APS: The First Century

by Robert L.D. Davidson

The Official Publication

Between the organizational meeting in New York (1886) and the second meeting in Chicago (1887), the secretary and other officers of the American Philatelic Association attempted to keep in touch with the membership with an "official circular," the first two of which were issued in November and December 1886.

The first circular merely recounted the events of the September 13–14 meeting in New York. A secretary's report gave details of the elections and discussed the creation of a board of officers. The preamble to the Association's constitution was included as follows:

The objects of this Association are, to assist its members in acquiring knowledge in regard to Philately; to cultivate a feeling of friendship among philatelists; and to enable them to affiliate with members of similar societies in other countries.

On Oct. 29th the board of officers, by their votes forwarded to the secretary, appointed the following officers:

Librarian—E.D. Kline, Toledo, Ohio
Exchange Superintendent—E.B. Hanes, Providence, Rhode Island
Purchasing Agent—Theo. F. Cuno, Brooklyn, New York
Trustees—E.B. Sterling, Trenton, New Jersey; William V.D. Wettern Jr., Baltimore, Maryland; J.C. Feldwisch, Denver, Colorado.

These appointments were practically unanimous, the only vote varying from the rest being one of those cast for Trustees.

The appointment of counterfeit detector has been temporarily postponed.

Then the circular concluded with this familiar note:

IMPORTANT.
The annual dues of the Association ($2.00) are now payable at this office. Your attention is called to the following extract from the by-laws:

"The dues of the Association shall be paid annually in advance. In case any member fails to pay his account within thirty days from the time when due, the Secretary shall give notice of the same to the Board of Trustees, who shall investigate the case, and be empowered to suspend or expel the member, or take such other action as they deem best."

All members' accounts remaining unsettled after November 15th, 1886, will be referred to the Board of Trustees.

Please make drafts, postal orders, or postal notes, payable at "Chicago."
S.B. Bradt, Sec'y.
Grand Crossing, Ill.

The December circular reported that the Association had 116 members in good standing (meaning they had paid their dues), and that twenty-four new candidates had been approved. It also mentioned that the Chicago Philatelic Society "is the first, and so far the only society that has notified the APA of its acceptance in becoming a Branch society." That club richly deserves its APS Chapter No. 1 designation.

This cut of a Confederate postmaster provisional of Greenwood Depot, Virginia, was the first illustration to appear in The American Philatelist, in October 1887. The journal reported that "... Gilbert M. Bastable, of Cullell, Va., ... writes that he found five of these local stamps — all that are known to exist — in the correspondence of the Rev. Paul Whitehead, who sent him several thousand envelopes to examine."
From another source, however, we learn something of Mr. Fraser's difficulties:

"... after I had accepted the office, the Secretary informed me that it must be the size and shape of official circular No. 1 — 8 pages without cover."

"... I wrote to about fifty to seventy-five of the members asking them to contribute articles. Seeing that I must fill the paper alone. I asked the board to pay half the costs of illustrating new issues and for permission to illustrate essays etc., at my own expense. Both resolutions lost. ... others make a great cry about the cost. $28 per month — $18 per month for printing and myself $10 per month for editing. Why did they not say that I had agreed to donate the $10 salary? ..."

Though Mr. Fraser had his problems, and \*The American Philatelist\* was cut from under him after five issues, it did not remain dead for long — for in October of that same year, 1887, a cover-bound 14-page journal appeared from Philadelphia, from under the aegis of an Association Literary Board composed of R.C.H. Brock, chairman, and W.A. MacCalla, both of Philadelphia, and C.R. Gadsden, of Chicago.

Just who may have written this commentary in that Volume 2, Number 1 issue is unknown:

"But few, even of Philatelic Journals, have had so eventful a history as \*The American Philatelist*. Its tale is one of trials and tribulations since its first number, published on the 10th of January of this year. Now, at last, we have every reason to believe that having overcome the maladies of its childhood it will increase and improve — unperturbed by an internal source of weakness ..."

"The Literary Board, created on the 9th of August, at the recent Convention in Chicago, in whose hands the management of \*The American Philatelist* has been placed, will do all in their power to make it the most attractive journal in every respect, now or heretofore published."

John K. Tiffany, the president, wrote in that same issue: "Let us try and see if, by the combined efforts of all, we cannot produce one paper to be proud of, and one that will represent our pursuit properly, instead of wasting our several energies upon a thousand and one separate ventures, assured that if that one prospers it will be none worse for any other."

Whereas Volume 1 confined most of its eight-page issues to official reports and new issue data, there had been one brief serialization, "Official Postage Stamps and Stamped Envelopes" by C.F. Rothfueh, which occupied all of eleven inches of space in the first two numbers. \*The American Philatelist* then had two columns to each page, measuring two and one-half inches wide.

With Volume 2, however, the Literary Board began to hum. It reprinted from the Rev. R.B. Earee's famed *Almond Weeds* "Genuine and Counterfeit Stamps of the Sandwich Islands" in its first two issues, then in subsequent issues, among others, "List of Foreign Envelopes (Germany)," by John K. Tiffany; "History of the Issue of U.S. Internal Revenue Stamps," by Charles E. Hutchinson; "Stamped Envelopes," by Major E.B. Evans; "Concerning

\*The American Philatelist\*, bimonthly in on
January 10, 1887. That is the date printed on the first page of a coverless eight-page issue, from Altoona, Pennsylvania, home city of W.R. Fraser, its editor, even though his name appears nowhere in that journal, nor in the four additional issues that comprise Volume 1 of this journal that this month observes its seventy-fifth birthday.

It is assumed that Mr. Fraser penned these words in that first issue:

"The practice of starting a Philatelic paper, gathering in the quarters and then "failing to get postal rates" or something else, has become so familiar to the average collector that they are now afraid to subscribe for really deserving ventures. To overcome this evil the American Philatelic Association has decided to issue this journal gratis to its members. Profiting by the experience of others, we propose starting at the lower rung and climbing up, promising our readers that each number will show a marked improvement over its predecessor until we reach that standard so long wanted by the American Philatelists. We shall endeavor to conduct the several departments so as to give satisfaction to our readers. In the "New Issues" we are trying to make arrangements to give the exact date of issue of the various stamps, with their size, shape, perforation, watermark, paper, etc., and an accurate description of the stamps. Questions relative to our 'hobby' will be carefully answered. Owing to the small amount of cash in the treasury the members will be expected to contribute liberally to its columns in the way of essays, notes, etc. The paper will go to press on the fifth of each month, and all communications must be received by the fourth. With this brief prospectus we leave \*The American Philatelist* with you, to judge its qualities, and approve or disapprove, as you tastes run."

Mr. Fraser's commentary, especially the matter of "starting at the lower rung and climbing up," is most interesting, for it might be said that hardly had \*The American Philatelist* made its bow, when the critics started blasting it.

Only three months old, there was published in No. 4 a resolution of the St. Louis Philatelic Society that stated, in part, "Whereas, The Publication ... is [sic] unsatisfactory in many respects, and as the present financial condition of the Association will not permit of the publication of a journal that would properly represent it ... it would be best ... to discontinue \*The American Philatelist*, and make arrangements with some established journal for the publication of their minutes, official reports, and editorial matter, and thus bring the Association generally before the collectors of the country outside of the Association..."

There were similar comments from other American Philatelists.

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\*Write Stamp Photo Album to hold 200 (cloth and gold), $5.00, post-paid, address George W. Bixay, 351 W. Main Street, Deatur, III."

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National Philat. Vol. 1, scarce and fine, $5.00; Stamp, Vol. 1, $1.00; Vol. 2, $1.25; Stamp and Coin Gaz., Vol. 1, $4.00; Vol. 2, $4.50; Colletory Comp., Vol. 1, $2.00; Stamp Collector, Nos. 1 and 2, and Western Phil., Vol. 1, bound together, scarce, $8.75; Figaro, Vol. 1, scarce, $1.00; J. C. A., Vol. 1, $2.50; Vol. 2, $3.00; Vol. 3, $3.50; Youth's Ledger, Vol. 1, very scarce, $4.00; Vol. 2, fine, $5.00; Empire State Phil., Vol. 1, very scarce, $5.00; Vol. 2, $2.50; Inter. Phil. Adv., Vol. 1, $1.50; Texas Phil., 5 numbers complete, scarce, 50c.; Col. Review, Vol. 1, scarce, $1.50; Cumb. Col., Vol. 1, $1.00; Keystone S. Phil., Vol. 1, complete, $2.50; Garden City Phil., complete, $1.80;

All of the above in fine condition and sent post-paid.

The first illustration in an advertisement appeared in the October 1887 AP. Philadelphia dealer F.E.P. Lynde's logo was based on the French 5-franc stamp of 1869.

Some Cheer and Rare Stamps," by Thomas Coke Watkins; and "The Local Stamps of the United States," by Wilbur W. Thomas. And Volume 2 boasted of from sixteen to thirty-two pages an issue, the May 1888 issue including this pleasant thought:

"PHILATELY"

'Oh Philately! little art thou worth,' said I, one day
'Thou bringst naught but toil, and care, and blighted hope.
With counterfeits, and reprinted type-set stamps to cope,
And other difficulties for which success can ne'er repay.'

E'en as I spoke, among the assortment I spied a local fine;
The 'find' immediately dispelled each melancholy thought.
Difficulties which before seemed gigantic now become as naught.
And Philately was again a friend of mine.

Niemand"

And shades of the past: The annual report of the Literary Board at the Boston, 1888, convention reported it had "issued eleven numbers, or 18,600 copies . . . the cost to the Association being $44.52 monthly."

Advertising revenue appeared sufficient to cover this cost, although there was no published financial report in the September 10, 1888, issue containing the proceedings of the Third Annual Convention of The American Philatelic Association. The journal carried from four to ten pages of small display advertisements during the life of Volume 2.

The Stamp, a Denver publication of considerable merit, saw the withdrawal of Fraser's AP as unfortunate, commenting as follows:

"DEAD"

'The American Philatelist' — killed by those who ought to have cherished it, the American Philatelist sank to rest May 10, 1887.'

After The American Philatelist was discontinued and before its rebirth in October 1887 (Volume 2), there were two more "official circulars" from Bradt in Chica-}

For a brief period, from July to September 1887, APA news appeared in the Western Philatelist, which was published in Chicago.

Fraser's bluntness may have contributed to his downfall. In issue No. 3, March 1887, he wrote:

We see that three other papers are publishing T.E. Wilson's twaddle regarding the heavy schemes of the German fraud and his American colleagues. 'Tis strange that they can be so easily taken in, when a moment's thought would convince them of the utter impossibility of his statements. Just think of it, $1,500,000 worth of stamps from the United States alone. Why the combined stock of U.S. stamps held by dealers all over the world would not amount to a tenth part of that amount, and to think that our Taylor has spent $150,000 in the business — wonderful, is it not? And now, Mr. Wilson writes asking us to help Philately and himself, by booming his articles. One article of that nature will undo all the good accomplished by twenty really good ones.

When the matter was finally settled at the Chicago convention and The American Philatelist was readopted as the official publication, it was put in the hands of a "Literary Committee" that operated from Philadelphia. Henceforth, with a brief interruption in 1893-94, The American Philatelist was the Society's official publication, being published in various cities and by various publishers as convenient.

Growing Pains

The early records of our Society are rife with acrimonious debate and bitter charges. Philatelists are sometimes selfish as well as generous; often pedantic and opinionated.

Even the organization’s name was a
source of trouble. At the organizational meeting, a constitution and by-laws were adopted for the American Philatelic Association. But the name went through several further variants before the word Society was finally settled upon.

And there was, as noted, considerable disagreement over the choice of an official publication. It was years before there was consensus on the acceptability of the AP.

As there are today, there were disagreements about the color of a stamp, about its genuineness, about who should receive credit for "inventing" the adhesive postage stamp. Agreement was reached on that last point only after years of discussion, when the generally recognized claims of Sir Rowland Hill were accepted and he received the honor.

The second convention, in Chicago in 1887, recorded 192 members present. But only twenty-seven actually attended. The rest were proxy votes. The treasurer reported an Association balance of $88, and the purchasing agent indicated that he had bought stamps in the amount of $327 for members. A button badge was authorized: The design still is used by the Society as a logo.

During the six sessions called to order, amendments were made to the constitution and to the by-laws. After adjournment, the Chicago Philatelic Society hosted APA members at a banquet, following which "There was a great flood of eloquence let loose. . . ."

Today's APS members might react explosively at any attempt to define what should be collected. But the APA tried to do just that at its Chicago meeting, with good reason. APA members wanted to be sure that philately continued to be defined as stamp collecting, not as the collecting of cigar bands, for example.

There was some exhibiting, more or less informally. "Mr. Calman had a fine collection on exhibition. Among other great varieties, was a sheet of blue Mulreadys (2d) uncut, 10 in number, and valued at $100." Calman had forty-eight proxies to vote at the convention.

Dues remained at $2. For non-members, the new AP would cost fifty cents. The Chicago convention established the custom, followed to the present day, that a member joining at any time other than the beginning of a calendar year should pay dues, on a pro-rated basis, only for the balance of the year.

President Tiffany's annual address, given at the end of the 1887 Chicago meeting, gives an extremely interesting account of the origins of philately and the then-current situation.

Two publications by distinguished St. Louis members appeared at this time: John K. Tiffany's History of United States Postage Stamps and C.H. Mekeel's Improved Stamp Album. Several periodicals, primarily publications of the large local city clubs, continued to be printed, and a History of United States Envelopes was in preparation by a group of New York philatelists. Of course, there were foreign journals, mostly German, and they were advertised as available.

Sometime in October 1887, the constitution, the by-laws (as amended in Chicago), and an official list of members, all bound in a neat pamphlet, were sent to the membership. A special election was held in the autumn of that year to fill the vacancy in the office of treasurer created by the death of Durbin. In a mail ballot, H.B. Seagram was elected to the office by a large plurality. This special election is mentioned to illustrate only one of the series of turnovers in the list of officers of the Society. During those early years, Tiffany was the only constant.

Not unlike today, the familiar concerns of finance and counterfeits were major. Unfortunately, there was wide and sometimes explosive disagreement. These kinds of problems were in part responsible for fluctuations in membership and for some of the changes in the list of officers.

Nonetheless, the membership was increasing (it had passed the 300 mark), the exchange department was functioning (albeit with some dishonest participants), and the new AP was being well received. The committee appointed in Chicago to plan for an exhibition at the next meeting, scheduled for Boston in 1888, was actively engaged in this venture. And the year ended with 344 members in good standing.

A quote from The Stamp of January 1889 seems appropriate here:

There are eight APA members in Denver who are neglecting their business while waiting for the badge, but they can't have it until 92 other members can save up a dollar for the same purpose.

It seems that the Association had gotten a special deal on these badges: If 100 were ordered at the same time, they could be sold to members for $1. One hopes the
The proxy voting that at first seemed to be a good idea for the fledgling organization . . .

Denver members didn’t have to wait too long to receive their official pins.

Solidifying the Structure

The year 1888 opened with bright prospects. The APA had 400 members in good standing, although some forty-five had been dropped for nonpayment of dues.

The Librarian reported 1,224 donations to the Association library. The purchasing agent had a thriving business, and reported that many members had submitted the required deposit. Branches were established in Philadelphia and Minneapolis, and a second group from Chicago, known as the Chalmers Branch, had affiliated with the Association. The exchange superintendent considered activity, but complained about delays in returns. He also reported the sale of 23,000 hinges. The lead article in the AP continued to be President Tiffany’s “History of Foreign Envelopes.”

An auction held in St. Louis on February 17 by C.H. Mekeel produced some interesting sales: a New Haven Reprint, unsigned, went for $3.45; a 90-cent 1860, unused, for $2.55; an 1861 “yellow” 5-cent, for $2.30; an unused set of State Departmentals, for $3.74. This was cited as an auction characterized by spirited bidding, and Mr. Mekeel’s “book” had 267 bids.

But most of the attention was focused on the approaching convention in Boston, where member E.H. Holton was chairing the special committee for an exhibition. Holton wrote in the AP in April, “The exhibition is a new departure in the philatelic history of the United States, and details should receive the most careful consideration.” The exchange superintendent listed his circuit routes as New York, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Philadelphia, Charleston, St. Louis, Chicago, and Denver Branches, to give all a “first choice.”

During this period, the International Secretary began to blossom as an integral part of the Association’s business. Contacts with philatelists abroad had been, from the beginning, one of the objectives of the new organization. The exchange superintendent now began frequent exchanges of correspondence with European societies, and also began to receive foreign stamps to circulate.

In July, the AP published thirty pages of interesting philatelic items and reports from the various officers. This journal, while still severely criticized by some, had become no mean publication. In the July issue, nominations of officers for the next two-year term were reported, with contests for every seat except that of President Tiffany and the new secretary, Seagram. And members were reminded again of the importance of the Boston convention, to be held the following month.

The Boston convention opened on August 13, 1888, at the “Hub of the Universe.” Sixty-five members attended, and 304 proxies were represented. By this time, the Association boasted well over 500 members. W.C. Stone in 1893 summarized that occasion:

The Secretary reported a membership of $44, a gain of nearly 100 per cent, since our last Convention. The Treasurer reported a balance of $304.00 in the treasury. The Librarian re-
ported the contents of the library to be 71 bound volumes, 1,528 periodicals, 70 photographs and 345 catalogues, pamphlets, etc. The Purchasing Agent reported that he had purchased stamps to the value of $1,107.00 for the members, and the Exchange Manager announced that he had circulated stamps to the value of $18,739.00, from which $3,790.00 worth had been sold. The sum of $50.00 was appropriated for the library and numerous changes were made in the Constitution and By-Laws.

The exhibition of stamps in the Elks’ Hall was a very creditable one and attracted a large attendance. Many rarities were on exhibition and the young collector feasted his eyes upon such gems as the Brattlesboro, Millbury, Baltimore, early British Guiana’s, a Connell and the 12-penny Canada. Taken all in all it was one of the most successful Conventions we have had. The attendance has never been exceeded and only once equaled.

President Tiffany was re-elected almost unanimously and delivered another of his masterful addresses. This one takes about fifty minutes to read, and one wonders how long it took to deliver. The patience of many must have been taxed, but nineteenth-century orations frequently were hours long.

Some figures of interest were reported relative to the growth of the Society. More than half of the members were from New York (119 members), Illinois (fifty-eight members), Pennsylvania (fifty-two members), and foreign countries (thirty-seven members). There was also one member each from Arizona, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, and West Virginia.

J.W. Scott continued to make himself known, both at the convention and by working for the AP. This important cog in American philately, originally from England, was destined to be on the scene for many years. The continued use of his name a century later on catalogues published in the United States attests to this.

The revised Constitution of 1887 called for the establishment of a Board of Trustees, who were to meet monthly and receive complaints “regarding dishonest or dis-honorable practices” of members. Trustees to serve on this board were purposely chosen, in part, for the geographical proximity of their homes, so that regular meetings were possible. Here, then, is the “ancestor” of the current APS Board of Vice Presidents. That the board functioned on a regular basis is evidenced by the number of issues it resolved. Scott was the active secretary of this group.

At the time, Scott was holding auctions in New York and was active in planning “one of the greatest events in the history of philately” for late February 1889, when the three clubs in New York joined hands in an exhibition. It was to contain “a complete set of postage stamps.”

Additional branches were reported regularly. The Association seems to have sparked considerable activity in many areas, and new clubs were reported in the AP with regularity. The quality of the articles, with excellent research, now regularly appearing in the AP is amazing. There is no doubt that the quality of the official organ was instrumental in the rapid expansion of the Association.

Tiffany’s second term as president included conventions in 1889 in St. Louis and in 1890 in New York. The treasury had now become significant, but problems of deficit were still reported, although “uncollectable” debts scarcely exceeded $75. The membership now totaled almost 700.

In New York, a debate occurred concerning the election of officers. The question involved the election of two candidates from the same state, which was forbidden by the Constitution. After considerable rancour, and after considerable jockeying for additional proxies, the Constitution was amended to permit this.

In another vote that took place only after a good deal of acerbity, a majority of the convention voted to discontinue the AP as being too costly. An appeal was submitted to the membership at large, and that particular action was nullified by a vote of 381 to thirty-five.

And the Chalmers-Hill argument concerning who was the real “inventor” of the adhesive postage stamp continued. This time, a special committee was appointed to study the question and directed to report its findings in the July 1891 issue of the AP, which now had a firm circulation of 1,631. The controversy was eventually left unresolved: The committee’s report recommended that the Association should be “entirely neutral” in the matter.

The New York convention also saw the attendance of three Association members from Canada, the beginning of what has been a long and happy relationship between philatelists of the two nations. They were subjected to long and bitter debates on matters that, at the time, must have seemed of great importance. Today, they almost seem silly.

The 1891 convention was also held in New York, and there, for the first time, a decline in Association membership was noted. W.C. Stone commented several years later that a principal cause of this decline may have been the “internal quarrels brought on by the action of the last convention . . . .” In 1891, the Constitutional amendment that had permitted the
election of more than one officer from any one state was repealed, and a member's allowable proxies were limited to fifty.

The issue of seeking corporate status for the Association had been discussed for several years, and the 1891 convention decided to proceed with incorporation, under the laws of West Virginia. This matter was so concluded in January 1892. The AP was again restored to favor, after the unfavorable action of the previous year. The convention also agreed to meet in Niagara Falls in 1892 and at the World's Fair Exhibition in Chicago in 1893.

The incorporation in 1892 involved some interesting changes. All members of the previously unincorporated APA were entitled to "subscribe" to the new corporation, each being allowed to purchase one share of capital stock for $1. This, of course, was in addition to the prevailing dues, and thus may have discouraged some membership. It also meant, in effect, that to be a voting member of the APA, you also had to be a stockholder.

The APA itself was constituted in much the same way as before, retaining the same by-laws as had prevailed before the Association was incorporated. Wheeling, West Virginia, was now stipulated as the seat of the chief office, but the incorporating officers, headed by Tiffany, met in New York. One marvels at all of this traveling back and forth, because members paid their own expenses.

Tiffany was also busy traveling back and forth to Chicago at this time, to stir up the philatelic community "as regards the exhibit to be made at the World's Fair," now little more than a year in the future. A circular was in preparation to be distributed as soon as possible with the AP, and the U.S. Congress was urged to make an appropriation to support the World exhibition. Tiffany made a strong appeal for participation in and support of the exhibition, and extended an invitation to all collectors, both in the United States and abroad: "Let it be the beginning of bringing us all together for all the objects we aim at," he said.

But, first, there was the 1892 APA meeting in Niagara Falls. Twenty-three members were present in person, and 158 were represented by proxy. The total membership, revised in consequence of incorporation, was reported to be 218, plus 95 resident in foreign countries and consequently not eligible to vote. Therefore, of a voting membership of 218, only thirty-seven members were not represented, and in fact some of these absentees had sent in proxies that were not used by their holder because they were not accompanied by instructions. This was the largest proportionate representation ever achieved in the history of the Association.

The treasurer reported a balance on hand of $199, in addition to $185 in the stock fund. The sales manager reported the receipt of stamps in the value of $3,796, from which sales had amounted to $833. The purchasing agent had bought stamps for members in the value of $3,821.

The official board reported on the incorporation of the Association, and numerous amendments to the by-laws were adopted to bring them into harmony with the incorporation proceedings. The offer of the C.H. Mkeel Stamp and Publishing Co., to publish The American Philatelist for fifty cents per year for each copy furnished to the Association, was accepted with the thanks of the convention.

J.W. Scott's name lives on in the Scott catalogues, albums, and other products of the Scott Publishing Co.

A banquet was held one evening, and a carriage ride to places of interest in the area occupied an afternoon. A group photograph of the delegates and their ladies was taken in Prospect Park, and several of the members had another picture taken just before they went under Niagara Falls on the Canadian side.

The editor of the AP had this to say about the convention:

Many old and many new faces were seen at the convention. First on the list should of course come President Tiffany, who, after his experience at the whirlpool, is a firm believer in elevators, Secretary Walton arrived late, in consequence of the Buffalo strikers derailing his train. As soon as they found out who he was he was at once permitted to proceed. It doesn't do to obstruct the A.P.A. From St. Louis came the two Mkeels, C.H. and I.A. The next time we meet at Niagara "Ike" will work hard to have the Table Rock house chosen as the place of meeting. Gus Luhn, of Charleston, had such a good time at the meeting that he declares he will walk to Chicago if he can't get there otherwise. The ladies were well looked after by "Gus" wherever Rogers would give him a chance. The latter likes three things: auction sales, speech-making, and the girls. For some reason or other his suggestion that we have an official "Counterfeiter" did not meet with much approval, although a very competent individual was suggested by a number of members for the position! "Great Scott" was there and likewise Mrs. Scott. From Trenton came J.D. Rice. He is one of the "solid" men of the association, and with Mr. Doeblin "sat down" effectually upon one speaker.

R.F. Albrecht was accompanied by his wife and daughter and R.R. Bogert also brought along with his wife and daughter Helen. Mrs. and Miss Wuesthoff accompanied Mr. Wuesthoff. "Amalgamation" Davison was rejoiced at the action taken toward consolidation, even if he did oversleep and miss being on hand, then the motion was carried. Better leave a call at the office next time. F.H. Burt, our scribe, enjoyed his first convention immensely. The "Weekly Stamp News" found occasion for his services in rushing off copy for the extra. Geo. W. Rode, of Pittsburg, is a coin collector as well as a philatelist, and is exchange manager of the American Numismatic Association. E. Doeblin fairly beamed all over; he had such a good time. By unanimous consent he was appointed "Great Objector" in the absence of Mr. De Jonge. Mrs. Doeblin accompanied him.

Our Capital City friend, J.H. Houston, disputed the honors with A.B. Slater, Jr., of Providence, as to which was the tallest member present. We suspect Slater had a few "blocks" in his shoes. Houston promptly joined the fire department soon after his arrival. Another Southern member was Dr. G.N. Campbell, of Kentucky. He seemed to enjoy his first convention, even if he did fall asleep during the session. Why did you not join C.H. Mkeel and the editor on the Toronto trip as you expected to, Doctor? The World's Fair City sent but one delegate, S.B. Bradt, but he ably represented it. His room was utilized as a check-room for members' baggage during the day. Deats has commenced a new collection. At last accounts it contained only one specimen, a small Indian doll. Its portrait will be found in the large group that was taken in Prospect Park. As Deats was a little green in the proper method of holding babies, Miss Helen Bogert kindly looked after little Lo. Messrs. H.F. Ketcheson, F.J. Grenny and E.V. Parker represented the Dominion. The two latter kept the editor up nearly all night talking coins and bicycling. Mr. Ketcheson had a couple of copies of his Cosmopolitan stamp album along which was quite favorably commented upon.

All in all, it was one of the best conventions we have ever had. The members present all enjoyed themselves, and we shall expect to see them all together again in '93 at the World's Fair convention.

Next Month: A World's Fair.