The CANADIAN PHILATELIST

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TORONTO, ONT.

Official Organ of the Canadian Philatelic Society

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"Why Collect Postage Stamps"

by Rueben Bauer

"WHAT are the benefits of collecting stamps? What pleasure or enjoyment do you derive from it, if any?" These questions and many others have been asked by noncollectors of the past and surely will be asked in the future. As far as I am concerned with the first question, the benefits are quite numerous. First of all the stamps provide us with endless information about other people and how they live. The stamp issues portray prominent people in current affairs, besides which they depict comely scenes. They arouse our curosity to locate on a map the names of some of the less well-known states or principalities. Stamps provide us with other important facts pertaining to scientific inventions, religions, birds, sports activities, and animals. There are others, equally important.

To answer the second question which appeared in the introduction. "Is there any pleasure or enjoyment in this work?" In my case, as an ardent philatelist for the past thirteen years, I find that the amateur hobby provides a great deal of enjoyment, satisfaction, and relaxation. It is my pleasure to examine carefully each of the stamps in the collection and read the notation in the paragraphs adjacent to these stamps.

When undertaking any task, whether it be professional or amateur, one should definitely consider the disadvantages. No collector would be fair to himself or his hobby if he did not consider these paramount points. No doubt the first thought that flashes through one's mind is the added expense. It has been estimated (for the amateur) that a portion of ten percent and not more of your earnings should go toward the collection while the remainder of that portion for purchasing text books and other material for a well equipped hobbyist.

Someone may have asked a question like this one. "What are the advantages of having a collection?" As far as the collector is concerned it will provide him with the information he wants as discussed earlier in the essay. Possibly after awhile some persons find the collection inutile; therefore they will have it sold. In any case the collection can yield a modicum sum of money, or a slight amount depending upon your ability in the arrangement of the stamps, neatness employed in mounting, the type of album utilized, and the grade of paper in the manufacture of the album. Perhaps the most important aspect is the demand and condition of the stamps. Without the two last terms there would be no salvage value for your collection.

Naturally if you are a legal and devoted philatelist you require approximately ten hours per week in order to make your project and study of stamps worth your while. All in all, you are not to overburden yourself by spending too much money or using up too much time. This is where you must use your own judgment.

Finally, I would anticipate that stamp collecting is a source of an abundant information, complacency, and time well spent.

By the way, I should be very grateful to receive your criticism on my expressed opinion of stamp collecting and its' sense of values.

—o—

LOST LOCATION

Northern Lights, published under the auspices of the Anglican Diocese of the Yukon (Rt. Rev. Tom Greenwood, bishop) says:

"Not infrequently we receive mail in Whitehorse addressed 'Yukon, Alaska.'

"We have also received a parcel from Toronto bearing a customs declaration — and cheques payable in U.S. currency have been received from other parts of Canada."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LAST season closed in real style, for the "Brethren of the Tie" were invited to Windsor to participate in a "Surplus Disposal Party" organized by the Windsor Y Stamp Club to help dispose of the surplus resulting from the 1956 Convention. We had a most enjoyable and memorable time. The highlight of the evening was a presentation, by Vic Crouse, President of the Windsor Y Stamp Club, of a $100 Bond to your President, as the "purchase price for a Perpetual Chartership" for the Windsor Club. For once, your President was speechless and could only mumble a few words of thanks. Such a thing has never occurred before in the history of the Society and our heartfelt thanks go to that live and hardworking bunch of men, and women, who form the Windsor Y Stamp Club, the "BIGGEST LITTLE CLUB IN CANADA".

However, the week-end was marred to some extent by the sickness of our worthy Secretary, Fred Green, who was stricken with a heart attack as we were coming into Windsor. However, thanks to the devoted care of Dr. Norm Boyd, he is on the mend and back home, and may be back on the job as you read these lines. If he was able to leave the Hotel-Dieu Hospital in Windsor in such a short space of time, it was due, in no small measure, to the kindness of the members of the Windsor Club and their wives, such as Barbara Boyd and Evelyn Goldman, for they certainly looked after Fred while he was in hospital.

For the first time, we have received a Convention bid from the West, by the Greater Victoria Philatelic Society and the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society jointly, to be held May 9-10-11, 1958, at the Empress Hotel in Victoria. At the time of writing, I have just heard that the General Convention Committee has already been formed, under the chairmanship of Major J. P. Henson, and it is evident, from a short letter sent to me by Vice-President Arthur Teare, that enthusiasm is at a high point and that we can expect something out of the ordinary in Victoria in May, 1958.

At this stage, I therefore want to make a special appeal to all our members of chapters East of British Columbia, **to lay plans right away for a journey to Victoria.** Most of us in the East plan to make such a trip "some time" and the Victoria Convention will be a splendid opportunity to transform this plan into reality. Already five of our members, two in Windsor and three in Toronto, have definitely decided to go to Victoria—let us see if we can't get a real crowd there. It is, I know, a long way, but "Where there's a will there's a way" and no one will ever regret a visit to that beautiful city on the southern tip of Vancouver Island.

In the meantime, we have Ottawa to think of—2-3-4 May, 1957—at the Chateau Laurier. I have been in touch with Colin Bayley, of the Ottawa P.S. and H. P. Stockwell, the chairman of the General Convention Committee, and I know that the Ottawa P.S. and the R.A. S.C. are out to do an outstanding job and it is up to us to support them in every way possible. A splendid programme is being laid down and our Ottawa friends want BYPEX to be the best exhibition since Capex. What about **one exhibit, at least,** from every Chapter? And don't forget the Inter-Club Exhibit for the Ford Trophy.

BYPEX and OTTAWA in '57!

L. M. LAMOUROUX,
President.

THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS

A Theory

By Herbert Buckland

The early postage stamps of Great Britain have probably been more carefully studied than those of any other country. They certainly are amongst the most popular of the early postage stamp issuing countries. They were made by the process known as line engraving and each one is a perfect work of art. The first of these, the One Penny Black and the Two Penny Blue, are the two outstanding examples of this method of producing postage stamps as well as being the first adhesive postage stamps in the world.

The obliteration or cancellation of these stamps gave a great deal of concern to the British Postal Authorities, and possibly many inks were tried. The colour used at first was a red of various shades, it was found that the red could be easily cleaned and the stamp used over again.

The first cancellations used on these postage stamps, is known as the "Maltese Cross" type. The distinctive points being:—

(1) A diamond in the centre of the cross which varies.

(2) The inside or inner cross which also varies. It generally measures 7/16 to ½ an inch in breadth. In some cases the spokes are narrower than in others, and are either straight or with what is known as fish tails.

(3) The outside cross; this also varies. The sides are curved or straight, some are like an inverted V.

It is by these points that specialists are able to tell in some cases the town where the stamp was cancelled. J. B. Seymour in the "British Philatelist" gives a list of 24 different crosses and there are many more which have not as yet been identified.

In the late Earl of Crawford's collection there were Penny Blacks with the cancellations removed with the intention of making the stamp do double postage duty. Black ink was soon substituted for red, probably about October, 1840. But this did not satisfy the postal authorities. Experiments were made of one sort or another and eventually they came to the conclusion that the only solution of the problem was to change the stamps to a red colour. This change took place officially on February 10th, 1841, but specimens are known used earlier. Thus passed the Penny Black the first and perhaps the finest postage stamp in history.

Now why was red used? Of course in pre-stamp days a letter bore some indication of the amount of postage to be paid or had been paid. If prepaid the amount paid was always marked in red. Which may have been the reason that red was used for the obliteration. It may also have been the reason that the traditional colour red meaning paid was used for the One Penny stamps. The stamp that was in most common use. First the obliteration then the stamp.

The term obliteration or cancellation when used in connection with postage stamps means a blot out or deface a postage stamp so that it could not be used again for postage duty. The British Postal Authorities wanted to be pretty sure of this fact. We therefore find the "Maltese Cross" cancellations in black very heavy, there are very few light ones to be found. The "Maltese Cross" was used until 1844. In which year it was replaced by the numeral types.

C.P.S. MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

WESTMOUNT STAMP CLUB

At the annual general meeting of the Westmount Stamp Club held at Victoria Hall, Westmount on May 31, L. G. Buck was re-elected President of the club for the 1956/57 term.

S. R. Groves was elected First Vice-President and K. G. W. Smith, Second Vice-President.

R. J. Sutherland was re-elected Hon. Treasurer and L. R. Waller, Hon. Secretary. This meeting concluded a very successful season for the club. During the year 34 meetings were held with average attendance of 46 per meeting.

The first meeting of the new season will take place on Thursday, September 6. A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Betty Bay and L. Bentham for their excellent work as supervisors of the Junior club during the year.

On a motion proposed by Carl Mangold and seconded by Major R. M. Watson, Reg. Haldimand was unanimously elected an Honorary Life Member of the Club. Mr. Haldimand has been an active member of the Club for many years and has served as president for a number of terms as well as holding other offices on the executive of the club.

The other Life Members are R. H. M. Falls, T. Kearney, J. C. Pickering and R. J. Sutherland. Mr. Falls, who was the club's first president was created its first Honorary Life Member on the occasion of its 600th meeting held on April 17, 1952. The other three were given this honour in January of this year. For the first time presentations were made this year of the "Israel H. Levine Philatelic Memorial Trophies" which were given to the club by Mrs. Levine in memory of her husband and in appreciation for the great pleasure he had derived from attending the meetings of the club during his lifetime.

The Levine Trophy awarded to the member of the Senior Club making the greatest contribution to philately during the year was presented to A. H. Christensen, First Vice-President of the Canadian Philatelic Society, and the Junior Trophy for outstanding philatelic knowledge was won by Michael G. Kelly, a past president of the Westmount Junior Stamp Club. The presentations were made by Reg. Haldimand on behalf of Mrs. Levine.

—o—

Leewards Series Disappears in July

July sees the disappearance of the general issue for the Leeward Islands which made its first appearance in 1890 and has since duplicated the "Presidential" issues of Antigua, Montserrat, St. Christopher and the Virgin Islands.

To make up for the loss of some values which only exist in the general Leeward Islands series, additions will be made to the issues of the four presidencies of the Leewards group.

For example ¼d values will be added to the series of Antigua, Montserrat, St. Christopher and the Virgin Islands, a 6¢ stamp to the Virgin Islands set (not yet replaced by a Queen Elizabeth series, by the way) 48¢ denominations to the Montserrat and Virgin Islands definitives and finally a $2.40 value for St. Christopher.

For the past 25 years a good many efforts have been made to get rid of the situation of the stamp duplication existing because each presidency has its own stamps and there is a general series valid for postage all over the Leewards. But complicated legal precedents have prevented much progress. Now with Caribbean Federation v i r t u a l l y an accomplished fact much of the power previously vested in local legislatures will be transferred to a federal administration.

Caribbean Federation will not mean the disappearance of colorful pictorial stamps. Until further notice the existing issues will remain in use. It isn't likely that colonies will easily discard what is a valuable source of revenue. The eventual decision on a unified stamp issue will depend on a federal government which at present is not even in existence.

COMMENTS ON THE AMERICAN SCENE . . .

By Lorne Wm. Bentham

Mr. Bentham is a regular columnist to Scott's Monthly Journal, New York City; Western Stamp Collector, Albany, Oregon; Weekly Philatelic Gossip, Holton, Kansas; The Philatelic Magazine, London, England; Stamp Collecting, London, England and Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly, London, England. He is a former director of the Canadian Philatelic Society and also former stamp commentator for radio station CKOY (Ottawa), as well as a Past President of the RA Stamp Club of Ottawa. He is at present stationed in Washington, D.C., with the Canadian Government as a civil servant.

SUGGESTIONS for new stamps are reaching the United States Postmaster-General in ever increasing numbers. Seems that practically every organization in the States, small or large, is trying to influence the postal authorities in releasing a commemorative to honor this or that event. As a matter of fact, Postmaster-General Arthur E. Summerfield has before him more than 2,600 suggestions for new stamps. They reach the Post Office Department from many sources. They come from Senators eager to please their constituents, State legislative committees, municipalities, chambers of commerce and many other civic organizations —including now and then the President's staff in the White House.

It is, however, very interesting to note that fewer than one-tenth of one per cent of the stamp suggestions reaching Washington, D.C,. in any one calendar year ever win serious consideration. In fact, that's what stamp columnist of the New York Times, Kent B. Stiles, recently said in one of his columns.

Five events in the colorful history of the United States that will more than likely be commemorated with stamps are as follows:

(1) The 350th Anniversary of the Settlement of Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

(2) Birth of Alexander Hamilton in 1757. Mr. Hamilton was the first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

(3) Signing, on November 30, 1782, of the Treaty of Paris. The 175th anniversary of that pact will be celebrated next year. The pact followed the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781, and established the United States as an independent nation.

(4) A stamp to symbolize the fifty years of progress in military aviation and also to honor the United States Air Force.

(5) Admittance of Oklahoma to the Union on November 16, 1907 as the forty-sixth state.

The 1956-1957 philatelic season in the States is expected to be extremely active. The liquidation of the Alfred D. Caspary collections will continue, of course, by H. R. Harmer, Inc. The BNA section of these collections will be offered for sale on October 9, 10 and 11. United States general issues of 1861 to 1888 are to be offered in a sale November 19, 20 and 21. As a matter of fact, the Caspary collections of U.S. Carriers and Locals are to be sold at auction early in 1957 and it has already been said by a number of leading philatelic publishers and dealers throughout the country that even wealthy collectors will be extremely surprised when they see the scores of rare and unique items which this sale will bring onto the market.

Another big factor in believing that this new philatelic season in the States will be more livelier than it has ever been for a number of years is based on the fact that a few years ago dealers from the United States who went to Europe to buy stock didn't find it too difficult to locate good supplies of nice material, in the hands of own-

ers who were anxious to sell. This past summer that was not the situation. Dealers who went over to Europe this summer found it extremely difficult to locate the better material anywhere and discovered that owners were not too anxious to sell even at high prices. And the dealers came home with mighty little in the way of stock and what they did buy cost them plenty. As a consequence, the collector in the United States and also Canada, is going to have to pay more for classical issues of Europe . . . So all signs in the States indicate that 1956-1957 will be a very active season . . . and that philately is definitely increasing its followers.

Meanwhile the Panama Pope Pius issue has been a highly controversial subject in the States ever since it was announced in a paid advertisement in Life Magazine . . . Stamp columnists of daily newspapers from coast-to-coast have been vigorously protesting the issue while officials of the Collectors of Religious Stamp Society have also released statements condemning this new commemorative set.

Throwing an altogether different light on the subject, William W. Wylie, Editor of Western Stamp Collector, Albany, Oregon, recently voiced his personal opinions about this set in an edition of his publication. For the beenfit of the many readers of this column who may not have read Mr. Wylie's comments, here are some interesting excerpts:

> . . . "It's no secret that a syndicate with headquarters in the United States is back of the issue. This syndicate was able to secure Panama's cooperation for release of the series . . . This syndicate prepared the stamp designs and arranged for the printing of the stamps . . . The stamps are being sold by Panama's postal service and the Catholic church and the syndicate are sharing in the profits . . . The fact that a private syndicate is sharing in the profits of a stamp issue seems to be the thing which is causing so much unfavorable comment . . .
>
> . . . "Personally I wonder why it's any worse for a private firm to get money from collectors than a postal administration . . . Critics of Panama's Pope Pius set seem to have forgotten that Iceland's attractive Parliament Millenery series was released in 1930 with a private syndicate back of it . . . For a good many years after Luxembourg's "Intellectuals" semi-postals appeared in 1935, Scott's catalog declined to list them . . . Finally, however, they were chronicled in the catalogue . . . So I can't personally feel that the Panama Pope Pius set is any less desirable than many other issues which collectors have accepted joyfully."

Harry Weiss, Managing Editor of Weekly Philatelic Gossip, said this concerning the Panama Pope Pius set:

> . . . "We are neutral on the Panama Popes. Dealers will not handle these stamps, at least that is our opinion, although there may be exceptions. Seems that Panama has gone into the stamp business. . . . We cannot see why Panama has appointed itself to do the honors in releasing this set."

And while on the subject of religion, it might be of interest for readers also to know that Representative Francis Walter (Democrat from Pennsylvania) has asked the Post Office Department to recognize the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Moravian church in 1957 by issuance of a commemorative stamp that would pay tribute to the church for "its outstanding contribution to the colonization and culture of America."

Rep. Walter introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives calling for such a stamp which would commemorate the founding in 1457 of the "Unitas Fratrum" or Church of the Czech Brethern by the followers of John Hus, who had been martyred in 1413. The Congressman from Pennsylvania described the church which grew up in Moravia as the

"first international Protestant Church," pointing out that it anteceded the Protestant Reformation by 60 years.

Exer since ten FIPEX postal cards lacking the blue overprint have been found by collectors in the States, it has become one of the main topics of discussion amongst philatelists.

US Public Printer Raymond Blattenberger explains how this error occurred:

"The overprint was produced by offset (photo-lithograph) as was the first color. The cards were printed in sheets of 100 on a two color press. Each sheet passed under tandem impression cylinders to receive the two colors in one printing operation.

"The failure of some cards to receive the second color may be attributed to these sheets passing through the press with the second impression cylinder inadvertently tripped; in other words, the pressman neglected to reset the tripping mechanism after the press was stopped for wash up to remove a spot of dirt from the impression cylinder or during a lunch period. The second color will not print while the cylinder is tripped.

"A number of sheets could pass through in this manner but it is held unlikely that very many escaped detection by the pressman whose responsibility it is to remove imperfectly printed sheets." And so there's the official explanation.

—o—

(Editorial, The Toronto Globe & Mail, July, 1956)

WE CAN DO BETTER

Canada's postage stamps are notorious around the world for their poor design, inadequate inking, illegible texts, including the digits showing value, and their mean proportions. As our economy expands, our stamps get smaller and more tawdry. They are no cheaper to produce that way, of course. They just look cheaper. Let us get more for our money in stamps that are more attractive, more expressive of the Canadian will to grow bigger and stronger and, we hope, more appreciative of esthetic values.

Secretary's Notes

Dear Friends & Members

I have spent the last 9 weeks in hospital recuperating from a coronary, and at the moment am more than pleased to assure all that I am feeling fit and well and once more getting on with the work of our Society by clearing up the backlog.

To all the many friends who wrote me both at Windsor and at home may I say to you all, my grateful thanks. To my regret, on a trip to Windsor, I caved in and our grand President Mr. Lamouroux promptly 'phoned ahead to Dr. Norman Boyd, who awaited my arrival with the ambulance to take me to the Hotel Dieu Hospital. I spent 3 weeks under the watchful care of Dr. Boyd and the hospital staff. Of course an oxygen tent is not exactly the most pleasant of experiences but when 'Doc' and Mrs. Boyd came in one evening at 10 p.m., and to the amazement of the hospital proceeded to show the films of the Conventions past and present of the C.P.S. I now can confirm the general idea of 'those crazy stamp collectors'. However you will gather from this that thanks to the very generous and wonderful folk from Windsor and Detroit I indeed had every incentive to get well. So here we are folks back on the job serving you for the grand old C.P.S. And to my friends I can but say with all my heart THANKS.

Please note, all Chapters, that Windsor very proudly became a Life Chapter of the Society with cheque to cover this wonderful support of the C.P.S.

Again may I request that many of our members who have not as yet sent in the 1956 renewal fee of $3.00, please attend to this matter which is of vital importance to all. If you cannot, please notify us at once.

Very sincerely,

Your Secretary,
F. C. GREEN.

The Realm of Stamps

By Montor

DURING THE SUMMER months there has been a steady flow of new issues from the stamp issuing countries of the world. Some necessary and justifiable but others aimed principally at the stamp collector's pocket book.

There have been many new stamps of interest to the thematic collector, in fact there are few stamps issued today which do not fall into one or other of the many categories of interest to the topical collector.

One of the most unexpected developments was the recent announcement by the Postmaster General in the House of Commons at Westminster that Great Britain is to issue special stamps for different parts of the United Kingdom. The text of his statement was as follows:—

"Her Majesty The Queen has graciously approved in principle the issue of new stamps in the 2½d., 4d. and 1/3. denominations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and a 2½d. stamp in Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. The basic design of the stamps will remain unchanged. The Head of Her Majesty will continue to be the dominant feature. The border will bear symbols or designs appropriate to the places I have mentioned. I propose to invite committees representative of cultural and artistic interests in these areas to advise on detailed designs for me to submit to Her Majesty for approval. The new stamps will be on sale only in the areas which they represent, but they will be valid for postage and revenue purposes throughout the British Isles."

This announcement raised much controversy in the national Press. The provision of these special stamps will perhaps in some ways satisfy the suggestions recently made for low value pictorial stamps to publicize different parts of the country.

It has also been announced that the colour of the current 2d. stamp of Great Britain is to be changed from dark to light brown as this value is used extensively for revenue purposes and the dark stamp was found unsuitable for showing penmarks up clearly.

The printing contract for the high value stamps of Great Britain has been awarded to Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. as from January 1, 1958. It will be recalled that this firm printed the high value George V stamps from 1915 to 1918. Collectors would be well advised to see that they have their sets completed of the present Elizabethan high values, while they are still current and comparatively plentiful, in case there is any distinct difference in the new printings. There might even be a change of design and it is quite likely that there may be a change of colours. It will be remembered that soon after the current stamps were issued there was a strong protest made by the postmasters in the United Kingdom to the effect that the colours of the 2/6. and £1. stamps were not readily distinguishable under artificial light.

Of British Colonial stamps issued during the summer there have been more additions to the new Elizabethan set for Jamaica. The full set when issued will consist of 16 values from ½d. to £1.

The new set bearing the portrait of Her Majesty consisting of 12 values from ½d. to £1. was issued for Swaziland on July 2, the new Elizabethan stamps for the Gilbert and Ellis Islands consisting of 12 values from ½d. to 10/-. was issued on August 1.

A set of three Health stamps will be issued by New Zealand on September 4 and it has been announced that two special stamps will be issued on February 2 next to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first shipment from New Zealand of frozen meat to Great Britain.

A special set of four values is to be issued for the Ross Dependency for use by members of the New Zealand Antarctic expedition while in the Ross Dependency area.

A new definite set of pictorial stamps bearing the portrait of Her Majesty togther with the Crown has been ordered for the Virgin Islands. It will consist of 13 values from ½ cent to $4.80.

The Crown Agents have also announced that commemorative sets have been ordered for North Borneo, the Seychelles and the New Hebrides. The North Borneo set of four values will mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the old Chartered Company of North Borneo. The Seychelles set will consist of two values depicting "La Pierre de Possession" and the New Hebrides issue will be of four stamps in both an English and French series to mark the 50th anniversary of the Condominium's existence.

A number of new commemorative stamps have been issued during the summer by the United States including a special 3 cent blue stamp to commemorate Labor Day, which was placed on first day sale at Camden, N.J., on September 3.

—o—

SOUTH SHORE STAMP CLUB

Mr. Lionel A. Lesperance of Longueuil, was elected President of the South Shore Stamp Club at the annual meeting of the Club on May 22. Other officers elected were: First Vice-President, John Sauve; Second Vice-President, G. W. Perks; Recording Secreaary, Miss A. Allin; Corresponding Secretary, Ken Hill; Treasurer, John Netten; and Directors, W. C. Springthorpe and A. O. Sears. Miss Kay Plummer is Immediate Past President.

This bilingual group of South Shore Stamp collectors meets at the St. Lambert Fire Station at 8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. A junior section, for boys and girls from 10 to 15 years of age, meets on the same nights at 7 o'clock.

The Club will hold its last meeting of this season on June 12.

GROWING POPULARITY OF U.S. & BNA STAMPS REVEALED IN SECOND 1956 EDITION OF HARRIS CATALOG

Stamps of the United States, U.S. Possessions and British North America. Second 1956 Edition, (144 pages, 1500 illustrations) including new U.S. Stamp Identifier. Price 25c. Published by H. E. Harris & Co., 2050 Transit Bldg., Boston 17, Mass.

A stronger, more active demand than ever before is clearly spelled out in the 144 pages of H. E. Harris & Co.'s second 1956 U.S. & B.N.A. catalog. Considered the largest and most popular catalog of its kind, this mid-year edition shows a record number of price adjustments although its appearance follows the first 1956 edition by only about six months.

Over 2500 prices have been changed by the Harris Co., world's largest stamp firm, in up-dating their attractive publication for this printing. Generally, changes are moderate but show a consistent rise throughout nearly every section. The profusely illustrated catalog contains a virtually complete listing of U.S. stamps to January 1, 1956 (including airmails, special delivery, revenues, telegraphs, envelopes, postal cards, etc.) plus all U.S. Possessions, Confederate States, United Nations, Canada, Newfoundland, and the Provinces.

All the popular specialties such as first day covers, plate blocks, and mint sheets are completely covered in the new book. One of the valuable extra features included is the complete 12-page U.S. Stamp Identifier section, showing how to distinguish between rare and common look-alike stamps. Collectors will be quick to recognize that this second 1956 edition of the Harris U.S. & B.N.A. catalog is a valuable and useful book, worth far more than the small 25c charge.

Stronger Demand For U.S. Plate Blocks

More popular than ever are U.S. plate blocks and mint sheets, especially pre-1940 issues, and the stimulated activity is accurately

reflected when prices are compared with those published a year ago. A plate block of four 1c Louisiana, (Scott's #323) listed at $9.50 last year, now commands $11.75; during the same period a plate block of six 2c Burgoyne (#644) moved up from $3.75 to $5.85. Likewise, the 2c Hawaii (#647) showed a magnificent advance in value, going from $6.35 to $8.50. A year ago a plate block of four 1938 $2 (#833) listed for $13.50 while the current price is pegged at $18.75.

New Vitality In Canada Demand

Highlight of the British North America section is Canada, second only to the U.S. in number of issues showing increases. For example, the 6p Prince Albert (#2), used, climbed from $29.50 to $39.50, and the 10p Jaques Cartier (#7), used, made an almost parallel gain from $29.75 to $38.50. Scott #15, the 5c Beaver, unused, was previously quoted at $4.75 and is now $6.95. #159 $1 Parliament, unused, brought $9.75 but at the present time its value is up to $11.00. Set #331-33 Queen Elizabeth II has more than tripled its value during the period with a hike from 15c to 50c.

Coming at a time when the U.S. & B.N.A. market is definitely increasing in all categories, the second 1956 edition of the familiar Harris publication will undoubtedly meet with its most enthusiastic response. Many thousands of collectors and dealers have already established it as the most widely-used U.S. catalog in the world. A copy may be obtained for 25c from H. E. Harris & Co., 2050 Transit Bldg., Boston 17, Mass.

H. GRAHAM BERTRAM

H. Graham Bertram, a Member of one of Dundas' oldest families, born in Dundas in 1886, lived most of his life in the place of his birth. His death on June 16th, 1956, saw the passing of one of the world's great Philatelists. His wife, the former Mabel Richardson, daughter of the late Senator and Mrs. Harry Richardson, predeceased him in 1952. He leaves surviving him three daughters, two brothers and two sisters. The late Mr. Bertram was a mild mannered man, almost shy at times, but was warmly appreciated by all who had the privilege of knowing him and his many benefactions quietly and without ostentation given during his long and useful life, will cause him to be mourned sincerely by many.

Educated in the Public and High Schools of Dundas he later graduated from Queens University with the degree of Bachelor of Science. In 1946 he was named a Councillor of that University and a few years ago received from it the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Following his graduation in 1910 he worked on construction projects in Costa Rica, Mexico, and other places. In 1913 he joined the firm of John Bertram & Sons Limited, of Dundas, and soon progressed to Executive posts. In 1926 he became General Manager of the firm. A leading industrialist by this time, in 1939, as a Member of the Executive of the Canadian Manufacturers Association he consulted with the British Premier, together with one of his colleagues, on the cooperation of Canadian Industry in the event of hostilities. At the time of his retirement a few years ago he was, as he had been for some years, President and General Manager of the firm he joined in 1913.

Mr. Bertram during his life was keenly interested in masonry. Only last year he was honoured by elevation to a thirty-third degree by the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masonry.

He was greatly interested in history especially of his beloved community. Since his retirement he had taken a great part in the establishment of the Dundas Historical Museum and was one of its chief benefactors. At the time of his death he was its Honorary Curator.

However there is no doubt his greatest love was his stamps. He was in every sense a true Philatelist. In fact the night before he died he, with a friend, had worked on his superb collection of proofs until 11.30 p.m. To go into details of his collections would be a task

beyond words. He had fine collection of British Commonwealth, the Canadian Provinces, including Newfoundland, but his real interest was centered on Canada. There is little doubt his collection is one of the finest in existence to-day.

There is also little doubt his collection of pence issues, all in superb condition, is the finest in existence. He was exceedingly condition conscious. Both his 1859's and 1868's are marvellous. His 10c Alberts are equally good. His work on plating the 17 cents and 12½ is already well known. Individual items, many unique, would make a long list.

He was a true student of his stamps and always ready to share his knowledge with others. For a time the late Mr. Bertram considered leaving this magnificent collection, both on and off cover, to some institution, but the true Philatelist he was, he came to the true conclusion that it was wrong to "bury" this material and it will eventually be offered for sale so that other collectors may be able to enjoy the fruits of his beloved labours.

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In his "Postal Service of the Confederate States of America" which is the "bible" of the Confederate specialist, August Dietz cites good evidence that the "frame line" 10c was an experimental product — a sample of John Archer's handiwork submitvice on approval to demonstrate ted to the Confederate postal serhis ability to engrave and print postage stamps by the intaglio process.

Whatever the reason for the issue of the 10c stamps from the plate with the lines framing each stamp, the fact remains that it is one of the most interesting of Confederate States issues and deserves the name, "stamp with a thousand varieties" by which it is known.

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