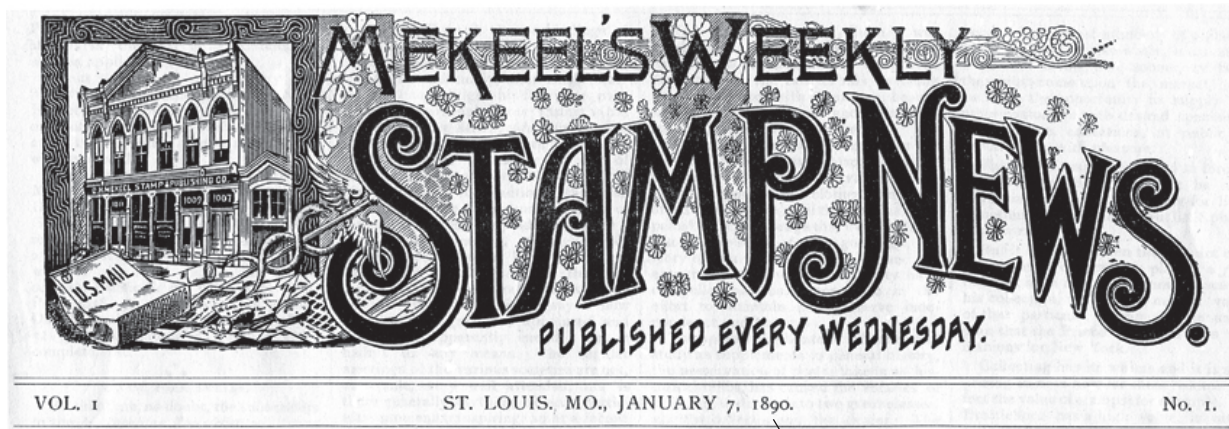


Welcome to Our 125th Anniversary—and the Next 125 Years!



*From Mekeel's First Issue, January 7, 1891
(They forgot to change the year date!)*

Make that 1891!

PROSPECTUS.

In coming before the stamp collectors of the United States we have no apology to make. We shall occupy a field that is not or never has been filled—that of a regular weekly *stamp news* paper.

We have only to say that our existence is by no means experimental, and that this paper will continue to be mailed from St. Louis every Wednesday in the year 1891.

We know what we are about, and we will make the paper a success, but we will say right here that money sent in for subscriptions is guaranteed, and collectors will run no risk in the investment.

Our subscription price is low (\$1.00 for 52 numbers) and as we receive subscriptions for three or six months at the same rate there is no excuse why collectors should not commence with the first number.

Back numbers will be 10 cents each after one week old, so those who want their file complete will find it economical to

send in their subscription in advance.

It is not our purpose to fill our columns with heavy technical stamp articles, but to be a newspaper, and with this in view we now appoint you our special correspondent. Send us any item of news and we shall be very thankful, giving you credit, or not, just as you desire.

The minutes of any and all philatelic societies will be published free, provided they are sent to us promptly. We want no stale news.

Gossip about people and things are acceptable, but no unpleasant personalities.

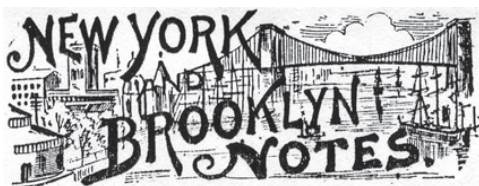
Many of our friends all over the United States promise regular letters and we hope and believe that this paper will do much to bring the stamp collectors of the country near together.

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C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Co.,
1007, 1009, 1011 Locust St., St. Louis.

A FIGHT FOR CONTROL

Even as Mekeel's was being launched in 1891, two reports were coming in about a fight for control of a leading philatelic publication.



The fight over the Metropolitan Philatelist seems to be the most important thing here. At a special meeting of the Staten Island Society, held last evening, they sold their share to J. W. Scott for \$35.00 as far as they could without the consent of the other societies. Scott now claims to own the whole paper. On the other hand the Board of Managers claim that the paper cannot be sold except by the three societies at a joint meeting. The Brooklyn Club have never sold out to Mr. Scott; they simply accepted his offer to pay their share of all expenses of the paper

past, present and future. The action of the National Philatelic Society was reconsidered at the meeting on the 23rd and Scott's offer was rejected by an overwhelming vote. It seems probable two *M.P.s* will be out for January.

A Letter

By this time, no doubt, the subscribers to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* will have been surprised by the receipt of two separate copies of the December number of that journal, one bearing the imprint of the Board of Managers of the three societies under whose aegis the magazine has been regularly published, the other that of the "only original, J. W. Scott." To account for the "whyforness" of this literary treat is the purpose of this screed.

Some ten months ago the National Philatelic Society, of New York, the Brooklyn Philatelic Club and the Staten Island Philatelic Society after due deliberation, decided to publish a monthly journal which should be the official organ of the three societies and also afford a consensus of the most advanced

philatelic erudition, the right and title being jointly vested in the societies on a basis proportionate to their respective memberships. This action was deemed most advisable because of the decidedly strained relations then existing between the leading lights of the societies and the publishers of the *American Journal of Philately*, in the columns of which periodical the reports of the various meetings of the several societies had been regularly printed. A board of three managers was elected, one representative for each club, which in turn appointed Messrs. C. B. Corwin and J. W. Scott as editor-in-chief and general manager respectively, and with a whoopla the initial number of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* soon made its appearance, and forthwith in the trenchant personnel of the editor-in-chief proceeded to edify, instruct and amuse.

Mr. Corwin was in his glory. He had full swing and was Grand Inquisition - high - muck - a - muck and Royal High - cock - a - lorum, generally and ran things to suit himself to the licking of a postage stamp - in short greatly resembling that famous composite of ballad fame, who was

*"The cook and the captain bold
and the crew of the 'Nancy' brig."*

for the Board of Managers were, apparently, to employ the current vernacular, "not in it," excepting Mr. Scott whose opinions seemed to have coincided to a T with those of the editor, for the redoubtable Mr. Corwin exercised a careful supervision over the subject matter of the journal, and printed only what seemed good in his own eyes and that only. Still the paper promised to be a howling success and as there had to be a head, Mr. C. was recognized as possessing all of those winning qualities which make a "hustler" and everything was lovely.

There were to be seen a good many personalities aired that might have struck one as not being in quite exquisite taste, but still such were trivialities and all went well until the stirring events of the last American Philatelic Association Convention when Mr. Corwin essayed a new role—that of a sort of Philatelic Machiavelli. To recount the summary "squelching" of the *American Philatelist* and the delegating of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* as official journal of the American Philatelic Association and the subsequent events which denuded the "*Met.*" of its scanty and temporary laurels is quite unnecessary, nor would it stamp Mr. Corwin's diplomacy in that coup as being very much more than a good deal less than mediocre.

But still the proceedings of the Convention developed a large and healthy lunged schism in the Board of Managers, and

finally, after the editor-in-chief had indulged his fancy for paying off old personal scores through the columns of the *Metropolitan* to a very marked extent, matters were brought to a crisis, and the November number of the journal was the last that Mr. Corwin edited with the sanction of the three societies, for the entire management of the magazine resigned under fire, after a very stormy meeting, when a whole family's stock of soiled linen was most indifferently laundered. Over the proceedings of that memorable occasion the veil is drawn. Suffice it to say a new Board of Managers was appointed and the trouble apparently ended.

But it hadn't by any means. The regular meetings of the various societies are not, as a rule, very well attended, nor is there generally anything of any particular moment transpiring, so at a recent meeting of a certain society, the surprise of those few present who were not in the secret, may well be imagined when the ex-business manager of the *Metropolitan*, Mr. Scott, proposed to buy that society's interest in the paper, and by the aid of his friends present railroaded the measure through. The same tactics were employed at a subsequent meeting of another society, and Mr. Scott actually obtained a sort of title to that association's share in the paper, and as matters now stand Mr. Scott, or rather Mr. Corwin, for the former gentleman seems the latter's "handy-man," owns half interest in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* and one of the three societies the other half.

Thus there is a prospect of a dual issue of the same periodical. A sort of double unity as it were. What the outcome of this amazing state of affairs will be no one can tell, and a hazarded guess that no one cares particularly except Messrs. Corwin and Scott and the new Board of Managers, may not be far from right. Divested of verbiage the naked truth is this: Mr. Corwin, on account of his too little considered language and disregard of others has made himself decidedly unpopular, and as editor of the *Metropolitan* was virtually ousted from the position, and is now maneuvering to win back the prestige and power that the office gave him. He wants an "organ" and the *Metropolitan* being widely known, he wants that particular paper. He doesn't seem to care how he obtains it as long as he does so.

Kicked out through the front door he means to gain re-admittance through the coal hole, if necessary, and possibly will succeed, only he may do well to remember that such a mode of ingress is apt to smudge him considerably.

Still whitewash covers a multitude of dirt and is cheap.

T.

125 YEARS LATER

Watch this space for a continuing celebration of our 125th Anniversary and, more important, our next 125 years.

"This space" will be *Mekeel's & STAMPS*, which incorporates *STAMPS Magazine*, founded in 1932 and merged by us into *Mekeel's* in 1995. And it includes our *StampNewsNow.com* website, where we also will be asking you to look ahead and tell us what you think our hobby will look like in 2141—our 250th Anniversary year.

Feel welcome to express your opinions and send them to us at JD@StampNewsNow.com so that we can post a sampling on SNN.

How's this for starters?

What will the One-Cent Magenta British Guiana sell for in 2141? (Feel welcome to include your reasoning, or lack thereof.)

If it will help in your estimate, you can explore the history of the world's most valuable stamp in a series of articles, at

<http://www.stampnewsnow.com/ArticlesBritishGuianaStamps.html>

