



# THE COLLECTORS CLUB

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## Table Of Contents

*items marked with \* cannot be viewed as an individual PDF document*

[Click here to view the entire Volume: 27 No: 3 Philatelist: 027-03](#)

|   | <u>Starting Page</u> |
|---|----------------------|
| <a href="#">Front Cover</a> (1 page)  | Front Cover          |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Inc.     | Inside Front Cover   |
| <a href="#">Table of Contents</a> (1 page)  | 1                    |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Economist Stamp Co., Inc.        | 2                    |
| <a href="#">The Post of The Wrangel Army In Turkey</a> (20 pages)<br><i>H.D.S Haverbeck</i> | 3                    |
| <a href="#">Costa Rica</a> (19 pages)<br><i>Alex. A. Cohen, R. J. Mechin</i>                | 23                   |
| <a href="#">Calendar of Current Philately</a> (1 page)                                      | 42                   |
| <a href="#">Rotary Printing by Rotogravure</a> (2 pages)<br><i>F. E. Sellmansberger</i>     | 43                   |
| <a href="#">Panama</a> (6 pages)<br><i>Philip H. Ward</i>                                   | 45                   |
| <a href="#">U.S. Stamps of the 20th Century</a> (9 pages)<br><i>Sol. Glass</i>              | 51                   |
| <a href="#">Liberia</a> (2 pages)<br><i>Harold D. Watson</i>                                | 60                   |
| <a href="#">A Review of Recent Books</a> (6 pages)  | 61                   |
| <a href="#">Masthead</a> (1 page)   | 64                   |
| <a href="#">U.S. Stamp Essays and Proofs</a> (6 pages)<br><i>Clarence W. Brazer</i>         | 65                   |
| <a href="#">U.S. New Issues</a> (8 pages)   | 71                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: U.S. Government                  | 79                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Edson J. Fifield                 | 80                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Harmer, Rooke & Co., Inc.        | 81                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Scott Publishing Co.             | 82                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: H.E. Harris & Co. Inc.           | 83                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Corinphila                       | 84                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Daniel F. Kelleher Co.,Inc.      | 85                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: H.E. Harris & Co. Inc.           | 86                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: J.C. Morgenthau & Co., Inc.      | 86                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Nassau Stamp Company             | 87                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Ohlman Galleries                 | 87                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Billig & Rich, Inc.              | 88                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: J. N. Sissons Inc.               | 88                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Y.Q., Rotherfield                | 88                   |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Robson Lowe Ltd.                 | Inside Back Cover    |
| <a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: H.R. Harmer                      | Back Cover           |

Notes on the  
*FIRST TYPE OF LIBERIA*

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First issue scarce in multiple pieces, with used material not generally met with here on covers.

By HAROLD D. WATSON

THESE stamps have always been very popular because of their design and size, and as they are few in number a representative collection could be made of these issues at small expense.

Stamps were first issued by this country in 1860, in three values 6 cents, 12 cents and 24 cents, handsomely lithographed and on rather thick paper. Singles, unused and used are not rare except that the imperforates of all three are somewhat scarce, the 12 and 24 cent being seldom found. All three values exist in imperforate pairs, these are quite scarce. Multiples of the perforated issue are not common, but are hardly in a class of rarity.

All of the genuine used stamps that I have seen came from Monrovia or Harper. These are much scarcer than the unused items.

The stamps that were used in Harper were generally from missionary mail; practically all of the business of the country centered in Monrovia, and the entire correspondence was not large. The larger portion of the used stamps which have come in circulation came probably from mail to the government at Washington, and in due course of time these files were plundered and the stamps eventually came into the hands of the collectors.

The second issue with the outer line 4 mm. from the design are scarcer both in used and unused condition than those of the first issue. Multiples of these are scarce except as to

pairs of the imperforate issue which are occasionally found.

Subsequently there was issued a number of stamps on medium and thin paper. Multiples of the medium paper variety are scarcer than those of the thin paper issue, but are not extraordinarily scarce. Multiples of the thin paper issue are fairly common, but the stock of these in this country in multiples is not very large, there are far more in Great Britain. Many of those show the outer lines in part.

In the late 80's two officials from Liberia came to London and brought with them all the remainders in the possession of the Republic of all these issues, and these were sold in London. From this lot came the great proportion of the unused stamps on the market. All the varieties were represented including the imperforate, but in the intervening years the sheets were largely broken up, which accounts for the comparative scarcity of the multiples.

Used multiples are scarce here; even pairs have never been seen by the writer, though it is probable that such exist in some of the collections in Great Britain. The writer has in his collection about 200 examples of these issues. There are no great differences in the perforations, these running from 11 to 12; the 24 cent is known without clouds in the background and also on watermarked paper

(Continued on page 85)

## LIBERIA

(Continued from page 60)

with name of printer. Stamps were lithographed in London. Out of the aforementioned 200 examples only 22 are used and all the numbers are not represented in these used stamps. All are cancelled in the two first-mentioned towns, except two copies cancelled with a stamped "paid" and one in red at a sea post-office.

Many stamps cancelled "Monpowa" are found, and the writer believes that every one

of the stamps so cancelled is a counterfeit, as he is in possession of sheets of the 6 and 24, all cancelled from the alleged place. If it existed in the days of which we speak the population must have consisted of natives living in thatched houses, and one or two white men who were engaged in trading. It is very doubtful if a single letter was ever mailed from that benighted spot (if, truly, it even existed).

The 1880 issue, which is quite common, is cancelled officially generally with six thick bars.



## Boston Auction Sales

I hold auctions regularly in Boston, and would be glad to send my Catalogues to any Collector applying for them.

I am always in the market for collections, U. S. or B. N. A., which I will buy for cash outright, or sell at private sale, or at auction on a commission basis. If desired, a liberal advance against pending sales will be allowed on any desirable items.

**DANIEL F. KELLEHER**

**7 Water Street**

**Room 404**

**Boston, Mass.**