

JULY, 1898.



# THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE  
INTERESTS OF PHILATELY IN VIRGINIA

VOL  
I

NO  
II



VIRGINIA PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO.  
RICHMOND, VA.

A. DICKS, DES.

RICHMOND, VA.

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# THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST

VOL. I.

RICHMOND, VA., JULY, 1898.

No. 11.

## Corp. JOHN C. WECKERT, U. S. V.

AT the call for volunteers to serve in the war with Spain for the liberation of Cuba the Walker Light Guards were among the first to respond. The sentiment of this Company was voiced in Decatur's words: "My country.—In her intercourse with nations, may she always be in the right. — But right or wrong — my country!" And prominent among the members of this company was the subject of our sketch—one of "the fighting members" of the Virginia Philatelic Association—Corporal John C. Weckert, U. S. Volunteers, now Company B, 2d Regiment, XII. Army Corps, under command of Maj.-Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, at present stationed at Jacksonville, Fla.

John is a Virginian by birth, and is now in his twenty-second year. He was educated in the private schools and academies of Richmond and Norfolk, and at the beginning of the war was a law student at Richmond College. Refusing the chance of a commission in the regular army, Corporal Weckert preferred to serve with his company, and thus went with them to the front.

In 1892 he published *The Collectors' Press*, devoted to stamps and curios.

In 1896 he launched *The Virginia*

*Volunteer*, the first and only magazine published in the interest of the Virginia military, which was a credit to the owner—himself an enthusiastic militiaman. Owing to its interfering with his law studies, Mr. Weckert suspended publication on completion of its second volume.

His stamp-collecting career began in 1891, and in 1894 he sold out most of his stamps, reserving only his U. S., Confed's, and a few favorite foreign.

Then a spell of philatelic inactivity followed, which, in turn, was transformed to the greatest activity on the forming of the Virginia Philatelic Association, and now his collection numbers over 500 varieties U. S. and Confed's, not including minor varieties and oddities. It is especially strong in U. S. envelopes and revenues. Cape of Good Hope, Hawaii, and Japan are his favorite foreigners, and he possesses the "pretti-



CORP. J. C. WECKERT, U. S. V.

est" TEN Confed in the city, and that was found within a "turned" envelope, franked with a common 10c.

John C. Weckert is member No. 31 of the V. P. A.; Corporal and Secretary of Co. B, 2nd Regt. U. S. V.; Representative to the State Council of Virginia Jr. O. U. A. M.; Councilor Peerless Council, D. of L.; editor *Williams Law Association of Richmond College*; and was Resident V.-P. S. of P. for 1893. DIETZ.



OFFICIAL ORGAN  
OF THE  
VIRGINIA PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

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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 13th of the preceding month to insure insertion. To change standing ads, copy must be in the 15th.

We will exchange one or two copies with philatelic publications.

#### AUTHORIZED AGENTS:

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

##### FOR NEW YORK.

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

RICHMOND, VA., JULY, 1898.

#### "The Omahas."

THEY are here! Despite that protest "in the name of American philately" (?) regardless of the terrible *ukase* of the S. S. S., the Omaha series, issued to commemorate the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, Nebraska, has been placed on sale throughout the United States; and, we feel sure, will act as a great stimulus to philately.

The war, which for the past months has been the all-absorbing topic in our country, will, for a time, at least among philatelists, make way for the "Omahas" until the novelty of the subject wears out—'ere which date we hope to have another great victory of our arms to chronicle and a new design to prepare for other U. S. Colonials.

But at present we are admiring the new stamps. Our opinion goes for little; but we think them very artistic—in fact we think them superior to the Columbians in grace of design and execution of detail. Especially the 8c stamp, which is a masterpiece, and will bear the fame of our great American artist Frederick Remington to the remotest corners of the earth.

We sincerely hope the "croakers" will reconcile themselves to our beautiful stamps—they will be in demand by foreign collectors and furnish good material to offer in exchange.

This number of THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST is mailed to all our foreign subscribers franked with "Omahas" as a greeting.

OUR attention has been directed to a serious error which occurred in our May number. In describing an uncatalogued error of the official stamps of Luxemburg we printed, by mistake, "Belgium" instead of *Luxemburg*. We desire to correct the matter hereby.

ANOTHER timely article, by our "fighting member" Corporal Weckert appears in this number under the title of "Some Uncatalogued Confederate Locals." We are laboring along these lines, and invite a discussion of this subject by Southern collectors.

In writing to your friends abroad, be sure to use the Omahas; in writing to ye editor do likewise.



### Not a "Boom" Issue.

WITH the September number THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST will begin Volume II. Though somewhat "previous," we desire to announce to our friends that in No. 1 of Vol. II. we intend presenting the finest number of any philatelic magazine issued in America—or anywhere else—as for that matter.

It will *not* be a "boom" number; it will not be a desperate attempt to outdo ourselves and then followed by a collapse—but with No. 1, Vol. II. we shall inaugurate some new features—we shall keep them up until—we find something better to offer; we shall strive more and more to attain that goal set for our publication: "an ideal philatelic magazine."

It is necessary to this end that we have the hearty co-operation and support of collector and dealer. No. 1 of Vol. II of THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST will *not* be cast aside. We are confident of this. The collector will treasure it, and our friend, the dealer, will find it to his advantage to be represented in it with a display of his best bargains.—That "button being pressed," we'll attend to the rest.

PERSONAL transactions justify us in recommending Mr. Hussman to all buying collectors—especially such as make a specialty of clean, well-centered, better class stamps. Hussman sells such—and his prices are right.—See his ad.

SERIOUS "kicks" having been registered by a prominent philatelist on account of our assigning "our Fitz" to the one cent stamp of the Colonial series suggested last month, we hasten to rectify the matter by amending said suggestion to the effect that, if the plates are already made, this stamp be surcharged "One Dollar."

### Let's Have Reform.

WHAT a success some "philatelic" writers would prove as contributors to a chatterbox or a farm and poultry journal! At least as such they could display their greater familiarity with the subjects treated.

It is unpardonable in the publisher of a philatelic magazine to induce a person to contribute "philatelic" notes to its columns, who knows little more about stamps than he does about Sanscrit or Chaldaic; who has never been a real collector himself; and, who would not be able to locate a foreign stamp if he saw one.

On the other hand it seems incomprehensible that such scribes live on under the illusion that their "Notes" are being read and admired. How conceit can so far master them, as to make them oblivious to the fact that they are but an object of pity and ridicule, we cannot understand.

Such vagaries rarely ever appear in the philatelic press abroad, while here with us the rule seems to be: "anything to fill the columns."

WE are fortunate in securing the manuscript of an excellent article, entitled "United States Postal Money-Order Cards" by our friend, Mr. John Paalzow of Bergedorf Locals fame.

We cannot too strongly impress the value and practicability of Mr. Paalzow's idea, and call upon the philatelic press of America to promulgate same and to bring the matter to the attention of our postal authorities, for surely no greater boon could be bestowed on our inland commerce than the realization of this idea of a Postal Money-Order Card, besides adding a snug sum to the revenue of the Department, and reducing to a minimum the labors and annoyances of post-office officials.



The Omaha Exposition and our new stamps are another evidence of the greatness of our country. Engaged in war, abroad our arms are adding fresh laurels to "Old Glory," while here at home, in our Great West we are exhibiting to the world our achievements in the peaceful arts. Scarce half a century has worked miracles in that far West—the perseverance of the dauntless Anglo-Saxon—his progressive ideas—his intrepid spirit have transformed a savage wilderness into the garden spot of America. On the other hand Spain with her boasted past has transformed *her* possessions from *El Dorados* into deserts of carnage and woe. Therefore, let us be proud of and freely use our new stamps—the exponents of the great advancing West.

MESSRS. WILLIAMS & CO., of Lima, Peru, have something interesting in this number. A perusal of their ad will disclose this fact.

THAT the Texas Philatelic Association is a credit to our science and to its native State will be forcibly impressed by a glance at the convention group on another page. While such gentlemen combine to foster our hobby we need not fear for "the future of Philately."

We are indebted to Roy B. Bradley Esq., editor of *The Lone Star State Philatelist*, for the kind loan of the cut.

WICKS is still there too. And he has a great assortment of desirable things philatelic. If you haven't dealt with him before—try him now.

### In Memoriam.

A beautiful sight, an ensign bright;  
The Omahas, my dear.  
Their motto "RISE," they advertise  
Our country far and near.

The Union Great has met its fate;  
The S's four, my love.  
It suffered pain, it lived in vain.  
It sweetly rests above.—F. S., JR.

THE JOHNSTOWN CO., are still at the old stand. Don't fail to read their ad,—there's something for everyone in it every month.

CORPORAL WECKERT, whose likeness we present this month, has been ordered back to Richmond on recruiting service. His stay with us is indefinite, as he is anxious to get back to "the boys" at "Camp Cuba Libre." He reports our brother member John J. Bunce in best of health and—that "rations are all right now—bean soup and bacon, and then—bean soup again."

Our new "War-Tax Stamps" will boom Revenues.

THE Omahas were placed on sale at the Richmond post-office, at noon on June 17th. The highest value on sale at present is the 50c stamp.

Write Walter C. Hardy of Salem, Va. Prices all right.

ANOTHER change in the color of the two highest values of the Omahas has been made in the "twelfth hour": the \$1 stamp will be printed in *black* and the \$2 in *light brown*.

S. E. Medford, Philadelphia, offers you a chance. Write him,



## United States Postal Money-Order Cards.

A MUCH NEEDED INNOVATION.

BY JOHN PAALZOW.

**P**URING the war of 1861-1865 and the years following, until the late seventies, there was in use in this country fractional paper currency of different denominations such as 50c pieces, 25 cts, 15 cts, 10 cts, and in the earlier years also 5 and 3-cent pieces in paper, which latter two however soon gave way to the nickel 5 and 3-cent pieces.

When in those days any one wanted to remit an odd amount by mail it was possible to do this in the small paper monies, which, when enclosed in a letter, passed safely through the mails. When the resumption of specie payments came about, and the issue of silver fractional currency soon drove the paper fractional out of existence.

The need of a medium to transmit and remit sums in fractions of a dollar was recognized by the Post-Office Department, which sought to alleviate the demand through the Postal Notes, which were issued at many offices, but not by any means at a majority of the Post-Offices in the United States. The man at the country cross-roads who wants to send 50 cents to a concern in the city buys postage stamps and encloses them in his letter. He forgets however to place the gummed side on an oiled paper, and so when they reach the city house one-half of them are stuck together and cause the city man not only the loss of a good deal of valuable time in trying to get them apart, but also cause him to say certain words which would make the recording angel close his ears in a hurry.

In concerns doing a large mail order business where the amount of stamps

received is very great, there is, in nearly all of them, a certain amount set aside to allow for stamps received in such shape as to be unavailable for use as postage. Then to realize the cash for all these stamps the firm has to make a sacrifice of from 1 to 5%, and though this seems very small, it counts up in the course of a year.

The postal notes have been done away with and now only the money-order business remains, but often there is in a county only one of these offices.

The money-order system which now prevails in this country is a rather complicated piece of machinery, and to obtain an order one has to fill out an application in writing. This, to people who handle their pens in office and store all day long, looks like very little trouble, but to our cousin in the country who is more familiar with the hoe handle than a penholder, this in itself proves a bugbear when he wants to send a small amount. Then again, as said before, only a limited number of Post-offices are money order offices so that to obtain such an order the farmer has to go perhaps 10 or 15 miles in the more sparsely settled parts of the country.

The Express companies, ever ready to draw patronage and business to themselves, issue money-orders, and through their efforts to make their orders a convenience to the public, must have cut very seriously into the revenues the government ought to derive from the transmission of money.

Why cannot the government come to the relief of the people by issuing a Postal Money-Order Card for sums of less than one dollar, something after the pattern given below?

If farmer Jones in Brownstown wishes to send to John Smith & Co. in New York fifty cents for their valuable publication of "How to get rich in five years by raising poultry," he would simply pur-

chase a card from his local post-office at a cost of two cents, place upon this card 50 cents worth of stamps, fill out and direct his card, write his order on the back

# United States Postal

## FOR LESS THAN



# Money-Order Card,

## ONE DOLLAR.

In this space place the amount you wish to remit in unused stamps. Said amount to be less than One Dollar.

Space  
for  
Stamps

Postmaster at *New York*  
pay to addressee of this card the sum of  
*fifty* cents,  
which amount is placed on this card in stamps.

*John Smith & Co*

*235 Ave E.*

*New York,*

*N. Y.*



of it, and the transaction, as far as he is concerned, is over.

The operation saves him the necessity of buying a sheet of paper and an envelope, which again to the city man is a mere bagatelle, but to the farmer who buys them by the single sheet and single envelope, this saving represents two cents.

The postmaster at Brownstown would cancel the stamps affixed to the card; the postmaster at New York, upon presentation and surrender of the card, would pay John Smith & Co. 50 cents, and in his accounts with the Department turn in the card as a voucher for 50 cents paid out. The P. O. Department now carries cards for one cent, so by making the cost of this card two cents the government would get one cent extra on every card carried, which would surely pay for the trouble of counting and verifying the canceled cards and the number of extra stamps used. The amount being limited to sums of less than one dollar, would make it possible to let even the smallest offices in the country redeem cards, for it is not often that such small amounts are sent from the city to the country. In exceptional cases this may be so, but it would hardly seem probable that cards of greater value would come to a small office than the receipts of the office would represent.

No receipt should be required; the card itself, with canceled stamps attached and plainly postmarked with the mailing and also the receiving point, ought to be *prima facie* evidence, and no card should be payable at any other place than at the office at which the addressee of the card receives his mail.

The pattern card illustrated herewith gives an idea of what such a card would look like. The size is the same as the large card of the 1892 issue. It requires this size to allow the space reserved on the right hand for the placing of the

stamps viz: space for three rows of four stamps each. Every post-office in the country keeps 10cts. stamps so that with the space reserved for 12 stamps, the space ought to be sufficient to place enough value on the card to make the amount up to the prescribed limit, but where one card would be used to remit 99 cents, one hundred would be used to remit 25 or 50 cents.

It seems to me that this plan is so simple and so practicable that anyone would be convinced of its benefits, and on the other hand I cannot see wherein there can be any loss to the Department by its use. If the card went through the mail with the stamps uncanceled, then of course it would offer a temptation to steal the stamps, but as they are canceled and the amount of the card only payable to the addressee at the office where addressee lives, there would be no inducement for its being lost in transit.

Publishers of the smaller papers would certainly be benefited by it, as now remittances have to be made in stamps while a postal money-order card, redeemable at the P. O., would give them "the cash for which we all sigh." The country postmaster would no doubt hail this scheme with delight, for it would give him the benefit of the stamps canceled at his office, the amount of cancellation forming the basis of his salary.

I hope the philatelic press will take up this matter and by giving this article publicity start a discussion of the *pro's* and *con's* of the scheme, and I hope some one will be able to suggest improvements upon my idea.

The last row on some sheets of the current 15c of France has been found not perforated.—*Phil. Chron. and Adv.*

R. F. Albrecht Co.'s stock of stamps have been bought by the American Collector's Company.



It is rumored here, that Grenada is to have a 2½d commemorative stamp which will appear from that place during the early part of August. It is said that 500,000 copies will be struck off.

The Liberty Stamp Co., Geo. Flagg, manager, are at present running quite a unique ad in one of our weeklies. It runs something after this fashion "Gone to War, Will Resume Business After we Have Licked Spain." Let us hope that they will not have occasion to run this ad long.

Dealers in the Hub are indignant over the fact that a certain party in Canada is endeavoring to make it out that nearly all the Newfoundland Provisional stamps that were received here are counterfeits. His reason for so doing, is that he has been in communication with the P. M. at St. Johns, and has learned that only a few copies were sold to dealers. If this be the case, it is quite apparent that the postmaster at this place, is not fully aware of all proceedings in his surroundings; for our dealers bought a great many entire sheets from that very post-office, and we pride ourselves that we are quite competent to tell whether we are handling counterfeits or the originals.

### Canadian Notes.

BY CANADIAN.

Whenever postal matters are touched on in the Dominion Parliament the conservative leaders immediately ask what authority of law "I, William Mulock" had for his famous Imperial postal proclamation. Mr. Mulock has been roasted again and again on his unfortunate experiment.

Canadian dealers are beginning to feel the effects of the summer and report a decided dropping off in business.

The new postal bill has passed its sec-

ond reading in the House and will probably become a law in a short time. The reduction in postage from three to two cents would mean a loss of \$650,000 a year, but it is hoped that this could be soon made up by the increased amount of mail. The amount of newspapers carried free has increased 77 per cent. during the last eight years and is now nearly four times as great as the amount of letters carried. A tax of ½c per pound on newspapers would net \$82,000 yearly, most of which would be paid by the daily papers.

A prominent Canadian paper makes the following comment re the above bill: "Newspapers are either legitimate commercial enterprises or babies of legislators, and when the latter is the case their dads should rock the cradle."

Attend the D. P. A. convention at Hamilton, July 1 and 2d.

The ticket that the majority of Ontario Philatelists are supporting in the D. P. A. campaign is as follows.

President, A. M. Muirhead.  
Vice President, C. S. Applegath.  
U. S. V. P., Chas. Bailey.  
Sec. Treas., R. G. Widdicombe.  
Count. Det., F. J. Garrahy.  
Auc. Mgr., Norman Matches.  
Atty., J. A. Wainwright.  
Librarian, W. B. Grant.  
Trustees, J. W. Hicks, J. Gates, R. S. Mason.

Official Organ, *Ontario Philatelist*.

In future dead letters will, in addition to the Capital, be distributed from Victoria, Winnipeg and Halifax.

We are glad to see that Canada is to have a special delivery service. Heretofore the lack of this has caused much money to go into the hands of the telegraph companies that would otherwise have gone into the Postal Department. True there is not a fortune in it for the Department but it is a great accommodation to the public.



## Syracuse, N. Y., Notes.

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 ABE LEVI.
 

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There are many collectors here, and some day they will get together. If they do, Syracuse will have a flourishing stamp club.

Broken and odd fonts of type play an important part in stamp collecting. Instead of being called a "variety," a stamp with broken letters should have no premium on it. All type breaks very easily.

There is one collector in Syracuse who several years ago traded two fancy chickens for a small stamp collection. Recently in looking over these stamps he found several very nice, rare ones. The chickens have not been heard from.

It is believed that the local post-office can claim the distinction of being the last to sell the green cent stamps. They have been on sale here only two weeks or so.

Open a stamp paper on a railway car and you will find a collector behind you. Try it.

Our own John F. Seybold went to New York City recently with a few gems in his inside pocket. John said he felt rather queer in some sections of the town and congratulated himself that few persons knew his gems were worth a few thousand dollars. Mr. Seybold has 37,000 stamps.

Is Scott's 59th going to price trading stamps? two varieties, red and green.

Every day the local stamp clerks are asked: "Have the new Omaha's come in yet?"

*The Eastern Philatelist* has a prize proof-reading contest. I found 11 errors in 3 pages, and then decided that life is too short to continue looking for errors.

The Syracuse post-office has American flags over all the stamp windows.

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 Woe is "We."
 

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*Mr. Editor*:—Coming home after an arduous day of worry I found my copy of THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST on my desk, and after supper thought to forget all about the excitement of war in a perusal of its pages. Heretofore it has always been so congenial to me, that I expected too much this time. For the first thing after the usual biographical page was an article headed "The War"—the very thing I had expected to forget; but, as I never skip a single thing in the VA. PHIL., I began to read it, and Mr. Editor, when I saw the two suggestions for Colonial stamps, my heart boiled within me. How could you, who calls himself a Virginian, ever do such a thing; put Fitz, our own Fitz, in fact the only Fitz (if you believe in what we daily read in all good Virginia papers, especially the *Dispatch*), on just one cent's worth of postage stamps while you put Dewey so high above him, yea, even five times as much!

Mr. Editor, I strongly doubt your loyalty to Virginia and her illustrious son. Now if you were publishing a paper in Vermont, I could understand such discrimination, but for one to the manor born to place the stranger above our home folks, sir, this will never do! Make amends at once and do not let your designs go any further unless you change the one cent into at least one dollar, for who ever heard of a Virginian leading the *bottom* of a list?

Heed my advice and change it quickly for if all your constituency in Va., rise up in mass and say "stop my paper" you would then feel that it is a terrible thing to trifle with the patriotism of an outraged people.

VIRGINIAN.

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[We are contrite. We have rent our garments, and as ye "Stampman" says, we are "gn shing our hair and tearing our teeth," but, ha! eureka! The suggested 1c Cuba Libre will appear surcharged ONE DOLLAR.—EDITOR.]



### AN IDEAL PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

**Convention Group.—Texas Philatelic Association, April 23, 1898, New Braunfels, Texas.**

THE Texas Philatelic Association, one of the strongest State fraternities of stamp collectors south, held its Second Annual Convention at New Braunfels, Texas, on April 23, 1898.

A good time generally was enjoyed by the members in attendance and the hospitality of the brother "phils" of New Braunfels is becoming famous.—The Association boasts of 36 members, and if the above are "samples" no Association in this country has a better foundation to build upon, for truly a finer representative body of men could not be grouped.

Most of the gentlemen are, undoubtedly, familiar to American collectors, yet we desire to introduce them, separately to our readers; limit of space, to our

regret, permits but the mention of their names:

No. 1 is Dr. J. F. Toberman of New Braunfels; 2, Mr. Wm. Clemens, Jr., New Braunfels; 3, Hon. S. V. Pfeuffer; 4, Mr. W. N. Barton, Austin; 5, Mr. Oscar Jannasch, Waco; 6, Prof. Nehlms, New Braunfels; 7, Mr. Chas. Roemer; 8, Mr. U. S. Pfeuffer ("*Herzliche Glueckwunsche*") 9, Mr. Emil Gerlich; 10, Mr. N. G. Askew, Austin; 13, Mr. Edward W. Heusinger; 14, Roy B. Bradley, Esq., Editor *Lone Star State Philatelist*; 15, Mr. Nelson Mackey, Jr.; 16, Mr. Robert Kessler; 17, Mr. Otto Heilig; 18, Mr. Julius Jermy; and No. 19, Mr. Felix Klappenbach.

Long live the Texas Philatelic Association!  
DIETZ.



## Some Uncatalogued Confederate Locals.

BY JOHN C. WECKERT.

THE stamped envelopes of some of the Confederate Post-offices are, to my mind, in every particular, more collectible than the stamps of many of the "6x9" countries found in the catalogue. It is said in opposition to these, that they are so numerous and varied that no list of them can be made. I have not found it so.

Some years ago I became possessed of the war correspondence of Mr. John L. Gill, of the Petersburg Artillery. I have parted with some of these letters, and the following are about one-half of the original number. From his station at Norfolk, Mr. Gill wrote to his wife as follows, using U. S., 3c 1856 adhesives: April 22, 25; May 4, 10; Aug. 9, 28; which letter by the way, bears a Confederate flag in colors. Using Norfolk stamped envelopes he wrote as follows: July 9, 22; Aug. 17. Mrs. Gill wrote from Petersburg as follows: June 23; July 24; Aug. 30; Sept. 19. All in the year 1861.

PAID  
5 Cts

(Richmond)

PAID 5

(Petersburg)

PAID 5

(Norfolk.)

The Norfolk stamp is blue.

The Petersburg is greenish blue.

Noting the above dates, it will be seen that the U. S. 3c stamps were used prior to and concurrently with the stamped envelopes. Why these 3c stamps were used I am unable to say. They were certainly used for the payment of postage, because on none of them is any stamp of

value; only the postmark appearing on the envelope.

It was customary in those days to stamp the amount of postage paid upon the envelope, but it was a part of the postmark, and not a separate stamp. The Petersburg postmark contains "5 cents," but the Norfolk contains no value whatever. The designs and colors in each case are uniform as above described, the only variations being in the color of the envelopes. The rate of postage having been three cents, it is evident that when five cents was adopted, these dies were made for the purpose of paying postage. This proposition is strengthened by the fact that the first of the Petersburgs above described has "3 cents" in the postmark, while the circle of the others has been broken in order to insert "5 cents." All of the postmarks of both Norfolk and Petersburg are stamped, not one being written.

I have, from a different correspondence, Richmond envelopes bearing, in addition to the regular stamped postmark, this stamped in black: "PAID 5 Cts."

These are certainly local stamps, and as such are entitled to recognition. They are certainly more desirable than many of the surcharges (?) omitting a letter, inverting a letter, etc., which are no more than fakes, yet find a place upon the dealers' approval sheet and in the "sacred" pages of the catalogue.

South American issues seem to be on the "boom" in England if we may judge from an editorial in *The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser*: "To a large exchange club, a South American dealer sent a big sheet of stamps valued at but 50 or 60 pounds and, out of these some ninety per cent were taken."

Where does the good work of the mighty S. S. S. S. come in? Seebeck is having a rich harvest—if such is the case in England.



In his most excellent serial "The Postage Stamps of the United States," Mr. Luff, in the June number of *The American Journal of Philately*, describes, among others, the 5c issue of 1882, and states positively that there existed but *one* die for this value, whereas, heretofore, *two* varieties have been catalogued—one with diagonal and horizontal lines in the background of the oval (Type I.) and the other with horizontal lines only (Type II.). We quote Mr. Luff's statement, with which he finally dismisses the subject: "While well aware that there was but one die for this value, the author was, at one time, led to accept the two varieties, on the theory that they represented plates made from two transfers, one of which was not sufficiently deep to bring out the finer lines \* \* \* When the diagonal lines are missing on a stamp it is merely because the ink has been removed from them by too much pressure in wiping the plate and by the operation being performed lengthwise of the lines instead of across them. It is probable also that wearing of the plate affects the appearance of the lines."

While we do not feel competent, generally, to enter into a philatelic discussion with such an acknowledged expert, we must take issue with him on this subject—especially on the technical points of his statement and the theories advanced.

We possess two beautiful, clear copies of these "bones of contest." One shows the horizontal lines only, the other the horizontal and diagonal. To our mind and eye the variety clearly exists. Supposing (and it is possible) that too much pressure in wiping lengthwise of the lines, instead of across them, *had* removed the ink—why did not this same "wipe" remove the ink from *all* the

*fine lines running parallel to these "wiped-out" lines?* They are sunk into the plate at the same angle, so as to detain the ink when wiped crosswise.—But such was *not* the case. To a practical engraver Mr. L's argument will not hold good.—It may convince the layman, but an actual test would never confirm it.

The other theory of "wear": Supposing a certain amount of wear did occur to the plates—is it probable that this wear should occur at that particular locality on all the stamps—and, by the way, in the most "protected" (by the surrounding high-lights) part of the design?—We think not.

Virtually the author's statements attribute the cause of this "variety" to carelessness (if we may term it thus) on the part of the operator. Why should so many "carelessly executed" stamps be turned out when the difference was so glaring?

Finally, while we still believe, and that most firmly, in the existence of *two distinct types*, we would suggest a possible cause for the addition of the diagonal lines: In the stamp with the "cross-hatch" lines the background is darkened and the effigy appears brighter—more in relief—while in the horizontal-line-only stamp the design appears "flat." These lines may have been added to secure this effect.

The May number of *The Lone Star State Philatelist* devotes considerable space to the second annual convention of the Texas Philatelic Association. In his "Impressions by the Way," Mr. Bradley has something nice to say of every member in attendance at New Braunfels, a half-tone group of whom accompanies this number as a supplement.

An excellent article, "How to Determine Canceled Stamps" also appears in this issue. After describing the various modes of obliterating postal and pen cancellations, the author gives the following



recipe for detecting stamps thus treated: "If you have a suspicious stamp, and want to find out whether it has been used or not, photograph it. If the postmark has been obliterated the color of the stamp will not make any impression on the plate, while the black traces of the postmark will appear with great clearness. Even when the stamp has been well washed or cleaned, and no trace of the obliteration can be seen by the naked eye or through the microscope, the photograph will show very clearly the two concentric circles of the stamp, the date and even the locality. This does not in any way injure the stamp."

Sixteen pages brimful of stamp matter makes this a "red letter" issue.

Each succeeding number of *The Montreal Philatelist* seems to be an improvement on the last. Mr. Bach is surely placing his German-American publication in the lead of Canadian philatelic papers. The alertness of the editor in securing all Canadian and Newfoundland philatelic news "red-hot" bids fair to make his magazine a favorite among collectors this side of the Dominion, and we should not be surprised to hear of its election as official organ of a Canadian philatelic society—none could be of more service to a live society than this monthly run by a "live" editor.

Vol. I. No. 1. of *The Michigan Philatelist*, published by Michigan Stamp & Publishing Co., Ithaca, Mich., has been received. It is quite a creditable first number, but we are sorry to see under the head "Black List" the name of the Trojan Stamp Co., of Troy, Ohio. With this firm we have had the most pleasant relations and cannot but feel that between the Michigan publishers and this firm there must have arisen some unfortunate misunderstanding which we trust will be speedily rectified.

Upward and onward seems to be the course of *The Philatelic Bulletin*. Its May number contains an article entitled "United States Stamps and American History," by J. L. R., which is quite interesting. The author reviews the entire series of portraits which have appeared on the stamps of our country, presenting a brief sketch of each historic character. The editor tells us that Boston has practically concluded her auction season, and the "Looker-On's" snapshots are always good.

*The Philatelic West* is still illustrating its cover with Exposition views and filling the sixteen pages between it with choice reading for the adherents of our hobby.

We acknowledge receipt of the following philatelic publications: *American Journal of Philately*, *Era*, *Metropolitan*, *Pennsy*, *Lone Star State*, *Philatelic Bulletin*, *Herald Exchange*, *Philatelic West*, *Eastern Philatelist*, *Perforator*, *New York Philatelist*, *Stamp Collectors' Figaro*, *Revenue Philatelist*, *Stamp Collectors Gazette*, *Philatelic Facts*, *Tennesseè* and *Home Worker*, *Philatelic Literature*, *Michigan Philatelist*, *Philatelic Monthly and World*, *American Philatelic News*, *Bay State Philatelist*, *Stampman*, and *Boston Stamp Book*.

From abroad: *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, "Stamps," *Philatelic Journal*, *La Revue Postal*, *Le Moniteur Philatelique*, *Melita Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser*, *Jornal Philatelico* and *The Philatelic Journal*.

From Canada: *Montreal Philatelist*, *Philatelic Advocate*, *Ontario Philatelist*, *Boys' Own Philatelist*.

We have also received Stanley Gibbons' wholesale price lists; P. V. Karavanoff's price-list from Sophia, Bulgaria; E. T. Parker's price-list, and Wolsieffer's and Bogert & Durbin's auction sales catalogues.

## VIRGINIA PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

FRANKLIN L. KERNS, President.  
 MAJ. JNO. F. MAYER, Vice President.  
 FRANKLIN STEARNS, JR., Sec'y-Treas.  
 JOHN PAALZOW, 1018 Park Ave., Richmond,  
 Va., 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., *June 10, 1898.*

*To the Members of the V. P. A.:*

I have the honor of hereby submitting my report of the tenth monthly meeting of our Association, our efficient Exchange Manager, Mr. John Paalzow, being in the chair.

Members present: Messrs. C. F. W. Moser, W. S. Ahern, J. H. Knotts, John Paalzow, August Dietz, R. L. Deitrick, Franklin Stearns, Jr., and Dr. Mark W. Peyser.

Mr. John Thompson Brown, age 37, farmer and general collector, (U. S. preferred,) address, Brierfield P. O., Bedford Co., Va., and endorsed by Franklin Stearns, Jr., and Henry W. Wood, was unanimously elected to membership.

Printed proof of the constitution was then read, and as corrected ordered to be printed in pamphlet form. This the secretary has had done and before this report appears in print, copies of the constitution will have been forwarded to all members.

Mr. August Dietz was then appointed a committee of one to make arrangements for a picnic and all day outing and directed to report at a called meeting of the Association to be held June 24th, 8 p. m., at No. 13 N. Eleventh St.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN STEARNS, JR.,  
 Sec'y-Treas., V. P. A.

### A Philatelic Earthquake.

BY FRANKLIN STEARNS, JR.

The Philippine key to the Chinese Sea,  
 And vast empire beyond,  
 Will soon have passed ;—be lost at last  
 To the haughty Spanish Don.  
 In eastern isles will march our files  
 Of men from towns and fields ;  
 'Till Britain great sends men of state  
 To trade the Less'r Antilles.

The Antillian gem now clasps the hem  
 Of Freedom's robe of white.  
 Port' Rico fair, with its perfumed air,  
 Will be Spanish but a night.  
 Our soldiers brave, who fear no grave,  
 Will follow the gallant Lee,  
 'Till from Spanish greed and cruel creed  
 These islands shall be free.

The muralled race has now to face  
 The question of the day,  
 Corea small 'ere long will fall  
 To Russia's Czar a prey.  
 Their pow'rs to 'hance, Russia & France,  
 And other great empires,  
 For China will fight with main and might  
 Till the Mongol reign expires.

Honolulu, Canada too,  
 May with us wish to be ;  
 And near us—lo!—is Mexico  
 To join a land so free.  
 E'en great Brazil, and others still,  
 May some day take a notion,  
 To help extend our empire from  
 The Andes to the ocean.

All this *may* be—Philately  
 Will gain by others' loss ;  
 For reason states that alien plates  
 Atone for Spanish dross.  
 Though Seebeck trash goes with the crash  
 Stamps medium and rare  
 Will take their place, and we will face  
 Contentment everywhere.



## The "New" New Canadians.

We are indebted to Mr. Rudolph C. Bach, editor *The Montreal Philatelist*, for the first specimens of the "new" new Canadian 1c green.

The maple leaves in the lower corners have been substituted by oblong panels bearing the figure 1, as per illustration.



Various other minor changes have

been made on the plate, prominent among them a lining of part of the oval band surrounding the head of the Queen, which on the former plates was solid.

The "new" new stamps from an artistic point of view is a decided—failure.

*The Philatelic Monthly and World* can print more philatelic news in three pages than some papers in thirty.

## CANADA JUBILEES.

Are again becoming very popular and prices are advancing rapidly. For a short time we will sell 1/2c for only 48c, unsevered pair only \$1.10. Block of four \$2.25.

1c orange.....	\$ 02	5c blue.....	\$ 08
2c green.....	01	8c gray.....	15
3c carmine.....	04	8c variety.....	75

### WAR PACKETS.

Our packet No. 91 contains 100 var. superb stamps from Spain and her colonies, including Cuba, Philippines and Porto Rico. Will cat. about \$6.00. Price only \$1.75.

Packet No. 53 contains 30 var. fine stamps from Cuba and Porto Rico. A Bonanza. Price only 49c.

Packet No. 56 contains 125 var. fine stamps, each from a different country including Hawaiian Islds, Persia, Shanghai, etc. Price only 98c.

Orders less than 75c should be accompanied by return postage. All the above stamps are immense bargains and are sure to become rare.

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# CARION

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58th ed. Nos.	cat. p	my p
1870-1 National print, without embossing.		
193 1c ultramarine.....	\$ 15	\$ 07
* 194 2c red brown o. g.....	2 00	90
195 3c green.....	05	02
196 6c carmine.....	20	10
197 7c vermilion.....	60	29
198 10c brown.....	20	10
200 12c dull violet.....	50	24
202 24c purple.....	2 00	90
203 30c full black.....	40	20
204 90c carmine.....	1 50	75
1873 Continental print.		
* 209 2c dark brown, o. g.....	1 50	70
* 210 3c green, o. g.....	75	35
213 6c dull pink.....	10	05
214 7c orange vermilion.....	60	29
* 215 10c brown o. g.....	3 00	1 45
217 12c black violet.....	50	24
227 1875, 7c vermilion ribbed p.....	25 00	9 75
245 " 2c vermilion.....	05	02
* 246 " 5c blue o. g.....	2 00	95
1879 American print, and of porous paper.		
261, 262, 263, 1c, 2c, 3c.....	04	02
* 263 3c green o. g.....	40	17
* 264 5c blue o. g.....	1 50	74
265 6c pink.....	05	03
266 10c brown, National plate.....	04	02
267 10c " Continental ".....	04	02
* 270 15c red orange, o. g.....	50	20
272 30c full black.....	15	07
273 90c carmine.....	1 00	50

1882 Re-engraved		
* 287 5c brown, o. g.....	50	24
292, 293, 1 and 3c.....	02	01
295 6c rose.....	10	05
* 297 10c brown, o. g.....	50	20
299 10c black brown.....	25	12
* 300 1883, 2c orange brown, o. g.....	08	04

32 page List sent free for the asking with a 10c blue Confederate unused.  
Any stamp in above ad sent on approval on receipt of satisfactory commercial or bank reference. Remember the address,

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'79 25c carm. " \$1.00. 50 | 10x10c 1k. cat. 30c 20  
'80 10c lake " 30c... 20 | 15x15c car. " 40c 25  
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58th ed. Nos.	cat. p	my p
302 1883, 4c blue green.....	\$ 03	\$ 01
* 303 1887 2c green, o. g.....	08	04
* 304 " 3c vermilion o. g.....	15	07
* 305 " 1c ultramarine, o. g.....	08	04
306 1888 4c scarlet.....	05	02
* 307 " 5c indigo, o. g. type I.....	50	24
* 308 " 5c " " type II.....	50	24
* 309 " 30c orange brown, o. g.....	85	40
310 " 90c purple.....	1 25	62
1890-3 Issue, Used.		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 30, 90c com. ...	1 14	45
* 321 15c indigo, o. g.....	30	20
* 322 30c black, o. g.....	60	40
* 323 90c orange, o. g.....	2 00	1 00
1893 Columbian Issue.		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 30c com. ...	95	40
* 340 5c slate blue, o. g.....	1 57	98
* 341 \$1.00 salmon, o. g.....	75	59
* 342 2.00 brown red, o. g.....	4 00	2 45
* 343 3.00 yellow green, o. g.....	2 75	1 95
* 344 4.00 rose carmine, o. g.....	3 50	2 85
* 346 5.00 black, o. g.....	4 50	3 90
* 347 5.00 black, o. g.....	5 50	4 90
1894 Issue. No Watermark		
* 348 1c pale ultramarine o. g.....	15	06
* 350 2c pink, o. g.....	08	03
* 352 50c orange, o. g.....	1 00	55
* 364 \$1.00 black o. g.....	3 00	1 25
* 365 2.00 sapphire, o. g.....	5 00	2 50
* 366 5.00 dark green, o. g.....	8 00	5 00
Unpaid Letter Stamps.		
*1213 1879, 30c brown, o. g.....	1 50	70
*1214 " 50c brown, o. g.....	3 00	1 40
*1220 " 30c red brown, o. g.....	1 50	70
1221 " 50c.....	2 50	1 20
1227 1891 3c, 30c bright claret.....	1 25	50
*1228 " 50c " o. g.....	2 00	90
*1243 1894, 30c deep claret, o. g.....	75	37
1244 " 50c.....	1 50	70

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	per 1	10	100
4 1896 souvenirs complete.....	\$ 12	\$1 00	\$7 50
2 1894 jubilee ".....	06	50	4 00
13 current ".....	16	1 00	7 50
1 official sealed 1885.....	80		
1 " 1889.....	30	1 80	
2 observatory wrappers.....	25	2 00	
6 1872 75 all different.....	40	3 00	18 00
1 1873 1s blue, thin wove p.....	1 00	7 50	
1 " 2s verm. ".....	50	4 00	
1 1874 6s violet " laid p.....	1 20		
1 1877 6s orange.....	15		
4 Corea 1895 complete.....	25	2 00	
9 Samoa current complete.....	68	3 50	
3 China 1885 complete.....	20		
4 " 1898 all diff.....	10	75	
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- + offered in exchange for old U. S. and +
- + Confederates. Common and torn +
- + stamps respectfully declined. +

**J. G. GRIFFIN,** 350 George St., Equitable Bldg,  
Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.

Reference: Editor THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST.

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The mixture is all that the name implies and is free from reprints, common continentals or damaged stamps. The mixture contains an excellent variety and comprises both used and unused stamps from all quarters of the globe. We guarantee every packet to catalogue at least \$25.00 and yet sell the mixture at the remarkably low price of \$2.06 per Thousand, Postpaid.

## OUR "MINT STATE" MIXTURE.

\$50.00 FOR \$5.14.

Is a magnificent mixture of unused stamps from all five continents. Every 1000 contains from 125 to 200 varieties and is guaranteed to catalog over \$50.00. The packet contains absolutely no reprints or damaged stamps and will be found a very profitable investment. Supply is limited to 200 packets and when these are sold no more can be had. Sent by registered mail **postpaid for \$5.14 per thousand.**

## "OUR PATRIOTS' MIXTURE."

We have recently purchased from a large paper stock dealer nearly a half a million finely mixed U. S. postage and revenue stamps. These were secured at a very low price and as is our custom we given our patrons the advantage of any bargains that we may secure. The mixture contains issues of 1851 to date, postage due, special delivery, and a good variety of square cut envelopes. About 20 per cent. of the mixture is made up of revenues. We guarantee every thousand to contain at least 100 varieties, and yet sell the mixture at the remarkably low price of \$1.06 per thousand, **postpaid.**

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25c w'reh'se re. perf.	.75	.30
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1876 1s black.....	"	65... " 65
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