

The Philatelian



Official Publication of the
OMAHA PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Dedicated to the Interests of Philately

VOL. I—No. 2

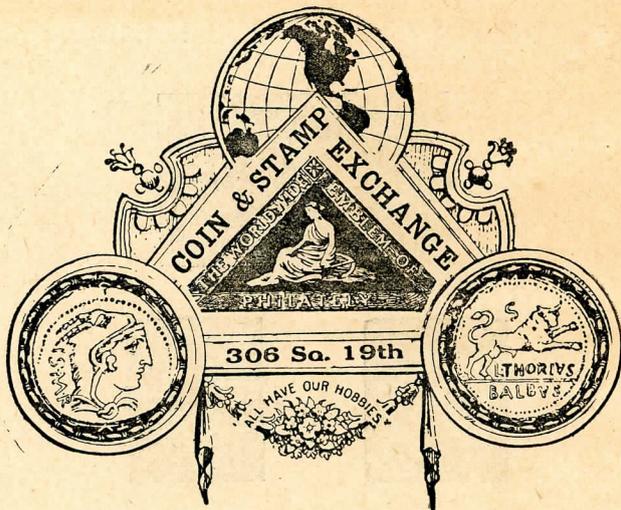
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THE Omaha Philatelic Society was organized in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 23, 1926, with a charter membership of ten stamp collectors. It was the intention of this original group to make the club be of the greatest possible value to its members and to the future of philately. For this express purpose the club was dedicated to the junior collectors of Omaha and surrounding territory.

Today with a membership of about seventy active collectors the club is still maintained for and governed chiefly by the young collectors. There are, however, a number of older members who lend balance to the club, and who are as active and as interested as the younger ones.

The dues of the club were placed at twenty-five cents a year so that every boy or girl collector might become a member. From this it should not be construed the O. P. S. is merely a "kid" club, for it is not. The members are real philatelists. They know their stamps and they know stamp values. They are well versed in that which stands behind each stamp and they are familiar with the geography and history of most of the stamp issuing countries.

The club meets semi-monthly at 1716 South 27th Street to transact business, hold auctions, have readings of interesting and instructive stamp articles, discuss new issues and stamp problems, exchange stamps, look over collections and offer suggestions thereon, hold expositions, and do many other things for the furtherance of the members favorite hobby.

The auctions enable the members to dispose of their duplicates or other items which they cannot use. It also makes it possible for one to pick various items for his collection. In view of the young membership the lots are naturally of small amounts but the bidding is nevertheless spirited.

The articles which are read and discussed broaden the young members idea of stamps. They cause one to realize that stamps are more than bits of colored paper. The postage stamp is broad in scope and it is only by study and discussion that a person can get the real benefits from his collection.

The club has always advocated the use of blank albums to its members and with very few exceptions all members have abandoned the printed for the blank book. This change enables the young collector to specialize if he so desires and also enables him to collect only what he cares to and can afford.

One thing that has been very noticeable during the life of the club is the rather small percentage of young collectors who join the organization and after a while lose interest in their stamps and in the club. The meeting with other collectors seems to keep their interest at an even tempo even in the summertime when things usually lag. Attendance at the meetings averages about one-third of the membership. This is in view of the fact that the members live in all parts of the city.

The book, of which this article is a part, is the second directory which has been issued by the Omaha Philatelic Society. Practically every contribution, aside from the advertisements, is written by the young members of the society.

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(President of the Omaha Philatelic Society)**

The first publication issued by the Omaha Philatelic Society was so successful and stimulated such interest among those philatelically inclined that the club has decided to enlarge it and issue it semi-annually.

The name which was chosen by the club for its report is "The Philatelian." The word is, of course, coined and is intended to mean that the report is devoted to the interests of philately and philatelists.

Our society has enjoyed a very satisfactory half year. The interest that is shown in the discussion of stamp topics, the rivalry produced in the various contests sponsored by the club, the spirited bidding at auctions, all show that members really do get something out of membership in our society.

All the activities of the club have shown their benefits in the number of new members enrolled.

We are now planning more and greater activities for the remainder of the year. Chief among these is a stamp exhibition, which, with the assistance of all our membership will become a reality.

The prosperity of the club will continue if we are all "Boosters."

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TANGANYIKA

By James J. Gleason

One of the most interesting and substantial countries for the collector of fine stamps is Tanganyika, the new British protectorate in east Africa. Tanganyika is rich in items of genuine historical interest, however, it is not an old and tiresome subject for collecting. It came into existence as a result of the World War and it has issued but three regular series of postage stamps since the government was organized. Every one of these issues is splendidly engraved in bi-color style and are real objects of joy to the appreciative collector. The provisionals, which preceded the regular issues are stamps of the popular Kenya 1921 issue appropriately surcharged. As an investment Tanganyika is sound; its currency is not similar to the fluctuating coin of the new European countries, for the money system of Tanganyika is the British Monetary standard of shillings and pounds and its stability cannot be questioned.

From a historical standpoint, Tanganyika is unusually attractive. It occupies the 384,000 square miles that formerly composed German East Africa, and when the World War broke out it was immediately made the scene of some desperate fighting. Following the policy that all German territory in Africa should quickly be taken over, the English troops from South Africa and the French from the Congo swarmed into German East Africa and a merry contest ensued. The German general, who knew his ground, made it unpleasantly "hot" for the Allied army, and allowed the British division to futilely chase him up and down the territory for about two years; but in 1916 a powerful British offensive crushed all opposition and captured the colony.

Tanganyika proper came into official existence in 1919 when the League of Nations named the territory and turned it over to England as a protectorate. The country derives its name from Lake Tanganyika, the largest fresh-water lake in the world. This great body of water forms the western boundary of the new territory.

In collecting the postage stamps of this country, the first items the philatelist meets are the provisionals. Catalogues differ in listing these; Scott lists only those provisionals issued since 1919 while Stanley Gibbons list all the stamps issued since German postal jurisdiction ceased. The last mentioned method entails the collection of many rare, wobbly, and unauthorized provisionals which were put out during the years of fighting by the various French and English armies.

To the writer it appears that Scott's cataloguing is absolutely the correct one because it was not until 1919 that the League of Nations named the territory, made it a protectorate, and brought the country of Tanganyika into existence. Therefore, only those stamps issued after 1919 are to be considered the issues of Tanganyika.

So, following Scott, we have nine provisional stamps to collect. They are stamps from the 1921 issue of Kenya surcharged "G. E. A." (German East Africa). They are nice looking in mint condition and very, very scarce used since few provisionals were put into actual use. One stamp in particular, the five rupee dull violet and ultramarine #7, is unusually rare in either mint or used condition. It is a hard stamp to find and certainly costs plenty when one does find it. (Continued on page 7)

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In 1922, Tanganyika issued a beautiful set of fifteen values ranging from the one cent (one hundred cents make a shilling in Tanganyika) to the one pound. The design is distinctive being a giraffe's head in black with side decorations of palm trees and values in various colors. The colors are deep and rich, the stamps are fine looking, and the issue makes two very impressive pages in one's album.

In 1925 came four changes in colors. The five cent and the twenty-five cent being changed to the colors of the Postal Union and the ten cent and the thirty cent being changed, no doubt, for the fun of it.

The year 1926 saw the arrival of a splendid new set of fifteen regular values in the "king's head" design. It is engraved in bi-colors on a paper that appears to be a cross between that abominable "chalky paper" and the pages of the National Geographic Magazine. However, it is a desirable set, well executed and good looking.

This issue aroused much comment due to the fact that under the "king's head" was inscribed "Mandated Territory of Tanganyika." Now, Tanganyika is not mandated by England nor does it belong to her at all. It is merely a protectorate put under her care by the League of Nations. In no sense is it supposed to be mandated territory, and it certainly irked the members of the League to see such direct assumption of control via the postage stamp route. There was a great deal of discussion about this bold issue of "peaceful imperialism" and many thought that something ought to be done about it. Therefore, it may be withdrawn and become immensely valuable, and again it may continue in use for twenty years or more. But it doesn't matter to the Tanganyika collector—he can't lose either way.

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Lots sold	997	Owners received	\$189.10
Lots not sold	471	Club's share	20.48
Total lots	1468	Total sales	\$209.58

TREASURY REPORT**RECEIPTS**

Bal. on hand Jan. 1, 1928	\$18.59
Membership dues	8.50
Auction receipts	20.48
Miscellaneous	4.85
Total receipts	\$52.42
Disbursements	29.74

DISBURSEMENTS

Auction supplies	\$ 3.57
Postage	4.67
Stationery	11.00
Refreshments	4.45
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Balance on hand 6/30/28 ..\$22.68

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THE PHILATELIAN

Published by the Omaha Philatelic Society, 1716 So. 27th St., Omaha, Neb.

August, 1928.

STAFF:

HAROLD C. BAXTER

CARL E. LUNDGREN

JOSEPH J. GLOEB

EDITORIALS

A SET OF POSTAGE STAMPS PICTURING SCENIC PLACES IN THE UNITED STATES is being advocated by numerous organizations and numerous people throughout this country. It is suggested that the proposed set be issued to replace the current set now in use.

We of the Omaha Philatelic Society are heartily in favor of such a set, and have recently voiced our approval thereof in a letter which was sent to the Postmaster General at Washington, D. C. We feel that it is entirely fitting for our government to exploit the wonder places of the U. S. A.

What better form of advertising, what better way to promulgate to foreign fields the greatness of this nation of ours than by protraying on our stamps the splendor of Yosemite Valley, Old Faithful, Stone Mountain, the Everglades, etc. The interest which such views would arouse in every country in the world would be much greater than could be aroused by any known form of advertising.

In a nation where the billboard, the magazine, the newspaper, the radio, the motion picture, etc., are used to further the interests of a certain brand of soap or cereal or a certain make of tire, we have entirely overlooked the greatest advertising medium of all, the postage stamp. If any manufacturer could avail himself of advertising which would place his product before the millions who see the postage stamp each day wouldn't he do so at once? Yet our Uncle Sam has not yet taken advantage of this opportunity to tell the world of what he has.

Of course the stamp collector looks at the proposition from another angle, his collection. After seeing Newfoundland's beautiful new pictorial set we are just a bit jealous. We feel that the United States should have a set of these home country beauties too.

What do you think?

If you are in favor of the proposal write to the Postmaster General and tell him so. Every added word will do its share to make the dream a reality.

A **STAMP EXPOSITION** to be state wide in scope is being looked forward to by the members of Omaha Philatelic Society.

We realize that this is a great undertaking in view of the fact that such a thing has not been sponsored in Nebraska before, and since there are only a comparative few prominent collectors in the state.

It is, therefore, problematic as to what may be accomplished this year or even next year, but we feel that once a start is made the affair may be made annual. With each ensuing exposition, larger and better. Will every Nebraska collector who is interested kindly get in touch with this society?

We will need loyal support from all who wish to see Nebraska join with the other states who do things along philatelic lines.

OUR ADVERTISERS have enabled us to make this issue of the Philatelian as much of a success as it is and we would appreciate having our readers patronize them. We are certain that you cannot go wrong by doing so. The goods or the services offered may not be of use to you at the present time, but we ask that you keep the firms in mind. By doing this you will not only be doing yourself but the Omaha Philatelic Society a favor.

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CONCERNING FREAKS IN UNITED STATES STAMPS

By Carl Lundgren

In the course of stamp collecting, one will run across stamps that are oddities in some form or other. They may be mis-prints, shifts, double impressions, or any departure from type that does not come under legitimate errors but are known as freaks.

Due to the careful inspection given by postal employees, very few stamps that are not perfect ever reach the public. It does happen, however, that such stamps are sold occasionally.

Creased paper varieties are rather uncommon, but of this type I have three in my collection, namely 2 cent, 1890; 5 cent, 1919, and the 2 cent coil of the 1916 issue. There are, no doubt, many others, but these are all I have seen.

The 2 cent 1890, has a crease 2½mm. wide running horizontally through the middle of the stamp. On the 5 cent, 1919 issue, the crease is much wider, being a double fold. This accounts for a crease which is 7mm. at the top and 3½mm. at the bottom. The 2 cent coil perforated 10 vertically, 1916 issue, has a crease, which is 1mm. wide, running diagonally from right to left.

One other freak stamp I have is a 3 cent coil perforated 10 of the 1916 issue. The stamp appears to have been printed from a warped plate, as on the left side the frame line is bent in or makes a jog in the center so that the bottom of the frame is fully 1½mm. further over to the right than the top. On the right side the frame makes a convex curve of about 1mm.

The oval containing Washington's portrait is also twisted to the right. The profile is changed so that Washington appears to have a double chin and frowns rather ferociously. The nose is flattened down so that in all the stamp is very un-Washington-like.

"Pink backs" are an interesting group of stamps which may also come under this classification. During the war the government used an analine dye in making the ink for the 2 cent, 3 cent, and 10 cent special delivery stamps. Due to some chemical re-action the printed impression may be seen on the back of these stamps in a deep shade of pink. This impression, however, may be seen only on the unused stamps, as the "pink back" fades out quickly when soaked in water.

These few freaks in United States stamps which I have seen, and the many others which exist, give to the lucky collector who finds them an interesting addition to his collection.

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USED OR UNUSED?

By James R. Flynn

Which shall we collect?

Which is the better investment? Which is the more interesting? And which is the more artistic contribution to a collection?

These questions invariably present themselves to everyone who delves into our stamp collecting hobby. Let us consider and see what the reasons are that we should collect used or that we should collect unused stamps.

Over a period of time the unused and used stamps will in most cases prove to be about the same from an investment standpoint. The initial cost of the mint stamp is, of course, greater than the used copy but the percentage of increase is usually about the same. Speaking of postage stamps as a whole we cannot, therefore, say which is the better investment but must consider them on a par.

Used stamps have seen service and have accomplished the end for which they were originally made. They have a history back of them. Perhaps the stamp has seen service in some dreamy country along the Mediterranean, or has carried mail across the deserts of Sudan, or has been posted in some ancient French village. The stamp may bear the postmark of Seville, or of Bangkok, or of any one of thousands of cities far away from here. And each postmark and each cancellation holds interest.

Yes, there is romance back of each used stamp.

On the other hand, unused stamps come to us in their natal splendor and are artistically real assets to a collection. It is only in this condition that colors and shades, designs, allegorical, historical, symbolical, and otherwise, can really be appreciated. The splendid engraving and printing of postage stamps is very often effaced when a stamp has been used. The cancellations of many governments so obliterates the stamp that the beauty of design is lost.

Furthermore, mint stamps have a face value which prevents the possibility of a flood of a certain type stamp on the market, thereby causing a deflation of its value. Face value must always be recognized except in those rare instances when a nation's monetary unit declines.

Some people claim that unused stamps are merely "labels" and since they have never done postal duty are not in the strictest sense, a postage stamp.

These and many other arguments are always before a collector and it may be suggested that each one think the matter over seriously and then collect what he likes best.

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PHILOSOPHY OF A PHILATELIST

By Harold C. Baxter

You know, folks, these fifty per cent collectors certainly amuse me. Most of them think that a dealer who wants more than half catalogue for a stamp is holding them up, and won't buy. They forget that most dealers are honest and base their selling price on cost, and that the severest kind of competition makes them keep their prices in line.

If a certain item costs a dealer a little below or a little above half catalogue in Europe he can hardly be expected to sell at fifty per cent regardless of how much he wishes to please his customers.

Good old Scotts, the indispensable Scotts, place an approximate value on a stamp the middle of this year and the fifty per cent fellow expects to buy the same stamp for the next twelve or fifteen months at half the listed price.

But what of changes in the market?

Fluctuations in the stamp market are common and a dealer may buy at one price this week and find the wholesale price raised when he orders again.

The causes back of this are many. Perhaps the stamp has been withdrawn from use, because of some defect in coloring or printing, or because of a change in postal rate. Perhaps the supply is exhausted and a new stamp is to be issued in its place. Perhaps the stamp is not as plentiful as had previously been surmised. And perhaps the catalogue makers (we are reluctant to say so, however) may have been in error concerning a value. These and many other things may change the market value of a stamp.

The argument works the other way, of course, but as I am only talking about the fifty per cent habit, we will not consider the changes which send the price of a stamp lower. Let it suffice to say that there are always stamps which may be bought at large discounts of catalogue value.

Another angle of the situation is that the fifty per cent collector does not see through the catalogue maker's joke. Pricing a stamp too low makes us poor humble philatelists rush here and there trying to get a certain stamp which we need to complete a set or a country. The catalogue maker, wise fellow, knows that once we get a country completed we lose interest. To keep collectors interested he values a stamp at a price which is all out of line with the market. And all the time we are trying to get this certain stamp it may be obtainable, but the dealers will not and cannot be expected to pay the wholesaler a supposedly fancy price for the item when he knows that his client will not pay more than fifty per cent over list price.

If the catalogue says a stamp such as Allenstein #18 is worth \$1.00, Czecho #55 (used) is worth .08 cents, or Hawaii #48 is worth \$5.00, the fifty per cent collector wants to buy at .50 cents, .04 cents, and \$2.50, respectively.

Try and do it.

Haven't you always noticed that there are usually a lot of such numbers missing from most collections.

The reason?

Easy. (Continued on page 14.)

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The list price is too low and the collector will not pay the price the dealer must get for his merchandise.

Usually items of this sort increase in catalogue value from year to year and if the collector buys even at a premium over list price he will be amply repaid in the long run.

I feel that the following stamps are a good argument against the fifty per cent idea. Look them over and see how many of them you can get for half catalogue.

And another thing. Watch them increase in value and scarcity.

Allenstein, #18; Australia, #18 (used); Ascensions, #10 to 20; Curacao, #58 and 59; Czechoslovakia, #49, 54 and 55 (used); Denmark, #192; Eastern Silisia, #3 and 4; Germany, #812 and 813; Malta, #18 and 63, San Marino, #93, and Sweden, #130.

Watch these grow.

My moral is—get a dealer you can and will trust and let him supply you with the good stamps even though you pay more than fifty per cent. Usually these stamps are the ones everybody needs and the ones which are worth holding on to.

THE STAMPS OF THE CHINESE TREATY PORTS

By Wm. J. Bigger

If you are one of the lucky few whose collection was formed in the early days when stamps were cheap and anything that had perforations around it and a value indicated on its face, was collected, your collection probably includes a few stamps from the Chinese Treaty Ports.

In the early catalogues these stamps were listed. They were dropped, however, when the catalogue began to get bulky although to my notion they were far more worthy of recognition than some of the more favored stamps. As Bill Bloss says in a recent number of the American Philatelist, "they seem to have carried letters to a greater extent than many of the so considered legitimate stamps."

Many of these stamps were printed on colored paper and some of them are bi-colored. They are really very interesting items and a page of them will enliven any collection.

There were 462 stamps listed in the old catalogues, including the 170 odd issued by Shanghai, and of these only the fifty which were issued by WuHu were speculative in nature. At that most of those were used for postage which is more than can be said for some of the issues which hold down a place in the present catalogue.

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Compliments. **Lloyd Friedman, 149 No. 31st Ave.**—Collect U. S., British Colonies, and Air Mails.

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Ernest Priesman, 2211 Pratt St.—Interested in mint British Colonies and various 20th Century sets.

Alvin Friedman, 149 No. 31st Ave.—20th Century mint British Colonies and U. S. Commemoratives.

Sidney Cohn, 3925 So. 24th St.—Collector of Morocco, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, and general.

Compliments to the collectors of the World—**A. H. Westphal, Box 69, Fremont, Nebraska.**

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Compliments of **Frank Greer, 5002 Burt Street.** Collector of United States revenues.

My compliments. **L. A. Harmon, Sr., 3723 North 20th St.** General, Foreign and United States.

Greetings to all who read this report. We hope you like it. **Harold C. Baxter, 3408 Burt St., Omaha, Nebraska.**

The new five cent air mail picturing the Sherman Hill Beacon Light and the United States mail plane should be a real help to philately. One can scarcely look at this new member of the Air Mail family without becoming interested in stamps.

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