

THE  
CANADA STAMP & COIN JOURNAL,

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PHILATELY AND NUMISMATICS.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, NOVEMBER, 1888.

NO. 5.

**The Canada Stamp and Coin Journal.**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

In the Interests of Philately and Numismatics.

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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA :

THE MARITIME PRINTING CO.,

PRINTERS and PUBLISHERS.



# "THE CURRENT."

BY EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

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VOL. I.

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Continued from last month

## HISTORY OF THE DOLLAR.

BY ALBERT WINSLOW PAINE.

THE public debt, the requisitions and the apportionment, were invariably expressed, not in pounds, but in dollars. No decisive action was taken in the matter till after the adoption of the constitution. In 1791 Alexander Hamilton introduced a bill, which was passed by Congress and became a law, making the "dollar" the unit of value. It was to be of the value of the Spanish milled dollar, and was to contain 371 4-16 grains of pure silver. It is not entirely clear why the Spanish milled dollar was mentioned in the Act, when the precise amount of pure silver was fixed at 371 4-16 grains. That was probably about the size of the Spanish piece at that time, and may have been mentioned because it was in general circulation and the people were familiar with its value.

Why was this piece called a dollar? Dollar is surely not a Spanish word. The Spaniards called it a "peso." In the Spanish and English dictionary the corresponding English terms for this word are—Spanish coin, dollar, weighing an ounce; piastre, piece of eight. The Germans, Danes, and Swedes used the term in their coinage, but the Spanish never used it. In the Spanish dictionary the word "dalera" is given, but only as a term applied to a foreign coin. It does not appear to have been adopted into their language. Yet the coin must have been generally known as the Spanish dollar, otherwise it would not have been used in a legislative enactment by so distinguished a lawyer and statesman as Alexander Hamilton. There is other testimony to this fact. In Kelly's "Cambist" (1821) it is mentioned as the coin universally circulated under the name Spanish dollar. The "real vellon," he says, "is the basis of the Spanish coinage or the money

unit, which is the twentieth part of the hard dollar (peso duro) universally known by the name Spanish dollar." Speaking of exchange, he says, "Bills for England on Gibraltar are drawn in current dollars of 8 reals, and in all transactions in which dollars are mentioned, they are understood to be payable in gold at the rate of 16 to the doubloon." McLeod, on Banking, also says, "Between London and Spain the exchange is always reckoned by the variable sum in pence given for the fixed dollar. London gives Spain so many pence for the dollar." There are English authors who tell us that the name dollar is universally applied to the Spanish peso, or piece of eight, as it is sometimes called. How it became so known is not easy to determine. Perhaps a reference to the origin of the word will throw some light upon it.

Etymologists are not agreed as to the origin of the word "dollar." Richardson, in his dictionary (1837) after mentioning its derivation from "thal," the German word for dale or valley, refers to Skinner, who published a dictionary in 1671. He says it may be derived from "dal," division, "dael," a portion, because it is half of the ducat; and in this opinion Cooke (another lexicographer, 1786) coincides with him. Fawcett, in his "Hand-book of Finance" (Chicago, 1879) says the word "dollar" is derived from the Gaelic "dal," a valley, and "ard," a hill, signifying a valley shut in by hills. In this derivation the latter part of the word seems superfluous, as valleys are usually enclosed by hills. It is always more or less a process of reasoning by which we arrive at the derivation of a word, and there is a reasonable amount of testimony in support of its derivation from the word "thal" (pronounced tah). From this source its origin would date back about three centuries and a half, to the time when Charles V., Emperor of Germany, Henry VIII., of England, and Francis I., of France, were the three



great monarchs of the world. It is traced to a little valley in Bohemia, called Joachimthal (Joachim-dael). In this dale or valley the Counts of Schlick, about the year 1519, worked a silver mine and coined silver into ounce pieces, which were a little larger than the American dollar, an ounce containing 480 grains and the dollar 412½ grains. On account of their convenient size, purity, and uniform weight, these pieces became very popular and came into general use. It is not stated that any name was stamped upon them, but a popular coin, passing from hand to hand, and being constantly referred to in business and trade, could not long remain without a name. The name given them was Joachim-thaler, from the name of the valley where they were coined. William Jacobs in his "Precious Metals," published about 1830, refers to these mines, but says there is now no record of their workings, showing when work commenced or how much was produced. He mentions however, that they had been worked to great depth. In Kohl's "Austria" (1843), a "Book of Travels," he says, "Coins may be seen here of all the great Bohemian families that at various time have enjoyed the privilege of coining money. Among these families the most distinguished are the Schlicks, the Rosenbergs, and the Waldsteins, or Wallensteins, as Schiller, for the convenience of his rhythm, has thought proper to call them. Of the Waldstein family, however, none have exercised the right of coinage since the days of their great ancestor, of whom some very beautiful gold coins still exist.

The Counts of Schlick exercised the privilege longer than any other of the old Bohemian families. Coins of a very recent date may be seen with their effigy. Their celebrated silver mines at Joachimberg were so productive that in the beginning of the sixteenth century they coined what were called "Joachimthaler," which weighed a full ounce, and which may still be found in circulation in Russia, where they are known sometimes by the name "Thalera," and sometimes by that of "Yefimki."

Coins called "Joachimdalers" were in circulation in Denmark as early as 1531. In a Register of King

Frederick's Orders, published in Danish (1789), the following entry is made :

1531. Bishop Iver Munck loaned the King 2,000 gylders, consisting of Rheinisch gylders, Joachimdalers Skreckenbergers, Mark-Stycker, double Lubske and Skillinger, for which the King mortgaged his palace. The word "daler" in Danish (pronounced dahler) corresponds very nearly in sound to the word "thaler," in German. This word was in use in Denmark, employed in their coinage, and adopted into the language at a very early date. Snowden, in his "Manuel of Coins," commences his notice of the Danish coinage with the reign of Christian IV. (1588 to 1648). "The silver coinage," he says, "was based on the old 'species daler' as a unit." The standard is said to have been adopted in the beginning of the sixteenth century by Frederick I. Frederick I. reigned from 1523 to 1533. C. F. Allen, in his "Handbook and History of the Fatherland," says King Hans (John) was the first who struck the larger coins, such as nobles, gylders and "dalers." King John reigned from 1481 to 1513. From this it might be inferred that the word "daler" was used in Denmark previous to 1519, the time of its supposed Bohemian origin. But upon this point we find further testimony. Lorenzo Praetorius, a Danish numismatist, published in 1791, at Copenhagen, two large folio volumes, containing plates and descriptions of the coins and medals of Denmark from the earliest times. Under the reign of King Hans he gives a silver coin which in his description he calls a "daler." The plate does not, however, show this to have been its mint designation, and he expressly says in a note that it is not called a "daler" until after 1519, when the word first came into use. This plainly indicates his opinion of the Bohemian origin of the word. The Danish coin was struck about 1512. Some years after this the German thalers were in circulation, and became so popular that the name was adopted by the Danes, used to denote their unit of coinage, and even applied to other coins of corresponding size and value.

[To be continued.]

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## THE COINAGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF ENGLAND.

BY D. A. K.

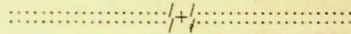
AFTER the dethronement of Charles I., the commonwealth, under its energetic head, Cromwell, proceeded to effect great changes in its coinage. The Royal Arms and Latin mottoes were thrown aside, and the simple cross of St. George, placed within a palm and an olive branch, with the motto, "The Commonwealth of England," was adopted. The reverse bore two joined shields, one bearing the cross of St. George, and the other the harp of Ireland; with the mottoe "God with us." One noticeable feature of this change was that both mottoes were in English. Sir Richard Harleigh, who had been master of the mint under Charles I., and who was re-appointed by the Commonwealth, refused to carry into effect this change in type of the coinage; but he being dismissed and Dr. Aaron Guerdain being appointed in his place, under his direction the change was effected.

The new issues were crowns, half crowns, shillings, half shillings, and pieces of two pence, one penny, and one half penny. The larger pieces all bore the same device, with the exception of being marked above the double shields with Roman numerals to denote the value. The two penny and one penny bore no inscription on them, and the half penny had simply the cross on one side and the harp on the other.

On the restoration of peace, Cromwell being determined that the coinage of England should be second to that of no other country, invited to England a French man named Pierre Blondeau who had carried to perfection the most approved modes of stamping by the mill and screw. On his arrival Blondeau produced patterns of half crowns, shillings, and half shillings coined by the new process, and by this means a legend was for the first time produced on the edge; one of the patterns of the half crown bore the inscription "Truth and Peace, Petrus Blondeau, 1651"; another had "In the 3rd year of freedom restored." The shilling and half shilling were beautifully grained on the edges, and were brought to their weight with great

exactness. None of these devices were ever adopted however, and an engagement was entered into with Blondeau to work the new process with the usual devices of the Commonwealth; but as they were never issued, can only be considered as patterns, and are accordingly rare. The officials of the mint were very jealous of Blondeau, and tried to destroy his credit with Cromwell. Their opposition at length frustrated his schemes, and he was prevented from carrying into effect his reform. The screw process was, however, in the end adopted, though without the aid of Blondeau, who was undoubtedly illused in the matter. The gold coins bore the same devices and mottoes as the silver ones, and were simply 20, 10, and 5 shilling pieces,

The coinage made more progress under Cromwell's rule than ever it had done before. These coins were the best that up to that period had been issued by the English, or perhaps any other mint. The issues being, comparatively speaking, not rare, can be easily procured from dealers. The only rarities are those of the dates 1658 and 1660, they being scarce, especially the half crown of the latter date.



## EXCHANGE NOTICES.

We will give other good stamps for United States 1871 issue, 7c, 24c, 90c, and 12c. 1869 issue, 1, 10 and 15 cents.

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J. L. PENDER, Portsmouth, N. H.

For every stamp paper sent me I will give in exchange two or three foreign post cards, according to value.

F. D. CROSBY, Ohio, Yarmouth Co., N. S.

About a dozen exchange notices have been destroyed by a fire in our office. Send duplicate.

## EDITORIAL REMARKS.

**M**R. ED. FROSSARD held his 86th auction sale on the evening of Sept 27th and 28th, and some very good prices were realized. This was the first auction sale of the season. Mr. J. Krebs held his 2nd sale on the evening of October 9th, when all the high-value State and periodical stamps brought better prices than they have done for years. On Nov. 19th, Mr. Bogert will hold his 9th; and on the 23rd and 24th, Mr. Casey his 17th sale. The latter is known as the "Edwin Collection," and comprises 1587 lots, including paper money, proofs, revenue and postage stamps. It is an important sale, and collectors should give it their attention.

**I**T appears that Mr. H. S. Harte is first publishing his "History of the Postage and Revenue Stamps of Canada" as a serial, in the Stamp Collector. The publishers of the S. C. will shortly issue this history in paper covered form at 35 cents, and bound in cloth at 60 cents. It promises to be interesting, and our Canadian philatelists should help make it a success.

**W**E would advise the editor of the Charleston Philatelist to attend school for a few years more, and endeavor to unlearn the slang that his head seems to be full of; then he will be enabled to write his editorials without that vulgar manner of expression that appears to be his delight. If he would confine himself to the question at issue, leave personal abuse alone, and put forth his views in a gentleman-like manner, both himself and his paper would occupy a higher place, in the estimation of collectors, than they do at present. Honest criticism should always be taken in a friendly way, and should not be considered as intended to injure or ridicule. However, my son, you are young yet! There is a chance for you!

Xmas number next. No samples. For subs. only.

## ODDS AND ENDS.

The *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde* has discarded its cover, and now appears with a neatly engraved heading.

—The Collector & Exchange will appear only once a month hereafter. The October number shows a marked improvement over the first two issues.

—The International Collector, in its "Language of American Stamp Dealers," portrays some of the failings of well-known philatelists in a laughable manner.

—It is reported that Mr. S. B. Bradt has been suddenly seized with a sudden illness, and that he has severed his connection with the *Philatelic Gazette*, and discontinued *Phi o's Monthly*.

—Mr Tiffany has made an arrangement with Messrs. Bogert and Rechart, whereby these three gentlemen combine their well-known abilities in the compilation of a "History of the Stamped Envelopes of the United States."

**A**N official document was recently received from the Post Office Department of Ecuador, guaranteeing the 4 reales stamp with Eagle's head to right to be genuine. We doubted the reliability of the opinion, suspecting that it had been obtained by an interested party. On the 28th of September we received a reply to a letter of ours, from the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of Ecuador, enclosing a genuine 4 reales, a reprint, and a counterfeit.

The genuine stamp is the one that collectors are familiar with.

The reprint is the same type, but brighter and clearer impression, more of a brick-red color, on yellowish paper.

The counterfeit is the stamp with eagles head to right.—P. J. of A.



## NEW STAMPS.

AFGHANISTAN.—The P. W. mentions a new type of the 1 abasy, measuring 28 mm in diameter, instead of 26 mm.

ANNAM and TONQUIN.—M. Moens states that he has an official letter which says that the 5c surcharged on 2c has never existed.

ANTIOQUIA.—The I. B. J. mentions new colors for the stamps of the 1886 issue.

Adhesives—1 centavos, red on violet.

2½ " violet on pale rose.

5 " carmine on buff.

10 " brown on blue-green.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Le T. P. notes a reply post-card of 3 centavos similar to the present 1½ centavos, with the exception of a change in border.

Post-Card—3+3 centavos, green on white.

BAVARIA.—Le T. P. states that the arms on the post-cards are now in a shield instead of an oval. The watermark is of undulations, wide apart; in the single cards horizontal, and in the double vertical.

Post-Cards—3 pf., green, horizontal waves.

5 " violet, horizontal waves.

2+2 " green, vertical waves.

5 5 " violet, vertical waves.

BELGIUM.—The P. W. reports two new cards.

Post-Cards—5+5c, same as current single card.

10 10c, carmine on grey.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—The P. W. says that the 5 sh. Cape has been surcharged, and that the 1d and 2d lilac are now surcharged on Her Majesty's head with "1d" in black, and "2d" in red. Mr. Campbell has kindly sent us a circular showing that the stamps surcharged "Protectorate" are not for use in British Bechuanaland, but for letters in the Protectorate and Trans-Protectorate.

CANADA.—A change has been made in the color of the current 3c.; also in that of the 2c. registered.

Adhesive—3 cents, dark rose.

Registered—2 cents, dark rose (or crimson).

CEYLON.—Mr. Bogert says the 4c envelope is now surcharged "Five Cents" in black in two lines above the stamp. The 12c registered envelope has the surcharge "Fifteen Cents" in large capital letters, also in two lines.

Envelope—Five cents, surcharged on 4 cents, black.

" Fifteen cents, surcharged on 12c., "

CHAMBA.—Der Ph. mentions a still further addition

to the surcharges already existing.

Adhesive—2a, blue, black surcharge, Service, Cham-  
ba, State.

Envelope—1a, brown, black surcharge, Cham-  
ba, State.

Registered-Envelope—2a, blue, black surcharge,  
Chamba, State.

Post-card—¼ brown, black surcharge, Service,  
Chamba, State.

" " ¼+¼ brown, black surcharge, Cham-  
ba, State.

COSTA RICA.—The new 5c is surcharged "Guana-  
caste" in black, in two styles, 16 1-2x4 and 14x3 mm.  
So says Mr. Bogert.

CURACAO.—Mr. Rechert says new cards of 5c and  
7½c are to be issued.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—The Phil. Record reports the  
1c in rose with frame of yellow-green.

Adhesive—1 cent, yellow-green and rose.

DANUBIAN STEAM NAVIGATION CO.—Le T. P. notices a  
series of nine stamps for use on the boats of this com-  
pany. They are in the form of a large square with  
fancy border, containing the following:

Centimes

50

Kalabaluk

D. D. S. G.

Adhesives—50 centavos, brick-red

1 franc blue.

2 " bistre.

3 " violet.

5 " green.

8 " brown.

10 " blue and bistre.

15 " red and violet.

20 " yellow and green.

DUTCH INDIES.—Der Ph. chronicles a new 30 cent  
unpaid letter stamp, and the fact that the 25 cent en-  
velope, lilac on white paper, is now surcharged 15 in  
black; and the I. B. J. mentions a new 10 cent envel-  
ope, red-brown on white.

Unpaid-adhesive—30 cents, red and black.

Envelope—10 cent, red-brown on white.

" 15 cent. 25c blue on white, black surch.

FARIDROT.—The I. B. J. states that there are two  
new stamps of this state, one perforated as hereto-  
fore, and the other, which is much clearer in execution  
is perforated.

Adhesives—1 fulus, green.

" 1 fulus, blue.

FORMOSA.—The I. B. J. publishes notice of a new regulation and gives the following official letter in regard to it:

TAMSUI, May 14, 1888.

\* \* For information I enclose a copy of a new regulation just adopted by the government of Formosa. In consequence of this regulation the old method of sending letters gives way to a regular postal system for the public. The following are the principal articles:

1. The mail is to be carried by bearers.
2. The postal routes are divided into stages of 70 to 100 li (about 25 to 30 miles) in length.
3. Letters and packets are carried for 20 cash per tael (about 1½ oz.) with an extra charge for delivery to places not on the regular route.
4. The postage stamps are of two kinds, for official use and for the public. The first are supplied without charge to the public officers, to be used in sending official matter, and the last are sold to the public.

Concerning the use of the stamps, the system is embarrassing and subject to criticism, the sale not being made at the discretion of the public. For example, anyone wishing to send a letter from Mobei to Teckcham takes it to the office at Mobei, where he pays in advance 60 cash for the three stages. The postmaster gives him a receipt for the letter and affixes the stamps. The letter is then sent to Tapei, and from there to Tiongleck and to Teckcham, receiving at each stage an additional stamp, as proof, probably of responsibility of the officer affixing the stamps. \* \* \*

Adhesives—20 cash, rose.

20 cash, green.

FRENCH GUINEA.—There is a new surcharge for this colony.

Adhesive—10 (centimes) black on 75c. rose.

GAMBIA.—The American Philatelist says that the 4 pence is now issued with the watermark C. A. and crown.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The instructions on the half penny band is now in four lines instead of five. The £1 stamp has now three crowns for watermark.

Newsband—½d, red-brown, instructions in four lines.

Adhesive—£1, watermark three globes.

INDIA.—Das P. says that a 1 rupee stamp, lithographed, and made in India, was in use from the 16th to the 31st July.

SIRMOOR.—The A. Ph. says ahe 3 pies is now yellow.

VENEZUELA.—Le T. P. publishes illustrations of the high-value Escuelas, made by the American Bank Note Co., 3 bolivars, violet, and 10 bolivars, brown.

The lithographed stamps ceased to be current Aug. 11th, and Das P. gives the following list of them:

CORREOS.

Perf. 12, 25c., rou'etted, 5c., 25c., 50c., 1 bol.; unperf., 5c., 25c.

ESCUELAS.

Perf., 12, 5c., 25c., 1 bol., rouletted, 5c., 25c., 3 bol., unperf., 3c., 25c.

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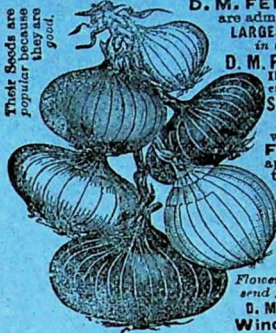
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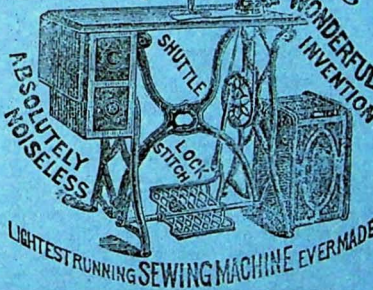
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