by Brian J. Birch

Introduction

The hobby of stamp collecting can be traced back to the 1850s, but the first purely philatelic literature only appeared in 1861. Inevitably, it was a catalog, fulfilling the collector’s basic need by listing the stamps that were available to be collected. Stamp magazines began to be published the following year, giving collectors greater information about stamps, especially the new ones, and allowing them access to dealers via their advertisements.

This small beginning was soon followed by what can only be described as an explosive increase in the literature of philately until it formed the largest body of literature in the world devoted to any hobby. It is hardly surprising, therefore, to find that by 1887 prominent European philatelists were beginning to call for an index to the articles published in stamp magazines. In their view, this project was to comprise two parts: a retrospective index to those volumes already published and, in conjunction, an ongoing index to current magazine issues. What is surprising is that the first index to current magazines had already been published the previous year, albeit in only one issue of a very short-lived magazine.

Stamp collecting had originated at about the same time in France and England and it is generally accepted that the European countries provided the leadership of the hobby during the early years of its development. However, the honor of preparing the first index to current magazines fell squarely on the shoulders of Schuyler B. Bradt when he published his “Articles in the Philatelic Journals” in The Stamp Collector of August 1886.

This index made its appearance unannounced by the journal in which it was published and with no prior communications in the philatelic press from the publisher, F. J. Abbott, or the editor, Schuyler B. Bradt, both of Chicago. In view of his continuing interest in writing and publishing and his role as the journal’s editor, it is presumed that the index was produced by Bradt.

Only a single installment of the index was ever published, since there were no further issues of the journal after the one in which it appeared:
According to the catalog of the Earl of Crawford's library\(^1\) and Chester M. Smith's *American Philatelic Periodicals*,\(^2\) this was the only philatelic periodical ever published by Abbott, who then disappeared completely from the philatelic publishing scene.

Although the editor, Schuyler Bradt, the presumed compiler of this pioneering index, went on to publish two philatelic periodicals in his own right and was associated with a number of others as proprietor or editor, this indexing experiment does not appear to have been repeated.

### The First Philatelic Index


The use of the word *philatelical* in the title is worthy of comment. The word *philatelic* had been proposed by the Frenchman Georges Herpin in 1864\(^3\) and was generally adopted by most countries (except, of course, France where even today a journal is being publishing entitled *Écho de la Timbrologie*, based on the earliest French name for stamp collecting, *Timbromanie*). Although the term *Philately* had been generally adopted in English-speaking countries since

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**ARTICLES IN THE PHILATELICAL JOURNALS.**

**JULY, 1886.**

Austria, The Post Cards of. *Phl. Record*. (June.)

Bogus Stamps. *Empire State Phil.*


Corea (Notes and Queries). *Phl. Record*. (June.)


Philately. *Stamp Collector.*

Philately, Derivation of the Word. *Phl. Record*. (June.)


Samoa and the S. and C. Gazette. *S. C. Journal*. (June.)


Starkweather Collection, The. *Stamp Collector.*

Watermarks. *Phl. Record*. (June.)

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The “Index” published in *The Stamp Collector.*
about 1865, in the mid-1880s Americans were debating the relative merits of the words *philatelic* and *philatelical* to describe things related to philately. Indeed, during the founding of the American Philatelic Association, some pressed that its name should include the term *philatelical*. But for the fact that the National Philatelical Society of New York had already taken that name and the founders’ desire to avoid confusion between the two organizations, you might now belong to the *American Philatelical Society*.

As the employee of a publishing company, Bradt was likely to have been well aware of *Poole’s Index to Periodical Literature*, the first (and at that time only) systematic article index to the subject matter of nineteenth-century periodicals of both the United States and Great Britain.  

This effort by Bradt was obviously a first attempt at producing a current-awareness index since it covered only six periodicals, one of which was the journal in which the index itself appeared. Surprisingly, two of the six publications originated in England and, naturally, these were the June issues, requiring the best part of a month to reach America. In the table of periodicals below, I have given the full titles and added the volume numbers.

In spite of it being a first effort, the references are given in a very workmanlike fashion, as one would expect from someone like Bradt, and even include the names of the authors — very unusual in such indexes where the subject matter is of paramount importance.

### Periodicals Indexed:

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<td>June 1886, Volume 8</td>
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<td>Stamp and Coin Gazette, The</td>
<td>July 1886, Volume 3</td>
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<td>Stamp Collector, The</td>
<td>July 1886, Volume 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stamp Collectors’ Journal, The</td>
<td>June 1886, Volume 8</td>
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**Schuyler B. Bradt (1858–after 1910)**

Considering the prevalence of articles by and references to Schuyler Bradt in the philatelic literature of the second half of the 1880s and early 1890s, one would not be mistaken in thinking that he was an important driving force within the Chicago philatelic community. Indeed, his stature assumes national importance when one takes into account his role in the establishment of the American Philatelic Association (now the American Philatelic Society). It is surprising, therefore, that I have been unable to trace a modern biography of Bradt, or even an obituary. All that is available are a small number of contemporary biographies and a very incomplete but nevertheless useful note about him by Ken Bradt, a distant relative, in the *Bradt Family News* of 1995. However, even this gave his year of birth incorrectly and failed to find any trace him after 1910. Accordingly, what follows is my attempt to compile as complete a biography as possible. In the event, it proved to be a fairly detailed record of his philatelic activities.
over a period of something less than a decade, with a few details of his life both beforehand and afterwards.

Schuyler B. Bradt was born in Rochester, New York in 1858, according to a contemporary biography (although Ken Bradt gives his birth year as 1849) and was named after his grandfather Martin Beekman Schuyler. (I have found no reference to his middle initial and merely speculate that it may have been Beekman.) His father, Abraham Schuyler Bradt, was a hotel keeper in New York City and later in Rochester, New York. In 1876 Schuyler moved to Chicago and on February 3, 1881, married Cora Wilbur in nearby Cook County. By 1886 he was working in the publishing department of A. C. McClurg & Company of Chicago. However, he must also have been dealing in stamps at the same time, because he left the Company in February 1887 to become a full-time stamp dealer.

Although, by his own admission, he had been a stamp collector on and off since 1866, his name only began to appear in philatelic magazines from about 1885. For the next five years or so, Bradt published many articles and reports in the philatelic press, generally under the pseudonym “Philo,” as well as a philatelic novel, The Bluffton Stamp Society, in 1887.

First Steps in Organized Philately: In his hometown, the Chicago Philatelic Union had become moribund when Bradt was taking an interest in organized philately and became its secretary. He played a major role in the disbanding of the Union on October 8, 1886 and its immediate re-organization as the Chicago Philatelic Society. Such were the qualities he demonstrat-
ed during this time of change, that he was elected the Society’s first president and was returned to that post during the first full elections later that same year. A long-time member, he served the Society in many other roles including custodian, librarian, exchange superintendent, and auctioneer.

In spite of his being a dealer for some years, Bradt could still demonstrate great altruism with regard to his home Society. Having endured at first hand the trials and tribulations through which the American Philatelic Association was passing, owing in a great measure to the machinations of dealers jockeying for position within the organization, Bradt proposed at the Chicago Philatelic Society’s meeting of January 10, 1888 that *No person engaged in the buying and selling of stamps shall be eligible for office in this Society.* Adopted unanimously at the same meeting, this by-law effectively barred both himself and his long-time collaborator, Philip Matthias Wolsieffer (1857–1934) from office, although the latter remained on the Executive Committee.

In his philatelic heyday, Bradt was also a member of the National Philatelic Society of New York, the Canadian Philatelic Association, and the Internationaler Philatelisten-Verein of Dresden, as well as an Honorary Member of the Denver Stamp Collector’s League and, from April 1887, a Corresponding Member of the National Philatelic Society. As a dealer, he was a founder and first president of the Philatelic Mercantile Association, an organization intended to provide an information service about frauds and bad debtors, and a trustee of the Dealers’ Protective Association.

**The Novice Editor:** Apart from his writings, Bradt’s first foray into publishing came in 1886 when he became editor of *The Stamp Collector*. He contributed articles under his pseudonym “Philo” and letters under his own name. Some of his plans for a national philatelic society were reiterated in the second issue on pages 23–24, just a month before the founding of the American Philatelic Association on September 14, 1886.

Three months following the early demise of *The Stamp Collector*, after just two issues, Bradt became associate editor of *The Stamp* of Denver, Colorado, only relinquishing the role once *The Western Philatelist* had become established.

It was during this time that he wrote *The Bluffton Stamp Society*, which began its life as a serial in *The Philatelic...*
World. Unfortunately, the paper folded after publishing only three episodes. The story was then taken up and finished by *The Stamp*. The completed work was subsequently published as a pamphlet by the Western Publishing Company, of which Bradt was one of the principals.

**Formation of the American Philatelic Association:** Undoubtedly, Bradt’s main claim to fame within philatelic circles relates to his involvement in the formation of the American Philatelic Association (now the American Philatelic Society). Although there had been agitation for some time urging the formation of a national society for the United States, it is generally acknowledged that his article on the subject published in the April 1886 issue of *The Philatelic Journal of America*, together with the circular calling for members that Bradt issued simultaneously on behalf of the Chicago Philatelic Society, were the catalysts for its establishment later that year.

Naturally, Bradt became a member of the organizing committee that prepared the groundwork and laid the foundations for the formation of the Association.

Following the initial elections, he became the Association’s first secretary, polling more votes (137) for that position than the highly-respected John Kerr Tiffany (1843–1897) did for the presidency (127). In this role, Bradt produced the Association’s first publication, the *Official Circular*, from November 1886 to June 1887 and continued to work tirelessly for the organization for some years.
It is generally held that it was the leadership and tireless energy of both Tiffany and Bradt that managed to hold the Association together through its first two turbulent years and set it on the road to success. After its first year of operation, the publishers of The Stamp said of Bradt: Though we could not agree with him on all points, we doubt that a better man can be found.

By the middle of 1888, his stamp business together with his publishing and editorial activities were taking up so much of his time that he resigned as secretary of the American Philatelic Association in the September, after two years in office. Fellow Chicago member Samuel B. Bradford was elected to replace Bradt. However, he proved to be rather ineffective and was asked to stand down, which he did in October 1889. Two months later, Millard F. Walton was elected to the position. As was the requirement at that time, Walton stood for re-election in 1890. Bradt was persuaded to stand as an opposition candidate for the post of secretary and stated that he expected to withdraw as a “dealer” in the next few months. In the event, Walton retained his position and Bradt never again offered himself for election to any post within the Association.

The Publisher-Dealer: In January 1887, Bradt co-founded The Western Philatelist with fellow Chicago Philatelic Society members Philip M. Wolsieffer and Charles R. Gadsden, with Bradt becoming its editor. It was initially created to be the Chicago Philatelic Society’s official journal, a role it fulfilled throughout its existence. How-

Philo’s Monthly (July 1888–October 1888).
ever, for a few months in 1887, it was also the official journal of the American Philatelic Association.

A month after starting *The Western Philatelist*, Bradt left A. C. McClurg & Company to become a full-time stamp dealer — quite a rarity in those days when stamps usually only formed part of a business. He traded from Room 52, 225 Dearborn Street, which also became the address of the journal.

The fortunes of his business and the journal were closely linked, and by early 1888 he had given up being a full-time dealer and had taken a position with Sizer’s bookstore. Inevitably, *The Western Philatelist* ceased publication the following May.

Undaunted, he continued his stamp dealing from home and in July of 1888 he began to publish his own house journal, *Philo’s Monthly*, from Grand Crossing (the suburb in Chicago where he lived). The title was derived from his widely-known pseudonym.

This paper was a much lower-cost affair than *The Western Philatelist*, being smaller and lacking the colored covers. It was self-evidently modeled on the *Official Circular* that he had produced for the American Philatelic Association and it cost subscribers a mere 25 cents a year.

In the first issue of his magazine, Bradt advertised that he was a dealer in postage stamps, philatelic supplies, and philatelic journals, operating from 189 State Street, Chicago. This was the same address as Sizer’s Bargain Books (soon after, Sizer & Kimball’s Bargain Books), a leading Chicago bookstore, which advertised on page 8 of the same issue. By the third issue, he was styling himself the “Philatelic Department of Sizer’s Book Store.”

The “News of the Month” in the August issue of *Philo’s Monthly* was that a new stock company had been formed in July with a capital of $1,000, of which he was one of the incorporators along with Wolsieffer. This company bought out the Western Philatelic Publishing Company and offered $1,000 for *The Stamp Collector’s Figaro*, with the intention of continuing the title and establishing it as a nationally important journal published from Chicago.

However, at almost the same time the opportunity arose to acquire *The Philatelic Gazette*, which was better-known and claimed to be the longest-lived philatelic journal in the United States at the time.

Accordingly, the offer for *The Stamp Collector’s Figaro* was quietly retracted and the name of the new company quickly changed from the Figaro Publishing Company to the Western Philatelic Publishing Company.

Bradt noted in what turned out to be the final issue of *Philo’s Monthly* that this new journal was taking up much of his time.

**Breakdown and Recovery:** By November 1888, the overwork and resultant ill health that had caused Bradt to suspend *Philo’s Monthly* after only four numbers and resign as secretary of the American Philatelic Association resulted in him severing his ties with *The Philatelic Gazette* and leaving the city for a milder climate.

Fortunately, it would appear that a few months of southern sun improved his health to the point where he felt able to return to Chicago. Although some
Above: Cobb’s Library, as shown in a June 1892 advertisement. Bradt is listed as president and Wolsieffer as secretary.
Below: Envelope used by Cobb’s Library in 1887.
Bottom: Postcard used by Cobb’s Library while Bradt was the owner (courtesy Larry Nix collection).
contemporary papers advised that he would not return to the stamp business,\(^26\) by February 1889, according to his advertisement in *The United States Philatelist*,\(^27\) he was back in business at 189 State Street, Sizer’s bookstore, and had augmented his stock of philatelic papers by purchasing the back issues of several periodicals including *The Philatelic Magazine*, *The Stamp Collector*, and *The Collector’s Companion*.

In Bradt’s absence, *The Philatelic Gazette* became the responsibility of his partners A. L. Holman and P. M. Wolsieffer. They soldiered on but, without Bradt’s energy and editorial skills, were unable to raise it to a position of national importance. Having exceeded the guarantees of longevity given in the first issue under their control, the journal ceased publication in January 1890.

During the years 1899 and 1890, Bradt kept a relatively low profile and little is recorded of his activities at the time. Nevertheless, his ambition to be a stamp dealer and publisher were undiminished, although at some time around 1890 he took the position of librarian at Cobb’s Library and his dealing remained confined to a mail order business carried out from his home.

Cobb’s Library was a for-profit circulating (i.e., lending) library and the second largest in Chicago. Similar private lending libraries existed in most large American cities that did not then have a public library system. Established in 1869, Cobb’s lost its complete collection of some 5,000 books in the great Chicago fire of 1871.\(^28\) However, the library was quickly re-established, growing to more than 9,000 volumes by 1876.

**The S. B. Bradt Company:** By early 1891, Bradt’s stamp business was evidently doing well enough for him to become a full-time dealer once again, so he founded the S. B. Bradt Company and tendered his resignation to Cobb’s Library. This prompted the proprietors to offer to sell him the library, an offer he quickly accepted and which enabled the new company to be established in the Library’s premises at 91/93 Wabash Avenue.\(^30\) The advertisement illustrated shows what Cobb’s Library must have looked like at about this time.

An envelope bearing the Cobb’s Li-
library corner card also is shown. Used in November 1887, it predates Bradt’s tenure. Also shown is the reverse of a card from the Library sent during Bradt’s time as owner and under the signature imprint of “The S. B. Bradt Company.”

The new Company had a fully paid up stock of $10,000 subscribed by three investors, including Bradt himself. His new confidence led to him advertising rather more conspicuously. The symbolic stamp in the upper left hand corner in the advertisement illustrated as well as in a later advertisement included a toughra (a stylized monogram of the Sultan, found on Turkish stamps). Bradt often used this device in his advertisements to attract readers’ attention. That it succeeded eminently was confirmed by Bradt when he noted that many non-collectors asked him what its significance was, adding that collectors already knew. However, this last statement had to be revised following many subsequent requests for information from collectors as well, leading Bradt to explain that it was the Sultan’s signature.

Still Working for the Chicago Philatelic Society: Together with Wolsiefer, Bradt played an important part in the early years of the Chicago Philatelic Society. By 1890, having used a variety of magazines (including Bradt & Wolsieffer’s *The Western Philatelist*) as its official journal — all of which had closed soon after being selected as such — the Society determined to publish its own journal. In January of the following year the *C.P.S. Bulletin* appeared with Bradt as the editor and Wolsiefer as the business manager.

Although it undertook to fill the unexpired subscriptions to *The Philatelic Gazette*, which had expired almost a year earlier, only two issues appeared. With hindsight, this was hardly sur-
prising, given that Bradt was not only the publisher and editor of this paper but also managed the Chicago Society’s Exchange and Auction Departments and was simultaneously the manager and exchange manager of the American Philatelic Association’s Chicago Branch. In addition to this, he was running a significant library and stamp dealing business.

Rise and Fall of the S. B. Bradt Company: In spite of his earlier and almost continuous publishing experiences with the *Official Circular* (1886–1887), *The Western Philatelist* (1887–1888), *Philo’s Monthly* (1888), *The Philatelic Gazette* (1888), and the *C.P.S. Bulletin* (1890), Bradt’s interest in publishing continued and he established the *Chicago Stamp News* in November 1891. It became one of his longest-running publications and lasted until December 1892, issuing a total of fourteen monthly issues. According to Smith, this was his last attempt at publishing his own journal.

Apparently, his philatelic business continued to flourish and he soon incorporated both auctions and approvals into its line of business, carrying out the first public philatelic auction in Chicago on July 25, 1891. The fourth auction included his own collection of Italian stamps, as he had found it impossible to continue collecting once he was a dealer.

In April 1892, Bradt was forced to move from 91/93 Wabash Avenue as these premises were being torn down and redeveloped. Fortunately, he held the lease until 1895 and had to be bought out for an amount roughly equal to his then capital. He moved just down the Avenue to number 132, a double-fronted establishment 60 feet wide by 100 feet deep (18m x 30m),
which he shared with the Chicago Exchange for Woman’s Work. This new injection of capital allowed Bradt to expand his business, adding music to his portfolio and bringing in his old collaborator Phillip M. Wolsieffer as secretary and manager of the new music department. Wolsieffer had been connected to the music trade for some years and previously worked at Lyon & Healey’s well-known music store.  

On October 18, 1892 Hiram E. Deats (1870–1963), the notable New Jersey philatelist, bibliophile, and future president of the American Philatelic Association, visited Chicago and attended a reception in his honor given by Bradt at his business premises. The following day, Deats bought all of the lots of literature offered in Bradt’s eighth auction sale. This is indicative of Bradt’s relative importance in the philatelic field at this time. His standing and generosity were further demonstrated when he set up a room adjoining his business premises for the use of philatelic societies and visiting philatelists.

It may also have been at around this time in 1892 that Deats purchased the complete stock of the Western Philatelic Publishing Company, of which Bradt and Wolsieffer were principals.

Some six months after his move to 132 Wabash Avenue, Bradt had to move again, this time to the building next door, number 136, where he occupied the whole of the first floor, giving him twice as much room but no shop front. At the same time, he closed the music department owing to the growth in his stamp business. Wolsieffer left to carry on the music business and also deal in stamps under his own name. This split after a few short months is hard to understand given that they had been working together and in business together since at least the days of *The Western Philatelist*, some five years earlier.

Bradt still figured at 136 Wabash Avenue in Rogers’ *American Philatelic Blue Book* of 1893, the most important directory of its day, with an advertisement on page 52 clearly showing him as having a library and dealing in stamps. However, by February 1893 it was being reported that he had sold his Company to D. T. Higginson of Elmhurst, Illinois, who had renamed it the Western Stamp & Coin Company. It was also reported that Bradt would conduct a mail order stamp business from his residence at Brookline Park, a short distance from Grand Crossing, Chicago.

That Bradt did continue in the
stamp business, at least for a short time, is confirmed by the list of auctions held in his name that can be found in the Crawford catalog.\(^1\) From 1891 to 1893, the S. B. Bradt Company held sales 1–10. This series was continued by the Western Stamp & Coin Company, which held sales 11–14 in 1893. Bradt held two further sales under his own name in October and December 1893 but thereafter largely fades from the philatelic scene.

History records that Cobb’s Library closed in 1894 and, although likely, it is not certain that Bradt still owned it at that time.\(^2\)\(^8\)

**Epilogue:** Bradt seems to have virtually disappeared from the philatelic record after 1893, although occasional advertisements can be found, the latest seen being in a Canadian paper, *The Dominion Philatelist* of March 1895, in which he was still offering to provide stamps on approval.\(^4\)\(^3\) Most subsequent references to him generally relate to his role in the founding of the American Philatelic Association. I have only managed to find two further references that shed additional light on him:

In 1897 the Board of Vice-Presidents of the American Philatelic Association, which was responsible for investigating complaints against members, reported that it felt obliged to expel Bradt from membership for failure to settle for a large and valuable consignment of stamps, received several years ago from a prominent London stamp dealer.\(^4\)\(^4\) Further details of this event were found in *Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News*\(^4\)\(^5\) where it was reported that the charge was laid by H. K. Sanders on behalf of W. Hadlow of London.

In 1905 Oliver Crinkle wrote a history of the American Philatelic Association that was serialized in *The Stamp-Lovers Weekly*.\(^1\)\(^3\) His third installment, or Chapter III, included brief sketches of those responsible for the founding of the Association. Naturally, Bradt was prominent among those, and after the usual well-known information, Crinkle reported that few of Bradt’s stamp dealing ventures were permanently successful and confirmed his eventual exit from stamp dealing and philatelic publishing. According to Crinkle, Bradt was still alive at the time his article was being written but broken down in health — the victim of unfortunate habits. On this enigmatic note, Bradt apparently exited the philatelic record.

Even Ken Bradt with modern research facilities failed to find any trace of Schuyler Bradt after his expulsion from the American Philatelic Association, other than his 1910 census return in which he is listed as a bookseller, living with his wife Cora and son Wilbur at 334 E. 69th Street, Chicago.\(^6\) Interestingly, in naming his son, he maintained a family tradition for, just as he was named Schuyler after his grandfather, Wilbur was Cora’s family name.

**Acknowledgments**

What started out as a thumbnail sketch of Bradt eventually turned into a full-blown biography. The initial one- or two-page biography was augmented and amended literally as each document was obtained, especially those that dropped into my e-mail in-box on an almost daily basis at times. For the immediate attention to all of my demands and the ready availability of
virtually every reference I required, I must thank the American Philatelic Research Library and, in particular, Neil Coker, my main contact there.

Endnotes


3. [Georges Herpin], "Baptême," Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste, Vol. 1, No. 5 (November 15, 1864): 20–21. Note: Such is the importance of this article that it is available both in French and English from a number other sources.

4. "William Frederick Poole (1821–1894)," Wikipedia website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Frederick_Poole. Note: William F. Poole, a student at Yale University, observed that libraries held collections of periodicals that received little use because their content was not known. While still a student, he began his own index to the periodical literature and eventually published two editions, in 1848 and 1853. Poole was subsequently approached by the American Library Association and persuaded to produce a new, greatly expanded edition of his index, which eventually appeared in six volumes between 1882 and 1908.

5. "American Philatelic Association," The Philatelic Journal of America, Vol. 2, No. 10 (December 1886): [111–112]. Note: This article includes the first engraved portrait of Bradt that I have come across. During the first six or seven years of the Association, apart from being secretary, Bradt was a member of the Literary Board, the Hanging Committee, the Committee on Credentials, and was the auction agent for New York. In The American Philatelist for 1892, Bradt is mentioned dozens of times; thereafter, he hardly figures at all except that in 1893, he proposed 62 new members and was second in this only to C. H. Mekeel. The following year he proposed 70 new members and was third after C. H. and G. D. Mekeel.


7. "S. B. Bradt," The Collector's Review, Vol. 1, No. 3 (December 1886): [1]. Note: This is the first formal biography I have found of Bradt and is indicative of his then newly found stature as one of the founders of the American Philatelic Association some three months earlier.

8. Philo, The Bluffton Stamp Society (Chicago, IL: Western Philatelic Publishing Company, 1887), 77pp. Note: Available in paper (50 cents) or cloth (75 cents) bindings. Later advertisements show only the cloth binding at the reduced price of 50 cents. The first three installments were published as a serial in The Stamp World: Vol. 6, No. 6 (March 1886): 65–66; No. 7 (April 1886): 77–79; and No. 8 (May 1886): 90–91. The

9. Philo, “The Chicago Philatelic Society,” The Stamp, Vol. 1, No. 9 (November 1886): [7]. Note: It was considered easier to disband the Union and create a new Society rather than try to modify the old Rules and Statutes. Also, by that time virtually all of the early members of the Union had withdrawn.


12. The Stamp, Vol. 3, No. 1 (March 1888): 12. Note: This report and the previous reference were published only a month apart. It is hard to see why two dealer organizations were thought necessary at that time.


14. S. B. Bradt, “A National Philatelic Organization,” The Philatelic Journal of America, Vol. 2, No. 2 (April 1886): 17–18. Note: It is now generally accepted that, against a background of general agitation for a national society, this article by Bradt set the ball rolling and led to the formation of the American Philatelic Association (now American Philatelic Society). However, it was not always so and in the early decades, the issue was hotly contested, the New York philatelists insisting that it was to the organizational skills of their man, Theodore F. Cuno, that the Association owed its existence. It would appear that at the behest of Cuno, the National Philatelic Society of New York (only local in character in spite of the name) had indeed passed a motion calling for the formation of a national organization but then seems to have just sat back and waited for it to happen. It must have been a shock to them when Bradt’s article appeared, followed almost immediately by the Chicago Philatelic Society’s leaflet calling for members. Cuno rushed over to Chicago to see Bradt and reserve his place on the organizing committee. (The Philatelic Gazette, Vol. 5, Whole No. 50 (October 1888): 18.) Both men put their names forward in the elections for the first officers of the Association, Bradt for secretary and Cuno for vice-president, secretary, and official editor. Bradt romped home as secretary beating Cuno by almost three votes to one; Cuno ended up without any official position.

15. Official Circular, Schuyler B. Bradt (for the American Philatelic Association), Grand Crossing, IL, November 1886 to June 1887, Issues 1 to 4. Note: This was the first publication produced by the American Philatelic Association, predating The American Philatelist by two months. Surprisingly, it continued to be published even when the latter was up and running. It was discontinued when The Western Philatelist (also published by Bradt) became the official journal of the Association in July 1887.


17. “Mr. S. B. Bradt,” The Curiosity World, Vol. 2, No. 1 (October 1887): [1]. Note: This is the first formal biography I have found of Bradt that is accompanied by a portrait. Although it is evidently the same engraved portrait as in reference 5, the photographic version makes him look remarkably slimmer.

18. “The Next A. P. A. Election,” The Philatelist, Vol. 2, No. 2 (April 1890): 29. Note: Bradt’s acceptance of the nomination can be found on the same page under the title: “Mr. Bradt Accepts.” In his acceptance, Bradt mentions that he is likely to cease to be a dealer. This was probably a response to Tiffany’s speech at the 1887 Convention where he offered the opinion that those whose only interest in stamp collecting was as dealers or publishers should not hold elective office.

19. The Western Philatelist, Western Philatelic Publishing Company, Chicago, IL, January 1887 to May 1888, Volume 1 to Volume 2, Issue 5 (Whole number 17). Note: C. R. Gadsden withdrew from the Company in September 1887, as confirmed by an advertisement in the issue for October 1887 (Vol. 1, No. 10, p. 234) that names S. B. Bradt and P. M. Wolsieffer as the then co-owners of the journal.
It incorporated *The Stamp World* and *Wise and Otherwise* with the April 1887 issue. From Volume 1, No. 7 of July 1887 to No 9 of September 1887, this was the official journal of the American Philatelic Association. It superseded *The American Philatelist*, which had been established in January 1887 and abolished by a vote of the membership on May 10th of the same year, after only five issues. During its time as the official journal, *The Western Philatelist* was supplied free of charge to all members. At the second Convention, Bradt withdrew *The Western Philatelist* as the official journal and *The American Philatelist* was re-established in that role by the Association. Bradt soon joined the American Philatelic Association Literary Board, which was responsible for the publication of *The American Philatelist*, and became one of its business managers.

20. *Philo's Monthly*, S. B. Bradt, Grand Crossing, IL, July 1888 to October 1888, Volume 1, Issues 1 to 4. *Note:* Its name was derived from Bradt's well-known and freely-acknowledged pseudonym, “Philo.” It ceased publication owing to Bradt's illness, and its outstanding subscriptions were subsequently filled by *The Philatelic Gazette*.

21. *The Stamp Collector's Figaro*, E. W. Voûte, Chicago, IL, March 1887 to December 1890, Volume 1 to Volume 5, Issue 2, Whole number 32. Continued as: *The Stamp Collector*, January to March 1891, Volume 5, Whole numbers 33 to 35. *Note:* In 1888, it incorporated *The Arizona Pride of Philately*. There was a hiatus in publication between the issues for May and September of 1888, which was presumably the effect of the title being under offer and then relinquished by the new stock company, headed by Bradt. The May number was published by the Stamp Collector's Figaro Publishing Company which had been formed by Voûte, presumably to smooth the transition of the paper to its new owners. In September 1889, it was incorporated into Issue 9 of *The Hoosier Philatelist*, of which no further numbers were produced. Accordingly, it was then resurrected under its original title by Voûte. In 1891, the paper was acquired by F. N. Massoth Jr. of Hanover Centre, Indiana and renamed *The Stamp Collector*.

22. *The Keystone Philatelic Gazette*, Mann & Kendig, Altoona, PA, June 1884 to February 1885, Volume 1 Issue 1 to Issue 8. Continued as: *The Keystone Stamp and Coin Gazette*, March to December 1885, Volume 1, Issue 9 to Volume 2, Issue 6, Whole number 18. Continued as: *The Stamp and Coin Gazette*, January to December 1886, Volume 2, Issue 7, Whole number 19 to Volume 3, Issue 6, Whole number 30. Continued as *The Philatelic Gazette*, January 1887 to January 1890, Volume 3, Issue 7, Whole number 31 to Volume 6, Issue 5, Whole number 65. *Note:* The numbers from September 1888 to January 1890, Whole numbers 49 to 65, were published by the Western Philatelic Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois. (For a list of stockholders see: “Current Topics,” *The Philatelic Gazette*, Vol. 5, Whole no. 50 (October 1888): 16.) Under this Company, it was initially edited by Bradt until his illness made him leave the city for some months. Thereafter, Alfred L. Holman and Phillip M. Wolsieffer became joint editors. In Bradt's enforced absence, the journal was provided to subscribers of *Philo's Monthly* to fulfill their subscriptions. Eventually, the journal took up too much of the editors' time and it was discontinued. The unexpired subscriptions were filled by the C. P. S. *Bulletin*.


24. A. L. Holman & P. M. Wolsieffer, “Editorial Mention,” *The Philatelic Gazette*, Vol. 5, Whole no. 51 (November 1888): 29. *Note:* This advises that Bradt had severed his connection with the paper and refers readers to an advertisement placed by him in the same issue, which is found on advertising page ii. Here, he mentions that his illness has necessitated his removal from Chicago without closing his affairs, and requests that all creditors and debtors communicate with his wife, who evidently remained at their home in Grand Crossing.


30. Dispersion, “Chicago Notes,” *The Quaker City Philatelist*, Vol. 6, Whole no. 65 (May 1891): 78. *Note:* A note with almost exactly the same wording appeared in *The Rhode Island Philatelist* for May 1891 (Vol. 3, No. 5, p. 95), which itself was taken from a note by Kenlm [sic] in *Mkeed's Weekly Stamp News*. Kennelm was a pseudonym
used by Philip M. Wolsieffer, attesting to the accuracy of the information.


34. C. P. S. Bulletin, S. B. Bradt & P. M. Wolsieffer (for the Chicago Philatelic Society), Chicago, IL, January to February 1891, Volume 1, Issue 1 to Issue 2.

35. Chicago Stamp News, S. B. Bradt Company, Chicago, IL, November 1891 to December 1892, Volume 1 to Volume 2, Issue 2, Whole number 14. Note: This was strictly a house journal and was sent free of charge to all customers and potential customers.


44. “Report of the Board of Vice-Presidents,” The American Philatelist, Vol. 11 (November 1897): 27. Note: This is a synopsis of the actions of the Board of Vice Presidents published in the Association’s Annual for the record, with little background information. The Board’s Proceedings had already been reported in full in Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News (Reference 45).

45. John Luther Kilbon, “Proceedings of the Board of Vice-Presidents,” Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News, Vol. 9, No. 13 (April 1, 1897): 101. Note: William F. Hadlow (1861–1931) must have been relatively new to the stamp trade at the time of the transaction as he only became a full-time dealer in 1892. However, over the following decades he established himself as a highly-respected dealer and auctioneer, becoming a partner in the well-known philatelic auction house of Plumridge & Company. In 1930 he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.