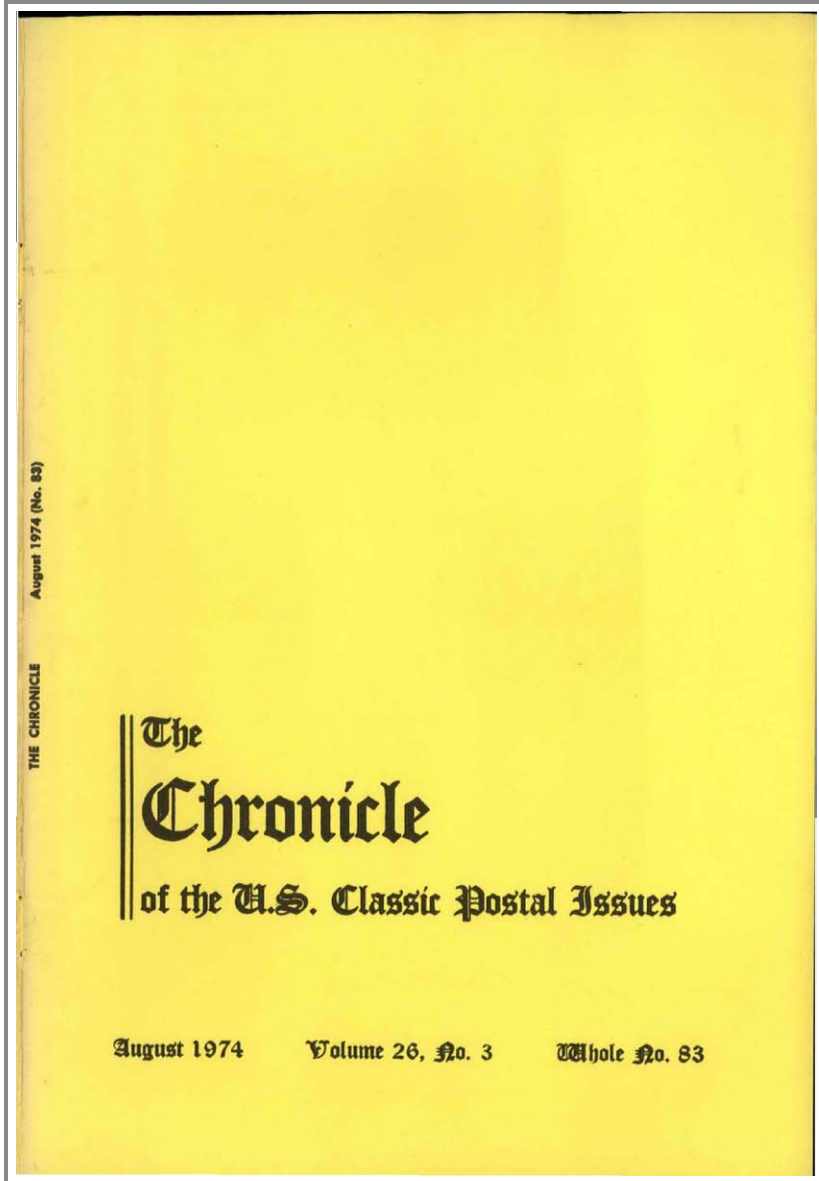




# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

Volume: 26 Number: 3 Year: 1974 Chronicle: 83

Article: Timbromanie



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**REPRINT  
BONUS**

**110 YEARS AGO**

*Editor's note:* Our 1869 section in this issue announces the discovery of an important research source that bears directly on classic U. S. stamps and postal history. The first 12 volumes of Holbrook's *United States Mail and Post Office Assistant* have been located, complete and intact. The newly-discovered run comprises every issue of this monthly newspaper, from its inception in October 1860 through September 1872. Many of the issues contained in this run had up until now been thought not to exist.

To celebrate this happy event, we are reprinting an article that appeared in the September 1864 issue—110 years ago. It is one of the earliest known write-ups, published in the U. S., dealing with what was then regarded as a "weak and puerile mania"—philately. The illustrations are taken from a combined album and catalogue published by J. W. Scott Co. about 1870. The reprint follows:

**TIMBROMANIE**

Do not be alarmed, reader, at the high-sounding word we have chosen as a heading to this article; for in these days when a common conjurer must call himself a "prestidigitor," and a traveling circus must denominate itself a "hippotheatron" in order to attract attention, certainly the writer of an article on the rage for postage stamp collecting will be pardoned for using the French term, and calling it timbromanie. Comparatively few persons in this country, probably even those engaged in this enticing pursuit, are aware to what an extent the mania for the acquisition of postage stamps is carried on abroad, especially in England and on the continent; and in the hope of enlightening these, as well as presenting a few facts that may be interesting to the general reader, we produce this article.

As literary representatives of stamp collecting, there have already appeared in Europe, twenty-three different publications, as follows: of descriptive catalogues of stamps, seven have been published in England, three in France, one in Belgium, and one in Holland. Of stamp albums and other kindred works, three in England, two in France, and one in Belgium. Of stamp magazines, three in England, one in Belgium, and one in Saxony. Of the catalogues and albums there is hardly one which has not reached a second or third edition; and the catalogues of Mount Brown, the first published and now acknowledged as "the standard," have even reached a fifth. Of the periodicals, the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, commenced in February, 1863, published at Bath by Stafford, Smith & Smith (who, by the way, are the largest stamp dealers in the world, and style themselves "Foreign Stamp Sellers to H.R.H. the Prince of Orange") is the oldest and most important. *Le Timbre Poste* of Brussels, and *Magazin für Briefmarken-Sammler* of Leipzig, are of interest only to continental collectors.

From the fact alone of so many publications of this character having made their appearance, and from the support they have received, may be derived some idea of the extent and prevalence of timbromanie in Europe. The number of different stamps in existence at present is some 2500; ranging in value from the common ones at a penny each, to the rare specimen lately advertised for sale in the *London Times* for the sum of twenty guineas. When it is borne in mind that twenty English guineas amount to considerably more than two hundred dollars of our "greenbacks," this last item may perhaps be appreciated. Collections are often advertised and sold at prices varying from £5 to £150, according to the number and condition of the stamps. Says the editor of the *Magazine*: "Should such an Utopian consummation as a complete collection of postage stamps be ever attained, it would be cheap at two hundred guineas."

The maxim that wherever there is a demand there will be a supply, is verified in the case of stamp collecting. Stamps that before the mania commenced it was almost impossible to obtain are now to be had almost for the asking.

# A VALUABLE WORK !!

## THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY

IS A 16 PAGE MAGAZINE

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE INTERESTS OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

**ILLUSTRATED** with an average of **EIGHT ENGRAVINGS** every Month, each printed in the correct color of the Stamp it represents.

And is acknowledged by all to be the most beautiful Magazine ever printed in Europe or America. See opinions of the Press concerning it.

**A SCARCE UNCANCELLED STAMP IS GIVEN AWAY WITH EVERY NUMBER EACH MONTH.**

It is published on the 20th of every month, at \$1.00 per Year in advance. Single Copies, 10 cents.

*Read, and think over the following questions:—*

Do you know the Nationality of every Stamp? The *American Journal of Philately* gives a Table, with which the youngest collector can find out to which country a stamp belongs in a few minutes.

Do you know that there are many stamps that you can easily get that are worth \$2.00 or \$3.00 each? By reading *The American Journal of Philately*, you will learn the value of every stamp.

Do you want to buy Stamps at the very Lowest Prices? Dealers always advertise their stamps at their lowest prices in *The American Journal of Philately*. Stamps that are marked at 85 cents the set, in the different price lists, are advertised in the Journal at 25 cents the set.

Do you wish to get a Sample of all the New Stamps as they come out? By subscribing *The American Journal of Philately*, you have a different one given you every month.

Do you want to know Genuine from Counterfeit Stamps, and everything connected with Stamp Collecting? If so, subscribe at once to *The American Journal of Philately*, you will get full description of Counterfeits, and the Editor will give you any information you desire concerning Postage Stamps.

Do you wish to be a Dealer? If so, read *The American Journal of Philately* and learn how dealers do business.

PUBLISHED BY

**J. W. SCOTT & CO.,**

34 LIBERTY STREET,

N. Y. CITY

Advertisement for a stamp magazine (c. 1870), complete with give-aways and color printing.

In fact, there is hardly a stamp in use at the present time in any part of the globe, that cannot be easily procured from the large dealers at a slight advance from its face value. The rare stamps are only those of old issues, "essays" and "proofs," whose value is proportionate to their rarity or good condition. For these, enormous prices are frequently paid. At the beginning of the mania, any stamps were eagerly sought, though having been used. But at present the "immaculates," or those which have never been cancelled, are chiefly desired. As an illustration of how great a business the traffic in stamps has become, we may mention the fact of our having counted in a recent issue of the *Stamp Magazine* the advertisements of no less than one hundred and thirty different firms and individuals having stamps for sale; most of these being in England. Also the

# CATALOGUE

Of every Stamp Issued.

The prices annexed are those at which the stamps can be bought of

J. W. SCOTT & CO.,

34 Liberty Street,

NEW YORK!

## UNITED STATES.

### 1845. Official Local Stamps.

	New.	Used.
*5 cents, New York, Head Black.		50
*5 " St. Louis, arms, black		
*10 " " " "		
*20 " " " "		
*5 " Providence, name black		
*10 " Brattleboro' initials buff		

### 1847. U. S. Post Office.

*5 cents, Franklin, brown.....	25	5
*10 " Washington, black.....	1 00	33

### 1851. Head in Oval.

1 cent, Franklin, blue.....	2	2
3 cents, Washington, red.....	3	2
*5 " Jefferson, brown.....	10	8
10 " Washington, green.....	8	3
*12 " " black.....	10	5
*24 " " lilac.....	15	10
*30 " Franklin, orange.....	25	15
*90 " Washington, blue.....	75	

### 1861. Carriers Stamps.

1 cent, Franklin, blue on pink....		
1 " Horseman, black.....	25	
1 " " red.....		
1 " Eagle, blue.....	10	10

### 1861. U. S. and value in corners.

1 cent, Franklin, blue.....	2	1
Washington, red.....	3	1
" Jefferson, brown.....	6	2
10 " Washington, green.....	12	2
12 " " black.....	15	2
24 " " lilac.....	30	4
30 " Franklin, orange.....	35	4
90 " Washington, blue.....	\$1 10	20
2 " 1863, Jackson, black....	3	1
15 " 1866, Lincoln, black....	18	2

\* There are three varieties of each of the St. Louis stamps.

### 1869. Various Designs.



1 cent, buff.....	2	
2 cents, brown.....	3	
3 " blue.....	4	
6 " blue.....	8	
10 " yellow.....	12	1
12 " green.....	15	2
15 " brown and blue.....	18	2
*24 " green and purple.....	30	5
*30 " blue and carmine.....	36	10
*90 " black and carmine.....	1 00	
1 " 1870, Franklin, blue.....	2	1
2 " " Jackson, brown....	3	1
3 " " Washington, green....	4	1
6 " " Lincoln, red.....	8	1
10 " " Jefferson, light b'n....	12	2
12 " " Clay, dark purple..	15	2
15 " " Webster, orange....	18	2
24 " " Scott, purple.....	30	
30 " " Hamilton, black....	36	
90 " " Perry, carmine....	1 00	

NOTE.—The extra price charged for current stamps are our commission for buying and forwarding same.

### Newspaper Stamps.

#### Very large stamps head of—

5 cents, Washington, blue.....	10
10 " Franklin, green.....	25
25 " Lincoln, red.....	50

The entire United States (except stamped envelopes) in an early catalogue. Note that no distinction was made between imperforate and perforate stamps of the 1851-61 issue.

advertisements themselves of the large dealers; such as "10,000 foreign stamps wanted, lowest price per thousand to be forwarded to—," "250,000 foreign stamps for sale," etc. Thus it would seem that—as certain learned and illustrious English journals choose to call it—"the weakest and most puerile of manias," increases and flourishes, in Europe at least, to a remarkable degree.

In our own country the mania prevails to a considerable extent, though by no means as much as in Europe. Two stamp catalogues only have as yet made their appearance; that of Kline issued early in 1863, and that of Sever & Francis issued a few months later. The Kline catalogue has, however, reached a record edition. Against both of these it is affirmed, we fear with too much reason, that they are unacknowledged transcripts of the original English catalogues. A postage stamp album has also been published by the Appletons. An attempt was made at the beginning of the present year to establish a monthly stamp

magazine at New York, but was relinquished from want of support. The number of stamp dealers is as yet quite small, probably not numbering more than twenty at the most, situated in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Montreal and Halifax. These generally import their stamps from the large English dealers, and retail them to private collectors. We may here remark that as a natural consequence, stamps sell for higher prices here than abroad.

Thus even in America, where stamp collecting is yet in its infancy, it has already attained some recognition, obtained some followers, and attracted some notice and attention. Of its opponents, and of the arguments that are shown in its favor, we have nothing to say. It may be a "weak and puerile mania," and again it may not. Every one to his own opinion. Be the fact as it may, this article is produced in the simple hope of its being interesting to all who have any interest in stamp collecting; both to the dignified opposer of timbromanie, who, perchance, may sneer in derision as he reads of any one's appropriating twenty guineas for a single postage stamp, and to the infatuated follower of the alluring pursuit, who, doubtless, may envy in secret the possessor of so rare a specimen.

# List of Albums.

PUBLISHED BY

**J. W. SCOTT & CO.,**

11

*And for Sale Wholesale and Retail, at 34 Liberty Street,*

Or can be obtained of all respectable Booksellers in the United States and Canada, and Stamp Dealers throughout the world.

**SCOTT'S AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM,**

POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE

**AMERICAN LALLIER'S**

This magnificent Album is now ready, and is immeasurably superior to any album ever before attempted.

It has specially designed spaces for every postage stamp ever issued, of the same size as the stamps, with a full description of each stamp in the place made to receive it. It is brought up to the present time, having spaces for the new issues of Servia, the United States, &c., and for the stamps of Angola, South African Republic, Antioquia, &c., &c.

Ample space has been left for new issues, and blank pages distributed through the book. It is bound in the strongest manner, by the most skilful workmen, with the best materials.

Printed on both sides, very heavy paper, cloth, gilt lettering--	\$3 50
Cloth, gilt, name on back and sides, clasp, etc.,	5 00
Half Morocco, gilt, name on back and sides, gilt clasp,	6 00
Full Morocco, gilt edges, lettering and clasp,	8 00
Half Morocco, marbled edges, extra strong clasp, every other page blank, making it "perfectly permanent." Warranted 10 years. Price, only	10 00

\*.\* Post Free, 25c, each extra, the balance of the postage being defrayed by J. W. Scott & Co.

\*.\* All except the first, are printed on one side of the paper only.

## THE PHILATELIST'S ALBUM

FOR

### AMERICAN AND FOREIGN POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS.

The publishers wish to call particular attention to this work. It is six times the size gives ten times the information, and is got up in better style than any album that has ever been published under \$3 50.

It contains a complete enumeration of all the postage stamps with dates of issue, &c., &c., also, gives a correct list of all United States and Canadian Revenue Stamps. It is the only album for Revenue Stamps that has ever been published. It is printed on good paper, and ruled to fit the stamps containing space for nearly 6,000.

Illustrated boards, \$1 00. Cloth, gilt lettering, &c., \$1 50. Post free 10 cents each extra

Price list of albums published by J. W. Scott Co. about 1870. These illustrations have been taken from "The Philatelist's Album" listed at the bottom. The term "philately" was first proposed Nov. 16, 1864, by M. Herpin.