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THE

COLLEGE STAMPS

OF

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.

A Study of their History and Use from 1870 to 1886.

Exemplified by reference to Original Letters and Collections.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM SPECIALLY PREPARED PHOTO-MEZZOTYPE PLATES.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
UNIVERSITY PRIVILEGES IN LETTER CARRYING	3
OXFORD:—	
KEBLE COLLEGE	9
MERTON COLLEGE	42
LINCOLN COLLEGE	55
HERTFORD COLLEGE	64
EXETER COLLEGE	75
ALL SOULS' COLLEGE	79
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE	83
BALLIOL COLLEGE	85
ORIGINAL COPPER PLATES AND DIES	86
OXFORD UNION SOCIETY	91
CAMBRIDGE:—	
SELWYN COLLEGE	97
QUEEN'S COLLEGE	98
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE	99
SYNOPSIS OF ISSUES	101
BIBLIOGRAPHY	103

221522

ILLUSTRATIONS.

PAGE

OXFORD:—

KEBLE COLLEGE. EMBOSSED ISSUES, TYPE I 13

" " " " " 15, 20

" " SPIERS' PRINTING 20

" " EMBERLIN'S PRINTING 25

" " ENVELOPE AND POST CARD 25

" " SO-CALLED KEBLE PARCEL STAMP ... 33

MERTON COLLEGE. EMBOSSED ISSUES 45, 51

" " LITHOGRAPHED ISSUES 49

LINCOLN COLLEGE. PROOF SHEET 58

HERTFORD COLLEGE 68

EXETER COLLEGE 74

ALL SOULS' COLLEGE 78

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE 82

BALLIOL COLLEGE 82

DEFACED PLATES 87

CAMBRIDGE:—

SELWYN COLLEGE 96

QUEEN'S COLLEGE 96

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE 96

PREFACE.

IT will be readily understood by the reader that this book could not be written without a very liberal expenditure of time and careful labour.

From the very nature of the subject, every fresh college taken in hand opened up a new ground for enquiry, every statement needed to be substantiated, all new evidence sifted, visits and enquiries on the same point repeated over and over again, to say nothing of a correspondence with distant collectors, and last, a careful examination of every collection of college stamps worthy of the name.

It would have been impossible to complete such a task in any sort satisfactorily, were it not that my enquiries and searchings have on all sides, almost without exception, met with the utmost courtesy; and where so many to whom by the necessity of the case I have been obliged to apply for information have been so ready to help, it may seem invidious to mention any by name, but it is only right that I should acknowledge my indebtedness to those without whose assistance a History of Oxford and Cambridge College Stamps would have been impossible.

The information given to me respecting the complicated issues of Keble by Sir Walter Gray, and Mr. W. Bunce, the college messenger, living witnesses of their use, has been of the utmost importance.

To T. W. Mallam, Esq., M.A., my thanks are due for permission to reproduce the original envelopes directed to his firm, which have so contributed to elucidate the periods at which certain stamps were in use.

In the matter of collections, that of the Earl of Crawford stands in the first rank, and he has permitted me to compare it page by page with my own, and to verify much that was important to note.

Valuable dates and other details have been arrived at from a comparison of the college stamps in the collections of Falconer Madan, Esq., M.A., of Oxford, W. Alder Ridley, Esq., and Erskine Beveridge, Esq., all of whom have aided me in every way.

With regard to the overprint on the O. U. S. stamps, it is not a little strange that there should be no record, no single mention of their use in the archives of the Society, so far as the Steward, Mr. W. Gill, has been able to ascertain up to the present time; my acknowledgments are none the less due to him for the trouble he has taken, and his desire to afford me information.

The Tapling Collection in the British Museum, so rich in all other respects, makes a very poor show

in the college issues. Ten panels, and these not very large, contain all its examples of college stamps. A few of them are interesting, and these have for the most part been presented by private collectors, since it became the nation's property. It is extremely curious and significant to find it has only one stamp, as representative of all the varieties of the O. U. S. overprint.

In the matter of illustrating and printing the book, nothing has been spared to make it as perfect as possible. The difficulty of getting photographs of the vari-coloured Kebles and dark blue Mertons for the mezzo-type plates has been very great; so far it is almost the first serious attempt to reproduce these difficult stamps from the originals.

H. C.

Introduction.

IT seems very desirable to gather into one volume whatever is possible respecting these interesting issues of stamps, in use for fifteen years, then well-nigh forgotten, until several members of the Oxford Philatelic Society, with considerable perseverance and research, unearthed a large amount of evidence as to their existence and use.

A few paragraphs in ephemeral stamp magazines, none of them entirely accurate, and others misleading and disingenous, necessitating withdrawal immediately after their accuracy was challenged, are all that appeared in print respecting them, with the exception of a notable paper read by Professor Arthur S. Napier, M.A., PH.D., at a meeting of the Oxford Philatelic Society, held at Exeter College, Oxford, in 1893.

This paper was afterwards published in the *Monthly Journal* of December, 1893, and it is not too much to say that it marked a new era, a new departure for the collectors and students of college stamps.

It opened up a distinct and interesting page of Philately, upon which some of us have spent much time and research during the ten years that followed, and although in the light of more recently acquired information, we are able to see that some of the

conclusions arrived at then were erroneous, and that deductions were made upon insufficient data; on other points, the instinct and reasoning of Professor Napier's paper, have been verified in a very remarkable manner.

Very little of any real value has been written on the College issues since 1893. A discursive and somewhat disjointed account of some of them appeared in 1895 with a certain amount of romantic episode, and imaginative padding, which however entertaining to the casual and careless reader, is utterly of no value to the serious collector, while haphazard conclusions and hasty statements without evidence or proof are more likely to repel than to attract the curious, and in no case can satisfy the seeker after facts.

I have waited for some years hoping that a student of these interesting links with the College life of the period to which they belong, would undertake a summary of what is really known of them up to the present time; no one, however, apparently, has had the time, or perhaps the will, and the present is an effort to preserve and consolidate what is reliable and trustworthy relating to the letter stamps of the Oxford Colleges especially, and of the sister University, so far as may be gathered from existing documents, College records, witnesses of their use who are still living, and last, but by no means least important, the evidence afforded by the stamps themselves.

University Privileges in Letter Carrying.

FROM time immemorial the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge possessed certain privileges and immunities in the matter of letters and correspondence, which were confirmed by Acts of Parliament, and it is certain that for a hundred years, perhaps for several centuries past, the considerable correspondence of the several thousand members of the Oxford University was carried, as might well be supposed, by the messengers of the various colleges, according to a recognised system, and to this the introduction of the Imperial Postage Stamp in 1840 made no difference.

The custom among the colleges was for the messengers of each to deliver college letters to all parts of the city, and the mode of payment for such service varied in the different colleges. In some, the members' letters, initialled by the sender, were delivered at a tariff price, which was charged to them in their weekly accounts; in others, a commuted lump sum for the whole term was paid for this service.

In later times, as will be seen in the case of at

least one college, the college arms on the *flap* of the envelope franks the letter for delivery, and the University Delagacies pursue the same system without let or hindrance to this day.

In the history of British stamps, compiled from official sources by Hastings E. Wright and A. B. Creeke (Intro., p. 25), published by the Philatelic Society of London in 1899, the case is most fairly stated, thus :—

"Between the years 1871 and 1885 several of the colleges of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge issued adhesive stamps, and also envelopes and cards, for the purpose of franking the local correspondence of their own members. From time immemorial it appears that such correspondence had been conveyed by private messengers, who were employed by the different colleges.

"Under the Act of the Long Parliament of 1656 (and re-enacted by 12 Car. II, c. 35), it was expressly enacted that the two Universities 'may use their former liberties, rights and privileges of having special carriers to carry and re-carry letters, as they formerly did, and as if this Act had not been made'; and, although this Act was repealed in 1710 (9 Anne, c., 10), it reserved the ancient right which the Universities and their colleges possessed.

"The creation and use of *stamps*, however, rests on a different footing altogether, and without attempting to go into the legal aspect of the question, it is sufficient to say that after the unmolested use of stamps, in some cases for several years, pressure was at length brought to bear by the authorities on the colleges in question, in consequence of which the use of stamps, or stationery of a postal character, was discontinued."

It would be quite undesirable to revive the controversy which was rife ten years ago among philatelists as to the status of these college issues.

It is only in the nature of things that on the question as to whether the colleges were infringing the privileges of the Post Office, opinion should be divided, and appear as determined on the one side as on the other.

It may well be said that if "Postage" be in dictionary language "the price paid for the conveyance of a letter," then a postage "stamp" affixed to a letter franks it for such conveyance.

In this sense, the college "messenger," or "post," stamps, envelopes, and cards, were used from 1870 to 1886, a period of fifteen years.

For those who would deny that they represent a curious anomaly and phase in the working of our postal system, and consequently a place in every specialist's collection, which professes to exhibit this country's stamps in anything like completion, the difficulty is this. If it be said, "the stamps were not the infringement, it was the principle which was deemed illegal," the answer at once forces itself upon us—"that cannot be so, the principle still exists, is still acted upon in the system in use to-day, even if the Act of Parliament of 1710 were not in evidence against such contention."

On the other hand, if the suppression of the "stamps" was the aim of the postal authorities, and

they were satisfied with their withdrawal from use, as would appear from the semi-official notice quoted, the system represented by the stamps still continuing, no one can justly say they are not "postage" stamps.

It cannot even be alleged that the success of the Postmaster-General in his proceedings in 1885, in any way *proves* that the use of these stamps was illegal. The utmost that can be urged is, that the colleges severally and separately did not consider the point worth contesting, and with the courtesy one might well expect, quietly acquiesced, under such pressure as was brought to bear, with the wishes of the authorities.

A meeting of the Heads and Bursars of Colleges and Halls in Oxford, appointed to consider the communications from the Post Office, was held on February 11th, 1886, the Vice-Chancellor presiding.

The Warden of Merton read his reply to the letter from the Post Office authorities retaining their objections, and it was determined to answer that they would recommend the Colleges to bring their arrangements for the delivery of notes and messages within the requirements of the law.

To this end the meeting suggested,—

1. That no stamps be used.
2. The use of a special letter box be given up.
3. That letters which would reach their destination as quickly if sent by post be not sent by messenger.
4. That the messenger be paid by the message, not by a fixed stipend.

In the communication from the Post Office, under date January 28th, 1886, it was pointed out "that the "exclusive privilege of carrying letters by post was "deliberately conferred upon the Postmaster-General, "and that he felt bound to maintain that privilege "intact."

The Postmaster-General (Lord John Manners) further argued that "the college messenger was not "the servant of the writer of the letter, but of the "college, who contracted to deliver the same."

Among the incidents of the college system objected to, were,—

1. The providing special boxes for the deposit of letters.
2. The clearance of these for delivery at stated times.
3. The payment of a fee per letter, not to the messenger, but to the college, or a fixed annual or terminal charge for delivery.
4. The use of stamps to denote the payment.

It was added (January 28th, 1886) that the Postmaster-General would not object to the continuance of the college system up to the end of that term, but it was not to be renewed another term.

We know, however, that in more than one college these letter stamps continued to be used as late as May, 1886; and with regard to the active interference of the Post Office Department, it is most surprising that it did not occur years before.

Chronological List.

THE strict order, chronologically arranged, of the introduction and use of stamps among the colleges, is as follows :—

OXFORD.	KEBLE.	1870.
	MERTON.	1876.
	LINCOLN.	1877.
	HERTFORD.	1879.
	Stamps procured in 1875.	
	EXETER.	1882.
	ALL SOULS'.	1884.
	S. JOHN'S.	1884.
	BALLIOL.	1885.
	Prepared, but not issued.	
CAMBRIDGE.	SELWYN.	1882.
	QUEEN'S.	1883.
	S. JOHN'S.	1883.

OXFORD UNION SOC. Overprint O. U. S. used on the various issues of *1d.* stamps from 1859 to 1886.

Keble College, 1870.

In the *Philatelist* of December, 1871, p. 154, is a brief notice which may well serve as an introduction to the history of these stamps. It is as follows:—

"A stamp has been issued by the authorities of Keble College, Oxford, freeing letters thence to the other colleges, or to any part of the city itself. A college messenger carries the letters, the stamp being simply obliterated by a pencil mark. A second stamp affixed prepays the reply, if necessary. The stamp is rectangular, bearing the arms of the college in centre, within an upright pointed oval frame, inscribed: Keble College, Oxon. The design is in relief, on vermilion-coloured paper, gummed and perforated; value, one halfpenny."

The remark as to the obliteration is altogether an error, as Keble very early provided an official cancelling stamp; in other respects, the announcement is interesting, if only for the tardiness of its appearance, for Keble College was opened by the Marquis of Salisbury, Chancellor of the University, June 23rd, 1870, and although this notification of the first stamp issued is dated December, 1871, the stamps must have been in use during the whole of

that year, if not in the previous October term, for the use of stamps was determined upon by the authorities at the outset.

TYPE I.—No. 1.

College arms in a pointed oval, embossed from steel die on surface coloured paper, bright orange vermilion, perforated more or less irregularly eleven. The stamps were prepared and supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Sons, in sheets of forty-eight, probably six rows of eight, since they measured about 6½ in. to 7 in. square. (Illustration, *p. 13.*)

There is, however, no record extant as to the number received by the college.

Used copies on original letters are known, ranging in date from November 29th, 1871 to 1876.

That in my own collection is dated 28th March, 1876, and the earliest record of this rare stamp, with the official obliteration, is in the possession of Falconer Madan, Esq., M.A., it is dated November 29th, 1871, and vouched for by the recipient of the letter at Christ Church.

Unused specimens are scarce. The illustration on page 13 is taken from an extremely brilliant copy in my collection, which I obtained from Mr. J. R. Turner in March 1894, and is specially interesting as the perforations gauge only 10½ top and bottom. In the Earl of Crawford's collection, there are two pairs of these rarities, one of them normal, the other

a vertical pair with the embossed impression of the College Arms shewing on the two stamps tête bêche, a great curiosity. A single mint copy is in the Tapling Collection.

Early in the history of these stamps, but at what precise date is unknown, an obliterating stamp was provided. It was made of metal, and when used with an ordinary inked pad, impressed upon the stamp five dots in form of a square, about 7m.m. apart from centre of dots.



OFFICIAL OBLITERATION.

It will readily be observed that the shape is not that of a perfect square, but the dots appear as if the whole were pulled slightly out of the straight, the lower right dot being well beyond the straight line with the upper.

An easy test is here provided against obliterations from a forged die, several of which I have seen ; of course, this remark does not apply to hand-made pencil or ink dots, which were made by the porter or college messenger.

It was the porter's duty to stamp the letters with this before they were taken by the messenger for delivery.

The first Keble porter was Sergeant William Green, a Crimean veteran, an ex-sergeant of the

Coldstream Guards, and a most methodical man. For a certain time the regulation stamp was used, no doubt, but the college messenger distinctly remembers that after awhile it fell into disuse, or, at any rate, was occasionally neglected, to which must be attributed the curious in and out occurrence of this cancellation on envelopes dated between 1874 and 1876. If we only had examples used during the first three years, we should probably find the official obliteration on nearly all of them.

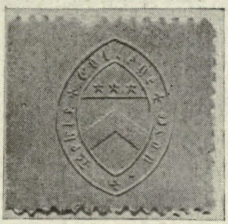
The statement of Mr. J. R. Turner in the *Phil. Supp. Bazaar*, February, 1895, that the five dot cancellation was in use for little more than a year is a mistake. We have it on letters of 1874 and 1875, well authenticated, and there is positive evidence above that at an early date in 1871 the metal stamp was more diligently used than it was afterwards. It is found upon all the embossed series in Type I, but not on any of the subsequent issues.

TYPE I.—No. 2.

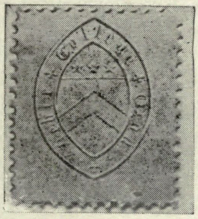
Same design and die, college arms embossed on surfaced coloured paper, orange vermilion, but with perforations twelve, clean cut and regular. Supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Son in sheets the same size as in the case of No. 1. (Illustration, *p. 13.*)

Very few used copies on entire envelopes are known, most of them are said to be dated 1876.

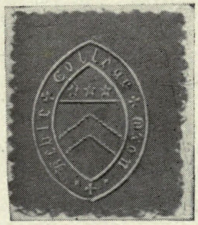
KEBLE COLLEGE.



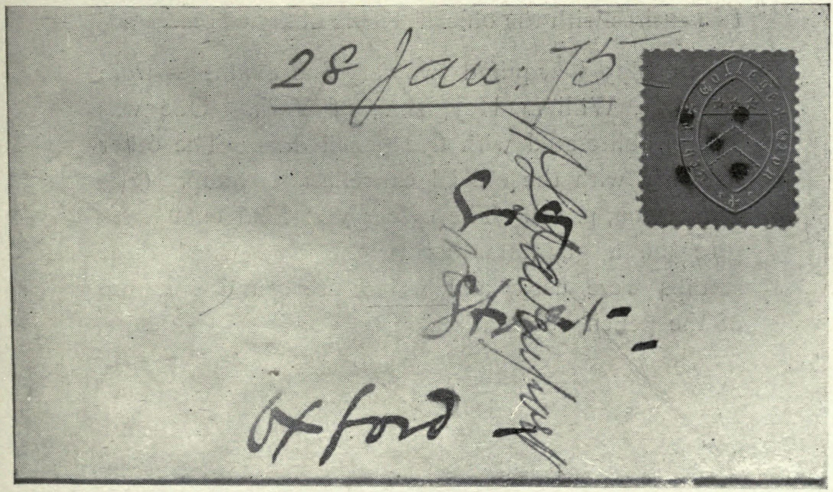
TYPE I.—NO. 1.



TYPE I.—NO. 2.



TYPE I.—NO. 3.



TYPE I.—NO. 2. On original envelope.

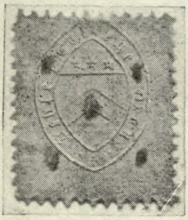
I have one, endorsed 28th January, 1875 (*see* illustration, *p.* 13), which is the earliest dated specimen on the original cover that has yet come to light. I have another addressed to F. Bacon, with date 27th January, 1876. They were certainly in use in 1874, probably much earlier, and were concurrent with the Rose stamp of the next issue.

TYPE I.—No. 3.

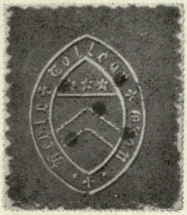
Same design and die, but on rose or rose pink surfaced paper, roughly perforated eleven all round. Supplied in sheets as the last by Messrs. Spiers and Son. (Illustration, *p.* 13).

Used copies are scarce. I have one on a letter endorsed 25th October, 1877, a very late date, and two entires with the official Keble obliteration.

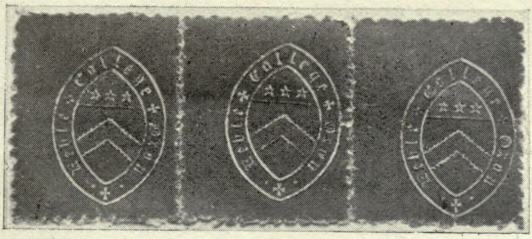
In 1895 I acquired two very fine examples from the Rev. William Hey, M.A., of York. One was No. 2, obliterated with five pencil dots. The other a No. 3, with the official cancellation stamp. (See illustration, p. 15). The owner was kind enough to give me a guarantee as to the date when these stamps were used, and as to the genuine nature of the pencil obliteration.



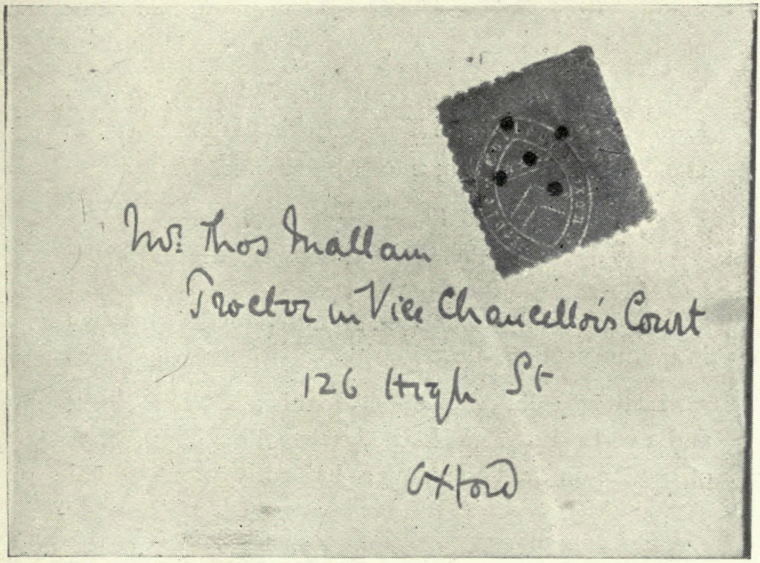
TYPE I.—No. 2.
Pencil Cancellation.



TYPE I.—No. 3.
Official Cancellation.



TYPE I.—No. 3.



TYPE I.—No. 3. On original envelope.

A copy of his letter is here :—

The Museum, York,

May 1, 1895.

The two Keble stamps you have bought of me, Rose, with obliteration, and Orange, obliterated with five dots in pencil, came to me at Oriel College twenty-one years ago, from a friend at Keble, by name Bagge, then an Undergraduate, and the pencil obliteration is as it was when handed to me.

Wm. C. Hey, M.A.,

Sometime Vicar of St. Olave's, York.

Rev. H. Cummings.

There can thus be no doubt as to the concurrent use of these two stamps, Nos. 2 and 3, in 1874, and very little that the use of the official cancelling stamp gradually gave way to the more commonly found five pencilled dots, and later on, no cancellation mark at all. I have seen both with the five dots in ink.

As to specimens of these three varieties of perforations and colour in Type I, which I have seen in unused mint condition, they are few indeed.

In the collection of the Earl of Crawford there are two pairs of No. 1, vertical and horizontal, and my own collection includes single copies of Nos. 1 and 2, and the horizontal strip of three of No. 3 shown in the illustration, *p.* 15.

In the Tapling collection there is a copy of No. 1, and a vertical pair of No. 2, shewing three impressions of the die on the two stamps—evidently an accidental

irregularity. These were presented to the National Collection by Mr. Erskine Beveridge, May 27th, 1894.

Probably the whole number of unused specimens of these in existence would not exceed twenty of No. 1, six of No. 2, and fifteen of No. 3.

I am able to give a reproduction of a beautiful example of this last, with the official obliteration, on the entire envelope fully addressed to the Proctor in the Vice-Chancellor's Court.

It was sent by an undergraduate, E. S. Maclure, who was at Keble during the period from 1883 to 1886. The bad centring of the embossed design is curious.

Obliterated copies are not often to be seen.

TYPE I.—No. 4.

Same die and design, embossed on white paper, which has a surface colour in deep carmine, perforated 11 top and bottom only, thus showing that they were produced in strips. The size of this stamp is considerably larger than the preceding issues. It is, roughly speaking, square, usually measuring 30 m.m. in width, and from 23 to 30 m.m. in height, but specimens of widely different dimensions are known. (Illustration, p. 20.)

Unused copies are few and valuable. An unsevered vertical strip of three is in the collection of Erskine Beveridge, Esq., a single in the Tapling Collection, given by this gentleman in 1894; a mint pair is in the collection of the Earl of Crawford, which also contains one on an envelope, bearing the

date October 30th, 1876. I have several used specimens, one with the original letter, but no date, is in my collection. It is addressed—

"Mr. Payne,
"Bootmaker,
"St. Giles',
"Oxford."

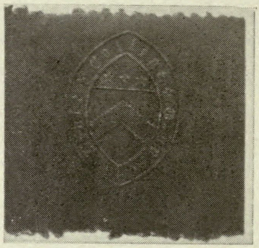
Professor Napier in the *Monthly Journal*, December, 1893, wrote that these embossed stamps of Type I were supplied by Messrs. Emberlin & Son, but in what quantities could never be discovered, as that firm could find no entries in their books relating to them, and also that the scarcity of No. 4, the large, square, crimson stamp, is due to its having been in use only for a single term, because, *according to the college messenger then employed*, the Undergraduates objected to their large size.

All this may be disposed of in a very few words in the light of the full and reliable information afforded by Mr. now Sir Walter Gray, who was the first Steward of Keble College, and who held that office for thirteen years.

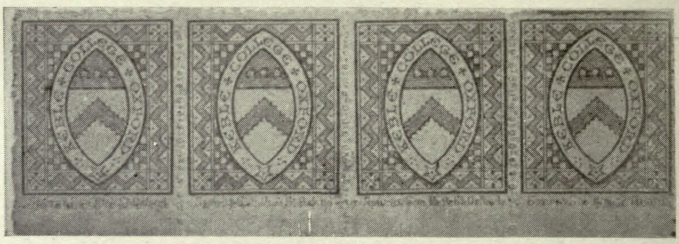
He it was who ordered the stamps from Messrs. Spiers and Son, from whom he received them, and he issued the necessary supplies to the porter from time to time.

To him I am indebted for these details and particulars of the Keble issues, which are at variance with what has hitherto been accepted as established facts.

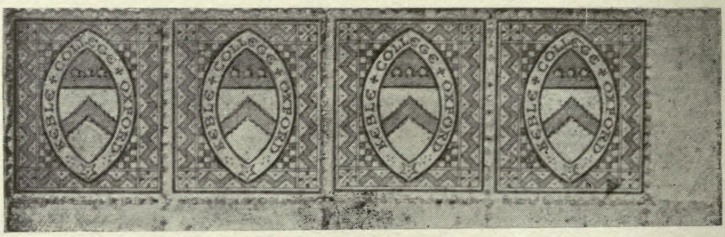
KEBLE COLLEGE.



TYPE I.—No. 4.



TYPE II.—No. 5. In Ultramarine.



TYPE II.—No. 5. In Bright Blue.

TYPE II.—No. 5.

The college arms in pointed oval, with inscription on band, KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD, *on a background and frame of zig-zag design, lithographed in blue on white paper, rough perforations eleven and a half.* (Illustration, p. 20.)

(*a*) 15,000 of these were supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Son in October, 1876, and under each stamp in minute lettering is printed :—"Spiers and Son, High Street, Oxford."

There must, however, have been two printings of this variety (*a*) with the firm's name, as I have two strips of four stamps each, illustrated here (p. 20), which are entirely different in colour. One is an ultramarine and the other a bright cobalt shade, indicating manifestly two printings.

(*b*) A second supply of 15,000 came from Messrs. Spiers in June, 1879, exactly the same as the former in design, but without the name of the firm underneath the frame of the stamp.

Used copies of both these varieties are scarce, on original envelopes.

Professor Napier, in 1893, had seen fourteen copies, ranging from May 1st, 1877, to December 9th, 1882. I have three on entires, one with date 11th May, 1883.

In unused condition, a few singles are met with, very few strips or blocks, and a whole sheet is not known. Two strips of four in my own collection,

and one of six and one of twelve in that of the Earl of Crawford, are the largest blocks I have seen.

From what has been written, it is perfectly clear that the embossed stamps Type I, and the lithographed stamp Type II, with and without "Spiers'" imprint, were prepared and printed by Messrs. Spiers and Son.

Messrs. Emberlin and Son supplied the ordinary stationery for the needs of the college, but "stamps" were looked upon as a sort of fancy article, and the orders for them were given to Messrs. Spiers, as being more in their line of business.

As time ran on there came a change of Bursars, and when the second lot of stamps supplied by Messrs. Spiers in 1879 was running short, J. A. Shaw-Stewart, Esq., was Bursar of Keble, and it was then for the first time that Messrs. Emberlin and Son obtained the order to prepare the college stamps, the intention of the authorities being, without doubt, as Sir Walter Gray has explained, to avoid running two accounts when one would do.

The successive Bursars at Keble were :—

1. Oct., 1870. Colonel the Hon. E. H. Legge.
   (Afterwards Dep. Sergt.-at-Arms, House of Commons.)
2. 1871—1876. Col. the Hon. W. E. Sackville West.
3. 1876—1880. John Archibald Shaw-Stewart, Esq.
4. 1881—1888. H. O. Wakeman, Esq.
5. 1888—1890. Captain Scrivener, R.N.
6. Oct., 1890. Colonel J. P. Jervoise.

Sir Walter Gray, since then four times Mayor of Oxford, was Steward of Keble, 1870—1883, and he has most courteously given to me the very valuable information which places beyond doubt so much in their history and their use.

TYPE III.—No. 6.

On April 1st, 1882, the stamps of new design, produced by Messrs. Emberlin and Son, were delivered to the College. Lithographed in another shade of blue, the design is altogether different from the Spiers' type: larger lettering, smaller stars in the corners, no name of printer, perforations twelve instead of eleven and a half; these are details easily observed, by comparison. (Illustration, p. 25.)

1000 sheets were delivered, each consisting of two panes of twenty-four stamps, four rows of six.

They were first issued for use in the October term of 1882, and the used copies known on original envelopes ranging from November 15th, 1882, to November 27th, 1885, do not exceed ten or eleven in number.

With a stock of 48,000 stamps at that date, it would appear probable that at the suppression of their use in 1885–6, there would have been a large remainder. This, however, cannot have been the case. Single copies in mint state are scarce, blocks are extremely rare, and only three entire sheets exist, one of which is in the possession of the Earl of

Crawford. This sheet is on cream paper. My own collection contains two sheets, slightly differing in shade, but both on white paper.

The original copper plates of this and the preceding Spiers issue were defaced with others in 1898.

Envelopes.

TYPE I.—No. 7.

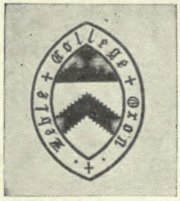
The size of the envelope was $4\frac{3}{4}$ *in. by* $3\frac{3}{4}$ *in., and the price* 1*s.* 3*d. per dozen; the stamp being impressed from the die Type I on the top right corner in red.* (Illustration, p. 25.)

At the time when the first embossed adhesives were used in 1870, an envelope and post card were also produced.

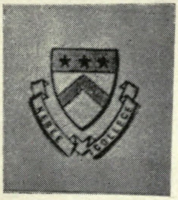
There is no record to be found of the number supplied, and these envelopes whether used or unused are extremely scarce, not more than thirty in all being known, and, strangely enough, among this small number there are no less than three varieties. They are made of laid paper, and the rarest and probably the earliest,—(*a*) has the laid lines running across diagonally from the top left to bottom right. The stamp in the upper right corner is embossed in a bright carmine shade.



TYPE III.—No. 6.



TYPE I.—No. 7.



SO-CALLED "PROVISIONAL."



OFFICIAL COLLEGE DIE.

A second variety (*b*) has the laid lines across the envelope from right top to bottom left corner, exactly the reverse of (*a*), and the colour of the embossed die is entirely different, being a dark shade of carmine.

A third (*c*) is a grey paper, with the stamp in bright vermilion, of which I know only two used copies: and these offer very interesting evidence in their respective dates, one being dated June, 1876, and the other, that in my own collection, June, 1886, which is the latest date one would expect to find for any of the college stamps.

This envelope is addressed to—

"Mr. Thos. Mallam,
"126, High Street,
"Oxford."

The Earl of Crawford has four fine examples of the envelope in used condition.

(*d*) There is a fourth variety of the Keble envelope in my collection which is entirely different from any of the above. The die is impressed in a somewhat lighter shade of red, on an envelope made of thin, hard, cream wove paper, of common quality. Messrs. Emberlin and Son and their workmen have examined it, and regard it as a trial impression. It is the only one known of its kind, and is unquestionably from the Keble official die, and of the greatest interest.

Post Card.

TYPE I.—No. 8.

The die is embossed in bright red on the upper margin of the card, in its centre. The size, 4½ in. by 3 in. Price, the same as adhesives, one halfpenny.

Post cards seem to have been used concurrently with the envelopes (Type I) from 1870 onward.

There are several varieties of these cards, but owing to the absence of authentic records of the quantities supplied, and the dates, it is impossible to say how many issues there were.

In 1893, Mr. Emberlin gave many specimens of stamps and cards to Mr. J. R. Turner and Lieut. Napier, and among them the cards taken from the old pattern file in use in the workshop, on which would be recorded the date and number supplied of that particular printing. Had these been preserved and tabulated, we should have valuable information as to quantities.

One such card I obtained myself recently from Mr. Emberlin, and it is endorsed, "1 lb. of cards, Sep. 20, 75."

Probably there were several issues of these, which will account for the varieties known in the make of card. Among the mint copies (some ten or twelve) which I have seen, are these :—

(*a*) Thin white card.
(*b*) Thin ivory card.
(*c*) Thick creamy card.
(*d*) Thick faced card.

A curiosity came into my possession some years ago, in the shape of an envelope franked with an embossed stamp cut from a post card, and made to do duty as an adhesive.

A used copy of this rare card is in the collection of F. Madan, Esq., M.A., and bears the endorsement, "Answered, January 28th, 1885"; two are in the Earl of Crawford's collection, another is in the possession of Captain E. A. Warry, and I have several in my collection in varying thicknesses and shades.

The so-called "Provisional."

What is called by Mr. J. R. Turner a "Provisional" has been so described by him (*Phil. Supp. Bazaar*, February, 1895). (Illustration, p. 25.)

(a) *An envelope of greenish paper, with the impression of the college crest stamped in blue on the flap; and*

(b) *A white card, with the crest in blue in left upper corner.*

These are said by him to have been in use during Hilary Term, 1886, immediately after the withdrawal of the college issues, at the instance of the General Post Office authorities.

Professor Napier, writing in 1893 (*Monthly Journal*, p. 123), expresses considerable doubt as to this unauthorised "crest":—

As suggested to him the story runs, that "the porter remembers that on one occasion the supply of envelopes and cards running short, ordinary envelopes of greenish paper, and white cards . . . (as described above), were used for a very short time *provisionally*."

"But," continues Professor Napier, "seeing that such envelopes and cards were (and are) sold by the stationers to any one who chooses to buy them, and could, therefore, be purchased by the undergraduates at the price of ordinary stationery, it seems incredible that the college authorities should ever have given them franking power." And, indeed, this is the only reasonable conclusion, which is endorsed by the declaration of Sir Walter Gray, and the college messenger who carried the letters, that no such irregular and unofficial issue was ever permitted by the authorities or used in any way in or for the college.

I have myself bought at stationers' shops, on different occasions, both envelopes and cards with this embossed crest, which has never been used by the Keble authorities for any purpose.

Whatever satisfaction, therefore, there may have been for those of us who possess these "Provisional Crests," we must give it up, for the evidence against

them is conclusive, there never was a "Provisional," either at Keble or any other college.

The assertion which has been made, that an envelope and card with this crest were in use at Keble, with franking power, from 1886 till 1895, is absolutely without foundation.

Envelopes.

TYPE IV.—No. 9.

From 1886 to 1893–4 these were of Portland wove paper, in varying purplish grey shades; in two sizes, $4\frac{3}{4}$ *in. by* $3\frac{3}{4}$ *in. and* $4\frac{1}{8}$ *in. by* $3\frac{1}{4}$ *in.*

In 1886, immediately following the disuse of stamps, a new type of envelope was introduced, which with slight variations have been continued to the present time, for the franking of the college correspondence.

There is, however, no record available of the dates or quantities supplied from time to time.

No stamp at all appears on the face of the envelope, but an impression, without colour, of the college die Type I (illustration, p. 25) is embossed upon the flap, laterally, *i.e.*, lying sideways.

These were to be obtained by members of the college at 8*d.* per dozen.

Both sizes are common enough in three distinct varieties:—

(*a*) Purplish grey, with diagonal flaps (these were in use in 1893).

(*b*) Dark grey, with rounded flaps.

(*c*) Grey, with rounded flaps (these were in use in 1895).

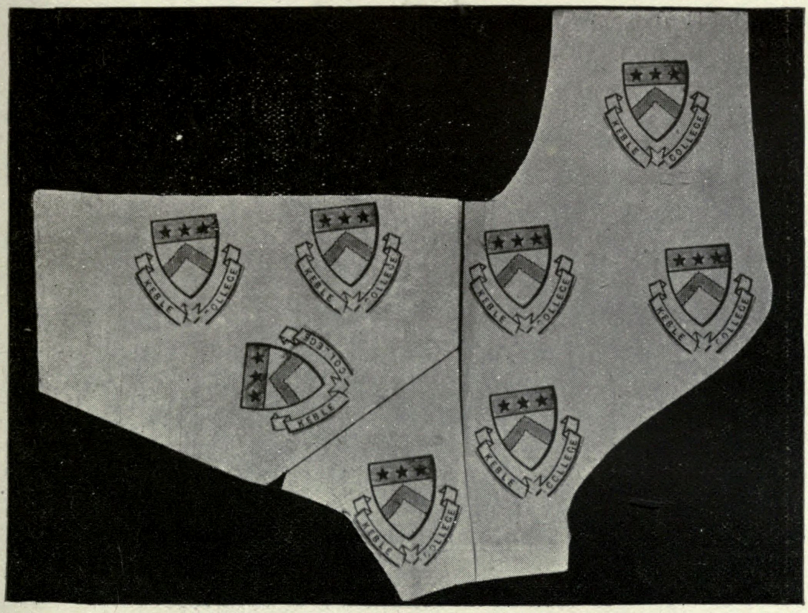
And there may have been more varieties, but I have examples of all noted here which were used in 1893–4.

Since 1895, the successive supplies of stationery seem to have been of white and cream paper, both laid and wove, and envelopes made of both kinds, with the die (Type I) upon the flap "right way up," have been used, the franking power remaining as before.

Reputed Parcel Stamp.

What has been called a Keble Parcel Stamp is a non-official impression of the Keble *crest* in dull red on gummed paper. The stamping is in no regular order, but in quite a haphazard fashion, as may be seen at once from the illustration, p. 33.

This is said to have come into use about 1876, "on the authority of a former college messenger and the porter."



THE SO-CALLED KEBLE PARCEL STAMPS.

An irregular block of eight (see p. 33) are the only specimens known (the Earl of Crawford posesses the left hand block of three, the other five are in the collection of Erskine Beveridge, Esq.), and Professor Napier relates (*Monthly Journal*, 1893, p. 123) how a small piece of gummed notepaper, with eight impressions of the college crest in vermilion (?), was found in one of the drawers in the porter's lodge at Keble.

Mr. J. R. Turner, in *Phil. Supp. Bazaar*, February, 1895, fixes the date of their use as 1877 by the following narrative:—

"It appears that on one occasion the college messenger, when on his usual rounds, was met by the Bursar of the college, who, being struck by his heavily laden appearance, afterwards interviewed him, and finding out that a packet of books, etc. (however large), was franked by one adhesive, price one halfpenny, determined to issue a higher value, and the so-called parcel post stamp, price *2d.*, was thus inaugurated."

He adds:—

"Its existence could hardly have been a long one, probably not more than a year, and I doubt if there was ever a second printing."

Professor Napier admits that:—

"The united evidence of messenger and porter seems to prove the existence of a parcels stamp, and their recognition of the impression in question must be allowed to be strong evidence in their favour.

"On the other hand, the extremely irregular manner

in which the eight specimens found were embossed—not in a row, but one here, one there, one upright, another on its side, and so on, so irregular that they could not have been cut into squares, and must have caused the porter considerable trouble to separate them—might certainly be urged against the identification of these impressions with the parcel stamp."

In his next sentence, however, Professor Napier touches the vital spot in the whole story:—

"Moreover," he says, "seeing that the college authorities had a special embossed die for franking purposes (Type I) it is difficult to see why that was not employed in preference to a type in constant use as a college crest on paper and envelopes sold by the stationers to any purchasers."

In Mr. Turner's account of their "genesis" referred to above, he had perhaps Professor Napier's remarks in mind, since he was writing two years later, and he states:—

"Owing to the impressions having been hand-stamped by a local stationer, their uneven appearance will not convey surprise—the wonder is that one or two were not inverted."

As to all this it may be said it is certainly remarkable that there should be no record of such an issue if ordered by the college authorities in 1877. No record of the number supplied or from whom obtained.

What evidence is there that they were "hand-stamped by a local stationer?" and if so, why?

If they were an authorised issue would not Messrs. Spiers, who supplied the college stamps in 1876 and did again in 1879, have been requisitioned? or if a die were needed for their embossing there was Type I in existence ready for the purpose, and then we should have had a record of the number prepared and the date thereof.

Again, if used at all and by authority, why only for a year? The need for them would certainly not grow less, and there might have been a second and a third (?) printing before the end of 1885.

The whole story bears improbability on the face of it; but the question has been set at rest by enquiries made and evidence brought to light since the foregoing was written, and the very existence of a "parcel stamp" is proved to be a myth—its romantic history will not bear the probe of strict enquiry.

Fortunately for the truth, the control and issue of the Keble stamps was for thirteen years in the hands of one man, Sir Walter Gray, who, if a parcel stamp had been determined upon, would have ordered its preparation and issued it for use.

He is perfectly sure that no such stamp was ever obtained, and that if one had been ordered it would certainly have been from the official die, Type I, properly prepared and perforated, and not a design used by any and every stationer in Oxford, and not the property of the college.

But when we come to the college "messenger," still more definite evidence is forthcoming

Who the *former* college messenger, referred to p. 32, can have been it is difficult to know.

The first messenger at Keble was John Waite, 1870–71 ; then William Keep from 1872 to Easter, 1873. He was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Bunce, who retained the office for nearly thirteen years, until the summer of 1885.

Mr. Bunce is still alive, highly respected by all who know him, in health and vigour, and not likely to make a mistake with regard to his Keble memories. He remembers a circumstance, upon a misdescription of which the story related by Mr. J. R. Turner probably rests.

The Bursar at the time was J. A. Shaw-Stewart, Esq. (he held office from 1876–1880), who met him, the college messenger, in the town near St. John's College, carrying his usual load—books in one arm, parcels of clothes on the other, a leathern wallet for letters from the Post Office suspended from his shoulder, thirteen or fourteen oil cans, through the handles of which a cord was passed hanging over his back ; and the Bursar wishing to speak to him seemed annoyed that he should be obliged to unload his cans to the pavement in order to hear what he had to say.

All these various commodities—books, parcels,

oil cans—were franked each by a half-penny stamp. From that time forward, however, we must presume as a result of this *rencontre* the charges were by order increased, for one book was charged a half-penny, three books twopence, a parcel of clothes twopence, but still there was *no parcel stamp.*

The *modus operandi* was that for a half-penny parcel the porter tore up one stamp, for a twopenny parcel he tore up four, and charged the owners accordingly.

The college messenger kept his book of account, and at every one of his seven daily rounds for delivery of letters it was his duty to count the number he had to carry and report to the porter, and he and the porter every night tallied the number of unstamped letters and parcels with the stock of stamps in the porter's hands.

Mr. Bunce, who performed this duty daily for thirteen years, declares (1) that there never was a special parcel stamp in use, and further (2) that embossed impressions of the *gummed paper local stationer* type were never used at all at Keble, either for parcels or anything else.

Mr. Bunce informed me himself that he collected the college letters daily for delivery in the city at 8 and 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2.45, 6, 7.45, and 9 p m., and it may incidentally be noted, as showing the considerable growth of the college correspondence, that

in 1871 there were some thirty-five students in the college; in 1883 or 1884 the number had increased to over 130. The college messenger had to perform the same duties seven times a day for the 130 as formerly he did for the thirty-five, and on one occasion he kept a record for a fortnight, not only of the college letters and parcels he delivered daily in the city, but also of those he fetched from the Post Office and delivered in the college; the number of the former was between 800 and 900, and of the latter 2300.

Proof Impressions.

It is remarkable that so few proof sheets of the college issues exist. With the exception of Lincoln College the Kebles now to be described are the only ones known. Proofs or trial impressions seem to have been destroyed or lost as soon as each printing was over.

There are in existence, however, several pairs of Keble stamps which appear to be genuine proofs or colour trial impressions, rouletted. They have the college die, Type I, embossed on thin surface coloured paper, bright crimson.

A pair in my own possession have the impressions somewhat irregular, as is also the size of the two stamps, the left one being 22½ mm. by 27 mm. in size,

and the right one 25mm. by 26mm., rouletted eight all round, and without gum. In the collection of the Earl of Crawford there are a pair in each of three colours, crimson, light green, and dark blue.

No college stamps were ever issued with rouletted edges, and this alone is sufficient to draw attention to these impressions, which moreover differ in every other detail, paper, colour, size, from the regular Keble issues.

It is impossible to give them any date. No one of the authorities at Keble College has any knowledge of such a pattern being submitted, but as to this it is only necessary to remember that very little attention was given to any minor points as regards the stamps ordered ; the essentials being that they were to be the College die on coloured paper, and hence we have three different colours for the first three Keble issues.

Messrs. Emberlin had no perforating machine. Their workman remembers that they did not produce the embossed series, 1870 to 1876, but it is a strange coincidence that there *is* a recollection of some "red stamps"; while the rouletting wheel in their workroom in use at that time, which by the courtesy of Messrs. Emberlin, we have examined together, and compared with the stamps, is such as would produce exactly the roulette found on these pairs described here.

Merton College, 1876.

AT a Merton College meeting on October 26th, 1876, it was resolved "that stamps and stamp cards be adopted for messages."

These must have been prepared immediately, as they were issued in the latter part of the same year, 1876, and with one exception (to be noted) all the Merton stamps were supplied by Messrs. Emberlin and Sons.

TYPE I.—No. 1.

The design is a shield with the college arms in a circular band, with the words COLL. MERTON, *embossed on bright Royal blue surfaced paper, rectangular in shape. They were produced in vertical strips of thirteen stamps, very roughly perforated across, twelve and a half; so that each stamp appears imperforate at sides, perforation twelve and a half top and bottom.* (Illustration, p. 45.)

The width of the paper strips varied considerably, some measuring only 17 m.m. in width and others gauge as much as 22 m.m.

Professor Napier places this stamp as the first to be issued since he had one early in 1877.

In 1894 I acquired from him a complete made up strip of thirteen, formed of two strips of five and one of three stamps, showing the terminal perforation and margin at top and bottom.

I have also one on the original envelope addressed to T. and G. Mallam, High Street, Oxford, which contained a letter from Jas. C. Vernon, dated 17th May, 1877. There is a copy of this stamp on the original envelope in the Tapling Collection.

TYPE I.—No. 2.

(a) *The same design and die, but embossed on paper very much lighter, almost a milky blue, with clean-cut perforations twelve. This like the former issue was stamped in vertical strips from* 18 *m.m. to* 21 *m.m. in width, all the perfect copies known being imperforate at the sides and perforated twelve top and bottom.* (Illustration, p. 45.)

Professor Napier, in 1893, had seen one on an envelope dated November 30th, 1880.

In my own collection are several on the original envelopes, one with date May 30th, 1881, and I have one on a pencilled note from J. S. Redmayne, folded and addressed to J. Richards, 104, High Street, Oxford, and dated November 23rd, 1880.

It is somewhat singular that while very few complete and perfectly whole stamps of this issue are to be found, there should be a comparatively large number used on original envelopes consisting of the central embossed arms only.

Judging by appearances the paper used for this issue seems to have a hard and brittle texture, and wherever the die has pressed heavily or unevenly the central portion probably became cracked and separated from its outer rectangular setting, and the sender has used the circular college arms on his letter as being the essential part of the stamp.

I have seen an envelope with the circular stamp addressed to P. E. Raynor, Esq., New College, and the Rev. P. E. Raynor informs me that it covered a note from an undergraduate, J. S. O. Tombs, who was at Merton from 1876–1879.

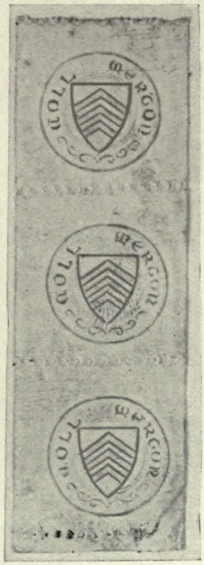
The Earl of Crawford has one of these on entire, addressed to Mr. Bacon, and endorsed 30th November, 1880.

I have one such dated 25th April, 1879, addressed to Messrs. Plaister, High Street, Oxford, and another on original, date May 30th, 1881.

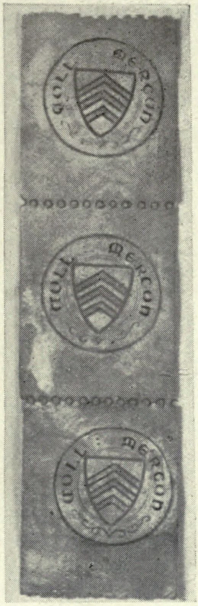
(b) *There is another printing of this stamp, of which no mention has been made in any of the lists of college stamps yet published. It is the same as* (a) *in design in all respects, clean cut perforation twelve, produced in vertical strips, but on very dark blue paper; the perforation and colour mark it as quite distinct from No. 1.*

I have one used on the original envelope, and this must have been the top stamp of a strip, as it is perforated only at the bottom.

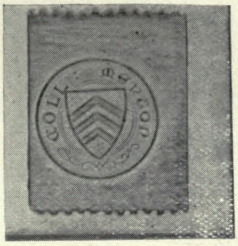
There is also in my collection a strip of three of these, unused (illustration, p. 45). The lower stamp



TYPE I.—NO. 1.
Bright Blue.



TYPE II.—NO. 2*b*.
Very Dark Blue.



TYPE I.—NO. 2*a*.
Milky Blue

of the strip shows quite clearly a double impression of the design, where the die has struck it twice.

A curious history belongs to this. One of the college servants, who was sent out to close some window shutters on a wet and windy evening, saw a piece of paper flutter to the ground from the shutter, and picked it up. Returning to the porter's lodge, he found it to be the college arms on blue paper, and parted with it for a trifling consideration to a friend, who sold it for something larger to another, and thus it passed on at an ever increasing price through several collectors' hands without being recognised as an hitherto unknown variety of Type I.

I esteem this as one of the most rare and valuable examples in my collection, which contains on the entire envelope, as described above, the only other copy known.

TYPE II.—No. 3.

The college arms, on dark blue surfaced paper, perfectly distinct in its characteristics from any of the preceding issues. The colour is a very dark shade of blue, and the impressions were placed on strips held horizontally, which causes the perforations to occur at the sides, while the top and bottom are imperforate. The perforations are clean cut, twelve, and the breadth of the strip 23 *m.m. The differences in the die itself consist in the letters of the inscription being larger. The width of the* "O" *in* "MERTON" *as well as in* "COLL." *is greater than its height, while in Type I the* "O" *is of the normal oval shape. The right corner of the shield points to the* "E" *of* "MERTON," *instead of between the* "E" *and* "R" *as in Type I, and the lower part of the shield extends further down than in Type I.* (Illustration, p. 49.)

There was a very fine specimen of this stamp in the collection made by Mr. J. R. F. Turner, on an envelope addressed to Messrs. F. and H. Bacon, 31, Broad Street, Oxford, and with the date 19th January, 1883. This is now in the collection of the Earl of Crawford.

Writing in April, 1894, in a paper on "Oxford University Emissions" in the *London Philatelist*, No. 28, Mr. Turner refers to this stamp, thus :—

"About a year ago the leading and oldest established firm of accountants in this city very kindly allowed me access to their private correspondence between the years 1871—1885, when, after a patient search extending over fifteen hours, I brought to light specimens of most of the adhesives used on the original envelopes, each envelope having been dated the day it was received by the firm in question.

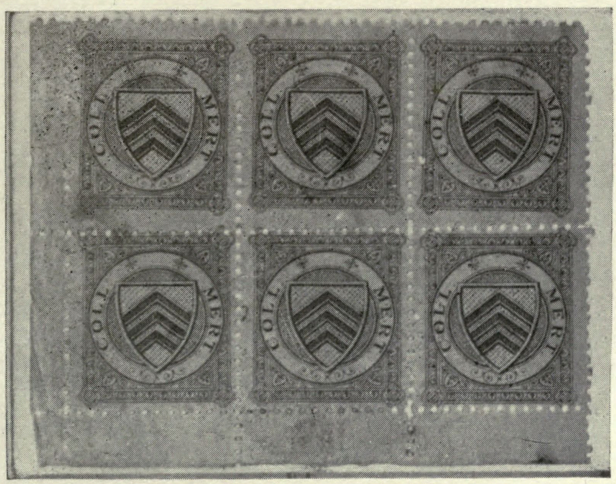
"The find . . . included several stamps whose existence had been forgotten, one of them being a copy of the Merton adhesive (this Type, No. 3) which so far seems to be unique."

His find on that occasion he states to be about forty in number, and this stamp (illustration, p. 49) is no doubt one of the rarest of the college issues, but I have heard of four other copies besides that named by Mr. Turner, and have seen two of them.

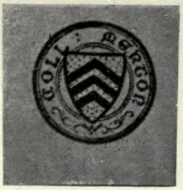
One, a very beautiful example in most brilliant condition is in my own collection. It is on a letter dated 6th June, 1881, addressed to T. and G. Mallam, 126, High Street, Oxford.



TYPE II.—No. 3.



TYPE III.—No. 4.



ENVELOPE DIE.—No. 5.

Another, with part gum, I have seen, which has evidently been removed from the envelope. It is in possession of Captain E. A. Warry, and was sent to his brother, W. T. E. Warry-Stone, Esq., an undergraduate between 1879 and 1883.

In a very interesting paper on college issues in the *Phil. Supp. Bazaar*, April 8th, 1895, commenting on the rarity of this stamp, Mr. Turner remarks that "the issue of the mauve lithographed stamp was on January 29th, 1883," just ten days after the date of his used copy of this No. 3, and he thinks it

"highly probable that pending the arrival of the mauve stamp, this variety was issued provisionally for a few days at the commencement of Hilary Term, which usually begins about the third week in January."

And he goes on to say :—

"This while seeming to be a very reasonable solution of the mystery surrounding its appearance, would also help to explain its excessive rarity."

The existence of another copy on an envelope dated 6th June, 1881, disposes of any such explanation; while Captain Warry's specimen and the others known to be extant, bring the variety of this type into the second rank compared with the previous stamp—Type II., No. 2 *b*—of which only four have survived.

The last supply of embossed blue stamps from Messrs. Emberlin was on October 18th, 1882, and these were either No. 2 *a* or *b*.

Whence then came these from a different die? stamped in a different manner, of which but five copies are known and only two on original envelopes remain, with dates so wide apart as June, 1881, and January, 1883.

A careful measurement of the copies I have examined reveal the possibility of their having been taken from the same strip, for, though not precisely the same width, the variation is too slight to enable us to say that these were from different strips.

This is the mystery surrounding this strange die, of which no solution is at present possible. It must be left so. Two points are clear: they were not supplied by Messrs. Emberlin or produced from the Emberlin die, Type I.

TYPE III.—No. 4.

College arms in a circular band, with inscription, "COLL. MERT.," *upon a rectangular frame filled with ornamental background, lithographed in bright mauve. Issued in sheets of forty-eight stamps, each containing two panes of four by six stamps; perforated twelve. Price one half-penny.* (Illustration, p. 49.)

One thousand sheets were supplied by Messrs. Emberlin & Son, January 29th, 1883.

With a supply of 48,000 stamps, and only a three years existence, it would be reasonable to expect that there would be a large remainder, and that specimens of this mauve stamp would be fairly common.

This, however, is not the case—pairs and blocks unused are extremely rare; single copies are met with but seldom, and only three entire sheets are known to exist.

One entire sheet, in mint condition, in my own collection I was fortunate enough to secure at a London stamp auction on January 15th, 1894. Another sheet is in the Earl of Crawford's collection.

Used copies of the lithographed stamp are not common. I have five, one of which is addressed to Professor Napier, and dated by him January 1886, which is just the date of their suppression by the Post Office Department.

The Earl of Crawford has one on the entire envelope addressed to Mr. Bacon and endorsed 22nd October, 1884.

Envelope.

No. 5.

White laid paper, $4\frac{3}{4}$ *in. by* $2\frac{5}{8}$ *in. The college arms die, Type I. Embossed in dark blue on top right corner.* (illustration, p. 49.)

This envelope, of which three only are known, constitutes one of the rarities of college issues.

No record is to be found of its origin or by whom supplied. The die is Type I, that from which Messrs. Emberlin struck the first issue of embossed stamps.

The resolution at the college meeting in 1876 was to provide "stamps and stamp cards." *Some* envelopes must have been sent in, if only as samples, for Professor Napier mentions (1893) his possession of one, which he obtained in 1877 from the college.

Another which I have seen is addressed to Falconer Madan, Esq, B.N.C., and it is dated April 23rd, 1879, and this is a most interesting record of its use.

The Earl of Crawford has a proof impression of this die in black.

Post Card.

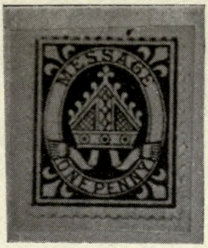
No. 6.

White card, 4½ in. by 3 in. The college arms embossed from same die as the envelope, No. 5, in dark blue on centre of the upper portion of the card.

They are found in two thicknesses of card, and appear to have been in general use as message or requisition cards without formal address, right up to the time of the interference of the Postal Authorities.

Mr. Turner (in *Phil. Supp. Bazaar*, April 8th, 1895) gives particulars of two used for ordering tobacco, dated respectively February 4th, 1883, and June 6th, 1885.

All the Merton issues, embossed and lithographed, were alike sold at one half-penny each.



Lincoln College, 1877.

The design is a bishop's mitre in oval band, with the word "MESSAGE" *in upper and* "ONE PENNY" *in the lower curve, with fleurs-des-lis as corner ornaments, the whole enclosed in rectangular frame, printed from a steel plate in varying shades of blue on white and creamy paper, perforations fourteen. Each sheet contains thirty stamps, five rows of six.*

The Lincoln College stamp is the only one of its kind in that it carries by way of inscription its purpose and price on its face, "Message," "One Penny."

They were supplied by Mr. A. Wyon, Regent Street, London, by whom the design and steel plate was engraved.

There were four printings, which can easily be distinguished by their shades of colour.

The stamps in the darkest tint were the first printed on a creamy Paper, compared with which

the paper of the later printings is whiter; and each successive printing is lighter in colour than the preceding one.

3000	were	supplied	June, 1877.
5000	„	„	November, 1878.
5000	„	„	June 8th, 1882.
5000	„	„	February 15th, 1884.

In unused condition, the earlier printings are fairly scarce; a few pairs and singles are all that are usually seen in collections, and only three sheets in mint condition are known. Of these, one is in the Earl of Crawford's collection, one in my own, and one of the fourth printing, the lightest shade, is in the Bodleian Library collection, presented recently by Dr. Merry, the Rector of Lincoln College.

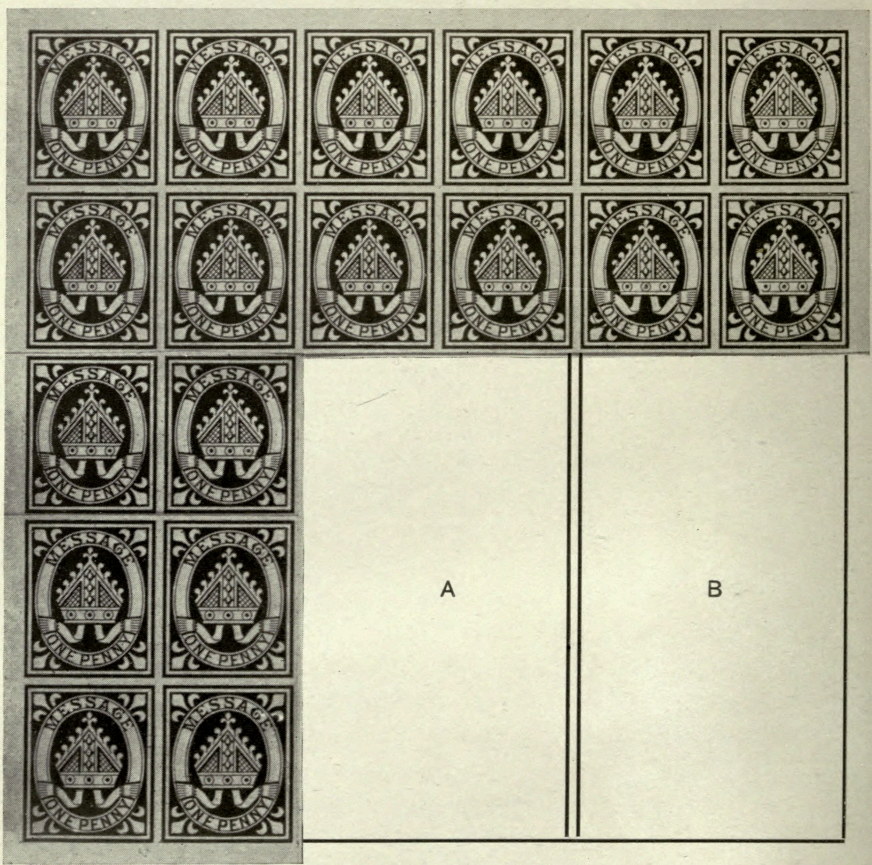
The mode of obliteration adopted at Lincoln was a rough pencil mark or rubbing, which appears to have been very generally used; it occurs on most of the stamped envelopes and covers that I have seen.

I have three copies on original envelopes, two addressed to the Proctors in the Vice Chancellor's Court, and one to Mrs. Moseley, High Street, Oxford.

In the collection of Falconer Madan, Esq., is one on an envelope addressed to him at Brasenose, endorsed "From Mark Pattison," June 3rd or 11th, 1878. The Earl of Crawford has one addressed to M. G. S. Evens, High Street, endorsed "18 June, '78."

LINCOLN COLLEGE.

From the "Original Proof Sheet."



Proof Sheets.

In 1893, when members of the Oxford Philatelic Society were eagerly making enquiry respecting college stamps, several applications were made to Mr. Wyon, the engraver of the die and plate, as to any proof sheets that might possibly be found among their old books. As the result of the consequent search, several were found (*a*) in black, (*b*) in blue.

(a) *The original proof sheet, was printed in deep black upon thick cartridge paper.* (Illustration, p. 58.)

This proof sheet was shown to me by Mr. Wyon early in October, 1893, a few days before he sold it to Lieut. G. F. Napier, at that time an ardent seeker after the college issues.

Subsequently, a little more than a year later, on December 12th, 1894, when Lieut. Napier's collection of college stamps was sold at auction by Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, this rarity was described in the catalogue :—

"Lot 64. The original proof sheet struck by the printers in black, on cartridge paper, 30 stamps. Unique. Reserve, £12."

It came into my possession at that price.

I afterwards cut from it the twelve lower stamps on the right, in two blocks of six each, that indicated by the letter A in the illustration for W. Alder Ridley, Esq., the block B went to Mr. J. R. Turner,

and the remainder of the sheet is still in my possession. There never was any other proof sheet in black.

The lower four of the six stamps B are now in the collection of the Earl of Crawford, leaving the top pair still with Mr. Turner ; and quite recently Mr. Alder-Ridley informed me that his block of Lincoln proofs was among a large and valuable lot of stamps of which he was defrauded by a man who was afterwards convicted at Southampton for stamp swindling.

The original steel plate of the Lincoln stamps is in the possession of the college, where by the courtesy of the Rector I have seen it.

(b) *Proofs in blue, several shades, on thin hard paper.*

Although the college authorities appear never to have seen the proof sheet in black, proofs in blue seem to have been submitted to the college, and to be remembered by its members.

Of these, however, none came to light until 1893, when during a search at the engraver's several sheets were found in the firm's old pattern books.

Among these there are at least three shades of colour for which it is difficult to account, unless they are proofs of the different printings from 1877 to 1884, and although this is not impossible it is scarcely probable.

In a paper in the *Phil. Supp. Bazaar*, April, 1895, the writer is satisfied that they were printed after 1893, and goes to considerable trouble to discuss their colour and measurements.

Having had the opportunity of comparing the whole of the sheets, I am able to set all doubts at rest, and to quote the evidence of Mr. Wyon, the engraver, in a letter received from him November 8th, 1893, in which he distinctly states that he found them "whilst looking through a bundle of old patterns."

The same expression, "found amongst some old patterns," occurs in a letter from Mr. Wyon to another collector, who was fortunate enough to secure one of the sheets.

As the steel plate was in the possession of Mr. Wyon until it was returned to Lincoln College, no one else could have "faked, forged, or reprinted" these sheets, and the firm being quite above suspicion, the scare which was raised in 1893, with regard to "a number of unperforated sheets of Lincoln stamps having come into the market," had no foundation in fact, and was promptly withdrawn and contradicted by its author, whose letter of apology I have seen for myself.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, May 10th, 1894, contains an editorial paragraph to the effect that the originator of the scare was entirely misinformed.

It has been pointed out by experts in stamp production that the slight difference of 1 m.m. between some of the proof sheets and the sheets gummed and perforated and issued by the college, is accounted for by the shrinkage of the paper and the action of the gum upon the latter.

The college was probably supplied with one or more proofs in blue, which were returned to the printers as "approved."

The Earl of Crawford has two sheets, the first that sent to Mr. J. R. Turner by Mr. Wyon in 1893 (this is a very dark shade of blue); the second is a sheet sent to Alder Ridley, Esq., and obtained from him by Mr. Turner, from whom it came to its present owner, and this is somewhat different in colour and measures 1 m.m. more in the width of the imprint.

In my own collection I have three sheets, two obtained from the engraver direct, and one from a friend who secured one. These also differ in colour, one being exactly the same as No. 2 in the Crawford collection, and the others in a lighter blue. Another sheet of these was cut up and dispersed in pairs and strips among collectors. Thus every one of the proof sheets in blue are accounted for satisfactorily.

If a reason is sought for the difference of 1 m.m. in the width and height of some of these sheets, one solution manifestly only suggests a different make

of paper, or a greater or less amount of moisture in the process of printing, which are matters that affect very considerably the measurements of panes and sheets, and sometimes alter the dimensions of even single stamps to a greater extent than 1 m.m.

Hertford College, 1875.

A STUDY of these issues occasions a great surprise that so small a college should have had such a stock of stamps and stamped stationery, and made so very little use of it.

15,000 stamps, 14,000 envelopes, and 1,000 post cards are known to have been supplied, face value £122. 18*s.* 4*d.*; and first to last, the value of those sold (and presumably used) totals up to £19. 12*s.* 0*d.*!

The idea of adopting stamps seems to have occurred to the college authorities in 1875, as appears from a record in the college minutes of July 10th of that year: "The Bursar was instructed to make enquiries as to the working of the system of stamps at Keble."

In December, 1875, 15,000 adhesives were supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Son, but though these were paid for by the college early in 1876, there is

evidence that they did not come into circulation until after the stamped envelopes issued in 1879, perhaps even as late as 1882.

It may have been that there was a divided opinion in the college as to the desirability of using stamps at all, if so it accounts for the curious circumstance that with 15,000 adhesive stamps in hand, stamped envelopes were obtained and came into use first.

Envelopes.

TYPE I.—No. 1.

College arms in oval band, containing inscription, "HERTFORD COLLEGE," *embossed in mauve (varying shades) in right upper corner.* (Illustration, p. 68.)

7000 of these were supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Son in January, 1876. Four sizes were issued:—

		Numbers
Square envelopes ...	$4\frac{5}{8}$in. by $3\frac{3}{4}$in. ...	1000
Small square envelopes	$4\frac{3}{4}$in. „ $2\frac{3}{4}$in. ...	1000
Oblong envelopes ...	$3\frac{5}{8}$in. „ $2\frac{7}{8}$in. ...	3000
Small oblong envelopes	$4\frac{1}{4}$in. „ $2\frac{3}{8}$in. ...	2000

The square envelopes are on cream white rough laid paper, watermarked, "ANTIENT LAID POST," A. P. & S. (Alexander Pirie and Son). The oblong shapes are white laid smooth paper, and all have the maker's name stamped under the flap.

The large oblong is found with the words "COLLEGE NOTICE" printed across the upper por-

tion, which perhaps accounts for the large number of 3000 of that shape.

TYPE I.—No. 2.

College arms, same as last, embossed in upper right corner in blue (varying shades), on rough laid paper, with watermark same as that used for the square types of 1876, but without the maker's name under the flap.

These blue embossed envelopes were supplied in 1879 in the four sizes and same quantities as the previous issue, 7000 in all.

There is nothing to show that any college stamps or stamped envelopes were used prior to 1879. The evidence is quite the other way, and it is more than difficult to understand why these should have been ordered, with 7,000 envelopes and 15,000 stamps already in hand.

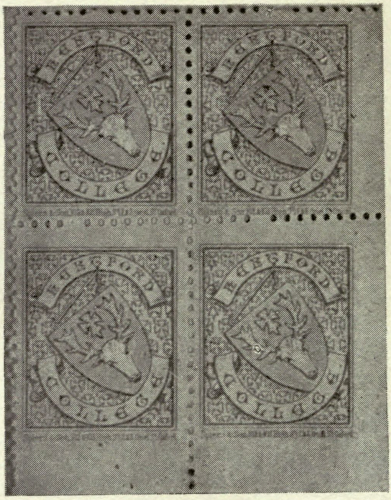
Professor Napier (*Monthly Journal*, December, 1893) gives a possible, perhaps the only possible explanation. It may have been that the earlier issue of 1876 had been mislaid or forgotten, and being subsequently found, were used up side by side with the second issue. It agrees with the statement that one of the Fellows of the college remembers that the envelopes were first used in 1879.

I have seen an envelope with the blue stamp used, and addressed to Frank Plummer.

HERTFORD COLLEGE.



TYPE I.—ENVELOPES.



TYPE II.—NO. 3.

Adhesives.

TYPE II.—No. 3.

College arms on a shield, diagonally suspended, with circular band above and below, inscribed, "HERTFORD COLLEGE," *upon a background of small crosses, in rectangular frame, lithographed on white paper in mauve, perforations eleven and a half. Under each stamp is the imprint, Spiers & Son,* 102 *and* 103, *High St.,* 1, 2, *and* 3 *Oriel St., Oxford. The sheet contains thirty-five stamps, seven rows of five each.* (Illustration, p. 68.)

15,000 were ordered in the autumn of 1875.

It has been mentioned that in all probability these adhesive stamps were not in use until 1882, when the amount received from sale of stamps was eleven times greater than that received during the previous year, a circumstance to be accounted for perhaps by the issue of these mauve stamps.

The figures extracted from the college accounts by Mr. Turner in 1893 pointedly suggest such an explanation :—

In 1879,	sale of	stamps	realised	...	£0 10 4
„ 1880,	„	„	„	...	0 17 1
„ 1881,	„	„	„	...	0 6 3
„ 1882,	„	„	„	...	3 11 10
„ 1883,	„	„	„	...	6 8 3
„ 1884,	„	„	„	...	4 4 10
„ 1885,	„	„	„	...	3 13 5
					£19 12 0

None were sold before 1879, none after 1885, and the college messenger of the time asserted that the adhesive stamps were in use only in the later years of that period.

In the collection of the Earl of Crawford is the original wrapper in which the parcel of adhesives were sent to the college by Messrs. Spiers, and it bears one of the stamps on it, with a memorandum in blue pencil made by Mr. J. Howson, the college butler, who checked the number of the sheets. This memorandum is dated 24 Dec., 1875.

The remaining sheets are said to have been kept by Messrs. Spiers and Son imperforated and ungummed.

A few used copies, not more than three or four, on original envelopes have survived, but original entire sheets are very scarce. They are in well-known collections, as are also the three imperforated sheets.

Mr. J. R. Turner, from whom those in my collection and that of the Earl of Crawford came, accounts for their scarcity by mentioning that when extensive alterations were made in the college some years ago, the Bursary and other offices were pulled down, and whatever stock of stamps and envelopes remained were destroyed.

There is reason to believe, however, that a large number of envelopes leaked out of the stock at that time.

That very little care or supervision over them was exercised, is brought out by the narrative in the "*Philatelist's Supplement*," June 10th, 1895, that about 1891 or 1892, on the occasion of a college servants' ball, the invitations were sent out in the blue embossed envelopes.

A college servant into whose hands they had fallen is credited with using them in the ordinary way of correspondence, taking care to place his postage stamp immediately over the embossed impression.

However this may be, a fair number of them found their way into the hands of a collector, and thence into the collections of those interested in the college issues.

The original copper plate of the adhesive was defaced in 1898 (see page 87).

Post Card.

No. 4.

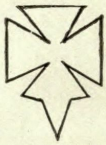
College arms, Type I, embossed in blue in upper right corner of white card, 4½in. by 3in. Price, one halfpenny. (Illustration, p. 68.)

They were supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Sons, and apparently only one lot of 1000 was sent in, in 1879.

A few unused examples of this card exist, but I have never heard of a used copy.

Obliteration.

Hertford is one of the two colleges that had a special stamp for obliteration. It is an outlined cross *patée fitchée.*



In a very interesting paper in the *London Philatelist*, May, 1894, p. 130, it is stated that "it was regularly employed during the whole of the time the Hertford stamps were in use, and yet only one copy postmarked in this manner is known to exist, and that rests at present in the official collection in the Bodleian Library."—*Phil. Supp.*, June, 1895.

The same writer mentions that the college messenger intimated that he had orders to cancel only the adhesives, not the embossed envelopes.

If the obliterating stamp was used for two years, it is difficult to account for only one such specimen remaining.

This very fine example of the Hertford obliterating stamp referred to above as the only one known, was found by a young friend of my own among the records and correspondence of the proctors in the Vice-Chancellor's Court, in my presence. It is on a

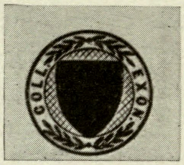
long, blue foolscap envelope, and addressed to Rev. G. S. Ward, Fellows' Lodgings, Hertford College.

The fortunate finder exchanged it away to Mr. J. R. Turner, but it is quite incorrect to say that it is in the Bodleian collection, which I examined quite recently, and the Librarian informed me that no such stamp or envelope had ever been offered to or received by him.

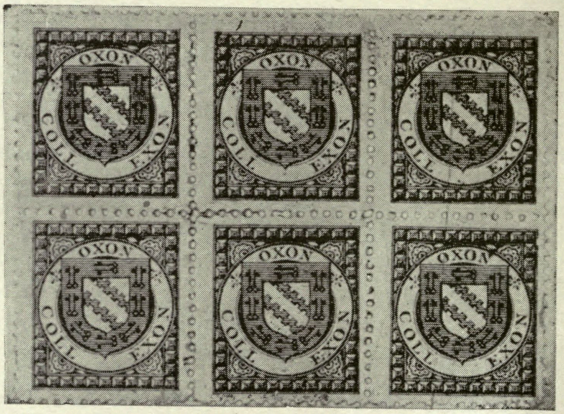
Since then, looking over the collection of the Earl of Crawford, I saw and recognized in a moment the blue envelope and its address, with the stamp officially obliterated, as valuable as it is unique.

In the Tapling collection there is an impression in violet ink from the cancelling stamp used at the college, presented by Mr. J. R. F. Turner, March 20th, 1894.

EXETER COLLEGE.



Type II.



Type I.

Exeter College, 1882.

TYPE I.

College arms in shield, enclosed in circular band inscribed "COLL. EXON. OXON." *upon a back ground and rectangular frame, lithographed in salmon red (shades), on white paper, perforations twelve. The sheet contained ninety-six stamps, eight rows of twelve each. Price, one halfpenny,* (Illustration, p. 74.)

500 sheets were supplied by Messrs. Emberlin and Son, November 11th, 1882.

Used copies are not very plentiful, but among my originals is one of great interest; it is an Exeter College Battels account, dated February 11th, 1886, addressed to Professor Napier, at 1, Broad Street, franked with an Exeter stamp and obliterated with an E with a — through it in pencil. I bought this at a London Auction in 1894. I have another, dated June 21st, 1886, from A. H. Barker to Messrs. Shrimpton and Co., Broad Street.

These are interesting evidence of the late use of stamps in some of the colleges. The first term of 1886 was the limit of time placed by the Postmaster General, so that June 21st, 1886, is in all probability the very latest date of the use of any college stamp.

Of the sheets of originals in mint condition not more than six remain to the present day. One is in the Crawford Collection, one in my own, and Mr. F. A. Bellamy, of Oxford, has one.

The copper plate of this issue was defaced with others in 1898 (see page 87).

Post Card.

TYPE II.

College arms in a shield, upon a circular band bearing inscription "COLL. EXON," *embossed from steel die in bright red in the middle of the top of white card,* 4½ *in. by* 3 *in. Price, one halfpenny.* (Illustration, p. 74.)

This was supplied by Messrs. Emberlin and Son, but at what date, or in what quantities is unknown. There may have been more than one lot sent in, as among the few examples in the hands of collectors, there are slight differences both in texture of the card and colour of the embossed stamp.

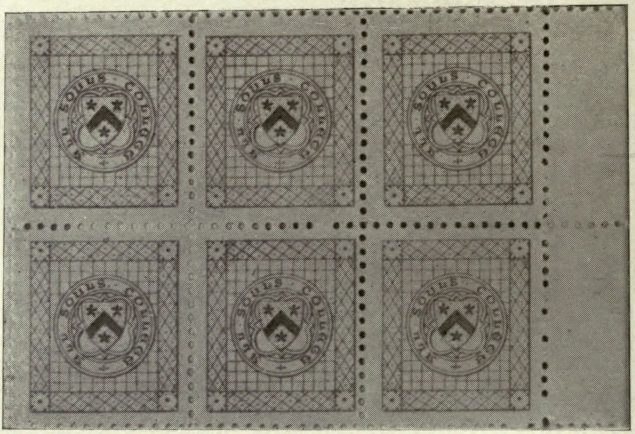
The Earl of Crawford has one used, dated July 5th, 1883, addressed to Mr. Wright.

The card was in use as late as 1885, and those remaining after the suppression of the college issues, are said to have been used up in ordinary correspondence.

Not more than ten or twelve specimens are known at the present day.

The Exeter obliteration was usually a pen or pencil stroke. I have copies on originals with an H, and also with pencilled initials (probably those of the college messenger).

ALL SOULS' COLLEGE.



All Souls' College, 1884.

College arms in a shield upon a circular band, which contains the words "ALL SOULS' COLLEGE" *on a back ground of crossed lines, in a rectangular frame. Lithographed in ultramarine on white paper, perforations eleven and a half. The sheet contained forty stamps, eight rows of five, and were supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Son, who sent in but one consignment of 15,000 on January 26th, 1884.* (Illustration, p. 78.)

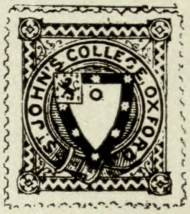
With a stock of 15,000 stamps in 1884 it is not wonderful that there should have been a large remainder left over in 1886. By the courtesy of the authorities I was permitted to examine these sheets in 1894, and to acquire several of more than passing interest, among them a sheet in which the perforating machine had missed the proper line, and passed over the middle of the row of stamps next below.

This sheet I afterwards parted with in exchange to Mr. J. R. Turner, by whom it is mentioned in his reference to these, as unique in connection with college stamps.

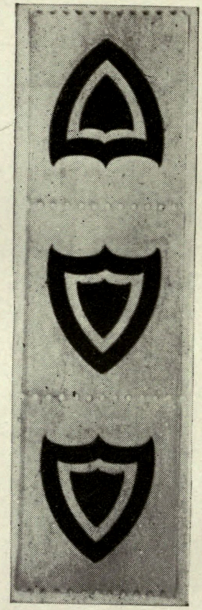
Of used copies, as might be expected, only one or two are known. I have heard that since 1896 the remaining sheets have been destroyed. The original copper plate was defaced with others in 1898 (p. 87).

Perhaps it was owing to the late date at which the college determined upon the use of stamps that only adhesives were supplied; for neither envelopes nor cards appear to have been ordered.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.



BALLIOL COLLEGE.



Showing tête bêche.

St. John's College, 1884.

College arms in a shield, surrounded by a circular band, inscribed "ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD," *in a rectangular frame and background, lithographed in a light slaty blue on white paper, perforated twelve. The sheets were printed containing ninety-six stamps, but were divided in half before delivery by the printers: the half sheet thus produced has forty-eight stamps, eight rows of six. They were prepared by Messrs. Emberlin and Son, who supplied* 1000 *sheets on January* 19*th*, 1884. (Illustration, p. 82.)

Until quite recently it was not difficult to obtain St. John's College stamps, of which there must have been a large number left over, but enquiry now elicits the information that there are none remaining. Most of the fairly good collections have one or more half sheets of these in mint condition.

A few years ago, a very active member of the college who had opportunities of obtaining a supply, used to distribute them liberally to his choir boys and others, who were perpetually making request for the college stamps.

Used copies on letters, obliterated with pencil rubbing, are met with now and then, but the majority of the specimens one sees are singles and pairs in unused condition.

Among the original envelopes with St. John's stamps in my collection, one is addressed to H. Bacon, and endorsed with the date 24 April, 1885. Another to Foster and Co., High Street, endorsed 1885, from J. S. Browne; and a third directed to J. T. A. Haines, University College.

The original copper plate is one of the six defaced in 1898 (p. 87).

Balliol College, 1885.

A double shield embossed in red on plain white paper, perforated at top and bottom only, eleven and a half. These were produced in strips (same way as Merton, Type I and II) of seventeen, but from the irregular placing of the impressions, it is evident they were done by hand, and that after printing three, four, or five stamps on one end of the strip, it was turned end for end and impressed the reverse way, the effect being that every strip contained two stamps tête bêche, usually in or near the middle of the strip. (Illustration, p. 82.)

These stamps were prepared and delivered to the College in 1885, but the interference of the Postal Authorities at that time prevented their issue or use in any way.

The Earl of Crawford has a strip of seventeen ; and there is in the Tapling collection in the British Museum a strip of seven, presented by Professor A. S. Napier, December 14th, 1893.

Corpus Christi College, 1885.

It is not generally known that a die for this college was prepared in 1885, which for the like reason was never put into use.

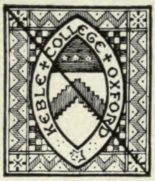
Original Copper Plates and Dies.

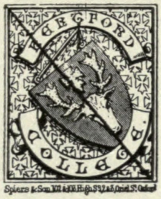
IT would not be well to close this record of the Oxford College Stamps without a reference to the original plates and dies, especially as collectors generally have supposed, from a statement in a philatelic journal as far back as June, 1895, that they had been presented to the Bodleian Library, and were there in safe keeping.

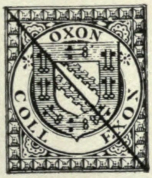
The copper plates of the six types here shown (p. 87) were in the possession of Messrs. Spiers and Son until 1897, when they passed into the possession of Mr. J. R. Turner, of Oxford. Having shown them with his collection of college stamps in the exhibition of the London Philatelic Society, 1897, he eventually had them defaced in an effectual manner, which in no way destroys the original design.

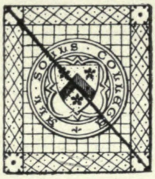
The Keble (Spiers, Type II, No. 5), the Hertford, and All Souls', call for little remark, they were all supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Sons. The Keble (Emberlin, Type III), Exeter, and St. John's were produced by Messrs. Emberlin, and it is a little curious how these should be in the possession of Messrs. Spiers and Son, who did not print or supply the stamps.













FROM DEFACED COPPER PLATES.

The steel dies of Exeter St. John's and Keble (Emberlin, Type III) were, in 1895, in the possession of Professor Napier.

Relying on what was written in 1895 by the owner of the first set, as to the Bodleian Library, I went there early in the present year, 1904, to see them, and found that none of them had been received ; it may be concluded, therefore, that they remain in possession of their respective owners.

The Merton die for the mauve adhesive, Type III, was either lost or destroyed, while the die, Type II, has never been discovered, nor the source from whence the stamps of this character were supplied.

There is a proof impression from all the six copper plates defaced in the Tapling Collection, presented by Mr. J. R. F. Turner.

It is a very satisfactory thing that these plates are defaced, and the dies enumerated, in safe keeping, for there can be no doubt that those who make English stamps their hobby, and especially old "Varsity" men, will decide that so far as they can procure them these stamps should have a place in their collection ; that they are increasingly difficult to obtain, especially on original envelopes, will only add zest to the search for them. Several books and albums are published which have special spaces allotted for college stamps, and they illustrate a curious anomaly in our postal system.

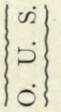
There may be a great find some day—not of sheets in mint condition, that is practically impossible, but of used copies on original envelopes, of which there must be many in Oxford, if only the old firms would allow a search among their letters of the seventies; but even then, there can never be enough to "go round."

One of the most interesting questions, remembering the very large supplies in several instances, and one to which a satisfactory answer is scarcely ever obtained, is, What became of the stamps left over at the time of their suppression, in the possession of the colleges?

I have asked many members of the University as to their college stamps, and only a few seem to have had sufficient interest in them to preserve copies, used or unused. A friend who was at Exeter College, looking over my collection, recognised the Exeter stamps. "Yes," said he, "I had a sheet of these and many loose ones lying about in my desk after I left Oxford, and as they seemed to be of no further use, I put them in the fire."

So, no doubt, many hundreds of college stamps have been accounted for.

Oxford Union Society.



It will be interesting, in connection with Oxford stamps, to gather up what is known as to overprinted stamps of the O. U. S.

This overprint of the Oxford Union Society, which celebrated its eightieth anniversary last year, is the only instance in which the Postal Authorities have ever permitted a surcharge on the face of Government stamps, for private use.

The permission given in 1857 or 8 was withdrawn in 1870, after which time the surcharge or overprint was made on the back of the stamp.

It consists of the letters O. U. S. between two wavy lines running up and down the stamp, and occurs on the following issues:—

1857. In red, on face of stamp, lines 2½ m.m. apart.
1870. In red, on back of stamp, lines 3½ m.m. apart, wide surcharge.
1870. In red, on back of stamp, lines 2½ m.m. apart, narrow surcharge.
1880. In carmine, on back of stamp, lines 2½ m.m. apart.
1881. In carmine, on back of stamp, lines 3½ m.m. apart.
1881. In violet, on back of stamp, lines 2½ m.m. apart.

The letters should read upwards, though it is by no means uncommon to find the surcharge inverted.

The first and last dates are stated by Mr. H. L. Ewen, in *Stamps and Postmarks*, to be 15th October, 1859, and 29th October, 1882, but I have seen copies bearing postmarks as late as 1885.

It will be seen that this overprint occurs on various issues of the penny stamp. It is found on the issue of:—

1857. 1*d.* red, stars, on face of stamp, in red.
1864. 1*d.* red, plate numbers, on face and back of stamp, in red; on the later issues in bright carmine.
1880. 1*d.* Venetian red, on back of stamp, in carmine.
1881. 1*d.* lilac, fourteen pearls, on back of stamp, in carmine.
1881. 1*d.* lilac, sixteen pearls, on back of stamp, in violet.

1857. 1*d.* red stamp with stars in upper corners. The O. U. S. on this is fairly common. I have original covers with it, ranging from November 12th, 1860, to May 22nd, 1866, and doubtless many collectors possess earlier and later dates than these.

1864, 1*d.* reds. It is known on the following plate numbers, on the face of the stamp, 71, 72, 74, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93,

95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 106, 110, 112, 113, 114, 117, 119, 125, 130, 133, 137, 139, 150, 156, 160, 205.

On the back of the stamp the surcharge occurs in both types, narrow and wide.

The narrow surcharge has been seen on the back of plate numbers 134, 174, 199, and 223.

The wide surcharge is more common and is found on back of plate numbers 107, 119, 124, 134, 136, 146, 150, 155, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166, 183, 197, 204, 205, 212, 213 (these last three with the surcharge reading downwards).

On the back of the 1880 Venetian red stamps, I have seen the surcharge on letters dated May 2nd, 1880, May 6th, and May 8th, 1881, and June 12th, 1881. I have one on original letter, June 2nd, 1881.

The 1881 lilac stamp, with fourteen dots, I have dated October 16th, 1881, and October 30th, 1881, on original envelopes.

The succeeding lilac stamp with sixteen dots I have seen on originals, date February 12th, 1882, April 22nd, 1882, May 28th, 1882, and I have original covers in my collection addressed to Messrs. T. and G. Mallam, under date respectively, June 2nd, 1881, and May 5th, 1885. This latter is a very late date, and covered a letter from an undergraduate at Merton.

There is curiously no record in the minutes or accounts of the Oxford Union Society of any order to a local or other firm for this overprinting, or of payment for the same, from which it might justly be inferred that the surcharge was placed on the stamp before leaving the Government Office; if this were so, we should expect to find the surcharge under the gum, and it may be this is the case in some of the earlier imprints, but in nearly every instance in which I have removed those printed at the back, from the envelope, the wetting of the gum has removed the surcharge from the stamp to the envelope, which would seem to prove that the surcharge was placed on the stamp *after* it had received the gum.

There is no record apparently in existence to assist us, nor is there any means of ascertaining when the use of the surcharge ceased. The year 1882 has been named, but the existence of an envelope with a postmark May 5th, 1885, proves clearly that they were so used up to that period.

That the Oxford Union Society should have been permitted so unique a privilege might appear singular, until one realizes that among the influential members of the Government, Cabinet Ministers were at every period to be found, who were life members of the Society; but it is more than strange that no record of such a permission can be found anywhere, and none of the actual performance of the work of printing.

The consumption of stamps must always have been heavy, of late years it has been enormous.

It is pretty well generally known that the Union Society stamps the letters of its subscribing members, and provides post cards and letter cards for their use.

The Steward, W. Gill, Esq., has most courteously supplied me with the figures for the year 1901.

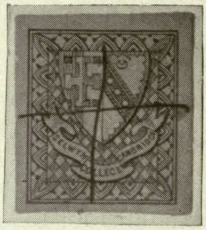
The period of stamping letters in each term is sixty-two days. In the one hundred and eighty-six days of the three terms of the academic year, the Union stamped and posted for its members 122,094 communications at a cost for stamps of £475. 19*s.*

No record is kept of the number of letters stamped by members and visitors for themselves, but taking the very moderate computation of fifty a day, the total comes out at 9,300.

Thus in the three terms the Union Society sent to post no less than 131,394 stamped communications.

They are indeed remarkable figures and a contrast to the number posted in vacation, *i.e.*, for the remainder of the year, which are estimated to be about 15,400.

SELWYN COLLEGE, 1882.



QUEEN'S COLLEGE, 1883.



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, 1883.



CAMBRIDGE.

AT this University only three colleges adopted stamps, and at a much later period than at the sister University, for it was not until 1882 that the idea, which had been suggested by the system in vogue at Keble College, took a practical shape, and then it was

Selwyn College

that was the first to issue a stamp, soon after it was opened, in 1882.

The college arms on shield, with foliated label at foot inscribed, "SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE," *upon a diapered background in rectangular frame, lithographed in black, upon a pink chalky surfaced paper, imperforate. The original sheets contained 480 stamps, but these were cut up into single copies by the printer, W. P. Spalding, of Cambridge, before delivery to the college; the paper was unwatermarked.* (Illustration, p. 96.)

In all the colleges adopting stamps, letters were delivered by messenger; and where stamps were not used, a charge was made at the end of term, for "delivery of letters."

The obliteration was made by pen stroke, as in the stamp illustrated here.

Queen's College, 1883.

A boar's head upon a cross and pastoral staff crossed, in rounded oval with labelled band top and bottom, containing the words, "QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE," *in a rectangular frame, lithographed in bright green upon thick white unwatermarked paper, perforated twelve. Price one halfpenny. This was designed from the college crest by the late E. Temperley, Esq., of the college, and was produced by W. P. Spalding, who printed the Selwyn stamps. The sheets contained ninety-six stamps, twelve by eight.* (Illustration, p. 96.)

It is very difficult to say what is the comparative rarity of these stamps. In 1894 they were scarce. At that time only two entire sheets were in collections, one of these being in the Tapling collection in the British Museum; and the largest block known to me is one of twenty-four in my own collection.

Pairs and singles are met with but seldom, and I have never seen a used copy.

St. John's College, 1883.

Rectangular frame, containing St. John's Eagle, upon ribbon label, inscribed "ST. JOHN'S COLL. MESSENGER." *Lithographed in vermilion on white unwatermarked paper. Perforated twelve. The design was taken from an old woodcut in Cooper's "Annals of Cambridge," by Mr. W. P. Spalding, who printed and supplied the stamps. There were ninety-six stamps in a sheet, eight rows of twelve, and the perforations are somewhat peculiar; they were made first horizontally, then vertically, the outer stamps on the sheet being left imperforate on the outer side.* (Illustration, p. 96).

Sheets of these, and large blocks, are not uncommon, owing to the late date at which they were issued. There was a large remainder, but used copies on entire envelopes are extremely scarce.

At the commencement of the Michaelmas Term in 1885, the Postal Authorities prohibited both the use of the stamps and the system of messengers, but allowed them to continue to the end of that term, as much confusion would naturally have ensued upon an absolutely sudden cessation of what was becoming an established custom.

An obliging correspondent in Cambridge informed me in 1893, that during the few years previous to his writing, a Post Office letter box had been placed outside every college in the town.

SYNOPSIS OF ISSUES.

Keble College, 1870.

	Dealers' Prices W. Morley Unused	Morley Used	Nissen & Co.
TYPE I.			
Orange Vermilion, perf. 11, No. 1	...	...	...
,, ,, perf. 12, No. 2	60/–	...	...
Rose Pink, perf. 11, No. 3	..	...	...
Large Carmine, perf. 11 × imperf., No. 4	...	...	20/–
TYPE II.			
Spiers' Print, perf. 11½, No. 5	15/–	30/–	10/–
TYPE III.			
Emberlin's Print, perf. 12, No. 6	5/–	25/–	4/–
TYPE I.			
Envelopes, No. 7	70/–	...	40/–
Post Card, No. 8	40/–	...	17/6
TYPE IV.			
Envelope. Portland Wove	2/6 to 20/–	...	1/–

Merton College, 1876.

TYPE I.			
Embossed Blue, perf. 12½ × imperf., No. 1 ...	50/–	...	30/–
Milky Blue, perf. 12 × imperf., No. 2*a*	...	...	...
Dark Blue, perf. 12 × imperf., No. 2*b*	...	...	...
Dark Blue, Imperf. × perf. 12, No. 3	...	...	...
TYPE II.			
Mauve, perf. 12, No. 4	10/–	...	10/–
Envelope, No. 5	...	...	...
Post Card. No. 6	42/–	...	20/–

Lincoln College, 1877.

Blue, perf. 14, various printings	15/–	...	7/6

Hertford College, 1875.

TYPE I.				
Envelopes—Mauve.	Square	45/–	...	...
,, ,,	Small square	25/–	...	...
,, ,,	Oblong	10/–	...	5/-

	Dealers' Prices W. Morley Unused	Used	Nissen & Co.
Envelopes—Mauve.—Small oblong	12/6	...	...
,, ,, ,, with "College Notice"	20/–	...	...
,, Blue. Square	...	...	..
,, ,, Small square	...	...	...
,, ,, Oblong	..	...	...
,, ,, Small oblong	40/–	...	10/–
TYPE II.			
Adhesive, Mauve, perf. 11½	25/–	...	12/6
,, with hyphen between Hert- and -ford ..	...	..	25/–
TYPE I.			
Post Card	40/– 45/–	...	15/–

Exeter College, 1882.

TYPE I.			
Salmon Red, perf. 11½	2/6	21/–	2/–
TYPE II.			
Post Card	...	...	40/–

All Souls' College, 1884.

Adhesive, Blue, perf. 11½	1/6	...	1/6

St. John's College, 1884.

Slate Blue Adhesive, perf. 11½	3/6	...	2/–

Balliol College. 1885.

Embossed Red, perf. 11½ × imperf.	40/–	...	12/–

CAMBRIDGE.

Selwyn College.

Imperforate	4/–	...	4/–

Queen's College.

Green, perf. 12	7/6	...	6/6

St. John's College.

Vermilion, perf. 12	4/–	...	2/–

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,, ,, ,, ...	May 21, 1904, p. 46	,,
,, ,, ,, ...	June 4, 1904, p. 53	,,

INDEX.

PAGE

Acts of Parliament 4
Anomaly of the postal system 5, 89
ALL SOULS' COLLEGE :—
Defaced plate 87
Defective perforation on sheet 79
Remainder 79
Used copies 80

BALLIOL COLLEGE :—
Stamps never used 85
Embossed by hand 85
Tête bêche 82
Bodleian Library collection 86
,, ,, ,, Reference to 72, 89
Bibliography 103
Bunce, Mr., Keble messenger 38
Bursars of Keble 22

Cancellation of stamps 11, 72
Cambridge stamps 97
Prohibition at Cambridge 99
Post Box at Colleges 99
Casual notices 2
Chronological order of colleges 8
College messengers 3
College arms franking power 4, 32
College stamps in use for fifteen years 5
Communication from the Post Office 6
Copper plates defaced 87
Correspondence of the O. U. S. 95
Corpus Christi College 85

Defaced plates 87
Delivery of college letters 39

PAGE

Emberlin and Son 22, 23, 41, 42, 75, 83, 86
Embossed stamps of:—
Balliol College 85
Exeter ,, ... 74
Hertford ,, ... 65
Keble ,, ... 10
Merton ,, ... 42
EXETER:—
Defaced plate 87
Lithographed stamps 75
Used copies 75
Mint sheets 76
Copper plate defaced 87
Obliteration on letters 77
Post card 76
Steel die 89

Five dot cancelling stamp of Keble 11
Franking power of college die 4, 32

HERTFORD:—
Adoption of stamps 64
Copper plate defaced 87
Envelopes. Mauve 65
,, Blue 66
Large Supply of Stamps 64, 69
Lithographed adhesives 69
Obliterating stamp 72
Original Wrapper 70
Used copies 70

Infringement of Post Office monopoly 6
Introduction 1

KEBLE COLLEGE:—
College opened 9
Concurrent use of three first issues 16
Daily deliveries of letters 39
Defaced plates 87
Earliest dated copies 10, 14
Embossed stamps 10
,, ,, in orange 10, 12
,, ,, in rose pink 14
,, ,, in carmine 17

PAGE

KEBLE COLLEGE :—
Enormous increase in correspondence 40
Envelopes 24
,, new type 31
First announcement of stamps 9
Lithographed stamps 21
Messengers 38
Obliteration 11
Parcel Stamp 32
Pattern cards 28
Porter's duties 11, 39
Post card 28
Proofs and colour trials 40
Provisional, so-called 29
Reputed parcel stamp 32
Rouletted stamps 41
Steel die 89
Tapling collection 11, 16, 17
Trial impression 40

Letter boxes for every college 99
LINCOLN COLLEGE :—
Four printings 55
Number of entire sheets 56
Obliteration 56
Proof sheets, in black 59
,, ,, in blue 60
Steel plate 60, 61
Lithographed stamps of :—
All Souls' College 79
Exeter ,, ... 75
Hertford ,, ... 69
Merton ,, ... 52
Queen's ,, Cambridge 98
Selwyn ,, ,, ... 97
St. John's ,, ,, ... 99
St. John's ,, Oxford 83

Meeting of Heads of Colleges 6
MERTON COLLEGE :—
College meeting 42
Die in black 54
Die for mauve stamps 89
Embossed stamps 42

PAGE

MERTON COLLEGE:—
Envelope 53
Mauve adhesive 52
Missing dies 52, 89
Mutilated copies used 43
Post card 54
Unknown die 47

Napier, Professor A. S., on Keble Provisional 30
,, ,, ,, Parcel stamp 35

Objections of the Post Office 7
Obliteration of stamps 11, 72
Opinion strongly divided 5
Original plates defaced 86
Oxford Union Society 91
,, ,, ,, Correspondence of 95
,, ,, ,, Overprint O. U. S. 91
,, ,, ,, Character of surcharge 94
,, ,, ,, Large numbers used 95
,, ,, ,, Late date of 93
,, ,, ,, No records 94
,, ,, ,, Privileges 94

Paper by Professor A. S. Napier 1
Parcel post stamp, so-called, Keble 32
Payments for letter service 3
Philatelist, The, 1871, *re* Keble 9
Plates, Original defaced 86
Postmaster-General's contention 7
"Postage" definition 5
"Postage" stamp 5
Prices of college stamps 101
Privileges of the Universities 4
Prohibition at Cambridge 99
Provisional, so-called, Keble 29

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE:—
Two sheets only known 98

Recommendation from heads of colleges 6
Remainders of Stamps 90

PAGE

Sir Walter Gray 18, 23, 37
Spalding, W. P. 97
Spiers and Son 21, 69, 79, 86
Stamps used for fifteen years 1
Suppression of the stamps 7
Synopsis of Issues 101
SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE :—
Sheets cut up 97
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD :—
Defaced plates 87
Steel die 89
Unused sheets 83
Used copies on originals 84
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE :—
Sheets 99

Tapling collection 73, 85, 89
,, ,, Defaced plates 89, 98
,, ,, Keble stamps 11, 16, 17

Unauthorised crests 30, 33
University privileges and rights 3