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COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

VOL. II. OCTOBER, 1923 No. 4

Chili: The First Type Stamps

By CHARLES J. PHILLIPS

SINCE I have been in this country, I have often wondered why it is that the stamps of the United States are so universally collected here to the neglect of many other quite as interesting countries. I have asked many the cause of this, and I have several times been told that it was patriotism that caused the American collectors to devote their attention almost solely to their own stamps. This led me to ask, "What is patriotism as applied to philately?" and I gradually got at what seems to be the truth. Really and truly this philatelic patriotism is not only the natural love of one's country but, even more, it is the love of the money of the country, as the stamps of the United States have been rising so rapidly in both interest and value for the past eight years that our American collectors have put on one side many of the wonderful groups of old postage stamps which can still be bought with great advantage in this country.

Taking advantage of this idea of mine, I have, during the last year, bought up all that I have been able to find in certain groups of old stamps which I can "bank on" as likely to give a good return for invested capital in a few years' time.

Pre-eminent in this group I place the first type stamps of Chili, and I am glad to have the opportunity of pointing out a few of the many items of interest I have found in the collection I have gathered together.

I would like to make a few general remarks before dealing with each issue in detail.

First of all, as a guide to those who wish to take up the collection of these stamps with the intention of studying them, I will give a list of what I consider *the* useful articles published on Chili stamps.

"The 1853 *to* 1867 *Issues of Chili Stamps," by E. D. Bacon. Lond. Phil. June,* 1902—*p.* 132.

This is very important as it gives figures of the stamps printed both in London and Chili, and also the first detailed account of the lithographs and many of the transfer varieties.

"Chili. Notes on the Early Issues," by Charles J. Phillips. Gibbons Stamp Weekly Vol. XI p. 366.

This is useful as it embodies the information I got from Baron Walscheck and the other members of the Santiago Philatelic Society during a visit to Chili in 1910, about the local printings of the Chili stamps and their shades and order of issue.

"Chili, How to Tell the Various Printings," by S. C. Barnett. Monthly Journal Oct. 1913. *p.* 285.

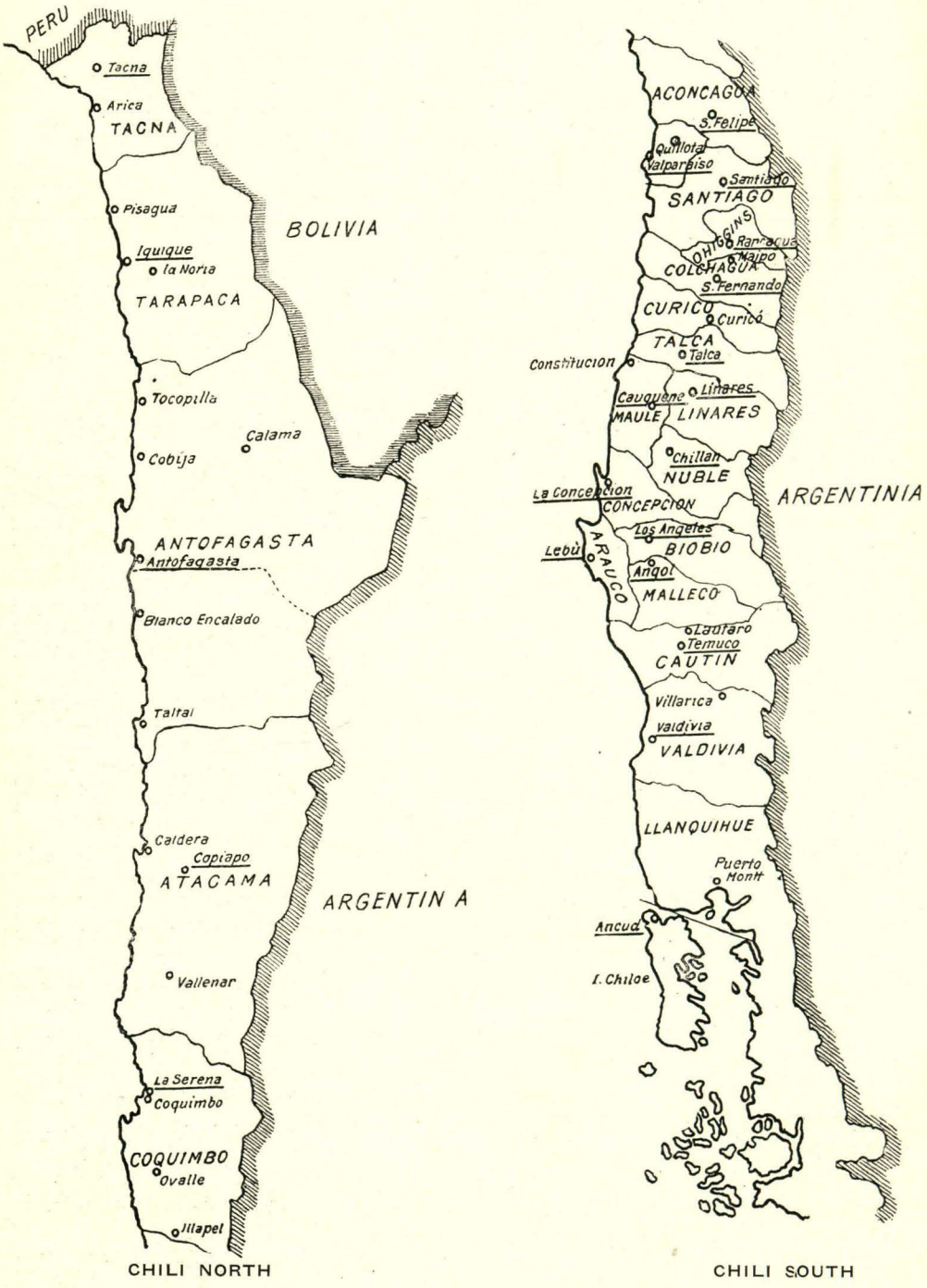
"Retouch of the 10c *of* 1862, *Illustrated," by T. W. Hall. Lond. Phil. Vol. XXVIII. p.* 268.

"Reprints of Chili," by G. H. Dannett. Lond. Phil. Vol. XXIV. p. 154.

"Forged Watermarks of Chili." Monthly Journal. Dec. 1902. *p.* 118.

"Anales de la Sociedad Filatelica 'Santiago'."

These are very important as they contain many Official Decrees and give the numbers of stamps printed locally, and I have to take many of my figures from this source.



The Provinces and Chief Towns of Chili

The extreme south is not shown in the above map. It only contains one place of any philatelic importance—Punta Arenas.

"The Imperforate Issues of Chili," by G. H. Dannatt. The Stamp Lover. Vol. III. p. 188.

Among the monographs on Chili that are of real use I note:—

"Die Postwertzeichen der Republik Chili," by Dr. Otto Krause and Dr. Arthur Phillippi, published at Potsdam in 1920.

This is an important handbook of all the issues and entires of Chili. It contains 160 pages of solid matter and of special use are the numerous illustrations such as double plate of the second type London "5" watermark showing all the varieties and the marginal inscriptions, also the illustrations of all the early cancellations is quite useful.

"Chili. Notes on the Gillet Lithographies," by Fred. D. Walters. Published by Sefi, Pemberton Co., in 1923.

This gives a short account of these interesting stamps and is useful for the Seven Plates of stamps in the author's collection. About 18 of the rare transfer varieties are illustrated.

A good deal of the following information has been published in English, German and Spanish publications, but I think little serious study on these stamps has yet appeared in any American journal so I trust the following discursive remarks may prove of interest to my readers. I want, at the outset, to say a word about condition. All early Chili stamps are *very* difficult to find in good condition. I can certainly say that not ten percent of the stamps I have been offered have come up to the standard I require. Single stamps, except in the case of rare varieties, must show a margin all round and not have the frame cut into. In pairs and strips I am not quite so particular as the pair is often taken to show distance between the stamps and how this varies on the plate, and outer margins are not so essential. In collecting stamps on original covers the condition is not so important as often a slightly damaged copy is necessary to prove an early date or to show a rare obliteration.

FIRST LONDON PRINTED STAMPS

The 5c and 10c stamps of the first issue were printed from steel plates made by Perkins Bacon & Co., of London. These plates contained 240 subjects arranged in twenty horizontal rows of twelve. Each plate had the following description in italic letters in the margins of the top, botom and both sides:—



Showing the Inscription on Plate I.

"Es preciso colocar las estampas arriba de la direccion y hacia la derecha. En mojando el Dorso es preciso cuidar de no quitar el cimento."

This may be translated as follows:—

"The exact position for the stamps is above the address and towards the right. In moistening the back, it is necessary to take care not to remove the cement."

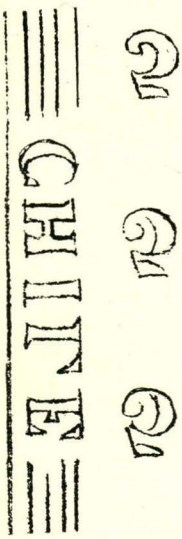
As this marginal inscription is of some importance I reproduce a trial pull from the first plate of the 5c in the color of the stamps as issued.

The paper is blued, and is watermarked in large double lined letters and figures

"C WILMOT, 1851."

This fine piece is in the collection of G. H. Dannatt of London and is illustrated in the "Stamp Lover" Vol. III p. 188.

The watermarks of the first issue were made by hand, the "bits" being formed of twisted wire and are consequently liable to vary in size, although I do not find the differences of much importance. Surrounding each sheet of the watermarked paper was a marginal frame of five straight lines broken at the top, bottom and sides by the words "CHILI" or "CORREOS". As parts of these lines and letters are frequently found on margin stamps I illustrate a portion of these watermarks as a guide to collectors who may meet with such varieties.



Marginal Watermark on left side.

It is necessary to study the watermarks somewhat closely in order to divide the stamps into their correct issues.

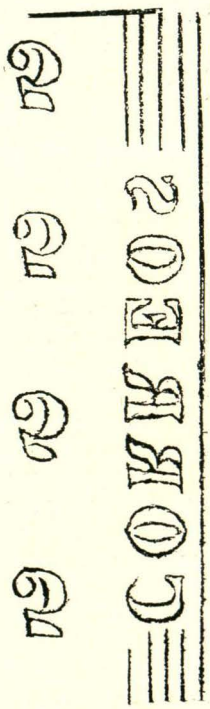
In the first issue the "5" is about 9 mm. high and 7 mm. wide, the shank is slanting and the top curved loop is narrow. In the "10" watermark both figures are narrow, much more so than in the common second London printing.

To make these varieties more distinct I reproduce from "The Stamp Lover" of March, 1911, the tracings of them made by Mr. Dannatt.

While we are on the question of the watermarks I will draw attention to the fact that almost all, if not all, of the Chili first type stamps may be found with the watermark in four different positions. We have the normal figures, then the normal figures inverted. Then we find that most stamps have had one or more sheets printed on the wrong side of the paper, so this gives us the watermark reversed and these reversed watermarks also come inverted.

I reproduce tracings of these varieties from Dr. O. Krause's work.

Sets of all these are much sought after by specialists in Chili and high prices are paid for the scarce varieties by local collectors.



Marginal Watermark on right side.

The first 5c stamp is printed in brownish-red on paper stained a greenish-blue color by some ingredient in the ink. The paper of this first stamp is rather thicker than that used for the second London printing and the watermark is more difficult to see and often only becomes visible when soaked in benzine.

The so-called variety "Ivory Head" is where the paper at the back of the stamp behind the head has not been colored blue but shows as a white blot in the centre of the bluing of the back. This "Ivory Head" is very rare in the first issue I have only one copy and Mr. Dannatt states he has not met with it. The "Ivory Head" is quite common in the second London printing.

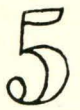
The color of this 5c varies from red-brown to very deep red brown and some varieties occur on unusually deeply blue paper. It is rare on almost white paper with very little signs of any bluing.



Small "5"



Medium "5"
(1855 issue only).



Large "5"
(1865 issue only).



Small "10"
(All issues except 1862).



Large "10"
(1862 issue only).

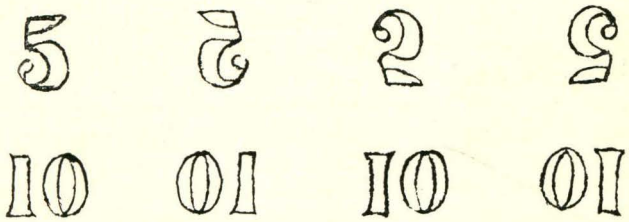
Watermarks of the London and Local Prints.

Pairs are scarce and I should value a good pair as worth at least five single copies.

The 5c was issued July 1st, 1853. My copies on covers range between July 27, 1853, and January 19, 1854. The number printed and sent out by Perkins Bacon & Co. was 300,000 stamps.

The 10 cent is printed in a rich deep bright blue color and the heavily inked appearance of the stamp is a sure test by which to separate it from other printings. The paper seems whiter than that used for any of the later stamps and the watermark is not very distinct. The number printed was 200,160 stamps.

A very rare variety is this 10c on blued paper. Mr. Bacon had not met with a copy when he wrote his article in the *London Philatelist* but there was a fine used copy in the Duveen Collection. I show a fine copy, and I saw one or more of these in Chili in 1910.



The Four Positions of the Watermarks.

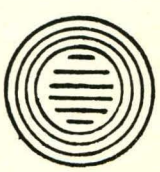
I find very little difference in the thickness of the paper used for the 5c but in the 10c I have a quite thin paper as well as the usual thick very opaque paper.

Pairs of the 10c are very desirable and quite rare. Bisected copies of most of the later issues of the Chili 10c are fairly plentiful but I do not think that any bisection of the first 10c has been noted. I have a portion of a cover franked with a 5c and a vertical half of a 10c used together to make up a 10c rate; this is well tied on the cover, and cancelled with the usual 4 circles and inner bars over the cut portion. There is a circular postmark in red with date "28 (?) '53" the month not being legible. In the London Exhibition, W. Howard showed this 10c bisected on entire dated October 7, 1854.

CANCELLATIONS ON THE FIRST ISSUE

The question of the cancellations used on the early Chili stamps has been much neglected except by the German writers, who with their usual thoroughness, have dealt with this subject rather well in the handbook by Drs. Krause & Philippi.

In January and April, 1853, Perkins Bacon & Co. sent the 5c and 10c stamps to Chili and with them sent the two steel plates, the remainder of the watermarked paper and 144 brass cancelling dies for obliterating the stamps, and ink to use with these dies. While there is no absolute record of the form or design of these cancelling dies it seems certain that they consisted of four concentric circles with six or more rarely seven straight lines in the centre.



First Cancellation

This is common on both values in black. I also have it on the 5c in reddish brown, red, and bright yellow; the two latter colors being very scarce, as well as on the 10c in red.

In addition to this cancellation, we occasionally, but rarely, find a town name in large black letters used to cancel a stamp. Some of the types used are as follows:—

It is recorded in the "Anales" that such cancellations were used in the following towns:—

Valparaiso and Melipilla until 1854.
Illapel until 1855.
Linares until 1856.
Cauquenes until 1857.
Ligua and Ovalle until 1858.
Casablanca, Curacavi, Rancagua and Santa Rosa until 1859.

I have no doubt that other such cancellations were used but of these no record has been found.

In my collection I have the 5c with the following additional towns:—
(S.)Felipe: (S)antiag(o): (Co)nstit(ucion)
And I have a 10c on cover with cancellation CONSTIT(UCION).

RANCAGUA VALPARAISO TOMÉ

SANTA ROSA BALLENAR MELIPILLA

Early Town Cancellations.

A town name in a circle with month and date is sometimes used, but is decidedly rare. I have the 5c on letter with SANTIAGO in circle and 23 AGTO. 53.

I just want to say a word or two about the catalog value of these stamps. Used the 5c is $3.50 and the 10c $6.00. Of the 5c 300,000 were issued, of the 10c 200,160. Compare these figures with our 1847 issue, 5c issued 3,712,000, catalog price $6.00; 10c issued 891,000, catalog price $25.00. This is one of the reasons I collect Chili Stamps.

If numbers printed are any guide to value then both these fine Chili stamps are a remarkably good buy at present quotations.

THE LOCAL PRINTINGS

The postal authorities of Chili evidently largely underestimated the demand for postage stamps, and found that they would be sold out long before they could receive a new supply from London; they had, therefore, to make various local printings in Santiago. The first attempt was with the 5 centavos. The steel plate sent over by Perkins Bacon & Co. was handed to Senor N. Desmadryl, a printer in Santiago, and it is believed that he made three distinct printings from this plate in 1854.

These prints are fine examples of engraving all the lines of the design standing out clear and distinct; the work in the spandrels, in particular, is clearly and finely marked, the shading on the head is also fine.(*) The paper varies from quite stout to really thin, some copies being found on a semi-transparent paper. A greenish-blue stain is occasionally found spreading over the back of the stamps, but this does not penetrate through to the face.

In 1910, when I was in Chili, I found that the local collectors had agreed that the Desmadryl printings of 1854 took place about January, August and September of that year. This would indicate that he made one printing prior to handing the plate to Senor Gillet, and two more printings when Gillet returned the plate to him, which is said to have been in August, 1854. While in Chili we also agreed that the three printings were indicated by three distinct colors or shades, but owing to the lack of sufficient stamps on dated covers, we could not prove when any particular color was used.

*S. G. Monthly Journal. Oct., 1913, S. G. Barnett.

In my collection I have been lucky enough to get some covers which seem useful for our purpose.

I take it that Desmadryl's first printing was in rich chestnut-brown. I have a fine copy of this well tied on the cover, dated January 10, 1854. This printing is very rare. I have 127 Desmadryl 5c and only three of them are of this rich chestnut-brown shade. This date agrees with that of the Chili collectors as that of the first Desmadryl printings, but now I must disagree with them. I think Desmadryl made another printing before he handed the plate to Gillet. I have two covers, both with the stamps well tied on, dated April 4, 1854, and May 5, 1854, both stamps being in the deep reddish-brown color and certainly belonging to a different printing than the rare chestnut-brown.

I might say that nearly all my early Chili covers are from the correspondence of the well-known commercial house of Senores J. & P. Besson y Cia, Valparaiso. This was a firm of hat manufacturers and importers and the dates of the letters, endorsements and postmarks are all in accord.

Senor Desmadryls' second printing is certainly as early as April, 1854, and possibly earlier, as I think his first printing in January was a very small experimental one, and his second may well have been in March, as I have a copy used April 4.

I think that Gillet returned the plate to Desmadryl at the end of July, 1854, my reason being that I find a quite peculiar little group of stamps of the Desmadryl printings. I have one on letter August 1, 1854, a strip of four and seven singles all in a medium shade of reddish-brown and all printed from an unwiped or dirty smudged plate. I think Desmadryl used the plate just as it came back from Gillet with traces of his colors on it, and made a small printing which he stopped as soon as he noted the blurred appearance of the stamps.

Later in August, 1854, Desmadryl made another printing from this plate after he had cleaned it. This printing is in *pale* reddish-brown and is the commonest of the Desmadryl's. The earliest I have on a dated cover is August 19, 1854, and I have a number of covers with this stamp from Sept., 1854 to March, 1856.

VARIETIES IN DESMADRYL'S PRINTINGS

The January and March (?) printings both came on horizontally ribbed paper.

The last printing in pale reddish-brown is known double printed on the face, the whole stamp showing a clear double impression, not due to a mere slip of the paper.

I have now to note a variety of which I cannot find any record, and that is that a small break or crack developed in this plate extending over at least two stamps horizontally. I have a pair in deep reddish-brown with sufficient margin on the left hand side to show that it is from the left side of the sheet, this pair shows portions of other stamps above and below it.

The break starts at the outer edge of the margin, goes across the center of the "C" in CORREOS, across first "O" in COLON, just under bottom of the "L", across the second "O", then across "C" in FRANCO; it then goes right across the second stamp through the middle of the "L" in COLON and out across top of "C" in FRANCO. I have another single copy of the left hand stamp in pale reddish brown with identical break.

THE PRINTINGS OF SENOR GILLET

According to the Chilian collectors, the authorities were not satisfied with the fine stamps provided by Senor N. Desmadryl in January and March, 1854, so in April of that year they ordered him to hand the plate of the 5c to Senor Gillet, a well-known lithographic printer in Santiago.

The 5c Gillet prints are easy to distinguish from all others. He made no success with the 5c as all his copies suggest poor printing and in general over-inking. The ink appears to have spread too much over the plate and over-tinted the surface and the margins of the stamps.

I am inclined to think that Gillet made three small trial printings of the 5c which I should divide as follows:—

April, 1854. Deep burnt sienna, varying a little from a burnt sienna with a golden hue to a very deep shade. I have no early copy of this on cover, my earliest is dated November 7, 1854. This is the commonest shade of this rare issue.

May, 1855. Pale burnt sienna. I have only five copies in this shade, two on covers dated May 4, 1855, and July 15, 1855. The color is quite distinct and there is more of that rich color in it than we find in the first printing.

March, 1855. Deep chocolate. I have one on letter dated March 27, 1855, and a single copy. This color is very rare.

Now I put the above on record for future work. We have far too few dated copies to be able to say how many printings Gillet made or at what dates they were made. All his stamps are really rare, much rarer than catalog prices indicate.

THE GILLET LITHOGRAPHS

The credit of the discovery of the lithographed stamps of Chili must, in the first place, be given to Mr. A. Krassa, who sold his pair to John N. Luff who sent it over to T. W. Hall, in London, who showed it to E. D. Bacon and between them, after consultation with Perkins Bacon & Co., they established the fact that they were lithographic transfers taken from the first London plate of 5 centavos.

Mr. Bacon published a list of varieties in the *London Philatelist* July, 1902, a number of others have been found since and the latest and best list is that in the monograph by Fred. D. Walters of London, with illustrations of the varieties in his collection. I am using all these articles, and photographs I have obtained from various friends, to supplement the few varieties in my own collection.

This is the most important and interesting issue in all the stamps of Chili and includes some varieties of which less copies are known than of the POST OFFICE Mauritius, in fact some of them are as rare as the "Lockport" or "Boscawen."

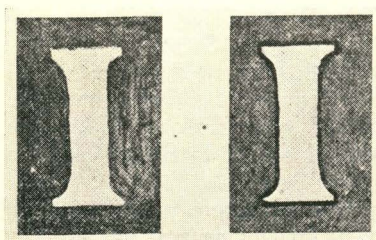
According to the Chili collectors Senor Gillet made the lithographic transfer for the first London 5c plate in or about May, 1854.

I am inclined to think that this date is rather too early. As I have shown Gillet made two and probably three printings direct from the steel plate and the first of these was not before April, 1854, and may have been later. The earliest Gillet I have on cover is May 4, 1854.

Now I have a number of lithographs on dated covers and the earliest is August 29, 1854, and the latest November 22, 1854. I think these stamps were issued in June or early July, 1854, and will be glad to learn of early dates on covers.

In execution these lithographs vary enormously, some are almost as clear as an engraving and others are almost a blurred mass of color with a few clear lines to be seen. There are several useful tests by which we may tell these stamps from any other printing. F. D. Walters says he considers the tinfoil test the best: If a piece of tinfoil, when pressed on the stamp, gives no impression of the design, then you may be sure the stamp is a lithograph.

Another good test is the following: The white lettering of "COLON" and "CHILI" in the engraved stamps is *outlined* by a sharp line of color deeper than the background, while in the lithographs the white lettering does not show any such outline. This is clearly shown from the illustrations below.



Lithographed Engraved

It is best to select the "I" of "CHILI" or "L" of COLON" for this test, as some of the other letters, particularly the "O" do sometimes appear to be outlined in certain lithographs. In the case of badly printed lithographs these tests need not be applied, as the bad printing itself classifies the stamp. (*)

*Hints on distinguishing the various printings of the Imperforate Issues of Chili; S. C. Barnett. M. J. Oct., 1913.

The question of the shades of color in which these lithographs were printed is dealt with rather fully by F. D. Walters. I think he gives too many differences and collectors would find it difficult to divide stamps into all the shades he gives.

I think the following list covers all that any one collector is likely to get:

Orange-brown.	Yellow-brown.	Pale brown.
Sienna-brown.	Pale reddish-brown.	Pale chestnut-brown.
Deep red-brown.	Brown.	

The four colors named first are all scarce and seldom met with, and the last four colors are those that are cataloged and which can be found in most good collections.

We have now to deal with the great desiderata of specialists, the transfer varieties or flaws.

In placing the transfer papers on the stone a number of folds or creases were made in it, and as the work appears to have been very carelessly done, quite a number of very rare varieties have been created. Some of these are so marked, and so very rare, that I am of the opinion that they were noted after a very few sheets had been pulled off, and they were possibly corrected by the stone being cleaned and fresh transfers put in their place.

A great want to Chili specialists is that someone should reconstruct the plate, locate all these transfer flaws, and then find out if there are substituted transfers.

This would be a big job but if all of us specialists pooled our material it might well be done. Mr. Walters has about 100 lithographs including wonderful blocks of four, and six, as well as four pairs. T. W. Hall must have nearly as many. In my own collection I have sixty-two copies, including horizontal strips of four and five, and three pairs. C. F. Harwood has a most useful vertical strip of five. G. H. Dannatt, R. F. A. Riesco, and W. Howard all have fine collections and then there is that Prince of Chili collectors, Baron Walscheck, who has the finest collection of this country that I know.

THE TRANSFER FLAWS

The transfer flaws can be well divided into three groups, as pointed out by Mr. Walters.

1. Distorted letters and numerals.
2. Inset corners.
3. Broken frames and outer extra lines.

1. This is the first lithograph discovered and is the pair sent by J. N. Luff to T. W. Hall. It is now in my collection. The right hand stamp has a break in the outer frame line at top. "EOS" of "CORREOS" and "PO" of PORTE have the upper part cut off. The left hand stamp has the fold continued across the "C" in FRANCO which is squeezed right out of shape and then it goes across the top of the N in COLON and cuts off one corner and shaves the top portion off the head of Columbus.

2. Part of upper label missing. Upper portion of letters in PORTE cut off. (Walters. No. 19) (Dannett, Stamp Lover, III, 188.)

3. "AN" in "FRANCO" squeezed up, and second "O" in "COLON" slightly smaller. Break in top frame line over "T". (Walters No. 15.)

4. "REO" of "CORREOS" and "FR" of FRANCO squeezed and much reduced. (A. de Reuterskiold, Lond. Phil. June, 1903.)

5. "ILE" in "CHILE" has the bottom part cut off and the "C" in "CENTAVOS" distorted and top of "E" damaged, bottom of "O" cut off by a second fold in the transfer paper. (R. Ehrenbach. Monthly Journal. Sept. 1902.)

6. This is in my collection and it is very much like No. 5, but in this one the tongue of the "E" is complete instead of having the lower portion cut off. The "E" in CENTAVOS has a more complete top portion than in No. 5 and the "O" is not quite so much damaged.

7. "CENTAV" squeezed right up, and bottom part of "O" cut off. (Bacon No. 1. Lond. Phil. July, 1902.)

8. Similar to No. 7, but bottoms of letters cut off instead of the tops and "O" not damaged. (Walters. No. 21.)

9. Similar to No. 8 but almost all of "CENTAVOS" has disappeared and bottom of "S" is cut off. (Walters, No. 22.)

10. "I" of "CHILI" smaller, "T" of "CENTAVOS" with small top bar, left foot to downstroke of "N" in "COLON" broken and "R" in "FRANCO" squeezed. Top frame line uneven. (Bacon. No. 7. Walters Plate 4).

11. "CH" in "CHILI" and "TA" in "CENTAVOS" squeezed up. Break in top frame line over "P". (Bacon No. 4. Walters Plate 7.)

12. "CEN" in "CENTAVOS" shortened bottom of "C" being cut off. "L" of "COLON" bent in back. (A. de Reuterskiold. L. P. June, 1903.)

13. "CHI" of "CHILI" has lower part of letters missing, and "O" in "CENTAVOS" badly misformed.

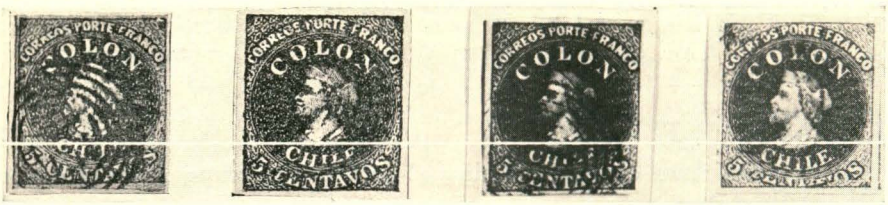


1 2 3

14. Much like No. 13 but letters not so much damaged. Lower frame line not level. (Walters No. 14.)

15. "CENT" of "CENTAVOS" contracted and left limb of "A" without foot. Fold in lower left margin line and showing in right margin line of next stamp. (Bacon No. 3. Walters Plate 6.)

16. "E" of "CHILE" and "AVOS" of "CENTAVOS" squeezed up. Frame line deficient on lower half of right side. (Walters No. 13.)



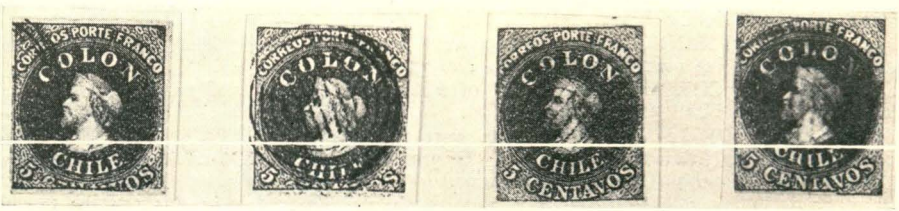
4 5 6 7

17. "CEN" in "CENTAVOS" squeezed up and left corner frame lines indented. (Walters No. 16.)

18. "5" squeezed up and badly deformed. (Walters No. 23.)

19. Lower part of "5" smaller. "HILE" in "CHILE" about half size. Right frame line broken above "S". (Bacon No. 2).

20. "F" of "FRANCO" thinner and slanting to right. Break in top frame line above the "R" in "FRANCO", and large blob of color on the throat of Columbus. (Bacon No. 8.)



8 9 10 11

21. "C" in "CENTAVOS" misshaped. (A. de Reuterskiold. L. P. June, 1903.)

22. "F" in "FRANCO" thin and "A" short. (In my collection.)

23. "O" in "CENTAVOS" squeezed up and thin at bottom. (In my collection.)

24. "E" of "CHILI" and "AVOS" of "CENTAVOS" distorted and two dashes of color in left margin opposite "C" in "CHILI". (Walters No. 13.)

INSET CORNERS

30. Right top corner inset. (Walters No. 25.)
31. Right top corner inset, causing break in outer frame line over "R" in "FRANCO". (Walters No. 26.)
32. Right bottom corner inset. (Walters No. 27.)



12 13 14 15

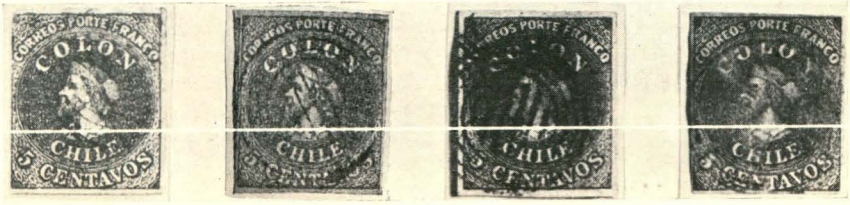
BROKEN FRAMES AND OUTER EXTRA LINES

33. Frame line broken on left, above center. (Walters No. 17.)
34. Frame line broken on left, about 5 mm. White space over "C" of "CHILI". (Walters No. 18.)



16 17 18 19

35. Dotted line about 4 mm. long outside frame at right bottom corner. (Walters No. 20.)
36. Lower part of frame line missing on left side. (Walters No. 24.)
37. Line outside lower frame on left. There are two varieties of this. (A.) This is from my collection, the line is 4½ mm. long and I have four copies, one on letter dated Nov. 12, '54. (B.) Mr. Walters' copy. The line is only 2¾ mm. long. (Bacon No. 10.)



20 21 22 23

38. Line in bottom right hand margin. This stamp is from bottom row on sheet, should be useful for plating. (In my collection.)
39. Frame line irregular at top, over "OS" of "CORREOS." Spot of color on "O" of "PORTE". Vertical lines on face. (Walters' Coll.)
40. Irregular frame line on right side, about one-third. (Walters, plate, 2.)



24

MINOR FLAWS,
But Worth Noting for Plating Purposes

41. White dash over "C" in "CHILI". This differs from No. 34. (From my collection, on cover dated Sept. 6, '54.)
42. White space in front of beard. (Walters' Coll.)
43. White space between "O" and "S" of "CORREOS". Walters' Coll.)

Having dealt with the local printings of the 5c stamps in 1854, let us now see if we can form any idea of the *number* of stamps in these printings or in any of them.

In the *Anales de la Sociedad Filatelica "Santiago"* for 1892, two lists of the



30 31 32

numbers of stamps printed between 1853 and 1867, are given. This is divided into stamps printed in England and those printed in Chili.

Mr. Bacon analyses these figures with the aid of the figures of the London printing which he obtained from Perkins Bacon & Co.



33 34 35 36

Taking those two sources together we learn that three parcels of 5c stamps are listed as having been printed locally in 1854.

June, 1854	155,520
August, 1854	120,000
October, 1854	120,000



37A 37B 38 39

I have no doubt whatever but that the figures of the Senor N. Desmadryl's first and second printings are omitted from this list, as I have already shown that such printings took place in January and in April, 1854.



40 41 42 43

The Chili authorities say that Senor Gillet's first printing was in April, 1854, if so that also must have been omitted in the figures given in the *"Anales"*.

The lithographed stamps of Senor Gillet, as I have shown, were probably issued in June, 1854, and I think it very likely that the figures 155,520 are those of this printing.

The figures 120,000 printed in August fit in rather well with the last printing of Desmadryl, the 5c pale reddish-brown and lacking further information I will adopt these as being likely.

We then have the 120,000 5c stamps said to have been printed in October. I am prety sure these are not lithographs or late Gillet printings and I can only think that they must be a late second edition of the pale reddish brown stamps of Desmadryl.

The records of the local printed 5c stamps for 1854 are so inaccurate, as I have shown, that we cannot be sure of fitting any of these figures to any definite printing, but I have stated all the information I have so that future students who get more correct and fuller details may work out some of the many interesting problems in these fine early stamps.

(Author's Note: A few other illustrations will be given in the first portion of the article in the next number.)

World Exhibition in Brussels

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Creation of Postage Stamps in Belgium

WORD has been received too late to comment extensively on this forthcoming exhibition. It is certain, of course, that every effort will be made in America to support our friends in Belgium, and plans should be laid at once to this end. The exhibition is held under the auspices of the Federation Royale des Cercles Philateliques de Belgique and His Majesty King Albert has consented to act as Patron. The magnificent historical Egmont Palace has been secured for the display.

The International Jury is composed to date as follows:—*Belgium*: Paul de Smeth, Baron R. de Vinck de Winnezeele, and Gust. Gelli; *France*: Maurice Langlois; *Great Britain*: Colonel Napier, *Holland*: H. P. Manus; *Italy*: Dr. Diena; *Scandinavia*: Nils Strandell; *Spain*: Manuel Galvez.

The Collectors Club has been honored by the appointment of its Secretary as its American Representative.

ANNUAL DINNER

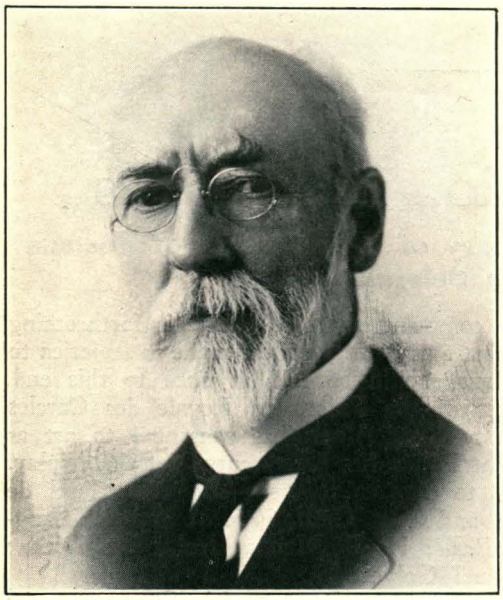
The date for the annual dinner of the Collectors Club has been tentatively set for Saturday, December 8th, and is to be held at the Cafe Boulevard.

It is important that our members should reserve this date and make it a point to attend.

John Walter Scott

By J. B. CHITTENDEN

THERE is one department of philately that is still in its infancy. Stamps have been and are being studied with increasing care, in fact to a degree that is even astonishing to collectors themselves, but concerning the men who did and are doing this work comparatively little has been recorded. As the first century of philately draws to a close more and more the biographical and historical events associated with the lives of at least the founders of this science will be interesting and valuable. With the exception of Sir Rowland Hill our knowledge of the early philatelists is fragmentary to a degree, but signs are not lacking that this will be amended as witness the fine work accomplished by Pemberton and Sefi relating to the life and work of Edward Pemberton in *"The Philatelic Journal of Gt. Britain,"* and the brightly human and powerful searchlight thrown upon the real Ferrary by Charles J. Phillips.* Unless one essays to write a biography no adequate understanding of the difficulties involved can be realized. The paucity of authoritative information concerning men whose names are familiar today to even the rank and file of philatelists is truly astonishing. Even personal friends and members of the family can state very little that is definite. Since possessing a journal of its own the *Collectors Club* has recognized its duty to perform this work at least for its own members. Inadequate and far from complete because of lack of time and information, with a pen charged with affection and appreciation and kindly memories, such events as are known to us concerning the life of our most celebrated founder and leader in philately, John Walter Scott, are recorded:



JOHN WALTER SCOTT
Photo taken in 1919.

EARLY AND DOMESTIC LIFE

John Walter Scott was born in London, England, November 2, 1845, the son of John Scott and his wife Martha Stone. These few words contain all the information to be secured from his family, and it is probable that little will ever be recorded concerning the first fifteen formative years of his life other than can be derived from inference. Unquestionably he received but an ordinary elementary school education, and it is equally certain that he received in his home instruction in the Bible, which throughout his long life led him to base his conduct on Christian ethics.

It is easy to picture young Scott as a tall, rather ungainly youth, very shy and very nearsighted, given much to meditation and thrown to a degree on his own resources for amusement, the very stuff out of which so many stamp collectors have evolved. In 1860 at the age of fifteen he secured his first employment in a merchant's office in London, and the foreign correspondence of this house was primarily instrumental in arousing his interest in stamps. The several Scott Companies have at times claimed this date as that of their foundation.

*C. C. P. Vol. 2, No. 1.

For stamp collectors it will not be difficult to imagine the general rating to be given young Scott's stamp business in London in 1860, two years before Mount Brown published his famous first catalogue. Unquestionably he began to trade in stamps during this year primarily to enhance his own collection.

On the 27th of July, 1863, he sailed on the Hecla for New York, accompanied by a school boy chum, Charles Watson, and the boys brought their small stock of stamps with them. It is hardly probable that Scott anticipated establishing a stamp trade in New York prior to this voyage. With little ready cash it is easier to perceive that he and Watson tried to raise funds by selling their stock, which they did to an outdoor dealer in Chambers street, north of the City Hall Park. Conditions must have been most encouraging as the only market representing New York's philatelic interest consisted of a board upon which stamps were tacked and displayed by Scott's predecessor in the trade in front of Trinity Church. He has stated himself that he sold his collection to a stamp and coin dealer located at Chambers street and Broadway for $10.00. Shortly afterwards he went to this purchaser, I infer but am not certain, the veteran William P. Brown, and complaining of his failure to secure employment expressed his intention to join the Army. This dealer advised him otherwise and offered to lend him $100 worth of stock to start with to locate next to him if he so desired. This offer was accepted and after three months of this outdoor trade he managed to save $100.*

The writer is not familiar with other facts concerning the character of Mr. Scott's business during his first sojourn in New York in the year 1863-64. Watson continued his association with Scott for a few months and continued thereafter sufficiently interested in stamps to help found the New York Stamp Society of which he was advertised as the first secretary in 1867, but finding the stamp business too quiet for his ambitions drifted into politics.

Quoting from a letter home announcing his safe arrival in New York, Scott thanks his sister for sending copies of the "black English" and writes "I shall sell them for 12 cents each, so that is a very good profit. If you can get any more send them and I will pay you for them." He also adds "as for churches I attended Holy Trinity regularly since I have been here." That the stamp business was far from lucrative in these years of the Civil War is to be inferred from the fact that in 1865 he followed the gold rush to the West. Arriving at Council Bluffs he joined a caravan and crossed the plains. Quoting from a letter written in Idaho, April 17, 1865: "You ask how I enjoyed Christmas; for Heaven's sake do not think of my enjoying myself. If I can just keep comfortable I think I am doing well. I lost my Bible and my clothes, but I have the New Testament nearly by heart. I want you to find out for me how much money it would take to educate me, fit to become a clergyman. I suppose I could earn enough in two years." In May, 1865, the whole town of Idaho City was destroyed by fire and Scott lost everything he possessed, and in July started on foot for California. At this time his conversational talent was very interesting, especially his description of the different phases of London life were a treat to listen to, and this faculty proved a great asset in his business thereafter. When he went to California a friend obtained a promise from him that he would send him the first lump of gold he dug out himself as a memento. After several years the friend did receive a few grains of the precious metal, although Mr. Scott did not go into the mines but was employed as a teamster.*

He writes home as follows: "I am going to California on my way back to New York, and am glad I am getting back to civilization, for although I have gone on the same as usual I can feel the contaminating influence of living in such company. I have not done anything very wrong, but I can scarcely bring myself to believe that it is any crime to steal and murder. You may think that strange, but if you had lived ten months in a town where it is thought honorable to murder and a man is treated as the vilest coward who allows himself to be insulted and not kill the man you would understand it better." Finally in November he arrived in Sacramento City and found employment with a German grocer, and after working with him

*Supplement to Metropolitan Philatelist, Jan. 13, 1919. J. E. Handshaw.

for six months embarked on a sailing vessel for New York. This ship was wrecked in the vicinity of Panama, but eventually, just how no one seems to know, he arrived again in New York in 1867, where he once more engaged in the stamp trade at 34 Liberty street, which then adjoined the City Hall Post Office.

During the first fifteen months he printed and circulated monthly a price list of stamps for sale consisting of one leaf each, beginning in June, 1867. These constitute the first fifteen editions of the famous Scott's Catalog which advances to the dignity of a catalog in the 16th edition, 20 pages and one colored plate of illustration, issued in September, 1868. In this he advertises the newly founded *American Journal of Philately* as the official organ of the also newly formed New York Philatelic Society. These one page pamphlets are as rare as any publications in American philately. The Crawford library contains but four and sad to relate the *Collectors Club,* his own club, has not a single copy.

THE

AMERICAN JOURNAL

OF

PHILATELY.

In acknowledging the honor done me by the New York Philatelic Society, in giving the Editorial charge of this the first paper published on this Continent treating of the "Science" of Philately, I can only assure them that it will be the study of my life to make THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY second to none of our European contemporaries, in regard to information. And although lamenting that some more experienced gentleman had not been selected to fill the Editorial Chair, still I trust that by employing all the available talent, both in this country and in Europe, to make the Journal equal to their most sanguine expectations.

J. W. SCOTT.

New York City, February, 1868.

OFFICERS OF THE NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT,
REV. J. A. MORLEY, D.D., LL. D.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,
H. GRAFTON, M. D., WILLARD K. FREEMAN, Esq

TREASURER, J. W. SCOTT, SECRETARY, CHARLES WATSON.

DIRECTORS,
GEORGE H. EARL, Esq., G. P. TEN BROECK, Esq

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1.—This Society shall be denominated "The New York Philatelic Society," the objects of which shall be to promote the collection of Foreign Postage Stamps, and for obtaining more complete information in regard to the same.

Front Page of Scott's First Paper

Young Scott was then twenty-two years of age and must have brought back from the West a tough and vigorous constitution and courage. In one year he publishes twelve pamphlets, lays the foundation for America's most famous journal, and establishes theoretically at least the New York Stamp Society. I say theoretically at least for at once young Scott met with vigorous criticism, most of which emanated from Boston which at this time considered itself to be and to a large degree was the home of America's infant philatelists. Boston as early as 1863 had its catalog, famous among collectors as that of G. Dexter, published by Sever and Frances. The Hub rejoiced in the establishment of a journal, *Stamp Collector's Review* in 1866. Moreover, Boston found a leader in Ferdinand Marie Trifet who published his first catalogue, also one leaf and on one side only, in 1866, and a second edition in May, 1867, composed of eighteen pages. In September, 1868, Scott puts New York upon the map with a *sixteenth* edition of 20 pages.

Trifet in October, 1867, began the first successful and in many respects excellent stamp journal for Boston, *The American Stamp Mercury.* The upstart Scott flashed back with the *American Journal of Philately,* New York, December, 1868, and a New York Stamp Society. Hardly anything in the history of American philately is more amusing than Trifet's *Mercury* and Scott's *Journal* at this early period. Trifet was older and more experienced and certainly put it all over Scott to a degree that might have utterly discouraged that poor young man struggling manfully in New York were it not for that western rough house foundation combined with the New Testament learned by heart.

Trifet promptly accused Scott of copying the prices in his catalog, of being absolutley void of a knowledge of stamps, and as to editorship better qualified to be an industrious student of the dictionary. Scott was credited by Trifet with being a cheerful liar, the public was advised that No. 1 of the *American Journal of Philately* was never published, and that the heralded stamp society was composed of two young boys named Scott and Wilson, and a visionary clergyman who promptly sailed for Buenos Aires according to the imaginative Scott. Scott countered by sending Trifet

two copies of No. 1, one on yellow paper purporting to be the original and one on white paper the so-called reprint. Trifet proved to his own satisfaction that both came from the same press and at the same time. That our first society was truly a feeble embryo is indicated by Scott's announced formal resignation in 1868, following a first class row with Wilson.

The childish conduct of these gentlemen was incident to the dawn of philately and its counterpart, the outcome of personal and sectional jealousy, surviving long as witness the politics of the American Philatelic Association, where year after year East is East and West is West most emphatically. Be this as it may, Scott persevered. Trifet published his last catalog, the 50th edition, in 1874, and Scott's catalog claims today to be in its 79th edition. The *American Stamp Mercury* closed down with its 39th number in March, 1871. The *American Journal of Philately* ran through twenty volumes and 184 numbers under Scott's editorship until 1886, and was continued in 19 more volumes containing 228 numbers under the editorship of Henry Calman, John Luff, and the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. Scott died while president of the American Philatelic Society, a splendid example of the pioneer spirit, of the reward of persistent effort, of courage, imagination, and public service. Scott long ago ceased to represent New York, he belongs to the United States of America.

With enough to occupy the spare hours of an ordinary person Scott found time to woo and win, and was married to Minnie Peyton, daughter of William Peyton, a dry goods merchant of New York, October, 1868. Of this marriage six children were born, five of whom survive, including our own Walter Scott, Jr. There is every reason to believe that Mr. Scott was especially happy in his domestic life. His children were all strong and well educated, a part of their education occurring abroad. During many years of his life Mr. Scott was a vegetarian, abstemious always in his habits, and enjoying good health even in his later years.

The foundation of his success was well laid in the formative years 1868-1870. It was based on principles now generally accepted. First to provide albums, second to secure advertising by the publishing of catalogs and a journal, third by furthering the organization of stamp societies. These and until 1878 constituted the days when many experiments were made to keep the pot boiling for a rapidly increasing family. Cheap packets were advertised and sold from the first, the prices varying from 25 cents for fifty stamps to $10 for 500 stamps. His first album offered was the sixth and seventh editions of Lallier's album and Appleton's album from $3.50 to $6.50, but in July, 1868, he was ready with his own Scott's American Album to be had for $2.50. Long lists of stamps for two cents, others for three cents, and groups for five, eight and ten cents each were advertised monthly. In 1869 a monogram album was also prepared and packets of monograms and crests were added to the list, and a printing outfit not only adequate to his own needs but advertised to perform all sorts of printing under the title J. W. Scott & Co., Practical Job Printers, then located, 1871, at 75-77 Nassau street. Shortly after moving to the basement in Nassau street he made his first famous purchase of a fine lot of St. Louis stamps with the rampant bears for $1.00 each, which he sold, some as low as $5.00. By March, 1870, he issued his famous set of 50 portraits of the world's rulers at $1.00 per set, and essayed for the second time to illustrate new issues in his journal in color. On May 20, 1870, he advertised the first auction sale of stamps to be held Saturday evening, May 28, 1870. This constituted of course a very important event in the history of philately, one destined to have a profound effect on the stamp trade and in encouraging the public in stamp collecting.

In November, 1870, he advertised and sold his Juvenile Theatricals. Quoting the advertisement: "Sheets contain each character in the play in every different position, together with scenes, side wings, etc., etc., and all the fixtures necessary to make an exact imitation of any theatre—stages, stage fronts, lamps, orchestra slides, and everything required at the lowest price. The first plays were Jacob Faithful $1.75, Falls of Clyde $1.50, Richard I $0.75, and Pizzaro. These were evidently an English importation. As late as 1882 these miniature plays were advertised as Seltz's

American Boys' Theatre, and the writer can remember his own first experience therewith as a theatrical producer. The classic plays first mentioned were not in favor during my eighth year, but I distinctly recall one night productions at a very low rate of the Boy Sailor, or the Pirates' Doom; Red Headed Jack, The Terror of London, The Pirates of the Florida Keys, and The Red Skeleton, or the Dead Avenger. Five thousand photographs of the world's celebrities were also on sale in 1870, including Kings and Queens, Statesmen, Clergymen, Stamp Dealers, Generals, Naval Officers, Lawyers, and last but by no means least famous criminals, actors, and actresses.

About this time or early in 1871 Mr. Scott I believe visited London again, and was very ambitious to take a leading part in his old English capital, as well as in New York. His idea was to publish an English edition of the *American Journal of Philately*. At one time he proposed to Edward L. Pemberton to edit such a journal, and that Mr. Pemberton gave the proposal serious consideration is indicated by the correspondence reprinted in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain,* October, 1922. Pemberton was Scott's senior by one year and if Scott was born in England and learned his philately in America, Pemberton was born in America and was trained in philately in England. As a philatelic writer and expert Pemberton was Scott's superior. As editor of the *Monthly Advertiser* and contributor to other journals, and through his celebrated study of the forged stamps, Pemberton takes rank among philatelists while Scott was gathering a living for his family. Pemberton concentrated and Scott diversified his interests. Mr. Pemberton's answer to Mr. Scott's suggestion that they cooperate (reprinted *Phil. Journal of Great Britain,* Oct., 1922), is illuminating. We venture to quote as follows:

CHESTER ROAD,
BIRMINGHAM,
Dec. 3/71.

My Dear Sir,

I hasten to write you concerning the A. J. of P. and your proposals. I have advertised a new journal, and cannot for my own sake, or for the sake of Grant & Co. well go back on it now. You could not call your English Edition the *American J.* These two facts are pretty clear, but as I apprehend it you want me:—

1° to edit your English Edition.
2° to halve expenses on Do.
3° to halve returns of Adverts on Do.
4° to give you the pick of all Extra space for your own firm for nothing.
5° any space not wanted by you, to go to my firm at a nominal rate.
6° to abandon my proposed magazine.

If this is clearly your proposal I hardly see how it would pay me. You see I lose on three grounds.

1° I give my name, time, and labour for nothing.
2° I pay for my firm's adverts.
3° I drop my firm's magazine.

For years I have given my time and labour to *S. C. M.* and *Philatelist,* to make myself a reputation. I consider now that I have done it, and I intended using it for my own advantage in the new firm. I am quite aware that if you open in London you cannot fail to do considerable business, especially of a cheap nature. Is it worth your while to pay me to make you a business of a better class, I mean as the Editor of The English (or London) Journal of Philately?

If I were starting a new business, were unknown, and knew nothing of my subject, why then I should jump at any offer, but, I *have* my business ready cut and dried, all I am *now* intending to do is to increase and multiply it under the name of Jas. R. Grant & Co. Devise a scheme that will suit both our interests, and I am all right. As far as I understand your present offer, the advantages appear all on your side. If we arrange, and I edit for you, you would have my Forged Stamps and other papers advertised. Just think it over. . . .

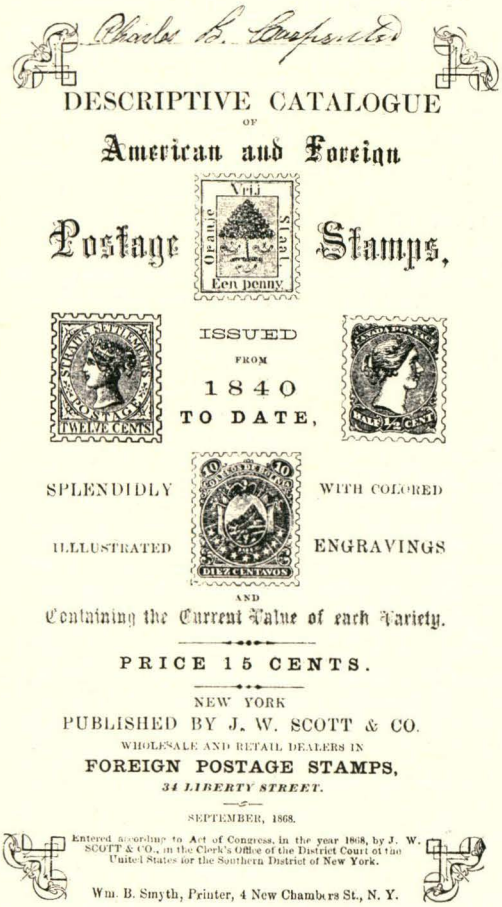
Yours faithfully,

EDW. L. PEMBERTON.

From another letter written on Christmas Day, 1871, it becomes evident that Scott met most of Pemberton's requirements for the many details of the new publication were discussed. Evidently, however, the deal failed and each proceeded to publish his own journal. Scott did not give up the idea of a London conquest by any

means, but compromised by publishing his *American Journal of Philately,* the same in every respect except for advertisements and the cover with a London edition, which last emanated from 46 Leadenhall street, London, E.C. This constitutes volume V of the *American Journal of Philately,* numbers 49 to 60. But London refused to be captured and dealt with young Mr. Scott's efforts in journalism most unkindly. The only suggestion of personal discouragement that I think can be found in all of Scott's writings occur as a last word in closing this London edition:

> "During the past year our editorial labours have been lightened and rendered pleasant by the numerous letters expressive of satisfaction that we have received from every part of the kingdom; it has been but very rarely that anything but a suggestion (for which we are always grateful) has reached us, which would show that our magazine was not in all respects what our subscribers would wish. Our contemporaries have not, we must say, been very generous, very lenient, or very courteous to us; indeed, so strongly have we occasionally felt on this subject, that we had at one time almost concluded to discontinue the "exchange" copies, however, on deliberation, we abandoned the idea, trust-that time (that great leveller and smoother of all differences), would bring with it more genial and friendly feelings. We can, we think, say that on but few occasions have we been the first to array ourselves for battles; it has ever been our wish to be on the best terms with our confreres, and we believe that in time to come a better understanding will exist."


Charles K. Scott's

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

OF

American and Foreign

Postage Stamps,

ISSUED

FROM

1840

TO DATE,

SPLENDIDLY ILLUSTRATED WITH COLORED ENGRAVINGS

AND

Containing the Current Value of each Variety.

PRICE 15 CENTS.

NEW YORK

PUBLISHED BY J. W. SCOTT & CO.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS,

34 LIBERTY STREET.

SEPTEMBER, 1868.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1868, by J. W. SCOTT & CO., in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York.

Wm. B. Smyth, Printer, 4 New Chambers St., N. Y.

Scott's First Catalog

That London was fiercely contemptuous and to a degree justifiably so with American journalism of this period is beautifully illustrated by the following "Philatelist," p. 91, 1872:

> "Another of the mushroom amateur publications devoted to stamp-collecting and a display of the editor's lamentable ignorance. In his opening remarks, the editor, proprietor, publisher, etc., takes occasion to remark that he has been a stamp-collector since its earliest days to the present time and has continued it in the interim. What does he mean? On the second page, he alludes to the Kingdom of Natal, and the Empire of Newfoundland. On the last page, most wonderful to relate, he announces that the Confederate States stamps are now obsolete, having been used only from 1861 to 1865. We would advise the editor, proprietor, publisher, etc. a consolidation of *"The American Postage Stamp Journal"* with *"The Stamp-Collector's Guide,"* a precious philatelic sheet which seems to be an unwholesome compound of arrant self-conceit, childish impudence, and hopeless ignorance erected on a superstructure of humbug, delusion, and make believe."

In one respect, however, Scott triumphed by holding the first auction sale of stamps in England, March 18, 1872, at Sotheby's old house in Wellington street. Quoting again, *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain,* Oct., 1922, p. 188:

> Pemberton did attend the sale which was held on March 18th, 1872, at Sotheby's old house in Wellington street; he bought a number of items and would have bought more but for the general feeling of distrust created by the owner (Scott) running up the prices himself instead of following the customary English method of placing reserves upon the lots.

Some of the items E. L. P. secured are, however, of interest. He paid £5 for a "Jefferson Market P.O. pink, unique," a rare local which exists on pink and on blue paper. According to the chronicler in the *Philatelical Journal* "here occurred something amusing, the auctioneer probably fancied that, as this was unique and exciting competition, it was a handsome stamp, so as the bidding rose, described it as 'beautifully engraved,' which created great laughter, for it was a foully hideous thing, and the engraving apparently done by a blind man with a skewer."

Most of the U. S. locals sold fell to Sir Daniel Cooper, Mr. Atlee or Mr. Pemberton, but the greater number were bought in by the owner. Pemberton secured three fine unused Sydneys and a poor 3d. unused for 63/-, which he reckoned were "decidedly the only bargain in the sale so far."

It is hard to resist the temptation to picture a result that might have happened if the Pemberton-Scott deal had eventualized. It would certainly have advanced American philately by much more rapid strides and have doubtless reacted strongly in favor of the British and have served as a valuable and constructive force leading to cooperation and mutual understanding.

Returning to America in 1873, Scott continued his rapidly growing business, moving in 1875 to 146 Fulton street, then and until the building of the Brooklyn Bridge and the elevated roads one of the most crowded streets New York has ever had. The firm name was changed to Scott & Co. He returned, however, with his attention turned strongly to coins and his successful efforts to became an expert in this field probably more than anything else militated against his development as a great philatelist.

He enjoyed a lucrative trade in coins, holding many auctions. Unquestionably for a time at least he relegated stamps to the second place and was with difficulty aroused again to any great sympathy with our modern philately. He is correctly credited with having amassed a good fortune and at the age of forty was ready to retire. In 1878, his printing office was destroyed by fire and then was lost all of his early records causing most of his earliest writings to become scarce. *The American Journal of Philately,* First Series, ceased because of this occurrence, with its 156th number and 12th volume.

After the fire, in the last number Dec. 20th, 1878, Scott writes.

In the January number of the *Journal* a great change will be noticed, first the size has been doubled while its period of publication has been changed from once a month, to four times a year, again no stamps or album pages will be given away with it, but the Journal itself will be sent free to some thousands of collectors monthly. Various considerations have influenced our publishers in making these changes, the principal one, we believe, being that the amount of time expended on it could be used to better advantage, for we scarcely need tell our readers that it never paid for the time given to it. It returned to its publishers more than the money actually expended for paper and printing, but this formed but a small part of the monthly expense. In its new form a gentleman has been found who could spare the little time necessary to edit it, and our publishers will gladly forego the thousand dollars received from the subscribers and send it free to their old friends. This arrangement is only for 1879 and as the Journal in its twelve volumes has changed its style several times from monthly to weekly and from that to monthly, then issued every fortnight, back again to monthly, it is more than probable that 1880 will see it changed again, in fact, there is only one thing certain about it, and that is that it will never be discontinued."

As a matter of fact the paper was discontinued then and there and was followed by a new journal devoted quite as much to coins as to stamps, called *"The American Journal of Philately and Coin Advertiser,"* much changed in appearance and in contents. This ran for most of the time as a quarterly until Scott disposed of his right, title and interest in the business including his name to The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Limited organized by Mr. G. B. Calman and others in 1887. It was at this date and after the fire that he was located at 721 Broadway. Mr. Scott's intention was to retire permanently although he retained the editorship for one year and five months of the new *American Journal of Philately,* second series, afterwards continued by the new firm until 1906.

The catalog America's "Standard" continues and is today referred to by his name in its 79th edition.

About 1887, negotiations were completed whereby John Walter Scott sold his right, title and interest in Scott and Co. to the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Limited. This sale resulted in a famous law suit familiar to every student of law.

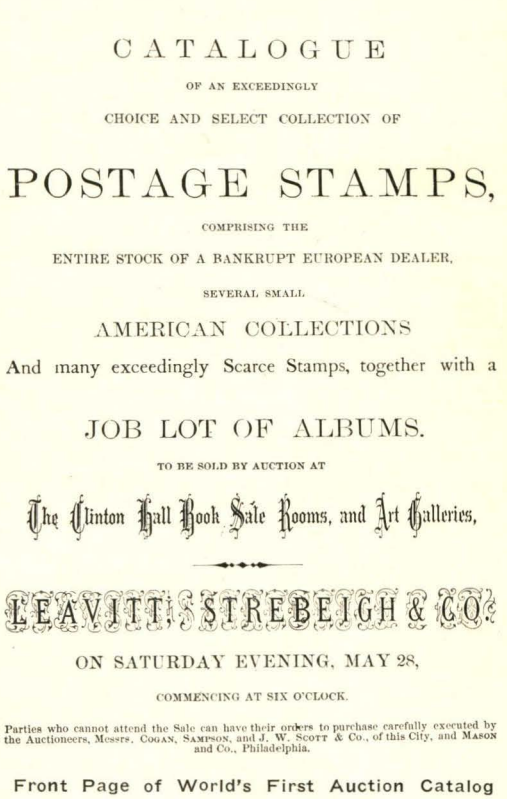
In 1887, the *American Journal of Philately* was not issued but was continued from 1888-1906 by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd. J. W. Scott edited Vol. 1 of this so-called "Second Series" and Nos. 1-5 of Vol. 2.

It is generally understood that Mr. Scott lost most of his fortune in the course of a few months through unfortunate speculation. However this may be, it was the necessity of making a living that, according to statements in court led him to organize a new company—the J. W. Scott Co., Limited, and in 1889 he was to be found again opposite his old stand at 145 Fulton street at 40 John street, acting officially as general manager. This action on the part of Mr. Scott was vigorously and publicly opposed by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., who brought suit against him in an effort to restrain and dissolve this last corporation. The judgment in this case, rendered by the Supreme Court, is well known and studied annually by all law students, supported Scott, laying down as the established principle of law that no matter what the contract, no man can sign away his right to make a living by the only means available to him.

In 1890 we find Mr. Scott again located in Fulton street and busily engaged in gathering forces to his support. It was a strenuous year in the annals of New York philately marked by much display of energy and a very considerable amount of controversy, jealousy and bad blood. Those who supported Scott were more or less opposed to the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. under Mr. Calman.

In April, 1890, Scott was again editing his own journal *"The Metropolitan Philatelist."* April, 1890—Dec., 1916, Nos. 1-765, and later continued by Mr. Handshaw, 1917——.

In 1895 Scott begun his series of *"Weekly News Letters"* advertised as limited to one hundred copies. "A private and confidential communication to the one hundred leading amateurs in America." Sept. 25, 1895, to May 2, 1897, Nos. 1—84. A complete edition of these letters is very scarce. These letters are not only scarce but very valuable in illuminating the trend of Mr. Scott's mind.



CATALOGUE

OF AN EXCEEDINGLY

CHOICE AND SELECT COLLECTION OF

POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING THE

ENTIRE STOCK OF A BANKRUPT EUROPEAN DEALER,

SEVERAL SMALL

AMERICAN COLLECTIONS

And many exceedingly Scarce Stamps, together with a

JOB LOT OF ALBUMS.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION AT

The Clinton Hall Book Sale Rooms, and Art Galleries,

LEAVITT, STREBEIGH & CO.

ON SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 28,

COMMENCING AT SIX O'CLOCK.

Parties who cannot attend the Sale can have their orders to purchase carefully executed by the Auctioneers, Messrs. COGAN, SAMPSON, and J. W. SCOTT & Co., of this City, and MASON and Co., Philadelphia.

Front Page of World's First Auction Catalog

Many prophecies of Mr. Scott may be found here, some fulfilled and some not fulfilled. Occasional mild digs at his contemporaries, especially the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., always referred to as the "Calman's", a steady effort to push the collection of plate numbers, valuable notes concerning auction prices, and, from an historical point of view, notes on the development of the Collectors Club by members of the New York Philatelic Society and others, and likewise illuminating insight into the foolish rivalry between East and West in the A. P. S. The following extracts are quoted:

Sept. 25th, 1895 (*Letter No.* 1)

DEAR SIR:

There are published at the present time about eight magazines supplying desirable information to collectors but if we take in the papers of a lower grade their name is legion. A well known collector like yourself probably receives about five a day. It is impossible that a gentleman occupying your position can have time to read this accumulation of matter, and yet there may be many items of news or matters of general interest of which you would like to be informed. To meet such cases we contemplate writing a weekly letter briefly giving the news of the past week and calling attention to changes in prices, new discoveries, important stamps offered, auction announcements, &c. The letter will be limited to one hundred copies and will be sent to that number of our patrons in recognition of past favors and we shall feel honored by your allowing your name to be included in the hundred.

October 9th, 1895 (*No.* 3)

A last word about this letter: several gentlemen have asked for a bill for yearly subscription to this sheet. Not having the honor to belong to the legal profession we cannot make any charge for writing a friendly, gossipy letter to the philatelic "one hundred" of America who have at various times favored us with their patronage. It will be confined strictly to the hundred and cannot be supplied to others at any price.

A well known city collector walked into the J. W. Scott Co.'s store the other day and announced that he was a "speculator"; for, said he, "Collectors buy by the sheet, speculators buy three or four, and dealers have none at all." This neat little apothegm tersely states a fact; every good stamp is taken up by collectors as soon as it is received, the practical result being that "dealers have none." By the way, there is another class of dealers springing up literally as well as figuratively. They travel all over the country and spring on gentlemen in the seclusion of their homes and by persuasion make sales of stamps that the buyer would never call for if left to his own good judgment; let us trust they will not develop into the class that have invaded France as described in the last M. P. The rage for U. S. plate numbers is still increasing and we hear more frequent demands for these than for more legitimate objects of the amateur's search. The J. W. Scott Co. have lately discovered a strip of three 1c U. S. 1887 imperf. used on part of the original. The plate number catalogue will be ready in a day or two and as it will probably be imperfect a revised edition will be issued during the month and sent free to purchasers of first edition. Of course the Company cannot furnish more than a quarter of the varieties listed but they will make exchanges and thus help all to complete their sets.

"I never review catalogues of other dealers with the exception of Moens, which, as a price catalogue, is of no use to any one. It is very much against my interest to let the public know the prices of all varieties like are priced in your books, and I think it is very much against your own to price them. You are giving away all your special knowledge, a thing which is most injudicious. If I priced everything in my catalogue, I should not be able to buy anything cheap, and I am very much against it or letting collectors know of catalogues where all these things are priced." (Quotation from an English dealer.)

The Calmans are kindly offering to supply "advance sheets" of their catalogue at $5; should the sheets in question contain any matter of use to collectors we shall not fail to furnish it as soon as the "advance sheets" are written.

November 6th, 1895.

We shall have to change the old adage and make it "once a philatelist, always a philatelist," for it seems that any person of mature years who has ever seriously collected stamps will continue to do so until failing sight or the infirmities of old age compels the abandonment of the most fascinating pursuit of the present century. We are impelled to these thoughts by the return of old time faces to the auction rooms: two gentlemen who sold out their collections at a very large profit over cost have lately commenced refilling their abandoned albums and bid fair to become large buyers in the near future. The sight of these gentlemen recalls to mind a prophecy I made about 1870 when in a magazine article I stated that I should live to see stamps sell at auction for $1,000 each. That day has long passed and I feel like saying that I shall live to see them sell at $5,000 each, but I will say that some of the recipients of this letter will pay that amount for a single stamp before they give up collecting. Another wealthy man has started a collection; so far his purchases have been made through an agent and he prefers to remain incog., but I presume as the pleasure of accumulation increases he will commence to make purchases direct. His present intention is to secure the best collection in the world.

Dec. 4th, 1895.

"Intellect is the gift of God, but the biggest fool in the country can be punctual if he wants. Talking of brains brings to mind the 20c St. Louis; but one collector in the U. S. had the ability to reason out the genuineness of this stamp and he invested against the advice of a number of interested dealers. He knew he was right and has since been amply vindicated, while others who missed the chance to acquire a rara avis at a low price have since been kicking themselves. An English critic told the truth when he said that "American collectors placed too little reliance on their own judgment."

Dec. 11th, 1895.

The J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., are preparing for a new departure in the dealing line; on and after the first of January, they will issue a certificate of genuineness with every valuable stamp sold; this certificate will contain a photograph of the stamp which will be kept in duplicate on counterfoil, the stamp also will be numbered, so that a legal record can easily be established for every stamp, while the certificate will certainly be of great advantage should the buyer desire to re-sell. They will also attach a surrender value at which the stamps can be returned to them at any time.

Dec. 25th, 1895.

There has been a general complaint among large dealers of the absence of all small trade, but the trade is in the country, only it has been diverted to other channels. Every school has its boy traders and every town has one or more dealers in stamps, while nearly every bookseller in the U. S. is selling stamps on commission for one or more of the larger houses. Do not be alarmed, gentlemen, the love for stamps is not dying out. The J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., have sold enough stamp albums this season to give the "fever" to the largest city in the world.

Jan. 1st, 1896.

U. S. Locals will greatly appreciate in the near future; they certainly are the most interesting of all stamps and should strongly appeal to the specialist in U. S.; they are incomparably rarer than the rarest of the government issues: stamps of which but three or four specimens only are known, sell at from $100 down, such stamps will be selling at many hundreds, if not thousands, inside of ten years.

Jan. 8th, 1896.

Plate numbers are booming along and will doubtless prove the best investment in sight and at present are within the means of every one. . . .

The American Society for Suppression of Vice (I mean Speculative Stamps), acting on my suggestion in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* for September has achieved a great victory by its circular to the South American countries. The government of Ecuador having issued a decree declaring its contract with Mr. Etheridge (which was transferred to the Hamilton Bank Note Co.), void in consideration of the disrepute into which it had brought the postal administration of that country and authorized a new contract to be made with some other firm of engravers. The full particulars and translations will be published in the next number of the *Metropolitan Philatelist.* It will doubtless have the effect of inciting the Society to renewed exertions and we trust shortly to see its Portuguese letter sent out. This action of the government of Ecuador should at once start a boom in the stamps of that country if only to show that collectors appreciate the action of its officials.

January 15th, 1896.

Considerable attention is now being given to the formation of Philatelic libraries and I venture to predict that in the future enormous prices will be paid for rare works having any merit; already very large figures are realized for the better class of old magazines, two different volumes of the old series of *American Journal of Philately* are a ready sale at $25 each and a soiled unbound volume of the *American Stamp Mercury* realized $9 at our last sale. Priced Auction catalogues are of very great interest and should command the very highest prices, there are probably only two complete files in the world and these are owned by two gentlemen who have scarcely missed a sale since I inaugurated the auction business some quarter of a century ago. Complete libraries of all stamp publications are probably possessed by only two, Messrs. Tiffany and Deats, and future generations will be much indebted to these two gentlemen for their painstaking work. Their libraries have cost much money but they could doubtless be sold at an enormous profit.

February 12th, 1896.

To-morrow the '96 edition of the J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., catalogue will be published. The interest in this to you is somewhat remote because it does not catalogue many of the stamps in which you are interested, nevertheless I am of the opinion that it will ultimately be of great importance in adding to the value of your collection. The above firm was the first to issue a complete priced catalogue, which included watermarks and perforations. Of course this was copied by business opponents, and the rivalry this instituted has developed a catalogue which is difficult for the uninitiated to comprehend, and has had the effect of driving many collectors from the pursuit and deterring a much greater number from entering into the pleasant fields of philately. If this were to continue it is evident that stamp collecting would come to a stop and values drop, a result equally disastrous to advanced collectors and dealers. To counteract this tendency, our publishers have determined to go back to their original starting point and issue a catalogue clearly illustrating and describing all types of engraving, but taking no notice of watermarks or the sizes of perforations. As usual, all dealers were invited to share the advantages of the new departure and it is simply wonderful to note with what unanimity they availed themselves of the offer, fully eighty-five per cent. wrote congratulatory letters, expressing the pleasure it gave them to find some one bold enough to stand up against the danger which is

admitted by all. Fifteen thousand catalogues were sold wholesale to stamp dealers before the work was printed and other orders had to be refused or the J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., would have been left without copies to supply their own trade.

Years ago advanced collectors used to derive great pleasure in going round among the dealers and picking up rare varieties of watermarks, perforations, etc., thus stimulating trade and amusing themselves, but when every slight variety was taken advantage of to increase the price, the place of the amateur was taken by the speculator, who now in a great measure controls the field, to the detriment, if not positive danger, of all.

March 18th, 1896.

I have frequently been asked what is the best way to commence a collection. To this I invariably reply, how much do you calculate to spend? It is a pity that money considerations have to enter into every pleasure, but so it is, and we shall always do well to think of the old English proverb and "cut our coats according to our cloth." Leaving out the boy class, who will not see this letter, there remains two others: the first, with unlimited means, is easily answered. Buy every stamp possible in entire sheets; it will form an unequalled collection, will enormously appreciate in value and prove the best investment possible. I challenge capitalists, the world over, to name a better investment than high grade stamps have proved in the past. To the other class I say, first decide which you propose to collect, used or unused (and stick to it), then get one of our publisher's prepared albums, or a blank book if you prefer it, then you can take the new catalogue along for a guide and get one of every stamp, up to as high a price as you care to go. Take no heed of watermarks or varieties of perforations, but fill the book. If you can get a rare watermark as cheap as a common one, take it, but don't buy two specimens of the same engraving until the book is full, or you have reached the limit of the amount you propose to pay for a stamp. Now if your interest continues, which it certainly will if you have been guided by these rules in collecting, you will have formed preferences for certain countries. Take out the stamps of your favorite and rearrange the country in a small blank album, leaving spaces for every possible variety of perforation, watermark, shade, postmarks, together with pairs and blocks. On this country you can work for months or years, make discoveries and become the possessor of varieties owned by no other man, while you will still have a fine general collection, growing in value day by day, a constant pleasure for yourself and a delight for all your intellectual friends, collectors or otherwise. The special collection can be reserved for amateurs who can appreciate it.

Such a collection is within the means of all; five dollars per week will supply it in time and any amount of money can be spent on it, but if there is one thing more than any other that I wish to warn collectors against, it is spending more money than they can well spare on their collections. It is an investment, and, as I have said before, the best in the world, but directly a man commences to stint himself to invest money, he becomes a miser and loses the greater part of the pleasures of life.

March 25th, 1896.

As a pointer, would advise the purchase, whenever possible, of unsevered pairs, blocks, etc.; there is an ever increasing demand for such specimens and a corresponding dearth of stock to supply it with. I may add, that everything tends to show that the ultimate goal of the advanced collector will be entire sheets.

April 8th, 1896.

As an instance of the solid ground on which the highest class of stamps stand we may mention that when the 2c rose British Guiana sold in the Fred. de Coppet auction at one thousand and ten dollars (the highest price at that time ever paid at auction for a single stamp), many collectors thought that the buyer would never see his money back, yet within three months he was offered an advance of five hundred dollars for his purchase. Again, Sterling finally sold his New Haven envelope for two thousand dollars, an unheard of price at that time, but we will give three thousand dollars for it or a duplicate. The 20c St. Louis stamp, now that a number are known, will sell for half as much again as when it was unique. The newly discovered 10c Baltimore is reported to have sold for four thousand five hundred dollars. The first 5c discovered sold for ten dollars, and so with the Brattleboro; I sold the first specimen for ten, and the last for seven hundred dollars both on the original, and doubtless the last buyer can make a profit on his purchase to-day.

April 22d, 1896.

Last night also was burdened with a stamp auction conducted by the firm which was so happily termed the pseudo Scott by that erstwhile indefatigable collector C. B. Corwin. There are two sides to every question. The sale of the 14th was a joy to the seller while last night's auction was a pleasure to the buyers, however, we presume that outside of regular catalogue sales both sides cannot be suited; for human nature is still the same as when the old couplet was written

"The smartest thing for any man
Is to get from others all he can,
But the meanest thing a man can do
Is to make his gains from me or you."

April 22d, 1896.

The demand for proofs, specimens and essays is greatly on the increase, for while the large extent and great cost of a complete collection of stamps has compelled many to confine their attention to the issues of one country, it has also had the effect of inducing the true stamp lover to thoroughly exploit his chosen field, commencing with copies of all the essays submitted, proofs of the chosen design in all the different colors, with specimens of the accepted stamp in all its varieties, from die to plate and from first impressions to worn plates. The latter state, by the way, is clearly indicated by the present printers of our own stamps. Heretofore, a poor impression was hard to distinguish from a print from a poor plate. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing have a practice of making the printer stamp his initials on the plate given into his care; when, as in the case of one and two cents stamps, he prints until the plate is sufficiently worn to be discarded this is unnecessary, but when only a few thousand impressions are ordered to be worked off at a time, a plate, in the course of its period of usefulness, may have passed through the hands of a number of different printers. Take, for instance, the top row of the ten cents Special Delivery; the first print will show in the upper left margin the initials of one man, that on the strip before us being G. C. On a sheet just received from the post office, we find that it has been in the hands of thirteen different men, alternating with each other, which would indicate so many different workings, clearly showing the life of the plate. I should not be surprised to find that in the future not only will plate numbers be collected, but each different working from the same plate, as indicated by the workman's initials.

May 6th, 1896.

A refreshing incident happened to-day; a new collector sending a specimen of the Danville envelope, for which, he hoped our publishers would kindly send him the *Metropolitan* for one year. I need scarcely say that he got the M. P. and the full value of the stamp as well. This carries me back to old times, when I used to purchase Baton Rouge stamps for 25c and a Brattleboro for $2. In the good old days, the percentage was large but the profits small. It cost just as much to run the business as it does now, and on the Brattleboro there was only $8 profit and $4.75 on the Baton Rouge, while at the present day 10 per cent. on the Brattleboro would be fifty or sixty dollars, and 25 per cent. on the Confederate, twelve dollars, which are about the profits sellers allow us when they have desirable stamps to dispose of.

May 13th, 1896.

Some of my friends, the enemy, are beginning to think that something must be done to keep up the interest of boy collectors and propose to issue a joint stock philatelic paper at a probable loss of several thousand dollars per year, which will enable the company to distribute the paper regularly in every school in the United States; give the paper away and give the boys a bonus in the shape of a packet of stamps for taking it. I am willing to do my share and strive to make it a success. It has been my policy for the last thirty-five years to spend large sums in miscellaneous outside advertising, which, although not bringing the slightest immediate returns, has rebounded to the welfare of philately.

THE BEGINNING OF THE COLLECTORS CLUB

May 20th, 1896.

News. The Philatelic Society, New York, held their regular monthly meeting Monday evening last, and considered the subject of new quarters. It was proposed to rent a private residence in some central locality in the city and turn it into a regular Philatelic Club House, devoting the double parlors to auctions and large meetings; the second floor front, for regular meetings of the Society; the back room for a general parlor and reception room; while the upper floors could be furnished as bed rooms for the benefit of out-of-town members desirous of spending a few days in the city; while the basement floor could be fitted up as a billiard room. It is thought that these conveniences would make it a very attractive resort for both city and country members. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Herrick, Andreini and your correspondent, was appointed to see what could be done in this line. I shall be very pleased to hear from any interested in the matter.

June 10th, 1896.

Stamp collecting had become pretty well established before it ever appeared in the daily papers; now we can scarcely take up a leading daily without seeing some reference to Philately. New issues are chronicled and designs criticised, while the law courts cases give employment to reporters. Philatelic larceny, shoplifting and burglary have succeeded libels, piracy and infringements, then we have had births, deaths, marriages and divorces, but now alas, the whole is blighted by a murder committed to obtain possession of stamps. I am thankful to say that it did not occur in this country; but a crime is as much to be deplored if perpetrated in France as if it occurred in our own happy land; may it be long before a similar case has to be chronicled.

July 3d, 1896.

Fireworks have commenced to crack around me, bringing to mind the days of twenty years ago when I used to purchase numbers of small collections at this time of the year that the

proceeds might be sent up in smoke to demonstrate the patriotism of the vender. Collections have now become too valuable to be exchanged for fireworks but the boys sell to put the proceeds into a bicycle. Fireworks and bicycles may come and go but stamp collecting will last out the present era of civilization.

July 11th, 1896.

Twenty-five years ago I had a sign in the store reading as follows: "Stamp Collecting is a science engaged in by old and young, rich and poor, prince and peasant," with a few more lines extolling its benefits to all who devoted themselves to this elevating pastime. It has just occurred to me that the princes are driving out the peasants, the rich the poor, for prices are advancing at such a rate that a man must have a long purse to collect solely for pleasure. This accounts for the large speculative interest, as many would have to drop their collections for lack of means were it not considered in the light of a desirable investment which enables a man of moderate means to invest his savings in such a manner that he derives constant amusement and profitable employment in the management of his savings. Still I much regret the excluding of the boy from a pastime at once intellectual and better calculated to keep him away from bad company than any other pursuit I have ever seen boys engaged in. I propose to devote considerable time to showing how an interesting and profitable collection complete in the lines laid down can be amassed by a boy with a very moderate allowance of pocket money.

July 18th, 1896.

In the course of a speech at the annual dinner of the London Philatelic Society Mr. M. P. Castle stated that the stamp fraternity might be classified on zoological lines into birds, beasts, fishes and reptiles. The birds being collectors pure and simple who filled their albums for the love of the pursuit and above all sordid considerations; the fishes were the collectors who bought and sold, picked up bargains and belonged to exchange clubs, etc.; the beasts were the dealers who prey on the birds and fishes when they can catch them; while the reptiles were the speculators who neither toiled nor spun, but only held in barns waiting for a rise. The aptness of the illustration is acknowledged by all and has been widely quoted. I may add that from general appearances this must be the cretacious age, as reptiles are very plentiful and birds seldom seen.

August 1st, 1896.

. . . As the auction season will soon be opening a few words on the subject may not be out of place, more especially as some ugly rumors in regard to the way some of our contemporaries have conducted sales entrusted to their care have been circulated, while other dealers who have never even risen to the place where they might reasonably expect to get the sale of a collection are continually decrying auction sales as being one of the chief causes of the depression of the stamp business and fervently hoping that there will not be many sales this season. I established the custom of selling stamps at auction, not to benefit my own trade but for the security of collectors and to convince them that their property had a value, and demonstrated to their satisfaction that they could always dispose of valuable stamps without taking them to a dealer and accepting any price he might feel inclined to offer. It took many years' work to get this fact firmly established, but I succeeded at last and now stamp collecting without auctions would be like a performance of Hamlet with the part of the melancholy prince left out. The English were even slower than our own people to take to auctions although I went to considerable expense in selling a collection in London to give them ocular proof of its benefits as an adjunct to high grade collecting, however, after several years deliberation they caught on and have been running at high pressure ever since.

August 8th, 1896.

It is hot; in fact I think I might be pardoned if I repeated Mr. Beecher's opening sentence in his celebrated sermon, but I have not the ability to turn it off as cleverly as he did, so we will have to let it go at that. Another sin is in my heart. I am envying the man my Providence friend writes me of who is wandering among the coast towns of New England swept by ocean breezes), picking up rare stamps such as first Sandwich Islands, etc. One philatelic wanderer learned that a boy had one of these stamps in his possession, sought him out and (purchased, I was going to say), got it from him for 75c and then turned it over for $125. In consideration of having made a trifle more than his usual profits he sent the boy $3 more. That is where he made his mistake for such princely generosity caused inquiries to be instituted and now trouble is brewing. This puts me in mind of a case which occurred two years ago in Nova Scotia; a young man showed me a very good old collection containing all the British N. A. shilling stamps which he informed me had been made by a lady thirty years before. Having lost interest she had given the collection to her nephew, a boy of ten, from whom my informant had pur—— got the book, but I must continue the story in his own words. "After finding out where the boy got the collection I asked him how much he would take for it. He said I could have it for half a dollar but I did not want to take advantage of the kid so I gave him a dollar." It seems a waste of a good story to tell this in a typewritten letter, for it requires italics and various points not belonging to the machine.

The A. P. A. Convention opens on Tuesday; I shall not be there. Mr. Gremmel is as far as I know the only member from the East who will attend, but I presume this is one more than was wanted or expected as the meeting was purposely put in an out-of-the-way corner; I have

turned my proxies over to him and they will be used for the best interests of the Association. I am in favor of doing away with cumulative voting but while this law is in force it would be ridiculous to vote for nine different directors. The best way to fight fire is with fire, so I turned in some hundreds of votes for Mr. Olney.

August 29th, 1896.

The New York Club project has one week more of grace. The Committee issued a circular to subscribers a week ago reporting what they had done, and stating that if the Club was to be established it must be by the individual efforts of the subscribers. It is not a question of money; if that were the only difficulty the Committee would willingly subscribe the lacking amount amongst themselves, but they recognize that to be a success it is essential that there be one hundred charter members to start with. At the dawn of civilization, many thousands of years ago, it was clearly seen that strength consisted in union, and however weak the individual fraction, if united in sufficient numbers, anything could be accomplished. The Club will undoubtedly be a pleasant place for New Yorkers but the real benefits will rest with the dwellers in far off cities who will thus procure a house in New York at small expense, and when, in the usual order of things, their collection comes to the auction room the difference in money value between having their collection sold amongst strangers, or in their city house where they are known and appreciated, can not be measured by a $25 output. The French "noblesse oblige" can be applied with equal truth and force to the wealthy owners' princely collections.

October 10th, 1896.

Now that the value of a stamp collection is more fully known in the community it behooves gentlemen to take better care of their treasures than was formerly necessary. This is forced on us by the numerous cases of robberies which we see reported. It is also necessary for dealers to be on their guard in buying collections which may turn out to be stolen property. I had the satisfaction of purchasing a collection which it was claimed had been stolen by the owner's brother and then invited to return it to the owner which I did at a loss of $350 and no chance to prosecute the thief. This scheme could be worked on any dealer, but as this letter is not seen by dealers it is useless to warn them here.

October 24th, 1896.

The Collectors Club will be formally opened on Wednesday evening next, a notice to that effect having been sent out by the Secretary. Refreshments will be served and members are requested to bring their friends. It is expected that every notable stamp collector in New York City and vicinity will be present and several members from a distance have signified their intention to attend.

October 31st, 1896.

I am not marching in the sound money parade or I could not be writing this letter to you, moreover there must be a few left to stand on the sidewalks or yell from the windows or the marching myriads would think they were travelling through a churchyard; by the way there was nothing of the churchyard about the opening of the Club. The collectors turned out in their might, some came in and looked round, others remained all evening, and others nearly all morning too, anyway there was no fun in remaining after daylight. The gathering was representative, collectors big and little; dealers, old and young, and by the way, several hundred dollars changed hands in a quiet way to mutual advantage of buyers and sellers, but that was not what they were there for, they came to get acquainted and they did it with a vengeance; the handshaking must have left some tired muscles, and the talking, well, they were heard. The music alcove was neglected, but the billiard room made up for it. The supper was excellent in every detail and was enjoyed by all. The liquids were good stayers for they outlasted the guests and the way they were drank should prove a good augury of the prosperity of the club, they commenced with beer and finished with Pommeroy Sec. The Club commences with one hundred members and should finish with a thousand; but the number is limited to two hundred, and at the rate applicants for membership are coming in the limit will soon be reached. Ten per week will soon fill the list. It would be useless to name the city members who were there but a list of those who travelled far to be at the opening would not be out of place. I noticed, among others, Batchelder and Brown, of Boston; Townsend, of Washington; Deats, of Flemington; Rice, of Trenton; Brown, of Keyport; Needham, of Hamilton, Canada, etc.

January 2d, 1897.

The Club meeting of the 28th was all that could be desired in the way of a Christmas or New Year celebration. A tastefully adorned Xmas tree enlivened one end of the large assembly room while holly and various other evergreens embowered the remainder; friend Luff will certainly make his mark as a decorator when the business fails. Descending to the billiard room guests were met with a motto appropriate to those who enter the lower regions. The presents were selected with great judgment, care being taken that all the leading members secured what they did not want. Those supposed to have a liking for the bottle got one—empty of course—while teetotalers' bottles were filled with brandy, and yet, we did not learn of any exchanges being made. Non-smokers got presents of cigars and tobacco while those who indulged in the weed received a box from which a choice brand of cigars had been carefully extracted. Your humble

servant secured a choice selection of vegetables. The presents that were distributed by lot were of a more useful order, consisting of ink-stands and other small objects calculated to be kept as a permanent reminder of the occasion.

January 9th, 1897.

Auction sales will prove of even greater benefit to the collector than ever before, there being a movement on foot by some dealers to agree not to purchase at auction. This is done with the hope of limiting the number of sales, which are cutting deeply into the average dealer's profits. Perhaps the truest dictum of political economy is that combinations for the restraint of commerce are futile, and certainly the combination of short sighted dealers to compel amateurs to purchase their wares, will come to naught and collectors will reap the full benefit of auction sales. This is a subject on which I may be pardoned if I think I am competent to speak, as I sold the first stamp ever put up at auction and was the first to introduce the stamp auction in England. My purpose in establishing auction sales was to give stability to the stamp business. I never calculated that it would benefit me or any other directly; quite the reverse. My object was to show collectors and the world at large that stamps had a saleable value and that after a man had accumulated a valuable collection he could place his album in the hands of the auctioneer and rely upon his fellow collectors to buy his stamps at a fair price, instead of being compelled to take his treasures to a dealer and accept whatever sum might be offered. I can truthfully say that during my thirty-five years' career as a dealer I have always acted for the best interests of my customers and what is more I have never had occasion to regret it.

February 13th, 1897.

By the way, did it ever strike you as strange that so many dealers have to be continually telling you how honest they are? Shakespeare says, "Good wine needs no bush." Perhaps they doubt your ability to find it out by yourself. I can at least testify that much for my most unscrupulous opponents that they have got too much sense to resort to this practice which is so common among small dealers.

May 1st, 1897.

Perhaps there is no question connected with stamps more difficult for the ordinary collector to understand than to determine what constitutes a bargain, and certainly more collectors are, to use a vulgar expression, "stuck" with bargains than with any other stamps they buy. Catalogues, even with the best intentions of the compilers, are not infallible, therefore it is quite possible to buy stamps at "half catalogue" and still make a bad investment, while other stamps bought at double list price may be genuine bargains. The only way to achieve a valuable collection is to fill your album with stamps that are extremely difficult to duplicate. You may buy stamps at present "no one wants" and therefore are not marked high, but you may be sure that in time they will certainly increase enormously in price. The value of a stamp is frequently no criterion of its rarity. There are plenty of $50 or $100 stamps which can be bought by the dozen, while other stamps quoted as low as 10 cents for which you would have to scour the entire country to secure a dozen copies.

Perhaps no living collector better understands what constitutes a bargain than Mr. F. W. Ayer. He made it a rule to let no really scarce stamp escape him; price was no object, but every rarity in the market had to go to Bangor. These things could not be had for nothing, in fact the man who got them usually secured them because the dealers knew that he would pay more than any other man. It made collecting expensive, but what is the result, when the owner concluded to sell he had the princes of the earth competing for the gems of his collection. To sell an ordinary collection the owner has to do the hustling, to sell gems it is only necessary to state that you might be inclined to receive offers and you will be besieged by buyers from far and near. The dealer who secures it does so for the credit and advertisement in the transaction. The direct profit is very small, for the seller has got all there is in it.

March 13th, 1897.

The Club is booming. Every distinguished collector from any part of the country makes a bee line for 351 Fourth avenue on arriving in the city. It is only a question of a few years when the "Collectors" will be seeking a new house and vying with the older social organizations in the splendor of its opportunities.

In November, 1916, twenty-seven years later, Mr. Scott again sold his stock and interest to J. E. Handshaw and at 36 John street the J. W. Scott Co., Limited, still progresses.

Of the many comments this retirement of Mr. Scott as a stamp dealer occasioned, we quote the following editorial from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News,* November 25th, 1916:

> "The retirement from the stamp business of Mr. J. W. Scott after a singularly long and honorable career, has furnished the theme for many a commentator in the stamp papers from coast to coast, not to say the world. There is no discordant note in the chorus of praise bestowed upon Mr. Scott for the good influence that he has exerted on philately from the beginning. Our word of appreciation was duly recorded but what we wish to say now

is that it devolves upon Mr. Scott to write his memoirs, as they would span philately from its founding to the present day. We should say that no story could be of so engrossing interest as Mr. Scott's recital of stamp collecting from the date of its origin to its present estate. For many years Mr. Scott was the most outstanding figure in philately and so thoroughly was he a part of the pursuit that any history of philately would be incomplete without the story of his stamp life. We hope that Mr. Scott will put pen to paper for the benefit of the present generation of collectors and of those who are to come. He is the one man to whom traditions of the past are as familiar as the forms of to-day."

On March 13th, 1897, Mr. Scott began in addition his series *"John W. Scott's Junior Weekly Letter"*. (Nos. 1-5), afterward continued as *John W. Scott's Weekly Bulletin* (Nos. 6-23), the last appearing November 13th, 1897. The first page of the first of these containing his own statement of his early interest in stamps is illustrated in full.

The foregoing quotations illustrate the general character of nearly all of Mr. Scott's writings and compilations. His was essentially a one-man business and his viewpoint was the result of experience rather than of profound study. He was by nature very positive in his opinions but he could change them. Personally acquainted with practically all of the leading amateurs and professionals, he learned from them to respect new ideas and ultimately adopted many of them. In his establishments he worked practically alone save for a stenographer and much of his, in the aggregate, immense correspondence was a matter of long-hand. He wrote Sundays and holidays and when the sound money procession was filing by, and firecrackers resounding in his ears. He was and meant to be the conscientious adviser of tens of thousands of collectors.

In the earliest days of philately, even as today, the demand for certain stamps far exceeded the supply and several governments, including our own, manufactured reprints. Many dealers here and abroad sold these reprints and in the case of those of the United States their true status and ultimate value was not even imagined.

The early albums were often loaded with junk of this description and in particular with the so-called Hamburg locals and reprints of the United States Locals.

These last were, I believe, manufactured by Mr. Scott and advertised as space fillers. The Bogert & Durban Co. pursued a similar policy with the Providence Postmaster Stamp. Mr. Seebeck became notorious in the Central American deal and Mekeel in the realm of Mexico. Great injury was done the cause of philately by the issue of these pot boilers. On the other hand Mr. Scott always advertised them as reprints and at an early date guaranteed any stamp or coin sold by him as genuine. His essential integrity was evidenced during the many years that he served as treasurer of the Collectors Club and he was also the treasurer of the funds raised for the exhibition of 1913.

Mr. Scott was irritated, as many dealers are to this day, at the development of the specialist. The space filler was more valuable to him professionally than the seeker after watermarks, perforations, errors and retouches. He even advised and furthered the filling of spaces with reprints to await the advent of the originals that seldom materialized. He doubtless realized that no brain is comprehensive enough to specialize everything and wisely "from his point of view at least" left the coordination, organization, and research required along these lines largely to his successors and later contemporaries. He had no intention of leaving his stock or any portion of his business to a host of clerks organized like the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. or developed as the Nassau. It was difficult for him to organize and delegate special service to others. On the other hand, his knowledge of stamps, his intimate acquaintance with all the noted collectors of the last half century, his system of pricing stamps in his earlier catalogs solely from the evidence afforded by his stock, his service in establishing markets and establishing prices through auctions, his successful and often unique advertising, and, more than this, his kindly sympathy and readiness to further the interests of every philatelic organization: these are the elements that afford him his title, cheerfully credited even by his enemies and contemporaries, "The Father of American Philately".

(To be followed by chapters entitled: Scott in Philatelic Literature; Scott in Philatelic Organizations; Scott as an Auctioneer and Scott and Philatelic Exhibitions.)

Arthur Hind at the Collectors Club

By George B. Sloane

On the occasion of our first meeting, Wednesday evening, October 24th, the season of 1923-24 was most auspiciously inaugurated with the exhibition by Mr. Arthur Hind of his wonderful collection of United States and Confederate States stamps which is by far the finest and most important assemblage of these stamps in the world

Mr. Hind, who is a member of the club, made a special journey from his home in Utica in order that the members of the *Collectors Club* might have an opportunity of inspecting the extraordinary items in stamps about which so much has been written in the philatelic press in recent months. That the exhibition was a memorable success may be judged by the fact that no other feature in the past history of the club ever attracted such a record-breaking attendance—over eighty members and their guests being present, a veritable "Who's Who" among the leading United States specialists in the country.

The exhibition was preceded earlier in the evening by a dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, where Mr. and Mrs. Hind were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Phillips, and Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau, Theodore Steinway, George Walcott, Dr. J. B. Chittenden and William C. Kennett. As is well known, Mr. Kennett is Mr. Hind's adviser and personal agent in all philatelic matters.

Mr. Hind now holds the most valuable stamp collection in the world, its monetary value being understood to exceed a million dollars, and he is hailed as the "Ferrary" of America. Due to his extremely large purchases at the sales in Paris dispersing the great Ferrary collection, and the consequent publicity in the daily press, he is undoubtedly the foremost and best known stamp collector in the United States today. At the mention of his name every philatelist instantly recalls him as the man who paid the highest price on record for a single postage stamp,—over $32,000 for the one-cent red British Guiana stamp of 1856, the only known copy in existence.

At the London Philatelic Exhibition last May, his collections of Mauritius, Spain and United States were each awarded gold medals, in addition to a grand gold medal for the greatest showing of rarities.

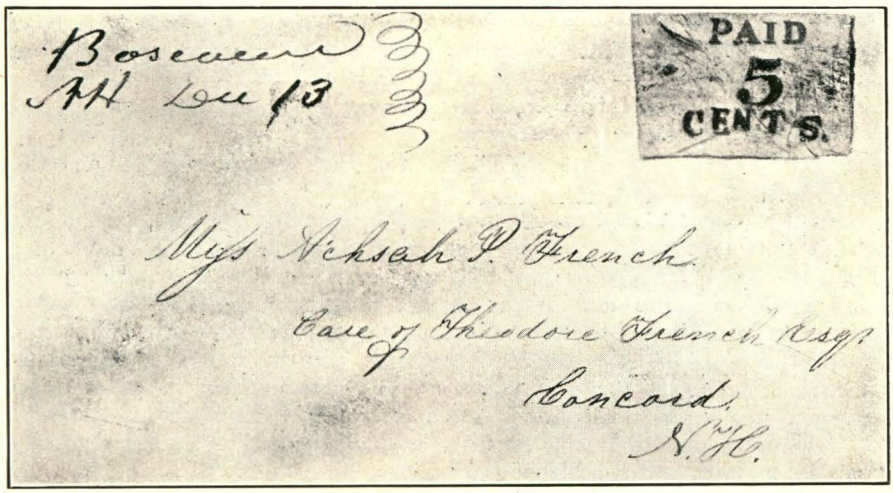
His United States and Confederate collections are contained in three large volumes, and while the mounting is not very attractive, this is only a temporary condition, as Mr. Hind is shortly to have the collections remounted in better albums where more attention will be given to arrangement and the stamps shown to greater advantage.

A brief address of welcome was made by Mr. J. C. Morgenthau, wherein Mr. Hind was introduced to the members, and in which he thanked him on behalf of the club for his kindness, and concluded by extolling the merits of his collection. Mr. Hind, apparently a man of a very few words, made no remarks, but bowed and indicated a black leather satchel from which the three volumes were quickly extracted. The fact is that it was hardly necessary for Mr. Hind to do any talking as his stamps were there to speak for themselves.

Volume one, United States postmasters' stamps and general issues, was placed in the custody of Mr. John A. Kleeman; volume two, containing United States, 20th century issues, newspaper stamps, revenues and carriers, etc., was given over to Mr. Kennett, while the Confederates in volume three were placed in the guardianship of Mr. Phillips. By this method the members were permitted to gather around in small groups and thus were enabled to examine the entire exhibit with a minimum of crowding.

In volume one, among the postmasters' provisional stamps, was to be seen the famous Boscawen, 5c blue of 1846, the highest priced stamp in the exhibit, and which cost Mr. Hind almost $12,000 at the Ferrary sale. This stamp, which is unique, is on the entire envelope and bears no cancellation. It is imperforate, and printed in a dull blue ink on a very thin paper. In the upper left corner of the envelope is the manuscript notation "Boscawen, N.H. Dec. 13" written by the postmaster at the time of mailing. It is addressed to Concord, N. H., and was formerly in the collection of Hiram E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J., later passing into the Ferrary collection, long known as a "philatelic graveyard" because it was always understood that Ferrary's stamps would never be sold but would be given to the Berlin Postal Museum. Almost the entire State of New Hampshire has been searched and ransacked, but no other copy has ever been found.

Next in importance in this volume is the Lockport postmaster's stamp, an $8,500 item, oval in the shape of its design, printed in red on a small oblong piece of buff paper, with a manuscript "5" inserted in black ink in the center of the oval, the



The Boscawen Postmaster's Provisional Stamp for which Mr. Hind Paid $12.000.

whole attached to the upper left hand corner of the entire envelope on which it was used. This adhesive is cancelled with black pen strokes, while in the upper right corner of the envelope appears the postmark "Lockport N. Y. 5" and the word "Paid" about in the center of the envelope. This piece is also unique, but is hardly a thing of beauty, even though it may be a joy forever to its proud possessor. It was found some years ago in an old correspondence, and again in this instance diligent search has failed to locate another copy.

An excellent example of the Millbury, 5c black on bluish is present off cover. An Alexandria, 5c black on buff, a New Haven, 5c red, and a wonderful array of Baltimore and St. Louis postmasters' stamps are shown used on the original covers, together with the much debated and disputed 5c red Annapolis envelope, for which Mr. Hind paid $3,000. The New York, 5c black, is shown in a splendid aggregation of more than thirty copies, which include all the double line and shifted transfer varieties, and an excellent example of the very rare variety with signature "R. H. M."

The bulk of the general issues, Mr. Hind secured by purchasing outright the United States section of the renowned collection of the late Henry J. Duveen, and

consequently most of the these stamps are unused. Blocks of four are exceedingly strong throughout.

In the 1847 issue there are three blocks of four and a block of six of the five-cent. Of the ten-cent, a beautiful horizontal strip of four and a block. Also a bisected variety on the entire cover.

There is a block of eight of the one-cent blue, 1851, in which two of the stamps are of the rare type III, short transfer varieties, numbers 99R2 and 100R2 on the plate. This is a most remarkable item. A noteworthy gem is the only known block of four of the five-cent 1851, unused with full original gum. There is also the used block of twenty-one, ten-cent green, which was bought for Mr. Hind at the Springfield Convention sale in 1922 for $1,825. A used twelve-cent black printed on both sides, and two bisected varieties, one used in conjunction with a Hawaiian stamp, are included. A single of the twenty-four-cent, and a horizontal pair each of the thirty-cent and ninety-cent imperforate, all unused, complete the exceptional items in this issue.

In the 1857 issue are blocks of four of the five-cent brick red, the five-cent red brown, the rare twenty-four-cent red lilac, and the thirty-cent and ninety-cent.

The August issue of 1861 is complete in unused singles, and includes a block of four of the ten-cent. From the September issue of 1861 up to the grilled issues of 1867 almost everything is represented in a block. In this group the rarest and finest piece is a unique block of four of the five-cent buff. The five-cent and thirty-cent grilled all over varieties are in singles, used.

The 1869 issue is complete in blocks; used and unused single copies of the three inverts being included.

Throughout the bank note issues of 1870-88, almost everything is in an unused block, while the special printings of 1875 and 1880-83 are complete in unused singles.

The twentieth century issues are well represented in blocks, etc., and here Mr. Hind has specialized somewhat in the surface printings and their varieties. The best items are the 1901 Pan-American inverts, the one-cent and two-cent in unused singles, and two blocks of the four-cent, one with, and the other without, the word "Specimen." The bluish paper varieties of 1908 are complete in blocks of four. The five-cent rose error, imperforate, single error and double error, both in large blocks. A block of four of the twenty-four cent aeroplane with center inverted concludes the list of rarities among these later issues.

The balance of the stamps in volume two comprise revenues, departments, newspaper stamps and carriers. With the revenues, the effort apparently has been only to fill the spaces for the regular varieties, no attention being given to pairs, strips or blocks. There is a magnificent assortment of department stamps, including the "Specimen" sets and numerous "Sepcimen" errors. The carriers are a noteworthy lot, principally from the Duveen collection. There is the New York, three-cent apple green on entire cover generally understood to be unique, and the rare two-cent red from the Ferrary collection. A Boston, two-cent black and a fine lot of Baltimores, Louisvilles, and Philadelphias are also represented, with an exceptionally fine array of Charlestons which include some fine "Honours".

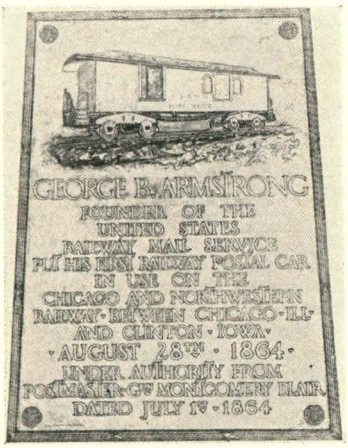
Almost everything in the rarities is to be found among the Confederates in volume three. Of principal note are some of the scarce provisional issues. Athens, five-cent red on cover; Baton Rouge, two-cent green on cover; and a first type five-cent green and carmine error "McCormick" on cover; Beaumont, ten-cent black on rose on cover; Danville, five-cent red on cover; Emory, five-cent blue on cover; Goliad, a fine lot on covers; Grove Hill, five-cent black on cover; Livingston, five-cent blue off cover; Macon, five-cent black on yellow, tete-beche pair on cover; Pittsylvania, five-cent red on cover; Pleasant Shade, five-cent blue, pair on cover; Rheatown, five-cent red, unused pair; Spartanburg, five-cent black on cover; and a fine lot of Uniontowns and Victorias. In the general issues of the Confederacy, the best item is an unused block of four of the "TEN" cents blue.

The Origin of the Railway Mail Service

By Herman Toaspern

IN browsing through an old time book written by Mr. Clark E. Carr, entitled *"The Railway Mail Service,"* I ran across several interesting things. The writer entered the U. S. postal service at the outbreak of the Civil War, (April, 1861), and was fortunate enough to be connected with the development of the Railway Mail Service.

"In the early sixties there was only a single mail agent in charge of the mail upon a train. Rarely did he have a car to himself, but only a compartment in a car. Cars in those days were divided into two or sometimes three compartments, one for mail, another for baggage and a third for express business. Usually the only mails he distributed were those for the towns on his line. There was no night service. On the great Western lines, as from Chicago to Omaha, a mail agent ran each way during the day, giving service along the line daily from each direction. The towns along the line neither received nor sent out mail at night, except in a through bag for a great population center like Chicago. This bag was thrown into the baggage car on the night train and lay there until delivered."



"In order to facilitate the distribution of mail, certain large post-offices centrally situated were designated as "distributing post-offices" to which mail was sent in packages. For instance, we at Galesburg (Illinois) would bunch all the letters we received for Wisconsin and Michigan in one parcel and direct the parcel, "Chicago D. P. O." (Distributing Post Office), all letters for Indiana to Indianapolis D. P. O. for New England and the East to Boston, Albany, New York or Philadelphia D. P. O. At these distributing post-offices letters were necessarily detained for sorting and distributing, frequently for twenty-four hours."

"A system of billing all letters had been in vogue from the beginning of the service, probably inaugurated by Benjamin Franklin (First Postmaster General), which required that every package of letters for every town, big and little, should be done up with the bill of the letters it contained and wrapped in brown paper furnished by the Department, and the parcel so done up and directed to its destination, where it was opened and sorted for delivery. This took much time and frequently caused delay."

"In 1861, Mr. George B. Armstrong (the man who had straightened the mails out in Cairo, Ill., during the start of the Civil War) first proposed plans for "putting the post-offices on wheels." In 1864, after long delays due to the War between the States, he addressed three letters to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, dated May 10, May 14, and June 10.

> 'Letters deposited in a post-office at the latest moment of the departure of the mail for near and far places should travel at the same uninterrupted speed and certainly as passengers to their places of destination. . . . Passengers travelling over rail road routes generally reach a given point in advance of letters, when to that given point letters must pass, under the present system through a distributing office, and when letters are subject to a distributing process in more than one distributing office as is largely the case now, the tardiness of a letter's progress toward its place of destination is proportionately increased. But a general system of railway distribution obviates this difficulty. The work being done while the cars are in motion and the transfers of mail from route to route and for local delivery on the way, as they are reached, letters attain the same celerity in transit as persons making direct connections.'

"The Hon. A. N. Zevely, the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, to whom these letters were sent, was an enterprising official and thought Mr. Armstrong's plans should be given a fair trial. The Hon. Montgomery Blair was then Postmaster-General in Mr. Lincoln's cabinet, and Mr. Zevely laid Mr. Armstrong's recommendations before him. One of those who took up the matter with enthusiasm was the Hon. Schuyler Colfax." (Then Speaker of the House of Representatives.)

"Postmaster Blair was induced to give the plan a trial and the following is a copy of his letter of instruction to Mr. Armstrong:

Post Office Department,
July 1, 1864.

Sir:—

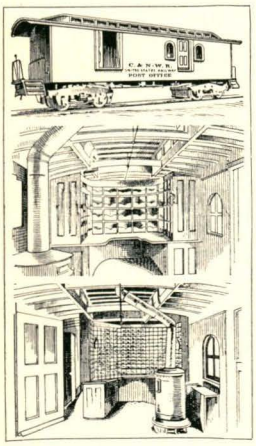
You are authorized to test by actual experiment, upon such railroad route, or routes, as you may select at Chicago, the plans proposed by you for simplifying the mail service. You will arrange with railroad companies to furnish suitable cars for traveling post-offices; designate head offices with their dependent offices; prepare forms of blanks and instructions for all such offices, and those on the railroad not head offices, also for clerks of travelling post-offices.

To aid you in this work, you may select some suitable road agent whose place can be supplied with a substitute, at the expense of the department.

When your arrangements are complete, you will report them in full.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

"The first railway post-office in the United States was established by Mr. Armstrong under the above instructions, August 28, 1864, on the Chicago and North-Western Railway. It ran between Chicago, Illinois and Clinton, Iowa, in a compartment car. The first complete post-office cars were built by the same railway from plans furnished by Mr. Armstrong in 1867, and placed in service between Boone and Council Bluffs, Iowa. The overland mail to the Pacific coast then went by the Chicago and North-Western Railway, upon which these towns were situated, and these cars were run to provide for the immediate despatch westward, of that great mail upon its arrival at the Missouri River, instead of lying over at a distributing post-office as had been necessary up to that time. By this arrangement mails were ascending the Rocky Mountains, five hundred miles west, at a time when they otherwise would have been leaving Omaha."



"The advantages of the new system were so immediately apparent that it was speedily established upon other railways, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, and the Chicago and Rock Island. It was soon after put in operation on the Pennsylvania, the Erie, on roads between New York and Washington and thus gradually extended to all important Eastern railways."

I have read somewhere that the railway mail system originated in February, 1862, within the lines of the Army of the Tennessee. If so, it was only an emergency affair, the above being practically official. All notes in parenthesis are mine.

"Suddenly, within 48 hours, the Cairo Post Office, one of the smallest in the United States, became one of the greatest. Mail bags were thrown in by the hundred and by the thousand, filling up the rooms, projecting out of the windows, and piled up on the platforms. The western Union army had come to occupy Cairo and the region around it. (May 1862). . . . The Postmaster, (Hon. T. Linnegar) entirely bewildered could do nothing but telegraph the Postmaster-General at Washington for help."

". . . The first thing to do was to provide room in which to work, and then to improvise sorting and distributing tables, racks and cases, so that several men could work efficiently. This was done in an incredibly short time. The mail bags were opened, the mail carefully sorted, the bags refilled and tagged for the command, the divisions, the brigades, or regiments, or the post office at home, where the mail placed in them belonged. These bags were sent out to the army and away upon the railways until the congestion was relieved. The great piles of mail bags grew less and less as if by magic, until they disappeared altogether, and the clerks had then only to take care of the mail as it came in upon the trains and from the army."—From *"The Railway Mail Service,"* by Clark E. Carr.

THE NEXT ISSUE

will contain the continuation of Charles J. Phillip's splendid article on Chili and Dr. J. Brace Chittenden's exhaustive article on John Walter Scott, besides other interesting matter.

As this will start a new volume be sure that your subscription is renewed so you will not miss it.

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FOR ADVERTISING RATES SEE PAGE XXVI

THE SECOND MILE STONE

With this issue the *Collectors Club Philatelist* completes the second year of its existence and we have endeavored to modestly celebrate the event by bringing out an issue that is larger and, we hope, better than usual. We particularly desired to present in it the announcements of all of the leading dealers actively doing business in 1923, for a quarterly of this kind is more apt to be preserved than one that is issued more frequently, and we hope that this issue will serve as a more or less reliable directory of the prominent dealers engaged in the stamp business. The response has been very generous and we urge our members and subscribers to patronize these dealers and let them know that you have noticed and appreciate their support of our publication.

From a literary standpoint we have tried to incorporate articles that would be of permanent value. The study of the first issue of Chili by Charles J. Phillips exhaustively and authoritatively covers a popular issue of a popular country, and we believe will be recognized by specialists in this country as one of the finest things that even versatile Mr. Phillips has ever accomplished. Then our own J. Brace Chittenden, who has several times demonstrated his ability as a student and writer on philatelic matters and who is the moving spirit in the work that is being done by the *Collectors Club,* has produced a truly monumental biographical sketch on the outstanding figure in American Philately—John Walter Scott. This sketch is far more than the biography of one man, great as that man is, but is in reality a history of early philately in this country and preserves for us records of this period which are fast disappearing from view.

The description of the wonderful collection of Arthur Hind which took place at the club on October 24th, is also well worthy of a place in an issue of this kind. Mr. Hind has, by his sensational purchases of rarities, made himself the outstanding figure in international philately and we are sure that every reader of our publication will be interested in some of the outstanding things contained in the United States section of this great collection.

Just twelve months ago the present editor announced his retirement from this position at the completion of Volume One but was persuaded to "carry on" for another year. We are glad that we did so if for no other reason than that Charlie Severn in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* now admits that it is "one of the best things in the printed line that philatelists have ever seen". But now we hope that some other editor will take up the work and on the foundation that has been built erect a structure that will be a permanent monument to our hobby.

THE ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner of the Collectors Club is an event of real importance and every member should plan to attend. Announcements are now being mailed by Emil M. Sperling, who has the affair in charge, and prompt acknowledgments will be appreciated.

H. L. L.

THE COLLECTORS CLUB.

120 West 49th Street . . New York City

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

1923

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Secretary—J. Brace Chittenden
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Class of 1925

J. Brace Chittenden
Theodore E. Steinway
Thomas L. Wells

NEW MEMBERS

At a regular meeting of the Board of Governors held November 8th, 1923, the following gentlemen were elected as members of the *Collectors Club*:—

355 Ward, Philip H. Jr., Philadelphia, Pa.
358 Crane, Frank Warren, New York City.
360 Lewis, John A., St. Louis, Mo.
361 Osborn, Edwin T., San Francisco, Calif.
362 Marcus, Henry C., San Francisco, Calif.
367 Brill, Edward H., New Brunswick, N. J.
368 Beck, Howard C., Baltimore, Md.
369 Smith, Roy B., Lynchburg, Virginia.
370 Payne, Dr. R. W., Greenfield, Mass.
371 Fifield, Edson J., Pelham, N. Y.
372 Pritchard, F. W., Charlestown, W. Va.
373 Babcock, W. L., Detroit, Mich.
374 Beamish, Charles, Los Angeles, Calif.
376 Warren, Arthur J., Epsom, England.
377 Cannon, Gabriel, Spartanburg, S. C.
378 Chambers, Robert F., Providence, R. I.
379 Claflin, Albert W., Providence, R. I.
381 Fox, J. W., Pottsville, Pa.
382 Meissner, W. C., Garden City, L. I.
383 Alston, George C., London, England.
384 Maier, Alfred, Berlin, Germany.

Candidates for Membership

385 Douglas, Roland, New York City.
387 Whiteley, Leonard, Jamaica, B. W. I.
388 Bandholtz, Gen. H. H., U. S. A. Constantine, Mich.
391 De Worms, Anthony, D. M. G., Egham, Surrey, England.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION

Add ARTICLE 5. SECTION 6.—The trustees shall be members ex-officio of the Board of Governors.

Add ARTICLE 4. SECTION .—The Board of Governors shall consist of nine members and the trustees.

EXCHANGE EXHIBITIONS

At the last meeting of the Board of Governors great interest was expressed in the promulgation of a scheme to further an exchange of exhibitions between the several societies in America. Some of our non-resident members have greatly favored us by splendid exhibitions in New York, and on the other hand New York members have exhibited elsewhere. In particular, Mr. Alfred F. Lichtenstein has exhibited in Pittsburgh, and Dr. Chittenden in Waterbury. Both of these gentlemen have expressed their deep appreciation at the enjoyable reception afforded them, and without question this is the best possible means to promote philately and mutual goodfellowship and helpfulness.

It has been suggested that on the occasion of our annual dinner next December such exhibits composed solely of collections by our non-residents members be solicited and that medals and certificates be awarded in case of competition. The officers and members in the several clubs are especially requested to bring this matter before their meetings and communicate with our secretary any favorable action they may consider desirable.

ELEVENTH REGULAR MEETING

Despite the terrific heat, more than twenty members attended the seventh regular meeting held on Wednesday evening, June 20th, 1923, to hear Mr. Alfred F. Lichtenstein speak on the London Philatelic Exhibition.

Mr. Lichtenstein went into considerable detail to impress the members present with the fine quality of the stamps and the thoroughness of philatelic study shown in the various exhibits, and declared that he was amazed at the magnitude of the affair. Unusual precautions were taken to protect the stamps from loss or damage because of the great monetary value of the exhibits, and the very best lighting effects were obtained to show the stamps to best advantage.

He commended the Junior Philatelic Society of London for the splendid manner in which the undertaking was managed, and in speaking

of his visit to Buckingham Palace, where, in company with a delegation of collectors, he was received by the king, he remarked that "If King George is as good a king as he is a stamp collector he is an excellent king." His Majesty surprised the delegation with his thorough knowledge of philately and could instantly place his hand on any stamp in his collection which is contained in something like forty volumes. The king is a very advanced specialist in the stamps of Great Britain and her colonies.

Mr. Lichtenstein's remarks were greatly enjoyed by the members present, as was also his magnificent collection of British Columbia and Vancouver Island contained in two volumes which he exhibited. For historical interest, arrangement, mounting, and, most especially, the lettering, this collection is undoubtedly the finest example of philatelic research, combined with artistic arrangement ever shown at the club. As to the stamps, it is the best collection of these two colonies in existence, and includes innumerable items which are unique. The arrangement and lettering, and considerable of the research work was done by our fellow member, Mr. Henry C. Hitt, of Bremerton, Washington, and created much favorable comment.

CLUB NOTES

Word has just been received of the death of our esteemed member Mr. John A. Connolly, of New York.

At the time of going to press we learn that Mr. Leon Adutt, F. R. P. S. L., and one of our first English members, is on the ocean on a visit to the States.

Mr. Edward F. Knapp will exhibit selected items from his collection of Confederate States, the date being tentatively set for Dec. 12th.

On Wednesday, January 9th, 1924, Mr. Charles J. Phillips will address the club and exhibit Chili first types.

BARON LEIJONHUFVUD'S COLLECTION OF SWEDEN TO BE SOLD

One of the best, probably the best, specialized collections of Sweden is now in the hands of Mr. Erik Lichtenstein of Stockholm. This is the famous collection made by one of our esteemed fellow members, Baron Leijonhufvud, and in all probability it will be broken up and dispersed. We are happy to learn that Baron Leijonhufvud will still retain his general collection, and his life-long activity as a philatelist will remain at our service.

What is a Precancel?

By V. W. Rotnem

A LITTLE trip into the detail work of the postal department is the best background for our explanation. When you go to a stamp window to buy a stamp for your Parcel Post package, you pay the clerk who hands you out the proper denomination, and after licking the stamp you hand it back to him. What happens to this package after it leaves your hands?

It is stacked with dozens of other packages, all of varying shapes and sizes, waiting for a stamp clerk who must go over each respective bundle, locate the stamp and daub or cancel it as the law requires. This little operation of canceling all those stamps is considerable of a task and in a large postoffice keeps several clerks busy. A little operation on one piece of mail becomes a mountain of a task if there are hundreds of pieces of mail. The problem is complicated by the odd sizes of the packages and the large floods of mail from large mail-order houses who may "snow-under" the stamp clerk at almost any time. It is easy for you to see how a deluge of circulars or catalogs would mean that added help would be needed in the postal office at certain times, and that if this help was not ready at that particular time the firm desiring this service would have its mail service delayed several hours because of the requirement that all stamps be canceled. Imagine the great loads of mail that come in during the holidays and there is another complication.

Now if some efficiency device could be discovered that would dispense with the necessity of canceling these stamps a great saving would result to the postal department, and firms and individuals would be given a prompter treatment.

The precancel filled this need. It was pointed out that by taking a sheet of one hundred stamps, and setting up the name of a town 100 times with ordinary printer's type, and printing these 100 impressions so that each one fell on one stamp, the whole sheet would be cancelled in a wink of the eye. Thousands of stamps can be canceled this way in an hour. Of course the stamp is still good for postage use under certain conditions which we will discuss next. The stamp has merely been cancelled before it has been used. Therefore it is called a "pre" cancel; "pre" means before.

The precancel is good only in the city where printed. The name of the city and state always appear. Certain firms are granted permits to use these stamps, providing they keep accurate accounts of their use. Firms are glad to do this because their mail is delivered more quickly. The post office only grants the permits to well known reputable firms so that the precancels are never reused; and very rarely is there any irregularity in their issuance. They are used on parcel post and circulars.

In large cities, precancels are used at parcel post windows regularly. In smaller places they are very often used during the holiday season. The precancel has been a godsend to the postal clerk. It is an efficiency device which has saved both the department and users time and money.

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NEW ISSUES

The Economist New Issue Service is the largest and best in America. No deposit is required and distributions are made once every month. If you are interested in New Issues you need this Service. Write for particulars.

PERU—Bicolored Issue of 1921

We have tried for the past two years to locate a supply of this issue and have just succeeded. Scott's numbers 222 to 231 and priced in the 1924 catalogue at $3.87.

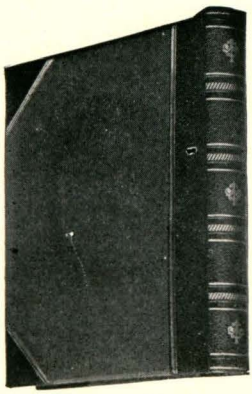
Complete unused sets $2.65

NYASSA—1921 Provisional Issue, London Surcharges.

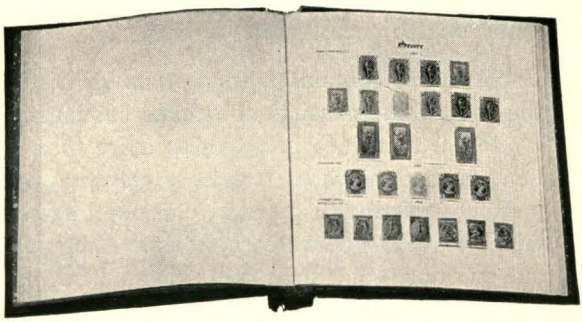
A fortunate purchase enables us to offer this complete unused set at the lowest price on record. Listed in the 1924 Scott Catalogue as numbers 94 to 105 and priced at $12.00. Only 6000 sets issued.

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THE ECONOMIST



BLANK LOOSE LEAF ALBUM



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It is finely half bound in morocco leather and comes in three colors, red, dark green or dark blue. It is neatly decorated with gold which makes it a fine and rich appearing album. The pages contained therein are of the best quality of linen paper, with quadrilled lined background. They have the finest gold edge and will not tarnish. Each page is linen hinged and when open the leaves lie flat. The binder is patent peg style which is a vast improvement over the spring back. Each page is interleaved with a glossy tissue sheet for the protection of the stamps. There is a front and back fly leaf for the protection of the pages. *A felt lined box to match the color* of the binder is furnished with each album.

This album is made in two sizes.

Binder size 10¼x10¾ inches contains 50 leaves size 8½x10¼ inches. The quadrille lined background for mounting is 7x8½ inches. The price of this size album as above described is $11.50 postage or express extra, additional leaves are 12c each. Binder alone $5.50 with box.

Binder size 13¾x14¾ inches contains 40 pages size 12x14 inches. This book is especially adapted for mounting complete sheets, blocks, covers, etc. The quadrille lined background for mounting is 10½x12½ inches. This album exactly as above is priced at $14.50 expressage extra, additional leaves are 20c each. Binder alone $6.50 with box.

NOTE—Each Binder will accommodate 5 to 10 more leaves than noted above.

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The following are a few stamps now on hand:

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Woodblocks, 1d. unused, pair and 4 singles.
Woodblocks, 1d. used, pair, several superb singles.
Woodblocks, 4d. unused, mint, number fine singles.
Woodblocks, 4d. dark blue, used pair and several singles.

GAMBIA

Imperf, C. & C. C. uncut sheets of 15 of 4d. and 6d.

LAGOS

1884 10/- Crown violet, mint, block of 4.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

1851-52 2 c. Type 2, almost unused.
1851-52 2c & 13c. used together on part cover.
1851-52 5c. used.
1851-52 13c. (Type A2) 2 used.
1851-52 13c. (Type A3) 1 used on cover and a badly repaired single.
1859-65. A fine lot of INTER ISLAND, fine unused and used and several blocks of 10 types.

TRINIDAD

Blue, lithographed, including several pairs, strip of 4 and block of 4.

AUSTRIA

Superb unused blocks of early issues, rare laid papers, mercury, rose and vermilion, unused.

OLDENBURG

Superb lot of early issues, unused and used, in single pairs and blocks and many transfer errors.

SPAIN

Fine lot of early unused rarities including two each of the 2 reales of 1851, 1852 and 1853.
1856 2 reales, error used on original cover.

NATAL

Grand lot of large margin embossed stamps of the first issue and most of the rarities of the provisional issue including the rare 1/- red curved surcharge.

BRITISH GUIANA

1850 circular, 4c. on pelure, superb large copy on cover.
1850 circular, 4c. primrose, cut square.
1850 circular, 8c. green, cut oct., but large margins.
1850 circular, 12c. blue, pair and several superb singles.
1852 1c. used strip of 4 and two unused.
1852 4c. unused and several used, 1 on cover.
1856 large oblong, 4c. blue, papers surfaced and coloured through.
1856 large oblong, 4c crimson, three superb copies, enormous margins (shades).
1862 Provisionals, fine lot 1c., 2c. and 4c. plated.

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1/- three unused shades, 2 fine used.

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1/- two unused and two used, superb.

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Scarlet and orange, all values, unused and used.

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Imperf. 4d. fine used, 8d, 2 unused, 9d. unused, 1/9 shades, unused and used, 2/- unused and used.
Most later varieties, including rarest shades and printings.

INDIA

1st issue ½a. red, block of 4.
1st issue 4a, close printed, block of 4 unused.
1st issue 4a. with blue wavy lines, block of 4 unused.
1st issue 4a, head inverted, **genuine**, used on portion of original.

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From October 1st, 1923, the place of Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Circular* will be taken by a revival of the same publishers' well-known *Monthly Journal,* planned on such lines as will make it

A Journal for All Stamp Collectors

CONTENTS OF THE OCTOBER NUMBER

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COLOMBIA.—The Numeral Type, 1904-1920. With special enlargements of type varieties.

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UNNECESSARY ISSUES.—The Gibbons Decision.

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to secure some of those U. S. rarities usually considered unattainable.

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1861 issue, September 24c steel blue unused, beautifully centered.
1862-66, 2c Printed on both sides, No. 73e.
1857 Reprints, complete.
1875 Re-issue of 1861, set complete.
1869 issue, inverts, 15c, 24c and 30c.
1869 issue, complete in Re-issue of 1875.
1875 and 1880 sets of Special Printing, complete 1c to 90c, also the 5c, No. 204.
1895 issue, mint pair of 8c on Revenue Paper.
1901 issue, 1c and 2c inverts, Pan American.
1908 issue, bluish papers, complete.
1918 issue, 24c invert, aeroplane.
Departments, 2c Navy, error.
State $20.00 mint, block of four with imprint.

I repeat—the condition of all stamps is exceptionally fine. For the benefit of my New York patrons the lots will be on exhibition at the office of Mr. Percy G. Doane, 154 Nassau St., at a date to be later announced in Mekeel's Weekly.

Catalogue gladly sent on request

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SPECIAL LINE—Newfoundland, lithograph, 1910
—complete set of 11 varieties mint for $6.00

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1d		6d	1/-	6d	2d	3d	6d	3d	2d
4d		9d	1/6	9d	6d	3d	6d	3d	3d
5d		9d	—	9d	1/6d	4d	8d	4d	6d
KANGAROO TYPE.									
2d	3rd wmk.	9d	1/6	9d	4d	4d	9d	4d	2d
2½d	1st wmk.	1/3d	—	1/3d	—	—	—	—	—
2½d	3rd wmk.	—	—	—	4d	—	—	—	—
3d	3rd wmk.	9d	—	9d	3d	4d	8d	4d	2d
6d	2nd wmk.	1/-	2/-	1/-	—	6d	1/-	6d	—
6d	3rd wmk.	—	—	—	6d	—	—	—	3d
9d	1st wmk.	—	—	—	—	3/-	6/-	3/-	—
9d	2nd wmk.	1/3d	—	1/3d	—	8d	1/3d	8d	—
9d	3rd wmk.	—	—	—	9d	—	—	—	5d
1/-	1st wmk.	—	—	—	—	4/-	8/-	4/-	—
1/- (P)	2nd wmk.	1/3d	—	1/3d	—	8d	1/3d	8d	—
1/- (P)	3rd wmk.	—	—	—	1/-	—	—	—	6d
2/- (P)	3rd wmk.	3/-	—	3/-	—	1/6d	3/-	1/6d	—
2/-	3rd wmk.	—	—	—	2/-	—	—	—	1/-
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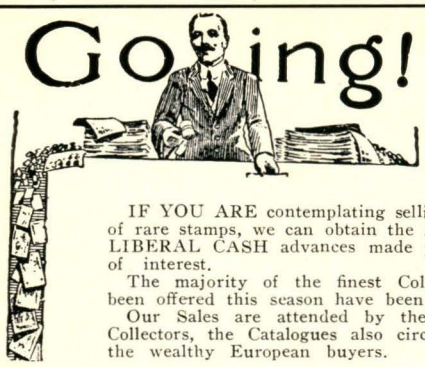
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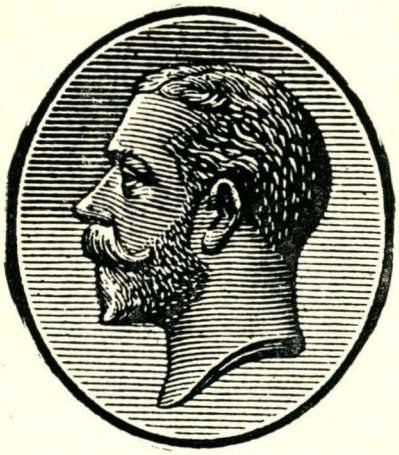
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