. In 1672 a monthly post from New York to Boston was established by the New York Government, which, thirty years later, was improved by a change to a fortnightly service to New England towns; and so in all the other Colonies.

The first improvements of the American postal service were inaugurated by Franklin, the last and best of the Colonial Postmasters-General. Under his administration the American post office paid a handsome revenue to the British office, but after his dismissal by the British Minister not one penny of revenue was received from the American office by the home government.

On July 20, 1775, the American Congress appointed Franklin to his old position, which he retained only a short time, his son-in-law, Richard Bache, being appointed in November, 1775, on Franklin's going to France as

Ambassador. Prior to 1851 the Post Office was in a flourishing condition, but from 1851 to 1882, thirty-one years, there were annual deficits, which were a great burden on the government, but probably proceeded from the natural conditions of vast extent of territory, necessitating expensive transmission of mail over long routes. Until 1863 rates of postage were based on distances mail had to be transmitted. The rates in force in 1846 were 3c. for 300 miles and under, and 10c. for distances over 300 miles. In 1851 they were reduced to 3c. for 3,000 miles and under, and 10c. for distances over 3,000 miles. The use of the adhesive stamps was first authorized by act of Congress approved March 3, 1847, and payment by stamps was made compulsory June 1, 1856. In 1863 the rate of postage on first-class matter was fixed at 3c., without regard to distance, and this was, on October 1, 1883, reduced to 2c.

The franking privilege, which had been much abused, was abolished in 1873, and now only strictly official matter can be franked, and that only under the official "penalty" cover. Prior to 1860 only written and printed matter was transmitted; now everything not exceeding 4 pounds in weight (except single books) is carried that is not of a character liable to injure the mails or postal employees.

The railway mail service was established in 1864, and was one of the earliest exponents of a classified civil service.

There existed in several cities anterior to 1863 a system of local delivery by carriers, who collected therefor a fee of from 1c. to 2c., placing on the mail matter a "carrier's stamp"; but free city delivery was not authorized by the government until March 3, 1863, and on July 1st of that year it went into operation in forty-nine cities, there being employed therefor the first year 685 carriers. The system of registration was not perfected until 1860, and the money order department was not established until 1864. Postal notes were first issued in September, 1883, and are an improvement over those of Great Britain, inasmuch as they have not fixed denominations, but can be

filled out for any sum under the maximum limit. The governmental acquisition of the telegraph and the establishment of postal savings banks have been much agitated, but nothing as yet has been accomplished, though undoubtedly these will be important changes in the not very distant future.

The Junior Collector for September is a Lilliputian magazine, devoted, as its title implies, to the interests of young collectors, and presents such matter as will foster the love for stamps in those who shall be the philatelists of the future.

We have received a copy of *Guide to Colors of Postage Stamps*, with small album attached, by Charles Stewart, St. Paul, Minn. Every collector should have this book. The contents are the result of a thorough study of the subject.

The report of the secretary-treasurer of the Virginia Philatelic Association will be found on another page of this number, and Virginia collectors will do well to read it and address Mr. Stearns for further particulars.

Be careful when purchasing rare unperforate specimens with close margins. Many New South Wales, Victoria, as well as rare United States, are but trimmed stamps, originally perforated.

To protect your best stamps, cover them with sheets of isinglass about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wider than the stamps, attaching them to the page with narrow strips of gummed paper.

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

When mounting your stamps let the crease of the hinge be a trifle beyond the perforation. You will soon note the advantage.



We clip from Bogert & Durbin's *Philatelic Monthly*:

BUNDI.—1 rupee yellow, on blue laid paper.

ECUADOR.—Commemorative issue: 1c, green; 2c., orange; 5c., lake; 10c., brown; 20c., yellow; 50c., blue; 1s., bistre; 5s., lilac.

MAURITIUS.—1 rupee, green and black; 2.50 rupees, lilac and carmine; 5 rupees, green and blue.

NIGER COAST.—The following additional values have appeared: $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 5d., and 1sh. Watermark CA.

PERU.—The current 5c. has appeared printed in green.

If imitation is the sincerest flattery, then surely we feel ourselves overwhelmed with compliments by the amount of matter clipped by *The Philatelic Bulletin*, of Salem, Mass., from our September and October numbers. Its leading editorial is clipped *verbatim*, as well as most of the other matter. Thanks, awfully.

We must request of our patrons that they send in copy for changes in their ads according to the time limit, published in our editorial column, to secure insertion—we cannot delay publication waiting for copy.

The new "annual evil," the Scott catalogue, will be out this month. All philatelists should greet it with "scatt! cat."

The Canadian Jubilee issue is practically exhausted; the 3c. is still on sale.

INCORPORATED.

Capital Stock \$25,000.00,
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Reference : Editor THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST.

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Peru	*1896, 1 farthing
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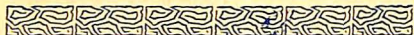
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