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THE

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H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

THE loyalty of the English nation is of no uncertain character, and is at once a source of pride to the people that tenders it and the dynasty that receives it. The long and beneficent reign of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen has tended to consolidate this sentiment, while the knowledge that her direct descendants inherit, to a great extent, the virtues of their Royal mother, affords a happy augury for the future. The several members of Her Majesty's family have chosen each his *métier*, and by the conscientious discharge of the duties therein involved, have added another link to the chain that binds the English people in friendly fetters to the Constitutional Monarchy. The full light of publicity that is cast upon the members of the Royal Household renders supererogatory anything but a cursory glance at the life of the Royal Duke whose portrait forms so fitting a frontispiece to the initial number of this journal. His Royal Highness Alfred Ernest Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, who is the second son and fourth issue of Her Majesty, was born on 6th August, 1844, and is consequently in his 48th year: on 23rd January, 1874, His Royal Highness espoused the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia, sister to the present Czar, and his family consists of a son, born 15th October, 1874, and four daughters. The Duke of Edinburgh, at an early age, selected England's first line of defence—the Navy—as a profession, and after a long and devoted service in all quarters of the globe, has attained the rank of Admiral, and in virtue of that office now holds the important command of Devonport. It is no secret that His Royal Highness has been for many years an indefatigable collector of Postage Stamps. We have been informed by those

who have been privileged to inspect the treasures that the Duke has gathered together by assiduous industry and philatelic knowledge, that his collection is in many respects a fine one and well worthy of careful examination. These facts being known to leading members of the London Philatelic Society, they were emboldened to ask His Royal Highness to open the Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition of May, 1890, and when the Duke, graciously consenting, presided at the inaugural ceremony on the 20th May, he may be said to have publicly set the seal upon his connection with Philately. With the English method of our Royal family of not doing things by halves, the co-operation of the Duke did not stay there, as he not only exhibited a considerable portion of his own collection, whose merits were duly recognised by the udges, but by his attendances evinced his thorough interest in the subject. Those members of the London Philatelic Society who were privileged to meet his Royal Highness on those occasions were impressed with his wide grasp of Philately, and were more than gratified to note that in all respects the Duke was an ardent and conscientious collector. His Royal Highness has further added to the debt that English Philately owes to him by accepting, on 19th December, 1890, the post of Honorary President of the London Philatelic Society, an announcement that came as a most pleasant surprise to many collectors in this country, but was received with a universal chorus of congratulation. The manifold duties that are the inevitable prerogative of Royalty, doubtless interfere with the leisure hours that the Duke can devote to his Philatelic treasures, but we can assure his Royal Highness that on any occasion when he can honour the Philatelic Society of London by his presence, in his official capacity, he may rely upon the grateful and cordial appreciation of its members, and that among Her Majesty's lieges he will find no more loyal or devoted adherents than the members of that Society, who are privileged to acknowledge him as their president.

OURSELVES.

THE appearance of another new journal, whether devoted to any special interest, such as Philately, or to general literature, is not, in these days of wide-spread periodicals, an event to make a red-letter day, and might be deemed to be destined to such an ephemeral existence as oft befalls the ventures of other Philatelic (?) journals. We may, however, claim that as the literary labours of the London Philatelic Society, in another form, have now been prominently before the world of collectors for some years, and have been adjudged no inconsiderable value in the study of the science, it is to be inferred, that in setting its *imprimatur* on a periodical that shall be its recognised organ, the London Philatelic Society may be relied upon to evolve a journal that shall be neither trivial in its aims nor evanescent in its existence. We deem it better to judge of performances than to hold out promises, and we are therefore content to modestly proclaim our pro-



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gramme in the simple dictum—that irrespective of pecuniary considerations—this journal will always be a paper written by collectors for collectors, and that its sole aim will always be, the advancement of scientific and intellectual Philately. In pursuance of this, while we shall always open our columns to collector and dealer alike, we shall, without personal feeling, unreservedly express our opinions on "men and things," convinced, that as the honesty of our efforts is recognised, we shall not, even where we differ, give offence to any opponent. We have been promised the most cordial co-operation of most of the leading Philatelists of this country in the endeavour to make this journal a success; and it will be the endeavour of those connected with the management of this journal to provide as many original contributions as possible, including, *en parenthèse*, a history of the London Philatelic Society from its inception. We start, therefore, with the best augury of success; but nevertheless we would impress upon all the Members of the Society that it is at once their bounden duty to support the London Philatelist by every means in their power; if they wish this journal to faithfully reflect the varied interests and the reputation of their Society, they must aid it by their literary contributions. One of the principal objects in launching our new venture has been to bring Metropolitan and Country Members more in touch with each other; it is, therefore, obvious that the more each Member strives to make it the medium for the communication of his Philatelic knowledge the more certain will be the attainment of this object. We can promise on behalf of the staff of the London Philatelist an ungrudging devotion to its interests, but in order to make it a conspicuous success, the co-operation of each and every Member of the London Philatelic Society is an imperative necessity.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

Note.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Afghanistan.—We have seen specimens of a new issue with the inner circle wider, also varying in other particulars as to the design and the paper on which they are printed. We hope to illustrate these varieties shortly, and to include all the varieties of which several contemporaries give varying lists.

British Guiana.—Mr. W. T. Wilson has discovered a new variety; it is the 1860 type, 1 cent black, with overprint "Official," word barred out in black, and without perforation between a pair, which are otherwise perf. 10. By a reference to the Society's work (p. 66) it will be seen that this variety is chronicled among the Official Stamps.

Issue of June 1875: 1 c. black, with official barred *imperf. vertically on one side.*

British Honduras.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., we have a fresh



variety of a lower value than heretofore, caused by the requirements of increased postal facilities. The overprint, which consists of a large numeral 1 on the word cent in thin upright Roman capitals, similar to the other values previously issued, is well printed in that clear, shiny black that betokens Metropolitan handiwork. We are informed that *only* 30,000 of these stamps were thus surcharged, and (as already elsewhere chronicled) the permanent value is now in issue.



1 c., black surcharge on one penny, pale green, watermark C.A. and Cr., perf. 14.
1 c., green, current type ... ... „ „ „

We illustrate the surcharged varieties that recently appeared.

Curaçao.—The 50 c. of the current set has been overprinted in a similar manner to the 30 c. value recently chronicled, *i.e.*, with large clumsy numerals, and words "25 cents" in two lines.

25 c., black surcharge on 50 c. violet, current issue.

Dutch Indies.—Following the example of the Mother Country, the Unpaid Letter Stamps have been appearing in the re-modelled type with fancy numerals and the word cent in the central disc as illustrated. The following are the values at present in circulation according to the *Timbre-Poste;* paper and perforation presumably as before.



2½ c., lilac and black.
5 c., „ „
10 c., „ „

Great Britain.—At the meeting of the Brighton Philatelic Society on 4th January, Mr. J. H. Redman showed a curious variety of the 1s. green. The stamp in question was a specimen of Plate 1. with the small letters in the corners—the letter (K) in the lower left angle being in the centre of a small white circle that almost touches the four outer edges of the block of solid colour containing the letters. The remaining three angles are normal, nor can we gather the reason for this unusual variety.

1s, (1862) issue, watermark four flowers, *with white circle* containing left lower angle letter.

Grenada.—We have another provisional from this prolific philatelic possession—thanks to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The overprint is in figures, 2½d., nearly 4 mm. high. Mr. Maycock has also sent us a pair—printed, as usual, *tête-bêche*—which shews that there are two varieties of the "½d.," and further states that the 6d. value will shortly be operated on.

2½d., black surcharge on 8d. brown, current issue.

Hawaii.—We give an illustration of this recently-issued stamp, bearing the Royal presentment of Queen Kamaka-Liliuokalani, sister of the late monarch.



2 c., dull lilac, perf. 12.

India.—We hear from various sources that the new design for the Rupee stamp to supersede the one that was so freely imitated has been executed, that the colours are to be carmine and green, and the perforation and watermark as heretofore.

1 rupee, carmine and green.

The 4 anna olive green has also been surcharged 2½ annas pending the issue of the permanent stamp of that value.

2½ annas, black surcharge on 4 annas olive (current issue).

Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. have sent us a specimen of the new permanent design for the value last mentioned. The design is almost the same as the late 4 as. 6 pies. stamp which was utilised for making the provisionals. The octagonal frame enclosing head differs very slightly indeed, but the ornamental work outside this is different, the colour (green) is of a less *yellow* cast, and the value is of course "Two annas and 6 pies." Watermark and perforation as last.

2½ annas green, watermark star, perf. 14.

Jeypore.—We append illustrations of the variously announced new issues for this Sultanate; of the first type there are:—

½ anna, green blue surcharge.
1 „ brown-violet „
2 „ blue „
4 „ olive „







And of the second:—

½ anna, green (?) black surcharge.
1 „ brown-violet „
2 „ blue „
4 „ olive „
½ „ green (?) red surcharge.
1 „ brown-violet „
2 „ blue „
4 „ olive „







Johore.—A new series of stamp has been issued for this State with some pretensions to individuality, and is therefore a welcome accession. They bear a three-quarter face portrait of the reigning Sultan, within an arched oval, with the value at the base in two octagons, in English and Native characters respectively, between which is the inscription in small letters on solid ground, "Johore Postage and Revenue." The values are as under:—

2 cents, lilac and yellow.
4 „ „ blue.
5 „ „ green.
6 „ „ blue.
1 dollar, green and rose.



Labuan.—We present an illustration of the latest provisional for this Colony, as recently announced in Philatelic Journals.

Martinique.—The *Timbre-Poste* announces the 2 c., with the simple surcharge "Martinique—O, 1 c.," in black, and states that there are two varieties of the numeral. Numerous more or less interesting variations are noted in the same source on the 30 c. unpaid letter stamp type. 0.1 centime, black surcharge; on 2 c. bistre, current type.

Negri Sembilan.—The recent apparition of a new type for the several States of the Malaccan Peninsular has been welcomed as holding out a prospect of a termination of the monotonous list of surcharges (the latest of which we illustrate). Except for the name of the issuing State, Pahang, Perak, Selangor, and S.(unjei) Ujong, the design is identical, and, as will be noted from our illustration, has at least the merit of novelty.





Persia.—The whole of the new issue of stamps here has now made its appearance, nor, as will be noted, are the designs of any striking merit; if, as the *Timbre-Poste* states, they emanate from Vienna, something handsomer might have been anticipated from a city whose artistic tastes are so well known. Paper white, perforation 11½.



Type 1—1 shahi, black.
„ 2 „ bistre.
„ 5 „ dark blue.
„ 7 „ slate.
„ 10 „ carmine.
„ 14 „ orange.
Type 2—1 kran green.
„ 2 „ pale orange.
„ 5 „ „ yellow.



Porto Rico.—Principally with a view to prevent fraud, new colours—being those of the Postal Union—are to be given to these stamps.

The *Stamp News* announces three values:—

1 c., de peso, blue green.
5 c. „ green.
10 c. „ rose.

Queensland.—At a recent meeting of the London Philatelic Society, Mr. Vernon Roberts showed a vertical pair of the old 5s. no watermark stamp, without any perforation between them.

5s. rose (1866 issue), *imperf.* horizontally on one side.

Russia.—The highest value of the new series with the thunderbolts has at last made its appearance, similar otherwise to its preceding companions.



7 roubles, black and yellow.

Schatz (Tamboff).—This well-known stamp has been altered somewhat (*Timbre-Poste*), notably in the ornaments of the oval, as shown by our illustration.



3 kop., black on rose, perf. 11½.

Sweden.—We have two more values of the new handsome series.

30 ore, brown, new type, perf. 14.
50 „ grey „ „

St. Lucia.—We have received from Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co. specimens of a new provisional surcharge that inspires us with a very limited feeling of pleasure. The stamps in question were received on a letter direct from the Colony by our correspondent on the last day of the old year, and there seems, therefore, no room to doubt their authenticity, but we can conscientiously affirm that the primitive and slovenly method of imprinting the surcharge is at once a discredit to this Colonial Postal administration, and an incentive to fraudulent imitations. The overprint consists of the words "One Penny" in two lines of black upright Roman capitals, badly formed and worse printed. We hear that the 3d. value has also been surcharged "One Halfpenny" in three lines.

1d., black surcharge "ONE PENNY" on 4d. current issue. Wmk. C.A. & Cr., Perf. 14.

St. Pierre and Miquelon.—We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for a sight of another set of twelve varieties of French Colonials. At the rate of issue that has obtained for the several Gallic possessions during the past few months it will not be long before "France and Colonies" will be more numerous than this country and its dependencies; but whether the same aggregate of value will be attained is a widely different matter! This series consists of the current set overprinted diagonally from left to right in small Roman capitals, about 1½ mm. in height, "St. Pierre M—ON."

1 c., black on blue, black surcharge (current type).
2 c., brown on bistre, black „
4 c., violet on pale blue, black „
5 c., green on greenish-red, black „
10 c., black on violet-red, black „
15 c., blue on pale blue, black „
20 c., brick on green, black „
25 c., black on rose, black „
30 c., brown on fawn, black „
40 c., vermilion on bistre, black „
75 c., carmine on rose, black „
1 fr., brown on green, black „

Surcharge inverted.

75 c., carmine on rose, black surcharge.
1 fr., brown on green, „ „

For the further necessities of the enormous postal requirements of St. Pierre and Miquelon—and, of course, not for the delectation of dealers and the exploitation of enthusiasts—surcharged varieties have been called into existence, but as the three values are sent both with and without surcharge there is no apparent dearth of the denominations created, and we are compelled to draw the inference that the latter and not the former reasons have called these into existence. Our Belgian contemporary has also some criticisms hereon—as just as scathing. The surcharge consists, in addition to that of the name of the possession as previously described, of a thick numeral 4 mm. high above the centre and below the word "cent," in heavy lower-case type about 2½ mm. in height, all three overprints being of course diagonal.



1 c., black surcharge, on 5 c. green on greenish (current type).
2 c., „ „ on 10 c. in black on blue.
4 c., „ „ on 20 c. brick on green.

Tasmania.—We are informed that the 4d. has lately appeared of a dark chrome colour—probably a provisional printing, as was the case with the 1d., as recently described.

Victoria.—The *Monthly Journal* announces a modification in the colour of the postage due stamp, which has been seen in the lowest values, *e.g.*, from *brick red* and pale blue to—

½d. postage due *carmine* and *blue*.

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Bahamas.—The reduction of the postal tariff has caused another change here, and we have been favoured by Messrs. W. King & Co., of Ipswich, with the inspection of two newly issued varieties on the current fourpence envelope. The value at the base is ruled out by three pairs of thin parallel lines, extending to the edges of the oval, and "2½d." is imprinted on the lower portion of the bust in small upright numerals. We are informed that the issue consisted of 500 of each variety.

2½d, red surcharge, *with six lines* on 4d., dull mauve (current issue).
2½d., black „ „ „ „

British South Africa.—We have received from Mr. Nankivell a specimen of the new Registration Envelope issued by the Company. Embossed on the flap is a large transverse oval with broad white border, containing the inscription in small block capitals, "The British South Africa Company," and below, in a small coloured oblong cartouche, the words, "British Central Africa," in small white capitals; the centre is occupied by the Arms of the Company embossed on a solid ground of colour, and beneath, in a large scroll extending beyond the oval on either side, is inscribed, "Registration Two Pence," in white capitals on coloured ground; the design as a whole is of novel and pleasing appearance, and is of a bright blue shade. The face of the envelope is cross lined as usual, and inscribed above, in large Roman capitals, "British Central Africa Administration," below this, "Registered Letter," in large block capitals, with the usual instructions below, and a large R on the oval to left, and a square to the right directing the place of the adhesive; the usual cross lines are added, the whole being in blue; the envelope is linen lined, with a heavily gummed flap, and measures 151×98 mm.

Registration Envelope, 2d., blue on white.

Leeward Islands.—We give an illustration of the recently issued Registration Envelope, as also of a Wrapper, similar in type to those now in use for other British possessions.





Registration Envelope, 2d., pale blue.
Wrapper, ½d., green on manilla.

New South Wales.—We have the current Registration Envelope, reduced in value by a circular black line erasing the words, "Four Pence," while across the stamp is imprinted in thin upright Roman capitals, "Three Pence." The size of the

specimen submitted to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., is 98×153 mm. ($3\frac{1}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches).

Vindin's Philatelic Monthly announces the fact that there is a second type with the word threepence in thin block capitals, and that there are the two usual two sizes of each variety.

Registration Envelope, 3d., black surcharge, Roman capitals, on red (current issue).
" " block capitals, " "

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Brazil.—We learn from the *Illustriste Briefmarken Zeitung*, on which Journal Dr. F. Kalckhoff, a member of the London Philatelic Society has recently joined the editorial staff, that the recently issued Brazilian letter cards—with head of Liberty and landscape—have appeared in somewhat rainbow fashion. Our contemporary notes the following colours, presumably of official issue, and in any case to meet the legitimate requirements of the public! The impressions are in the old colours, but they necessarily vary in appearance owing to the shade of the cards on which they are imprinted.

Letter Card, 80 r. (1891 Issue) on *dull yellow* card.
" (") " *brown* "
" (") " *green* "
" (") " *blue rose (!)* "
" (") " *light brown* "
" (") " *orange-red* "
" (") " *salmon* "
" (") " *flesh-pink* "

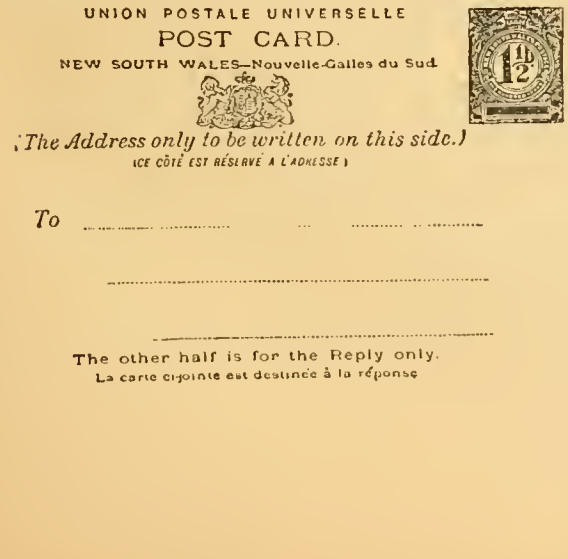
India.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the current *half*, one and a half anna Postal Union Card with its value reduced to "One Anna" by a black upright surcharge of block capitals 3 mm. n height, traversing the stamp immediately over the arched label of value.

1 anna, black surcharge on $1\frac{1}{2}$ a., blue, current type.

French Colonies.—Our Belgian contemporary states that the black on chamois card has been adopted for all the French Colonies. If this means that one uniform card, innocent of all surcharges, is to be adopted *for all* collectors will heave a sigh of satisfaction.

10 c., black on chamois.

New South Wales.—We have to note another new and apparently temporary variety to meet the reduced postal tariff. As will be seen by our illustrations this consists in the alteration of the current card, and that for the reply, to that of a higher value, by the elimination of the view of Sydney and its replacement by prosaic numerals of value, an alteration that is certainly *not* an improvement in the eyes of Philatelists.



$1\frac{1}{2}$d. current issue with numeral added, blue on pale yellow.

$1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ current issue with numeral added, blue on pale yellow.





Spain.—We gather from several sources that the 10 c. card has appeared with the inscription "Union Postal Universal" in larger letters; the same alteration also applying to a lesser extent with the other lines of the heading.

10 cents red-brown on chamois (*altered inscription*).

Straits Settlements.—The 3 c. card has been converted to a 2 c., value (*Monthly Journal*) in the following varieties:—

2 c., red surcharge, block numeral "2" over figure "3" on 3 c. current card.
2 c., black „ „ „ „
2 c. „ „ sloping block capitals in two lines, over figure "3" „

Mr. Gillespie has shown us a card of an official and apparently novel kind. The face has the inscription above, "Post Card," in Roman capitals, below this, in Gothic, "Straits Settlements;" and in the former type, beneath this, again, "The Address only to be written on this side." The lower half of the card is occupied by the direction in three lines, "To the—Registrar of Servants—Singapore;" the second line in large Roman capitals, and the third in large block. The upper right corner of the card is occupied by the Royal Arms, thus apparently signifying exemption from the necessity of adding any further stamp. The obverse of the card is taken up by a blank form extending over eight lines, to be filled up by the master whose service has been left by a servant, and who is compelled to register the same! This would be an improvement here, but we fear our masters, the servants, would revolt; and, indeed, we hear that even the Cingalese domestics rebelled as this card was speedily withdrawn. The large oval red embossed stamp of 20 c. value, occupying the right hand corner on the reverse side, has apparently no postal signification.

Official Card—Registry of Servants—buff.

United States.—We have from Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., specimens of the long heralded cards. The general appearance is bold and satisfactory, the engraving being well executed. As we shall probably illustrate the types, it will be only necessary to state that the design consists of a medallion at the right hand, with three-quarter face portrait of General Grant, with the name of the country in large Gothic type, surrounded by ornamentation, above and below which are the value and direction in smaller capitals. The inscriptions vary in size for each value, and the smaller card boasts, in addition, a small replica of the national arms in the centre.

1 c., blue on white. New issue, 117 × 73 mm.
1 c., grey-black on buff. „ 155 × 95 „

Victoria.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the Reply Card, with the additional surcharge value in red, $1\frac{1}{2}$d. Universal Postal Union, as described in the various Philatelic magazines last month.

$1\frac{1}{2}$d., violet on buff; surcharged in red on current value, Reply Card.

Some Official Information on the Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, January 1st, 1892,
By E. D. BACON.

WHILST consulting the pages of the early English Philatelic publications, in order to see what light they could throw upon the history of the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, I was struck by the almost total absence of information there is upon the postal issues of this Colony. Not one of the early writers have, so far as I have been able to discover, ever published any paper, or given out to the Philatelic world at large any facts they may have become acquainted with concerning these stamps: and, further, if we consult the magazines of more recent years, we still find the same silence maintained with regard to their history. It is true that in *The Philatelist*, Vol. IX. page 35, "A Reference List" of the stamps may be found, which was compiled by the Philatelic Society of London, in 1875, but the list can hardly be said to be more than a plain catalogue of the various issues. I have been engaged for some months past collecting materials for a paper on these stamps, and I venture to hope the new particulars I am enabled to lay before you this evening may be found both interesting and instructive.

If we turn to the old "Reference List" of the Society I have drawn attention to, we find that the date of the first issue is vaguely given as 1853 for the four values. Mons. Moens in the seventh edition of his *Catalogue* puts January 3rd, 1853, for the one penny and four pence, and 1858 for the six pence and one shilling. I am somewhat curious to know from whom Mons. Moens took his date for the two lowest values, as he would, I feel sure, never venture to give such a precise date without some good authority for so doing. The following notices extracted from *The Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette* for August 18th, 1853, proves his informant was certainly not to be relied upon, for we read:—

Proclamation

By His Excellency Lieut.-General the Hon'ble Sir George Catheart, Knight Commander of the Military Order of the Bath, &c., &c., &c.

Whereas, by the 8th Section of Ordinance No. 1, 1846, entitled "Ordinance for the Regulation of the Post Office and Postage," it is enacted that it should be lawful for the Governor of the Colony to provide *Stamps*, to be affixed to letters, and to announce by Proclamation by whom, and at what places such stamps should be issued to the Public, and from and after what date such stamps should be receivable, in lieu of postage, at the several Post Offices within this Colony,—Now therefore, I do hereby Proclaim, Declare, and Make Known the several matters following, that is to say,—

1st, That certain stamps, of the value of 4d. each, and certain other stamps of the value of 1d. each, have been provided by Government for the use and convenience of the Public.

2dly, That upon and from the 1st of September next, all persons desirous of purchasing any of the said stamps will be able to obtain the same from the Postmaster-General in Cape Town, and from the several Postmasters throughout the Colony.

3dly, That upon and from the said 1st of September, every letter, not exceeding half an ounce, which shall have affixed thereto one such stamp of the value of 4d., and if exceeding half an ounce, then so many such stamps as shall together amount to the postage which would by the said Ordinance require to be prepaid in money, in case no stamps were used, shall (provided none of the stamps so affixed shall have been used before) pass by the post free of postage.

4thly, That upon and from the said 1st of September, newspapers, having affixed thereto, or to the cover thereof, a stamp of 1d. for each newspaper, will (provided none of the stamps so affixed shall have been used before) pass by the post free of postage.

5thly, That persons licensed in any part of the Colony to keep retail shops, and who shall purchase for sale in such shops any of the stamps aforesaid, will be allowed a reduction or discount of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon all purchases to the amount of £1 sterling, or upwards.

(Signed) G. Cathcart,
Governor.

(Countersigned) R. Southey,
Acting Secretary to Government.

The following Post Office Notice also appeared in the same number of *The Gazette* as the above Proclamation :—

General Post Office, Cape Town,
17th August, 1853.

Notice is hereby given that the undermentioned parties have consented, and are authorised, to vend Postage Stamps from and after the 1st of September next, when the system of paying postage by means of such stamps will be introduced.

It will be necessary that these persons should make application to this office for such supply of the Stamps they may require, not less than 20s, upon which an allowance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. will be made to them.

Any other persons holding licenses for Retail Shops in Cape Town, who may be disposed to become such vendors of Stamps, are requested to signify their wish in that regard to this office.

(Signed) J. A. Le Sueur,
Postmaster-General.

At the foot of the notice there is a long list of names and addresses of tradesmen from whom stamps could be obtained.

The first of the notices gives September 1st, 1853, as the correct date of the first issue, which we learn consisted of two values only, one penny and four pence. The former stamp would be used for newspapers, while the latter prepaid a half ounce letter transmitted within the Colony.

The next notice, taken from *The Gazette* for February 19th, 1858, proves the date of issue of the six pence and one shilling values.

NOTICE.

The Public are hereby informed that a supply of Six Penny and One Shilling Postage Stamps has been received, and are now procurable at the General Post Office.

(Signed) J. A. Le Sueur,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office, Cape Town,
18th February, 1858.

The six penny stamp prepaid the half ounce letter rate to Great Britain, while the one shilling value was employed to defray the higher postal rates to foreign countries. The half ounce rate to Great Britain was raised on April 1st, 1863, to one shilling by *packet*, and lowered to four pence for letters sent by *private ships*.

The first four values of postage stamps used in the Colony were printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and the design is, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful of their many striking productions. The original die, which had the value one penny upon it, and from which the dies for the three other values were afterwards manufactured, was engraved by Mr. W. Humphreys, an artist employed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., for several of the early colonial stamps printed by their firm.

The plates from which the stamps were printed were steel, and each contained 240 specimens, in fifteen horizontal rows of 16 stamps, which were arranged in eight squares. All four plates were handed over to the Agents for Crown Colonies on January 28th, 1862, and Messrs. De la Rue & Co. have since held the contract for printing the Cape stamps.

Proofs in black upon white card struck from the dies, are known of all four values, and I possess proofs, also in black, of the one penny and one shilling, which were taken from the plates. Mr. Alfred Bacon, the secretary of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., Limited, has been good enough to make me out a detailed list of all the Cape of Good Hope stamps printed by the Company, which shows the dates the various consignments were despatched from London. A copy of this interesting list will be found given as an appendix to the present paper.

On 15th September, 1860, a local delivery of letters was established in Cape Town, and the half ounce letter rate for that town was fixed at one penny. The Proclamation instituting these postal facilities appeared in *The Gazette* for 4th September, 1860, and the following is a copy of that document.

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency Sir George Grey, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, &c., &c., &c. Whereas, by the 7th section of the Ordinance No. 1, bearing date the 7th day of January, 1846, the Governor is empowered to establish offices for posting and delivering letters within the limits of any town in this colony, as such limits shall be by him for that purpose fixed, and to fix the rate of postage to be charged and paid for such town delivery: I do hereby proclaim and make known, that, in pursuance of the power and authority so vested in me, I appoint the General Post Office in Cape Town to be a receiving and delivering office for and within the limits of the Cape Town Municipality, and do establish the Pillar Letter Boxes erected in the localities hereunder mentioned, as places for the posting and receipt of letters within the same limits, namely:—

1st. Near Castle Bridge.

2nd. At the corner of Long and Bloem Streets.

3rd. At the corner of Strand and Bree Streets.

4th. In Orange Street, at the top of the Government Gardens.

And further, that I do fix the rate of postage chargeable and payable upon all letters, &c., posted within the said limits, and intended for delivery therein, as follows, namely:—

On every letter not exceeding half an ounce, one penny.

On every letter exceeding half an ounce, and not exceeding one ounce, two pence.

On every letter exceeding one ounce, an additional sum of two pence for every ounce or fraction of an ounce.

The prepayment of such postage to be compulsory and effected by stamps affixed or impressed on such letters.

The Cape Town Penny Post deliveries will be three in each day, Sundays excepted, namely:—

The first to commence at 9¼ a.m.
The second to commence at 1½ p.m., and
The third to commence at 3½ p.m.

Letters posted at the Cape Town Pillar Boxes up to 9 o'clock in the morning, will be included in the first delivery; those posted up to 1 p.m. will be included in the second delivery; and those posted up to 3 p.m. in the third.

And lastly, I do hereby fix and appoint the fifteenth day of September next, as the day from and on which this Proclamation shall come into operation and have effect.

(Signed) GEORGE GREY,
Governor.

(Countersigned) WM. DE SMIDT,
Under-Colonial Secretary.

In the number of *The Gazette* for 23rd April, 1861, a similar Proclamation to the above appeared, establishing a Local Post for the town of Port Elizabeth, at the same reduced rates as those previously instituted for Cape Town. Mr. A. Wilmot was postmaster of Port Elizabeth at the time this local Penny Post came into operation there on the 1st May, 1861.

A one penny rate for half ounce letters came into force, between a few towns in the vicinity of Cape Town, on 1st February, 1864, and this rate was gradually extended to other towns at a more remote distance. It was not, however, until as recently as 1st January, 1889, almost fifty years later than Great Britain, that the penny rate became uniform over the whole of the Colony.

(*To be continued.*)

Half Hours with the Australian Stamps.

By M. P. CASTLE, V.-P.

AT the suggestion of some of my *confrères*, I propose, under the above heading, to submit for the benefit (or otherwise) of the readers of the LONDON PHILATELIST the result of such observations as I may have been able to gather in the study of current literature in this wide field and in the formation of my own collection. I do not propose at the present, in view of the many matters calling for notice in the first number of the Society's Journal, to do more than give an indication of my purpose, and I cordially invite from my brother collectors any expression of their views on the subject. I may add, that while I hope not to lose sight of Philatelic requirements, I should aim at making the articles of an easy, mentally digestible nature, so that they may appeal to the sympathies alike of the advanced scientist who revels in the minutest varieties, and of those collectors who are content with a representative array of the Australian Stamps. It is obvious that much has been learnt since the publication of the London Philatelic Society's work on Oceania, and my object would be to embody, as far as possible, all the information that has been brought to light since that period, in the hope that it may eventually be of some service in the preparation of the second edition of that work, whenever it is undertaken. In some cases it would increase the interest of the "chapter" if the stamps treated of could be first submitted to the Society, and subsequently published with such illustrations as might be necessary, which course, I trust, may commend itself to those who may be good enough to follow my remarks.

The Laureated Reprints of New South Wales.

IT may excite a little surprise to see this now familiar heading reproduced in the initial number of a new magazine, nor do we propose to again go over the ground that has been so amply traversed by various writers lately in the *Philatelic Record* and Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*. It will, however, be seen by a perusal of the following extract that justice demands a compliance with the request contained in the closing sentence. For the benefit, however, of those of our readers who may not be *au courant* with all that has gone before, we will very briefly state the facts that lead up to Mr. Vindin's present letter. About four years since the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., Mr. M. P. Castle, Mr. B. P. Rodd, and other collectors received from Mr. Vindin a sheet of each of the values of the Laureated series of New South Wales, of the 2d., 6d., and 8d. values, unused, which purported to be genuine originals recently discovered, and being part of eight sets only thus found. Some of these gentlemen, with others also members of the London Philatelic Society, eventually became purchasers of these sheets at large prices. A year or two later it was evident that the original eight sets had considerably expanded, until it became an ascertained fact that hundreds of sheets existed. These sheets were brought to this country by Mr. A. Van Dyck, of Sydney, the principal for whom Mr. Vindin had previously avowedly been acting as to the earlier "find." The former mysteriously disappeared, and lately arriving in America disposed of a further quantity there, openly acknowledging them as Reprints. As soon as these facts became patent, in self-defence Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, who are the present holders of the stock, acquired in a perfectly legitimate manner, published a full statement of all their knowledge on the subject, and Mr. M. P. Castle (the Vice-President of the London Society), who had been in continued correspondence with Mr. Vindin, also set forth all the information that he had acquired. The burden of these statements was necessarily to cast the blame on those who made false statements in selling these stamps, and to shift the onus of their deception to the original vendors. The various Philatelic Journals having reached the antipodes, Mr. Vindin hastens as far as he is able to rehabilitate his character as an agent in the disposal of these sheets.

(*Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, 24th Nov., 1891, p. 41.)

"Having just returned from New Zealand and Tasmania, I hasten to reply to the article on the above stamps, published in the *Monthly Journal* of September. In the next issue of the *Monthly* I intend reprinting the article from the *Monthly Journal*, and will reply thereto fully. In the meantime I wish to state that I have had nothing to do with, and have no actual knowledge of, these stamps having been reprinted. When I offered these stamps for sale in 1887 I believed they were original impressions, and that only *eight* sheets each of the 2d. Star, 6d., and 8d. orange, and *one* sheet of the 8d. in blue existed. My belief was based on the knowledge that the plates were not in the possession of the N.S.W. Government, and I was further of the opinion that these plates had long before 1870 been destroyed under instructions from the Government. Mr. Alfred Van Dyck negotiated their purchase—at least, he told me he purchased the twenty-four sheets for £350 from an *unknown* party whom *he* had reason to believe was a Government official. He offered me liberal terms to sell these sheets, understood that the selling should be left entirely in my hands, and arranged for me to state that I myself purchased them, as

he did not wish to be mixed up with buying and selling stamps. I had known Mr. Van Dyck for five years and, with everyone else, had the utmost confidence in him. During that time Mr. Van Dyck was living in Sydney and held a good position, had no business or occupation, and must have lived at the rate of fifteen hundred a year or more. Dr. Houison trusted Van Dyck when he left for London with his collection worth £1,000 to be sold, and has never received a penny from him since; the N.S.W. Postal Department lent him some much-prized proofs and essays of New South Wales stamps, and these are still wanted by them. It can, therefore, be understood that I had every reason to believe in the gentleman in question. I acted as his agent when I offered the stamps for sale, and, further, issued a *personal* guarantee with all those I sold. Fortunately I sold very few of the stamps. One set of sheets to Dr. Houison, with whom I have since arranged; one set of sheets, at a comparatively low price (under unusual circumstances), to Mr. Rodd, of Hamburg, which, I afterwards heard from several of Mr. Rodd's personal friends in Sydney, had been cut up by him *over two years ago*, and sold at a large profit. This statement was made by Mr. Rodd's own family in Sydney, and was repeated to me and also to several local collectors by friends of the family, so it is reasonable to suppose it is the truth. Of course, Mr. Rodd had every reason to believe the stamps were original, and therefore was justified in re-selling them. Beyond these six sheets I only sold a few single copies and blocks of each, and in every case guaranteed them. The whole of the balance I handed over to Mr. Van Dyck when he left for London in 1888, since then I have had *none* of these stamps in my possession, and therefore cannot have sold any. The first I knew of there being more than eight sheets of each was when I found them being offered so freely at the London auctions, therefore the principal London collectors and dealers knew of such being the case before I I did. I naturally regret my connection with this swindle, for such it seems to me it is. It has worried me a good deal, and has resulted in a serious pecuniary loss, but my conscience in the matter is quite clear, and I consider I stand only in the same position as does Mr. M. P. Castle. I believed in the stamps and so did he, and he knew as much about them as I could tell him. I believe Mr. Van Dyck worked his "game" single-handed. I feel sure that no one at this end of the world can tell more than I have done in the course of this explanation. Both the Postal and Government printing office authorities have endeavoured to fathom the mystery for months past, but without success. In the next issue of the *Monthly* I will deal with the matter more fully, and meanwhile would esteem it a favour if the editors of the various publications in England, America, and Europe will reprint this statement."

The burden of Mr. Vindin's defence is that he acted in good faith as an agent for and the tool of Van Dyck. *Les absents ont toujours tort*, but in the present instance the saying seems to have strong ground for credence. Many of the facts as to Van Dyck quoted in the foregoing are known from independent evidence to be correct, and, as will be seen by a reference in the quotations from Mr. Vindin's correspondence (S. Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*, 1891, pp. 58-62), they tally with those therein contained. Mr. Castle in his remarks on the latter expressly gave Mr. Vindin credit for "sticking to his guns," in his statements as to his knowledge, and was more directly concerned to locate the blame of these scandalous proceedings in the proper quarters without necessarily imputing to Mr. Vindin a conscious share in it. It is only fair to add that from two well-known and respected sources in Australia we have received assurances of the writer's full belief that Mr. Vindin was imposed upon by Mr. Van Dyck, almost equally with the philatelic world on this side of the globe.

We shall await with interest the promised statement that Mr. Vindin announces for his next issue, and trust that it may be as full and explicit as possible. In that gentleman's remarks no mention is made of the fact that the late Mr. T. K. Tapling purchased a set at full price, nor is it stated if any collector in Sydney bought a set under like conditions. If, as we sincerely hope, Mr. Vindin can to a great extent exonerate himself it is all the more to be desired that he should associate himself with his fellow sufferers in endeavouring to trace the mischief home to its *authors.* We use the plural advisedly, as we feel certain that however astute and reserved Van Dyck may have been, he was not alone in the matter, and we are of opinion that this swindle, for such it is, to have been brought to such a successful issue, must have been aided and abetted by some person or persons of assured position. We should like to know the name of the "unknown party whom he believed to be a Government official" from whom he is stated to have purchased; we should like to know who made the paper. From inquiries made by Mr. Castle in London some time since at the hands of experts, it was stated that paper of this sort must have been made especially for the purpose, it being totally different from any made at the present day, and that the preparation of this would entail the expenditure of a considerable sum. It should also not be difficult to ascertain who printed these sheets. It would be an unusual transaction, one involving skill, care and risk, and as several persons must thus have been aware of the transaction, even though unaware of the illegal nature of the proceeding, it is possible that information might be forthcoming if the proper steps are taken. The Sydney P.O. Authorities might well enough offer a reward to this end.

The Australian stamps have always been so favoured in this country, the London Philatelic Society has taken so prominent a part in the study of them, and so many of its members have been mulcted in large sums by this nefarious proceeding, that we feel confident we are only acting in the best interests of its members by using this and every future opportunity to unravel the tangled skein, and to bring to light the authors of perhaps the biggest fraud that has ever been perpetrated on collectors.

Mr. B. P. Rodd sends us the following reply to the remarks made by Mr. Vindin in connection with his name :—

"I have received from Sydney *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for November last, containing, under the above heading: 'A Preliminary Explanation by D. A. Vindin' in which, after giving his version of his transactions with Mr. Van Dyck, he proceeds as follows :—'Fortunately I sold very few of the stamps. One set of sheets to Dr. Houison, with whom I have since arranged, one set of sheets at a comparatively low price (under unusual circumstances) to Mr. Rodd, of Hamburg, which I afterwards heard from several of Mr. Rodd's personal friends in Sydney had been cut up by him *over two years ago* and sold at a large profit. This statement was made by Mr. Rodd's own family in Sydney, and was repeated to me and several local collectors by friends of the family, so it is reasonable to suppose it is the truth. Of course Mr. Rodd had every reason to believe the stamps were original and therefore was justified in re-selling them.'

"From this one would suppose that instead of being victimised, that I had been instrumental in disposing of these stamps at a large profit, &c. Had Mr. Vindin been contented with simply stating the fact that he had sold one of the sets to myself, I would have been spared the trouble of writing this, and I cannot imagine his reason for going into further particulars, especially as they are *totally untrue*, and if the rest of his statement is *equally* to be relied upon, I regret to say it is not worth the ink he took to write it. The following are the *facts* so far as I am concerned, and which I can

prove by his own handwriting, &c. When the eight sheets were first offered, and I believe just before Mr. Castle offered to buy the lot, he sold one set at the 'comparatively low price' of *£150* to my mother—subject to my approval within a certain time—she paid a deposit of £75, which in the event of my returning the sheets within the term, he undertook to repay. Not being satisfied with what I had heard from Mr. Castle I returned the sheet within the term, and upon same being presented to him and the £75 claimed, he pleaded his inability to repay same, and therefore my mother was obliged to keep them, of course 'under the unusual circumstances,' for the amount of the deposit £75. My mother 'under the unusual circumstances' returned them to me, and they still are, and have ever since been in my collection—neither 'cut up, *over two years ago*, nor ever offered to any one. He goes on to kindly justify my good faith, in *selling* what he himself had guaranteed, and what I still have. With his *Monthly* I have also received copy of a letter that my mother immediately upon reading his 'Preliminary explanation' wrote to him, calling upon him for an explanation, and to withdraw his remarks, &c., in his next issue, also in a postscript to same reminding him that within the last *three months* she had reminded him that I had not been able to dispose of them. As he writes that he has arranged with Dr. Honison there is still some hope that he will do so with me."

Since the above was written we have been informed that Mr. Dawson A. Vindin has sailed for this country, and may be very shortly expected here. We understand that the primary object of his visit is in connection with these laureated reprints, and we are confident that his statements will receive an impartial consideration, the sole object of all the writers on the subject having been to drive home the blame to the culpable parties.—Ed.

Reviews.

THE STAMP NEWS ANNUAL. *

THE second venture of this Christmas Philatelic literature will, on the whole, compare favourably with its predecessor, which it resembles in size and general appearance (83 pp. quarto), except that—perhaps, in deference to the wide-spread mortality due to the insidious influenza—it appears in a rather funereal garb as to its cover. Among the numerous articles forming its contents, we may cite as the best, The Stamp of Prince Edward's Isle, by Mr. A. A. Bartlett; of Portugal, by Mr. J. N. Marsden; of Azores, by M. de Reuterskiöld; of the South Australian Officials, by Delta (why the modesty of this *nom de plume?*); of Bavaria, by the Rev. D. Dunbar; and of Venezuela, by Mr. G. Lockyer. Among the papers of a general nature, we note as interesting that of Some Reminiscences, 1863-70, by a Parisian Collector—eminently readable throughout, and evidently by "an old Philatelic hand." Mr. Westoly discourses on French "Postage Stamp Statistics," and the Vice-President of the London Society gossips on the "Fashions in Stamps." The difficulties of prophecy are set forth by the Editor, and there are other articles of varied degrees of merit. The revision of the work is somewhat faulty, as there are many typographical errors, notably in the index, but, as a whole, the work is one that will readily be welcomed by the collecting fraternity, and is a credit to the enterprise of Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co.

* The Stamp News Annual for the Year 1892: Theodor Buhl & Co., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., &c.

Committee for the Year 1891—92.

President: F. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C. *Vice-President:* M. P. CASTLE.

Secretary: D. GARTH. *Assistant Secretary:* J. A. TILLEARD.

Treasurer and Librarian: C. N. BIGGS.

E. D. BACON. | MAJOR EVANS.
A. W. CHAMBERS. | T. MAYCOCK.

THE Fifth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 4th December, 1891, at 7.30 p.m. The members present being Messrs. E. D. Bacon, T. Maycock, A. W. Chambers, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, E. A. Elliott, A. Ludwig, C. N. Biggs, F. Ransom, R. Meyer, J. D. Henderson, J. H. Redman, E. Stanley-Gibbons, C. J. Dunn, J. A. Tilleard and D. Garth.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter from Mr. John Walker of Edinburgh, offering to present to the Society's Library a copy of the 5th Edition (1864), of Mount Brown's Catalogue, and also a copy of the 3rd Edition (1865), of Dr. Gray's Catalogue, was read, and the Secretary was directed to accept these with the thanks of the Society. The Secretary reported the result of the replies to the circular sent to the members in regard to the annual dinner, and it was resolved that the dinner should be postponed to a date to be fixed in January or February of the ensuing year. Mr. W. T. Willett, of Brighton, proposed by the Vice-President and seconded by the Secretary, and Mr. W. Silk, of Hampstead, proposed by Mr. Nankivell and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society, the balloting for the two other proposed members whose names were on the list for the evening being postponed to the next meeting. The consideration of the arrangements for the publication of the Society's proposed new journal was then proceeded with, and the Secretary stated what had been done towards this end since the last meeting, and he explained the recommendations of the Committee in this respect. Mr. Bacon read a letter he had received from Mr. Cheveley, offering on behalf of his firm of Cheveley, Wilson & Co., to undertake the sale of the journal, and the canvassing for and the management of the advertisements, for a remuneration of 15 per cent. of the receipts, and, in addition, to take for his firm one page in the journal for the advertisements of the firm, paying the usual price for the same, and to allow the Society one page for advertisements in each of the sale catalogues free of charge. After much discussion, Mr. Bacon moved and the Secretary seconded a resolution: "That a letter should be sent to Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., thanking them for their letter, and stating that the Society were unable to accept the offer." Mr. A. W. Chambers moved as an amendment that the words "as a whole" should be added to the resolution as proposed by Mr. Bacon, but the amendment was not seconded, and the original motion, on being put to the meeting, was carried. After a long discussion the above recommendations of the

Committee were adopted. Upon the motion of the Secretary seconded by Mr. Bacon, it was resolved that all matters connected with the publication and general management of the journal be left to the discretion of the Editor. It was further resolved that a letter should be written to Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., as the proprietors of the *Philatelic Record*, informing them of the intentions of the Society, and that a circular should be sent to the leading collectors and dealers, announcing the proposed publication and inviting subscriptions. The Treasurer gave notice, that, at the next meeting, he would move a resolution as to a separate banking account being opened in the name of the Society. On the consideration of this subject it was resolved as an instruction to the Treasurer, that the accounts with the new journal should be kept separately. The revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon, which was on the Agenda for the evening, was postponed, owing to the time occupied by the discussion of the foregoing business.

The Sixth Meeting of the Season was held at the Salisbury Hotel on Friday, the 18th December, 1891, at 7.30 p.m., the following members being present, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, V. Roberts, E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, A. W. Chambers, W. Silk, jun., R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, jun., H. E. Wright, W. T. Willett, J. A. Tilleard, and F. Street. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Amongst the correspondence read there were letters from Mr. Bambridge, the private secretary of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, and letters from Mr. L. Gibb and Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. In the course of the discussion on the correspondence, it was determined that it should be left to the Secretary to arrange the date for the annual dinner. In reply to Mr. Bambridge's inquiry as to the purchase of a copy of the Society's recent work on the stamps of the West Indies for Prince George of Wales, it was resolved that a copy of the work should be suitably bound and offered for the acceptance of H.R.H. Mr. L. Gibb, in his letter from Montreal acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the recent publication, referred to the interest with which the work had been received by the members of the Society at Montreal. He also mentioned that the collectors in Canada felt some difficulty in acknowledging the existence of the 12d. stamp of that country on wove paper as having ever been issued and used. Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. in their letter stated that they would shortly communicate to the Society their decision regarding the continuation of the *Philatelic Record*. In the course of a discussion on this subject it was reported that arrangements had been made for the continuation of that journal under the editorship of a well-known Philatelist. In view of the arrangements made for the publication of the Society's new journal it was moved by the Assistant Secretary, seconded by Mr. Chambers, and resolved, "That the resolution of the 19th December, 1890, in reference to the communication to the *Philatelic Record* of the minutes of the Society's meetings be rescinded." Mr. F. Street, proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the Assistant Secretary, and Mr. H. Ferrier-Kerr, proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the Vice-President, were duly elected members of the Society, the balloting for a third candidate being postponed to the next meeting, in the absence of his proposer and seconder. The revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon was proceeded with and adjourned. The Vice-President, taking advantage of the presence at this meeting of Mr. Vernon Roberts, the President of the Manchester Society, and Mr. Willett, the Honorary Secretary of the Brighton Society, offered through these gentlemen the congratulations of the London Society on the formation

of the new Societies, and wished them every success in their endeavours to promote the science of Philately. Mr. Vernon Roberts showed a pair of the 5s. stamps of Queensland imperforate horizontally, a variety which does not appear to have been hitherto chronicled. Mr. Vernon Roberts also brought to the meeting a large number of very rare stamps all in fine condition. Amongst these were Great Britain 1d. V.R., 4d. small garter, and a pair of 2s. brown imperforate (all unused), Switzerland double Geneva (unused), Tuscany 3 lire, Hong Kong 96c., yellow brown (unused), Mauritius fine natives, including the large fillet, British Guianas of 1862, New Brunswick O'Connell, and a splendid selection of the shilling values of all the British North American stamps, Peru Medio peso rose, New South Wales, a pair of the 5d. large square stamp imperforate, and many other rarities in these countries and in the stamps of Moldavia, India, Ceylon, Cape of Good Hope, Victoria, Western Australia, &c.

The Seventh Meeting of the season was held at the Salisbury Hotel, on Friday, the 1st January, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, W. Silk, Junr., H. E. Wright, T. Maycock, R. Meyer, F. Street, E. D. Bacon and J. A. Tilleard.

The Vice-President having taken the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A telegram was received from the Secretary announcing his inability to attend the meeting in consequence of ill-health, but there was no further correspondence before the meeting. The ballot for one of the candidates whose name was down for consideration at this meeting was postponed, owing to the absence of his proposer and seconder, and Dr. Mallman, Mr. Krapf, Lieut. Ludwig Schwarz, and Mr. Strohmeyer (the members nominated by the Vienna Society, as suggested in the recent correspondence), all proposed by the Vice-President and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society. The motion standing in Mr. Biggs' name, in reference to the Society's Banking Account, was, in his absence, postponed to the next meeting. Mr. Bacon read a paper entitled—"Some official information on the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope." After remarking upon the small amount of written information hitherto published in regard to the history of these stamps, Mr. Bacon gave the result of his researches in the official records, which enabled him to fix with certainty the dates of most of the various issues, including the first issue, and the number and arrangement of the stamps on the sheets. An interesting fact in regard to the 1d. rate of postage for letters in this Colony was referred to, viz.:—that although in 1861 the 1d. rate came into force for Port Elizabeth, it was not until 1889, or nearly 50 years after the introduction of "Penny Postage" into Great Britain that this rate became general over the whole of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. In regard to the locally printed stamps known as the "wood blocks," beyond the names of the printers and the number and arrangement of the stamps on the sheets, very little appears to be known, but Mr. Bacon in his paper suggested the probable mode in which these stamps were prepared for use. In reference to the 1d. triangular stamp with the watermark Crown and C.C., it appears that very little information is forthcoming, and in suggesting the probable cause of the existence of this stamp, Mr. Bacon invited further research into its history. A curious feature was noted in regard to the ½d. (black) stamp, which appears to have been chronicled as early as 1876, although it was not until 1882 that the ½d. Inland rate for newspapers came into force. A large amount of interesting and valuable information was given in regard to the other stamps of the Colony, and the numerous extracts from the official Gazettes, and the

statistics given in respect of the number of stamps printed, showed the great labour and infinite pains which the author of the paper had bestowed upon his work so as to render it as complete as possible. After some discussion upon several of the points raised, a cordial vote of thanks, upon the motion of the Assistant-Secretary seconded by Mr. Meyer, was accorded to Mr. Bacon for his most interesting paper, which it was proposed, with his consent, to publish in the Society's journal. The further revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon, which was upon the Agenda for the evening, was adjourned until the next meeting.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Honorary President: BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: M. P. CASTLE. *Vice-President:* J. H. REDMAN.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: W. T. WILLETT.

A. DE WORMS. | J. W. GILLESPIE.
H. STAFFORD SMITH. | J. H. ESCOLME.

THE Third Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on 4th January, at 7.30 p.m. Eleven members and one visitor were present; the President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary announced the receipt of a parcel of books from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., as a donation to the library of the Society; on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by the Vice-President, a cordial vote of thanks was given that firm for their liberal gift. The Secretary moved, "That in future, the minutes of the Society be sent to the London Philatelist, *Philatelic Record*, and *Monthly Journal*;" this was seconded by Mr. H. Stafford Smith, and carried unanimously. The Vice-President read an interesting paper on "Areas of Collecting;" a short discussion ensued on this subject, the further consideration of which was postponed till the next meeting. The Vice-President exhibited a curiosity—the English 1s., small letters, with a white circle round the letter (K), in the left hand bottom corner. He also showed, on behalf of the Rev. E. H. Rogers, a proof, in red, of the current 2½d. New Zealand. Mr. Gillespie exhibited a Straits Settlements Post Card, specially prepared for the Registration of Servants.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A MEETING of this Society was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Friday, the 18th December, the Vice-President in the chair.

Two gentlemen who had been proposed at the last meeting came up for election, and were duly elected.

The Vice-President, addressing the meeting, referred to the absence of the President, who was attending a meeting of the London Philatelic Society the same evening, and finally called upon Mr. Collett (who had kindly consented to act as secretary for that meeting) to read a letter which had been received from the hon.

secretary of the Society tendering his resignation of that office owing to business engagements.

The letter having been read, the Vice-President moved, and Mr. Collett seconded, and it was resolved, that the resignation be accepted.

A discussion then took place as to the best means of raising a Library Fund, out of which all the principal Philatelic books could be purchased for the use of the members. Several suggestions were made, but it was eventually decided to adjourn the matter for further consideration to the next meeting.

Mr. Durst then read a paper on the Postage Stamps of Lubeck, in the course of which he made numerous references to official documents. He dealt with the reason of the water-marked paper being employed, and also with the semi-official reprints. The conclusions drawn from the official documents quoted by Mr. Durst tended to show the stamps on water-marked paper were those first in use. This, the vice-president pointed out, was, he believed, against the order given by the authorities.

A discussion took place on the paper, after which a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Durst for his interesting paper.

The rest of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties and new issues.

Correspondence.

AUCTIONS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

SIR,—There are several points in connection with the stamp auctions now being so frequently held which call for careful consideration.

The foremost question is, of course, whether these auctions are a benefit to Philately as a science? This question has been mooted before, and I am not sure that the answer to it should be in the affirmative.

It is very convenient for a person who desires to sell his collection to know that his stamps can be readily disposed of, and that by breaking them up into lots, and submitting them piecemeal to competition, a higher price for the whole is to be got than if he had to negotiate a sale *en bloc* to a dealer or another collector. But this is an advantage to an individual only, and in many cases to an individual who is ceasing to take an active interest in Philately. It is doubtful whether there is a corresponding advantage to collectors, whilst it is a matter for regret to hear that a valuable collection is broken up and its gems dispersed, so that reference to them may be no longer possible.

Owing, in a large measure, to the auctions, collectors have seen a great increase in the prices of stamps, and, to a very large extent, this rise in values has been brought about by the action of dealers at the auctions. Dealers have been the principal buyers, and although jealousy and a desire for notoriety have apparently been sometimes the motives leading to competition, yet is it not to the common interest of dealers to effect a rise in prices? And are the interests of dealers and collectors always identical?

Further, is not the whole tone of our pursuit lowered by this constant putting of a money value on stamps? Should we gloat over this or that stamp simply because it is worth so many pounds? I think there is a great harm to Philately by the lowering of everything to a commercial and money basis.

Moreover, has not this continual open dealing in stamps, with the prominence given to their money value, and the public ear-marking of the varieties most sought after, given an impetus to the forgery of these stamps?

I am aware that much can be said in favour of auctions, and that ills formerly existed which it was hoped public sales would cure. But I should like to know from Mr. Garth whether the result has been all that he hoped for when he organised the first of these modern sales.

I may be premature in giving expression to the doubts which I confess that I feel. Perhaps those laws which govern all other transactions into which "business" enters are,

if somewhat slowly, already beginning to act on our sales, and that a remedy for the evils which have existed is almost in sight. Time will show.

But may I be permitted to refer to some other aspects of the case. If we are to have these sales it is absolutely necessary that the auctioneers should have a good knowledge of stamps, and this is the case with the gentlemen who conduct the more important sales. But is it also necessary that the auctioneers should be dealers, or intimately connected with dealers? When Mr. Bull was induced to undertake Mr. Garth's tentative sale it was felt to be a matter for congratulation that while Mr. Bull had an excellent knowledge of stamps, he had also an amateur's love for them, and was not in any way connected with the stamp trade. These conditions cannot, I think, be said to exist now, as among the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association of Mr. Bull's Company appeared the names of the partners of a well-known firm of stamp dealers and large buyers at the auctions. But I do not find a cause of complaint in this, and to answer my own question, I fear that (under existing conditions) it is unavoidable that auctioneers should be dealers. But there *is* a danger in the fact that we do not know who are the sellers behind the auctioneers. I have heard it said that some dealers, taking advantage of the high prices they have helped to create, have come to the auctioneers as sellers and then bid for and run up their own stamps. The mere existence of suspicions of this sort is a source of injury to auctioneers, dealers, and collectors alike, and I would suggest that whenever possible auctioneers should state in their catalogues the names of the vendors, and that it should be understood that in every case buyers should have a right after the sale to demand this information with respect to their own purchases. If a dealer should wish to sell a portion of his surplus stock by auction, there is no reason why he should not openly do so, and I, for one, should be glad to see dealers hold periodical sales.

One other point. I believe that four out of the five firms who have been holding auctions in London withdraw a stamp if challenged by any dealer or collector of standing, and in doubtful cases a guarantee is given for a stated time. May we not expect a similar course to be followed in every case? We do not want to see lots described in catalogues as "postage stamps" sold, as I have seen them, with the remark, "I guarantee nothing. You must buy them for what they are worth." I would suggest that one of the experts of the London Philatelic Protection Association should challenge bogus stamps at sales in the name of the Association, and that no collector or dealer should bid for a stamp so challenged. I am sorry to say I have seen a dealer bid, without making any reserve, for a stamp which a competent authority had declared to be a forgery.

In concluding my, I fear, over-long letter, should like to quote from the catalogue of a recent sale the description of one lot of "postage stamps," and to give the price for which it was sold:—

> "*Roumania.* Moldavia: 1854, circular 54 paras green, 81 paras blue, 108 paras pink; 1860, 40 paras blue, 80 paras red. Moldo-Wallachia:—1862, 3 paras yellow, 6 paras red, 30 paras blue."

Sold for six shillings! (There were other lots equally good and equally cheap!) For what purpose were they bought? And do such sales as these benefit Philately?

Your journal, Sir, has been started with no personal object, but with the hope that it may be of help and interest to all connected with Philately. Wishing you every success,

I am, your obedient servant,

R. PEARCE.

London, 9th January, 1892.

A TRANSVAAL STRANGER.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—At one of the recent stamp auctions in London a 1 penny red *inverted* surcharge on Queen's head was offered for sale, but was immediately challenged by several dealers as a bogus surcharge, and was thereupon withdrawn. I was not present at the sale, but I had previously inspected the stranger and could discover nothing to justify suspicion, though quite prepared to be sceptical of a stamp, the existence of which I had never heard of before.

It would be interesting to know on what grounds the stamp was challenged—whether it was simply because it was unknown, or whether it had been closely compared with a genuine surcharge and so condemned. To my knowledge two other large collectors of Transvaals who examined the stamp saw nothing in it to justify suspicion.

And now that such a stamp has turned up, it would be interesting to know whether any collector or dealer has ever met with an undoubtedly genuine inverted surcharge, red or black, on the Queen's head issue.

Yours truly,

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

PROPOSED PHILATELIC CLUB.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—A proposal is being put forward to establish a Philatelic Club at some central place of meeting in London, and I understand that it goes the length of opening some two or three rooms at a subscription of a couple of guineas per annum. The object of the club, as now proposed, seems to be to bring collectors and dealers together in one club for their mutual advantage, and, I suppose, their mutual—profit. Now I have my doubts as to the success of this idea, for three reasons. 1. That there are not to be had a sufficient number of subscribers who, in addition to the almost numberless calls upon their pockets for subscriptions to this, that, and the other thing, care to establish another two guinea per annum call. 2. That those who can spare the money, have not also the time to spare to avail themselves of the proposed advantages, and, 3. That a club of dealers and collectors will not work, for the simple reason that, although a few of our best dealers would scrupulously abstain from bothering their collector fellow-members to "buy, buy, buy," in season and out of season at the club, human nature is so constituted, that, in the long run, dealers would make the club a rendezvous for catching desirable customers for recent acquisitions.

But why not remove the mask from the proposal and start it right away as a Philatelic Exchange, for which dealers and collectors may be eligible, and let it be a place of meeting, with an exhibition room and a smoking room, where dealers may congregate to show collectors their recently purchased collections and novelties and rarities. Most collectors would, I believe, be willing to subscribe the small annual subscription which would be necessary to provide two such rooms, and, of course, it would be to the advantage of all leading dealers to be members of the Exchange. Indeed, I am of opinion that it would pay the leading dealers to establish an Exchange at their own cost, charging, if desirable, a nominal membership fee. The sales room might be let for auctions, and so focus them into one well known central place of Philatelic rendezvous, instead of holding them, as now, here, there, and everywhere, to the confusion of all concerned. An "Auction Announcements" board would keep every probable buyer informed as to the next auction. Dealers might also advantageously get up practical and unpretentious exhibitions. For instance, on the publication of a new volume of the magnificent catalogue of the London Philatelic Society an exhibition might be held of the stamps described, and no doubt collectors would crowd around to inspect and to fill up gaps in their albums.

Again, there might be "open" and "close" days at the Exchange. "Open" days for the attendance of collectors generally, and "close" days for purely trade transactions, when the dealers might meet in secret conclave and fleece each other.

Yours truly,

WIDE ROULETTE.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—In the December number of the *Philatelic Record* an interesting correspondence is opened up which, now that the London Philatelic Society is to have, in the LONDON PHILATELIST, a monthly journal of its own, may well be continued in our own columns. Mr. Garth, as Secretary of the Society, writes to answer, once and for all, the question that, he says, is almost daily put to him, "What benefit do I individually reap by being, or shall I reap by becoming, a member of the London Society?" And he goes on to say that he has received letters which "show that the writers seriously expect that in return for their moderate annual subscription our Society should present its members with at least five times the equivalent in valuable stamps." He further adds, "I am also twitted with the existence of rival societies, and with the formation of new societies, offering equal advantages, at a subscription of a nominal half-crown or five shillings per annum."

To all this Mr. Garth pertinently replies that the London Philatelic Society aims at something more than mere periodical meetings, that "it has always sought to advance the science of Philately by giving, not only its members, but to the world at large, the benefit of its research, and it aims at placing in the hands of the collector, little by little, the complete history and catalogue of the postal issues of the world."

That Mr. Garth should receive suggestions for increasing the Society's usefulness would surprise no one who knows how influential and international is its membership, but the question, "What benefit do I reap, or shall I reap?" from membership is, to say the least, strange and curious. The man who wants his "pound of flesh" may easily be recognised as the intolerable drone who is always crying out for his *quid pro quo*, though he never contributes a farthing more than will entitle him to

benefit from the unselfish labour of his fellow-members.

The magnificent volumes of the Society's catalogue, and the eager expressions of pleasure which greet the production of each succeeding volume, go to prove that there cannot be many such drones in our Philatelic hive. That there are many outside must be due to sheer ignorance of the advantages of membership. For putting the question on a pure *quid pro quo* "pound of flesh" footing, I defy anyone to produce a Philatelic or any other Society that yields for membership a return at all equal to that which the London Philatelic Society now gives to its country members for their subscription of one guinea.

For that self-same guinea there are supplied without further charge the handsome volumes of the Society's catalogue once a year—so much appreciated by others that almost any one volume will, if sold to-morrow, more than return in hard cash a year's subscription. Commencing with this year, there is also supplied, without further charge, a monthly Philatelic journal in which will be gathered together the ripe experience of the most expert philatelists of our day. Besides all this, membership in the London Society is accepted all the world over as an unquestionable guarantee of Philatelic status. And in these days it is worth more than a guinea to be so separated from the rag-tag and bob-tail, the fakers and surchargers, and the chemical dyers and cleaners, who vex and puzzle the Philatelic soul in every quarter of the globe.

The London Philatelic Society never has touted for members, and there is no sign that it will ever need to do so. It can best serve the permanent interests of Philately by pursuing in the future the wise policy that has marked its past with so much success. Its rank, its position, its influential membership and its published work, justify its rigorous and healthy action in promoting the survival of the fittest and the best, in matters Philatelic, individual and material.

Yours truly,
CEDRIC.

Occasional Notes.

IT is with much regret that we have to announce the death of a well-known Continental dealer, and one with whom we have ourselves for many years past been personally acquainted. Herr Anselm Larisch, after a brief illness, and at the early age of 48, expired on the 12th of this month at his residence in Munich. The catalogues issued by Mr. Larisch have attained a wide circulation throughout Germany, and his name has been a household word in stamp circles for many years past as an energetic and honourable dealer. The sympathies of collectors here and in the Fatherland will be extended to his wife and young family.

* * *

WE regret to learn that, after an existence of two years, one of our most able and interesting contemporaries, the *Federal Australian Philatelist*, has ceased to exist. Some consolation may, however, be derived from the announcement that the defunct journal is to be embodied in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, and that the co-operation of Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, its editor, is assured for the latter. Mr. Hull, who is a member of the London Society, is such an able writer that the whole Philatelic community would suffer by his abstention from future literary work, and we trust, therefore, that his absence will be but of a temporary character.

* * *

THE scarcity of Plate 9 of the halfpenny value of this country is well known to most collectors; it has therefore been somewhat surprising to note the frequent recurrence of specimens at auctions and elsewhere during the past few months. We have seen pseudo copies of this stamp which revealed the fact, after careful examination, that the figures denoting the plate number had been carefully and cleverly altered from a "3" to a "9." On examination it will be noted that this can be comparatively easily effected, and we would warn all collectors to closely scrutinise any specimens that may be offered to them. The "imitations" have the head of the 9 smaller than usual, while the tail extends further out, as with Plate 3. They should be held to a strong light and examined from the back, when the alteration can be distinctly noted.

* * *

WE have received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Limited, a copy of an innovation in the shape of a "Duplicate Stamp Album." The novelty consists in the arrange-

ment of a number of envelopes, three of which are securely fastened to each page of the book, each, while readily unfolded, being so contrived that its contents are securely held. Every envelope is consecutively numbered and indexed, so that a ready reference can be obtained to the contents of the volume. As nearly 150 of these neat little receptacles are furnished it will be evident that a large number of duplicates can be thus stored away. Different sizes are published, all of which are neatly bound and well turned out in every respect. We have, after making practical experiments, satisfied ourselves as to the usefulness of these Duplicate books, and can therefore cordially recommend them to the notice of collectors.

* * *

Major E. B. Evans has sent us a copy of a catalogue of stamps that were dispersed at auction on the 20th of this month at Chicago, by Messrs. Elison, Flersheim & Co., in which the following *rara avis* is described :—

"Victoria, 1863, 4d, rose, wmk. 4, *surcharged 1d in red*. This is an unrecorded provisional, and its condition is such as to preclude any doubt as to its authenticity. The figure 1 of the surcharge is 1½ m thick and 12 mm tall; the d is somewhat elevated and is nearly the same thickness and height. The stamp bears a light cancellation and postmark, the latter showing 'MEL MY 2 63,' and is unmistakably over the surcharge."

Our correspondent adds that it hardly seems to be a likely variety, an opinion that has our ready concurrence. It would be passing strange that, in a country so exempt from the curse of surcharging as Victoria, this old "beaded oval" issue should, for nearly 30 years, have embraced this unknown variety. Until we have personally inspected this *lusus naturæ* it would be unfair to condemn it, but like our Northern countrymen "we hae our doubts."

* * *

The Assmus Case, which at the close of last year was fully reported in the several Philatelic journals, was again heard on January 6th, and as will be seen from the following report for which we are indebted to the *Standard*, the Prisoner was committed for trial :—

At the Marlborough-street police-court, Bernhardt Assmus, a journalist, of Islington, who was committed for trial last month on a charge of obtaining money from Mr. Giweeb, a stamp dealer, by representing a forged "V.R." black penny stamp to be genuine, was brought up by habeas corpus to answer other charges of a similar kind.

Mr. Charles Reya, antiquarian bookseller, Harris's-place, Oxford-street, said he became acquainted with the Prisoner in respect of some pictures, in July, 1890. In December of that year the Prisoner called at his office and showed him an Indian four-anna red and blue stamp, with the head of the Queen reversed. He said he wanted money, and asked Witness to buy it. He named £20 as its value. Witness told him he must make inquiries about it, and then the Prisoner said he would take £8 for it. Witness told him to reduce it to £7 10s, and then he left the stamp with him, on the understanding that he was to call again in a day or two. In the meantime Witness took the stamp to a firm of stamp dealers and offered it to them for £15. They accepted the offer, and on his again seeing the Prisoner he handed him the £7 10s and obtained a receipt. Witness believed that it was a genuine stamp. Subsequently the Prisoner called again, with another stamp—a penny blue Cape of Good Hope, saying that it belonged to his brother, and was a very valuable one. He offered it for £3 or £4, and it was left on approbation as before. On Witness again seeing the firm alluded to, the stamp was detected as a forgery, and they kept it in their possession. He communicated the result to the Prisoner, and did not see him afterwards.

Mr. Hannay: How did you know what to ask for the stamp?

Witness: From my experience in dealing in good books. I generally ask double (a laugh).

Mr. C. Phillips, secretary to Stanley Gibbons & Co., stamp dealers, of Gower-street, spoke to the purchase of the anna stamp from Mr. Reya at the price of £15. He thought at the time that it was a genuine article. The Cape of Good Hope stamp was a forgery, and it was detained. It had been chemically altered. A red stamp of the kind would be worth about 1s. 6d., and the blue one, which the one detained was made to represent, about £30. The 4 annas stamp was submitted to Major Evans, an expert, and that, too, was denounced as a forgery. It differed in various details from a genuine one. Witness believed there was only one genuine stamp with an inverted head in England. The inversion was caused by the printer accidentally when printing the first two sheets of a particular issue. The 4 annas stamp was sold by them shortly afterwards to Mr. Garth, a collector, for £20.

Mr. T. M. Bright, a dealer in foreign postage stamps, the Arcade, Bournemouth, said he received, in reply to an advertisement, a letter bearing the signature of the Prisoner, and dating from Church-street, Islington, offering some Baden stamps for sale at 5s. each. Witness bought four for 15s., and then, as he stated he could forward 40 or 50 more, further purchases were made, and a cheque for five guineas was sent to the address given in payment. Hearing of the existence of "dangerous" forged stamps, Witness came to London and saw Mr. Phillips, and then the various points of difference were pointed out. The pearls on the band of the crown in the genuine stamps were regular in size, with a little colour in the centre of them, whereas in the forged stamps the pearls were different in several respects. There was also a difference in the tissue of the paper and the colours in the post marks.

Prisoner: Being so sharp in the purchase of stamps you bought those that were sent to you, and yet you did not detect they were wrong ones until you made an examination of them with a big dealer. Do you expect, then, that other people, collectors and the like, must know better than you?

Witness said he did not expect people who speculated in stamps to send out three or four lots of forgeries one after the other.

Detective-sergeant Penson said he searched the Prisoner on the 21st November at the Vine-street Police-station, and found upon him 900 stamps. Altogether, on his person and at his rooms, he discovered 4,900 stamps. There were green Badens, four-anna Indians with the Queen's head reversed, and Cape of Good Hope, similar to those produced. The Prisoner had passed in the name of Bernhardt and Assmus.

Major E. B. Evans, late of the Royal Artillery, West Hill, Sydenham, said he had been a collector of stamps for twenty or thirty years, and had written various books upon them. He had examined a large quantity of postage stamps shown him by Detective-sergeant Penson. The Baden stamps were forgeries.

Mr. Hannay: Entirely manufactured, or altered?

Witness: Entirely manufactured. They corresponded with those sold to Mr. Bright. He had also seen the four-anna stamp with the head inverted. Part of it was a forgery, and the rest was genuine. It was worthless as it was. If genuine it would have been worth £20 or more. Two other stamps shown to him by the detective corresponded. They also had been partly forged. The Cape of Good Hope stamp had been chemically changed from red to blue, so as materially to alter its value. If it was a genuine blue stamp it would be worth from £25 to £30. It had originally been a red stamp, worth only about 1s. 6d. Witness examined about 800 stamps amongst the lot produced, and all were forgeries. They They included Bavarian and green Mauritius, the latter having been changed from blue.

By the Prisoner: Witness did not think he should have recognised the Baden stamps as forgeries unless his attention had been called to them beforehand. If he had been offered a single specimen, he probably should have purchased it as a genuine one. They were very good imitations of the genuine article. An unskilled person would be easily deceived by them.

The Prisoner, in defence, said if the stamps which he had sold were forgeries, all he could say was that he bought them and disposed of them without being aware of their character. In fact he had been deceived in the same way; but it was said he had deceived others. He was only a collector in a small way, and if gentlemen of such great experience as those who had given evidence had been deceived, surely it was very likely he would be deceived also. He had no intention to defraud anybody.

The Prisoner was committed for trial.

* * *

ALLEGED FORGERY OF STAMPS.

A BRILLIANT commencement for the New Year has been made by the Philatelic Protection Association, as will be shown by the following announcement:—

At the Thames Police-court on 24th December, Alfred Benjamin, twenty-nine, a stamp dealer, of 46, Oval-road, Lambeth; Julian Hippolite Sarpy, thirty-two, a stamp dealer, of the same address; and George Kirke Jeffreys, twenty-four, a clerk, of 80, Grove-road, Bow, were charged, on warrants, with having in the years 1886-90 conspired and confederated together with other persons, by means of false pretences, to cheat and defraud Percy May Bright, Charles James Phillips, and divers other persons.—Mr. Muir, barrister, instructed by Messrs. Wilson and Wallis prosecuted. Mr. E. S. Purcell, barrister, appeared for Sarpy and Benjamin; and Mr. C. E. Jones, barrister, represented Jeffreys.

Counsel, in opening the case, said the warrants were only granted on Wednesday, and in addition to the charge of fraud there was no doubt the Prisoners were amenable to other charges. He proposed now to proceed with the charge of conspiracy. Jeffreys was a manufacturer of forged disused stamps, which were bought by collectors. The other

Prisoners bought them from him, and passed them off on the public as genuine stamps. When Jeffreys was arrested and taken to the station in a cab, a parcel, containing a very large number of forged postage stamps, was afterwards found in the vehicle. Amongst them were English stamps, marked "Zululand" and "Rorke's Drift."

Detective-sergeant S. White stated that he saw Benjamin at 1, Cullum-street, City. Witness told him the charge, and read the warrant to him. He said, "I have expected this for some time." Witness then took him to Leman-street Police-station, where he was searched. A large number of stamps and other papers were found in his possession, amongst them being two cards.

Mr. Muir: One is addressed to persons dealing in forged stamps, and the other to those dealing in genuine ones.

Sergeant White, continuing, said he arrested Jeffreys at 80, Grove-road Bow. In reply to the charge the Prisoner said, "I have done the printing for Benjamin and Sarpy. We used to do it on this table. There are fakes in every trade. I admit I have done printing and have faked up stamps for Benjamin and Sarpy, but I have done nothing for them for some time. I have sold my press and given up the business. I have not defrauded anyone." At the station he was searched, and some documents found in his possession. Shortly afterwards Witness received a large envelope containing a very large number of postage-stamps from the police of the M division. He showed them to Jeffreys, who said he knew nothing about them. That morning Jeffreys called him and said, "I put the envelope and stamps under the seat of the cab. I was foolish to do it, and I am very sorry."

Detective Cumner proved arresting Sarpy at St. George's-road, Southwark. On telling him the charge, he said, "This is only spite. I have been expecting this for a long time." On him witness found a pocket-book containing documents and a large number of stamps.

Mr. Dickinson remanded the prisoners, and consented to accept bail each in two sureties of £300, with notice to the police.

Remanded till 1st January, the following evidence was given, on the last occasion only evidence of arrest being taken:—

Detective-Sergeant White, re-called, stated that on the 29th ult. he obtained a warrant to search the house 80, Grove-road. On the 30th ult. he made his search. In a coal cellar he found two printing presses and a number of lithographic stones. One of the latter bore impressions of "Victoria 1s. stamps." These were blue stamps. On the 21th ult. he searched the other prisoners' rooms at 46, Oval-road, where he found a number of stamps and documents. On the 31st ult. he obtained a search warrant at the Mansion House to search 1, Cullum-street, City. This was a shop occupied by Benjamin and Sarpy. He found there a quantity of stamps and documents. Besides these he found three perforating machines, and also perforating tools. He also saw a number of bottles containing acid, some paint, and printers' ink.

By Mr. Purcell: He did not see a notice that no stamps were warranted unless asked for. Such a notice might have escaped his attention. The things he found were not concealed. He should say there were millions of stamps in the shop.

By Mr. Jones: He had only brought one of the stones from Jeffreys' house. He found a large quantity of Victoria 1s. stamps.

Henry Thomas Pauncefort, printer and engraver, of 16, Little New-street, said that in August, 1886, a person named Jeffreys came to his shop and gave him an order to engrave two steel plates from designs given to him by Jeffreys. He engraved the stamps produced The two plates were the same except as to the number. He printed 1,000 from each plate. One was in blue and the other in carmine. There was now what purported to be a post-office obliterating mark on the stamps. They were not there when he executed the order. He was paid £3 15s. for the plates and £1 9s. for the 2,000 impressions. He did not know for what purpose the stamps were intended.

By Mr. Purcell: His business was established in 1816 by his father, and witness had been 21 years in business. He had never before or since printed fac-similes of stamps. He thought it was for something ecclesiastical. (Laughter.)

By Mr. Jones: He would not swear that the two stamps produced were two of those he printed. He printed them separately and had nothing to do with the perforation. Both were Sandwich Islands stamps.

George Frederick Clayton, a postman, said that he resided at 25, Hazelwood-crescent, Westbourne Park. He had known Jeffreys since 1881 or 1882. Witness had sold stamps for him, but could not remember the names. He had sold "Columbian" stamps for him, but could not recollect whether he had sold "Bermudas." He had sold "Sandwich Islands" stamps for him. Those he sold were marked with a postmark, while others were marked with a surcharge. Witness did not remember selling some of the Sandwich Islands stamps to Mr. Buhl, a dealer in the City. The witness,

on being confronted with Mr. Buhl, admitted that he had sold that gentleman two stamps which were unmarked. He agreed to pay back some money to Mr. Buhl because the stamps were not genuine ones. Jeffreys told him to sell the stamps, and get as much as he could. Witness had received something out of the proceeds. He had sold fiscal stamps with postal surcharges for Jeffreys. He had also sold fiscal stamps with postmarks on them. They were not genuine postmarks. He had been to Jeffreys' house, and seen him at work cutting out the postmarks on wood He had also seen Jeffreys print stamps of the "Universal Postal Union," with surcharges on them. That would increase the value from the collector's point of view. He had seen Jeffreys use a small printing press. He saw the prisoner perforate the stamps after they came from Pauncefort's. He also postmarked them. Witness also knew Benjamin and Sarpy, whom he first met in the City. He had seen Jeffreys with them. On one occasion Jeffreys showed him some Tasmanian stamps, which he said were "the latest." Witness knew that he meant that they were the latest forgery or "false." Jeffreys told him that he had got a good machine, which cost a considerable sum. About two years ago Sarpy showed witness how he put surcharges on the stamps, and Benjamin looked on. He knew the yellow and green stamps of Grenada, and had seen Sarpy put postmarks on them with a small metal die.

By Mr. Purcell: Before he entered the Post-office he served as steward on board a ship. He was not connected with the stamp society. He was first spoken to by Mr. Moser, a private inquiry agent. There were no Sandwich Islands stamps, consequently those he sold were worthless. He had taken stamps from Sarpy and Benjamin to sell to others, but did not sell any after he had seen the machinery for making them. Dozens of varieties came from the Continent of stamps that had no genuine existence, while others were fac-similes. There were catalogues and books for the purpose of verifying stamps.

By Mr. Jones: No country used a dated cancelling stamp.

Albert Felsenthal, a dealer in foreign stamps, trading as Edward Lester, of 101, Greenwood-road, Dalston, stated that he had known Jeffreys for five or six years. He was introduced to him by Benjamin. About five years ago he called on Jeffreys at his residence and sold him some stamps, taking payment partly in money and partly in stamps. Jeffreys showed him a number of stamps. He bought some Argentines, upon which Jeffreys put a forged surcharge. He showed witness a sheet of paper on which were impressions of various forged surcharges. He called this sheet of paper the "Faker's Pride." On several occasions since then Jeffreys had shown him forged stamps, and asked him to purchase them. On the 22nd November, 1890, he called on Jeffreys and asked him if he could "clean" for him some Victoria fiscal stamps. He replied that it was not worth his while, as he had not cleaned stamps for some years, and was playing for better game. He added that he had quite a dozen new things (meaning forgeries) inside of which no one except himself knew anything. He also said anything new he was bringing out he should first supply to the Continent, together with his customers, and then he did not mind selling it to the boys (meaning men who sold forgeries), as they had spoiled his market on several occasions. He asked Jeffreys how to clean Victoria fiscal stamps, and he replied, "I will do so if you don't mention it to anyone, and if you let me have any of high value." He then wrote on the paper produced a list of chemicals he used in cleaning various stamps, and said, "You can afterwards easily obtain the post mark." He had frequently seen Jeffreys in Benjamin's shop at 1, Cullum-street.

By Mr. Purcell: He knew Mr. Moser, and first saw him about seven weeks ago. Witness sold the stamps as forgeries. He knew a man named Reece who had been convicted of stealing stamps. Witness had sold stamps for him, and they might have been stolen. He knew three more besides the prisoners who dealt in fictitious stamps.

Mr. Dickinson again remanded the prisoners.

At the second remand on 8th January the following further evidence was adduced:—

Albert Felsenthal, in answer to Mr. Jones, said he wished to correct his statement that he had sold Mr. Buhl forgeries as genuine stamps. He had sold forged stamps to Mr. Buhl on one occasion for another dealer. He had been twice to Jeffreys' house, the first time being about five years ago. He had heard that Jeffreys had been in respectable employment at Covent Garden. It was after he had a consultation with Mr. Moser that he went to Jeffreys' house. He went there as a spy. He had not tried the preparation Jeffreys gave him. He had received £2 15s. from Mr. Moser. He knew a man named The Rajah, but did not know he was a collector of forged stamps, and that the Duke of Edinburgh wanted to purchase them. Witness had sent stamps

to Holland. He remembered a robbery of high-priced telegraph stamps, and it was after that he sent the stamps to Holland. At that time the witness Clayton was in the Post Office, but witness was not in frequent communication with him, and had not received stamps from him. He was questioned about the robbery of stamps by an officer named Doubleday. He remembered the robbery of British North Borneo stamps, and he had some of them for sale. He did not give the police any information that led to Jeffreys being taken to the police-station to see if he could be identified. He did not remember the robbery of a show-case from Mr. Hart's, in Bell-alley. On the first occasion he went to Jeffreys' house he saw him put a surcharge on an Argentine stamp. He bought a number of these stamps to show to other dealers, and he might since have sold them. The "faker's pride" was a piece of blue paper. Columbian stamps were in black and white, but the one produced should be darker. Jeffreys told him he had quite a dozen new things, meaning forgeries.

Rudolph Meyer, Sussex House, Queen Elizabeth-walk, Lordship Park, deposed he was managing clerk to a firm of shipping agents. He had been a collector of stamps for many years, and had been in the habit of making purchases from Benjamin and Sarpy. They had often boasted to him about forgeries they had been in the habit of making and selling. He had seen forged Bavarian stamps at their shop. Witness had also seen Sarpy clean fiscal stamps, post-mark, stamp, and roulette them. The latter was a substitution for perforation. Those processes, in some instances, would considerably enhance the value of stamps. The Victoria stamp, if rouletted, was worth pounds, and its value was enhanced twenty-fold. Benjamin had been present while Sarpy was doing it, and would see what witness had described. Sarpy had shown him the implements used. Witness had sold them genuine stamps, and had been told how they made 12kr. Bavarian stamps. Sarpy told him he intended to sell them for what they looked like—genuine stamps.

By Mr. Purcell: He only bought stamps as a collector. He was known amongst the dealers as "The artful man." There did not appear to be any secrecy about what Sarpy and Benjamin did. He had heard of the Public Prosecutor, but did not go to him about it. He had asked Benjamin and Sarpy to repair stamps for him. He lent Sarpy an East African stamp to forge, and he told witness he could get the type to forge the surcharge.

Detective-Sergeant Thomas Cumner, H Division, said on the 31st ult. he went with Inspector Hunt and Sergeant White to 1, Cullum-street, and searched the place on a search warrant. The things found were taken to the Mansion House. On the 1st inst. the things were handed over to witness. He now produced 124 stamps, five wooden type blocks, one type stock, and one type stamp. He saw a notice in the shop to the effect that no stamp would be guaranteed unless a written guarantee was given. That notice was posted up on the side of the wall.

Otto Dannenberg, 4, Lewar-villas, Erskine-road, Hoe-street, Walthamstow, deposed that he was a clerk. He knew the prisoners. In the beginning of last year witness was in the employ of Mr. Hart, a stamp dealer, of 29, Fenchurch-street. He had seen Jeffreys there, and he sold Hart some forged penny red Sydney view stamps at the rate of 3s. each. The proper value for a genuine stamp of that description was between 20s. and 30s. Jeffreys said nothing was to be said to Benjamin or Sarpy about the transaction, as they had previously bought a quantity from him on condition that he did not sell to any one else in London within a certain period. On one occasion witness went to Jeffreys' house, where he was shown some impressions of an 8d. Ceylon stamp, and he saw some star water-marked paper which was used for the manufacture of stamps.

By Mr. Purcell: He had been on the Continent selling forged stamps for Mr. Hart. Witness had himself removed the perforation from a blue New Zealand stamp, and afterwards sold it for 15s. Witness had sold forged stamps for other people. There were people in the world who bought forged stamps. The poor Belgians were taken in with the stamps he sold them.

By Mr. Jones: He had not sold any dead telegraph stamps abroad.

John Wm. Jones, manager to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., stamp dealers, of 435, Strand, said that about six months ago he attended a sale at Carshalton, Surrey, at which some stamps were sold. He saw Sarpy there, and that prisoner said, "Give our compliments to Mr. Castle, and thank him for his article on the Sydney views. We have had the plate altered, and they are all right now."

Mr. Theodor Buhl, stamp dealer, 11, Queen Victoria-street, City, said he knew Benjamin, who formerly had a partner named Bannister. Witness had purchased "1s. (St. Vincent)

vermilion, surcharge 4d." He paid 45s. or 50s. for three of them, and purchased them as genuine. Afterwards he found the surcharge was forged. He then communicated with Benjamin, and requested the return of the money. First of all they denied they were forged, and afterwards admitted the surcharge was forged, and returned the money. Some years ago he purchased some Sandwich Island stamps from Frederick Clayton. They were post-marked. He paid £2 10s. for them, and believed they were a new issue of stamps. Afterwards he discovered they were not genuine. He saw Clayton about them, and at his instigation he procured other stamps.

Mr. Dickinson again remanded the prisoners.

The Philatelic Market.

An interesting collection of stamps has lately changed hands, Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co. having purchased the Philatelic possessions of Captain W. E. Williams, one of the oldest members of the London Philatelic Society. The Mackwood collection, and also that of Mr. E. D. Bacon, were component parts of Captain Williams' treasures, and it may therefore be readily imagined that the collection contains many scarce varieties. Amongst the more interesting stamps are a fine lot of Afghan, Mexican, early Swiss stamps and West Indian, and there is also a magnificent Plate of the Mauritius 1848 1d. red in a very early state of the die, the acquisition of which stamps must have proved a very paying investment to the original purchaser.

A sale was held by Messrs. Thomas Bull & Co., Limited, on the 2nd of this month noticeable for a number of the early Mauritius stamps, which changed hands at satisfactory rates. The 4 and 5 pesos Buenos Ayres, which realised respectively £9 10s. and £8 10s., another 1869 30c. U.S., with centre inverted, that went for £15, were the best lots. We note that as in other sales the scarce Plate 9 of the halfpenny of Great Britain was sold at a good price. Our readers will see that reference is made to these stamps elsewhere in this issue. We must congratulate Mr. Bull in having arranged his catalogue according to the "quarters" of the globe, thus saving materially both the time and patience of his clients. A sale was also held by Mr. Hadlow on the 9th January, but there was nothing to call for comment in the lots submitted.

Since the inauguration of auctions in this country by the Secretary of the London Philatelic Society there has not been, with one exception, such a well-attended and successful sale as that carried out by Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co. on 16th and 17th December. As in the case of the previous exception, the event was rendered noteworthy from the fact that all the lots emanated from one collection, and once more testifies to the Philatelic world that the careful and thoughtful collecting of stamps will always repay itself when the moment arrives for "parting." We are informed by the auctioneers that these stamps were the property of a well-known gentleman residing in one of our Colonial dependencies, and he will have good reason to be satisfied with the results, the sum of £1,490 having been the aggregate attained.

Amongst those present at the sale we noticed—Collectors: V. Roberts, Avery, Blest, Street, Ransom, Castle; dealers: Gibbons, Buhl, Giwelb, W. T. Wilson, Ginn, Callf, Astrue, of Paris, and many others. From the outset it was evident that there were many eager bidders, and as in numerous instances the same lots were required the resultant high prices perhaps should hardly be taken to represent the actual values. The highest price attained was £49 (Theodor Buhl & Co.) for an 81 paras Moldavia, in our opinion £20 above its present value, the set of the four values of their first issue reaching the stupendous figure of £91 15s.! The blue Trinacria of Naples, unused, was bought by Mr. Castle for £32; the other Europeans, such as Swiss, Tuscany, &c., more than realising the previous record of prices. A slightly damaged "Connell" fetched £16 10s., and the so-called provisionals of Nova Scotia were knocked down, those with the smaller type for £13 the pair, and with the larger for £36, a good price considering that they were expressly stated to be sold on their merits, and, as is well known, that their claims to be issued postal varieties is by no means admitted. British Guianas, Nova Scotia, &c., went off very well, £18 was paid for the 1863 Columbian error 50c. red, and £13 for the Medio peso rose of Peru. We are informed by the auctioneers that the largest buyers were Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, Theodor Buhl & Co., W. T. Wilson, Hadlow, Roberts, Giwelb and Castle.

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

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THE NEW POSTAL STATIONERY.

THE somewhat tardy innovations elsewhere described in our columns may be taken as an index that our postal authorities are awakening to the necessity of moving with the times, though it is but an instalment of the reforms that are needed in the interests of the multitudes for whose benefit the Post Office was intended. Her Majesty's Postmaster General would, no doubt, gladly travel further on the road of concession to the writing public but for the drag on his progress in the shape of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is apt to view St. Martin's Le Grand rather as an instrument to increase the National Revenue than a system devised for the comfort and convenience of the taxpayer. So progressive has, however, been the financial aspect of our postal system, that, to say the least, a strong claim for a co-operative share of the increment of profit has been clearly established, and it would be a salutary rule that a certain percentage of the profits of the Postal Service should always be placed at the absolute disposal of the Postmaster-General in order to confer fresh concessions to his multifarious customers. Were this principle conceded, Mr. HENNIKER HEATON and his coadjutors would be in a fair way to see the speedy realisation of their wishes as to Over-Sea Penny Postage, and perhaps without any ultimate reduction of the National Revenue. The new envelopes of 2½d. value, for service under the conditions of the Postal Union, are creditable productions, and are notable as being the first officially issued envelopes of a higher value than 1d. since the 2d. dark blue, with silk threads, that appeared in the early part of 1841. There is no novelty as to design, the die of the 2½d. brown pink by Messrs. De la Rue, of

April, 1876, used for printing to order, being brought into use, changed in colour to a pale blue, the paper is eminently adapted for the purpose required, and from inquiries we have made, we note that the amount charged beyond the impressed value bears favourable comparison with stationery of a similar class. We are, however, not much convinced of the utility of the Letter Card, and it would seem that at the high price of 10 for a shilling they have but little *raison d'être*. A dozen envelopes and sheets of notepaper of excellent quality can be obtained for about twopence, hence these cards cost more than an ordinary letter: had they been issued at the same price as the stout postcards, there would have been some concession. It will be seen, in another column, from a question asked by Mr. Heaton in the House of Commons, that the ideas of the Post Office as to the limits of the uses of postcards is of a somewhat fossil order. A comparison of our cards with those of the leading European nations will show to our disfavour both as to the quality and size of the English Posteard; it might well be increased to the dimensions of, say, the French Card, and assuming that those used did not exceed the prescribed limit, we quite fail to see why an ordinary plain card with a halfpenny adhesive should not be allowed to pass. This desirable alteration would, perhaps, take from the Government a slight profit, but would give the paper trade a stimulus by allowing them fair competition with the Government in supplying a public want. It is to be hoped that our Postal Authorities will be more progressive in the future, and consider the million rather than the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

Note.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Bahamas.—Mr. W. T. Wilson informs us of a variety of perforation of the no watermark issue of the old type, *e.g.*,

4d., 1st issue, no watermark, perf. 12 *and 11 one side only.*

Bermudas.—Messrs. Whitfield King writes as follows:—"The philatelic journals have several times chronicled a Bermuda ½d. *green*. We have been informed officially on several occasions that no such stamp exists, and we have this day received another letter stating that no change of colour in the ½d. stamp is even contemplated."

British Bechuanaland.—From the same firm we receive a novelty of this country. The stamp is the 1d. red, watermark cabled anchor, and surcharged British Bechuanaland vertically in lower case letters. The lettering is larger and bolder than before, the dimensions being "British" 9½ mm. long and Bechuanaland


ONE PENNY
POSTAGE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1.


FOUR PENCE
POSTAGE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

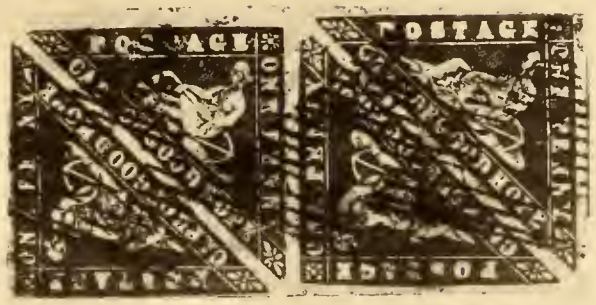
2.


SIXPENCE
POSTAGE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

3.


ONE SHILLING
POSTAGE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

4.



5.


FOUR PENCE
POSTAGE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

6.



7.



8.

19½ mm. by 1½ mm. in height, whereas the old surcharge measured respectively 8 mm. and 10 mm. by 1 mm. We hear also of another value.

1d., red, watermark cabled anchor, surcharged *vertically* in larger type.
2d., brown, „ „ „

British North Borneo.—A provisional, apparently destined to have an exceedingly ephemeral existence, appeared here last month, as it is already superseded by the permanent and current type, for specimens of which we are indebted to Mr. Wm. Harrison, who states that they were sent out to Sandakan early in this month. The type of the surcharge on the former consists of a large figure 6 surmounting the word "cents" in large lower case letters. The *Timbre Poste* chronicles "4c. rose." We fancy, however, this is an error as to the figure.

6 cents., black surcharge on 8 c. green, current type, perf. 14.
6 „ bright rose „ „

Bulgaria.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us a specimen of a new provisional, the current 30 c., surcharged immediately over the cartouche containing the numerals of value, with 15 in thick figures, 2½ mm. high by 5 wide. There are no varieties in the sheet according to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. We hear that a new issue is impending.

15 stot, black surcharge on 30 stot, current issue, perf. 13.

Cauca (Colombia).—We illustrate the latest accession to these States, so prolific in the philatelic line; it will be noted that the design (lithographed) varies somewhat from its predecessors.



5 c., red, on rose-coloured paper.

Colombia.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us specimens of three "errors" of the current issue, consisting of three values printed in the wrong colours. We are surprised at nothing that emanates from South America!

1 c., error black imp. on pale *yellow*, current issue.
2 c., „ „ *green* „
10 c., „ „ *rose* „

We illustrate the new type of *Cubierta* which has recently appeared; it will be seen that the name of the country is in one line, and that there are other material alterations.



10 c., *Cubierta*, black on rose.

There is also a new variety of the "official" according to the *A. J. P.* It is evident from an examination of the *Cubiertas*, as denoted in M. Moens' Catalogue, that in the next century many an ardent Philatelist will have to content himself with these "officials" alone if he wishes to be complete—and he will have a merry time of it! The design consists of *Republica de Colombia* curved, then *Admons de correos Nacionales*—certificacion oficial—Salio de...en...de...de 188—Remite. On the left the arms of the country.

Size 120×90 mm.
No value, black on white, blue bâtonné.

Congo (French).—We gather from the *Timbre Poste*, that the 25 centimes of the 1881 issue has been surcharged in a similar manner to that of the 1 c. of 1891,

the overprint consisting of the inscription, "Congo Français—5 c." As usual, there are only 2,000 to be issued, and there is, of course, the official proclamation!

5 c., black surcharge, on 25 c., black on rose (1881).

Curaçao.—The juvenile Queen of Holland's presentment has appeared on some of the Colonial stamps, of which the following values are announced. It will be noted, by the illustration, that the only difference consists in the change of the portrait.



12½ c., green, with head of Queen.
15 c., rose, „ „
25 c., brown, „ „

An esteemed correspondent doubts the authenticity of the recently chronicled 25 on 50 cents, but gives only negative reasons against it. We chronicled it on good authority.

Costa Rica.—Mr. E. D. Bacon informs us that a new set of stamps for this Republic has been executed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Limited, and that they have been despatched to that country.

Chamba.—The high value of the Service set has been noted by the *Monthly Journal*, with the "M" preceding the first "A."

Service Stamp, 1 rupee, black and grey, *error*, CHMABA.

Diego Suarez.—By the accompanying illustrations, it will be noticed that the recent fecundity of this Colony remains an undiminished quantity. It will be seen that the types are entirely different, as also the position of the surcharge, while one variety is within a rectangle. Fortunately, our representations obviate the necessity for further describing this speculative trash.





5 c., red surcharge, on 10 c., black on violet, current type.
5 c., black „ 20 c., brick on green, „

Dutch Indies.—Following the mother country, this Colonial possession has instituted her little Majesty's portrait. At present only the below-mentioned has been met with, but we hear that others will follow very quickly.



20 c., blue, with head of queen.

The *Timbre Poste* states that the Unpaid letter stamps are to be modified in type as in the case of Surinam.

Egypt.—Another value has been added to the current set, having been issued on the first of January. Watermark and perforation remain unchanged.



3 milliemes, reddish brown, type of current set.

Ecuador.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us complete sets of the 1892 stamps for those unhappy South American Republics who have delivered themselves into the hands of the enemy—from a philatelic aspect. We have such a supreme disgust for this system of recruiting the finances of a Government by the depletion of collectors' pockets, that we intend to give scant notice to their philatelically worthless productions. We shall content ourselves by the briefest of

descriptions in stating that the design consists of a much be-medalled three-quarter face portrait of a warrior with an elaborate amount of exiguous ornamentation, the inscription of value, country, year of issue, &c. The official series have words "Franques oficial" in red letters, diminishing in size towards the centre. The stamps are handsomely engraved, as is to be expected, being the products of the Hamilton Bank Note Co., but are too large for postal requirements, although they might usefully adorn a scrap book.

1 c., orange,	perf.	20 c., dark brown,	perf.
2 c., brown,	„	50 c., maroon,	„
5 c., vermilion,	„	1 s., blue,	„
10 c., green,	„	5 s., purple,	„

Official :—

1 c., light blue, carmine surcharge, perf.
2 c., „ „ „ „
5 c., „ „ „ „
10 c., „ „ „ „
20 c., „ „ „ „
50 c., „ „ „ „
1 s., „ „ „ „

Fiji.—Mr. Robert Ehrenbach has shown us a block of 6 of the 2d. green surcharged "2½d." in large type, that appeared last year. All the three right-hand stamps have the surcharge wider by nearly 1 mm. than the left, the nearest portions of the numeral and the fraction being ½ mm. further apart than is the case with the left-hand stamps.

2½d. black surcharge on 2d. green *variety of surcharge.*

France.—The 15 c. of the current issue has been found, inadvertently no doubt, innocent of perforations on three sides, says the *Revue Philatélique.*

15 c., blue, current type, *perf. only above.*

Great Britain.—Some of our readers, perhaps, may not have heard of the following comparatively recent addition to the I. R. official set.

2½d. black surcharge on blue, current set.

Greece.—The *Timbre Poste* mentions the fact that since the 15th of January the 2 lepta of the Athenian impression has been issued both with and without perforations.

2 lepta, pale brown, Athens impression.
„ „ perf. 11½ „

Grenada.—We illustrate the surcharged variety chronicled in our last issue.



Holkar.—Mr. E. D. Bacon sends us the information that Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Limited, have engraved and printed the following values, similar in type to the current half anna.

¼ anna, orange-yellow.
1 „ dark green.
2 „ vermilion.

Holland.—There is to be a new value shortly issued, says our Brussels contemporary, for the reduced town to town postage, to wit, 3 cents. The following varieties have to be added to those of the new type :—

15 c., light brown.
20 c., green.
22½ c., blueish-green.
25 c., violet.
50 c., bistre.



Johore.—The accompanying cuts will show better than our description of last month this novel and rather pleasing design. The colour of the 4c. is lilac and black, not blue, as inadvertently stated.



Malta.—The highest value has made its appearance, says the *Timbre Poste*, with a change of watermark.

5s., carmine, *Watermark C. A. & Crown*, perf. 14.

Mexico.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us a specimen of a new issue of the unpaid letter stamp. The central portion is, as before, occupied by the letter T, but it is much larger, of a fancy type, and is in a horizontal lined background; the sides are occupied by a fancy shaped border; the words "Falta de Porte" above, and "20 cts." below, are inscribed in coloured letters on white ground, extending to the entire width of the stamp, the whole design differing absolutely from the last issued type with the green network. The paper is white wove with a blueish tinge.

Unpaid letter stamp 20 c., red; perf. 11.

Negri Sembilan—of the type that we illustrated last month have now appeared, according to information, from various sources.

1 cent, watermark C. A. & Cr. perf. 14,
5 blue, ,, ,,

New South Wales.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. recently showed us a specimen of the £1 of the current issue with the added letters for official service which came through a good source, and whose authenticity seemed to be assured.

Official stamp, £1 current issue, *surcharged O.S.*

New Zealand.—M. Moëns, on the authority of an anonymous correspondent, questions the authenticity of the 1d. brown with watermark N Z, as described in our leading Philatelic journals at the close of the year; it is stated to be simply an oxydised specimen of the 1d. red, which stamp perforated, by the way, is not so common as M. Moëns' friend imagines! We saw the stamp in conjunction with others who have studied "Australians," and although we only saw it by gaslight, we utterly failed to see either anything approaching oxydation or of a suspicious nature at all. Until this is shown to us we shall continue to believe the evidence of our own eyes.

Nicaragua.—King Seebeck, has his foot well on the neck of the Nicaraguan Postal Authorities, as evidenced by the abundance of the new crop which consists of no less than 30 varieties of adhesives, inclusive of telegraph stamps. A vignette, almost the size of an ordinary postage label, portrays some event in Nicaraguan history that has taken place aboard ship, in a picturesque and artistic manner, flanked above and below by the requisite inscriptions, while the well-known sugar loaf mountain on the arms of the country have also a minute representation. The official series has a similar surcharge to those of Ecuador.

			Surcharged Official in dark blue.	
1 c., yellow-brown,	perf.	...	1 c., yellow-brown,	perf.
2 c., red	,,	...	2 c., red	,,
5 c, blue	,,	...	5 c., blue	,,
10 c., slate	,,	...	10 c., slate	,,
20 c., carmine	,,	...	20 c., carmine	,,
50 c., purple	,,	...	50 c., purple	,,
1 p., brown	,,	...	1 p., brown	,,
2 p., green	,,	...	2 p., green	,,
5 p., carmine	,,	...	5 p., carmine	,,
10 p., orange	,,	...	10 p., orange	,,

Nossi-be.—Every month brings its weary round of the perennial French surcharges from almost every colony. How long will it be before a Hercules is found to cleanse the Augean stables? The advantages of a Republic may be many, but amongst them are not included the privileges that Postmasters are allowed to abuse, which would perhaps have been stifled in their birth by a most autocratic hand. One of our fresh varieties is of the third issue of the *Timbres-Taxe* series, and is the result of an error, of course, says the *Timbre-Poste*.



25 c., black surcharge on 20 c. brick on green (unpaid type).

We illustrate the other variety, which differs as to the letters N. S. B. from those previously chronicled.

25 c., black surcharge on 1 fc. brown *variety of surcharge.*

Obock (French Colony).—At the last moment Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a list of ten varieties for this colony. A postponement of the descriptions of these stamps will probably not awaken much regret in the hearts of Philatelists.

Philippines.—We have received from Messrs. Clarke & Co. a pair of the impresos series imperf. of the 5 c.; as with many of the Spanish Colonial stamps, it is probable that the whole set can be obtained thus.

Queensland.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. recently showed us a vertical pair of the no watermark series without any perforation between them.

1s., brownish grey, 1864, without watermark, *imperf. horizontally above.*

Porto Rico.—Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. have shown us another value in the changed colours of the "baby king" type.

8 c. de peso, brown,

Réunion.—Not satisfied with the avalanche of new varieties that crushed out the life of Philatelic editors a month or two since, it has been considered necessary



to issue a fresh surcharge. It will be seen from our illustration that the shape of the figure 2 differs materially, and there is a sub-variety of the 1st, while on the sheet have been found by the editor of the *Timbre Poste* pleasing little variations of spelling, such as Ruénion and Reunoin, as well as letters separated, accents omitted, &c.



2 c., black surcharge, on 20 c. brick on green, Type I.
2 c., „ „ „ „ II.

Roumania.—Reference has been made in various journals to the varying perforation of the current issue of these stamps. The same varieties, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{1}{2}$ are apparently to be seen in the "Jubilee" set from a specimen submitted to us by Messrs. Ridpath & Co. As soon as an approximate list of all these varieties can be made out we shall be pleased to insert it.

Russia—Bogdorosk (Moscow).—Since the end of October last 1 & 5 kopee stamps have been issued in the following colours.

1 kop., violet, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
5 kop., carmine, „

Louga (St. Petersburg).—The type of 1886 has been reset. The letters in the centre are smaller; the designs on each side of the central figure are in colour instead of in white, and the figures in the angles are larger. There are other minor details to mention. The stamp is printed in colour on white paper.



3 kop., vermilion.

Zadonsk (Woronje).—The 5 kop. of 1891 has now a larger figure.

5 kop., blue & bistre, perf. 11½.

Zolotonascha (Poltava).—The 2 kop., in consequence of an increase in rate, has been surcharged 3. (*T. Poste.*)

3 on 2 kop., green & black.

Salvador.—There is only one set of the 1892 adhesives here, and no values higher than the Peso. This should be seen to, as surely the cost of printing double and treble sets by means of a surcharge and the addition of values up to Pesos, would bring revenue to the Government and its postal contractors! This design consists of an historical event (on land this time!) the principal figure of which is evidently preserving his perpendicular position by the aid of a flagstaff, and may therefore be taken as a graceful and delicately veiled allegory showing the Salvadorian Post Office supporting itself by the aid of the immortal Seebeck colours! The design is surrounded by handsome involved scroll work frame, containing the necessary inscription.

1 c., green,	perforated.	11 c., brown,	perforated.
2 c., light brown,	„	20 c., orange,	„
3 c., ultramarine,	„	25 c , maroon,	„
5 c., gray,	„	50 c., yellow,	„
10 c., vermilion,	„	1 p., carmine,	„

Selangor.—As with the other minor States, the following have been issued of the new type.

1 c., green, watermark C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.
5 c., blue, „ „

Shanghai.—The 2 cents is now perforated 12, and the 15 perforated 15, both having the watermark, "Kongboo," in Chinese characters. (*Timbre Poste.*)

2 c., brown, *perf.* 12, paper yellowish.
15 c., blue, „ 15, „

The paper is yellowish, also on the undermentioned.

5 c., red, perf. 15, *paper yellowish.*
10 c., black, „ „
20 c., violet, „ „

Sirmoor.—The Service surcharge has been added to the 3 pies, says a Continental contemporary, while Messrs. Clarke & Co. have sent us a specimen of the 1 anna, with black surcharge in place of red as heretofore, the authenticity of the surcharge seeming to be assured.

Official Stamp, 3 pies, yellow, surcharged in black, on S.S S.
„ 1 anna, yellow, „ *red* „

South Australia.—In an interesting book of the stamps of this country, submitted to us by Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., we note two varieties that are new to us—the 2d. of 1859 with double roulette—and the 2s. printed on both sides; the other varieties mentioned in the *Stamp News* not, however, being novelties.

2d., orange-red, 1859, watermark Star, *with double roulette.*
2s., carmine, watermark Star, perf. 10×12½, *printed both sides.*

Surinam.—Two more values of the Unpaid Series, with the altered numerals and the word cents added, have been issued, viz.:—

Unpaid Letter Stamps, 2½c., lilac and black.
5c. „

Straits' Settlements.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., have sent us a sheet of a new provisional. The surcharge consists of the words "one cent" in capitals, nearly 2½ mm. high, in two lines, the first being 8, and the second 10 mm. long. As

usual, the sheet consists of 60 varieties, in 10 rows of 6, three of the stamps in the bottom row showing decided variations as to the relative position of the two words, as the "T" of "cent" comes almost directly under the "E" of "one." The whole sheet is beautifully postmarked *par complaisance*, and for that reason our correspondents returned them to sender, preferring unused stamps to meaningless obliterations. They did not emanate from the Post Office in this condition, but the mere fact of their existence shows a laxity of control as remarkable as it is reprehensible.

1 c., black surcharge on 8 c., yellow, watermark C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

The *Stamp News* announces the 32 c. vermilion, overprinted in black, thirty cents in two lines.

30 cents, black surcharge on 32 c. vermilion, wk C A. & Cr., pref 14

We illustrate the provisional that recently appeared—10 c. on 24 c., green.



Sungei Ujong.—An esteemed correspondent writes: "Some time ago we wrote to a contemporary firm pointing out the omission from their catalogue of the 8c. and 10c. Sungei Ujong stamps; they thereupon, inadvertently no doubt, described them in the next issue of their journal as a new issue, and since then all the philatelic papers have unsuspectingly copied the 'news,' and all fallen into the same error. This mistake has never been rectified. Of course there is no *new* issue of the stamps referred to; they were issued in *1882*, and we have them in stock since that year. They are described in Evans' catalogue, p. 193, also in Moëns' 1883 catalogue, p 683."

St. Lucia.—As we go to press Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following three new surcharges to chronicle: "One Penny" on 4d., "one halfpenny" on 3d., and ½d. on vertical half of 6d.

St. Pierre—Miquelon.—In our last we gave a list of three apparently superfluous varieties of this country. We now give an illustration of the type, and four more varieties chronicled by the *Timbre Poste*.



1 on 10 c., violet, black surcharge.
2 „ 15 c., blue, „ „
4 „ 30 c., bistre, „ „
4 „ 40 c., vermilion, „ „

Transvaal.—Mr. W. T. Wilson informs us that he has a specimen of the 3d. dull lilac, in a deep shade, on pelure paper, with overprint, V.R. TRANSVAAL, in red, printed on the back of the stamp, and adds, "It is easy to understand how this error has occurred: the paper being very thin, the lilac colour has gone through it, and glancing at the back, one can easily understand the printer mistaking it for the front. This is a curious error; I cannot call to mind a parallel case in any (so called) surcharged stamps."

3 dull lilac pelure paper, *surcharged "V.R. Transvaal" on the back.*

Uruguay.—Mr. E. D. Bacon has heard that a fresh issue is shortly to be expected here, differing entirely in design from the present set, and being smaller. They are executed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Limited, who have already despatched the dies for the following values, which, we understand, are to be printed in the colours given.

1 c. green, 2 c. dull rose, 5 c. blue, and 10 c. red.

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Bahamas.—With reference to the envelopes described by us having 6 bars of surcharge, a correspondent points out it might be gathered from our remarks that this was the first surcharge. Such, however, was not our intention, as we were well aware that the preceding variety with the 8 bars had made its appearance last year. (See *Philatelic Record*, p. 205), but we mention it in case any collector should not be aware of the fact of there being two distinct varieties (of which the second will apparently be the scarcer, the issue being limited).

Brazil.—We have a specimen of an envelope that is new to us, kindly sent by Messrs. Ridpath & Co. The design consists of a head of liberty to left within an irregular scrolled frame, above being "E. U DO BRAZIL" in a circular band, and below in a straight line, Reis—100—Reis in block letters, the whole being of a fancy ornamental shape. The execution of the die is not a source of pride; the paper is fairly tough white wove, and is watermarked apparently "GLOBOS B.E." Size 156×87 mm.

100 r., vermilion.

Canada.—As will be seen by the accompanying illustration the 1c. blue wrapper has changed its type. The principal differences are that the head is smaller and better drawn, the chignon is nearer the oval, and the background is composed of closer lines. The figures each side are placed in circles, breaking the exterior oval. There are no ornaments above the circles, and that below is smaller and farther away than formerly. Size 23×26½ mm. instead of 23½×26.



10 c. ultramarine on pale buff.

Ecuador.—The 1892 envelopes and wrappers have not even the one redeeming merit of a respectable appearance. The head to left on the former, within a large engine-turned frame, has a beak like a bird, and the latter is still worse, with a great ugly figure of value in the centre.

5c., red on white.
10c., green „ amber.
Wrappers 1c., orange „ blue.
2c., brown „ blue.

Great Britain.—The somewhat unusual task of recording an envelope for our own country of a fresh value falls to us this month. In response, no doubt, to a legitimate demand on the part of the public for stamped envelopes available for Postal Union purposes, they have been issued in two sizes. The design is that of the 2½d. die used for stamping to order, and better known no doubt to collectors than the public, but in a different and prettier colour. They are impressed upon thin, tough, handmade, wove paper, watermarked with Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s name, and are in two sizes the flaps are pointed and plain, and gummed to about two-thirds of their length.

2½ pale blue, 40 × 77½
„ 140 × 110

New South Wales.—Appended is an illustration of the Registration envelope described last month.



Nicaragua.—As in the case of Salvador there is one uniform design for all the new issues here, but the envelopes and wrappers are very inferior in execution, being apparently type engraved. The picture is on a transverse oval, and is surrounded by a large scallopped engine-turned frame.

5 c., blue on salmon.
10 c., slate „ blue.
20 c., red „ amber.
30 c., brown „ amber.
50 c., purple „ amber.
Wrappers 1 c , blue „ salmon.
2 c., „ „ „
3 c., „ „ „

Russia.—Rjeff (*Rjeff*).—A 3 kop. envelope has just appeared, having the stamp as illustrated, with arms printed in the left upper corner. The inscriptions of the circle in which the arms are enclosed read thus :—Rjeffskaya Zemskaya Potchka (*Rural post of Rjeff*). Size, 151×117 mm.



3 kop., gold on white, and blue wove.

Salvador.—The design for all classes of the new issue here has remained the same, but on the envelopes and wrappers the allegorical picture elsewhere alluded to is on a white shield, and is surrounded by a large scallopped octagonal frame, the whole being embossed. We are glad to note the saving mercy that these wrappers can *only* be procured on white and blue paper respectively!

1 c., green on white.
5 c., blue „ blue.
10 c., carmine „ amber.
11 c., brown „ salmon.
20 c., orange „ amber.
22 c., dark blue „ salmon.
Wrappers 2 cents., brown „ blue.
3 „ „ „ „
6 „ „ „ „
12½ „ „ „ „

Sweden.—A new value has recently been announced here, of which we give a representation, the size being 109×72 mm.



2 öre, dull yellow.

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Austria.—We gather from various sources that in the Polish Reply Card that "somebody has blundered:" *i.e.*, "Böhm" being found erased and corrected to "Poln" on the reply half.

Barbados.—A novelty is chronicled by several contemporaries, being the 1½d. reply card diminished in value to 1d. by a surcharge in block capitals at the base of the stamp.

1d.+1d. violet surcharge on 1½d.+1½d., mauve on buff.

Bavaria.—The P.K. notes the following variety :—

5 pf. green with horizontal wavy lines.

Brazil.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have shown us the following varieties of the current 80 reis letter card.

a. Without any perforation.

b. ,, horizontal perforation above.

Chamba.—That irrepressible small "A" that in Chamba seems determined to associate himself in a "state" that does not befit him, has turned up *pace The Monthly Journal* on the Official Card.

Service Card, ¼-anna, black and brown *error* STATE.

Egypt.—The *Postiljon* says that the letter card has been modified in certain directions, notably as to the Arabian inscription, that in French being altered to *communication écrite fermée.*

Letter Card, 1 piastre, blue on pale blue.

Ecuador.—Of design identical with the adhesive, and accompanying ornamental inscriptions, appear the new cards.

2c., brown on lilac.

3c., blue on white.

Nicaragua.—Four post cards are issued here of design similar to the adhesives, and with the addition of a highly ornate Republica de Nicaragua at the top of the card, emerging from the clouds, that baffles description.

2c., blue on manila.

2+2c., ,, ,,

3, red ,,

3+3c., ,, ,,

Salvador.—Here also the adhesive design is reproduced, while a gorgeous inscription of the country's name, a map, and a huge banner practically occupy the whole side, and denote how much postal necessity has to do with the creation of this trash.

1c., blue on amber. 3c., green on white.

2c., brown on blue. 3+c., ,, ,,

2+c., ,, ,,

Great Britain.—The issue (on Feb. 11th) of a letter card is another innovation, but in view of the price at which it is sold, we quite fail to see its utility. At 10 for 1s. it is fully equal to 10 1d. stamps plus good note paper and envelopes, and except for occasional or hasty use, as in travelling, we fail to see much use for it ; had it been issued at 10 for 6d., or even 8d., it might have been extensively utilised. The design consists of that familiar to us all in the Jubilee Card, with the Royal Arms on the centre of the card and "Letter Card" below it in thin block capitals; the outer edge, of course, is perforated, and on the lower portion of this is inscribed, in small block capitals, "To open the Letter Card, tear off the edge of the perforation," while the back, as the *Pall Mall Gazette* neatly puts it, bears the "taint of Post Office red-tape in the shape of the following elaborate legend, which smacks very literally of the Circumlocution Office :—

'If used for transmission abroad the additional postage required should be supplied by means of adhesive stamps.'

These words meander over the back of the card." Adding, "Why was there not a telegraphically concise notice under the stamp :—

For places abroad, add the necessary stamps." And, alluding to their trans-

parency when held up to the light, "that they should at 10 for 1s. at least possess an official opacity!"

Letter card, 1d., dull carmine on blue.

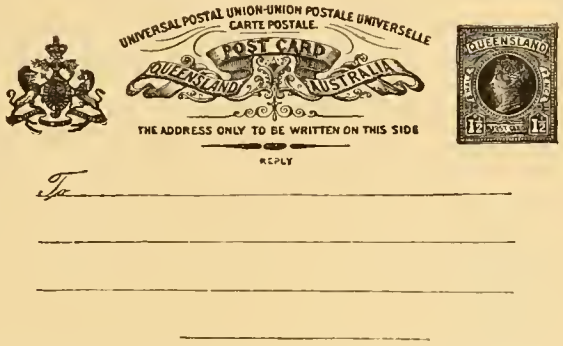
Jamaica.—Messrs. Ridpath send us specimens of both single and double cards printed on a slightly thinner material, and of a distinctly brighter and more yellowish colour.

½d., red-brown on *yellowish* card.
½+½ „ „ „

Natal.—From the same firm, and presenting the same variety as the Jamaicans we have.

½d., red-brown on *yellowish* card.

Queensland.—The accompanying illustration renders unnecessary any description of the new card for this Colony called for by adhesion to the Postal Union; it is more creditable in execution than others that have lately appeared under similar circumstances.



1½d., brownish violet on buff.

Straits Settlements.—The types of the cards described by us last month are herewith illustrated, and to the list should be added reply cards in both types of the black overprint. (*Stamp News.*)

2+2 in numerals, black surcharge on 3 c., blue or buff.
2+2 in letters, „ „

United States.—We give illustrations of the cards described in our last issue



Some Official Information on the Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, January 1st, 1892,
By E. D. BACON.

(*Continued from Page 14.*)

Note.—*The plate of illustrations given with this number of the Journal is taken from specimens of "triangular" stamps in the "Tapling Collection." Numbers 1 to 4 represent the four values engraved and printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. Numbers 5 and 6 illustrate the provisional stamps printed in Cape Town. Number 7 exhibits a variety of number 6, with the corner of one of the stamps defective, while number 8 is taken from a pair of the red stamps, showing the rare error fourpence attached to the one penny.*

EARLY in the year 1861 the stock of one penny and fourpenny stamps became exhausted, and recourse was had to Colonial printers for a supply pending the receipt of a fresh consignment from England. The idea of surcharging the sixpence and one shilling values does not appear to have suggested itself to the then postal authorities, or if it did, was not approved of, though in later years, when fourpenny, one penny and other stamps were required, we find this course was adopted.

No notice appeared in the *Gazette* of this provisional issue, and I am entirely indebted to the courtesy of the present Postmaster-General of the Colony, Mr. G. W. Aitchison, for the following particulars, which he sent me in reply to questions I addressed to him. He informs me the stamps were printed by Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., of 49 and 50, St. George's-street, Cape Town. They were engraved upon wood, and the sheet was composed of sixty-four stamps, arranged in four horizontal rows of sixteen stamps to the row, forming eight squares He further adds:—"I have not been able to ascertain the exact date of issue, but the stamps were urgently applied for, the one penny stamps on the 5th April, and the fourpence on the 8th April, 1861, and it is probable that they were issued within a few days of the latter date." We may, therefore, put down the date of the issue as about the middle of April, 1861, and this is as near the actual day the stamps first came into use as I think we shall now discover. The Postmaster-General in the concluding paragraph of his letter says:—"Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the books from which the above information has been extracted." I feel duly grateful to Mr. Aitchison for taking the trouble to collect the facts which he has furnished me with, and I regret it was not in his power to send me a reply to all the questions I asked him concerning these interesting stamps. Mr. Aitchison, for instance, does not tell me what method was employed for printing the stamps. One of the two following must, I think, have been used:—1. Lithographic transfers made from the two engraved wooden dies, or, 2. Electrotypes taken from the two dies and clamped up together to the number of sixty-four stamps. I feel confident the first of these two methods was the one employed, but whatever process was adopted, it is clear that an impression from the one penny die got mixed up among the fourpennies, and *vice versâ*,

as pairs of the stamps are known showing the two values joined together. (*Vide Illustration 8.*)

Only one printing of these provisional stamps was probably required, as on referring to the appendix it will be noticed that Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. forwarded further large supplies of one penny and fourpenny stamps to the colony on the 1st and 29th April, and again on the 8th May, 1861. The provisional stamps could not, therefore, have been wanted beyond a few weeks, but no doubt the stock printed off of both values, whatever it was, was used up by the Post Office.

Reprints of these stamps were made, upon *wove* paper, about seven years ago, but I am unable to say for what purpose, without they were taken in order to enable the Post Office at Cape Town to present specimens to foreign countries in return for stamps received from them.

Mons. Moens gives the date of these reprints as 1885 in his *Catalogue*, but I find both stamps described in the *Timbre-Poste* for August, 1884, so they date back, at any rate, to the latter year.

I have already mentioned that Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. handed over the four steel plates they used for printing the triangular Cape stamps to the Agents for Crown Colonies, on the 28th January, 1862; and that from that date Messrs. De la Rue & Co. supplied all the postage stamps, etc., required by the Colony. The only value of the triangular stamps Messrs. De la Rue & Co. are supposed to have printed is the one penny, which is known upon paper watermarked "Crown C. C." But from information I have recently obtained, it is certain that Messrs. De la Rue & Co. made use of all four plates of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and that they printed all the four values upon the same "Anchor" watermarked paper as that used previously by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. After Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. had delivered up the plates to the Crown Agents they found they had a stock of 29 reams of the "Anchor" watermarked paper they used for printing the Cape stamps left on their hands. This they handed over to the Crown Agents on the 25th June, 1862, upon the understanding that they should be paid for it as it was used. The Crown Agents delivered Messrs. De la Rue & Co. supplies of this paper at various intervals, and the following dates and quantities are those the Crown Agents returned Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. upon which the paper was used:—

1863.		
Jan. 21.....	570	sheets.
Mar. 25	201	„
Dec. 1	4,060	„
1864.		
Apl. 13.....	6,107	„
Total	10,938	sheets.

The quantities and dates the triangular stamps of Messrs. De la Rue & Co. were despatched to the Colony are as under:—

1863.			
Jan. 31.....	398	sheets	6d.
„	158	„	1s.
Apl. 17.....	195	„	4d.
Dec. 2	2,056	„	1d.
„	2,004	„	4d.
1864.			
Apl. 13.....	3,040	„	1d.
„	3,067	„	4d.
Total	10,918	sheets.	

This leaves a balance of 20 sheets of paper handed Messrs. De la Rue & Co., which were perhaps defective, or spoilt in some way or another during the process of

printing. The 10,938 sheets amount to 21 rms. 17 qrs. 13 sheets, so the Crown Agents still retained a supply of the paper, which apparently was never used. The triangular stamps of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s printing can be distinguished by the colours, which are distinct from those employed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.

The one penny is red-brown, in place of brick, red, or carmine-rose.
„ fourpence is bright blue, in place of dull blue, or dark blue.
„ sixpence is bright mauve, in place of pale lilac-mauve, grey-lilac, or dark lilac.
„ one shilling is emerald, in place of dark green, or yellow-green.

The list I have given above comprises all the triangular stamps Messrs. De la Rue & Co. sent out to the Colony. It is therefore difficult to account for the existence of the one penny watermarked "Crown C.C." I am unable to give the true *raison d'être* of this variety, and I can only suggest that it may be due to the following cause. It was in the year 1863 that Messrs. De la Rue & Co. first commenced to use paper with the "Crown C. C." watermark, and they may have intended to print off the whole batch of one penny and fourpenny Cape stamps ordered at the end of that year upon it. After trying a few sheets for the one penny value they probably found the size of the paper and the watermark so ill adapted to the plates of these triangular stamps that they at once abandoned their intention, and applied to the Crown Agents for a further supply of the "Anchor" watermarked paper. Whether they forwarded any of the stamps with "Crown C.C." watermark to the Colony at present remains doubtful. I have never seen or heard of a used copy, and in face of the list of consignments I have given it looks as if none of these stamps were sent out. In this case the variety would be merely an interesting essay. The Society contains on its roll members resident in the Colony, and by diligent search amidst used specimens they might, by the discovery of such copies, once and for all settle the question whether the stamp is an essay or one actually issued for use. To help any of those who may feel disposed to undertake this task, I may tell them the colour of the variety is identical with that of the one penny value printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. upon the "Anchor" watermarked paper, *i.e.*, red-brown, and that the watermark "Crown C.C." is found placed sideways, and only a portion of it is seen upon each stamp.

At the commencement of 1864 the rectangular stamps of Messrs. De la Rue & Co. commenced to appear, and gradually replaced the triangular varieties as the stock of the different values became used up. The change in the design, as might be expected, did not pass without comment in the Philatelic press, and I cannot do better than reproduce here some pertinent remarks made by Mons. Moens in the *Timbre-Poste* for March, 1864, upon this subject. He says:—

"Some sincerely regret the old design, which had become almost classical. It reminds us that in the early days of collecting a Cape stamp was not only rare, but was the necessary ornament of a collection, which was only considered as having some value when it contained at least one specimen. To have his 'Cape' was equivalent to the amateur of pictures who had his Raphael, the bibliophile who had his Elzevir. What noble lord, protecting art without understanding it, would admit not having a Raphael? That in a catalogue was to have everything as it should be. A Cape was, then, the Raphael of a collection. The peculiar estimation in which this stamp was held was owing solely to its shape, which was in strong contrast to the perpetual parallelogram of the greater part of its *confrères*. Let us recall, then, as far as we can, in searching our memories, the *naïve* reflections that the sight of these eccentric stamps provoked every time that a schoolboy of fifteen or sixteen triumphantly displayed his album to the astonished eyes of his mamma. Motherly consideration, put

too often to the proof, patiently submitted to learned dissertations on each particular stamp, but having arrived at a certain page, the *rôles* were almost inverted; the kind listener asks the name and origin of a stamp of such a *bizarre* design, and the scholar proudly replies 'Why it is a Cape.'

"The partisans of the old design have only this reason to produce in favour of retaining it in circulation—the habit of seeing the Cape represented by triangular stamps. This is a reason, in default of others, but it was not sufficient to retard a reform which all the inhabitants of this Colony who have correspondence must feel the usefulness. There is nothing more inconvenient than these triangular stamps, for the room they take and for their application on letters. From these two points of view the square is infinitely the best. As regards the artistic side, the merit of the new type is very open to discussion. The allegorical figure is certainly poor in conception. It partakes of the similitude of a dancer. We shall be told it is 'Hope,' and that with this appellation a sad or even severe expression could not appropriately be pourtrayed; it may be so, but a little more boldness in the drawing would not have saddened it."

I entirely agree with these remarks of Mons. Moens, for there is no doubt that in the early days of collecting a three-cornered Cape stamp was looked upon by young beginners as the acme of a collection. At the same time, from a postal point of view, the shape was certainly a disadvantage.

I have found no notices in the *Gazette* of the issue of the earlier rectangular stamps. The one shilling was the first value to appear in January, 1864. The one penny and sixpence are stated in the *Timbre-Poste* for October, 1865, to have been issued on 20th July of that year, and the four pence, although not in use at the latter date, was issued shortly afterwards.

Towards the end of 1868 the supply of fourpenny rectangular adhesives became exhausted, and for a time the old triangular fourpence was re-issued. After the small remaining stock of these stamps had been absorbed, the rectangular sixpence was surcharged "Fourpence" in red. This provisional stamp was issued on the 16th November, 1868, in accordance with the terms of the following notice published in the *Gazette* of November 17th of that year:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Colonial Office, Cape of Good Hope,
16th November, 1868.

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for general information that he has sanctioned the conversion into Fourpenny Postage Stamps of a redundant stock of Stamps of the value of Sixpence.

This conversion has been affected by obliterating the words "Postage Sixpence" at the foot of the stamp, and printing across the body the words "Fourpence."

By command of his Excellency the Governor,

(Signed) R. SOUTHEY,
Colonial Secretary.

The notice of the issue of the five shilling adhesive is found in the *Gazette* of the 25th August, 1871.

POSTAL NOTICE.

The general public are hereby informed that Five Shilling Postage Stamps have been received from England, and are now procurable at the General Post Office.

(Signed) CHARLES PIERS,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office, Cape Town,
22nd August, 1871.

In 1876 a halfpenny black adhesive was described in the Philatelic Journals. I have searched the *Gazette* in vain without finding any mention of this stamp, but what is more extraordinary is that at this date there was no use for such a value. The lowest postal rate at the time for either letters or newspapers, if I am not mistaken, was one penny, and it was not until the 1st July, 1882, that the inland rate on newspapers was reduced to a halfpenny. This value must, I think, have been prepared for some projected alteration in the rates which for some reason or other was not carried out at that time. The stock of this stamp, forwarded to the Colony, was sold off at the Post Office, and when a halfpenny value was required on and after the 1st July, 1882, a small number only could have remained on hand, as in this month or August of that year a provisional halfpenny had to be provided.

The following notice taken from the *Gazette* of the 22nd February, 1878, gives the date and other particulars concerning the issue of the first post-card used in the Colony:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Cape of Good Hope,
20th February, 1878.

The subjoined notice relative to the issue and circulation of Penny Postal Cards is hereby published for general information.

(Signed) J. GORDON SPRIGG,
Colonial Secretary.

POSTAL CARDS.

On the 1st proximo, the Cape Colony postal cards, imprinted with a penny postage stamp, will be procurable by the public at the following rates:—

Seven pence for six post cards, or one shilling and two pence for the dozen.

They will be available for use only wherever there is a street or town delivery, and between those places to which the Penny Post at present extends, viz., those between which there is a postal communication not less than *twice* a day.

To be made available for any other places they must bear additional postage stamps, at the usual letter rate of four pence the half-ounce.

(Signed) G. W. AITCHISON,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office, Cape Town,
20th February, 1878.

This card was of Colonial manufacture, and was lithographed by Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., of Cape Town, the printers of the provisional "triangular" adhesives. Specimens are known printed in black, in place of red, the usual colour of the issue. An extract from a correspondent's letter, in *The Philatelic Record* for October, 1883, says the Postmaster-General of the Colony states the black card "is a decided error." I wrote to the Postmaster-General upon this subject, and he replied, under date 12th June, 1889, as follows: "I cannot gather from the enquiries which I have made that postcards printed in black were ever issued to the public." No doubt proofs of the card were taken in black, as usual, before commencing the printing off of an order, and some of these may have got into the hands of persons interested in Philately. The mere fact of one of these "black" cards having passed through the post, as mentioned in the paragraph of *The Philatelic Record*, I have alluded to above, does not in any way prove that the card was issued to the public by the Post Office. For instance, many collectors can show specimens of extraordinary anomalies that have passed through the post, without attracting the attention of the officials, our own

country being by no means exempt in this respect. Mr. McDonald, the correspondent of *The Philatelic Record*, however, states he found three black specimens in a packet of cards he purchased at the Post Office, so if the black variety was an essay, some of the copies apparently got mixed up with the red cards.

The next notice gives the date and reason for the issue of three penny stamps. It was published in the *Gazette* of October 31st, 1879.

ALTERATION OF RATES OF POSTAGE.

FROM Saturday next, the 1st November, the rates of postage on letters posted in this colony, Basutoland, and the Transkeian Territories, for transmissionto Post Offices within the same, will be THREE PENCE the half-ounce, or fraction of the half-ounce, whether the letter be conveyed by the General, Divisional, or Field-cornets Post, or by rail.

. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

(Signed) G. W. ATCHISON,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office, Cape Town,
20th October, 1879.

A Note on the Current "One Halfpenny" and "One Penny" of Great Britain.

BY "QUILP."

THE learned author of the "Notes on the Present Issue of Great Britain," which appeared in *The Philatelic Record* for August, 1890, in speaking of the block letter below the second stamp from the right, in the bottom row of the sheets of these values, says: "At first it was supposed these letters indicated a change of the plate. . . . . It has, however, been ascertained that these letters have nothing to do with a change of plate; they are simply to indicate the number of sheets printed off, as a means of checking the accounts. The printers insert the current letter to denote a fact convenient to the Revenue officer in charge to know, and as a species of control."

Mr. Westoby, in his "Postage Stamps of the United Kingdom," says, on page 31: "A letter of the alphabet has, since 1884, been printed under the last stamp but one of the sheet, to facilitate the keeping of the accounts, and has a certain philatelic importance, as showing approximately the date of the impression."

Now, neither of these theories is altogether accurate, though there is something of the truth in each.

The letter is not exactly a "plate-letter"—*i.e.*, a letter belonging to one plate only—for the same letter appears on each electro, obtained from an original plate in the usual way, of any one edition of them. Thus, each electro (for the One Penny value) at present in use bears the letter "O."

The plate-lettering was devised to check the supply of stamps, as between the Inland Revenue and the printers—the latter not being supposed to have in hand, or to supply, any sheets marked with any letter other than the current one.

I think it may prove more intelligible to give an illustration of the actual use of this letter, than to describe it.

The present electros are all marked "O," and they will all continue in use until they show signs of wear, when the authorities will take over the supply of stamps printed therefrom then in the printers' hands, and there will be, as it were, a balance struck. Fresh electros will then be taken from the original plate, and they will be lettered "P."

After the known balance of the "O" stock is received, the sheets marked "P" will be the only ones which will be accepted from the printers, as the appearance of that letter will be evidence that no electros, other than those in proper use, are being printed from; and the change of letter, therefore, marks the time—about every nine months—when fresh electros are made, and when a "rest" is taken in the stamp-printing accounts.

The letter has, therefore, in my humble opinion, no philatelic importance, as the stamps themselves, from whatever set of electros printed, are absolutely identical; and, surely, we already have sufficient varieties in stamps, without creating purely artificial ones, dependent on a letter altogether outside the panes of the sheets.

The Stamp News for February mentions "the current One Penny with the letter N evidently printed by mistake, and struck out with a single line in violet, the letter O being printed at the side."

This little error (!) occurred some few months ago, just after the "N" electros had been replaced by those intended to be marked "O," one of which had been accidentally lettered "N"; or, perhaps, some "N" sheets had been accidentally retained. Eight thousand sheets existed thus; and the printers, knowing that objection would be taken to the supply, as not being marked with the current letter, asked for instructions. Through a desire not to destroy nearly two millions of stamps, it was suggested that the "N" should be struck out and the correct letter, "O," printed by its side. This was accordingly done, and these sheets were at once issued—all in London, I believe.

As this eminently collectable "error" has only just been discovered, it will most probably always remain scarce; and the fortunate amateur who possesses the necessary strip of gummed paper (even without any superfluous *stamps* adhering thereto) will be able to point with pride to the official correction of a mistake, by the side of which French Colonial errors pale into insignificance. May he live long to enjoy its possession!

Reviews.

M. MOËNS' NEW CATALOGUE.*

THE second instalment of this important work has now appeared, bringing the list up to Honduras (British). It will be remembered that the initial instalment was issued at the latter end of last year, that it consisted of some 83 pp. large quarto divided into double columns, with the normal varieties in larger type than the sub-varieties; that the fiscals were happily eliminated, and that in its typography and its interesting notes it marked a distinct advance on any of its predecessors. The present number is of larger dimensions, extending not only to 185 fresh pages of matter, accompanied by the corresponding illustrations, but also embraces the first part of the autotype representations of the sheets of stamps of varying type, as announced in M. Moëns' prospectus. These illustrations, printed in blue on a surfaced primrose paper, are, we gather, done by some new process, and are certainly extremely well executed. The magnitude of the work may be appreciated when we state there are 85 pages of these *fac simile* illustrations of the various sheets, but the value and importance of such a reference list to all collectors will be commensurate with the labour bestowed by M. Moëns on his work. Commencing with Afghanistan, which has no less than 13 plates, Bamra, Bhopal, and Bavaria necessarily occupy a good many pages. The types of the 1877 Colombian provisionals will be somewhat of a surprise to many collectors, while the Confederate Locals will perhaps have a warmer welcome than the French Colonials. British Guiana concludes the series, but the illustrations of the 1862 are inferior as to the 2 and 4 cents, and are not accompanied by the "portraits" of the earlier issues of 1850 and 1856. We do not think any especial purpose can be served by an exhaustive review, as the book will be in the hands of most collectors, and within the limits of our space will merely glance at the contents. The list of Colombian is an excellent one, but the Cubiertas have attained appalling dimensions. In the Cuban list will be found illustrations of the several varieties of the 1883 over-print with diagrams of the respective positions of the different types on the sheets. We note that there are over 500 varieties of the Egyptian "Administrative Stamp" of the well-known bottled beer label type that delighted our juvenile hearts in bygone days as having so much value for the money. They are still apparently cheap—labels! Coming so soon after the issue of the work on the stamps of Spain by the same author, M. Moëns has been able to make an admirable list, interspersed with many readable notes. We see that in France our friend nails his colours to the mast in the matter of the 20c. blue of 1850, and the same stamp with the red surcharge of 25, by stating that "Neither one nor the other has been issued," an opinion, that we share, too, although we plead guilty to some temerity in giving an opinion on a point where the doctors differ. The V.R. English and the 8d., in our view, seem to present analagous features as to their nativity. A considerable portion is necessarily devoted to the various stamps of the United States (Etats Unis), as also of this country, while the varieties of British Guiana and Hawaii are also duly set forth. It would be hypercritical to say there

* Catalogue, Prix Courant de Timbres-Poste, Septième édition. J. B. Moëns, Brussels.

are no blemishes, but the excellence of the work in general will make the ardent philatelist unhappy until he has the book complete—a feeling perhaps shared by its learned author.

THE MULREADY CARICATURES.*

We are indebted to the courtesy of the publisher for a handsomely, bound edition of Major Evans' well known work on Mulready's handiwork, and its numerous skits that has been for some months past appearing in serial form in the *Monthly Journal*. In a preface the author expresses his thanks to the President of the London Society and other well known philatelists who have assisted him in bringing the work to a completion, one that we are confident will add to the already high reputation of Major Evans as a most painstaking and accurate writer.

It is evident that the mere compilation of this book, with the searches and correspondence necessary to procure the material, must have involved a great labour, and we think that the result is one that reflects every credit upon the author not only for the succinct way in which he has marshalled his facts, but the literary garb in which he has dressed them for the delectation of his readers. Every type is not only fully described, but is accompanied by illustrations; it is therefore obvious that it will afford interesting reading to a far wider circle than the philatelic public, and should serve to while away many an hour to the traveller far more pleasantly and profitably than the "shilling shocker" that adorns the railway bookstalls. An appendix containing some of the newspaper critiques of Mulready's design in 1840 and a concise index are fitting adjuncts. The publishers may be congratulated on the printing and general appearance of the book, the wide margin of rough toned paper, the clear type and excellence of the illustrations being worthy of high commendation. In congratulating the author on his interesting book, we can cordially recommend the "Mulready Caricatures" to all philatelists.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., &c.

Committee for the Year 1891—92.

President: F. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C. *Vice-President:* M. P. CASTLE.

Secretary: D. GARTH. *Assistant Secretary:* J. A. TILLEARD.

Treasurer and Librarian: C. N. BIGGS.

E. D. BACON. | MAJOR EVANS.
A. W. CHAMBERS. | T. MAYCOCK.

THE Eighth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 29th January, at 7.30 p.m., the meeting, which had been summoned for the 15th January having been abandoned in consequence of the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. The meeting was attended by the President (in the chair), the Vice-President, and Messrs.

* A Description of the Mulready Envelope and of Various Imitations and Caricatures of its Design, &c.: Major E. B. Evans. London: Stanley Gibbons & Co. (Limited).

C. J. Daun, C. N. Biggs, E. D. Bacon, T. Maycock, E. A. Elliott, W. Silk, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, T. Wickham-Jones. W. T. Wilson, and J. A. Tilleard, members; and Messrs. D. A. Vindin and J. E. Budd, visitors.

The chair having been taken by the President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Letters were read from Mr. W. A. Cunningham and Mr. Tilley resigning their membership, and the resignations were directed to be accepted with regret. A letter from Mr. Armistead in reference to the 1d. carmine stamp of Turks Islands, white crown and C. A. perf. 14, was also read, and it was explained that at the time of the publication of the Society's recent work this stamp had not been seen, but that its appearance had since been duly noted. Mr. W. R. Joynt forwarded a letter from Mr. Bond, of the Government Printing Office, Melbourne, in reference to the recent reprints of the stamps of Victoria, in which he explained that it was not intended to sell the obsolete stamps without being marked "reprint." It was also mentioned that the 5s. blue on yellow could not be reprinted, a remark which applied also to other stamps referred to in the letter. The secretary was directed to acknowledge with the thanks of the Society Mr. Joynt's communication, and Mr. Bond's letter was directed to be entered on the minutes.

Mr. F. de Coppet, proposed by Mr. Bacon, and seconded by the Vice-President, and Dr. J. N. Keynes, proposed by Mr. Geldard, and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society. The President then alluded in fitting terms to the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and it was resolved upon his motion, seconded by the Vice-President—"That this Society sincerely deplores the great national loss sustained by the recent death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and desires to express to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, the Honorary President of the Society, its loyal and heartfelt sympathy with the members of the Royal Family in their sad affliction." Upon the motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, it was resolved—"That the Society open a banking account at the Consolidated Bank, Limited, and that the bankers be instructed to honour cheques signed by the Treasurer, Mr. C. N. Biggs." The President, in the name of the Society, welcomed Mr. D. A. Vindin as a visitor at the meeting, and the latter in reply, referring to the reprints of the laureated stamps of New South Wales, deplored his connection with the sale of these stamps, and explained the part which he had taken in the transaction. From the explanation given by Mr. Vindin it appeared that he thoroughly believed in the genuine character of the stamps, which he had purchased subject to the payment to his vendor of a large sum of money out of the first proceeds, and that he was assured and believed that the only sheets in existence were those sold to him. Mr. Vindin further stated that every endeavour was being made by the Government officials to trace the source of origin of the stamps, but so far without success. The revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon was proceeded with, and adjourned until the next meeting.

The ninth meeting of the season was held at the Salisbury Hotel on Friday, the 12th February, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the President, the Vice-President, and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, F. Ransom, F. Maycock, T. Wickham-Jones, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, C. W. Silk, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, and J. A. Tilleard.

The President occupied the chair, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Assistant-Secretary read a letter from Mr. Bambridge, the private secretary of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, in reply to the resolution passed at the last meet-

ing and forwarded to H.R.H. The letter, which was in the following terms, was directed to be entered on the minutes:—

Admiralty House, Mount Wise,
Devonport. Feb. 5, 1892.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the resolution passed by the members of the Philatelic Society which you have forwarded on their behalf as an expression of sympathy with the members of the Royal Family in their present sad affliction.

His Royal Highness asks you to kindly convey to the members his sincere thanks for these kind expressions of sympathy, which are truly appreciated by him.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

J. A. Tilleard, Esq. G. F. Bambridge, *Private Secretary.*

A letter from Mr. A. W. Chambers was read, in which he stated that upon comparing some pairs of the 3d. Sydney View stamps of New South Wales, it appeared that an alteration should be made in regard to the position of the stamps in the plate, as described in the Society's work on the stamps of Oceania. It was suggested that Nos. 5, 24, and 25 were wrongly placed, and that in the plate in "Oceania" No. 5 should be No. 25, No. 25 should be No. 24, and No. 24 should be No. 5. It had been previously known that Nos. 5 and 25 were wrongly placed, and the Vice-President stated that on examining his own stamps a short time since he had come to the same conclusion as Mr. Chambers in regard to the proper order on the plate. From an examination of the pairs of the stamps sent by Mr. Chambers, and those produced by the Vice-President, it appeared that the correct order should be stated as above, and the secretary was directed to acknowledge Mr. Chambers' letter with the thanks of the Society.

Mr. L. Gibb, in a letter written from Montreal, explained the use of the ½ cent. stamp of Canada, and forwarded specimens of circulars on which the stamp had been used. It appears that these circulars are not addressed, but on being delivered at the Post Office with the stamp attached, are placed by the officials into every private Post Office box.

The Vice-President read a letter from Stanley Gibbons, Limited, sending for inspection of the meeting a copy of the 1s. stamp of Western Australia (Crown and CC.), printed in *bistre*, and also a copy of the 2d. (diadem) stamp of New South Wales, having for the watermark a double-lined figure one. Mr. Castle was requested to acknowledge the receipt of the letter with the thanks of the Society.

The Librarian reported that he had received from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., for the Society's library, bound copies of the *Stamp News Annual* for 1891 and 1892, and the *Stamp News* and *Philatelic Record* for 1891, and also a letter stating it was the intention of the publishers to continue to present the monthly parts of the *Stamp News* and *Philatelic Record* for the current year. Mr. Biggs was requested to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and books, with the thanks of the Society. The only other correspondence consisted of a letter from the secretary of the Dresden Society, referring in complimentary terms to the first number of the new Journal, and suggesting that an exchange of copies for copies of the Journal of the Dresden Society should be regularly made, and the letter was handed to the editor of the Journal, with directions to arrange accordingly.

Mr. Paul Stroelin, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by Mr. Bacon; Mr. W. Armistead, proposed by Mr. Creeke, and seconded by the Secretary; and Mr. E. F. Weber, proposed by Mr. Rodd, and seconded by the Vice-President, were elected members of the Society.

The subject of the date of the annual dinner was again considered, and it was determined that it would be better to postpone holding the dinner until the month of May.

The Secretary gave notice that, with a view of reprinting the Society's statutes, he would at the next meeting submit the same for revision by the Society, so that all amendments which might be found necessary in consequence of the alteration already agreed upon by the Society might be made.

The revision of the Society's reference list of the Stamps of Ceylon was further proceeded with and adjourned.

On the motion of the Assistant Secretary, seconded by Mr. Wickham-Jones, it was resolved "That the Society has noted with satisfaction that a prosecution in regard to the sale of forged stamps has resulted in a conviction and sentence which it is hoped will have a salutary effect in preventing frauds upon philatelists."

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: VERNON ROBERTS. *Vice-President:* W. DORNING BECKTON.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer (pro. tem.): W. DORNING BECKTON.
Assistant Hon. Sec.: D. PIXTON.

THE Eighth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Friday, the 15th January, 1892, the President in the chair.

The President, before proceeding with the business of the meeting, referred to the lamented death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by the Vice-President, and unanimously agreed to by the members all standing:—

"That the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society learnt with extreme regret of the untimely death of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and they humbly beg to tender their heartfelt sympathy to the Royal Family in the great calamity that has befallen them and the nation."

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The President then referred to the vacancy in the office of Secretary, and reported to the meeting that the committee in whose hands the appointment of a successor lay held a meeting on Tuesday last for the purpose of considering the matter, and had unanimously elected Mr. W. D. Beckton, hon. sec. *pro. tem.* Mr. W. D. Beckton had under the circumstances consented to undertake the duties until the annual general meeting of the Society, provided the committee appointed an assistant hon. sec. The committee thereupon recommended the appointment of Mr. D. Pixton as assistant hon. sec., and that gentleman had consented to act. It therefore only remained for the meeting to sanction the appointment of Mr. D. Pixton as assistant hon. sec., and this was done.

The President then brought under the notice of the meeting the monthly Journal about to be published under the supervision of the London Philatelic Society, and strongly urged the members to subscribe to the same. Many members thereupon signified their intention of doing so.

The President then read the continuation of his paper on the English Stamps, dealing with the 2½d. and 3d. An animated discussion took place on that portion of the paper dealing with the 3d., it being pointed out that the only specimen at present known of, plate 3, perf., formerly belonged to a Manchester collector, and was now in the British Museum.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the inspection of novelties, the most interesting being a pair of Great Britain 1d. on Dickenson paper, and two varieties

of the Archer roulette, formerly belonging to Sir Rowland Hill, which were shown by the President.

The ninth meeting of the session was held on Friday, 29th January, 1892, at the Mitre Hotel, the President in the chair, there being 14 members and one guest present.

The minutes of the last meeting was read and confirmed.

The Hon. Sec. read a letter he had received conveying the thanks of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society for the expressions of sympathy contained in the resolution of condolence passed at the last meeting of the Society.

The President announced the receipt of the first part of the new monthly Journal of the London Philatelic Society, which he showed to the meeting.

Mr. Duerst then read a paper on the Stamps of Geneva, including the so-called Vaud, Neuchatel, and Winterthur, which he maintained were really Geneva stamps.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Duerst for his paper, which was duly accorded.

The rest of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties, the President showing a pair of 5s. Queensland, imperf. horizontally, being the pair he showed at the December meeting of the London Philatelic Society, and the Vice-President showed a Porto Rico, 1881, 1 mil de peso, blue, error in colour.

DUDLEY PIXTON, Assist. Hon. Sec.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Honorary President: BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: M. P. CASTLE. *Vice-President:* J. H. REDMAN.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: W. T. WILLETT.

A. DE WORMS. | J. W. GILLESPIE.
H. STAFFORD SMITH. | J. H. ESCOLME.

A MEETING of the members was called for Monday, the 1st January. Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. H. Redman, A. de Worms, H. Stafford Smith, J. W. Gillespie, R. J. Woodman, H. W. Armitage, and W. T. Willett attended. On the suggestion of the President, and following the example of the London Society, in view of the national calamity sustained in the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence, the meeting was at once adjourned.

The fourth meeting of the season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, the 1st February, at 7.45 p.m. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President took the chair. Present:—Messrs. J. H. Redman, J. W. Gillespie, H. W. Armitage, S. M. Castle, A. de Worms, W. H. Rean, R. J. Woodman, H. Stafford Smith, and W. T. Willett. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from Mr. Wm. Brown, of Salisbury, offering to publish the minutes of the Society in his journal; as the Society had already completed their arrangements, they were unable to accept Mr. Brown's offer. The subject for study, "Areas of Collection," was proceeded with, and adjourned. Mr. Stafford Smith exhibited specimens of the current Victoria 1d., printed on rose paper, also the current Porto Rico 8 cents, printed in the new colour, pale brown.

Correspondence.

REPRINTS OF THE STAMPS OF VICTORIA.

We are indebted to Mr. W. R. Joynt, of Dublin, for permission to print the following letter received by him from Mr. Wm. Bond, of the Government Printing Office at Melbourne.

"Government Printing Office,
"Melbourne, Nov. 16th, 1891.

"DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of Aug. 29, I have to inform you that sets of obsolete stamps, marked 'reprint,' may be obtained for the sum of £1 per set on application to the Comptroller of Stamps, General Post Office, Melbourne. It is not intended, I believe, to sell the obsolete stamps without being marked 'reprint,' but only to supply them to a few high State officials of other countries who take an interest in stamps, in exchange for sets of their own. You will be pleased to learn that we have been unable to reprint the 5s. blue on yellow, as the original steel punch has been altered for printing in two colours, blue and red on white paper, which we have reprinted.

"The reprints of the early issues of stamps, viz., those prior to 1868, will be readily distinguished from originals, as the V over crown watermark has been used for all the reprints.

"We have been unable to reprint the emblem series, the 2d. mauve of Jan., 1870, the 6d. and 2s. 'postage' 'stamp' at sides, the 6d, black, small headed oval and '6d.' at sides, the 'Too Late' and 'Registered' stamps; also the surcharged duty stamps and the ½d. red surcharge on green 1s. (June /73) have not been reprinted. Only the orange 3d., laureated head, the 8d. orange on white, and 10d. slate on white have been produced, the other colours of same types not being reprinted.

"In concluding, I must apologise for not answering your letter sooner, but I have been away from the office taking holidays, and was therefore unable to do so.

"I shall be happy, at any future time, to give you any further information you may wish for regarding Victorian stamps.

"I have honour to be, Sir,
"Yours truly,
"(Signed) WM. BOND.

"W. R. Joynt, Esq."

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to congratulate you on the splendid start you have made with the "LONDON PHILATELIST;" along with all the other publications of the Society it ranks alone, superior to comparisons.

I cannot understand the frame of mind of the persons who originated the idea that the members of the Society did not receive enough for their money. Speaking for myself, I do not usually expect 25s. to the £, but I have found that this is what being a member means. The members especially, and the Philatelic world generally, cannot estimate too highly the value of the London Society.

With regard to Philatelic matters, I should like to know if any of your readers can throw any light on the Virgin Island 1d. green, p. 14. This stamp has long been known, of course, C.C. but for years it has not been catalogued, and now you can get it anywhere for 4s. or 5s.; where have the numbers come from so suddenly? Are they remainders? for it is a stamp that is hardly ever seen used.

At some time in the future I hope to have your permission to say something about perforations.

Yours faithfully,
O. FIRTH.

8, Rushcroft,
Baildon, Nr. Shipley,
Yorkshire.
Feb. 5th, 1892.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—For the last five or six years I have had a complete set of Great Britain issue April, 1884, surcharged "specimen." On looking through these the other day I found that the 1½d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., and 5s. were perf. *12*; all the other values having the ordinary perf. 14. I am at a loss to understand this peculiarity, and think that possibly some of your correspondents may be able to throw a light on the subject.

The entire set I *know* to be absolutely genuine in every respect.

Yours obediently,
A. DE WORMS.

Brighton, Feb. 16, 1892.

Occasional Notes.

AT a recent meeting of the London Philatelic Society two very interesting stamps were sent for the inspection of members by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. The one—the two-pence blue "diademed" issue of New South Wales, with watermark thick double-lined numeral I, has, with the exception of the specimen in the Vice-President's collection, hitherto been unknown on both sides of the world. The other—the error in the colour of the 1d. bistre, of Western Australia (wmk. C.C. & Cr. perf. 12½) is almost an equal *rara avis*, no specimen having been shown to the London Society since 4th December, 1869, when the then secretary showed this stamp and comment was made as to "the carelessness with which the dies of some stamps were inserted in the frames." These two specimens were a *trouvaille* in the same collection, and are certainly two of the very rarest varieties of the stamps of Oceana.

* * *

A SUGGESTION has been made by a well-meaning postal reformer to the Postmaster-General that in lieu of black bordered envelopes to denote the intensity of our woes there should be envelopes with black bordered penny stamps. There would be also then necessary, grey bordered for half-mourning, silver for weddings, and—say—green for lunatics. The Postmaster-General most curiously did not agree to the suggestion!

* * *

THE following questions were put in the House of Commons on 15th February:—The Sale of Stamps: Sir J. Fergusson, in answer to Mr. H. Heaton, said it was not known if the Post-offices of British Colonies kept for sale stamps of the United Kingdom. It was not thought advisable to purchase and keep for sale in British Post-offices stamps of India and the Colonies, and the Post Office did all in its power to discourage remittances by postage stamps in letters, because of the temptation thus placed in the way of the sorters and post-men. Mr. H. Heaton also asked the Post-master-General whether he intended to permit the public to use their own postcards (with a halfpenny stamp attached to each), provided that such postcards in size and in every other respect conformed to the regulations; and whether the cost of postage stamps (to the Government) amounts to only £16 per million, whereas postcards cost them £334 per million, Sir J. Fergusson: The matter is under con-consideration. The post-cards cost £283 per million to manufacture.

ACCORDING to a paragraph that has gone the rounds, that indefatigable and versatile advocate of the cheap postage—Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P.,—has lately conceived the idea of a guarantee by himself and friends against any loss incurred by the Government in the introduction of Penny Postage between all the speakers of the Anglo-Saxon tongue. As may be imagined, the authorities could hardly link themselves to such "State aid," but it is clear that Universal Penny Postage, within the fore-going limits, is "in the air," and if Mr. Goschen's estimate of the loss is only £75,000 per annum, it is palpable that with the natural increment of correspondence, any financial arguments against its adoption are likely to disappear.

* * *

THE publisher of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has sent us the first volume of that journal for the past year, which in its neat binding presents an interesting volume. There are several features that will find accept-ance at the hands of philatelists, such as the epitome of auction prices, the index of special studies in the leading papers, and the articles upon the leading stamp dealers, which are accompanied by excellent illustrations of the heads of the firm who have been interviewed. The difficulty will probably be where to leave off on this subject! It is, perhaps, hard to find the philatelic point in a few of the articles, but the volume as a whole is a good one, and fairly entitles the publisher to claim for it a high place among the journals devoted to stamp collecting in this country.

* * *

THE ALLEGED FORGERY OF STAMPS.

ON 22nd January, at the Thames Police Court, Alfred Benjamin, 29, a stamp dealer of 46, Oval-road, Lambeth; Julian Hippolite Sarpy, 32, a stamp dealer, of the same address; and George Kirke Jeffreys, 24, a clerk, of 80, Grove-road, Bow, surrendered to their bails, before Mr. Dickinson, to further answer a charge of conspiring and confederating by means of false pretences and subtle devices to cheat and defraud divers persons.

Mr. Muir, instructed by Messrs. Wilson & Wallis (of Bow-street), prosecuted, Mr. Purcell represented Benjamin and Sarpy, Mr. C. E. Jones appeared for Jeffreys, and Detective-Sergeants White and Cumner were present on behalf of the Commissioners of Police. The Post Office and Inland Revenue were also represented.

Evidence has already been given showing

that the accused men had extensively dealt in forged stamps.

Hugo Griebert, a stamp dealer, of 135, Fenchurch-street, stated that he had known Benjamin and Sarpy for about eight months. Their shop was next door to the one he occupied, and he had done business with them on several occasions. He did not remember seeing in their shop a notice guaranteeing stamps as genuine. He had not seen any printing-machine or dies in their shop. Witness had purchased stamps as genuine ones from them, and on two occasions they turned out not to be genuine. In May last he purchased two Sydney-view 1d. stamps, and gave £2 for them. He sold them again, and witness afterwards found out they were forgeries. He returned the money and got the stamps back. Witness spoke to Benjamin about them, and told him they were forgeries. He also asked for the money to be returned. Benjamin said he did not know at the time that they were forgeries, and gave witness the value of the money he had paid. He afterwards bought three Baden 18kr. stamps of Benjamin for 15s., and later on discovered they were not genuine. Witness then returned them to Benjamin. That prisoner said he bought them as genuine, and returned the value. The stamps in Sarpy and Benjamin's window were all genuine. He could not remember if he had seen any stamps in the shop that were not genuine.

By Mr. Purcell: He had received ten Sydney-views from Sarpy, but did not remember if the price was to be £1 10s. He did not tell Sarpy he could get good prices for them in the "good old Fatherland." Witness had never dealt in jewellery, but had exchanged jewellery for stamps. He did not remember if the jewellery was like the stamps—"faked." He gave four rings for £8 worth of Borneo stamps, which had, like the hall-mark on the rings, "faked" post marks. Witness had exchanged those stamps for reprinted stamps. Witness was frequently in Benjamin and Sarpy's shop, and used to buy about £10 worth of stamps there a week. He asked these two prisoners to surcharge some old Portuguese, Madeira, and Azores stamps. Witness did not know if he stood by while these stamps were surcharged, but the surcharging was done while he waited. The price of an old Portuguese stamp without the surcharge would be 9d., and with it 1s. 6d. He remembered taking 100 Orange Free stamps to them, and they had not a postmark on them. He asked them to clean and postmark the stamps, and gave 30s. for them. He knew a preparation sold in Paris that was used for removing ink marks."

Percy May Bright, a stationer and bookseller, The Arcade, Bournemouth, stated that on the 23rd November last he called at the shop of Benjamin and Sarpy. He saw Benjamin, and purchased some stamps from him. Amongst them was one purporting to be a 12kr. Bavarian perforated stamp, and he paid 6s. 6d. for it. That would be cheap for a genuine stamp, but was not the price of a forged one. The next day he found the stamp was forged. The colour and perforation were different to that of a genuine stamp. He afterwards communicated with the Philatelic Protection Association. In their window he also saw a stamp called "The Rare V.R. Stamp." That was the old British black stamp. The one he saw was not a genuine one. The price of a genuine stamp of that sort would be £7 10s. or £8. He did not see the notice produced.

By Mr. Purcell: He did not buy "notorious fakes," and Benjamin did not tell him he only guaranteed those stamps which had his name on the back. He afterwards called at the shop and bought some more stamps. On that occasion he did not mention the 12kr. stamps. He believed the association had issued a circular warning the members against Benjamin and Sarpy. There were "faked" stamps of more than 45 countries.

James M'Kenzie, a clerk at 3, Fenchurch-avenue, City, said he had been a stamp collector for 16 years, and had known Benjamin and Sarpy for about three years. He had heard them mention Jeffreys' name in connection with forgeries. They told him he had made the St. Vincent surcharge forgery. Witness was a contributor to several philatelic papers, and as such had made inquiries about the forgery of stamps. He had acquired information with regard to forgeries from Benjamin and Sarpy, and had purchased forged stamps from them as forgeries. About a year ago Sarpy showed him a piece of paper with a star watermark on it. Witness knew that stamps were printed on paper watermarked in that way. Sarpy showed him a forged 9d. Ceylon stamp, and said it was to be sold in France. He had seen Sarpy post mark fiscal stamps. He had purchased a sheet of forged blue Victoria stamps from Sarpy, and afterwards passed that on to Mr. Buhl to be used by the Philatelic Society. He had seen a great number of forged stamps in Benjamin and Sarpy's possession. The railway ticket produced had a postmark and perforation on it. These were done by Benjamin at his shop. Witness had a good collection of West Indian stamps, and they

told him he had better get rid of it, as they were all to be forged.

By Mr. Purcell: He had bought, sold, and exchanged stamps with Benjamin and Sarpy. He recollected Mr. Phillips sending him a Grenada stamp, with the surcharge reversed, but that was not guaranteed as genuine, although witness inferred it was not so. Witness ascertained from the postmaster of Grenada that no such stamp had been issued. Benjamin and Sarpy had told him they had manufactured stamps which Mr. Phillips bought, and they used to boast of the excellence of their "fakes." Witness was called "Nevis" by the dealers. He knew that Mr. Phillips, before he became secretary of the Association, had traded at Birmingham.

Mr. Dickinson again remanded the prisoners on bail.

At the further hearing of the case the following additional evidence was given:—

Mr. Sireax, who was for many years a stamp collector, stated that during the years 1884 and 1885 he purchased large quantities of stamps from Benjamin. He had his collection examined, and found that a number of these were of doubtful genuineness. He insisted on Benjamin taking the stamps back, which he did, and repaid the witness.

Charles James Phillips, manager to Stanley Gibbons and Co., foreign stamp dealers, and secretary to the Philatelic Protection Association, said he had examined a number of stamps belonging to the prisoners. Nearly every stamp was forged in some respect, either as to the stamp itself, the surcharge, or the postmark.—An invoice of a perforating press, made for Benjamin, was produced, and also one for two perforators, as well as letters, asking for the return of money paid for forged stamps. A letter was then produced which was found at Cullum-street, in which the following passage occurred: "The Sireax affair is bad. I had to pay £6, and cannot put down here what I had to do." In another letter a correspondent said, "I have a lot of new customers, including another mug like our old friend England."—A letter was shown to the witness which ran as follows: "I think the New Zealand is faked, but, if you like, I will sell it at a high price and divide with you." He acknowledged that the letter was his, but he had no recollection of it, and said he thought it had been altered.

The case was adjourned until February 5th, when

Mr. Muir asked for the committal of the prisoners on a charge of conspiracy to defraud, and for a conspiracy with intent to obtain money by false pretences. He should ask for the committal of Benjamin and Sarpy for obtaining money by false pretences from Mr. Bright. He should also ask that the prisoners be committed for actual forgery at common law. He held that a stamp was a document or instrument.

Mr. Dickinson remarked that the case seemed to turn on the point whether a stamp was a document, or sign, or token.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Dickinson said, after some doubt, he had come to the conclusion that there was evidence to commit the prisoners on the first two charges, and also against Sarpy and Benjamin for obtaining money by false pretences. He was not able to say whether a stamp was a written instrument or document, and there was so much doubt on the matter that he thought the opinion of a superior court should be taken. The prisoners would also be committed for trial on the charge of common law forgery.

The prisoners were admitted to bail.

* * *

The Assmus Prosecution.—The final hearing of this case after committal took place on 8th February, when Mr. C. F. Gill prosecuted. Assmus conducted his own defence.—The frauds alleged against the prisoner extended over some months, and they were perpetrated by negotiating a series of spurious foreign and English stamps to dealers and others in various parts of the metropolis and provinces. Many of the stamps, if genuine, would realise in the market sums ranging up to £8 each. The sum of £4 15s was obtained by Assmus from a gentleman named Giwelb, £7 10s. from Mr. Reya. and £5 from Mr. P. M. Bright, in respect of stamps. When the apartments of the accused, at 12, Church-street, Islington, were searched, the police found 4,900 stamps, of which 800 were forgeries. There were also dies, paints, and acids, which it was suggested had been used to perpetrate the forgeries.—In his defence, the prisoner urged that he purchased the stamps, and disposed of them innocently to the prosecutors.—The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to three years' penal servitude. *O si sic omnia!*

* * *

In a short leader on the foregoing case the *Evening Standard* says, among other observations of a speculative and certainly not profound nature:—"There must be a considerable number of people who gain a livelihood by counterfeiting stamps, as many, perhaps, as live by the manufacture of choice specimens of the old masters. It is natural that it should be so. Where a thing is valued, not for its

intrinsic worth, or for its beauty, or, indeed, for any quality whatever save its rarity, it is but in accordance with human nature that men should endeavour to supply the want; and they may urge in defence that they add to the sum of human happiness, for a forged stamp affords, until spotted by an expert, just as much delight and pride to its possessor as if it was the genuine article he believes it to be." So would a forged signature to a cheque, until the inevitable discovery! Fortunately the law does not admit the above special pleading as any mitigation of swindling, *pace* Assmus' three years' incarceration.

* * *

So numerous have been the trials in connection with stamps, that Philatelic Police Intelligence may well be contemplated as a permanent heading in our journals. There is, however, reasonable hope that the convictions we note will not "encourage the others," and that as the result a *quasi*-philatelic forgery millennium may supervene. The robbery of the Indian stamps were recently fully noted in the various papers devoted to stamp collecting, and the *finale* will be gleaned from the following account:—

Alfred George Ashton, forty-one, a stevedore; George Henry Humphreys, thirty-seven, late a bank manager; and James Francis Clarke, forty-one, who were convicted last sessions of stealing large quantities of Indian stamps, the property of the Government, were brought up at the Old Bailey on 10th February, for sentence. Mr. C. F. Gill said the prosecution had been undertaken at the instance of the India Office, as the court were told the stamps used in India were sent out from this country for distribution. The robbery took place at the London Docks. Ashton, who worked in the hold of the *Astrea* when the stamps were stolen, had given no information whatever as to the stamps, although he had made statements which turned out be untrue. Clarke adhered to his story that he had received the stamps from India. Humphreys he had known for years as connected with a very bad gang of swindlers, several of whom had been convicted. Mr. Dixon Hartland, M.P., was called to speak for Humphreys, whom he had known since he was a boy. He said Humphreys at one time was in charge of one of the branches of their bank. The Common Serjeant sentenced Ashton to seven years' penal servitude, and the other two prisoners to eighteen months' hard labour each.

The Philatelic Market.

The fashion for the disposal of Philatelic accumulations through the medium of the auctioneer's *rostrum* seems to be spreading, for we hear of sales of this nature in Berlin, Dresden, and other places on the Continent.

Mr. D. A. Vindin, of Sydney, has brought to England the collection of Mr. H. Bulloch of Sydney, and we understand it has found a purchaser at a large sum. It is especially rich in Sydney views, the plates of which are nearly complete, and comprise many brilliant specimens, the laureateds also being a strong lot. As in most of the Australian collections, however, the other colonies are far inferior, but in all are to be found some choice varieties. It seems regrettable that the Australian Philatelists should so rapidly, one after the other, break up their collections, but as the old adage expresses it, "What is one man's loss is another's gain," hence the Philatelists of this country are well content to absorb the finest stamps of their Antipodean friends. They will be wanted in Australia again early next century. *Qui vivra verra.*

The system inaugurated by Mr. A. R. Rogers, of New York, being what may perhaps be called the silent auction, seems to have found favour, as we notify by the catalogues received for the sales on the 1st of this month and the 5th of next, that there is a marked increase, both in the number and quality of the lots submitted, while the appearance of the said catalogues is of a highly ornate, not to say gorgeous character, and as a possible incentive to purchasers is adorned with a portrait of the founder of the system. We may add for the information of the uninitiated that this system consists of the publication of the lots with the reserve price stated, the highest bid by letter before the date of sale receiving the lot, priority being given, when equal bids are received, to the first comer.

"One thousand five hundred pounds for a collection of foreign stamps seems almost like a romance, yet that is what the 484 lots belonging to a prominent philatelist resident in Hong Kong actually realised at an auction in London recently." The leading London daily that pens the foregoing would be still more astonished if a *really* first-class collection came

to the hammer. There is not much "romance" about Tokenhouse Yard, and the twaddle talked by anti-philatelic cynics about "fictitious" and "imaginary" values has been rudely dispelled by the inexorable logic of facts as to the value of good stamps.

Amalgamation is the order of the day in many lines of commerce, and it has found followers in philatelic circles in America as well as in this country, as will be noted by the following announcement:—"The Bogert & Durbin Company. Incorporated 1891. Capital, 75,000 dols. New York and Philadelphia. President, E. B. Hanes; vice-president, F. W. Hunter; treasurer, R. R. Bogert; secretary, A. E. Tuttle; board of directors, E. B. Hanes, R. R. Bogert, F. W. Hunter, A. E. Tuttle, J. Rechert, H. E. Deats, G. H. Watson. This company having purchased the business of R. R. Bogert & Co., of New York, and Durbin & Hanes, of Philadelphia, is prepared to offer to collectors the advantage of the combined stock of two of the largest and best known houses in the trade." We can testify, from a personal knowledge extending over many years to the soundness of both the incorporated firms, and take the opportunity to wish success to the new venture. The late Mr. L. W. Durbin, as the publisher of Dr. Horner's well known works on the United States envelopes, was widely known as he was respected by collectors in England, and his death was a sad surprise to many of his old correspondents.

Messrs. Thomas Bull & Co.'s sale of the 23rd January, was a limited one in point of the number of lots offered. We are glad to note that the auctioneers are satisfied now to sell 200 lots at a sitting (geographically arranged), so that the wearied collector is no longer wont to wait while 300 lots of no interest to him are being dispersed, before the apple of his eye is dangled before him. The following are the most notable varieties:—Cape of Good Hope, wood block error, 4d. red, £30; which shows a continued rise in price. Natal, 3d., blue wmk. star, imperf., unused, £7 5s. A very fine copy, used, of the same stamp, £14 5s. This stamp is certainly rare postmarked, as we have only hitherto seen it unused like the 2½d. British Columbia. Newfoundland, 1s. vermilion, brilliant colour, unused, £9. Buenos Ayres, 5 pesos orange, £6 15s.

The thirtieth sale of this firm, held on the 5th and 6th of this month, as will be seen by the list of the noteworthy stamps, was of far more interest, and, we understand, was well attended by collectors. The rarer stamps were the proceeds of a choice collection, and and it will be noticed that the prices are proportionately good. The advisability of securing fine specimens has been repeatedly emphasised by the results of the dispersal of a well-chosen collection. France, 1849, 1fr. orange, fine, £5 10s. Great Britain, 1840, 1d. black, V.R., fine, £8. Spain, 1851 2 reales, red, unused, fine, £12 10s. Switzerland, Geneva, 5c., 56 green, fine, £14 10s. Switzerland, Vaud, 4c., a brilliant copy, £8 10. (Both these specimens were fine, but in our opinion the prices of the two lots should be reversed, judging by the respective rarity of these two stamps.) Switzerland, Federal issue, 5 centimes black and red, brilliant unused copy, £5. Tuscany, 1850, 60 crazie red, £7 15s. (a stiff price). Two Sicilies, Naples, ½ tornese blue arms, unused, £14 (a poor specimen with no margins. Ceylons, wmk. Star, imperf., 8d. brown-£7 10s. (shews a marked rise). India, 8a. green and lilac, unused, £6 15s. Mauritius, envelope stamps 1s. yellow, cut square, £8 10s. Confederate States, Athens, 5c. brown, used, £14 15s. Mobile, 2c. black, used, £6 15s. New Brunswick, 1s. violet, fine, £6 5s. Newfoundland, orange issue, 1s., £6 12s. 6d. Nova Scotia, 1s. violet (brilliant), £7 10s. United States, St. Louis, 5c. fine, £12 5s. United States, St. Louis, 10c., £8 5s. Newspaper stamps, complete set from 1c. to 60 dollars, £16. British Guiana, 1862, border of grapes, 2c. yellow, £8; ditto, type I., 4c. blue, £8 10s.; ditto, type II., £7 5s.; ditto, type III., £7 10s.

Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co.'s twenty-fifth sale on the 29th and 30th of last month was well attended, and embraced some fairly good stamps, although necessarily somewhat of an anti-climax after the "Hong Kong" sale. A large number of Sydneys, forming the collection of a late member of the London Philatelic Society, were dispersed. The average prices attained for the penny values being 28s., for the twopenny 16s., and the threepenny 18s. 6d. Many of them were, however, poor specimens, and there were deservedly wide fluctuations of price. The Trinidads were also a good lot, including some of the "native dies." Newfoundland, 1s. carmine-vermilion, £6 5s. Queensland, pair of 2d. imperf., 1 slightly damaged, £9 15s. Great Britain, 1d. black, watermark large crown, imperf., supposed to have been printed for one of the members of the Royal Family, £8. The 3d., 6d., and 1s., small letters in angles with hair lines, &c. imperf. and unused, fetched respectively £10, £6, £12. Spain, 1851, 2 reales fine used, £11. It seems curious to note by context that this stamp fetches but little more unused, though it is far rarer in the former condition.

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

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STAMP FRAUDS.

THE conviction of Benjamin, Sarpy, and Jeffryes at the Old Bailey on the 14th of this month sets the seal of success upon the efforts of the Society recently incorporated with the main object of putting an end to the shameless and ever-increasing production of forgeries. After a patient and exhaustive hearing of the case, extending over three days, in which every argument, *pro* or *con*, that an array of learned council could suggest, the jury, without a moment's hesitation, declared these three rogues guilty--a verdict that will find no cavil at the hands of any well-wisher to our pursuit. It is fortunate for the prisoners—as the Recorder of London, Sir Charles Hall, Q.C., pointed out in a most able and exhaustive summing up which grasped alike the philatelic and legal points of the case—that by a technical difficulty as to the true definition of forgery, the prisoners escaped a far longer period of incarceration. After a very intricate argument it was held that a stamp is not an "instrument" or "document" capable of being "forged," inasmuch as it is in no sense a writing. Fortunately, there were other counts in the indictment sufficient for the purpose, and it is to be hoped that with the condign punishment of the ring-leaders this infamous traffic will be practically put an end to. The case of Assmus, sentenced a short time since to the severe sentence of three years, was of a similar nature, but doubtless through having tampered with the British stamp by forging the V.R., etc., he reaped a heavier penalty than the other three scoundrels. Jeffryes, to our thinking, is the worst and the most dangerous of the whole gang, as he most skilfully produced forgeries that have been widely dispersed all over Europe through the agency of the late

denizens of the grimy little den in Cullum Street. "Sydney View Villa" will languish without its semitic proprietor for the next few months, nor will the Ancient Order of Buffaloes mourn the absence of the wily "Sharpy," as the learned Counsel persistently dubbed him. There are one or two other rogues who may expect to share a like fate unless they reform, and it is significant that they were seen at the Old Bailey as spectators interested to a degree that their transference to a less cheerful part of the Court would in no degree lessen. The Philatelic Protection Association has amply vindicated its title, and should command the ungrudging and liberal support of all those who are engaged in the trade; nor should the co-operation and sympathy of collectors, to whom they have rendered a signal service, be withheld. We sincerely trust that these sentences may act as a deterrent to others, and that after such a heavy campaign the Society may be allowed time to recuperate alike its energies and funds; it can well afford to rest upon its laurels for a while! May we tender, as sincere well-wishers to all its members, a word of caution to hint that after such a crusade the enemy will be on the watch, for obvious reasons, to trip up any member of the Association who may be unwary or careless enough to dispose of a doubtful stamp, and that therefore it behoves one and all, in defence of individual and collective honour, to leave no loophole for an attack. The allied dealers may rest assured that the surer the basis of philately the more secure will be their *métier*, and that a continuation of the wise policy inaugurated by the Philatelic Protection Association will meet with the hearty approval of all classes alike.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Afghanistan.—The 1 shahi of the 1872-3 issue hitherto known only in black, has been discovered printed in violet, as we learn from sundry esteemed contemporaries. If this is the precursor of others, a hitherto simple issue may rival those of other years.

1 shahi 1872-3 (1290), *violet*.

Argentine Republic.—In addition to the previously altered 1 c., we gather from the *Monthly Journal* that the ¼ c. and 6 c. have also been modified as to type, the former on a bluish paper, having the inscription larger, and the latter with re-cut lettering and a more rounded oval.

¼ c., green on bluish; *type re-cut*.
6 c., grey-blue „

Barbados.—A correspondent writes from this island somewhat enigmatically :—

"Barbados, January 30th, 1892.

"I may mention that Barbados is at present considering a new die for a proposed new issue, and as it originates with the Imperial Government, I have no doubt the other islands are similarly engaged."

British Bechuanaland.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current English stamps surcharged with the name of the colony in two lines of block capitals.

1d., lilac,	current Great Britain,	surcharged	British Bechuanaland.
2d., green and rose,	,,	,,	,,
4d., green and brown,	,,	,,	,,
6d, violet-brown on red,	,,	,,	,,

The *Monthly Journal* notes the following :—

1d (Cape type), wmk., cabled anchor, *with double surcharge*, British Bechuanaland.

British Guiana.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send a pair of specimens of the 4 c., lilac surcharged series, which seem to show variations of the figure, *i.e.*, one being about $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high and more pointed than the other, which is 3 mm. in height.

Bulgaria.—We illustrate to right the provisional last noticed.



Cuba.—The juvenile Royal head has now appeared in the following colours, for good and sufficient reasons, as we hear.

½ m., de peso,	dark violet.	1 c., de peso,	grey-green.
1 m., ,,	,,	2 c., ,,	brown.
3 m., ,,	,,	2½ c., ,,	salmon.
4 m., ,,	,,	20 c., ,,	ultramarine.
8 m., ,,	,,		

Curacao.—The *Postiljon* notes the issue of the following varieties similar in type to the same class of stamp issued by the mother country ; perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

2½ c.,	black and green.	20 c.,	black and green.
5 c.,	,,	25 c.,	,,
10 c.,	,,	30 c.,	,,
12½ c.,	,,	40 c.,	,,
15 c.,	,,	50 c.,	,,

Cyprus.—The *American Journal of Philately* has seen an undoubted specimen of the 1886 provisional with C.C. instead of C.A. & Crown.

½d., black surcharge on ½ piastre green (1886), *wmk., C.C. & Crown*, perf. 14.



Ecuador.—Types of the new issues with and without "official."



Falkland Islands.—The 1d. value is now issued, says the *Timbre Poste*, in a brownish orange.

1d. *brownish orange*, wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$.

Great Britain.—We hear that the £1 green, surcharged "I. R. Official," is to be issued shortly.

Grenada.—We illustrate a variety not generally noted, namely, the 2s. fiscal stamp surcharged "Postage and Revenue" and "1d." over the words "two shillings."



1d, black surcharge on 2s., yellow and green.

Messrs. Ridpath have seen the recent provisional 1d. on 8d. with surcharge inverted, showing, therefore, that the overprinting "1d. Postage and Revenue" was not always put on *tête bêche* to follow the method of printing the sheets.

1d. on 8d. brown, black surcharge, *inverted.*

Guatemala.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. have submitted to us a specimen of the current 10 c. set, which is clearly engraved instead of lithographed as heretofore. As the lower values have been already noted thus it seems probable that the remaining stamps of the issue will follow ere long.

10 c. vermilion, *engraved.*

Holkar.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us a new set—inclusive of the half-anna of the current type in a new shade, the former slate-violet now being converted to a dull brown with a suspicion only of the first-named colour, the remaining values being of similar type, paper, and perforation to that now current.

¼-anna, current type, yellow.
½ „ „ „ *dull violet-brown.*
1 „ „ „ dark green.
2 „ „ „ vermilion.

Major Adam Smith has enclosed specimens, and, as will be noted, chronicles a new variety of provisional, which with bated breath he says was used between the change from the "mauve" to the "puce" half anna. It seems from Major Smith's description to be possibly a reprint of the previously existing provisional of 1889. We shall doubtless ere long receive specimens for illustration, and meanwhile record—

½ anna, circular type of 1889, black on pink, *provisional.*

Hong Kong.—Messrs. Clarke & Co. have sent us specimens of the 1 D. on 96c., brown on red, with and without the equivalent Chinese surcharge at the upper portion of the left-hand label. The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* mentions a 20 c. under similar conditions.

20 c. on 30 c., black on green *without Chinese surcharge.*
1 D. on 96 c., brown on red „ „ „

India.—From the letter forwarded to us from the Indian General Post Office it will be noted that the surcharge of 2½ annas, described in our January number *was printed on the 4 annas 6 pies pale green*, and not on the 4 annas olive green, as we were informed, a mistake that can easily be made by distributors as well as collectors of stamps, having regard to their close resemblance. The 1 rupee, which we illustrate with the new 2½ annas, kindly sent by our correspondent, has little beyond its colours in its favour.





Labuan.—The provisional 6 c., described in our January issue, has been shown to us by Mr. V. Roberts with the overprint inverted. There are other varieties evidently separately struck, as the *Monthly Journal* notes a double surcharge and the like inverted—all doubtless required *by collectors!*

6 c. on 8 c., violet-black, *surcharge inverted.*
„ „ „ *double surcharge.*
„ „ „ „ „ *inverted.*

Mauritius.—Two of the varieties chronicled in the various journals a short time since, have been chronicled by the *Monthly Journal* with the overprint repeated.

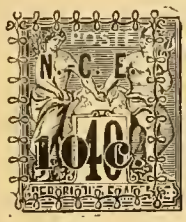
2 c , on 4 c., carmine *double surcharge.*
2 c., „ 38 c., lilac „

Mexico.—We illustrate the variety of this rare issue chronicled a short time since in the Philatelic Press.



New South Wales.—Messrs. Calif & Co. have made a discovery to which we shall allude next month.

New Caledonia.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have specimens of the last new thing in this country—only two varieties with (*bien entendu*) both inverted



surcharges as well. We trust these are not the *avant-couriers* of another callow brood. The 40c. of the previous issue imperf., and the like value of the current set have been operated upon by super-imposing in black block capitals "N.—C. E." and "10 c." in large numerals within a looped rectangular frame of the same dimensions as the stamp. We illustrate both types.



10 c. black surcharge on 40 c. (1877 issue), red on straw.
„ „ „ „ „ surcharge inverted.
„ „ „ current issue, red on yellow.
„ „ „ „ „ surcharge inverted.

New Zealand.—We are glad now to note that the correspondent of M. Moens, who so calmly contradicted the existence of the 1d. brown, watermark N.Z., that was examined by several "old philatelic hands" in London, is now satisfied that the stamp that he saw was not the one in question. He should have been sure of this before attempting to contemptuously dismiss it. The current set have appeared perf. 10.

1d., rose, wk. N.Z. and Star, perf. 10.
2d., violet, „ „
3d., yellow, „ „
1s., brownish-red, „ „

Nicaragua.—We append illustrations of Mr. Seebeck's *chef d'œuvre.*









Obock.—As briefly announced in our last issue, this enterprising and widely-known (!) French colony has entered into philatelic competition with its sister possessions, and produced a modest array of 10 varieties as a start. The issue consists of the current French colonial stamps, with a curved surcharge in bluish-black thick capitals "OBOCK." The letters are badly formed and so close, that with the exception of the initial they all impinge on each other.

1 c., black on blue.
2 c., brown on buff.
4 c., violet on grey.
5 c., green on greenish.
10 c., black on violet.
15 c., blue on grey.
25 c., black on pink.
35 c., black on yellow.
75 c., carmine on pink.
1 fc., brown on buff.

Persia.—We note that the new issue has been found with two gauges of perforation, of which we hope later to give a list.

Porto Rico.—In addition to the values given by us in our last two numbers, we note the following varieties from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., except the 1 m. and the 1 c. and 3 c. (*American Journal of Philately*).

½ m. de peso,	*olive-green.*	8 m. de peso,	*yellow-green.*
1 m. „	*bright violet.*	1 c. „	*red-brown.*
2 m. „	*brown-violet.*	3 c. „	*red.*
4 m. „	*blue.*	20 c. „	*mauve.*
6 m. „	*rose.*	80 c. „	*orange.*

We note that one of the varieties previously chronicled by us on the faith of a contemporary varies from this list.

Réunion.—We illustrate the second type of the figure 2, that we alluded to in our last issue.



St. Lucia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the following numbers of the surcharges mentioned in our last number have been issued—the penny value being that described in our January issue, and of which we give an illustration. "One penny" surcharged on 4d., 6,700; "One halfpenny" surcharged on 3d., 4,300; "½d." surcharged on 6d. (half), 9,600.



½d, black surcharge, in words on 3d. lilac and green, current type Wk. CA, perf. 14.
½d. „ „ in numerals „ 6d. „ blue, vertical half, „ „

St. Thomas and Prince Island.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., write, "We send you novelties as follows:—1. St. Thomé and Principe, 5 reis on 10 reis, *double surcharge*, without accent on é of "reis." 2. St. Thomé and Principe, double surcharge, with the accent. 3. *Principe only.* Provisional stamp issued in August or September last (we are not sure of the date) in Principe, for use for *one mail only.* The day before making up the mail for Lisbon, it was found that 50 reis stamps were run out of stock, and as there was no time to send to Sao Thomé for a fresh supply, these provisionals were authorised by a special Government decree for this one mail only. The total number issued was *180 only.* Of these, 80 were affixed to letters despatched by that particular mail." This variety is the 40 reis with the large framed inscription, "Rs. 50," printed diagonally and inverted.

5 reis, 1889 issue, *double* black surcharge on 10 c., green.
5 reis „ „ „ „ „ with accent to reis.
50 reis, *black surcharge* on 40 r. brown, current issue (for Prince Island only).

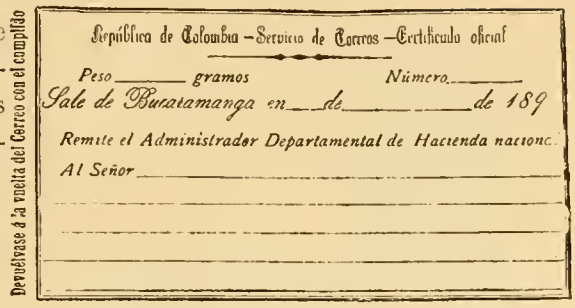
Samoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a specimen of a new issue having a portrait of King Malietoa, a well-favoured monarch, especially nasally, as we hope to show by an early illustration.

2½d. pink, new design, wmk. N Z and truncated star, perf. 12½.

Sarawak.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have the current 3 cents, with the overprinted words "One Cent" in small thick lower case type extending nearly across the stamp and directly over the label.

1 c. *black surcharge* in words, on 3 c. dull lilac and blue, current issue.

Santander (Colombia.)—The accompanying illustration of this recently issued official fortunately obviates the necessity of any lengthened description.



Cubierta (official) without value, black on white.

Sirmoor.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a strip of 10 stamps of the 3 pies, extending to the whole width of the sheet, showing the surcharge "On S.S.S" in a very irregular manner, probably due to hand stamping—the whole row being struck together and not parallel to the stamps; some have the "On" at the top and others at the base, while to the same cause others rejoice in an extra "S." They also send the like stamp with the overprint "upside down."

3 pies, orange on S.S.S., black, *surcharge inverted.*

Sokotra.—The announcement of an issue of stamps for this little-known island, which is under British protection, has been going the round, and as we hear of no doubts being expressed as to their authenticity we proceed to notice them with a slight trepidation.

Half anna, black surcharge on 1d. carmine of Cyprus.
One anna, „ „ 2d. blue „ „



Straits Settlements.—We append representations of the two provisionals described by us last month.



Surinam.—The stamps noticed in our January issue under the heading of Dutch Indies belong to *this* particular portion of the Colonies of the Netherlands, and were inadvertently so classified by us.

Tasmania.—Mr. Bassett Hull sends us specimens of the permanent "De la Rue" type for the Postal Union values, resembling the Leeward Islands in their designs, which we shall illustrate shortly. The cartouch with the value is the only portion of the 5d. in the brown color.

2½d., dull reddish mauve, wmk. TAS, diagonally, perf. 14.
5d., pale blue and brown, „ „ „

Turkey.—It will be remembered that a new issue of stamps was generally foreshadowed a short time since: this has now occurred. Mr. Pearce writes:—"These stamps were officially issued on the 13th of this month (1st March old style), which date was the commencement of the Turkish financial year. Any copies of the stamps seen before that date were obtained by favour. There are five values of postage stamps, viz: 10 paras, 20 paras, 1 piastre, 2 piastres, and 5 piastres. (Stamps of the values of 5 paras and 25 piastres are no longer issued). Of the unpaid letter stamps there are 3 values, all printed in black:—values, 20 paras, 1 piastre, and 2 piastres. Designs the same as the postage stamps of same values." We describe the colors from the specimens kindly submitted by our correspondent. The several designs are very intricate, and as we shall probably be enabled to illustrate them shortly we will not inflict an elaborate description upon our readers.

10 paras,	dull green.
20 „	rose.
1 piastre,	grey.
2 piastres,	bistre
5 „	dull lilac.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

20 paras,	black.
1 piastre,	„
2 piastres,	„

Uruguay.—We have received from Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. and Messrs. Maitland & Co. specimens of the 1 c. green and the 7 c. brown of the types now in use, but surcharged in red lower case letters "Provisorio 1892," the value of the latter being lowered by the surcharge "Cinco Centesimos," of which the first word only is different from the remainder of the surcharge in being denoted by capitals. The *Philatelist* notes that there is a variety of the 5 c. having a larger thick "e" in centesimos, and that a specimen with Previsorio occurs in both values. We annex illustrations.





1 c., green, current issue, red surcharge.
5 c., brown, „ „ „ „ on 7 cents

Zululand.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"When the stock of 1d. on Natal revenue is exhausted the 1d. English will be issued surcharged as before. Next month new stamps value 9d., 1s., and 5s., will be issued, and the 5d. will follow later on."

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Argentine.—A new variety of the current bands is noted by the *Timbre Poste*.
½ c., brown on white, 243×157 mm., *thin transparent paper.*
½ c., „ „ chamois, 231×162 „ „ „ „

Brazil.—We illustrate the envelope described last month.



Ecuador.—We give illustrations of the wrappers and envelopes described last month.





New South Wales.—We have received from Mr. D. A. Vindin an apparently unchronicled variety of the 6d. official envelope—centennial type. On the top it has "On Her Majesty's Service" in large Gothic type; to the left "Registered Letter," in thick Roman capitals, and is addressed "The Cashier, Department of Public Instruction, Sydney;" in the lower left hand corner, in small script, is "Public School Savings Bank Returns, Public School, 189 ." The shape is that of the ordinary

foolscap sized envelope, and the paper white laid with the usual crossed lines in the colour of the stamp.

Official Registered Envelope, 6d., carmine, *stamp to right.*

Nicaragua.—We illustrate the new issue of envelopes.





Queensland.—From the *Monthly Journal* we glean that a new wrapper has been issued here on manilla paper with an impression of the ½d. adhesive, and a coloured instruction extending to five and a half lines.

Wrapper, ½d., green, on *whitish brown manilla paper*, 128×297 mm.

Salvador.—Accompanying will be found the illustrations of the "novelties in this department."





POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Bolivia.—A new card has been issued here with the arms and nine stars, says the *Timbre Poste.*

1 centavo, blue on pale blue.

Curaçao.—The head of the young Queen appears now on the following cards:—

5 cents, carmine on buff.
5+5 „ „ „

Ecuador.—Illustrations of these and the Nicaragua cards are held over for want of space until next month.

Finland.—A new issue of this local post has been received, which we illustrate. Type of stamp and inscription have both been changed. Size (when folded) 124×70 mm. —*Timbre Poste.*

10 penni blue on white, stamp blue, bistre and gold.



Korrespondenskort.

Till.....

..... *gatan* № .....

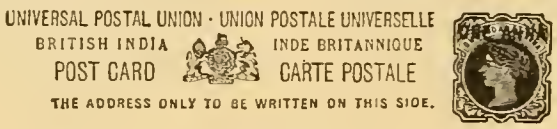
STADSFOSTEN i HELSINGFORS.

Holland.—The reply card of the new type has been seen.

5+5 cent. blue, new type.

India.—The reply card similar to that chronicled in the January number of the *London Philatelist* is issued, for a specimen of which we are indebted to the gentleman whose letter appears in another column. The usual bilingual instructions are in smaller block type than on the single card, the first half having the directions for the reply in the lower left angle, and the second with the words "Reply—Réponse" in capitals. The card is of a paler shade, and the colour of the impression somewhat brighter. We illustrate the single card.

Reply card 1+1 anna (Postal Union), black surcharge on 1½ anna, blue on pale buff.



Jamaica.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we receive the Jamaica card in a larger and, we may add, sensible size—140 × 89 mm. May this good example extend to this country also without further loss of time! There is no border to this card which still bears our old friend—the blue 1d. head with the netted corners of pious "pine-apple" memory! The inscriptions are changed, "Post Card" being in large capitals, the instruction line in smaller block capitals, the words "Union Postale Universelle" being added in similar type, and the name of the colony in French and English in large Roman capitals.

1d. Postal Union Card, *size 140×99 mm.: no frame.*

Montenegro.—From specimens sent to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., we note that the current set has appeared in a new guise. Our correspondents write:—"Note in the reply cards a curious error; the inscription "La carte ci-jointe," &c., is on the wrong half of the card. Among our parcel we also found two very curious errors, one of which we enclose. It consists of the 2 novcics reply card with the stamp omitted on one half. In these two specimens the stamp is omitted from the reply half in one, and from the original half in the other." The inscriptions and arms are not changed in type, but are now printed in black, the stamp is in yellow for the 2, and green for the 3 n, and the fancy borders have disappeared.

2 novcics, current type, *yellow* and *black* on buff.
2+2 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „
3 „ „ „ *green* „ „ „ „
3+3 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „

Errors.

2+2 *yellow* and *black* on buff *without stamp* on 1st half.
2+2 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ on reply half.

Orange Free State.—The *American Journal of Philately* recently described as provisional which we herewith illustrate.



½d. black surcharge on 1d. orange.

Turkey.—Mr. Pearce announces a new card of similar type and colour to the adhesive of the same value elsewhere described.

20 paras, new type.

Roumania.—The current 5 bani card has been slightly changed, says our Belgian contemporary, the words "carta postale" are now 52 mm. long, instead of 48½ mm. as previous.

5 bani, *altered inscription*, black on rose.

Salvador.—We faintly endeavour to portray these gorgeous productions. (Puzzle for the postman to find the address !)





Sokotra.—A card is credited to this island in addition to the stamps described elsewhere.

½ anna, black surch. on 1 piastre carmine of Cyprus.

Switzerland.—We hear from various sources that new cards are to be issued shortly for the 5 and 10 centimes, both single and reply cards.

Tonga.—A rather remarkable letter card is stated to have been issued for the benefit of the Tongese. According to the *Ill. Brief. Jour.*, we gather that it is made of a kind of thick paper of a novel shape, and that the stamp is on the reverse side, the design of this consisting of a very large oval, inscribed, "Postage one penny, Tonga," containing the Tongan arms. On the front side of the card is the two-lined inscription, "Tongan envelope letter," and in the lower left angle, "this envelope is intended for use within the kingdom only, and must not contain any enclosure."

Letter card, one penny, bright red (arms carmine-red) on pale buff paper.

The Type-set Stamps of Tolima.

By F. de COPPET, with an Introduction by E. D. BACON.

A Paper Read Before the Philatelic Society, London, March 11th, 1892.

THE first issued stamps of Tolima have from the earliest days of collecting presented insuperable difficulties of classification to Philatelists. The reasons for this lie: *first*, in the fact that these stamps were type-set, and consequently there are as many varieties as there were stamps on the sheet; *secondly*, that more than one setting up of the types took place; and, *thirdly*, the stamps, if we except those last printed on white paper, have been so rare that it was well nigh impossible to get together sufficient specimens to make up the different sheets.

Mons. Moens has more than once written upon the subject, and in an article in the *Timbre-Poste* for February, 1875, gave the result of the investigations he made at that time. Later on, in the number of that journal for July, 1886, he describes certain specimens which he looks upon as reprints, and others which he classes as altogether "bogus" stamps. In 1887, he again endeavoured to reconstruct the original sheets, but from lack of the necessary number of varieties was unable to complete his task.

Coming still nearer to the present time, Messrs. Hy. Collin & Hy. L. Calman, in their *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, now in course of publication by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., of New York, present by far the most complete account of the issue of these stamps that has so far been published. Their text is illustrated with two different plates of ten varieties each of the five cents, the four varieties of the ten cents, and a number of counterfeits of the two values they have met with. Great praise is due to these two gentlemen for the skilful method in which they have worked out the arrangement of these complicated stamps. In fact, the whole *Catalogue* shows signs of great accuracy and ability throughout, and any collector to whom it may be unknown, cannot fail, if he becomes a subscriber to the work, to find it a most interesting and valuable addition to his Philatelic library.

Notwithstanding the careful compilation of Messrs. Collin & Calman, it seems certain from the following paper, that these gentlemen have not succeeded in unravelling the complete history of these stamps; and, further, in view of the fresh facts brought to light, that some of the deductions they made must now be considerably modified.

Mr. F. de Coppet, the Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, New York, who is also a member of this Society, has spared neither time nor money in his endeavour to solve the history of these type-set stamps. He was able to render some assistance to Messrs. Collin & Calman, when they were preparing their *Catalogue*, but since the publication of their list, he has been fortunate enough to come across many additional copies and parts of sheets showing new varieties. This gentleman now possesses what I believe to be the most perfect collection of these stamps ever got together, and by constant study of his specimens for sometime past, it will be seen he is able to throw considerable new light upon the different printings, with the result, that if (?) he does not give their entire history, he at any rate places before collectors a more detailed and accurate account than has yet appeared.

My friend, who is always willing and delighted to impart any knowledge he has acquired to other collectors, consented, in reply to a request I made him, to furnish me with an account of his researches. He was also good enough to send me photographs of certain specimens in his collection, from which the illustrations it is proposed to present with the March number of the Society's Journal have been prepared.

Mr. de Coppet's letter was of such an interesting nature, and contained such valuable information, that I at once asked his permission to publish it in the London Philatelist. With his habitual kindness, he readily granted my request, and I am sure every collector of these stamps will thank him for so doing. Added to which, all philatelists cannot but feel they owe a debt of gratitude to this gentleman, not only for the time and trouble he has ungrudgingly spent over the arrangement of this difficult series, but also for the very lucid and clever manner in which he has worked out the solution of one of the most difficult problems presented by our science.

The letter of Mr. de Coppet, I have referred to, reads as follows :—

"In accordance with your request I will endeavour to give you the result of my researches concerning the first-issue stamps of Tolima.

I was, at first, very much discouraged, owing to the difficulty I had in obtaining a sufficient number of specimens, particularly in pairs, or larger blocks.

I was about giving up in despair, when I purchased from Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson & Co. an uncut sheet of *Plate II.* (ten varieties), and I knew I could depend upon their being genuine, coming to me from the source they did.

I had seen, by Mons. Moens' *Catalogue*, that two different issues of these stamps existed, and as my sheet gave me all the types of one issue, I consequently concluded that all the other types I would find must inevitably belong to the other issue.

I had not pro ceeded far, however, before I accumulated more than ten varieties all different from those existing on my entire sheet. For some time I was at loss to explain this circumstance in any other way than that some of my specimens were forgeries. How was I to determine which were genuine and which not ?

Again I was on the point of abandoning my researches, when I purchased a strip of five unsevered specimens, constituting the right hand half of a sheet (*Plate I. altered*) in which all the types differed from my uncut sheet, but I possessed them all in single specimens. Soon after, I succeeded in acquiring another strip of four unsevered varieties (*Plate I. altered*), and as one of the types of each strip corresponded with an unsevered horizontal pair in my collection, it was proof to me that the two strips of four and five stamps constituted another sheet, all but one variety.

I was about concluding that my other specimens were bogies, but still lacking one variety to complete my second sheet, I was unable to determine which of the various stamps I still had was the genuine one.

In studying this question, it suddenly occurred to me, that the irregular setting up of this last sheet, especially of the right hand half of it, was the result of an accident by which the types had become loosened.

This gave me a new clue to work upon, and I immediately wrote to all my correspondents, to send me everything they had in these issues.

By finding types, undoubtedly the same as those on my sheet, but in which the letters had not slipped out of place, as they had in my specimens, my opinion that my sheet was printed from a broken plate was confirmed. The next step, of course, was to endeavour to compose a sheet of all the ten varieties, out of stamps that were in perfect condition, and where the printing was regular and uniform.

Fortunately I had not destroyed my supposed bogies, and I soon recognised that they were the same types as the others, only that the letters had not slipped. Types numbers four and ten I was unable to find, and although I had specimens corresponding very closely to type number four, there was always the difference that the word "correos" was spelt with a small "c," whilst in my strip it read "Corres," and was spelt with a capital "C."

Not long since I purchased of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., of New York, a block of eight stamps (*Plate I.*), the types of which corresponded exactly with the setting up I had made as I supposed it should exist. This block consisted of types numbers one, two, three, four, five, six, eight, and above type number one there was type number nine of presumably a second impression of the same plate. In this block type four has the word "correos" spelt with a small "c." You will notice that the second letter "o" of "correos" in type four is missing in *Plate I. altered*, and it is the lack of this letter which probably caused the slipping of the other letters. I surmise, therefore, that to remedy this evil, the printer, not noticing that a letter was missing, attempted to tighten them by extracting the small "c" of "correos" and inserting instead a capital "C." This block of eight stamps shows by the margin that it came at the bottom of the sheet of paper upon which the stamps were printed in several multiples of ten types each. I account for the fact that types nine and ten are missing at the bottom of this sheet to there not being enough paper left to print them upon, concluding the printer noticing this, covered these two varieties to prevent printing them in part. It appears to me that this explanation is more reasonable than to suppose that in *Plate I.* types nine and ten of *Plate I. altered* were placed as types one and two. It will be noticed that the margin between types nine and one on this sheet is wider than that between the other stamps, added to which we find in *Plate I. altered* that the whole five types at the left hand side of the sheet, which I have in an unsevered strip, correspond to those of *Plate I.*

In my opinion the sheet illustrated as *Plate I.* was the first to appear, as it is by far the most clearly printed and most correct.

Plate I. altered came next, the only change in it being in type four, as above described, and the slipping of letters, especially in types eight and ten.

Plate II., I think, came later, because it was found impossible to prevent *Plate I. altered* from dropping to pieces.

Finally, finding a necessity for stamps of a value of ten centavos, the last four types of *Plate II.* were made to read ten instead of five centavos.

The more distinctive points of these plates are as follows:—

PLATE I.

Is by far the most clearly printed, and the letter "c" of the first line, is in each stamp a small "c."

PLATE I. ALTERED

Is similar to Plate I., except that type four has "Corres" instead of "correos," and in types four, eight, and ten many of the letters have slipped from their original positions.

PLATE II.

The distinctive feature of this plate is that the final letter "C" of the first line is a capital, except in type seven, where it is a small letter. This type is the same in all the plates.

PLATE II. ALTERED

Is the same as *Plate II.*, but the last four types have the value changed to ten centavos.

I have added two further illustrations, A & B, to show what curious efforts were made to re-establish type four of *Plate I. altered.*

By *illustration* A, you will see that the left side of the frame has bulged out, consequently loosening the letters, and to tighten them an extra "c" has been inserted in the first line. The capital "T" of the second line is to be found inverted in the fourth line, and another "T" to replace it has been inserted. This variety is in a strip of three stamps *se tenant*, and is undoubtedly genuine as proved by the other stamps. You will notice that in the illustration of type four, *Plate I. altered*, a second "c" was inserted in the first line, but fell to the second line, whilst in *illustration* B, this second "c" also exists, but is *chevanchant* in the first line.

The distinctive features of the various types of these plates are:—

PLATE I.

Type 1. The "T" in the second line is above the "ta" in "Estado."

Type 2. The periods at the end of the first and second lines, are above the "d" of "Estado."

Type 3. The "l" of "del" in the third line is inverted.

Type 4. The "c" in the first line is above the level of the other letters.

Type 5. The period after "S" in the second line is above the "s" in "correos."

Type 6. There is a space between the "e" and "l" of "del," in the third line.

Type 7. The word "Estado" is misspelt "Eetado."

Type 8. The "S" of the second line is directly under the first "U" of the first line.

Type 9. The period after "S" of the second line is in a line with the top of that letter.

Type 10. I have still to find.

The stamps of this plate are found upon horizontally laid greyish-blue paper.

PLATE I. ALTERED.

Types 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9, are identical with *Plate I.*

Type 4. The word "correos" is spelt "Corres," and with a capital "C," but the other differences vary according to the state of shifting of the type at the time the stamps were struck off. (See for instance *illustrations* A and B.)

Type 8. The "d" of "Estado" is below, and the "o" above the level of the other letters. The last word of the fourth line has the "S" above the other letters.

Type 10. The "T" of the second line, and "do" of "Estado" of the third line, are above the level of the other letters, but the "a" of "Estado," and "v" of "Ctvs" of the fourth line, are below the level of their respective lines.

The stamps are found printed upon:—

Blue vertically laid paper.

Blue vertically laid *bâtonné* paper.

Blue *quadrillé* paper.

PLATE II.

Type 1. The "do" of "Estado" are slightly above the level of the other letters.

Type 2. The "os" of "correos" are slightly below the other letters.

Type 3. The "l" of "del" in the third line is inverted.

Type 4. The word "Correos" has a capital "C."

Type 5. The periods at the end of the four lines are one above the other.

Type 6. There is a space between the "e" and "l" of "del," in the third line.

Type 7. Is the only one of this plate having a small "c" at the end of the first line. This type is identical with number 7 of *Plate I.*

Type 8. Has no period after "Estado," and the "t" of this word is directly under the "L" of "DEL," in the second line.

Type 9. "del," in the third line, is misspelt "dec."

Type 10. The first two letters of the second line are "L.L." instead of "E.S."

This plate is found printed upon :—

Blue wove paper.

Blue *quadrillé* paper.

Blue vertically laid and wide horizontally *bâtonné* paper.

Blue vertically ribbed paper (similar to the ½ penny Canada, ribbed).

Buff fine horizontally laid *bâtonné* paper.

In my experience, this is the only plate found upon buff paper. The stamp is said to exist on buff wove, but I have never seen a specimen on this variety of paper.

PLATE II. ALTERED.

Types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are identical with *Plate II.*, except that in some of the types the letters are slightly further apart, which appears to be due to the frames having bulged out.

Types 7, 8, 9, and 10 are also the same as those on *Plate II.*, except that the numeral "5" is replaced by "10," and the letters and frames are sometimes more spread out as mentioned for types 1 to 6. In type 7 the "1" of "del" in the third line has dropped, giving it the appearance of being inverted.

These stamps are found upon :—

White wove paper.

White wove, blue *bâtonné* paper.

I have found, however, that the blue *bâtonné* lines wash out, and I strongly suspect these two papers are one and the same. This remark applies equally to the Official Cubiertas of the United States of Columbia, the blue lines of which also wash out.

I fear that in the multiplicity of details in the above enumeration of the varieties of plates and types of this issue of stamps, I may have failed to make them clear. I enclose photographs of them numbered to correspond with the descriptions I have given, and I hope that my effort may prove of interest to you and your friends.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. DE COPPET."

It will be seen on comparing the foregoing letter with Messrs. Collin's & Calman's *Catalogue*, that Mr. de Coppet proves that these stamps were printed from practically four instead of three different plates, and that he differs from those gentlemen in the order the plates were used. Their number one is his *Plate II.*; their "first alteration" is his *Plate II. altered*; and their "second alteration" becomes his *Plate I. altered*; while Mr. de Coppet's *Plate I.*, which it is only fair to state has been found since the publication of Messrs. Collin's and Calman's *Catalogue*, is not mentioned by them.

Mr. de Coppet differs from Mons. Moens, by showing that all the plates contained ten types each, instead of either four or six, and he does not believe in the latter's theory that some of these stamps have been reprinted. There are, of course, numerous forgeries and bogus varieties, but he considers the sheets of ten varieties on blue vertically laid and wide horizontally *bâtonné* paper, that turned up a few years since, and which correspond to his *Plate II.*, are genuine remainders.

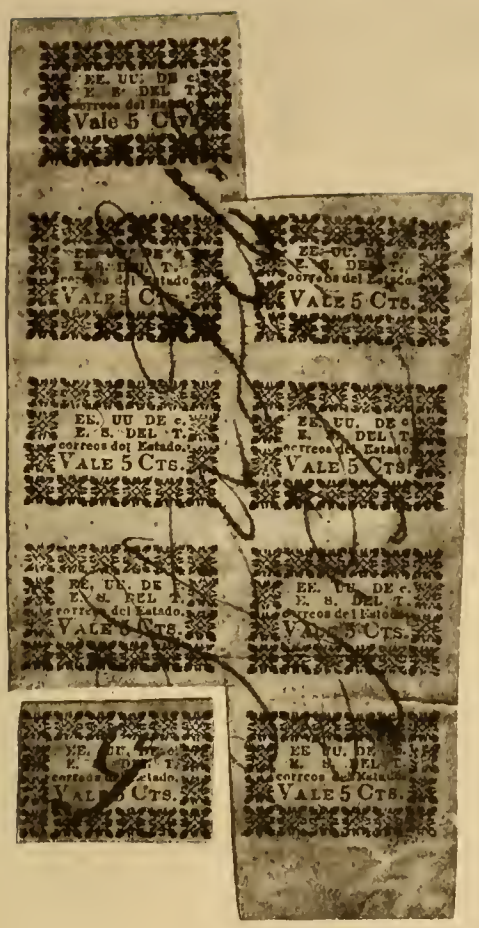


Plate I.

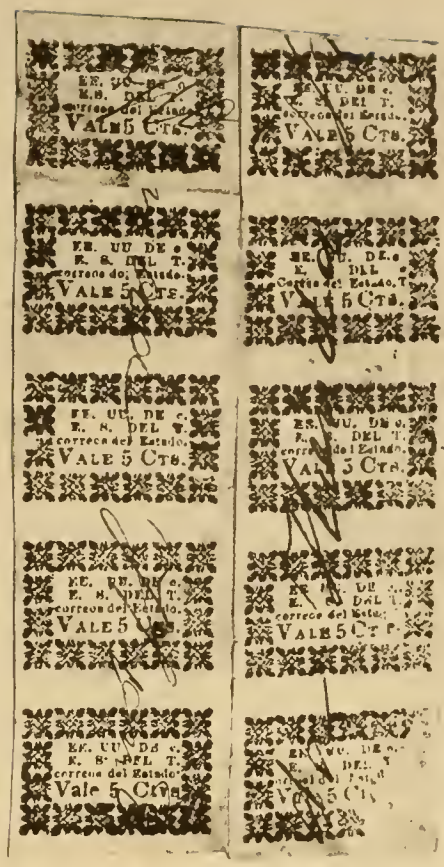


Plate I: altered.

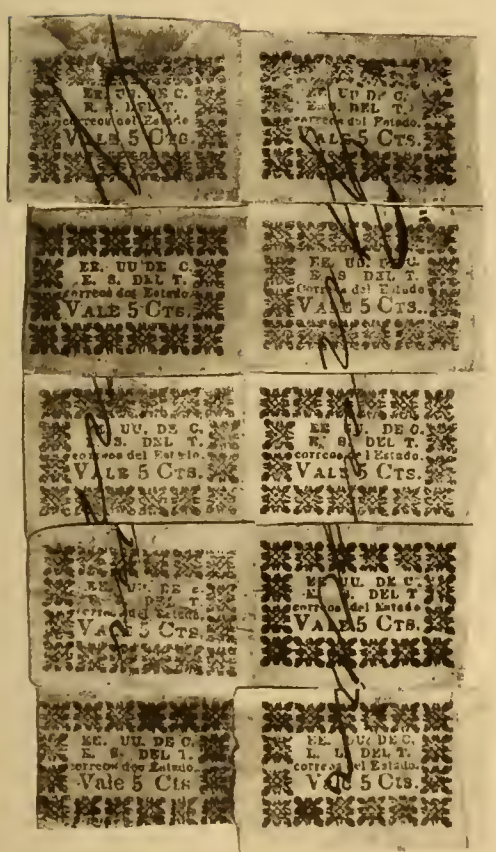
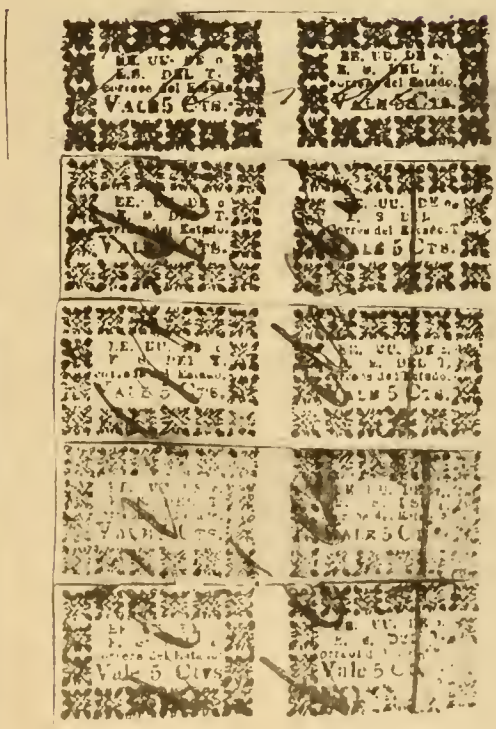


Plate II.



A.



B.

Some Official Information on the Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope.

A Paper Read Before the Philatelic Society, London, January 1st, 1892,

By E. D. BACON.

(*Continued from Page 51.*)

ON the 1st December, 1881, the one penny newspaper wrapper was issued, and the notice appeared in *The Gazette* of December 2nd of that year.

Stamped Newspaper Wrappers.

On and after the 1st December, Newspaper Wrappers impressed with a postage stamp of the value of One Penny can be obtained on application at any Post Office in the Colony.

These wrappers are made of strong paper and are gummed at the end ready for use, and are sold in parcels of 120. The price of a parcel, including the value of the stamps, is 10s. 8d., but smaller numbers can be obtained on payment of the following rates:—

1.	...	...	...	1¼d.	5.	...	...	...	5½d.
2.	...	...	...	2¼d.	6.	...	...	...	6½d.
3.	...	...	...	3¼d.	7.	...	...	...	7½d.
4.	...	...	...	4¼d.	8.	...	...	...	8½d.

Uncut sheets of these Wrappers can be obtained by newspaper proprietors and others who desire to print the addresses, at any Post Office, by giving a few days' notice. They are sold only in quarter reams of 120 sheets, each sheet containing 14 Wrappers, and the price per quarter ream is £7 5s. 3d.

(Signed) G. W. Aitchison,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
30th November, 1881.

I have found no mention in *The Gazette* of the issue of the halfpenny wrapper, or registration envelopes, both of which appeared for the first time in 1882.

The one penny brown card of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s design was issued on 1st July, 1882, as we learn from the subjoined notice in *The Gazette* of that date.

Government Notice.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Cape of Good Hope,
1st July, 1882.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the regulations contained in the Schedule hereto, under the provisions of the fourth section of the "Post Office Act, 1882."

(Signed) Thomas C. Scanlen,
Colonial Secretary.

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. . . . . .
. . . . . .

POST CARDS.

. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

2. Official Post Cards impressed with a penny stamp (adhesive stamps not being accepted in payment of the postage), may be posted in the Colony, including Basutoland & the Transkeian Territories, for transmission to any Post Offices within the same, with letters printed or written on the back.

. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

5. No card, other than one of those issued by the Government, will pass under a penny stamp, if it bear on it a communication of the nature of a letter.

The following are the prices at which Post Cards may be obtained at Post Offices in the Colony :—

THIN POST CARDS.

1.	...	...	...	1¼d.	4.	...	...	...	4½d.
2.	...	...	...	2¼d.	5.	...	...	...	5½d.
3.	...	...	...	3¼d.	6.	...	...	...	6½d.

£1 1s. 8d. per parcel of 240.

STOUT POST CARDS.

1.	...	...	...	1¼d.	4.	...	...	...	4¾d.
2.	...	...	...	2½d.	5.	...	...	...	6d.
3.	...	...	...	3½d.	6.	...	...	...	7d.

£1 3s. 4d. per parcel of 240.

Uncut sheets of stout cards, of a size suitable for the printing press, so as to allow of advertisements, &c., being printed on them, can be obtained at any Post Office by giving a few days' notice. They are sold only in quarter-reams of 120 sheets, each sheet containing 42 Cards, and the price is £24 10s. per quarter-ream.

The *thin* post cards are those printed in the Colony, which were first issued on Saturday, March 1st, 1878; the *stout* cards are those of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s make.

At the same date as the above notice (1st July, 1882), the half ounce inland letter rate was reduced from three pence to two pence, and, as I have previously mentioned, the rate for inland newspapers was lowered from one penny to one half-penny.

On the 16th June, 1885, a notice appeared in *The Gazette* making it compulsory to prepay the charges on Inland telegrams with postage stamps, from July 1st of that year.

Re PAYMENT OF TELEGRAMS BY POSTAGE STAMPS.

General Post Office,
Cape Town, 15th June, 1885.

ON and after the 1st of July next, the charges on all ordinary inland telegrams

despatched from Postal Telegraph Offices in the Cape Colony must be prepaid in Cape Colonial postage stamps.

(Signed) G. W. Aitchison,
Postmaster-General.

I have found no reference to the issue of the halfpenny postcard in *The Gazette*. This card was manufactured by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., and seems to have first come into use early in the year 1889. It is for circulation between Post Offices of the Cape Colony, Basutoland, and the Transkeian Territories, and is sold in packets of twelve for eight pence, or at the rate of three farthings each.

The thin and stout one penny cards are now employed for transmission between the Colony and Post Offices in the Orange Free State, British Bechuanaland, South African Republic, and Natal.

A three-halfpenny postcard of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s make, for correspondence between the Colony and the United Kingdom, made its appearance on the 1st May, 1890. The notice of the issue is found in *The Gazette* of April 22nd of that year.

Postal Notice.

It is hereby notified for general information that on and after the 1st May next, Foreign Post Cards impressed with a three-halfpenny stamp, available for transmission between any Post Office in the Cape Colony and any Post Office in the United Kingdom, will be obtainable on demand at any Money Order Office in the Cape Colony, at the following prices:—

1.	-	1¾d.	4.	-	6¾d.	7.	-	11¾d.	10.	-	1s. 4¾d.
2.	-	3½d.	5.	-	8½d.	8.	-	1s. 1½d.	11.	-	1s. 6½d.
3.	-	5d.	6.	-	10d.	9.	-	1s. 3d.	12.	-	1s. 8d.

These Cards will be subject to the same rules and regulations in regard to transmission as inland postcards.

(Signed) G. W. Aitchison,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office, Cape Town,
21st April, 1890.

The last notice I have found is the following, taken from *The Gazette* of December 23rd, 1890. It gives the reason for the issue of the provisional two pence halfpenny adhesive.

Reduction of Ocean Postage.

From and after the 1st January next the rates of postage to and from the United Kingdom and the Cape Colony will be 2½d. the half ounce or fraction thereof.

The charge on letters posted in the Colony for the Continent of Europe will be three pence the half ounce or fraction thereof.

Tables of reduced rates for other places served through the United Kingdom will be published shortly.

(Signed) G. W. Aitchison,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Cape Town, 18th December, 1890.

In conclusion, I thank you for the careful attention you have given me this evening. A paper filled to a certain extent with *Gazette* notices cannot, I am sure,

be a very entertaining one to listen to. At the same time, we must remember these somewhat dry official statements are most valuable for the dates and other particulars contained in them.

APPENDIX.

List of Postage Stamps forwarded by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. to the Cape of Good Hope.

1853.			
May 9.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	100,000	...	4d. blue.
June 16.	5,000	...	1d. red.
,,	10,000	...	4d. blue.
July 25.	5,000	...	1d. red.
,,	10,000	...	4d. blue.
Sept. 16.	5,000	...	1d. red.
,,	10,000	...	4d. blue.
Nov. 5.	100,000	...	1d. red.
,,	200,000	...	4d. blue.
Dec. 31.	5,000	...	1d. red.
,,	10,000	...	4d. blue.
1854.			
June 28.	200,000	...	1d. red.
,,	100,000	...	4d. blue.
Aug. 28.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
Oct. 31.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
Nov. 25.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
Dec. 28.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
1855.			
Feb. 26.	100,000	...	1d. red.
,,	50,000	...	4d. blue.
Mar. 27.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
April 24.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
May 29.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
1855.			
June 30.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
July 25.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
Aug. 25.	50,000	...	1d. red.
,,	25,000	...	4d. blue.
Sept. 20.	500,000	...	1d. red.
,,	250,000	...	4d. blue.
1856.			
May 3.	400,000	...	4d. blue.
Sept. 12.	500,000	...	4d. blue.
Nov. 17.	500,000	...	1d. red.
,,	500,000	...	4d. blue.
1857.			
June 16.	500,000	...	4d. blue.
Dec. 16.	400,000	...	6d. violet.
,,	200,000	...	1s. green.
1858.			
Jan. 20.	500,000	...	1d. red.
,,	500,000	...	4d. blue.
Feb. 6.	400,000	...	6d. violet.
,,	100,000	...	1s. green.
,, 17.	500,000	...	1d. red.
,,	500,000	...	4d. blue.
1860.			
May 1.	1,200,000	...	1d. red.
,,	1,440,000	...	4d. blue.
1861.			
April 1.	360,000	...	1d. red.
,,	360,000	...	4d. blue.
,, 29.	720,000	...	1d. red.
,,	720,000	...	4d. blue.
May 8.	600,000	...	1d. red.
,,	600,000	...	4d. blue.
1862.			
April 1.	120,000	...	6d. lilac.*
,,	80,160	...	1s. green.*

* Stock printed, and left on hand, before the plates were handed over to the Crown Agents for the Colonies on January 28th, 1862.

Half Hours with the Australian Stamps.

By M. P. CASTLE.
(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London.)

MANY and various have been the contributions to Philatelic literature of recent years on the subject of "Australians," and it may seem presumption on my part to imagine that any remarks of mine may be either characterised by novelty or renewed interest. At the same time, those who have closely studied the multifarious Oceanic issues will readily concede that their variety is so infinite that the conscientious observer can hardly ever fail to find indices of the explanation of some obscure point, or else suggestion as to some fresh field of exploration. There is a natural human tendency to consider one's own flock as the most comely, and a twenty years' acquaintance with, and collection of, Australian stamps has borne upon my mind—prejudiced in their favour—the conviction that long after I have passed away there will remain points on which information would still be desirable.

Foremost among the Australian stamps—and deservedly so—rank the "Sydney views," to adopt their universal cognomen. Again, perhaps, guided by my love for old friends, I feel sturdily inclined to maintain that for interest, variety, and collectable qualities the first issue of the New South Wales stamps takes the place of honour among all the issues of the world. Until the publication of the London Society's work, some years since, the problem of the order of the plates had remained unsolved, despite the arduous examinations of a generation of Philatelists. Stimulated, however, by the splendid results of the sustained labours of the English collectors, those of Australia hastened to correct the points on which the former erred, and to supplement them with such an additional amount of information as to clear up most of the knotty points. There is still something we should like to know as to the twopenny value, but for the present moment I propose to touch on the threepenny. Those collectors who have essayed the compilation of the 25 varieties of type will readily bear me out that, by reason of the dark colour of the paper, the relatively faint hue of the impression, the comparative regularity of the design, and the frequency of heavy disfiguring postmarks, these stamps present more difficulties in discovering and placing the types than almost any other Australian stamp. The perforated registered issue of the same country and the first fourpence of Tasmania being, in my humble judgment, the only two that are more difficult. I have recently been engaged in arranging and typing a large collection of New South Wales for a friend, amongst which were over 100 specimens of this value, and being desirous of reducing the tedious labour as far as possible, I made a preliminary examination of the plate, noting certain differences in the salient characteristics of the engraving, *e.g.*, the engine-turned or wavy-lined background surrounding the vignette, the lattice work in the vertical columns to right and left of the inscription, the vignette and the trilobed ornament at the base of the central circle. I was by this means enabled to find certain constant variations which enabled me the more quickly to ascertain the place of some of the stamps, and in view of the difficulty of typing these stamps I venture to submit my notes in the hope that they may serve to lighten the labours of fellow-workers in the same field.

Before giving this I think I should mention a discovery of some little moment which requires to be known to collectors in order to rectify a mistake. In the Philatelic Society's work on Oceania, page 31, a list of the stamps *se tenant* is given

in order to prove as far as possible the relative position of each stamp as given in the autotype illustrations. With three exceptions all the stamps were found in pairs or blocks, the three single specimens being "No. 24 in the bottom row in Dr. Le Grand's collection, 25 in the right bottom corner of the same collection," and No. 5 "which is unaccounted for, not having been met in a pair or a block, but as there is only one space left, it is of course correctly placed." In May, 1888, it was stated, in a paper on New South Wales by Mr. W. B. Thornhill, that No. 24 in the plate was incorrectly placed, it being No. 5, and *vice-versa*. By one of the pairs that I had to examine I found that the one being No. 4 was correct, and that the other, No. 5, did not tally with the 5 on the Society's plate. I eventually placed it, No. 5, as No. 25 on the plate, 25 thus becoming 24. Curiously enough the same discovery has recently been made by Mr. A. W. Chambers, who showed at the last meeting of the Philatelic Society a pair also showing the error, thus conclusively proving that the unfortunate *ci-devant* No. 5 on the plate must be changed again, and that Mr. Thornhill was only partially correct—*i.e.*, right in placing the 24 as 5, but wrong in replacing the latter, which is 25, on the Oceania plate *as printed;* therefore—

No. 5 becomes No. 25.
No. 25 „ No. 24.
No. 24 „ No. 5.

I hardly think that the Society's list fully embraces all the shades or varieties of paper, and I add a list which will be found somewhat fuller—the variety on blue laid paper, which is exceedingly rare, is mentioned elsewhere in the book, but has escaped being chronicled in the reference list. The "ribbed" varieties are not strongly marked; the colours of all of these stamps are of an indefinite character and hard to define.

Soft yellowish wove paper: green, olive-green, yellow-green, myrtle-green, shades.
„ „ ribbed paper: yellow-green.
Hard bluish paper, varying also to grey and brownish, wove: yellow-green, green, emerald-green shades.
Soft bluish to grey wove paper: green, emerald-green.
Close-ribbed bluish paper: 3d. green.
Horizontally "laid" grey to yellowish paper: yellow-green, emerald-green shades
„ „ bluish paper: green.

Of the foregoing the myrtle-green is a quite distinctive colour, much darker than any of the others, and is rarely met with. The old handbooks formerly chronicled marvellous brown and pink combinations, in most cases the result of oxidation or exposure, none of which have run the gauntlet of modern criticism. I have also a specimen of the Victoria postmark—a butterfly or gridiron with numerals 15 above, and a V below, which had apparently not been seen by the compilers of Oceania. The subject of these postmarks is, however, one that I may touch upon at a future date, and I will merely remark in conclusion, that considering the 3d. value was continuously current for nearly three years, the extreme rarity of unused specimens is remarkable.

I now append a list or more of less distinctive marks, premising that in each case there are doubtless others that would equally well serve as guides, but I have thought it better to rely rather upon one or two striking variations than confuse by reference to a number of points. By comparing the descriptions with the stamps I think

their points will be readily seen. The changes in the positions of the three stamps on this plate should be remembered. It is curious that the strokes in the left corner rectangle containing the star should be found deficient in four stamps each directly over the other, Nos. 7, 12, 17, 22, and it would apparently suggest that the engraver added these, and perhaps other details after the plate was in its main features finished.

	Engine-Turned Background.	Vertical Lattice at Sides	Various Points
1	Faint space top right under G of Postage.		
2			
3			
4	Slight faint patch under A of Postage.	3 loops at right facing NOV. do not touch the circle to right anywhere.	
5	... ...	... ...	Tri-lobed ornament semi-circular in shape.
6			
7	... ...	... ...	Upper and lower rectangles in corner at left have 3 strokes only pointing to the star.
8			
9	Slight faint space to left of U in AUST.		
10	... ...	2 loops at lower right and 3 at upper left of circle do not touch it.	2nd E of THREE is of peculiar shape.
11	... ...	Loops to right of SIGILLUM slope upwards.	
12	Bottom half, lower right angle has white space.	Top left loop wide.	Corner rectangles as No. 7.
13			
14	Top half, under "o" and upper right faint by SIGI.		
15			
16	... ...	3 loops to right opposite NOV do not touch the circle	
17	... ...	Does not touch centre of circle to right.	Corner rectangles as in No. 7.
18	... ...	... ...	No "whip" or sceptre.
19	White triangular space to left of CAMB.	... ...	do. do.
20	Does not quite touch top and bottom halves at right.	Right hand centre loops irregular, faint patch lower left corner.	
21	... ...	Does not touch circle at left or right	
22	... ...	Does not quite touch left and right of circle.	Upper left corner rectangle wants stroke as in No 7.
23	Faint white space (following circle) lower left under CAMB and over AUST.	4 loops upper left do not touch circle to right anywhere.	
24	... ...	Does not approach circle at right.	
25	... ...	White patches to right in centre of stamp and lower right angle.	

A Visit to a Native Indian Post Office.

MAJOR ADAM SMITH, C.V.R., writes under date Neemuch, 18th February, 1892 :—Being at Mhow on the 7th February, I decided upon driving on to Indore, the capital of the Maharaja Holkar. After breakfasting at the Dak Bungalow I drove through the Residency Bazaar into the City of Indore, and so great was the crass ignorance of the people that no one could refer me to the Post Office. I inquired for the "Dak-Khana," "Tappal Office" (the native names for Post Office), and mentioned all the other names I could think of, but without avail. At last, after driving about for more than an hour I turned back and went for the Palace, and to my joy, on inquiry there, I was referred to a small place in the square itself, just opposite the Palace gate. Thither I went, but I found the place closed, and on further inquiry I ascertained that it would not be open until 4 p.m. As I could not wait I sent salaams to the Post-Master and word that a "Burra Sahib" wanted him; this had the desired effect, and after some conversation I succeeded in getting him to open the office. A wretched hovel it was, containing a table with a pigeon-hole box with nine apertures, a form, a bottle of ink and pen, and a few stamps and ink pad for obliteration purposes. Great was my joy, however, on finding that he had the previous day received from the Indore Treasury five rupees in value of a new issue of one anna, and five rupees value of two annas, and that none of these had been sold. I need not say that I annexed the lot, and promptly affixed one of each to a cover addressed to myself, went outside, posted the two covers, and received them in due course. The Postmaster informed me that the quarter-anna would be ready on Tuesday, the 9th February. I paid him £5 for a supply, and on the 11th February, 1892, received them at Mhow. I therefore became the proud possessor of the first issues of the new quarter-anna, one anna, and two anna Holkar State stamps. No others, not even a post-card, will be issued. The half-anna remains the same. I give below a translation of the words on the stamps.

¼ Anna.—On top "Pav anna," on left side "Holkar Shai Dâk Hashil" on the foot of the stamp, and on the right side will be found the English interpretation, viz., "quarter-anna" and "Holkar State Postage." The characters are the Mahratta.

½ Anna.—On top "Urdha anna," on left side "Holkar Shahi Dâk Hashil," and at foot "Half anna," and on right side "Holkar State Postage."

1 Anna.—On top "Ek anna," and at foot "One anna," the left and right side inscriptions being the same as on the ¼ and ½ anna stamps.

2 Annas.—On top "Dona annay," at foot "Two Annas." The left and right side inscriptions being the same as on the other three stamps. The perforations and colours I leave for others to enter. Though the characters are Mahratta the language is Hindee.

I also obtained a few provisionals from the Indore Treasury, which had been issued in the interregnum between the running out of the "Mauve" first issue half-anna and the receipt of the "Puce" half-anna stamps. As few were so issued the stamp should become rare, but I am doubtful of the morality of the Treasury officers, and fear that others may be issued if made worth their while, their manufacture being so easy.

½ Anna Provisional.—A circular steel stamp impression in black on pink paper. In the centre "Urdha anna" (half-anna), on top "Holkar Sircar" (Holkar State), and at foot "Dâk Karkhana" (Postal Department). Characters and language as stated above.

P.S.—I am writing to catch the mail.

Neemuch, 18th February, 1892.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., &c.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: F. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C. *Vice-President:* M. P. CASTLE.
Secretary: D. GARTH. *Assistant Secretary:* J. A. TILLEARD.
Treasurer and Librarian: C. N. BIGGS.

E. D. BACON. | MAJOR EVANS.
A. W. CHAMBERS. | T. MAYCOCK.

THE Tenth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 26th February, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz.: The Vice-President (in the chair), and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, Hastings, E. Wright, C. N. Biggs, C. Geldard, A. W. Chambers, T. Maycock, R. Pearce, A. B. Creeke, E. J. Nankivell, R. Meyer, W. T. Wilson, and J. A. Tilleard. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. W. T. Beckton, proposed by Mr. Vernon Roberts, and seconded by the Vice-President; Mr. W. Thorne, and Mr. J. Oakley Hobby, both proposed by Major Evans, and seconded by Mr. Bacon; Mr. J. H. Chapman, proposed by Mr. Gibb, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary; and Dr. A. G. Paterson, proposed by the Assistant Secretary, and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society. The balloting for a sixth candidate, whose name was on the list for election, was postponed for consideration at a subsequent meeting. The question of the revision of the Society's Statutes, in pursuance of the notice given at the last meeting, was also postponed in the absence of the Secretary. The Vice-President read a letter from the Editor of *The Monthly Journal* (Stanley Gibbons, Limited), requesting permission to insert in that journal the reports of the Society's meetings as published by the Society, and stating that it was desired to include the reports in the number for the month following their publication in the Society's Journal. After some discussion it was resolved, upon the motion of the Assistant Secretary, seconded by Mr. Bacon, that the "request be complied with, upon the understanding that all notices of the Society's meetings are inserted as 'Copied from THE LONDON PHILATELIST, the Monthly Journal of the Philatelic Society, London.'" The Treasurer reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. Stearns, resigning his membership as he had given up collecting, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret. The remaining business of the evening consisted of the revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon, which was further proceeded with and adjourned.

The Eleventh Meeting of the Season was held at the Salisbury Hotel on Friday, the 11th March, at 7.30 p.m. The chair was occupied by the Vice-President, and

there were also present, the Earl of Kingston and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, A. A. Davis, F. Ransom, T. Maycock, T. Wickham-Jones, W. T. Willett, J. H. Redman, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, Vernon Roberts, F. Street, R. Meyer, J. A. Tilleard, and D. Garth (members), and Mr. G. T. Napier (visitor). The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Vice-President congratulated the Secretary on his recovery from his recent illness, and expressed the satisfaction of the members in seeing Mr. Garth again in his place after his long enforced absence. The Secretary read a letter from the Comptroller to H.R.H. Prince George of Wales, acknowledging the receipt of copy of the Society's recent work on the Stamps of the West Indies. The letter, which was directed to be entered on the minutes, was in the following terms:—

Marlborough House, Pall Mall, S.W.
7th March, 1892.

Dear Sir,—His Royal Highness Prince George of Wales desires me to convey to your Society, his thanks for the very kind present of your Catalogue of Postage Stamps, which it affords him great pleasure to accept.

Faithfully yours,
F. de Winton,
Major-General,
Comptroller and Treasurer.

Douglas Garth, Esq.

A letter was also read from Mr. Holman, of Chicago, adverting in complimentary terms to the Society's new Journal, and asking if it could be arranged that the numbers, as they appear, should be sent to the Chicago Society. It was determined that Mr. Holman's request should be complied with, and that the decision in regard to any similar applications from other societies should be left to the Editor and the members associated with him in the management of the Journal. Mr. Bacon read a letter from Mr. Blest forwarding a copy of the 9d. (imperforate) stamp of the first issue of Ceylon, in the scarce brown shade, for examination by the members in settling the reference list of the stamps of that country. Mr. Bacon was directed to acknowledge the communication with the thanks of the Society. Signor Pio Fabri, of Rome, proposed by Mr. Gibbons, and seconded by Major Evans, Mr. G. A. Meyer, of Port Elizabeth, President of the South African Philatelic Society, proposed by the Secretary and seconded by Mr. Bacon, and Captain W. St. George-Ord, proposed by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society, the balloting for a fourth candidate being postponed until the next meeting. In pursuance of notice previously given the Secretary submitted a proof print of a new edition of the Society's Statutes, comprising all the alterations made by resolution since the last edition. The articles were carefully considered, and various amendments necessary in consequence of the alterations already agreed upon were discussed at very considerable length. After these and a few alterations and additions had been resolved upon, the proof as finally settled was duly adopted as the Statutes of the Society, to be printed and circulated amongst the members. Mr. Bacon then read a paper on the first issue of the stamps of Tolima, in which he explained the great difficulty which has always existed in regard to these stamps, owing to the great scarcity of specimens, and to the fact that they were "type set," each stamp on the sheet differing from the others. After adverting to the information on the subject published by M. Moens and by Messrs. Collin and Calman. Mr. Bacon mentioned that Mr. de Coppet, who had long made a special study of these stamps, had been good

enough to place at the disposal of the writer of the paper the result of his researches contained in a letter to Mr. Bacon, which formed the greater part of the paper. Full particulars were given of the arrangement of the stamps in the four plates constructed by Mr. de Coppet, and of the various papers on which the stamps have been printed, and autotype illustrations of the sheets and stamps forwarded by Mr. de Coppet to explain his letter were produced for examination by the members. The letter itself showed the immense labour and pains bestowed upon the subject by the writer, who by his perseverance in the face of apparently insuperable obstacles, and by his accuracy of observation has probably succeeded in almost completely elucidating a subject which has hitherto been regarded as one of the most difficult of those with which collectors have had to contend. Upon the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by the Secretary, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. de Coppet for his most valuable contribution, and to Mr. Bacon for his services in so ably arranging and reading a paper, which had been listened to with the greatest interest. Owing to the late hour to which the meeting had extended, no further business was taken.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Honorary President: BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: M. P. CASTLE. *Vice-President:* J. H. REDMAN.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: W. T. WILLETT.

A. DE WORMS.	J. W. GILLESPIE.
H. STAFFORD SMITH.	J. H ESCOLME.

THE Fifth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 15th, at 7.45 p.m. Present:—Messrs. J. H. Redman, J. W. Gillespie, S. M. Castle, A. de Worms, P. de Worms, W. H. Rean, H. W. Armitage, A. H. Thomas, R. J. Woodman, M. P. Castle, and W. T. Willett.

The Vice-President took the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Secretary announced the receipt of the *Handbook on Swiss Stamps* from Mr. Otto Pfenniger; bound volumes of last year's *Philatelic Record*, and *Stamp News*, and the *Stamp News Annual for 1892* from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co.; and volumes 8 and 9 of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* from Mr. W. H. Earl, as donations to the library, which he was directed to acknowledge with the best thanks of the Society. Mr. J. W. Gillespie moved—"That any member of the Society may borrow books from the Library on condition that they be returned within three days, and that any loss or damage shall be made good;" this was seconded by Mr. A. H. Thomas and carried unanimously. The study of "Areas of Collection" was then proceeded with, and adjourned to the next meeting. Mr. A. de Worms exhibited a set of the English 1884 issue, surcharged "specimen" of which the 1½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., and 5s. were perf. *12*, the rest of the set being perf. 14, as usual.

The Sixth Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 29th, at 7.45 p.m. Present:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. H. Redman, A. H. Thomas, R. J. Thrupp, A. D. Worms, H. Stafford Smith, P. de

Worms, J. W. Gillespie, H. W. Armitage, and W. T. Willett, members, and W. H. Cruttwell and H J. Gillespie, visitors. The President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary's attention was called to the fact that in the report of the adjourned meeting of January 18th, published in The London Philatelist the date was misprinted January 1st. The study of "Areas of Collection" was proceeded with, and adjourned to the next meeting. The practicability of forming an exchange circuit among members was considered, and after some discussion, Mr. A. de Worms moved—"That it is desirable to form an exchange circuit among members of this Society, and that the committee be asked to draw up a scheme, and report thereon to the Society within one month;" this was seconded by Mr. J. W. Gillespie and carried unanimously. The rest of the evening was spent in looking over Mr. H. J. Gillespie's collection; the British Colonies were well represented, and included fine specimens of the early issues of Ceylon, Mauritius and Natal; the British North America were especially fine, there being nearly complete sets of all the pence issues, unused, in the different shades; there were also several good Europeans and Australians.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: VERNON ROBERTS. *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer:* W. DORNING BECKTON.
Vice-President: W. DORNING BECKTON. *Assistant Hon. Sec.:* D. PIXTON.

THE Tenth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on February 12th, 1892, the President in the chair.

There were seventeen members present and one visitor, Mr. Giwelb.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. W. E. Farrer was elected a member of the Society.

A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. for their handsome gift of books to the Society.

The President, in addressing the meeting, referred to two gentlemen who were present, one, a collector, a member of the Society, who had brought his collection for the inspection of the members, and the other, Mr. Giwelb, the well-known London dealer. Mr. Flohr's collection was especially noticeable owing to the fine specimens of Mexico it contained, including nearly all the varieties of the Guadalajara stamps taken off original letters during the time he was in Mexico, and several surcharged Mexican stamps hitherto unchronicled.

Mr. Giwelb had brought a selection of rarities to show the members, and it was decided to devote the remainder of the evening to the examination of these stamps, many of which were of a most interesting nature. It was, therefore, decided to postpone the continuation of the paper on the English stamps until the next meeting.

Amongst the rarities exhibited by Mr. Giwelb was noticed a Cape of Good Hope wood block, 4d., light blue, with the head of Britannia missing.

The President showed a fine specimen of the St. Helena, 6d., carmine, imperf., and and the Vice-President the recently discovered provisional Victoria, 4d., 1861 issue, surcharged 1d., and a Mexico, 1888 issue, 2 c., carmine, pair, imperf.

Dudley Pixton, *Assist. Hon. Sec.*

Correspondence.

THE NEW INDIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—In the first number of the LONDON PHILATELIST, which has reached me by to-day's mail, I notice a wrong description of the 2½ annas Indian overprint, which I hasten to correct. The overprint was on the 4½ annas pale green, and not on the 4 annas olive green. I enclose herewith for the Society a specimen of each of the three stamps referred to under "New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties." I also send you a specimen of each of the foreign post cards, single and reply, which have been overprinted in India, with the new value of "one anna," the reduced rate of postage. These post cards came into use on 1st January, also the new 2½ annas stamps. The new rupee stamp is to issue when present stock of grey 1 rupee is exhausted. I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

E. V. MORGAN.

Office of the Director General
of the Post Office,
Calcutta, Feb. 17th, 1882.

THE LAUREATED REPRINTS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—I think it proper to assure you of the appreciation on the part of the "Collectors" in our district, of your "*pluck*," firmness, and, we trust, *determined* resolution, to get at the bottom of the great "Van Dyck" Fraud.

I have urged upon the dealers just what you say,—"how did that man get hold of those plates, how did he produce those sheets?" *Who* was behind him? What "official" aided and hoped to "share"?

I trust that these are questions which you will never cease to urge upon the Sydney Authorities.

I say "hoped" to share, for I quite believe the astute-the "Old Master"—"Van Dyck," having worked the "Official," would evade all *financial* returns. What could they do? He could, at any time, "round" upon them!

It was his system not to "share" much. "The State"? "*C'est moi*"! was Van Dyck's motto.

Yours faithfully,

E. SHORTHOUSE.

Birmingham,
March 4th, 1892.

[Our correspondent made a visit to Australia some five years since in search of stamps, and states, *inter alia*, that he heard a rumour of a sheet of the 8d., but that Van Dyck, whom he met, never mentioned these stamps. We regret that space will not allow us to give in full his interesting and characteristic letter.—ED.]

GREAT BRITAIN ISSUE, APRIL, 1884.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—I notice in your columns of the February number a letter from Mr. A. De Worms. It may interest him to learn through your columns that Lord Kingston has several of the values mentioned by him, perf. 12, marked "specimen." I forget what the values are, but Lord Kingston may probably mention the stamps to you himself. In case he does not the fact is such.

Yours truly,

W. B. THORNHILL.

Castle Cosey,
Castle Bellingham, Ireland,
March 4th, 1892.

THE PHILATELIC PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

THE Association hereby warns Philatelists against the following new forgeries which have been brought under their notice:—

JAPAN:

1 sen, brown; no syllabic character, and "branches crossed."

4 sen, rose; syllabic character, I.

30 sen, grey; no syllabic character.

INDIA:

First issue, 4 annas, with head inverted, the red portion of the stamp being forged.

NOVA SCOTIA:

6d. green, 1st issue. A dangerous forgery.

NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, AND BRITISH GUIANA:

Various early issues, poor copies of unperforated stamps—are cut close and falsely perforated.

MAURITIUS:

6d. green (Gibbons Type 1410), value altered to 1s. green, but with C & C. C watermark.

BORNEO:

1863. 8 cents black and brown (Gibbons type 1631), with forged surcharge.

Your truly,

CHARLES J. PHILLIPS,
Hon. Secretary.

8, Gower Street,
London, W.C.,
24th February, 1892.

Occasional Notes.

THE traditional storm in a tea cup is apparently eclipsed by the whirlwind as to a roulette that has arisen on the Continent. A *brochure*, extending to no less than 34 closely printed pages, has been sent to us by the Frankfort-upon-Maine Philatelic Society, in which the illegitimacy of the roulettes as to a 3 s. gr., black on pink Brunswick is established. We have never heard of such a stamp since we first collected Europeans, so long ago, alas, as 1866, nor as to the matter of that have we an unlimited belief in the conventionally rouletted 1 s. gr., black on yellow of the same issue. The gentleman who sold the stamp to the aggrieved collector, eventually received the Prodigal Child home again, and all should have ended happily. But it is apparent that neither the Society nor the vendor are now animated by pleasant feelings towards each other. Our sympathies are entirely with the Frankfort Society in this case.

* * *

WE hear that Mr. D. A. Vindin's visit to this country has terminated, and have an interesting letter from him which is withheld, owing to pressure on our space, until the April number. Mr. Dawson A. Vindin has been combining business with pleasure by visiting us, and we are glad to express our concurrence in the good impression he has created in our Philatelic circles, commercial and amateur. We are credibly informed that not the least portion of the advantages accruing to his trip will be the experience gained by contact with "stamps and men" in the old country. His explanations as to his personal share in the Laureate bubble bear every appearance of frankness, and we are confident he will depart for Sydney, firm in the conviction that it is the wish of both Antipodean and British collectors to solve the mystery of the Laureated reprints by united and amicable co-operation.

* * *

M. J. GOUTIER, of Paris, has brought out an album in separate *feuilletons*, for the benefit of fiscal collectors, but of course it would equally suit those who take postals. The separate parts, divided politico-geographically, *i.e.*, by countries and their respective colonies, will appear at short periods, while the description, being on the right-hand page, and the stamp on the left, will always allow the introduction of fresh leaves without deranging the order of those already mounted. The first "number"—Portugal and Colonies—is well turned out, and for both classes of collectors this plan is worthy of consideration, as it admits of additions and amalgamations, while cover cases could be used as binders. A collector would hardly trust his treasures near the paste and scissors of a bookbinder.

* * *

THE International Philatelic Society of Dresden publish a very voluminous report—extending to over 100 pp. quarto—of their Society and its doings for the past year. Admirably and clearly arranged are all the details of the organisation of the Society and its several branches, showing that its membership is a thing to be desired by the collectors of the Fatherland. It is, however, perhaps a little disappointing to think that with its 1,433 members in 1891 the Dresden Society has, during the past year, achieved no greater philatelic work than its own history.

* * *

WE are compelled to ask the indulgence of very many correspondents who have written to us with suggestions for the future and congratulation on the present aspect of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, and we trust they will, without personal replies, feel assured that in both respects their communications are thoroughly appreciated. It is evident, from the letters received from abroad, that our readers beyond our own shores are very numerous, and if they will but use our columns to disseminate their philatelic information, Journal and readers will all be the gainers. *Apropos* of criticism, a respected contemporary, the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, practically the organ of the Berlin Philatelic Club, after a very kindly notice, hints that two philatelic articles in each number is not overwhelming. With a modesty that should always pervade the Editorial mind, we can but suggest that on the average this number would not leave us far behind most of our contemporaries.

Our good critic also suggests that the minutes of the London and Provincial Societies does not afford *him* interesting reading. In the great majority of Continental Philatelic papers the doings of the stamp collectors at their meetings occupy no inconsiderable portion of the space, and these minutes, so ably written, are of great interest to our absent members. One of the foremost objects sought by the London Philatelic Society in founding this Journal was to promote and extend the intercourse of its members with each other, and to provide a regular means of communication for all alike. With this view it is of primary importance that whatever takes place at the meetings should be conveyed to those absent, and it will be the end and aim of the Committee of the London Society to faithfully portray this each month by their published minutes.

* * *

Mr. Douglas Garth, who has been the victim of an unusually severe attack of influenza, has, to the great gratification of his friends, resumed his wonted habits, and might have been seen recently both at the Philatelic Society's Meeting and the "Stamp Law Courts."

* * *

On the 11th, 12th and 14th of this month, at the Central Criminal Court, before the Recorder, George K. Jeffryes, G. Benjamin, and S. H. Sarpy were indicted for forging and uttering stamps; also with conspiracy to defraud divers persons of their moneys.—Mr. C. Mathews and Mr. Muir prosecuted; Mr. Willis Mr. Purcell, and Mr. Jones defended. —The circumstances under which the charge was preferred against Defendants have been reported. Benjamin and Sarpy, who for many years had been engaged as dealers and collectors in the stamp trade, occupied premises in Cullum-street. Jeffryes, who was an engraver by profession, resided at Bow. The allegations against the Defendants were that for a considerable period they had been concerned in a systematic course of manufacturing fictitious stamps, and that there was an agreement between them to utter them, and in this way defraud the public. The prosecution was at the instance of the Philatelic Protection Association. Jeffryes manufactured stamps at his premises at Bow, and sold them to Sarpy and Benjamin. The stamps trafficked in were those of the Sandwich Islands, Queensland, Baden, Victoria, Grenada, &c., and the fraud complained of was the addition of certain fictitious marks by the Defendants, which, if genuine, would greatly enhance the value of the stamps, and which induced the collectors to purchase. Evidence was adduced showing that in one instance 6s. 6d. was given for a stamp by a collector, the original of which was worth £1, and in other cases it was proved that particular stamps realised from £8 to £20. Throughout the whole of their transactions the Defendants appear to have acted in an open manner, nor was there concealment as to the nature of their business. They absolutely denied an intention to defraud; on the contrary, they asserted that there was a *bôna fiae* trading in fictitious stamps, the originals being too expensive for collectors to purchase. When the police visited the premises which were occupied by the Defendants and searched them, they discovered an enormous collection of stamps of all kinds, which included forgeries and genuine stamps, besides a number of impressions lithographed, and acids and other paraphernalia for producing the stamps, "surcharging" them, and adding other postal marks.—Jeffryes admitted that many years ago he did work for Sarpy and Benjamin. —Mr. Jones, on his behalf, argued that there was absolutely no evidence connecting him with fraud in these transactions.—Several Witnesses were called to testify to the previous good reputation which the Defendants had enjoyed.—The Jury having found the Prisoners Guilty, the Recorder sentenced Benjamin and Jeffryes to six, and Sarpy to four months' imprisonment, with hard labour.—(*Standard.*)

The Philatelic Market.

There has been a distinctly drooping tendency in the auctions during the past month. The stamps submitted have been of a lower quality, and the prices and attendances have both, in Stock Exchange parlance, been undergoing the process, unconsciously perhaps, known as *bearing*.

Collectors and the trade having all felt, lately, that the auctioneer's hammer has been rapped too often, a breathing time will help to accumulate a better variety and lend bidders courage to offer better prices. To the absence from the sales of some of the principal dealers, is no doubt attributable, in part, the recent depression. The next *really fine* sale, however, will bring both classes again into healthy competition. For the reasons we have given, the sale by Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., on the 17th and 18th February, does not present any features of interest. An authenticated specimen of the provisional 9 pies on 8 pies India changed ownership at £6, as did the 3d. Transvaal with red surcharge on the reverse side, at five guineas. A brilliant Connell was reasonably disposed of for £21, and a pair of Barbadoes 1d. on 5s. showed an upward tendency at £4 10s. A Victorian beaded oval 4d., rouletted, on a portion of the letter, was sold decidedly cheaply at £6 6s., and a number of Cape wood blocks found buyers at prices averaging about 26s. each. The Sydneys, which were numerous and weak, drooped somewhat. There is a good chance for those who wish to "plate" now, as medium *averaged* specimens which look best typed together, seem negotiable at reasonable prices. Two collections sold for £40 and £50 respectively, the remaining lots not calling for especial comment.

An innovation has been introduced by Mr. Wm. Hadlow in the catalogues of his last sale, which he states was by far the most successful one he had held, being the "record" for the number of lots sold in one day, as well as for the attendance, over 60 people being present at one time. The actual number of lots sold in the sale was 419, realising £435, and the rate of selling averaged 84 lots per hour. The Great Britain 3d., Plate 3, and the 4d., Watermark small Garter, at £8 10s. and £9 respectively, were the most noteworthy stamps.

This innovation consists of a column, after the number of stamps in the lot, with the heading "Condition," and beneath abbreviations of the following:—

V. F.—Very fine.
B. C.—Brilliant copy.
S. D.—Slightly damaged.
M. F.—Mostly fine.
S. N.—Slightly nicked.
S. R.—Slightly rubbed.
S. D.—Slightly damaged.

The auctioneer is to be credited with a laudable endeavour to correct a glaring defect, that has often called forth our disapproval—*i.e*, the insufficient and frequently incorrect description of stamps as lotted. If a stamp is sold for its margin, *e.g.*, Ceylon octagonal imperf., why should not the outside measurements of the stamp be given? It is the superfluous paper in the shape of margin that is dear in collectors' eyes and pockets! A better graduated scale as to condition could, however, be found, and we suggest:—

M. (Mint state); or P. (Perfect).
V. F. (Very fine).
A. (Average); or M. (Medium).
P. (Poor).

These definitions, either together or singly could apply to lots containing numbers of stamps, while damage could and should be noted in the description of the stamps.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Limited, have recently received from a collector abroad an exceptionally numerous and comprehensive lot of English Colonials for disposal, the quantities of British North Americans being as abnormal as their quality. It may perhaps be called an accumulation rather than a collection, and must certainly form an invaluable stock to any firm with a large *clientèle*.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co. have sent us a priced catalogue of their auction of the 4th and 5th February, from which we learn that this sale of the collection of Mr. H. Determan realised about £550 for 1,026 lots. The Teutonic stamps were apparently and naturally the best selections, the used Bergedorf and Bremen being notable among a large quantity of good ordinary stamps. We commend the sending to us of priced catalogues, without which notices of auctions in this column are but dry bones.

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

THE LONDON PHILATELIST will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of 7s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to our publishers, Messrs. PERKINS BACON & Co., Ltd., 36–40, Whitefriars Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

VOL. I.] APRIL, 1892. [No. 4.

PHILATELY—AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL.

THE large amount of space recently occupied in Stamp literature by the very extended accounts of the Philatelic fraud cases, although not pleading guilty to any extent ourselves in this matter, causes us considerable compunction in again alluding to a matter connected with the recent prosecutions. Our contemporary, *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, in a leader last month, says: "One of the principal of the objects with which the Philatelic Society of London was formed nearly a quarter of a century ago, was the putting down of the trade in forgeries. Others of its objects that Society has carried out, and is carrying out most efficiently and thoroughly, but in that particular direction it has done little or nothing." We freely acknowledge the friendly tone of the article, nor would it be likely that the Editor would be actuated by any other ambition than to play the *rôle* of the candid friend, but we must differ from his definition of the objects of the London Society. Article 1 states as follows:—"The Society is termed the Philatelic Society, London, and was constituted to encourage and promote—(1) The study of postage and telegraph stamps, stamped envelopes, newspaper and other bands, and cards, their history, engraving, printing, and other details; (2) The detection and prevention of forgeries and frauds; (3) The preparation and publication of papers and works bearing on these subjects, and the undertaking of all such matters as may incidentally promote the above objects, and contribute to the increase of the science and practice of Philately." It will be seen that clause 2 is the only one that lends any claim to the remark of

Major Evans, but the detection and prevention of forgeries by the efforts of a Society of Amateurs, is very different from the indictment for conspiracy at common law *et hoc genus omne* at the Court of the Old Bailey. It is obvious that the fulfilment of clauses 1 and 3, which our good friend so readily concedes, and in which he himself has taken an important share must very materially aid in the attaining of clause 2. By the issue of their works, by the papers read before the Society, by specimens examined and reported on through various members, by the large knowledge, influence, and experience of its many members, the London Philatelic Society, during the past 22 years, has not, in our humble judgment, "in this particular direction done little or nothing," but it has played a most important part, and fully borne its share in the steps necessary "to detect and prevent forgeries of postage stamps."

In this country it is the common custom of all trades to associate themselves for the purposes of Trade defence. The organisation, labour, and the expenses of defending any large and powerful trade, are almost invariably borne upon relatively few shoulders, however numerous may be its members; nor, writing from an intimate knowledge of this subject, can we call to mind any instance in which an exception has been found to this practice. On reflection there is nothing unusual in this custom; those who have "a large stake in the hedge" must be prepared to spend loyally their time and money in their own self-defence. The energetic and brilliantly successful results of the labour of the Philatelic Protection Society have already received our warmest commendation, and while not wishing to retract one iota in this respect, we feel it is only due to the members of that Society, and to collectors generally, in urging that this Trade Society must follow the general custom in paying for the defence of its own livelihood. To those dealers who have not yet contemplated this aspect of the case we would commend the consideration of the relative pecuniary interests in stamps, of the trader and customer. Let any firm make an approximate assessment of the amount invested in postage stamps as an *amusement* by the average of their customers, and comparing this with the amount of the capital in their *business*, they will readily see the point of our argument. The recent existence of so many forgeries constituted a serious drawback to the pursuit of Philately, but assuming that this defect might thin the ranks of its votaries, it is however, far from being on a par with the results produced by a desuetude of collecting generally, on a large and valuable stock, forming perhaps the whole of a dealer's livelihood. We should much regret if the preceding remarks were taken to evince any want of sympathy with the circular recently issued by the Philatelic Society inviting subscribers to share in defraying the expenses of the prosecutions before-mentioned, amounting to several hundred pounds. On the contrary, the appeal deserves the warm support of collectors, and though we have previously shown that they are less interested we have not intimated that they are less numerous, or that they were exempt from all participation in defraying their share *pro rata* in the costs of war.

Every collector must realise that he is interested a little in stamps, and in the like ratio should give of his goods to those who have benefited both their own and his interest in these recent actions. We sincerely trust, therefore, a most cordial response will be elicited by the appeal of the Protection Association, and we shall have much pleasure in receiving and announcing any subscriptions to this end in our columns. A guinea or two will hardly be missed by most collectors whose philatelic gems are of moment, and a general participation would be of far greater significance, as to the good fellowship that should exist between the two branches of the pursuit, than the donation by a few wealthy collectors of amounts as large as the aggregate contributed by the dealers themselves. The moral effect of the subscription given by collectors will lie more with the names of members of the donors than with the amount donated. We trust that the most salutary effect in the moral aspect of the stamp world will have been produced by the recent case, and that it may be long before any efforts of the Philatelic Protection Association are again required for a like purpose.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Austria.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us a number of specimens of the current issue with various perfs.: there are doubtless others which correspondents will perhaps kindly inform us of, but meanwhile we give the list.

| | | |

British East Africa.—The *Timbre Poste* announces the substitution of a fresh colour for the low value formerly printed in yellow, and, as a provisional, that "half anna" has been overprinted on the 3 annas.

½ anna, *black on yellow.*
½ anna, black surcharge on 3 annas vermilion.

Belgium.—From the same source we gather that the 1 c. yellow-green has been seen in a collection with the word "centime" omitted—whether an error, or an unfinished stamp—or postmarked—is not stated; we presume the latest stamp of this colour is meant. Our informant contradicts the statement recently made as to the suppression of the 2 francs, and the re-appearance of the 5 francs.

1 (centime), yellow-green *with centime omitted.*

Bolivar.—Errors in the date of those supremely uninteresting stamps, issued each year for no conceivable purpose with the year of birth thereon recorded, have also been found, states the same good authority, on the 1886 issue; in addition to a specimen with 1886, one has now been discovered with 1380, thus, as our contemporary playfully put it, ante-dating the discovery of stamps by 460 years!

Canada.—Mr. L. Gibb writes as below from Montreal, under date of March 9th, enclosing a specimen used on the letter, but with the obliteration on the stamp only, and also portions of sheets gummed and unsevered, but neatly postmarked with horizontal wavy lines.—"Some time back I received the enclosed stamp paying the postage on an open envelope containing a circular from Toronto; it has not been moved from its original place, and one could see it had not been obliterated on the envelope. After some little trouble I found the P.O. would, upon receiving whole sheets of stamps, cancel them, and then hand them back to any known firm to be placed on letters in quantity, these letters are then taken to a private part of the office in bulk, and are allowed to pass through the post without further marking. The only thing I can see they gain by this is saving themselves the trouble of post-marking each letter, and I think they lay themselves open to being taken in, for stamps marked thus would do duty any amount of times should one care to collect them from old circulars." We readily agree with our correspondent as to the obvious risk of this proceeding.

Curaçao.—In our January number we chronicled on good authority the 50 c. of the current set overprinted 25 c. (like the 30 c.). Messrs. Whitfield King shortly after expressed their doubts as to its anthenticity and we hear from them now that they can get no tidings of this supposed surcharge from any of their correspondents in the country itself. It seems probable that it is of the "Sokotra" order, and hence collectors should be on their guard.

Great Britain.—Discoveries in our country's stamps, after the exhaustive manner in which they have been written on by many authors, notably by the President of the London Society—Mr. Philbrick, and Mr. Westoby, are hardly to be expected, but we have received from Mr. Hastings Wright two specimens which are apparently new lights upon our limited philatelic horizon. The stamps in question are the 4d. carmine of 1855, with the small garter watermark, but on *almost white* paper, of the surfaced or safety quality, hitherto known only in a bluish colour as regards this particular stamp. In the *Stamps of Great Britain*, pp. 110 to 113, the successive use of the several papers is dealt with at length. The change from bluish to white paper, caused by the abandonment of a chemical ingredient in its manufacture, took place about a

year later than the issue of the first 4d., while the "medium garter" watermark was in use. The appearance, therefore, of these stamps with the first paper and second watermark seems as yet unaccountable, unless the learned authors of "Great Britain" are wrong, and that the white safety paper had been prepared and even put in use before the change of watermarks. One of the two stamps submitted is slightly less white than the other, we can scarcely call either bluish, and the colour of the impressions are fairly fresh, but the postmarks have a washed look, and it is within the realms of possibility that before coming into Mr. Wright's possession some previous owner, in his natural hatred of heavy postmarks, may have, in trying to destroy their existence, at the same time blanched the stamp by some acid solution. We only suggest this as a possibility—the stamps *certes* are fresh to us, and we hope some learned correspondent may elucidate the mystery.

The actual date of issue of the £1 with the official surcharge, alluded to in our last, was, we understand, March 9.

£1 green, black surcharge, I.R. Official, wmk. 3 Crowns, perf. 14.

Grenada.—In addition to the Barbados, mentioned elsewhere, Mr. F. de Coppet exhibited an extremely interesting stamp, the 6d. without watermark, orange-vermilion on laid paper. This will seem a veritable *lusus naturæ*, but after a careful examination at the hands of many members, nothing could be urged against it. The *vergeures* are horizontal and fairly wide apart, and it therefore comes under the category of the rare and unexplained stamps of a similar nature, *e.g.*, the 1s. Nevis, and the 4d. octagonal Tasmania.

6d., orange-vermilion, perf. 15, *horizontally laid paper.*

Messrs. Maitland & Co. call our attention as under to the fact that the sheet of the 2½d. surcharge on the 8d. contains 2 minor varieties—5 rows of 6 each, and write:—

"Referring to the Grenada prov. 2½d. on 8d. black and ochre, we have just observed that there exists on a sheet of same, a variety of the figure 2 in the ½. We enclose a sheet of these stamps from which it will be seen that in the first five rows the 2 appears with a broad tail and narrow head, and in the lower five rows has a 2 with a curled head, thicker lines, and the tail sloping upwards and close to the body of the figure."

Guadeloupe.—From the *Timbre Poste* we have the exciting information, of errors of surcharge as follows:—

30 c., bistre (Hd. of Liberty), black surcharge, GUADBLOUPE GUADELONPE, GUADELOUEP.
4 c., violet on blue, (current type), „ „ „ „

Holland.—Another value has to be added to the current set with the young Queen's portrait.

7½ c., reddish brown, new type.

Liberia.—On the eve of publication Mr. H. L. Hayman kindly sends us some stamps that for beauty of design and excellence of engraving are, in our judgment, the most handsome set it has ever been our fortune to chronicle. We must defer a fuller description of the 8 designs until our next issue, meanwhile note:—

1 c., vermilion,	new design, perf. 15.	16 c., lilac,	new design, perf. 15.
2 c., blue	„ „	24 c., olive green on yellow	„ „
4 c., green and black	„ „	32 c., grey-blue	„ „
6 c., bluish green	„ „	1 dollar, blue and black	„ „
8 c, brown and black	„ „	2 „ brown on yellow	„ „
12 c., maroon	„ „	5 „ black and red	„ „

Malta.—The 5s., wmk. C.A. & Cr., noted by us on the excellent authority of the *Timbre Poste* is not yet to be had at Malta, as Mr. Homewood informs us that a stock of these just purchased by him in the island had the old watermark.

The paper with the watermark CORREOSEUM (Postage United States of Mexico), has come into pretty general use. We note following varieties from various sources, adding, on the authority of the *Phil. Jour. of America*, that two values have paper vertically laid, and that on some of the 1884 issue the paper has been found laid horizontally.

3 cent, green, (1884 issue), horizontally laid paper.
10 „ „ „ „ „ „
20 „ „ „ „ „ „
3 „ vermilion, *with watermark* correoseum.
4 „ „ „ „ „
5 „ blue, „ „ „
6 „ vermilion, „ „ „
20 „ „ „ „ „
25 „ „ „ „ „
5 „ blue, „ „ „ paper laid vertically.
10 „ vermilion, „ „ „ „ „

Nossi-be.—Amidst the chameleonic changes of the French Colonial postage system (?) the editorial mind is apt to become unhinged, and it is difficult to avoid either twice chronicling a stamp or omitting one altogether—neither fortunately being from a philatelic aspect of much import. We received, however, some three weeks since, two stamps from Messrs. Clarke & Co., that, despite a vigorous search, we have been unable to discover as having been already quoted. Doubtless, our incompetency to unravel the skein of French Colonial surcharges will be promptly set forth by some good-natured critic; but, nevertheless, with due trepidation, we will set forth these delectable varieties. In the December number of the *Timbre Poste* four varieties are chronicled with doubting faith as to their necessity; the surcharges consisted of "Nossi-bé" in thick lower case above; "a perçevoir" in small capitals below and large numerals in the centre, a line separating them from the first-named words. The stamps surcharged were of the current type, 5 on 20 c. red on green, 10 on 15 c. blue, 15 on 10 c. black on violet, and 25 c. on 5 c. green on greyish. The two stamps that we have seen are similar in type to the foregoing, but are as follows:—

0.10 c., black surcharge (current type), on 5 c., green on greyish.
0.15 c., „ „ 20 c., red on yellow.

With the stamps above cited, all of the values were in stock, hence there could have been no reason for their issue—but the *exploitation* of the Philatelic community.

Norway.—The colour of the 1 ore has now taken unto itself a deeper shade.

1 öre, current set, dark brown.

New South Wales.—From our remarks elsewhere it will be noted that we have an "unchronicled variety."

2d. blue, 1856 issue, unperf., *watermark* thick double lined numeral 8.

Obock.—The staid demeanour befitting the *gérant* of a quasi-scientific journal will not allow us to express our sentiments on these ever recurring surcharges, but the name of this country, with a liquid or sibilant pronunciation of the last letters, is indicative of our sentiments. We illustrate the stamps described in March, and have to chronicle that the same surcharge has been applied to the unpaid letter stamps.

5 c. unpaid letter stamp, black surcharge, Obock in curve.
10 „ „ „ „ „
30 „ „ „ „ „
60 „ „ „ „ „

To fill up the cup of bliss, we note, on the authority of the *Timbre Poste*, that the demand for the low values has necessitated recourse to provisionals! The word "Obock" is overprinted horizontally in thick letters, and the original value *biffé* with numeral.



1 c., red surcharge (current type) on 25 c., rose.
2 c., „ „ „ „ 15 c., blue.
4 c., black „ „ „ 15 c., „

Portuguese Indies.—It appears that Herr von Ferrary is possessed *(inter alia!)* of two interesting stamps, according to the same contemporary. For those unacquainted with the intricate issues of this country, we may briefly explain that the first issue in 1871, consisting of six values, has the background formed by 32 vertical lines with the word "Reis" in thin Roman capitals; in May, 1876, two values, the 10 reis, black, and 20 red, were re-issued in a modification of the original type, the lines in the background being increased to 34, the "V" of Serviço being barred, the paper of a bluish tinge, the perforation $12\frac{1}{2}$, and a star above the value (added in June, 1877). These two stamps have now been found over-printed $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 in black, similarly to those issued (with a 4 reis) in October, 1883. We illustrate the type.



$1\frac{1}{2}$ reis, black surcharge, *on type of 1877*, black.
6 „ „ „ green.

Portugal.—A new issue will, we hear, be put in circulation at an early date, consisting of 16 values from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1,000 reis.

Roumania,—Another of the new unpaid letter stamps has been issued, says the *Ill. Brief. Journal.*

50 bani, green.

Russia.—The 14 kopecks has been found *mirabile dictu*, with the central design of the eagle and post horns embossed in white on carmine, *inverted.* This is a curious find, chronicled on the faith of the *Timbre Poste.* From the same source we take the following locals, some of which were unavoidably crowded out of our last issue.

14 kop., blue and red, *with centre* inverted.

Ardatof (Nijnij Novgorod). A slight change has taken place in the stamps of 1884. In the 3 kop the corner numerals are lengthened, and the word T P K is followed by a full stop; in the 5 kop there is only a slight difference in the letters of the lower inscription; the perforation is no longer 13 but $11\frac{1}{2}$.

3 kopecks, green.
5 „ red.

Cherson (Cherson).—The stamp illustrated herewith has been used since January 1st, 1891. The frame, crown, and centre of the eagle are gold, and the remainder blue. Engraved and printed on white paper, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.



10 kopecks blue and gold.



Glasoff (Viatka).—Similar to the oblong stamp of Jan. 1st, 1888, a 3 kopecks has been issued. The first-named has also been modified as to the numerals.

3 kop. green, yellow and black.
2 „ „ „ „ „ modified type.

Griazowetz (Wologda).—Of the type of May 1st, 1891, are now found—

4 kop., red-brown on pelure paper.
4 „ yellow.
4 „ blue.
4 „ green.
4 „ rose.
4 „ brick



Irbit (Perm).—This stamp is now printed on thin *satiné* paper with a slight alteration in the type and printing.

In the second line the characters are farther apart, while in the third they are close together, and the word novta nearly touches both sides. The previous ten varieties have become twenty.

2 kopecks, black and rose on white thick paper.

Kolomna (Moscow).—We illustrate a new type that has appeared, lithographed in colour on white paper, and perforated 11½, the different values occurring in the same sheet.



1 kopeck, blue.
2 „ „
3 „ „
1 „ red.
3 „ „



Kousnetz (Saratoff).—A new stamp has been issued here of the accompanying design, it is printed on white paper, perf. 13½.

5 kopecks, blue and rose.

Morschansk (Tamboff).—A new type has been issued having the arms in an oval, with the inscription of the preceding issues. Printed on white paper, perf. 12.



5 kopecks, blue and brown.



Ochansk (Perm).—The 10 kopecks blue has been replaced since the 1st of January by the stamp here illustrated, reserved for registered letters. Engraved and printed on white paper, perf. 11½.

5 kopecks, black, red and gold.

Ourjoum (Viatka).—We illustrate a new issue (29th November, 1891) lithographed in colour on white paper, and perf. 13.



2 kopecks, dark blue.
3 „ bluish green.

Ossa (Perm).—The 1890 stamp has changed its colour, but the green horizontal lines remain.

2 kopecks, red and green.



Perm (Perm).—This imposing looking label has been recently presented to an impatient population, lithographed in colour on white paper and perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

5 kopecks, carmine.



Riask (Riazan).—A new issue of stamps is represented by these two types. The first recalls that of 1887, except that it has an exterior line, and the central "k" is larger, whereas in the 2nd type this figure is smaller. Printed in black on coloured paper.



3 kopecks, bright rose. (2 types).

Sapojok (Riazan).—There is another new issue of the type of our engraving, rendered still more acceptable by the fact of there being three varieties of each. The perforation is 13, and as usual they are lithographs.



5 kopecks, red and green, 3 varieties.
10 „ green and yellow, „



Solikamsk (Perm).—The stamp whose illustration is appended appeared on the 1st January last, is perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, and lithographed.

2 kopecks, yellow, orange-yellow.

Tichvin (Novgorod).—We give an illustration of the 1891 type of this district. The arms are printed in red, the inscriptions in black, the upper portion in blue, the background in red and blue, and the border in gold and silver, on white paper, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$. *Voila tout!*



5 kopecks, black, blue, red, gold and silver.

Zolotonoska (Poltava).—The current 2 kopecks has been overprinted.

3 kopecks, surcharged in black, on 2 kop. green and yellow.



St. Lucia.—We illustrate the provisional described last month, which, as will be seen, furnishes another instance of the baleful practice of bisecting stamps. This method of supplying a postal want may have its economical side, but it certainly does not find favour in the eyes of Philatelists.



St. Thomas and Prince Island.—We annex an illustration of the provisional 50 on 40 reis noted in our issue for March.

Salvador.—We illustrate the latest productions of the Controller of new issues for this country, described in our February number. These precious articles will not have deteriorated by the keeping. We know, in fact, many Philatelists who exist comfortably without them!





Shanghai.—A new issue of unpaid letter stamps appeared in January, as shown by our illustration, consisting of the words in Gothic type, "Postage Due" over-printed on the current stamps. As with the ordinary stamps mentioned in the February London Philatelist, watermark and perforation both present difficulties.



Unpaid Letter Stamp.

2 c., brown,	black surcharge on	current type,	wmk., Chinese characters,	perf. 12.
10 c., black,	„	„	„	perf. 15.
20 c., lilac,	„	„	„	„
5 c., rose,	„	„	no wmk., „	„
15 c., blue,	„	„	„ „	„



Straits Settlements.—The 6 cents has now received the surcharge recently put upon the 8 c., as shown by our illustration; the ways of the Straits in surcharges seem crooked!

1 c., black surcharge on 6 c. lilac, wmk., C.A & Cr., perf. 14.

Mr. Maycock has sent us a specimen of a new stamp, viz., 25 c. of the Seychelles type, cartouche with value and name of country being in the second named colour.

25 c., dull purple and green, wmk., C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

Sarawak.—Illustrated herewith will be found the provisional described in our last issue. We have heard of a small variety in the overprint, but should like ocular demonstration of the fact.



Sokotra.—Having in vain waited a month for some contradiction of this rather unlikely issue, we inserted in our last issue a notice of them "with all reserves." There seems, however, to be no confirmation of these issues, and their bogus origin is likely to be established.

Turkey.—We give illustrations of four of the new issue chronicled last month.








M. Roussin has, according to our Brussels contemporary, received specimens on letters of the 2 para yellow diagonally severed and surcharged as above, for temporary use as 1 piastre at Bagdad.

1 piastre, black surcharge on diagonally cut half of 2 piastres, 1890 issue, yellow.

Uruguay.—Messrs. Maitland & Co. send us a specimen of the latest provisional—the current 20 c. orange, surcharged in black similarly to those described by us last month, with Un—Centésimo—Provisorio, 1892, in four horizontal lines. Illustration annexed.



1 c., black surcharge on 20 c. orange (current type).

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Austria.—The Pneumatic envelope of 1890 has been subjected to certain modifications, having an addition of two lines of instructions, while the inscription on the *patte* has been omitted.

Pneumatic envelope. 15 kr. violet-rose on rose.

Bermuda.—A new Registration envelope has been issued here, we learn from the *Ill. Brief Journal*, of the normal type with stamp on the flap, and linen-lined envelope: dimensions, 133×83 mm.

Registration envelope, 2d., blue.

Bahamas.—We now illustrate the red surcharge envelopes noted in our January issue, with six lines.



British South Africa.—We append an illustration of the new Registration envelope announced by us in our January number. There are two sizes, 151×97 and 227×10 mm., and of the usual linen-lined paper.



2 pence, blue on white.

Liberia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a set of three Registration envelopes of similar design to those long known, with the transverse oval, but being each printed in a different colour, although in all three the instructions (inclusive of a large "R" within an oval), and crossed lines, are in a deep blue. They are of the usual character as to paper, and are the production of Messrs. McCorquodale & Co., whose name appears beneath the flap.

10 c., *dark blue*, size F.
10 c., *dull red-lilac*, „ G.
10 c., *blue-green*, „ H².

Queensland.—We hear of a wrapper and envelopes in more than one variety of size and paper, with the type of the current stamp impressed, probably like their Tasmanian predecessors, of unofficial origin and stamped to order.

New South Wales.—We receive from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a wrapper, with the provisional halfpenny surcharged on one penny green stamp impressed thereon. The paper is pale buff, and laid vertically, the size being 287×115 mm.

½d., black on green (current type), on pale buff laid paper.

Tonga.—The imperative demands of the Tongese public for the safe transmission of their valuables per post has evolved from an appreciative Postal Administration a Registered envelope, bearing the gorgeous design herewith represented. Do the natives register their glass beads and bits of cloth, or are these the relics of cannibalistic ancestors that require a 6d. fee for their safe transmission from one gentle native to another? The annals of Tonga have yet to be written, so our editorial ignorance may perhaps be condoned. The stamp, as shown, is on the *patte* of the envelope, which is of the usual linen-lined nature, with an "R" to the left, a rectangle for the stamp to the right, and the word "Tonga Registered," intervening, on the face, the size being 153×97 mm.



6d., red on bluish-white paper.

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Austria.—Pneumatic cards and letter cards, similar in design to those of 1890, have been issued, the principal differences being additions of a two-lined instruction on the letter card, and some supplementary words to the previously existing inscription on the card (*Timbre Poste*).

Pneumatic card, 10 kr., blue on pale blue.
„ „ 10+10 kr., blue on pale blue.
„ letter card, 15 kr., rose-violet on rose.

Dutch Indies.—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a new card of the numeral and concentric circle type, with the usual bilingual inscription and instructions, with five dotted lines for the address, and the arms on the left hand.

$7\frac{1}{2}$ c., rose on pale rose (on face of card only).

Ecuador.—We give the illustrations (unavoidably crowded out) of the new Seebeck issue chronicled by us in February.





Great Britain.—The new penny Postal Union cards, single and double, have been issued. The design is the exact reproduction, except as to value, of the now withdrawn 3d. card, bearing the full length portrait of Her Majesty in a fancy frame, and the inscriptions are those of the preceding card of the like denomination. The card itself is rather paler than before and more surfaced, while in the specimen that we have before us the single card seems somewhat deeper in colour than its companion.

Postal Union card, 1d., vermilion on pale buff.
„ „ 1d.+1d. „ „

Hong Kong.—A new reply card has been issued (*Ill. Brief Journal*) differing from the single card in the inscriptions, by the omission of the border, and in the colour.

3+3 cents, brown on buff.

Hungary.—The oval type of the envelopes has now been placed on the letter card, the inscriptions being in blue. We hope to illustrate it shortly.

Letter card, 31 kreuzers, brown and blue.

India.—The *Monthly Journal* notes two varieties of the current quarter-anna card, the arms upon which differentiate at several points, the same applying in a more noticeable degree to the service card, the later variety of which has the inscription altered thus : "To— The Postmaster of . . . ." in three lines, and is in pale buff *vice* white.

¼ anna brown on buff, *Arms, &c., altered.*

Service card, green on *pale buff, Arms and inscription altered.*

Italy.—The new design has been applied to the letter card.

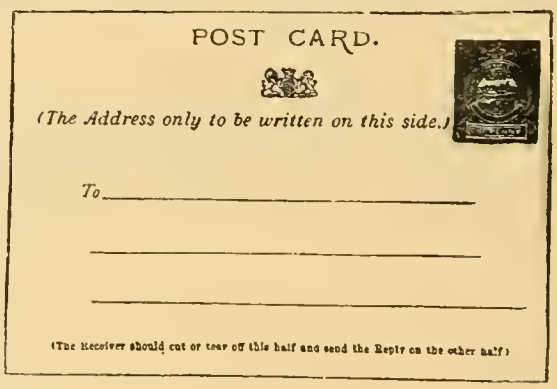
5 c., green on grey.

Montenegro.—We illustrate the cards that we described last month.

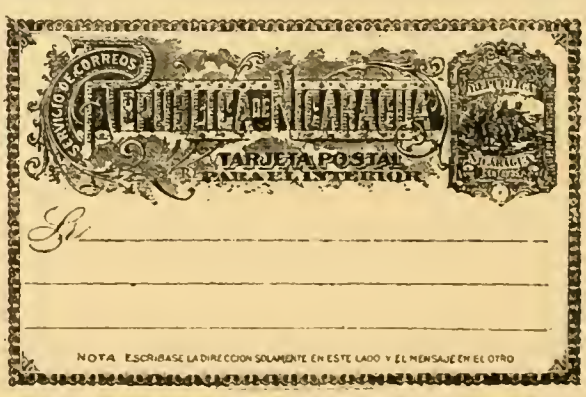


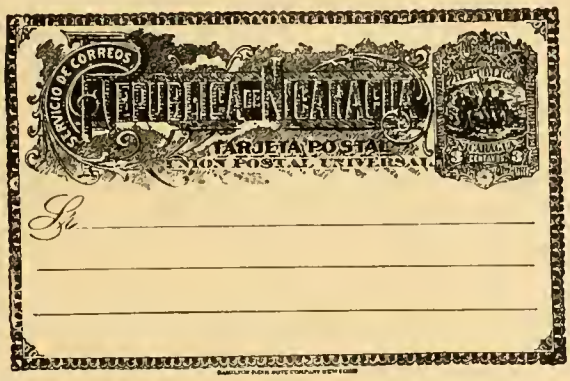
New South Wales.—We illustrate a new reply card that has apparently been recently issued.

Reply card, 1d.+1d, lilac on chamois.



Nicaragua.—Illustrations herewith of these highly ornate cards (see February), their appearance having been delayed owing to pressure on our space.



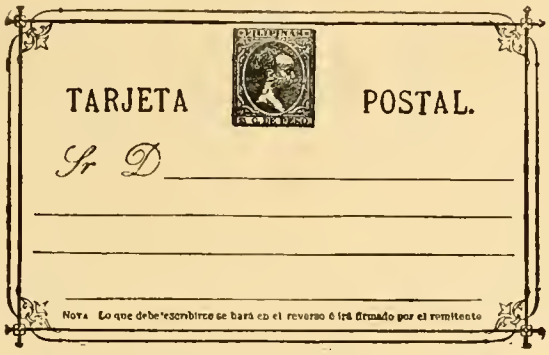


Porto Rico.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new card of the baby-king type, printed in blue on buff, flanked as usually "Tarjeta-Postal," left and right, and with the usual inscriptions and dotted lines.

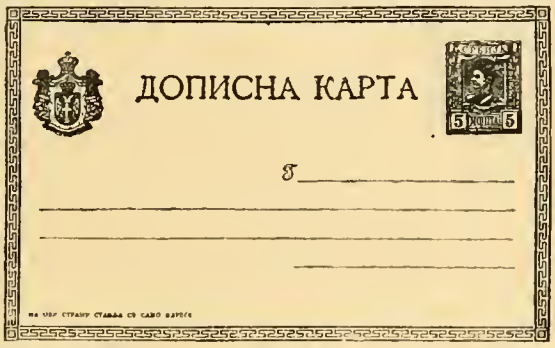
3 c., de peso, blue on buff.

Philippines.—We illustrate the new cards that are the complement of the recently issued adhesives—the cards vary in shade.

2 c., de peso, violet-brown on buff.
5 c., „ orange „



Servia.—A new card of the accompanying design has been issued (1st March) varying from its predecessor in the facts that the inscription now measures $66\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ mm., that the dotted address lines commence with a letter in the centre of the card, that the instructions are in the lower left angle, and that the Greek border is differently set up. The reply card has the impressions on the 1st and 3rd sides.



5 paras, green on buff.
5+5 paras, green on buff.

Seychelles.—Reply cards are in existence for this colony, resembling in all respects the single cards except as to the inscriptions.

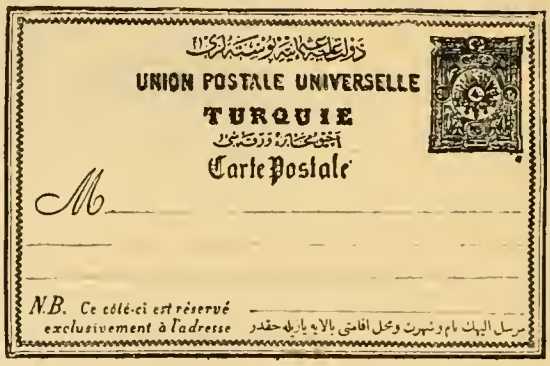
4+4 cents, carmine on buff.
8+8 „ brown „

Tonga.—The letter cards briefly described in our last issue, will be found here portrayed, their size, when unfolded, being 201×204 mm.



Turkey.—The corollary of the new stamp issue, in the guise of cards, is now *en évidence*, as will be seen by the accompanying "cut." It will be seen that, with the exception of the stamp, there is no variation from the last issue.

20 paras, red on white.
20+20 „ „



Half Hours with the Australian Stamps.

By M. P. CASTLE.

(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London.)

THE OFFICIAL STAMPS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

IT will be within the recollection of many of those who read this Journal that a series of notes on these interesting stamps was published in the *Philatelic Record* of last year, commencing in July and finishing in December. I have recently been favoured with a communication from the postal authorities of Adelaide which is of considerable interest in shedding further light upon this subject, and I have a few further additions to make, through the co-operation of collectors, to the already voluminous list of varieties. It is, however, hardly fair to assume that all are *au courant* with the contents of the *Record*, and for the benefit of the readers of this Journal who have neither transferred nor divided their allegiance in Philatelic journalism, I judge it advisable to very briefly recapitulate the present state of knowledge on this subject.

The fact that, beyond a brief and necessarily incomplete reference to them in the London Philatelic Society's work of Oceania, nothing had been written on these stamps, induced me to endeavour as far as possible with the limited means at hand to "bring them into line." Having argued in favour of their collectable qualifications I suggested that the issue of these stamps began early in 1868 and continued until late in 1874, about which period the generic surcharge "O.S." superseded the letters used to denote particular departments (with one or two exceptions, notably P.S. Principal Secretary) which were intermittently met with and, doubtless, concurrently used. After stating the difficulties experienced in attempting anything like a uniform classification, I accepted an arbitrary system *faute de mieux* of classifying the stamps according to their perforations, dividing them into the following groups. I have since made a calculation of the several varieties chronicled under each heading, which I append.

		Original List.			Added. *(See p* 115*).*		
A.	Rouletted ...	Red Surcharge ...	111		5		
		Black „ ...	73	229 ...	9 ..		246
		Blue „ ...	45		3		
B.	Roul. & Perf. ...	Red „ ...	4				
		Black „ ...	39	45 ...	7 ..		52
		Blue „ ...	2				
C.	Perf. 11½... ...	Red „ ...	17				
		Black „ ...	47	65 ...	6 ...		71
		Blue „ ...	1				
D.	Perf. 10	Black „ ...	110	110 ...	4 ...		114
E.	Compound ...	Red „ ...	11				
		Black „ ...	90	102 ...	5 ...		107
		Blue „ ...	1				
		Total ...		551			590

It will of course be evident that this is perhaps but an outline of the total probable varieties that exist, and that the 590 variations may ultimately be doubled. It is to be noted that the rouletted stamps alone constitute two-fifths of the aggregate, and this tends to show that a more general use was contemplated than subsequently appears to have been the case. As regards these rouletted varieties, I have many of the stamps in an *unused* condition *only*, and we have yet to learn if all the varieties actually prepared ever got beyond that stage of their existence by being used for franking purposes. Lieut. Napier has drawn up an excellent chart or table of the various varieties, its value being somewhat detracted from by its somewhat unwieldy size and typographical execution, but the idea is good, being capable of further future development, and I am much indebted to Mr. Napier throughout all my investigations for his valuable co-operation.

In answer to a communication of mine asking for such information as the Adelaide postal authorities could give either personally or through their published reports, I received the accompanying courteous reply to my letter from Mr. Charles Todd, C.M.S., the Postmaster-General of South Australia :—

Post Office and Telegraph Department,
General Post Office, Adelaide.

Sir,—I have the honour to return your list of "On Service" stamps corrected None of these stamps have been reprinted; they were obsolete in the year 1868,* and all Government stamps from that date were printed "O.S."

It is impossible to purchase a complete set of stamps of the Colony including official stamps, but we hope soon to be able to sell specimen sets of ordinary stamps, both obsolete and current, at a charge of 20s. a set.

I regret to say that the report of the Post Office Department to which you refer is out of print, and I am therefore unable to send you a copy.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Todd,
Postmaster-General and Supt. of Telegraphs.

M. P. Castle, Esq.,
Vice-President London Philatelic Society,
Richmond Place,
Brighton, England.

* This date, as I have previously shown, is incorrect.—M.P.C.

A. Architect.
A.G. Attorney General.
A.O. Audit Office.
B.D. Barrack Department.
B.G. Botanical Gardens.
B.M. *Bench* of Magistrates. (Board.
C. Customs.
C.D. Convict Department.
C.L. Crown Lands.
C.O. Commissariat Officer.
C.S. *Chief* Secretary. (Colonial.)
C.Sgn. Colonial Surgeon.
C.P. Commissioner of Police.
C.T. (?) (?)
D.B. Destitute Board.
D.R. Deed *Registration.* (Registry.)
E. Engineer.
E.B. Education Board.
G.P. Government Printer.
G.S. Government *Storekeeper.* (Survey.)
G.T. Goolwa Tramway.
G.F. *Gold Fields.*
H. *Hospital.* (?)
H.A. House of Assembly.
H.G. *Hospital, Gambierton.* (?)
I.A. Immigration Agent.
I.E. (?) (?)
I.S. Inspector of Sheep.
L.A. Lunatic Asylum.
L.C. Legislative Council.
L.L. Legislative Library.
L.T. Land *Titles.* (Tenures.)
M. *Medical.* (Militia.)
M.B. Marine Board.
M.R. *Manager of Railways.* (Marine Registry) (?)
M.R.G. *Main Roads*, Gambier Town. (Manager Railway.)
N.T. *Northern Territory.* (?)
O. (?) (Ordnance) (*Never issued.*)
O.A. Official Assignee.
O.S. On Service.
P. Police.
P.A. Protector of Aborigines.
P.O. Post Office.
P.S. *Private* Secretary. (Principal.)
P.W. Public Works.
R.B. Road Board.
R.G. Registrar General of Births, &c.
S. Sheriff.
S.C. Supreme Court.

S.G. *Surveyor* General. (Solicitor.)
S.M. Stipendiary Magistrate.
S.P. Superintendent of Prisons.
S.T. Superintendent of Telegraph.
T. Treasury.
T.R. *Titles Registry* (?)
V. *Volunteers.*
V.A. *Valuator.* (Volunteer Artillery.)
V.N. *Vaccination.*
W. Waterworks.

In explanation of the foregoing list, I should say that the "letters" I supplied were those contained in Oceania, with such modifications, or additions, as had been noted to date, and that the alterations made therein, *printed in italics*, are those supplied by Mr. Todd, and are substituted for the previously assumed definition which follow within brackets. The initials, "C. T.," was chronicled on the faith of a specimen in Lieut. Napier's collection, of whose authenticity he seemed well assured, but in view of official ignorance of its existence further corroboration is to be desired. G. F. has now a somewhat different designation from that with which it was christened, and its limited use—only the 2d. having been met with—seems borne out by its existence in the Gold Fields, which would necessarily be of a temporary nature. The letter "O," which I included as having been one of the Oceania list with considerable misgiving, does not exist, and doubtless was first chronicled from the omission of one of the letters in the surcharges in which it occurs in conjunction with another alphabetical comrade. Other missing designations are supplied or substituted, and I am glad to think, that through this valuable information, we are now on firm ground as regards the correct meanings of the several official letters.

I am indebted to several correspondents for their contribution to the following list of addenda to the surcharges already enumerated by me previously. Mr. Wm. Thorne, of New York, has sent a list (with the specimens) of previously unchronicled varieties, of which, even now, some 16 were un-noted, and in his interesting letter we gather that he devotes considerable attention to his collection of these officials, having some 280 in number. Mr. Willett, Lieut. Napier, who sends many additions, and Messrs. Ridpath have also helped me to swell the list The 1s. brown (M), perf. 12½, and rouletted is a somewhat unusual gauge, but I have carefully examined it. The variety of P..O. is quite distinct and novel to me, being the antithesis of the LL and others, printed quite close together, and without any periods. The letters in the former are necessarily more spaced, and the overprint has hence quite an abnormal appearance. The colour of the R.G is yellow without any trace of orange. The use of the old block type on so recent an issued stamp as the surcharged 2½d. shows a concurrent use of this and the new fancy-shaped thin capitals. These varieties, with the old surcharge on the stamps of the now current type, had, I believe, but a short use, and will probably eventually become "difficult" stamps.

A.—Rouletted, Surcharge in—

Red.	*Black.*	*Blue.*
A.O., 6d. blue.	C.L., 2d. orange (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.	A.G., 2d. orange (Type II.), S.A. & Cr.
E.B., 6d. blue.	E B., 2d orange (Type II.), Cr. & S A.	P.O., 2d. orange (Type II.), S.A. & Cr.
M, 1s. brown.	G.P., 1d. green.	T., 1d. green.

Red	*Black.*
P.O., 6d blue (with two stops between letters and none after).	G.P., 2d. orange (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.
T., 1d. green.	I.S, 2d. orange (Type II) Cr. & S.A.
	L.A, 2d. orange (Type II) Cr. & S.A.
	L.A., 2s. carmine.
	O.A., 2d. orange (Type II), Cr. & S.A.
	S.T., 2d. orange (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.
	Black Surcharges.
	B.—Rouletted and perf $11\frac{1}{2}$
	C. 4d slate
	C.D, 1s brown.
	M, 6d blue
	M., 1s brown ($12\frac{1}{2}$ and rouletted).
	M R., 6d blue.
	P.S., 1d green.
	C.—Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.
C, 4d. slate	A.G, 1d. green.
	C.S., 4d. slate
	C Sgn. 6d. blue.
	G T., 4d slate
	M B., 4d. ,
	M R, 2s carmine.
	P.S, 2s. carmine.
	D.—Perforated 10.
	B G., 6d blue
	H A., 1d. green.
	P S., 1d. ,.
	R.G., 2d. *yellow* (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.
	E —Compound perforation
	A O, 6d. blue ($11\frac{1}{2}\times12\frac{1}{2}$).
	B.G., 1d green ($10\times11\frac{1}{2}$).
	C S., 6d ultramarine (?) ($10\times11\frac{1}{2}$).
	D B., 4d slate.
	E, 6d blue.
	O.S, 1st Type of Surcharge in black.
	4d. *lilac*, Type I., perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, surcharge inverted.
	4d. lilac, Type II, „ 10
	$2\frac{1}{2}$d. brown on green, perf. 10.
	$2\frac{1}{2}$d „ „ „ $10\times12\frac{1}{2}$.

I should be glad if collectors and dealers who read these notes would kindly examine their lettered South Australian, and help me to complete the list by sending any varieties that may have hitherto escaped notice, for it is only by this method that anything approaching a full list can be finally attained.

NEW SOUTH WALES. 1856 ISSUE (DIADEMED HEAD.)

The marvellous vitality—if I may use the expression—in the stamps of the Australian Colonies has frequently been demonstrated by philatelic writers, while it is but a few weeks since I ventured to prophesy that there would always be discoveries in the lifetime of the present generation. No more complete exemplification of this could be afforded than the recent discovery of Mr. Geo. Callf, briefly foreshadowed in the last number of the London Philatelist. The stamp in question is the 2d. blue imperf. of the 1856 issue, with diademed head, having a

watermark of the double-lined numeral 8 instead of that of its face value. This stamp has undergone a most critical examination by several well-known experts, who have fully satisfied themselves as to its authenticity, a result I can entirely confirm from my own study of it. The watermark is irregularly placed in the right lower corner, looking at the reverse of the stamp; this being only natural when the size of the 8d. stamp is remembered, it having been evidently printed from a sheet of the watermarked paper intended for this value. The comparatively common error "5" on the same stamp will frequently be found, showing perhaps only a very small portion of the numeral at the top, bottom, or side of the stamp, and from the same cause, viz., that the distance intervening between each watermark was calculated for the large square stamp of the 5d. denomination. It is also to be noted that even on the 1d., 2d., and 3d., with the normal watermarks, these are found somewhat *écarté*, doubtless due to their preparation in the first instance to receive the somewhat larger Laureate issue. It may be of interest, too, to mention that the latest accession to the rarities of New South Wales has already found its way, at a figure commensurate with its scarcity, into the collection of a well-known amateur.

Those of my readers who may care to study this issue, will find a few remarks in the *Philatelic Record* of May, 1890, detailing the discovery, *inter alia*, of this same stamp with the double-lined watermark "1." This stamp, which was originally "discovered" by Mr. J. A. Tilleard in 1888, has been diligently sought for during the past years, and it is not a little curious that a second copy should have "turned up" almost at the same moment as Mr. Calff's *trouvaille*, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, having recently acquired a copy in a small collection, I was enabled to examine this also, and consider that it is of a different shade from Mr. Tilleard's (which is now in my own collection). This would indicate that more than one printing took place—or perhaps that one sheet was inadvertently mixed with those containing the normal figures on more than one occasion. The sheets of the 5 and 8, as I have previously suggested, were, however, far larger, and I am somewhat curious to ascertain how they could have been so used for the smaller sized stamp, without attracting notice, unless they were previously trimmed by some one ignorant of their proper purpose. I fully admit that the suggestion of their being "errors" is open to refutation, but seeing that these stamps have been existent for 36 years, the extraordinary scarcity of the examples alluded to throws the onus of proof on those who hold contrary views.

It may be worth while to briefly recapitulate the list of abnormal watermarks in this issue.

1856. Diademed Head of Queen, Imperf.

2d., blue, watermark, thick double lined numeral				**1**
2d., „	„	„	„	**5**
2d., „	„	„	„	**8**
3d., green,	„	„	„	**2**

Adding to these the 2d. perforated, with the partially retouched die (*Philatelic Record*, vol. 12, p. 94), and the fact of the rarity of the 3d. imperf. in an unused state, with, may I prophesy, the possibility of an error being found on the 1d., and I think it will be cheerfully conceded that the 1st issue of New South Wales will in most albums be complete long before the 3rd! However, we must all wait and watch our opportunity. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast."

Reviews.

M. BARBARIN'S PRICE CATALOGUE.*

THE second portion of this work has at length appeared. The first half was reviewed in the Philatelic Magazines in August last, and it may be remembered that the former issue consisted of 160 pages quarto, appropriately illustrated. Some idea of the magnitude of the task undertaken may be gleaned from the fact that no less than 33,000 prices are quoted for the stamps in their several varieties, used and unused, and it will be readily accepted as the veriest truism that many inaccuracies *must* present themselves among such a vast array. The greatest general, however, is he who makes fewest mistakes, and if M. Barbarin has not earned his claim to the historical field-marshal's *bâton*, he has, at least, shown himself a capable leader of Philatelic battalions! There are many of the countries that are, taken as a whole, a very fair reflex of the current market value, but it is obvious that no one man can represent the kaleidoscopic changes of postage stamps in one capital alone, not to mention over the remainder of the globe. Nor had he this gift would it avail much without that of prophecy, as in stamps the values of to-day serve but *pour rire* to-morrow. We therefore fail to see any very practical utility in issuing such a catalogue, for it cannot remain a standard, and we are inclined to think that the principal value—we do not say interest, as few things are more interesting in collectors' eyes than price-records—will consist in the concise and legibly printed descriptive lists of the stamps themselves. These are materially aided by the copious illustrations, numbering 2,800, which are pleasingly interspersed with the text, thus, to a great extent obviating the tiresome reference to numbers that is necessary with the types at the end of the book. We are sorry that M. Möens has not adopted this plan in his *Magnum opus*.

The review of the first half of the work having been probably set before our readers, we will only touch upon the points of interest that present themselves in the present portion, and having regard to our previous remarks, we trust M. Barbarin will not consider our criticism of too caustic a nature. The book commences with a portion of Guiana (British), after which we come to Hawaii, finding a record of prices that will slightly alarm the unfortunate, and shall we say misguided collector who essays to be complete in everything. The 2 c. of the first issue is priced at £140, the 5 c. at £100, the 13 c. at £60, and the 2nd 13 c., with the "dice box," at £72, unused, and at about two-thirds of these prices used. As there are minor varieties of type it is evident that to have them all complete, used and unused, the collector must be a Vanderbilt! We note that the 5 c. and 13 c. of the 2nd issue on thick paper are quoted postmarked at £16 and £20 respectively. Really used, these are as scarce as the first issue, but there are postmarks and postmarks! In Portuguese Indies, we read in the 1st issue that the 300, 600, and 900 reis are quoted at about 30s. to £3 each used or unused. We have never seen the 600 thus, but all three are of the greatest rarity: the only copy we ever possessed—a 90r.—was sold several years since to the late Mr. Tapling for £20. The wearisome surcharges on the 1881 issue seem to have gone to alarming prices, *pace* our author. The enumeration of some 20 varieties of the first issue of

* Nouveau Catalogue Complet de Timbres Poste, par J. Barbarin, Paris, 2, Rue Menars.

Cashmere, used and unused, in the aggregate of about £28 will probably make the mouths water of Major Evans and other Asiatic collectors who really understand these stamps. Two shades of the Indian 4 annas with inverted head are quoted, used about £15 each, and unused at half as much again. We fancy we have lately seen a used copy cut round on offer at a price decidedly in advance of this! The 6 c. red surcharge on the 16 c. blue of Labuan is priced at £6; as elsewhere recorded, it sold recently in London for £16!

The prices given of the earliest Lombardy stamps clearly show that M. Barbarin has never tried to get them unused. We recommend him to do so for a year or two, when he will probably alter his present ideas. We learn that the Post Office Mauritius are purchasable objects at £200 each used, and £240 unused—when met with. The Chiapas stamps (in Mexico) are represented solely by the 2 reales, while *en revanche* Nossi-bé can be obtained complete for £16, and this knowledge will no doubt cause a rush for them. That the author's acquaintance with the scarcer varieties of the English Colonials is, to say the least, shadowy, is to be gathered from the prices affixed to the Natal 1s. with circular *red* surcharge—£8 used, £12 unused. We wonder who has it in the latter condition, and how many copies are known even used. We have only heard of three, so M. Barbarin's copies are not dear.

The New South Wales list is, on the whole, a good one, revealing few startling quotations, but why were the "hill unshaded" among the "prominent varieties" of the 1d. Sydney Plate II., and the 3d. on laid paper—white and blue—omitted? In the 1856 issue the 2d. watermark II is omitted, but we fancy the present selling price of this, as of its newly-discovered *confrère*, is ascertainable. The 2d. of the 1866, arched rectangle type, watermarked with a double lined numeral 3, is also quoted used and unused, though as the stamp does not exist (in our opinion) the prices quoted are deficient somewhat in interest. The new Republic stamps which we think are generally held here as ineffable trash, occupy two pages and range from 4s. each to £3. The utility of pricing every variety of the unofficial perforations of New Zealand, used and unused, is as evident as the prices are amusing. The Peruvian list is comprehensive, and must have given the author no little trouble, while the illustrations of the surcharges for the several towns or districts such as Piura, Yca, &c., will be of service. The 50 reis Donna Maria, Portugal, unused, is quoted incorrectly higher than the 100—the latter with the *old brown* gum uncancelled being a veritable *rara avis*. The first issue of Roumania is a fair reflex of the current market values, but in the 1858 issue on *blue* paper M. Barbarin is egregiously in error—the 40 paras being common, the 80 rare, and the 5 almost *introuvable*. We do not think it will be generally conceded that the St. Helena 6d., without surcharge, was "never issued," but it was probably not intentionally so printed. The Swiss list is one of the best in the book, though the 4 c. Vaud uncancelled is somewhat undervalued. As may be expected in the stamps of Tasmania and Victoria, there are many errors of a more or less amusing nature, inevitable among such a tangled skein of "infinite variety." The stamps of Wurtemberg are fairly financed, but although M. Barbarin quotes the 18 kr. (1859), perf. 13, on *thick* paper, we shall not conquer our incredulity until we have seen the animal in question. A table of the various watermarks and a list of errata and corrections of the first portion complete the book. Despite the inaccuracies we have printed *cum multis aliis*, the book has an interest that will make it a welcome addition to the library, and in thousands of cases the valuations of M. Barbarin will, without doubt, form a basis for guidance to purchaser and vendor.

As we have previously stated it is obviously impossible to produce such a work as shall meet all the exigencies of the situation, and the author has done his best, and with a fair measure of success, to meet them. The volume has been issued less with a pretension to a Philatelic than a pecuniary hand-book, and we have, therefore, practically confined our remarks to the latter aspect, though it will serve both purposes, and perhaps the former the better of the two. We note that a supplement to contain the errata, corrections and alterations will be issued later on, hence we may fairly anticipate quite a bulky addition at the end of the current year. The typography, paper, illustrations, and general appearance of the book are excellent, and the author may be congratulated on the termination of his arduous task, and on the conviction that, we feel assured, he must have arrived at—"not to do it again!"

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., &c.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: F. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C. *Vice-President:* M. P. CASTLE.

Secretary: D. GARTH. *Assistant Secretary:* J. A. TILLEARD.

Treasurer and Librarian: C. N. BIGGS.

E. D. BACON. | MAJOR EVANS.
A. W. CHAMBERS. | T. MAYCOCK.

THE Twelfth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 25th March, 1892, at 7.30 p.m. The Vice-President was in the chair, and was supported by Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. J. Daun, C. Neville, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, Hastings E. Wright, J. H. Redman, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, J. A. Tilleard, and R. Garth (members), and Mr. H. Grey (visitor). After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., requesting permission to copy, in the *Philatelic Record*, the published reports of the Society's meetings, and it was resolved that the permission should be granted, upon the understanding that all notices of the meetings should be inserted as "copied from the LONDON PHILATELIST, the monthly Journal of the Philatelic Society, London." A letter from Mr. Skipwith, the Secretary of the Leeds Philatelic Society, proposing the affiliation of that Society with the London Society, was read, and was referred to the Committee for consideration. The Secretary also read a letter from Mr. G. F. Hynes (a member of the Society), who stated that he had a letter in his possession, in his official capacity of Postmaster-General of Punjab, the record sheets of the 4 annas stamp of the first issue of India, of the first and last printings. With the letter, which contained other interesting information,

Mr. Hynes forwarded tracings of the sheets of stamps referred to, and his communication was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society. Mr. G. F. Napier, proposed by Major Evans, and seconded by Mr. Bacon; Mr. Carl Lindenberg, of Berlin, proposed by Dr. Kalckhoff, and seconded by the Vice-President; Mr. W. W. Blest, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by Mr. Street; Mr. J. A. Nix, proposed by Mr. Redman, and seconded by the Vice-President; Mr. Martin Wears, proposed by Mr. Anderson, and seconded by the Secretary; and Mr. W. Beckwith, proposed by Mr. Firth, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society. Mr. Creeke produced for the inspection of the members present, an unused copy of the recently issued £1 stamp of Great Britain (in the new colour), surcharged "I.R. Official," and a very interesting block of proofs of the lithographed 2d. stamp of Victoria (Queen on throne), forwarded by Stanley Gibbons, Limited, was also shown. The further revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon was adjourned to the next meeting, and the Vice-President impressed upon the members present, the necessity for bringing their collections of the stamps of this country, in order to enable the meeting to successfully deal with the subject of the numerous surcharges which now remain to be considered. On the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Bacon, it was resolved, "That this Society sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Philatelic Protection Association in prosecuting certain dealers for frauds in connection with stamps, and tenders its congratulations to the Association on the successful result of the action so taken in the interests of true Philately."

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Season was held at the Salisbury Hotel, on Friday, the 8th April, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the Vice-President and the following members, viz.:—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, W. Silk, C. J. Daun, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, W. T. Willett, Hastings E. Wright, G. B. T. Nicholl, J. A. Nix, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, W. W. Blest, J. A. Tilleard, and D. Garth. Two visitors, Messrs. J. A. Skertchly, and E. W. Reeves, were also present. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter from Mr. Gibb, sending a specimen of the 1 cent. stamp of Canada, which had apparently been obliterated before being placed on the envelope, was read. Mr. Gibb stated that on receipt of the letter bearing the stamp in question he had made inquiries in regard to it, and had ascertained that the Post Office officials would cancel whole sheets of stamps for any known firm, to be used on letters without any further marking. With the letter, Mr. Gibb forwarded, for the inspection of the members, half-sheets of two values of the stamps cancelled in the manner described. In reference to the letter from Mr. Hynes, read at the last meeting, the Secretary stated that he had made inquiries as to sheets of the 4 annas stamp of the first issue of India, supposed to be at the India Office, and that he had ascertained that the sheets were not now to be found there. Mr. Bacon read a letter from Mr. de Coppet sending a pair of the one shilling (black) stamps of Barbados, imperforate vertically, and also the 6d. orange-vermilion stamp of Grenada printed on laid paper. Neither of these varieties appears to have been hitherto chronicled. Mr. Henry Grey, proposed by the Treasurer, and seconded by Mr. Bacon; Mr. Edgar L. Waterlow, proposed by Mr. Geldard, and seconded by Dr. Keynes; and Major W. White, proposed by the Earl of Kingston, and seconded by Mr. Bacon, were elected members of the Society. In accordance with the Society's statutes, the

Treasurer presented his annual balance sheet, and Mr. A. W. Chambers and Mr. R. Pearce were appointed to audit the accounts and report thereon to the Annual General Meeting in May. Some discussion ensued in reference to the Society's reference lists of stamps, and it was resolved, upon the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Wright, "That it be referred to the Committee to consider the best mode of further facilitating the revision of the Society's lists."

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Honorary President: BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: M. P. CASTLE. *Vice-President:* J. H. REDMAN.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: W. T. WILLETT.

A. DE WORMS.	J. W. GILLESPIE.
H. STAFFORD SMITH.	J. H. ESCOLME.

THE Seventh Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 14th, at 7.45 p.m. Present:—Messrs. J. H. Redman, A. de Worms, R. J. Woodman, R. J. Thrupp, P. de Worms, J. W. Gillespie, M. P. Castle, and W. T. Willett. The Vice-President in the chair. The list of "Areas of Collection" was revised and completed, and it was decided to send it for publication in the *London Philatelist*, *Philatelic Record*, and *Monthly Journal*.

The Eighth Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 28th, at 7.45 p.m. The President in the chair. Present: Messrs. M. P. Castle, Rev. E. H. Rogers, J. H. Redman, A. de Worms, A. H. Thomas, R. J. Woodman, P. de Worms, R. J. Thrupp, H. Stafford Smith, and W. T. Willett, and one visitor. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the revised list of "Areas of Collection," with an introduction written by the President, was read and approved. The business of the evening consisted in drawing up a set of rules for a stamp exchange circuit amongst members of the Society. Mr. R. J. Thrupp having consented to act as Hon. Sec. of the circuit, was duly appointed, and instructed to have the rules printed and to forward copies to members of the Society.

AREAS OF COLLECTION.

COMPILED BY THE

Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society.

The preparation of the accompanying list of adhesive stamps was undertaken by the Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society for the following reasons. To acquaint its members by discussion and reference with the several stamp issuing countries and their relative philatelic importance; to induce members to consider better what countries they should collect with a reasonable hope of completeness; to form a basis of survey for the Society as to what reference lists it should draw up at a future date, and to correct the misleading lists of countries already existing.

It will be seen that the three divisions consist of the British Empire, the various European countries and their possessions, and the remaining countries not coming under the two first heads. The significance of these groups *as a whole* is primarily philatelic—geographical being subordinated to political considerations. In grouping the subdivisions the relative propinquity of countries has been considered where feasible.

It is obvious that such a list can only be tentative, and that each collector will follow his bent, but as it is possible that the list may suggest some ideas as to the limits of collecting or the future arrangement of albums, it has been decided to present it—for what it is worth—to the Philatelic world.

A.—The British Empire.

1. Great Britain and European Possessions.
2. British Columbia and Vancouver Island, Canada.
3. New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island.
4. British Guiana, British Honduras.
5. Bahamas, Bermuda, Falkland Islands, Jamaica, Turks' Islands, Leeward Islands:—Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, Virgin Islands.
6. Windward Islands:—Barbadoes, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, Trinidad.
7. British India and Native States.
8. Ceylon, Strait Settlements, Hong Kong.
9. Mauritius, Seychelles.
10. Transvaal, Swazieland.
11. Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Griqualand, British Bechuanaland, Zululand, British East, South, and Central African Companies.
12. Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, Sierra Leone, St. Helena.
13. New South Wales.
14. New Zealand.
15. Queensland.
16. South Australia.
17. Tasmania.
18. Victoria.
19. Western Australia.
20. Fiji Islands, Samoa, Tonga, British North Borneo, Labuan, Sarawak.

B.—Europe and Colonies.

1. France and Colonies, Monaco.
2. Spain and Colonies.
3. Portugal and Colonies.
4. Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Colonies, Iceland.
5. Belgium, Congo, Holland and Colonies, Luxemburg.
6. Germany, (Non-stamp-issuing States), Alsace-Lorraine (so-called), Baden, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, Hamburg, Hanover, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein.
7. Germany (Stamp-issuing States), Thurn and Taxis, German Confederation and Empire, Bavaria, Wurtemburg.
8. Switzerland.

9. Italy and Component States.
10. Russia (with Locals), Finland, Poland, Levant, Livonia.
11. Austria, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Danubian Steam Navigation Co.
12. Bulgaria, Montenegro, Roumelia, Roumania, Servia.
13. Turkey, Greece.

C.—Non-European Countries or Colonies.

1. U.S. of America.
2. U.S. Locals.
3. Confederate States and Locals.
4. Mexico and Locals.
5. Costa Rica, Guanacaste, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador, Haiti, S. Domingo.
6. Republic of Columbia and Component States.
7. Venezuela, La Guaira, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay.
8. Bolivia, Ecuador.
9. Chili, Peru, Pacific Steam Navigation Co.
10. Argentine Confederation and Republic. Buenos Ayres, Cordova, Corrientes.
11. Afghanistan.
12. Cashmere.
13. Japan.
14. Bokhara, Persia, China, Shanghai, Corea, Formosa, Siam.
15. Egypt, Suez Canal, Liberia, Boer Republic, Stellaland, Orange Free State.
16. Sandwich Islands.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: VERNON ROBERTS. *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer:* W. DORNING BECKTON.
Vice-President: W. DORNING BECKTON. *Assistant Hon. Sec.:* D. PIXTON.

THE Eleventh Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on Friday, February 26th, at which there were thirteen members present, the President in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Due notice was given of the nomination of a proposed new member of the Society, whose election will take place at the next meeting by ballot.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. for a further gift of books to the library.

The President read the continuation of his paper on the English Stamps, dealing with the fourpenny stamps.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties, the most noticeable being a pair of Great Britain 3d. trefoil, with private mark, plate 2, imperf.; the one penny, black, large crown, unused; and the one penny, stars in corners, imperf., large crown, unused, all shown by the President.

The Twelth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Friday, the 11th of March, the Vice-President in the chair, there being twelve members present at the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Ernest Perrie was duly elected a member of the Society.

The Vice-President read an interesting paper on the Stamps of France, quoting extensively from the various official regulations issued from time to time, and calling attention to the several circumstances which necessitated the issue of individual stamps.

Owing to the lateness of the hour at which the Vice-President concluded the first portion of his paper for the evening, no time was left for discussion; the Vice-President was therefore asked to read the continuation at the next meeting, when the whole paper could be more conveniently discussed.

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on March 25th, 1892, there being twelve members present, the Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Vice-President continued his paper on the French Stamps, dealing with the issues from 1870 up to the present date.

A discussion took place upon the advisability of printing the best papers read during the Session for private circulation, the same being adjourned for further consideration. Numerous novelties were exhibited, among them being a strip of three Sarawak, one cent on 3c., containing an error, ceht, shown by Mr. Fildes.

DUDLEY PIXTON, *Assist. Hon. Sec.*

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Committee for the Session 1891-92.

President: REV. T. S. FLEMING. *Ex-President:* JOSEPH SCOTT.

Vice-Presidents: W. BECKWITH & R. S. WIGIN. *Treasurer:* J. H. THACKRAH.

Hon. Secs.: W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S., & T. K. SKIPWITH.

Librarian: F. J. KIDSON.

ON the 16th January, the Seventh Meeting of the Second Session was held at the Leeds Mechanics' Institute, at 6.30 p.m., the President in the chair. Eight members were present. The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretaries laid on the table a circular announcing the forthcoming publication of an Official Monthly Journal by the London Philatelic Society, and also Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Journal for December, presented by the publishers.

Novelties were shown by the President and Messrs. Beckwith, Roebuck, and Skipwith.

Mr. W. Denison Roebuck then proceeded to describe the Isabelline stamps of Spain down to and including the 13th issue, as well as some of the forgeries current at the time, many of which are to be found postally used—having successfully escaped detection by the Spanish Post Office Authorities. These forgeries were made with the intention of defrauding the Revenue, and not to impose on unsuspecting collectors.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Roebuck for his paper, which was illustrated by his collection, as well as by Mr. Scott's, kindly lent for the occasion. The other members present also showed their series of these stamps.

The Eighth Meeting was held on the 6th February. In the absence of the President through illness, Mr. O. Firth was voted to the chair. Seven members were present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Skipwith exhibited the first number of the London Philatelist, and the London Society was warmly congratulated on the issue of such a high class journal which in every respect is worthy of the reputation of the Society, and which will undoubtedly prove of great assistance to collectors who cannot enjoy the advantage of attending its meetings.

Mr. W. Beckwith then described the stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, illustrating his remarks by his series of these stamps, and the other members present exhibited their collections of these Colonies. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Beckwith on the motion of Mr. Thackrah, seconded by the Chairman. The remainder of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties, and part of Mr. O. Firth's very fine series of West Indian stamps.

The Ninth Meeting was held on Saturday, the 20th February, Mr. W. B. Beckwith, Vice-President, being in the chair, in the absence of the President. Seven members were present. Mr. F. J. Kidson, was unanimously appointed to the vacant office of Librarian. The Chairman announced that he had received from Mr. O. Firth his paper upon the stamps of the Virgin Islands, together with his fine collection, accompanied by a letter regretting his (Mr. Firth's) inability to be present and read it in person, owing to a severe cold. It was, however, considered by the members that it was desirable that Mr. Firth should have the opportunity of reading his own paper, and it was accordingly unanimously resolved that the paper be postponed to such future date as might be convenient to him.

The members present then discussed the new Letter Cards and embossed 2½d. envelopes, which were considered to be all that could be desired as regards their design and execution, but excited criticism as regarded the price of the "stationery" and the thinness of the envelopes, and it was suggested that these would be improved by having a reticulated pattern printed on the inside, as is sometimes done by private firms.

The Tenth Meeting of the Session was held in the Society's Room, at the Mechanics' Institute, Leeds, on Saturday evening, 5th March, 1892, Mr. W. Beckwith, senior vice-president, in the chair. Nine members and one visitor were present. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, notice was given on behalf of the Committee of a proposal for the admission of junior members. Novelties and other interesting stamps were shown by the President, and Messrs. Beckwith, Firth, Wingate, and Skipwith, including a used set of six values of British South Africa, surcharged "B.C.A." by the President.

The object of the evening was the postponed paper on the stamps of the Virgin Islands, which Mr. O. Firth was now able to read in person. In the course of his detailed account of the various issues, he was able to supplement from his own investigations the London Society's work upon the stamps of the British West Indies, this colony being one of Mr. Firth's specialities. The interest of the paper was considerably enhanced by the exhibition of his very fine collection, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks was passed on the proposition of the President, seconded by Mr. George Wingate.

The Eleventh Meeting was held on the 19th March, the President in the chair, and nine members and a visitor present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. An addition was made to the Rules whereby young persons under 21 might be admitted as Associates on payment of half the usual subscription (without entrance fee) and without the the power of voting.

Novelties were shown by Messrs. W. Beckwith and Eugene Egly.

Mr. T. Kershaw Skipwith then proceeded to complete his account of the stamps of Tasmania, commencing with the seventh issue (1870-1871), illustrating his remarks by the exhibition of his collection. The other members who showed Tasmanian stamps were Messrs. Beckwith, Wingate, Thackrah, and the President. At the close a vote of thanks was passed on the motion of the Chairman, supported by Messrs. W. Beckwith and F. J. Kidson.

The Twelfth Meeting was held on the 2nd of April, with nine members present, and the President in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, after which it was agreed to hold the next meeting on the 30th instead of the 16th April. Mr. W. Beckwith was congratulated on his election to the membership of the Philatelic Society of London. He drew the attention of the meeting to the heavy cost incurred by the Philatelic Protection Society in their recent praiseworthy and successful prosecution of certain notorious forgers and dealers in faked stamps, and all the members present contributed towards the fund. A candidate for membership having been duly proposed and seconded, the meeting proceeded to the examination of the novelties shown by Mr. Beckwith, both the Secretaries, and the President,

including the new British penny international post card, the diminution in the size exciting adverse criticism. Mr. Skipwith drew attention to, and exhibited a variety of perforation ($10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$) of the $2\frac{1}{2}$d. on 4d. South Australia, which had escaped the attention of all the chroniclers except Mr. Gilbert Lockyer.

Mr. John H. Thackrah then described the stamps of the Bahamas, illustrated by his collection and those of Messrs. O. Firth, Skipwith, Wingate, Duffield, Beckwith, and the President. A vote of thanks to Mr. Thackrah was passed on the motion of Mr. Skipwith, seconded by Mr. Roebuck. On the motion of the latter, seconded by Mr. Beckwith, a special vote of thanks to Mr. Firth for his kindness in sending his very nearly complete series of these stamps was also passed.

The Secretaries announced that they had been unable to purchase a copy for the library of the London Society's work on the stamps of British North America, to complete the set of the parent society's publications.

The Secretaries may be addressed at No. 13, Victoria Road, Hyde Park, Leeds.

T. Kershaw Skipwith,
W. Denison Roebuck, } *Hon. Secretaries.*

Correspondence.

GREAT BRITAIN.—THE 10D. DIE.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—I am making some researches into the history of the 10d. Great Britain (embossed type), 1848. Mr. Westoby has kindly told me that after the issue of this stamp had been done away with, and a temporary use of the die in 1863, that impressions were struck on Stock Exchange Telegraph Forms, and in different colours.

I should be grateful if any of our philatelic friends, possessing copies of these stamps, would kindly send them to me for inspection.

Yours faithfully,

KINGSTON.

Kilronan Castle,
Keadue, Carrick-on-Shannon,
April 12th, 1892.

FRENCH COLONIAL STAMPS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—At the risk of wearying you I must assure you of my admiration for your new journal. It is 25 years since I began collecting, and yet, with the exception of one or two schoolboys, I have never had the pleasure of meeting a philatelist in the flesh. Hitherto collectors like myself, living in the country have been almost wholly in the hands of dealers. Often we are in trouble; we want help, to whom can we turn? Now, Sir, am I right in supposing you will befriend such anxious souls?

Thankful indeed will many a lowly collector be to your excellent Society if, through the medium of your magnificent journal, he can apply for help and guidance in times of difficulty and doubt. Philatelists are beset by dangers, not only from forgeries, which may with due care be detected and avoided. All collectors' hearts must have rejoiced at the result of the recent trials, but much remains to be done. There are such things as reprints and remainders.

I may mention a case in point. A few days ago a friend, who has correspondence with Madagascar, told me certain stamps he had sent me ought to become rare, as the French did not allow them to be long in use. I therefore wrote to a leading dealer for some. He sent me the enclosed set for 2s. 6d.! ! What are these stamps? Have they really been through the post? Are they remainders? There ought not under the circumstances to be many in the market. How comes it, then, to be flooded?

I should be most grateful for your opinion—first on the stamps themselves, and secondly on the above facts.

I enclose my card,

And remain, dear Sir

Yours faithfully,

AN ISOLATED COLLECTOR.

Ashbourne, Derbyshire,
April 17th, 1892.

[P.S.—We insert our correspondent's letter with some reluctance, as we have no desire for any self-praise. Our opinion on the French Colonial stamps in this and preceding numbers has been plainly stated. The remedy lies in the hands of collectors—to ignore them A valued correspondent writes us as follows:—"These Madagascar stamps are purely a speculative issue, made and post-marked specially for collectors. We have never seen a genuinely used specimen on envelope, though, of course, we don't say such does not exist. Of course, they can't be got in Tamatave at face value. The P.O. officials there took care to buy in nearly the whole issue, at least so we are informed."]

THE CONNELL STAMP.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

SIR,—In the January number of your handsome journal there is a slight error, which you will pardon me for correcting. At page 21 in your account of the sixth meeting of the season, at the Salisbury Hotel, when referring to the large number of rare stamps shown by Mr. Vernon Roberts, you mention the New Brunswick "O'Connell." Now, whether the writer of this item was an ardent son of the "Emerald Isle," who desired to place in the great Irish agitator's bright crown one more laurel by connecting his name with matters philatelic, I know not, but the word, as you are no doubt aware, is wrongly used. It is "Connell," not "O'Connell," but as the error is one so often seen in print, perhaps I may be pardoned for stating a few facts. Lockyer, in page 145 of "Colonial Stamps," falls into the error, calling the Postmaster of New Brunswick "Mr. O'Connell," and makes a second error in giving the date of the stamp as 1861. This date seems to be given by all authorities, and it is clearly wrong; and Major Evans, in his "Handbook," although he gives Mr. Connell

his right name, writes in error "it is difficult to understand why the design of the 5 cents stamp should ever have been altered from the type with the Queen's head." The 5 cents with the Queen's head was never altered, as the 5 cents "Connell" came first, and the 5 cents Queen's head second. I will try to be brief in explanation. The Honorable Charles Connell, of Woodstock, New Brunswick, was Postmaster-General of New Brunswick at the time of the change in the currency of the Colony from pence to cents in 1860. Early in that year, by a Minute of Council, Mr. Connell was authorised to procure four stamps—viz., 1c., 5c., 10c., 12½c.; remember that the 2c. and 17c. were an after consideration. Mr. Connell procured the 1c. (Locomotive), 10c. (Queen's head), 12½c. (Steamship), and, to immortalize himself, brought forth also the 5c. brown with his own face thereon. The moment the Government found out what he had done they called on him to suppress the 5c. brown and issue a new one with the Queen's head. This Mr. Connell flatly refused to do, and resigned. Mr. Connell's resignation letter bears date May 19th, 1860, the stamp was at once re-called and the Green 5c. with Queen's head issued in its place some short time after. Therefore, the date of the Connell is 1860, as can be proved by a reference to the Royal Gazette of May, 1860. Whether the stamp was actually issued to the public or not seems an open question; I am inclined to the belief that it was, as I have letters in my possession from colleagues of Mr. Connell, still alive, and who were with him in the N. B. Government Station, that it *was* in use, and they would seem to be pretty fair authority. But whether actually in use or not, it is looked on the world over as a peculiarly unique stamp.

I am, your obedient servant,

A. A. BARTLETT.

Charlottetown, P. E. Island,
March 17th, 1892.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—Although I am not a member of the Philatelic Society of London, I have been a collector of stamps continuously ever since the year 1867, and having just received from your publishers the earlier issues of your splendid magazine, I beg to offer you my most sincere congratulations on its appearance.

I also take the liberty of suggesting that in large centres, such as Birmingham, where no philatelic society exists, a copy of the LONDON PHILATELIST should be periodically forwarded to the leading local public library. There is a magnificent reference library in this city, to which most of the leading literary, scientific, and other societies send their respective journals. There are also in Birmingham very many small, not exactly wealthy, but none the less enthusiastic, collectors who would, I feel confident, be considerably aided in their philatelic aspirations could they see your magazine regularly at a given place.

The great ones of the philatelic world, as well as all the dealers, owe not a little to the large body of small collectors, who come and go and rise and fall all the year round, for it is the small collector who plays the by no means unimportant part in (to a great extent) making true philately possible, both as a scientific and commercial pursuit.

To my mind the further your magazine goes the more it will be sought after and subscribed for, and nothing but mutual good could result both to your Society and to the small collector were it to become known that the LONDON PHILATELIST could be seen on the tables of some of the large public libraries in the provinces, while at the same time the fascinating pursuit to which so many of us are votaries would, to some extent, be further brought, in a dignified manner, under the notice of the outside public.

Yours truly,

WILMOT CORFIELD.

109, Harborne Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham.
April 6th, 1892.

[This question, with regard to a Metropolitan Library, has already been mooted, and within certain limits is one, in our opinion, worthy of adoption.—ED.]

EXHIBITIONS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to suggest that the Philatelic Society of London might hold an *annual* two day exhibition of postage stamps. Such annual exhibition might be kept within easily manageable and inexpensive limits by confining it to stamps included in the last issued volume of the Society's catalogue. Let there be payment as before for space and stalls for dealers, and let all, dealers as well as collectors, be limited to showing the same countries. For instance, supposing an exhibition had to be arranged for the autumn it would (on the supposition that the next Catalogue of the Society will be that of British India) be a British Indian Exhibition.

The advantages of an exhibition of a given group would be that it would concentrate

attention within a manageable area, it would lead to more profitable study, and more thoroughness. And as most of the leading dealers now arrange their stock with each country in a book to itself, additional interest would b lent to the exhibition by the opportunities that would be afforded for noting gaps and for filling them.

Again, further interest might be added by an interesting half-hour lecture on the gems of the exhibition, illustrated by lantern slide presentations of photo reproductions of the *points d'appui.*

Yours truly,
EXHIBITOR

———

THE NEW SOUTH WALES LAUREATED "REPRINTS."

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—The members of the London Society having been good enough to permit me to give a personal explanation of my connection with the above stamps at one of their recent meetings, I venture to trust you will kindly reprint the article—published in my *Philatelic Monthly* for December. The article is subjoined, and was published together with the original paper by Messrs. C. J. Phillips and M. P. Castle. To my statement I have nothing to add, but have omitted several paragraphs dealing with the connection of those interested in the matter in England. Regarding the set of sheets sold by me to Mr. B. P. Rodd, I was misinformed, as he tells me he did not resell but still possesses them. I am visiting Hamburg shortly, and will settle with Mr. Rodd. In conclusion, I may add that I have been more than pleased with the kindness and courtesy I have received from the many collectors and dealers I have met in England, and will carry home to Australia most pleasant memories of my short stay here.

I am yours faithfully,
DAWSON A. VINDIN.

London, March 15th, 1892.

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D. A. VINDIN AND THE LAUREATED "REPRINTS" OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

(From *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for December, 1891.)

Some years ago, in 1884 or 1885, as near as I can remember, I bought from a stranger, who came to my office, a fine unused pair of 8d. "Laureated" New South Wales, which I looked upon as almost priceless gems. My visitor informed me he had also a number of other unused copies, the remainder of the sheets, and also a sheet of 6d. Laureated unused. He did not care to sell them at the time, but told me he might do so later on, but if I wished to purchase I would have to be prepared to pay handsomely for them. He would not let me know who he was, and further informed me that he was a clerk in a Government office, and if I made inquiries, or discovered his identity, I would never get the stamps. Beyond mentioning the matter to a number of people, one of whom repeated the story, more or less correctly, to Mr. E. Sherthouse, of Birmingham, who afterwards, when visiting Sydney in 1886, offered me a commission if I would introduce the possessor of the stamps to him, I heard nothing more about them, although I occasionally met the "mysterious" owner. About November, 1887, Mr. Van Dyck one day mentioned that he had a few hundred pounds laying idle, and told me he would halve any profit if I could find him a cheap line of good Australian stamps. Acting by this, I introduced him some days later to the party mentioned above, and left them together, as they appeared to get on very well. This was the last I saw of the man from whom I believe Van Dyck obtained his sheets, or plates, if he *did* get the plates. Van Dyck told me first that he had seen one sheet of each; shortly after that he had seen eight sheets each of the 2d. "star," 6d. and 8d., and also a sheet of the 8d. in blue, and that he had offered a good price and hoped to get them in a few days' time. About a week after he produced 25 sheets (stuck together with ancient-looking gum), and stated that he had bought them for £350. He then took them away, saying he would clean them up, and a few days later the same (or similar) twenty-five sheets were duly brought forth as clean and bright-looking as one could wish for, and I congratulated Van Dyck on the excellence of his cleaning process, as explained by him—namely, steaming, ironing, &c. Van Dyck then handed me seven sets of sheets for sale at £200 per set, the proceeds (£1,400), together with £200 for his own set, or £1,600 in all, to be credited to a special account, the stated cost of £350 being made a first charge against the account. After Van Dyck received this £350 all cash coming in was to be equally divided between us, which, in the event of the stamps being sold at the full price, would have given me £625, although as I offered the stamps with my personal guarantee, this meant a liability of £1,400 (Van Dyck's set, of course, not counting). Is it likely I would have handled these stamps had I known of there being more than the twenty-five sheets in existence? I had a clean reputation and a good business to maintain, therefore, the

supposition that I was aware of the larger quantity is, to my mind, absurd. I was excited over the find, which I considered was the best thing in the stamp line ever unearthed. I *knew* the plates had not been in the possession of the Government for years, and did not think it possible for them to be anywhere else, and taking into account what I have just stated, was I not justified in believing the stamps to be perfectly genuine, and original? I certainly had every reason to believe this was so, and no ground whatever for believing otherwise. The number unearthed did not, to me, appear an impossible quantity, as I was led to believe they were discovered stuck together between the leaves of an old Ledger in a Government office, all of which I *now* know, or believe, to be fiction. I was highly indignant at the suspicion cast upon the stamps in London, and considered myself an injured individual. When Van Dyck left for London in 1888, and took with him the balance of the stamps, I was glad to be done with the whole business, as it had only resulted in expense, annoyance, and disappointment to me. Van Dyck wrote me an every-day letter from Colombo on the way to England, and since then I have had no communication with him whatever, and know nothing beyond what I have heard from London collectors and dealers. I would have spoken out long ago but for two reasons: If I had attempted to praise the stamps, or say anything in their favour, I would have been considered as an interested party, endeavouring to assist the sale of my own goods, which they were not. On the other hand, if I had said anything against them I would have been looked upon as being actuated by feelings of spite or malice against the then holder, and in either case would have received no credit for coming forward, therefore I am not sorry that I am at last able to add my statement to the fund of information concerning Van Dyck and his stamps.

Regarding other statements, I would further add that, although I offered and forwarded a set of sheets to the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, I did not succeed in selling them to him. His set he must therefore have bought from Van Dyck himself.

* * *

Stanley Gibbons, Limited, state "We (S. G., Ltd.) sold a quantity of these stamps in the belief that they were as stated, that is, genuine original remainders, printed from the original plates at the time the genuine stamps were used." Now this is exactly what I (D. A. Vindin) did, and I certainly think any fair-minded person will grant that I had much more reason to believe in their authenticity than had Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

I cannot tell whether these stamps are old Government reprints, or reprints made by Van Dyck from the original plates, although I am inclined to think they are the latter, and therefore it is useless for me to add to the crop of theories already developed.

When I offered the three sheets to Mr. Castle by letter on November 24th, 1887, I had not then seen the sheets, and did not know that there were more than one sheet of each. I found that out later on when the twenty-five sheets appeared on the scene.

* * *

When I stated that the old plates had been chiseled or planed down, I merely repeated what had been told me over and over again by those connected with the Government department at the time, and I had no reason to doubt the tradition.

In conclusion, I believe I am correct in stating that none of the officials in Government printing, or Postal Department have any recollection of the "*View*," or '*Laureated*" plates having been in either office within the last twenty-five or thirty years.

Occasional Notes.

In reply to inquiries made by an esteemed correspondent, we have ascertained by personal examination that the perforations of the English stamps surcharged "specimen" described by Mr. A. de Worms in our February number gauge 12, though not accurately. They can, however, only be this, as the divergence is more marked when applied to any other perforation. It seems, however, to us that our correspondent, who had carefully taken the gauge at 11, must either be mistaken or have seen another set. In the minutes of the Brighton Society of February 15th the 3d. has, owing to a printer's error, been substituted for the 2d.

* * *

Our enterprising, if not original, contemporary *Tit-Bits* has recently been occupying some portion of its valuable space with an "original," if somewhat stale, description of philately. It is evidently an *olla-podrida*, and we recognise several old facts with modern faces. There are, however, one or two sentences which call for comment, notably the one in which it says the majority of old-established respectable firms are not above this class of trickery, *i.e*, making imperforate varieties and other curiosities and thereby converting stamps of a nominal into a high value. This is an assertion that, on behalf of the leading dealers in this country, we can most conscientiously deny. It is amusing also to note that the "Faker" can remove the watermark in the paper upon which stamps are printed, or even substitute another of greater value. We thought that in the recent cases the maxim of ingenuity with intent to defraud had been reached, but there is a deeper depth still. This assumes, however, that the reliability of our contemporary on matters philatelic is beyond question, both assumptions being hard to swallow.

* * *

We note in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that Mr. Corwin announces his retirement from the editorial chair of that journal in a leader, nor does our contemporary retire without dealing a few smart raps in various quarters, whether deserved or even called for is entirely beyond our province to pass an opinion on. In his valedictory address he impresses upon his readers that specialism is the thing of the future, and general collecting that of the past, mentioning that he himself would now confine his attention to the Australian Colonies only, which was ample to employ his aspirations.

* * *

Mr. Corwin withdrew from at least one society across the water, as he says, on account of being "run" by dealers; to paraphrase the old fable, but without specifying which is the wolf and which is the lamb, we have heard of other societies, not so far off, where the amateur and the professional have not always worked too amicably together. We hold, without casting the slightest stone at members of the trade, who in the vast majority of cases are honest and straightforward men of business, that the ideal philatelic society of the future will be one in which the dealer will be entirely absent (except as a guest). As long as philatelic societies (which, like other scientific bodies, should consist of amateurs) are ruled by professionals, so long will friction ensue, by the introduction of rival commercial interests.

* * *

The Annual Dinner of the London Philatelic Society has been fixed for Friday the 27th of May. There is a good hope of the attendance of the Honorary President, H.R.H, the Duke of Edinburgh, and it is desirable, therefore, that there will be a large attendance. Members can obtain information from the Hon. Sec.

* * *

We take the following particulars from some remarks that were made at the meeting of the Berlin Club on the 7th March last, respecting the four cent (1860) of British Guiana in the London Society's recently issued work, this being given as existing only with one mm. distance between the words four and cents. Mr. Kost, a member of the former body, has apparently traversed the correctness of the foregoing statement, by submitting a specimen of the four cents with the two mm. space. We have, however, after conferring with some well-known judges of Colonial stamps, to announce our surprise at this discovery and without casting the slightest doubt upon the stamp that has past the judgment of so studious a Society, we should much like to see the specimen referred to. The oversight as regards the omission of the two stamps of Montserrat was noticed by the authors immediately after its publication. It is a testimony to the acuteness of philatelists nowadays that the mistake has been repeatedly pointed out.

No society can lay claim to absolute infallibility in the publication of a work, an opinion that our esteemed Berlin contemporary cannot but share in, seeing that their illustration of a Mauritius stamp in the Great Handbook turns out to have been engraved from a forgery.

* * *

One or two of our contemporaries seem dissatisfied by the sub-division of our novelty list into three classes, an opinion that we ourselves entirely dissent from. It is a system adopted by several of the leading philatelic journals of the world, and was only finally resolved on after a consultation with many of the leading collectors. In these days, when everyone specialises, it is obviously a convenience not to be compelled to read through a number of descriptions of things not collected. All the indications that we have received approve of this sub-division, and unless there is any marked reaction as to this, any alteration is hardly requisite.

* * *

Steps are being taken everywhere to put down Philatelic frauds, the United States, we gladly note, now following the example of our own country and others. The arrest of P. R. de Torres, of Barcelona, alias Rosondo Fernandez, of Madrid, Spain, in St. Louis, on a charge of swindling by means of counterfeit stamps, preferred by V. Gurdji, of Galveston, has been effected. P. R. de Torres was the name of a dealer in Leghorn, Italy, who, in 1873 published a stamp paper known as *Posta Mondiale*. It is believed that he is the same man, and that his full name is Placido Ramon de Torres although he insists that his name is Rosondo Fernandez. *The Phil. Jour. of America* says that the arrest of the above man is the most important event of the kind ever occurring in this country, because he had in his possession a stock of the most dangerous counterfeits of rare Spanish stamps that had ever been made. With some of these he had already defrauded parties in San Antonio, Galveston, New Orleans, Memphis, and St. Louis, amounting in all to hundreds of dollars. It was his intention to continue through all the principal cities of the United States, and it is hard to estimate the damage he might have done. In dealing with people he displayed but few stamps, usually a complete set of Spain in which all the high-priced stamps were counterfeit, and the cheaper values genuine. The counterfeits were so finely executed that they appeared to good advantage even side by side with the genuine stamps of the lower denominations.

Messrs. Senf Bros publish in their paper, *The Ill. Brief Journal*, a reproduction of a satisfactory "haul" of old Mauritius stamps, prominent among which is a block of four postmarked specimens of that remarkably ugly but much sought "large fillet" head of Her Gracious Majesty. We do not remember to have ever seen so many copies *se tenant*, and to a collector of the types—and there are only twelve here—it will be a veritable treasure trove. If we may judge, however, from external circumstances the treasure will rather be ransomed than troven!

* * *

An interesting list of reprints, with appropriate illustrations, is being published by *The Illust. Brief Zeitung*, and should be of service to philatelists in teaching that most useful direction—what to avoid. Every "specialist" should for the same reason include these in his collection.

* * *

Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. have sent us a copy of *Panama Star and Herald*, of February 27th, 1892, with the following announcement, which collectors may like to know of:—

"Important to Philatelists.—My attention having been directed to the fact that certain postage stamp dealers in Europe and the United States of America are offering for sale surcharged stamps of the Department of Panama, I hereby warn the public, in my official capacity as National Postmaster for Panama, that although the said stamps are themselves genuine, the alleged surcharge is unauthentic, this Department never having issued same, and they are consequently rendered valueless.—Eduardo B. Gerlein, Panama, February 24th, 1892."

A special telegraphic code is being compiled for the use of stamp dealers and collectors. Each code word will have its equivalent in three languages—English, French, and German, so that an English collector may be certain that his message will find its correct rendering in the language of the French or German dealer or collector, with whom he may so communicate. Indeed, the use of the telegraph with such an aid will be less costly and far more reliable. The new system will be known as the "Albrecht Code," taking its name from its compiler.

* * *

It is a notable fact that many of the best South African Stamps fetch higher prices in the land of their nativity than they do with

us. This recognition of value of old postage stamps is noted even by the Church. In the balance-sheet of the English Church at Vryburg, recently received by us, we find amongst the receipts the item "Sale of used Bechuanaland stamps, £2 4s. 6d." A pen-stroked cross to the item conveys the intimation that the development of this source of income might do much towards wiping off the debt on the Church—out of the pockets of collectors—and yet a cynical outside world fails to appreciate Philately!

* * *

THE Philatelic Society in Paris has not only held a grand banquet, which seems to have given great satisfaction to all concerned, but through the medium of their hon. secretary, has blossomed into poetry. We prosaic islanders can only tender our envious admiration.

The Philatelic Market.

The accompanying note from a Cape paper shews how quickly news can travel now-a-days, and, in spite of its rapid transmission, it has the merit of avoiding the epithet that is supposed to convey it round the world while truth puts on its boots: "The highest known price ever paid for a Cape of Good Hope stamp (says the *E. P. Herald*) has been obtained by our fellow-townsman, Mr. S. D. Bairstow. During the fall of last year he submitted a Red Cape Error block triangular postage stamp to a London expert. This error was issued on the same piece of paper with an ordinary type gummed upon the original envelope, and in excellent condition. Such a curiosity was unknown and believed to be unique, but it is possible there are others in existence. A guarantee of genuineness was obtained from the Postmaster-General in Cape-town to whom Mr. Bairstow applied. Armed with this certificate, and in spite of assurances detrimental to his purchase, the owner succeeds in selling the stamp for £65, but, as he says, 'if no repetitions occur the stamp is worth any money to the purchaser.'" We saw and examined the specimen in question, which has now passed into the collection of one of the leading Viennese amateurs, but it is neither unknown nor unique. The late Mr. Tapling's collection, as also that of Herr von Ferrary, both have the 1d. and 4d. red *se tenant*.

A fitting companion to the pair of stamps previously mentioned has been shewn to us by a well-known amateur, and, to indulge in a Hibernicism, is even more unique. This is the 1d. and 4d. *blue*, in a pair, which has never yet come across our editorial vision, and is a veritable gem: we trust it will have been submitted to the admiring gaze of the members of the London Society by the time that this Journal is in the hands of its readers.

Some remarkably fine specimens of the British North American stamps from the collection of a trans-marine amateur formed the staple attraction of Messrs. Thos. Bull & Co.'s sale on the 18th and 19th March. Three specimens of the 1s. New Brunswick, of fair quality, averaged £5 apiece, while a singularly brilliant cold violet Nova Scotian 1s. achieved the record price of £9 10s., and a splendid block of 4 of the 6d. fetched £4. A fine unused perforated 6d. Canada changed ownership at the moderate price of £5, and numerous copies of the lower values of all the North American colonies, mostly in pairs and strips, or on envelopes, were disposed of at prices worthy of their really fine condition. In Europeans a 4 r Zurich realised £6 15s., and a 3 pf Saxony unused, £4. A *pair* of Ceylon 1s. 9d. imperforates attained the substantial figure of £5 10s., and a fine imperf. 4d. that of £6 15s. Some of the remaining 400 lots hardly attained the prices that might have been anticipated.

Two sales have been held by Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co, on March 11th and 12th and April 9th. Noticeable in the former were two entire sheets of the 2d. Mulready envelopes and wrappers, which were sold for £15 apiece, and a good selection of Oldenburgs, which fashionable articles found ready buyers. A pair of the 2 reales (1853) of Spain sold for £8, and other old Spanish seemed inclined to realise nearer their value than they have of late. Two rare Afghan stamps, the 1 sunar

black of the 1293 issue (with values in tablets) were sold for £6 10s. and £7 10s. respectively, and were good value for the money, but the ½ and 1 anna of the first Indian issue with "fully guaranteed roulettes," or saw perforation, were, we understand, not disposed of. That little known and rarely met with variety, the 6c red surcharge on the 16c blue of Labuan was knocked down after a brisk competition for £16. while a fine "orange" Buenos Ayres sold at £8. The general average of prices was moderate. The second sale consisted only of 222 lots, and contained but a medium assortment of stamps. A 60 cr Tuscany went very cheaply at £3 5s., and a number of Afghans failed to attain their true value by a long way. It is a pity that so interesting a country should not have more adherents amongst collectors here. A Greek border Mauritius, described *à la* Robins "most magnificent with enormous margin," realised the corresponding figure of £3 12s. 6d., and a fine block of 4 of the 1d. orange-red Victorian first issue, unused. sold cheaply for £5. A Buenos Ayres yellow was knocked down at £8 10s., while far away the best stamp of the day was undoubtedly the Connell, which changed hands at £20.

The attendances at the last two sales of Mr. Hadlow have been numerous, competition brisk, and prices fully maintained. We received the first catalogue of the auction held on the 27th February too late for notice in our last issue, but beyond the stamps then mentioned by us there do not seem to have been any worthy of special comment, if we except a good assemblage of the New Zealands in some of the scarcer varieties. In the sale of the 1st and 2nd of April the English seem, as heretofore, to have occupied a prominent place. The principal stamps sold were a pair of V.R.'s and a group of 4 1d. Ca e wood blocks, which realised £17 and £11 respectively. A number of "English Proofs, Specifications, Models," etc., connected with our postal stationery, although modestly reserved at £200, failed to attract a b uyer. A large proportion of the 538 lots were wholesale assortments.

The collection of Mr. Ferdinand Loeb was disposed of at the rostrum by Messrs. Bangs & Co., at New York, on the 25th February. Among the U. S. stamps we note a 24c. of 1869, with the inverted picture, which realised about £14, and we read with a melancholy satisfaction that despite an elaborate represcntation in type of the several founts, 40 varieties of Costa Ricans, Official and Guanacaste, realised about 6d. each! A Lady McLeod Trinidad was disposed of at slightly over £14, the total of the 653 lots being nearly £400.

The sale of Mr. G. Bilgenroth's stamps by the same firm, on March 30th, does not seem to have many features worth comment. A few fair U. S., a 3 pf. Saxony, one or two Swiss, and a Lady McLeod (realising about £14), seemed the principal attractions; £260 was attained for the 520 lots. We note an improvement in the catalogue, *i.e.*, a wider margin to the left, with dotted lines for prices realised.

The *Bourse* at Hamburg, as also at Berlin, seems quite a recognised and stable element amongst the collectors and dealers of the Fatherland, and judging from the well-written reports in the leading German philatelic journals, appears to yield substantial and satisfactory financial results. We wonder if an experiment of this nature in London would succeed; it certainly seems worth the trying; it would be less monotonous than an auction, and we are inclined to think that, if taken in hand by a small and energetic committee and a suitable *locale* selected, such as the smoking room in a respectable restaurant, it would be successful. We believe there are many amateurs who would attend, and notably at the end of the "season" dealers are prone to "cut their profit" on stock-in-hand with a view to fresh investments.

We hear that the stock of Leeward Islands' stamps submitted to tender by the authorities sold for £5,500, nearly 15 per cent. over face value. The stock is a valuable one, but will require gradual realisation to make a remunerative return on these figures.

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

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THE PROPOSED PARIS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

ANY of our readers will be glad to see the announcement of the contemplated Exhibition of Stamps in Paris. In these days of rapid transit and facilities for travelling, an occasional visit to the French capital is within the reach of almost every grade of society, and it is probable that among the classes whence Philatelists are drawn, a large proportion have already visited our neighbours' bright and handsome metropolis. We have many pleasant memories of bygone times in connection with Philatelic quests in Paris, and although the days are now well nigh past when it constituted a happy hunting ground for collectors, still there are opportunities of *rencontres* with collectors and renewals of ancient friendship that will always attract collectors, even if fair Lutetia failed, as it hardly could, to invite a visit on account of its own innumerable attractions.

It can scarcely excite surprise that this resolution to hold an "Exposition Internationale de Timbres-poste" should have been undertaken, as the spirited and tasteful rivalry of the French nation is always to the fore in arts and manufactures, which are both represented to a certain if minute degree in the objective of Philatelists. Remembering the numerous other and successful Postal Exhibitions at London, Vienna, Munich, Dresden, Antwerp, Amsterdam, and other cities, it may be considered remarkable that our neighbours have not earlier initiated the enterprise. It will be seen that the project starts under favourable auspices, the Committee being

selected from the three leading French Societies, and including such great names in the annals of Philately as Herr von Ferrary and Dr. Legrand; an apparently favourable *locale* seems to have been secured, the Palais des Arts-Libéraux, in the Champ de Mars, being available, and what is of even greater consequence, the show cases remaining in the building, as used for the recent "Black and White" Exhibition, are also included.

Those who have been associated with the management of similar undertakings will readily concede that the greatest difficulty in a postage stamp exhibition consists in the safe custody and freedom from all risks of the objects exhibited, and unless this can be absolutely relied on, all other labours result in beating the air. In the London Exhibition a great expense was incurred in procuring air-tight, dust-proof and patent locked show cases, in which the stamps were absolutely safe, the experience of the Committee as to other exhibitions being that these conditions were indispensable in order to obtain really fine exhibits. The personal responsibility of well-known names, the most rigid supervision, night and day, against fire and theft, the most careful and systematic arrangements for the receipt and return of these fragile exhibits are indispensable, and as sincere wellwishers to the new scheme, we earnestly commend these points to the French Societies. It may have been that the leading collectors in France were not absolutely satisfied on these points during the London Jubilee Exhibition of 1890, as the absence of all stamps from our Gallic neighbours' well-known and splendid collections was as frequently commented on as it was regretted: if this co-operation was denied for any or all of the reasons that we have named, it will be satisfactory to the Paris Committee to know that no case occurred either of loss or damage to exhibits, and that with similar precautions, the same results should be attained in their case.

There is, however, one insidious enemy—as regards stamps only—the sun. We read in the preliminary announcement that on account of the anticipated influx of foreign and country visitors to Paris it was intended to keep the Exhibition open during the months of July and August, and we are glad to note that the date of opening has been put back to the end of September. The effect of old Sol's rays during a protracted period has been vividly brought before our notice by the sight of sad "fades" and shades that have been subjected to a lengthened exposal. The length of time during which the stamps shall be on view is even more important than the means for exhibiting them, and it behoves the Paris Committee to at once consider this matter from all aspects. Until this is done, and collectors know the full conditions as to exposure, all steps to invite co-operation are useless. If we may, in view of some experience, tender counsel, we would urge that the Exhibition should be held as late in the year as possible, say October the 15th, and that it should be open for fourteen days only; or, failing this, that all exhibitors should have the option of withdrawing *any* or all of their exhibits after that date. Owners of 2c. rose Guianas would thus be protected against the deadly nightmare of having an Albino returned to them!

The general conditions seem to promise success, and we shall be glad to see the English Philatelic world "heap coals of fire" on the collectors of France by exhibiting and generally working to promote the project, but it is obvious that *unless the best that France has in the way of Philatelic treasures be shown*, it will be idle to anticipate foreign competition of a high order. We wish every good result to the labours of the French Exhibition Committee, and can assure them of the hearty support and personal attendance of a large circle of English Philatelists.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Afghanistan.—We now present illustrations of the new design with the broad outer circle, briefly alluded to in our January number; we should be glad to have a complete list of the several papers on which they are printed.

1 abassi, lilac, on various papers.
2 „ „ „
1 rupee. „ „





Antioquia.—We illustrate a new type on the faith of various contemporaries, having the figures in the angles of varying dimensions for the respective values.



1 centavo, brown on brownish paper, perf. 13.
2½ „ violet „ lilac „ „
5 „ black „ grey „ „

Austria.—Mr. Gilbert Lockyer writes:—"I can make the following additions to the list of Austrian perforations in your last number:—

Perf. 10, 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 30 kr.
„ 10×11½, 20 kr.
„ 13, 1 gul.
„ 12½×13, 2 gul.

NOTE.—The high kreuzer values are of the *first* type with horizontal numerals."

British Honduras.—According to the *Timbre*, the entire stock of the recent surcharges has been withdrawn from circulation, and burnt by order of the Governor. Would that Sir A. Maloney could be appointed Governor-General of the many other peccant English and French Colonies!

Brazil.—The Southern Cross type has now appeared on the 1,000 reis, *pace* the *Philatelist*, similar in other respects to the values already issued.

1,000 reis, yellowish-brown.

Canada.—The shades of the current issue seem fleckering. We have the 6 c. in a rich, warm brown, and the 5 c. in a greyish-black, from Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. The paper is also decidedly thinner and more granulated.

5 c., *greyish-black, on thinnish paper.*
6 c., *warm brown* ,,

Cook Islands Federation. The *Monthly Journal* notes an issue of stamps for this group of islands, the design consisting of seven stars in the centre, in a rectangular key-pattern frame, "Postage," "Cook Islands," in two lines above "Federation," and the value below. A small supply only have been printed—possibly, however, equal to the *local* demand!

1d. black, perf. 13 (2,760 printed).
1½d. mauve ,, (2,380 ,,).
2½d. blue ,, (2,820 ,,).
10d. carmine ,, (480 ,,).

Costa Rica.—As foreshadowed in our February number a new issue has been prepared here by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, and is worthy of the high reputation of that firm. In view of the illustrations that we propose giving, a description of the design is hardly requisite.

1 centavo, slate-blue.
2 centavos, orange.
5 ,, violet.
10 ,, green.
20 ,, red.
50 centavos, bright blue.
1 peso, green on yellowish.
2 pesos, red on grey.
5 ,, dark blue on light blue.
10 ,, brown on buff.

Cuba.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have specimens of six values of the Impresos series of the "baby king" type:—

½ mil de peso, dull violet.
1 ,, ,,
2 ,, ,,
3 mil de peso, dull violet.
4 ,, ,,
8 ,, ,,

Curaçao.—Of the new type, and in continuation of the stamps described on page 36 of this journal, has been issued the—

50 cents, dark red.

Dutch Indies.—It appears, according to the *Monthly Journal*, that on each sheet of the 12½ c. stamps the second stamp on the penultimate row there is a small variety of the type, *i.e.* the "c" of "cent" being composed of two small semi-circles, leaving a space between them in the centre of the back of the letter.

12½ c. grey: *variety of type.*

Fiji.—A further provisional has been shewn to us by a collector, the impressed value being over-printed by numerals.

½d., black surcharge, on 1d. blue current set.

France.—The current 15 c. is now printed, according to Continental information, on paper *quadrillé*, with fine lines, probably as a preventive against frauds.

15 c., blue, *on cross-lined paper.*

French Congo.—From various sources, we gather that the 25 c. current type has suffered the indignity of a surcharge, resembling the 5 c. recently described, and, of course, printed right and wrong to double the sale.

10 c., black surcharge, on 25 c., black on rose, current type.
10 c., „ „ inverted, „ „ „

French Guiana.—With the accompanying type of surcharge, the following trifling list of additions to the Philatelic luxuries of the French Colonials is presented, according to the *Timbre Poste.*



Current type, black surcharge.

1 c., black on blue.
2 c., brown on buff.
4 c., violet on grey.
5 c , green on greenish.
10 c., black on violet.
15 c., blue on grey.
20 c., brick on green.
25 c., black on pink.
30 c., brown on bistre.
35 c., black on yellow.
40 c., vermilion on bistre.
75 c., carmine on pink.
1 f., bronze green on pale green.

1877 issue, allegorical design.
35 c., black on orange.
40 c., vermilion.
75 c., dull lake.
1 f , brown green.

1872 issue, head of Liberty.
30 c., brown.

Great Britain.—Mr. W. Morley has sent us another specimen of the 4d. with small garter, on "white" paper, but this specimen also is not of virgin purity, and is open to the same doubts as those mentioned last month. He also sends strips of the current and the lately obsolete halfpenny, with curious looking blank spaces, caused by the doubling up of the paper while being printed on. The yellowish tone observervable on the 4d. (small letters) and current stamps of higher values than 1s. is, in our opinion, attributable to various causes—*subsequent* to the printing of the stamps.

We hear from a good authority that a 4½d. value—a useful stamp both for the Registered Postal Union letters and Parcels Posts—is to be issued shortly; its earlier production having been hindered by an accident to the die.

Haiti.—The current series has been seen perf. 16 (except the 2 c.) says the *Timbre Poste.*

Liberia.—As we hope to give illustrations ere long of the new issue mentioned last month, we will briefly mention that the designs are: 1, 2, 24 cents and 2 dollars, a five-rayed star on an engine-turned background in two different frames; 8 cents and 5 dollars, a portrait of President Johnson; 16 and 32 cents, a shield bearing the arms of the country; 2 cents, a palm tree; 4 cents, an elephant; 12 cents, a native female figure; and 1 dollar, a rhinocerous, a novel addition to philatelic zoology; the stamps bear a watermark of a fancy shape.

Luxemburg.—The 10 c. of the current type is now issued, perforated 12½ in sheets of 100, *vice* 11½ and 25 respectively.

10 c. current set, *perf.* 12½.

Mauritius.—Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co have shown us a pair of the 6d., no watermark, issue in an imperforate condition, which, after careful comparison as to colour and paper, we consider on all fours with those perforated.

6d. green (1862 issue, no waterwark) *imperforate*

Mexico.—Excluded last month from want of space, we now give an illustration of a somewhat cumbersome and grotesque unpaid letter stamp that has recently been issued, printed on white paper, and imperforate.



The *Philatelic Journal of America* gives further additions to the varieties of the 1884 issue, mentioned in our last number, page 102.

1 centavo (1884 issue) *horizontally laid paper.*
2 centavos ,, ,,
4 ,, ,, ,,
5 ,, ,, ,,
6 ,, ,, ,,
12 ,, ,, ,,
25 ,, ,, ,,

From the same source we glean that of the type described on page 38 of this journal (unpaid letter stamp with a large T—there are also 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 centavos, and that our contemporary considers them on a par with German locals! No condemnation can be more sweeping, and the *Philatelic Journal of America* is certainly *au courant* with things Mexican.

New South Wales.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new permanent halfpenny stamp similar in all respects to the recent provisional, except that the ornamentation in the lower spandrels is replaced by coloured numerals on a white ground, and the word "halfpenny" substituted for "one penny" on the circular band enclosing the head.

½d, grey: wmk N.S.W. & Crown: perf. 11×12.

Mr. W. Hadlow has shewn us a curious vagary of perforation on the 5s. of the Queen's head type—perforated 10 on either side, 11½ above and at the base for the two-thirds of the distance 10, while the remaining third has holes gauging 11½, not quite in line with the other; the perforating machines thus having produced two gauges on one row of stamps.

5s., 1860 type, *variety of perforation.*

From *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* we learn that an addition to the unpaid series has been issued.

½d. green unpaid letter stamp.

The *Philatelic Record* notes the following:—

8d. lake, current set, black surcharge O.S.

Nossi-bé.—The 25 on 75 cents. exists, says the *Révue Philatelique*, as under:—

25 c. on 75 c. carmine, black surcharge *inverted.*

Obock.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us three stamps, which really seem the *reductio ad absurdam* as to these issues; they are as under, the surcharges consisting of large coloured numerals, the high value having a capital "F" of like size; the inducement to fraud is too obvious.

CURRENT COLONIAL TYPE.

5 cents, red surcharge, on 25 c., black on pink.
75 „ „ „ „ 1 fc., bronze green on pale green.
5 fcs., violet „ „ „ „ „

Annexed will be found representations of these delightful stamps chronicled by us last month; the colour of the 1 franc on page 69 should read bronze-green on pale green.





Queensland.—In consequence of a "leakage in the revenue," says *Vindin's Phil. Monthly*, the 2s., 2s. 6d., 10s., and £1 stamps will henceforth be sold by the Post Office only, instead of, as heretofore, by the Treasury, thus establishing their full claim to rank as postage stamps.

Philippines.—Another accession to the current set.

15 c., red-brown, perf. 11.

Portugal.—The new stamps, briefly mentioned by us last month, have appeared with the head of the king, three-quarter face to left, which we shall shortly illustrate, the stamps are on white paper, and perf. 14.

2	reis, grey.	75	reis, brown.
2½	„ black.	80	„ pale green.
5	„ brownish-yellow.	100	„ lilac.
10	„ violet on red.	150	„ carmine.
15	„ „ „ blue	200	„ blue.
20	„ greenish-black.	300	„ red.
25	„ green.	500	„ black.
50	„ pale blue.	1,000	„ blue.

The same design, with the substitution of the word "Continente" at base, will serve for the several Colonies, says the *Philatelist*, to wit:—Azores, Angola, Congo, Cape Verde, Guinea, Lourenzo-Marques, Macao, Madeira, Mozambique, St. Thomas, and Prince Island, and Timor.

Russia—OCHANSK (PERM).—A new issue is illustrated herewith; lithographed on white paper.

2 kopecks, carmine rose, perf. 11½.



PERM (PERM).—The 5 kopecks carmine described in the LONDON PHILATELIST exists also as under.

5 kopecks, blue.

Sarawak.—We alluded last month to a small variety of the surcharge on the 3 c. The *Monthly Journal* now gives us a large one.

1 c. on 3 c., blue and purple, *double* surcharge in black.

Socotra.—Messrs. Whitfield King give the *coup de grâce* to these bogus stamps:—"We addressed a letter to 'The Postmaster, Socotra, *viâ* Aden,' inquiring about the alleged Socotra postage stamps. The letter has just been returned to us through the Dead Letter Office, marked 'No Communication.' If there is no communication with the place, we don't see how any post office can exist there. The stamps are doubtless bogus."

Straits Settlements.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., write:—"In the April London Philatelist you describe the 1 c. on 6 c. Straits as having been issued *after* the 1 c. on 8 c.; this is an error, the 1 c. on 6 c. was the first issued, then the 1 c. on 8 c., followed by the 1 c. on 12 c., enclosed herewith, and now we hear of a fourth issue, 1 c. on 24 c., but the latter we have not yet seen."



The *Philatelic Record* also notes the 1 c. on 2 c. rose, and we illustrate the type of surcharge on the 8 c.

1 c. black surcharge on 2 c. rose, wmk. C. A. & Cr., pref. 14.
1 c. ,, on 12 c. violet-brown ,, ,,
1 c. ,, on 24 c. green ,, ,,

Sweden.—The 1 öre has now been issued in its new garb, to be followed very shortly by the 2, 3, 15, and 40.

1 öre, greenish-brown, current type.

Tasmania.—We illustrate the recently-described new permanent values.





Tobago.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. have shown us some sheets of the ½d. on 2½d. blue, showing, apparently, that the surcharge was printed two rows at a time, the only noticeable variation of the overprint being that the "P" is, in some cases, set higher than the remaining letters.

Tonga.—Somewhat unlikely, and certainly dangerous, overprints, in block letters of two lines, are chronicled by several contemporaries, showing an increase of the surcharged, over the face value.

4d., black surcharge in letters on 1d. rose.
8d., ,, ,, ,, 2d. violet.

Travancore.—The *Timbre Poste* notes a change of colour in these "natives."

1 chuckram, green.
4 chuckrams, rose.

Turkey.—We illustrate the new Turkish issue *plus* the surcharge resembling that on the former issue.

20 paras, rose, current issue, black surcharge, Imprimé.



Uruguay.—Mr. Gillespie has shown us specimens of the new issue prepared by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, the two lower values of which we illustrate. The



execution of the four different designs is very meritorious, and the colours are pleasing. They are printed on white wove unwatermarked paper.

1 centesimo, green, perf. 15
2 centesimos, rose, „
5 „ blue, „
10 „ vermilion, „



Zululand.—The *Stamp News* announces the speedy apparition of the 5d., 9d., 1s., and 5s. values.

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Bermuda.—We illustrate the stamp on the registration envelope described on page 107.



Canada.—The new type mentioned in the February number of this journal has been applied, says the *Monthly Journal*, to the wrapper of a slightly different shade apparently.

5 c. blue on *pale buff*, new type.

Great Britain.—Mr. A. B. Creeke informs us that the following changes of colours in the unofficial issue of envelopes have supervened since the 29th March, consequent upon the issue of the recent Postal Union 2½d. envelope. The 10d. is not dated, but the other three bear the figures 16.2.92.

1½d., orange-yellow.
2d., lake-red.
2½d, ultramarine.
10d, reddish-brown.

Monaco.—We have omitted to chronicle a momentous item, the issue of an envelope of the current type for the vast realms of this Principality.

15 cents, rose on pale blue-green (current type).

Tasmania.—We reproduce the design of the stamp on the new registration envelopes. The stamp is on the *patte* to right, and the face bears the usual cross lines, inscription, and the letter "R." It exists in sizes F and G.



Registration envelope, without expressed value, blue.

Tonga.—It appears that the Registration envelope chronicled on page 107 of the LONDON PHILATELIST exists on *white* paper in a similar size, and also measuring 225×101 mm.

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Barbados.—Similar to the reply card chronicled in our February number, we have the single.

1 penny, violet surcharge on 1½d. brown on buff.

British Guiana.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write: We have just received a provisional postcard for this country. It is the 3 cent card with surcharge

2
CENTS

over the centre of the 3c. stamp, and the words "3 cents" obliterated with 2 bars. The surcharge is in black.

2 c., black surcharge on 3 c. carmine on buff.

British North Borneo.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a provisional, formed by surcharging the current card with "1 cent" in large capitals, with the numeral above them.

1 c, black surcharge on 8 c. green, current type.

British Honduras.—The *Stamp News* notes a reply card of the ordinary type, size 140 × 89 mm.

1+1d, carmine on buff.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a reply card just issued similar to the single one, with the usual necessary additional inscription.

3+3 cents, carmine on buff.

Canada.—A fresh shade, for the reply card as in the adhesives, is noted in the *Monthly Journal*.

1+1 cent, *slate-green on buff*.

Ceylon.—The reply of the current card is noted by the *Carte Postale*.

5+5 cents, blue on buff.

Cook Islands Confederation.—With the adhesives, elsewhere noted, and of the same type, a card has been issued. It bears the inscriptions, "Federation of the Cook Islands," "Within the Federation only," and the usual inscriptions in 4 lines (*Monthly Journal*).

1d, blue on bluish (543 printed).

Cyprus.—The undermentioned newly-issued reply cards are gathered from various sources:—

½+½ piastre.	green	on white.	121 × 74 mm.
1 p.+1 ..	carmine	.. dark buff,	120 × 81 mm.
1½ p.+1½ ..	brown	.. bright buff,	122 × 81 mm.



Hong Kong.—Annexed will be found an illustration of the recently issued reply card.

3+3 cents, brown on buff.

Jamaica.—We have the companion of the card described on page 74, which we illustrate, and in the same colour and dimensions, viz., 140 × 88 mm.



1d.+1d., blue on pale buff.

Montenegro.—In addition to the varieties noted in the March number, the *Timbre Poste* chronicles a reply card without a stamp on the first half, but with a double impression thereof on the second.

2+2 novtch yellow on chamois: *error of impression.*

Newfoundland.—A reply card of the accompanying design has seen the light here.



2+2 cents, carmine on buff.

Obock.—The current French type of cards has also been improved upon by the curved surcharge, as in the case of the adhesives.

10 c., black surcharge on black on violet.
10+10 c., „ „ „ blue.

Servia.—We illustrate the latest accession which appeared early last month, and varies, as will be noted, in several particulars from its predecessor.

10 paras, red on olive-yellow.



Switzerland.—We append a representation of the future type of the stamp on the postcards alluded to in our March issue.



Spain.—The stamp is found abnormally on the right instead of on the left on the reply card, and, says the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, a new issue has taken place with the stamp in the centre this time.

15+15 c., grey-lilac on buff. *error, stamp to right.*
15+15 c., „ „ with stamp in centre.

Straits Settlements.—The provisional cards, shortly since recorded, are now superseded by the new Leeward Islands type, size 139×88.

2 cents, carmine on buff.
2+2 „ „ „

Half Hours with the Australian Stamps.

By M. P. CASTLE.

(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society London.)

THE DESIGN OF THE SYDNEY VIEW.

THE stamps that bear this well-known vignette have been already mentioned in the course of this series of articles, and as it is more than probable that further and extended notes may from time to time be added, I have thought it might interest collectors if I gave, as a preliminary "half hour," some outline of the facts connected with the production of the central design. Nor perhaps, will any apology for so doing be deemed requisite, having regard to the widely-spread and justly deserved interest taken in these stamps. Printed in a distant colony in its early boyhood, an entirely indigenous production, of transient existence, and absolutely relieved from the possibility of re-printing, it is scarce a wonder that these stamps should have attained a wide appreciation by modern Philatelists. In addition to these circumstances, the long and wearisome evolution of the true facts as to the 207 varieties on the several plates, and their relative positions thereon, amply suffices to explain the great and sustained interest in the first issue of New South Wales.

Irrespective, however, of these considerations, the unique and picturesque aspect of the labels themselves would have sufficed to attract the sympathies of collectors. During almost a generation, the exact significance of the details of the central picture has invited comment and discussion in the journals devoted to our science. In the days when a large proportion of modern collectors were yet in the nursery, Fentonia and Pendragon exercised their ingenuity and aired their classic attainments by more or less correct unravellings of the mysterious picture, nor did the greater lights of bye-gone Philately—the late E. L. Pemberton, Dr. Viner, and others, consider it beneath them to discuss the problem.

The true and only way to acquire full knowledge as to any particular issue of stamps in these degenerate days is to publish a list "with all its imperfections on its head." This, in Oceania, was done by the London Philatelic Society, and no sooner was it published, than as if summoned by a magician's wand out of the dim past, information poured in, official and quasi-official. The labour of thousands of hours might have been saved had this been forthcoming at an earlier date. Dr. Andrew Houison, of Sydney, has been in the forefront of those of our Australian friends who have set us right on many material points connected with the production and issue of the early New South Wales stamps. His interesting and valuable book, "The History of the Post Office in New South Wales," was published in 1890, and was welcomed here just in time, as intended by its author, for the Philatelic Exhibition of that year. This work contains information with regard to the design of the Sydney Views, which brushes away the cobwebs of ancient supposition. Dr. Houison writes:—"The design of these stamps was taken from the Great Seal of the Colony, which arrived in H.M.S. 'Gorgon,' on September 21st, 1791." The following description of it is taken from Collins' "Account of the English Colony in New South

Wales, 1804":—"In determining the device for the Seal of the Colony, attention had been paid to its local and peculiar circumstances. On the obverse were the King's arms, with the Royal titles in the margin; on the reverse a representation of convicts landing at Botany Bay, received by Industry, who, surrounded by her attributes, a bale of merchandise, a beehive, a pickaxe and a shovel, is releasing them from their fetters and pointing to oxen ploughing, and a town rising from the summit of a hill with a fort for its protection. The masts of a ship are seen in the bay. In the margin are the words, 'SIGILLUM NOV. CAMB. AUST.,' and for a motto, '*Sic fortis Etruria crevit.*' The Seal was of silver, and the devices were extremely well executed."

GREAT SEAL OF



NEW SOUTH WALES.

From the accompanying outline illustration of the Great Seal a good idea may be gathered of the points described, although far short of the handsome appearance of the *fac-simile* representations in Dr. Houison's book, taken from a wax impression of the Seal which the Doctor was fortunate enough, after much search, to find. The original die was returned to England on being superseded by a fresh design, in order to be destroyed.



SYDNEY HARBOUR.

From a well-known Australian collection that was dispersed in this country a year or two since I was fortunately enabled to secure a landscape or view of the town and harbour of Sydney, as portrayed by the accompanying illustration.

The original, which is beautifully executed in *taille-douce*, was engraved by Martin Montgomery, of Sydney, in the year 1820, and is taken without doubt from Bennelong's Point which presents a view, on the authority of Dr. Houison, very closely resembling the design of the Seal, adopted in 1849 for that of the stamp. The



cut given here of the 1d. Plate II., though somewhat rough, will enable the family likeness to be traced in each. It will be seen that the engraver of the Seal has followed with considerable fidelity the natural figures of the town and harbour of Sydney in those days. Hill, trees, houses, water, shipping, and foreground all occupying the same relative positions as they do in the left half of the engraving.

Nor does the striking similarity end here, as the fore and middle ground of Montgomery's sketch are occupied by three groups of figures closely corresponding in their relative positions to those on the Seal, but, of course, of a less allegorical type. The two natives in the middle distance compare with the man ploughing, the equestrian figure with the goddess, and the group to the right with the emancipated convicts. Whether Montgomery was inspired to reproduce, under a more modern and natural guise, the *mise en scène* of the device on the Seal, or whether his sketch was a copy of an older engraving that preceded the making of the Seal, I can only surmise. It almost seems, in view of the striking resemblance, that the latter theory is possible, and that this particular point of view, and its accompanying figures, had already suggested the allegorical picture on the Seal. If neither of these guesses are right, the coincidence is remarkable.

Jamaica Postal Notices.

By E. D. BACON.

THE number of the *Timbre-Poste* for November last, contains a review of the Philatelic Society's recently published work on the stamps of the British West Indies. The Editor of that Journal is recognised all over the world, and justly so, as one of the greatest authorities upon all things appertaining to the science of Philately, and our Society may well be proud of the highly eulogistic terms in which he speaks of our latest catalogue. The review is specially interesting, as the writer gives translations *in extenso* of four important Jamaica postal notices, which are not found in my "Preliminary Notes" at the head of the Colony. As I stated at page 89 of the catalogue, the only file of the *Jamaica Official Gazette* I could find in this country, commences with the number for June 3rd 1869, consequently I was unable to furnish any notices of an earlier date than this, from that source. Three of the notices translated by Mons. Moens were published previous to the year 1869, while the fourth, which is dated 1st April, 1879, for some reason or other did not appear in the *Official Gazette*, although it was published in, at any rate, one, if not more, of the local newspapers.

Mons. Moens, in reply to a request I made him, has kindly sent me the original copies of the notices he received from Jamaica, which I now reproduce here for the

benefit of those collectors who may not have seen the number of the *Timbre-Poste* I have drawn attention to.

No. I.

General Post Office,
20th November, 1861.

For the greater convenience of persons availing themselves of the facilities afforded by the book post, and also for the pre-payment of newspapers forwarded within the Colony, His Excellency, the Governor, in Executive Committee, has been pleased to authorise the recognition of one-half of the present Penny Postage Label in pre-payment of the Half Penny Rate of Postage. The Label must be divided diagonally so as to render the Half Penny triangular, the only shape in which it will be recognised in pre-payment of postage.

(Signed) Alex. Brymer,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

No. II.

General Post Office,
28th August, 1862.

Postage Labels.

The attention of the public is requested to the fact, that the Penny Stamp is the only one which the Government have permitted to be made use of in a divided state (thus forming the halfpenny label).

All letters, &c., upon which portions only of Postage Stamps of any other denomination are affixed, will be treated as unpaid.

(Signed) Alexander J. Brymer,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

No. III.

General Post Office,
10th September, 1863.

Three-Penny Postage Labels.

For the convenience of the public, Postage Stamps of the denomination of three pence have been imported and can be obtained at this Office.

These Stamps are well adapted for Ship Letters.

(Signed) Alex. J. Brymer,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

No. IV.

General Post Office,
1st April, 1879.

Universal Postal Union.

With reference to notice of equal date the public are advised that, for the present, the Post Card for use to countries within the Union, will be the Three-Penny Post Card, converted by the Post Office by an Impressed Stamp, with the words

Universal Postal Union,

and one Penny Half-Penny placed across the Embossed *(sic)* Stamp.

Every person now in possession of Three-Penny Post Cards, is requested to send

them to the Postmaster for Jamaica, so that they may be exchanged for the issue now authorised.

(Signed) FRED. SULLIVAN,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

It will be seen, on reference to the Notice, dated 29th October, 1872, I gave in my "Preliminary Notes," and which commences at the bottom of page 89 of the Catalogue, that the provisional halfpenny stamp, formed of half of a one penny, was allowed to be used from 20th November, 1861, until the 1st December, 1872, The one penny stamp is said in the Society's list, page 97, to be "known divided vertically, as well as diagonally," but the Notice, No. I., I have given above, distinctly states the latter shape was the only one which would be recognised in pre-payment of postage.

The only observation I need make with regard to the other notices is, that in the translation of No. III. in the *Timbre-Poste*, the date is incorrectly stated as 10th September, *1862*, instead of 1863, as it should be.

Reviews.

M. MOENS' NEW CATALOGUE (THIRD PART).*

IT is but three months since we received the last instalment of M. Moens' *Magnum opus*, and it is a startling testimony to his indefatigable industry that a further and important portion should be already presented to his numerous subscribers. The present *livraison* is of even larger dimensions than the last, containing pages 261 to 468, is accompanied by 73 pages of illustrations of the various stamps therein described, and 112 sheets of the facsimile representations of the plates, which are now completed. The literary portion of the work commences with Honduras (latter portion) and finishes with the last letter of the alphabet in the Russian locals—a fitting period for the learned author to lay down his pen with a sigh of relief.

We note that the three differently spaced printings of the first 4 annas India are noted, a sheet of those with the intersecting lines being given in the appendix: the 2 annas, rose, on blue paper, of the 1865 issue, is a stamp we have as yet not seen or, in our ignorance, even heard of. The collectors of Ionians, who have for years had the bogie held before them of the blue stamp with watermark "1," will be relieved to find that the *spectre bleu* has been dissolved in orthodox ghost fashion into thin air! The Sardinian stamps were superseded by those for the Kingdom of Italy in 1862, *i.e.*, the perforated set with the plain embossed head; of these M. Moens justly only allows the existence *officially* perforated of the 10, 20, 40, and 80 cents, the perforations of the 5, 15 c. and the 2 l. being designated as "non-official," nor have we ever seen any of them used in a way to satisfy our legitimate aspirations. We learn, further, that the various Italian stamps with inverted centres emanate from the "Succession Matraire."

The lists of the several Indian States occupy a considerable space, and, as far as our scant knowledge on these natives extends, are good and succinct. The Levant

* Catalogue, Prix Courant de Timbres-Poste, Septième édition. J. B. Moens, Brussels.

stamps of the various European countries, including the 1867 Austrian Soldi, the Italian "Estero," and the Russian sets, are conveniently grouped together. Mexico, with the names of the towns surcharged on the various issues, presents a formidable appearance; large as the number is, there *is* an end, however, while judging from certain contemporaneous lists in other quarters they will emulate the Poet-Laureate's stream! The Norwegian Locals and the New Republic—*arcades ambo*, tread on each other's heels, and both excite our disgust, their quantity being in inverse ratio to their quality. The New South Wales list is an excellent one, and contains so many of the recent additions and discoveries that we are faintly suspicious of the collaboration of some Philatelist on this side of the Channel. In the sister colony of New Zealand there are, however, several points in which some improvement might be made.

As in the case of Belgium, a voluminous list of essays is given for Holland (Pays Bas) which are only collectable as *fantaisies*, and are assuredly not required in a catalogue. We note that the two types of the 5 reis in the 1st issue of Portugal are given—a fact not known hitherto to all the world—but why does M. Moens class the 50 r. of the "Donna Marias" as yellow-green only, the same colour as that given for the first reprints (of which, by the way, a most excellent list to date is given). We held always the 50 in the darker and fuller green as the real Simon Pure, and have it ourselves almost in a blue-green, while that of the earliest *réimpression* seems a contrast, coinciding as it does always, with the shade attributed to it in the catalogue. Six types are given of the 5 reis with "straight hair."

Our geographical knowledge is extended by the knowledge that the British Protectorate in Africa embraces the countries rejoicing under the following euphonious names:—Gabulaways, Tati, Shoshong, and Molopolote. Mesopotamia would fail to comfort after this, while the facetious translations of an esteemed contemporary could find here a somewhat edibly sounding paraphrase. How are the mighty fallen! Réunion, that earned the proud pre-eminence among philatelists by the *two* rare stamps that sufficed from 1852 to 1885, has fallen indeed from its high estate, in having issued since the latter date no less than 124 varieties: the two former, however, would possibly still outweigh the rest in value. M. Moens, on good grounds doubtless, declines to believe in the perforated 3, 5 and 15 bani of the 1869-70 issue of Roumania, stating that they were never issued perforated, and that it is simply a "*pièce de speculation*," while he confirms a general belief that the 5 bani *rose* of 1876 is but an essay—the blue stamp being a genuine error. The Russian locals are exhaustively treated, and we have so often had occasion to make use of our contemporary's intimate knowledge on this subject that our warm praise of this list must almost savour of presumption.

The "Atlas of Plates and Stamps," commencing with a portion of Hawaii is finished, and in procuring these plates M. Moens must have had a Titanic labour, on the result of which we heartily congratulate him, regretting only that the mechanical portion of this work in some cases mars its utility. The 41 pages devoted to the Japanese stamp are most excellently and clearly done, while the stamps of Jhind and Cashmere are almost dangerous in their life-like fidelity. The line engraved stamps have not been nearly so fortunate in having their portraits taken, the general average of Mauritius, New South Wales, and Philippine being far from satisfactory in some cases, notably among the 2d. Sydney views and the laureated series; we doubt if these illustrations will be of any service to the "platers."

The Oriental collector who hungers after infinite variety will find much to

tickle his sated palate among the Nowanugger stamps, of which handsome labels 36 plates are to be found depicted. The remaining Indian States are fairly well depicted. The same remark applying to plates of the Tolimas, Tasmanians, and Victorians.

We congratulate M. Moens on this further portion of his invaluable work, and heartily wish him such a continuance of his superabundant energy as will ere long see the fourth and final part produced. This is probably well in hand, and its speedy advent may be anticipated; but if our esteemed contemporary produces also the portion dealing with the envelopes and postcards before he takes his summer vacation, we shall indeed, like Dominie Sampson, exclaim "Prodigious!"

The Philatelic Society, London.

ANNUAL DINNER.

UNDER the most pleasant auspices the London Philatelic Society held their annual gastronomic réunion at the Café Monico, on Friday, the 27th May. Amongst the numerous members present were the Vice-president, who occupied the chair, the Secretary, Mr. E. D. Bacon, Mr. A. W. Chambers, Mr. C. N. Biggs, Mr. T. Wickham Jones, Mr. Vernon Roberts (President, Manchester Philatelic Society), and many other well-known philatelists. The guests included Mr. H. E. Purcell, C.B., Mr. H. A. Sandells, Mr. Theodor Buhl, and others. Letters expressive of their inability to attend were received from the Earl of Kingston, the President, who telegraphed his wishes for the success of the evening, Major E. B. Evans, R.E., Mr. J. A. Tilleard, Mr. C. J. Phillips, and others. The loyal toasts having been duly honoured,

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "Our Hon. President, the Duke of Edinburgh," said he did so with great satisfaction, as it was the first time he had the honour of coupling the name of H.R.H. with that of the Philatelic Society. There was a peculiar fitness in this toast following that of the Royal family, linking together, as it did, loyal aspirations with their common pursuit. It was a signal honour to the Philatelic Society to have secured as their president a son of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. H.R.H. kindly opened their Exhibition, and at a subsequent period he did them the honour of accepting the office of hon. president, and in so doing he conferred an honour upon them, which the London Philatelic Society most highly appreciated. (Cheers.)

In proposing success to the London Philatelic Society, the Chairman made allusion to the principles which formed its basis—that of scientific and accurate work—and detailed some of the difficulties that encompassed the pursuit, laying especial stress upon the prevention and detection of forged stamps, and approving the decided advance recently made in this direction; in his opinion, of scarcely less moment to philately was the never ceasing flow of surcharged stamps, whose continued production in some of the English and almost all of the French colonies was at once a reproach to the Governments that allowed it, and a serious deterrent to collectors.

The Vice-President gave a lengthened history of the London Philatelic Society since its inception in 1869, analysing the progress made within certain epochs, and calling attention to the remarkable progress exhibited during the past three years.*

*As we hope shortly to present our readers with an account of the Philatelic Society's history we postpone further details on this point.—Ed.

He expressed his conviction that by the continuation of their present literary work, and by the acquirement of a permanent *locale*, the London Philatelic Society on its 25th anniversary, in April, 1894, would be found to have attained an even higher greater success than it at present enjoyed. (Cheers.)

Mr. Wickham Jones, in proposing the toast of "The Officers of the Society," dilated upon their qualifications for the offices which they held. Of Mr. Bacon he said there was only one doubt in his mind, and that was whether he was better known for his knowledge or for the kind way in which he imparted that knowledge to others. He (Mr. Wickham Jones) candidly confessed that he did not like treasurers—(laughter)—but it was quite a pleasure to pay money to Mr. Biggs. Of Mr. Tilleard's excellent minutes he need not speak, and he would defy any other Society in London to produce a more courteous Secretary than Mr. Garth.

Mr. Bacon, in responding for the Officers, said he did not know why he had been selected to respond to the toast, unless it was because the names of several of the more prominent Officers appeared elsewhere in the toast list. The post that he filled on the Committee was a minor one ("No, no"), and he should not detract from the merits of some of his brother Officers in saying that it was to the energy and zeal displayed by their worthy Vice-President, their Secretary, Assistant-Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian, that the Society had attained to such a proud position among Philatelic bodies. He assured them that it gave the Officers the greatest pleasure to know that their labours for the welfare of the Society and the cause of Philately at large were so highly appreciated. They were thereby amply rewarded for any time and trouble they devoted to the Society's interests. It was entirely due to the good feeling invariably displayed towards them by their fellow members that their work was so congenial.

Mr. Garth, responding as Hon. Secretary, said he accepted the Secretaryship on the retirement of Mr. Bacon, but a few days ago it occurred to him that he should be doing his duty to Mr. Bacon in suggesting that his other engagements might now enable him to resume the post of Hon. Sec., which he had so ably filled. The work that Mr. Bacon was doing for the Society in other directions, however, showed what he was doing as the result of being relieved of the Secretaryship. He therefore felt that although he was no more than a member of Committee, he was doing more than he could possibly do if he were President, Vice-President, or Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Purcell, Controller of Stamps, replying to the toast of "The Visitors," proposed by Mr. Nankivell, said that very soon after his appointment to the office of Controller of Stamps, he learned to place a very high value upon the aid that he could derive from the members of the London Philatelic Society. The assistance of the Society had been most handsomely placed at his disposal. Mr. Philbrick's excellent text book on the stamps of Great Britain was of enormous value in a public office, as also was the interesting volume on "Mulready," brought out by Major Evans. The evidence of their late President, Mr. Philbrick, had been of very great service to the Post Office, and was very highly valued by his friend, the late Postmaster-General, Mr. Raikes. It was through Mr. Philbrick's help that he had been enabled some years ago to denounce as forgeries a large number of Heligoland postage stamps that were about to be distributed throughout the country. Stamp officials in general, and the Controller of Stamps in particular, had every reason to be thankful to the members of the London Philatelic Society. Personally he was very grateful for the

courtesy and kindness of those members of their body with whom he had been brought into contact.

The "Health of the Chairman," proposed in eulogistic terms by Mr. C. N. Biggs, was duly acknowledged by Mr. Castle.

The arrangements made by the members of the Dinner Committee reflected the highest credit on them, both the *ménu* and the *locale* being irreproachable. The proceedings were charmingly interspersed with well rendered songs by members present and their guests, and by the clever recitations of Mr. Sandells; the unanimous verdict of all present being that a most enjoyable evening had been passed.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., &c.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: F. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C. *Vice-President:* M. P. CASTLE.

Secretary: D. GARTH. *Assistant Secretary:* J. A. TILLEARD.

Treasurer and Librarian: C. N. BIGGS.

E. D. BACON. | MAJOR EVANS.
A. W. CHAMBERS. | T. MAYCOCK.

THE Fourteenth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet Street, on Friday, the 22nd April, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz.:—Messrs. M. P. Castle (Vice-President), E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, Hastings E. Wright, W. T. Willett, T. Maycock, H. Grey, A. Ludwig, W. Silk, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. A. Davis, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, J. A. Tilleard, G. F. Napier, D. Garth, F. Street, C. J. Daun, and Major Evans, Mr. E. C. Luard, of Demerara, also attending as a visitor. After the Vice-President had taken the chair the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary mentioned the subject of the annual dinner, and it was determined that the dinner should take place on the 27th May, subject to the Committee being able to make the necessary arrangements for that day. The Sub-Committee appointed to carry out the arrangements consisted of Messrs. A. W. Chambers and T. Wickham-Jones, with power to add to their number. Mr. H. J. Gillespie, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by the Secretary; Mr. Henry Clotz (of New York), proposed by Mr. C. B. Corwin, and seconded by Major Evans; and Mr. J. C. Badgley (President of the Montreal Philatelic Society), proposed by Mr. L. Gibb, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary, were elected members of the Society. The chief business of the evening consisted of the revision of the Society's reference list of the stamps of Ceylon, which was proceeded with, and adjourned to the next meeting. A noticeable feature in connection with the subject of study was the very fine selection of stamps available for comparison in settling the list, most of

the members present having brought their collections to the meeting. A large number of stamps were also lent by Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. and Stanley Gibbons, Limited, to whom a vote of thanks was accorded for their kind assistance. At the conclusion of the business Mr. E. C. Luard produced, for the inspection of the members present, a large number of the rare stamps of British Guiana which he had recently obtained in the Colony. Amongst the stamps, which were greatly admired, were a fine series of the blue, green, yellow, and orange circular stamps (including a specimen of the 4 cents lemon-yellow on pelure paper, with very large margins, and on the original letter sheet), a copy of the 4 cents, blue, of 1856 on the rough blue paper, also on the entire envelope; a very fine block of four of the 2 cents yellow of the provisional issue of 1862, showing the three types, including one with the rare grape-pattern border, and entire sheets of the reprinted stamps. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Luard for the very great pleasure he had afforded to the members present in giving them an opportunity of inspecting these valuable stamps.

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Season was held at the Salisbury Hotel on Friday, the 6th May, 1892, at 7.30 p.m. The following members were in attendance, viz.: The President (in the chair), the Vice-President, and Messrs. A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, Hastings E. Wright, E. D. Bacon, T. Wickham-Jones, T. Maycock, C. N. Biggs, W. Silk, C. J. Daun, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, W. B. Avery, H. J. Gillespie, D. Garth, and J. A. Tilleard. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the Secretary read the correspondence, consisting of letters from Mr. A. A. Bartlett, of Prince Edward's Island, Mr. Armistead, Mr. Basset Hull, and Signor Fabri. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bartlett for the photograph and list of the bisected stamps of the British Colonies in North America, which he had forwarded for the inspection of the members of the Society. Mr. Armistead forwarded stamps of Victoria received by him as unused specimens of obsolete stamps of that Colony, which, on examination, proved to be reprints which had not been overprinted with the word "reprint." Mr. Basset Hull's letter referred to the information which he had obtained in the course of his investigation with the object of publishing, under the auspices of the Society, a work on the stamps of South Australia, and contained a proposal in reference to the publication of a work on the stamps of Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia, which was referred to the Publication Committee for consideration. Signor Fabri, in his letter, mentioned that he had in his possession a copy of the 8 pfennig stamp of Finland (1867), perf. 11, which does not appear to have been previously chronicled. He also forwarded a copy of his pamphlet on the stamps of the Papal States, which was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society. A letter from Mr. G. Johnson, Librarian of the King Edward's Grammar Schools at Birmingham, in reference to the London Philatelist, was also read, and was referred to the managers of the Journal, with instructions to report to the Society before consenting to any principle in dealing with any similar applications. The Secretary further reported the receipt of a letter from the Honorary President of the Plymouth Society, sending a copy of the bye-laws of his Society, and containing a general invitation to the members of the London Society to attend any meetings of the Society at Plymouth. On the suggestion of Mr. Pearce, it was arranged that a letter should be written to the Editor of *Chambers' Encyclopædia* in reference to the article on "Philately," to appear in the new edition of that work. Mr. A.W. Rawcliffe,

proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary; the Rev. Hayman Cummings, proposed by the President, and seconded by the Secretary; and Mr. E. C. Luard, proposed by Mr. Bacon, and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society. Mr. Creeke produced, for the inspection of the members present, a sheet of specimens of the English Envelope Stamps, printed in the new colour, as issued on the 29th March last. Mr. Bacon then read a paper, entitled, "Some Remarks on the Postage Stamps of Ceylon," containing a large amount of valuable information, particularly in reference to the earlier issues. As a result of his careful investigation into the subject, Mr. Bacon was enabled to give, approximately, the dates of the first issues, together with the number and arrangement of the stamps on the sheets. Most of the difficult questions in regard to the stamps of this country were dealt with by Mr. Bacon, and were effectually disposed of by the light of the information which he had been able to obtain from reliable sources. A long discussion ensued on the subject of the paper and, upon the motion of the President, seconded by the Vice-President, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bacon for his most interesting contribution which, with his consent, it was proposed to publish in the forthcoming work of the Society on the stamps of India and Ceylon.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Honorary President: BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: M. P. CASTLE. *Vice-President:* J. H. REDMAN.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: W. T. WILLETT.

A. DE WORMS.	J. W. GILLESPIE.
H. STAFFORD SMITH.	J. H. ESCOLME.

AT Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, April 11th, at 7.45 p.m., the Ninth Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held. Present:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, H. Stafford Smith, R. J. Thrupp, R. J. Woodman, P. de Worms, A. de Worms, A. H. Thomas, J. W. Gillespie, W. T. Willett, and one visitor, Mr. Douglas Garth. The President in the Chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President expressed his pleasure at seeing Mr. Garth at the meeting as a visitor, which sentiment he felt sure was shared by all. Mr. G. G. Hodgson, proposed by the President, and seconded by the Secretary, was duly elected a member of the Society. The President read some extremely interesting notes on Western Australia, which he illustrated by his collection. In the course of his remarks, he adhered to the theory that the 1d. black was the first issued, and also gave his opinion that some of the rouletted stamps were undoubtedly official, several copies being known issued at the Post Office in Perth; he mentioned their extreme rarity in an unused condition, suggesting that they were probably rouletted and detached from the sheet as required. On the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Thrupp, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Castle for his valuable paper. Mr. Garth kindly brought to the meeting his fine collection of India, the inspection of which afforded considerable interest. He also exhibited a copy of the rare 2 cents. pink, first issue, British Guiana.

The Tenth Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, April 25th, at 7.45 p.m. Present :—Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. H. Redman, G. G. Hodgson, H. Stafford Smith, P. de Worms, A. de Worms, S. M. Castle, R. J. Thrupp, J. W. Gillespie, R. J. Woodman, Rev. E. H. Rogers, W. T. Willett, and one visitor, Mr. H. J. Gillespie. The President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. C. Gonin, proposed by the Secretary, seconded by Mr. R. J. Thrupp ; and Mr. J. E. Cockburn, proposed by H. Stafford Smith, seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society. The President stated that certain Provincial Philatelic Societies had decided to take in a copy of the London Philatelist for each member, and suggested that members should consider whether this Society should do the same ; after some discussion, the Vice-President gave notice that at the next meeting he would move, "That it is desirable that the Society subscribe to the London Philatelist." The future subject for study was considered, and it was decided to draw up reference lists of the stamps of Cyprus, Gibraltar, Heligoland, Ionian Islands, and Malta. The President exhibited specimens of the Naples, ½ grano and ½ tornèse, arms, and cross, showing the changes that were made on the original die, and explaining the reasons for each successive issue. He also exhibited a set of the new issue for Liberia.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Committee for the Session 1891-92.

President : Rev. T. S. FLEMING. *Ex-President :* JOSEPH SCOTT.
Vice-Presidents : W. BECKWITH & R. S. WIGIN. *Treasurer :* J. H. THACKRAH.
Hon. Secs. : W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S, & T. K. SKIPWITH.
Librarian : F. J. KIDSON.

ON the 30th April, the Thirteenth Meeting of the Session was held at the Leeds Mechanics' Institute, the President in the chair. Six members were present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Skipwith exhibited a hitherto unchronicled issue of British Bechuanaland, being a strip of three of the current English 2d. postage and revenue stamp, surcharged in black with the name of the Colony in block capital letters in two lines, upon the original envelope. He also drew attention to differences in the printing of certain current New Zealand stamps, there being considerable improvement of execution and a different shade of colour in the 2½d. blue, and deterioration in the 6d. brown stamp.

The President showed some interesting stamps, after which Mr. W. B. Simpson, of Headingley, was elected a member.

Mr. W. Beckwith then described the stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, in illustration of which he and the other members present showed the stamps they possessed of these issues. A vote of thanks was passed at the close of the paper.

The Second Annual Meeting was held on the 7th May, Mr. W. Beckwith in the chair. Six members were present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretaries laid on the table a copy of the London Society's work on the stamps of the British North American Colonies, which had just been purchased for the library, and also the latest number of the *Monthly Journal*, received as a gift from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co.

Mr. T. K. Skipwith then read the Annual Report of the Committee, in which the work of the session was reviewed. The year had been one of prosperity and success. The number of members had increased slightly, and the average attendance had been somewhat over 40 per cent., which may be regarded as very satisfactory. The chief feature of each meeting had been the reading of a paper and the careful and detailed comparison of the members' collections of some specified country or issues of stamps, this being in the opinion of the Committee the most useful part of of the Society's operations. With regard to the library, reference was made to the fact that the Society had completed its set of the valuable works issued by the parent organisation, and to the intention of the Committee to provide works of similar utility, so far as the funds will admit. The report was adopted, as also was that of the Treasurer, Mr. John H. Thackrah, which showed a small balance in hand.

The election of officers for the Session (1892-93) was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—President, Mr. William Beckwith; Vice-Presidents, Mr. O. Firth and Mr. John H. Thackrah; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. B. Simpson; Hon. Secretaries (re-elected), Mr. W. Denison Roebuck and T. K. Skipwith; and Hon. Librarian, Mr. F. J. Kidson.

The Chairman showed a Straits Settlements six cents, lilac, C A & Crown, perf. 14, surcharged "one cent" in black; and stamps were shown by other members.

The next regular meeting is to be held on the 1st October, but, as was the case last year, possibly one or more meetings may be held during the summer months.

W. Denison Roebuck,
T. K. Skipwith, } *Hon. Secretaries.*

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: VERNON ROBERTS. *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer:* W. DORNING BECKTON.
Vice-President: W. DORNING BECKTON. *Assistant Hon. Sec.:* D. PIXTON.

THE Fourteenth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on Friday, the 8th April, 1892, at which there were sixteen members present, the Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Due notice was given of the nomination of one new member, who will be balloted for at the next meeting.

The President, Vice-President, and Mr. Gibson were appointed a special Committee for the purpose of revising the rules of the Society, and reporting to the annua meeting of the members to be held in May.

Mr. Collette read a short extract from a letter he had received from Mr. Henn in Sydney, dealing with the surcharged 7½d. and 12½d. stamps of New South Wales.

Mr. Duerst then read a paper on the stamps, postcards, and envelopes of Heligoland, drawing special attention to the differences by which the reprints could be detected, and warning the members against the varieties with the head inverted, which he maintained were all reprints, as likewise the 2 sch. and 6 sch. of the 1869-73 issue perforated.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties. The Vice-President showing the recently issued surcharged stamps for Guadeloupe, 25 c., black on pink, error—*Guadbloupe;* and Mr. Munn portion of a newspaper with original wrapper, which he had received in the ordinary course of business, franked two and a half, 1 c. of the green, San Marino. Major Montgomery showed a Natal 5s., apparently without watermark.

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Friday, the 22nd April, 1892, seventeen members being present, the President in the Chair.

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, the Vice-President expressed on behalf of the members the pleasure they felt at seeing the President again occupying the Chair after his indisposition.

The minutes of the last meeting were then read and confirmed.

Mr. E. Hartley Turner was elected a member of the Society.

The President read the continuation of his paper on the English stamps, dealing with the 5d. and 6d.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties, the President showing a Sydney View 2d., plate 1, on original cover postmarked January 1st, 1850, and Mr. Ranck, Sweden present issue 5 ore and 10 ore imperf.

W. Dorning Beckton.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Session 1891-2.

President: H. W. MAYNE, L.D.S. *Vice-President:* J. MILTON.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: A. LEVY.

THE Fourth Ordinary Meeting was held at the Borough Arms on March 30th, 1892, the President in the chair. Present: Ten members and one visitor.

It was resolved that notification of the formation of the local society be forwarded to the London Philatelic Society, and that the London Philatelist, the monthly Journal of the L.P.S., be subscribed to for the library.

Dr. C. Lion Vasey, R.N., and Mr. A. E. L. Westaway, R.N. (L.P.S.) were elected members.

The President read a paper on various matters, which has appeared in recent philatelic literature, and a vote of thanks was passed.

The Fifth Ordinary Meeting was held at the Borough Arms, on April 13th, 1892, the President in the chair. Present: Eleven members and one visitor.

The question of devising a systematic plan, whereby members could exchange surplus stamps with each other, was referred to the committee.

The Hon. Sec. read Part III. of his paper on "The Stamps of Great Britain," dealing with the 1d. and 2d. stamps, he having just had an exceptional opportunity of examining a large continuous mass of daily correspondence of a large mercantile firm, covering the period of the use of these stamps, and after minute investigation, had succeeded in fixing the dates when the various perforations and watermarks were in active use; these dates, in some instances, differing from those hitherto accepted as correct.

He thanked Mr. R. T. Stevens, the owner of the stamps, for the facilities placed at his disposal, and for assistance rendered in the necessary search.

The lecturer had prepared enlarged designs, drawn to scale, of the two different crowns used as watermarks, and each member had lent to him, for the purpose of following the paper, a set of eighteen varieties of these stamps, mounted on a card specially designed, containing description and date of each stamp.

The President, in moving a vote of thanks to the reader of the paper, commented on the complete way in which the subject had been dealt with, and the extent of the work involved in finding out the dates which had been laid before the meeting.

Mr. A. R. Barrett (L.P.S.), as a visitor, wished to express his opinion that the paper they had listened to was one of great interest, not only to young collectors, but that if the letters in the possession of Mr. Stevens bore out the statements of the Hon. Sec. there was a deal read which was new to those more advanced.

The Sixth Ordinary Meeting was held at the Borough Arms, April 27th, 1892. The President in the chair. Present: Ten members and two visitors. Mr. A. R. Barrett (L.P.S.) was elected a member.

A plan, recommended by the Committee, for the exchange of stamps among members was unanimously adopted.

The Hon. Sec. read Part IV. of his paper on "The Stamps of Great Britain," dealing with the remainder of the line engraved series, plate numbers, &c., and a vote of thanks was unanimously carried.

The first three numbers of the London Philatelist were circulated among those present, who expressed their appreciation of the Executive of the L.P.S. in producing such a high-class journal.

The Seventh Ordinary Meeting was held at the Borough Arms on May 11th, 1892. The President in the chair. Present: Ten members. It was resolved that the sum of 10s. 6d. be sent from the funds of the Society to the Philatelic Protection Society, as a donation towards the expenses incurred in the recent prosecutions.

The evening was devoted to the examination of collections and the exchange of stamps on the system adopted at the preceding meeting.

Asher Levy, *Hon. Sec.*

Correspondence.

MADAGASCAR STAMPS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—Since writing my last I have had an explanation from the firm who supplied me with the used Madagascar stamps, and they admit that the stamps have *never been through the post.*

With astonishing frankness they say, "The sets have of course not paid postage, but were post-marked in Madagascar at the request of the purchaser, as he preferred them used."

I should like to know if post office officials have the right, even if they are so obliging, as to post-mark any number of stamps to order? It seems to me to be a very questionable proceeding! Only a step further and they may put any surcharge on to order! Perhaps this is an explanation of the flood of French Colonial surcharges that we have lately been inundated by!

I remain, Yours faithfully,
"AN ISOLATED COLLECTOR."

Ashbourne, Derbyshire,
April 23rd, 1892.

[There are *certes* many "questionable proceedings" with regard to Colonial surcharges generally. Our correspondent also, writing us at a later date, considers the Madagascar stamps, of which he has undoubtedly used copies, as hardly being French Colonials, but in our view the relationship is a near one.—ED.]

THE BERLIN PHILATELISTEN CLUB.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—In the April number of your esteemed journal there is a slight error which you will pardon us for correcting. On page 133 you say that at the meeting of our Club on the 7th March last, one of our members submitted a specimen of the four cents (1860) of British Guiana with the *two* mm. space between "four" and "cents," while, on the contrary, this member submitted a specimen with the *one* mm. space. In sending it he drew attention to an erroneous statement in the report of the communication concerning the London Society's "British West Indies" (at the meeting on the 18th January last), which had simply been caused by a slip of the pen.

The German handbooks had given this stamp (1860 and following issues) with the *two* mm. distance, and the report had erroneously stated that the forementioned work gave it with *one* mm. distance only.

At the same time we beg to say that the London Society's work was most favourably commented upon at our Club, as the report of the meeting on the 18th January last shows.

Also we beg to state that the undersigned Club declines every connection with the "Great Handbook" and its illustrations. The actual editors are not even members of our Club.

Yours faithfully.
BERLINER PHILATELISTEN-CLUB,
C. LINDENBURG,
May 13th, 1892. *President.*

NEW ZEALAND BOGIES.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose copy of a letter which I have obtained permission to have published in the English Philatelic papers. The original was sent here *from New Zealand* with a lot of New Zealand first issue type stamps, on Blue and on white papers—imperforated and perforated, without and with watermarks N. Z., &c.—all of which are forgeries and some very dangerous and likely to deceive the innocent and unwary.

The name of "A. Schlesinger" being signed per "D. G." (?) it is very likely that similar letters will be sent in other names.

Yours truly,
B. PLASHETT RODD.

[Copy.]

Box 134, P.O.,
Christchurch,
J. E. R——— New Zealand.
———strasse. 23.3.92.
Hamburg.

DEAR SIR,—Seeing your ad. in the "Box Office" I send you a small lot of old and rare New Zealand Stamps, hoping they will meet with your favour. As you mention in ad. you pay cash, kindly remit by return if stamps are acceptable. If not, please return the same, as I have plenty of buyers on my books only too glad to get them. I send to you as I am anxious of enlarging my clientèle. An early reply will greatly oblige.

Yours respectfully,
A. SCHLESINGER.
per D. G. (?)

Occasional Notes.

Owing to the fact that the Annual Dinner of the London Philatelic Society was fixed for the 27th of May, the issue of this Journal has been slightly delayed in order to include a report of the festive *réunion*.

* * *

It is with singular pleasure that we are enabled to announce, on the best authority, that Mr. E. D. Bacon has been appointed by the Trustees of the British Museum to classify and arrange the Collection of Postage Stamps bequeathed to the nation by the late esteemed Vice-President of the London Philatelic Society, Mr. T. K. Tapling. We gather that Mr. Bacon will enter upon his arduous labours very shortly, which it is believed will extend at least over five years—a short period, in our opinion, to fulfil so important a task in a manner worthy of the bequest. We shall probably allude again to this matter, but meanwhile feel that the universal verdict of all Philatelists will be, that no appointment more fitting could possibly have been made, as Mr. Bacon's qualification for this honourable post are supreme.

* * *

An example of scrupulous care for the welfare of treasures philatelic was recently brought to our notice in a collection entrusted to Mr. Wm. Hadlow for disposal. The whole of the specimens are placed within squares cut to match the size of the stamp out of the thick cards on which they are mounted, thus presenting a flush or countersunk appearance. All possibility of rubbing or pressure is thus obviated, but, not content with this, the rarer stamps are all further protected by a transparent sheet of tulk exactly fitting the hollow—so to say—excavated for the receipt of the stamp. The effect is to enhance the appearance of the stamp, while rendering it absolutely impervious to atmospheric or other influences, and in the case of rarities it is an idea that collectors might perhaps do well to adopt.

* * *

The industrious and enterprising gentleman yclept P. R. de Torres, whose activity as a philatelic commercial traveller in the United States was mentioned by us last month, now appears, according to the *Philatelic Journal of America*, to have escaped in person from the clutches of the law, although he has had to pay heavily in kind. It appears that this distinguished traveller had called at the principal cities of Mexico, and by dint of exchanging Spanish stamps of home manufacture had acquired a fine stock of old stamps. With these proceeds he then repaired to San Antonio in Texas, in which town he made the acquaintance of Mr. V. Gurdjii, by whose action, mainly, his promising career was cut short. From Texas to New Orleans, and thence to Memphis and New Orleans, he apparently made a triumphal procession, in which latter city he seems to have struck against a harder metal in the person of Mr. C. H. Mekeel. Acting on instructions from Mr. Gurdjii this gentleman effected his arrest in a thoroughly artistic manner. The novelty of the case duly reported in the local press, and the statements of the arrested as to the innocence of his transactions and the great value of his stock, attracted the attention of the Post Office authorities, and an investigation ensued, resulting in the sequestration of all Senor P. R. de Torres' philatelic goods and chattels. Ultimately he was released owing to difficulties in proving which stamps were genuine or the reverse, and the illustrious *commis voyageur* was free to quit an ungrateful country—bereft of his stock in trade. The Customs Surveyor having meanwhile taken steps to ascertain by experts as to what portion of the impounded stamps were genuine, their amount of total value was assessed at 7723 dols. with a duty of 930 dols., the large number of co-existent counterfeits being detained and destroyed, despite Senor Torres' arduous endeavours to the contrary. Eventually the C. H. Mekeel Stamp Co. purchased the impounded goods at a price approaching the valuation, and the balance, after deducting the duty, was paid over to Senor Torres. Nor could that enterprising company have far erred in view of the fact that Mr. C. H. Mekeel was one of the appointed appraisers. The baffled speculator then left apparently for Havana, where he is supposed to have another *câchet*. Messrs. Whitfield King, of Ipswich, have had the advantage of acquaintance with this *preux chevalier*, and we note that about six years since they ultimately only narrowly escaped a heavy loss. The curtain falls on a happy *dénouement*, virtue in the person of Messrs. Mekeel trium-

phant, and the discomfited "villain of the piece" ostracised and bereft of his "ill-gotten gains."

* * *

A PHILATELIC SOCIETY for Oxford is one of the latest accessions to the numerous provincial bodies that are being formed for the advancement of philately. The names of the President, Mr. J. H. H. Murray, and the Vice-President, Professor A. S. Napier, are indicative of good augury for its success, a consummation that we devoutly wish.

* * *

MR. HARRY HILCKES has sent us some notes on the Saxony Error of 1851, which may be new to many of our readers:—"Very few collectors are perhaps aware of the extreme rarity of the ½ Ngr. Saxony, 1851, black on *blue*, instead of grey. If all particulars were known it would be justly considered of far greater value than the first issue of Mauritius. Dr. P. Kloss in his "Geschichte der Postwerthzeichen des Königreichs Sachsen" (History of the Stamps of the Kingdom of Saxony), refers to this error as follows:—"On August 22nd, 1851, the Post Office at Leipzig informed the G.P.O. at Dresden, that they had found a quantity of stamps among the 2 Ngr. blue, which had, instead of '*2 Neugroschen*,' the inscription *½ Neugroschen*, although printed in the correct colour of the 2 Ngr. stamps, viz., blue. On referring to the printer's statement it was found that only 120 stamps were printed in this colour by mistake, 63 of these were sold over the counter before the mistake was found out, the remaining 57 were returned to the G.P.O. at Dresden." So far Dr. Kloss. There is little doubt that the 63 stamps which were sold to the public, were sold as 2 Ngr. stamps, whose colour they bore, and used as such, letters having been found which were stamped with this stamp only (paying the postage from Leipzig to Dresden, being then 2 Ngr.) The remaining 57 stamps which were returned to Dresden should have been burnt, and most likely part of them have been thus destroyed, but last summer among papers relating to the former Postal accounts in the Department of Finance, at Dresden, a quantity of 24 stamps were found in an envelope pinned to an ancient document; 33 are therefore missing, and as said before, *most likely* destroyed. It is, however, an open question whether any of these were stolen or given away, no trace having been found. The 24 thus found have been disposed as follows:—A strip of 5 was *given* by H.M. The King of Saxony to E. P. in Dresden. This strip was exhibited in the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1890. Sixteen copies are known in various collections, and the remaining 3 are badly cut and damaged, and still in the possession of the Finance Department of Dresden. How many *used* copies exist is difficult to say. I know of about 5 or 6, perhaps the correct figure of these would be about 15 to 20. If we take 20 used and 24 unused as fairly correct numbers, it would be easy to compare these with the statistics known about the Mauritius Post Office 2 pence. Of the latter only 500 copies were printed, and about 16-18 copies have been found. No doubt there are still some hidden away, so that there is a likelihood of further "finds," but this would be not so likely with the Saxony error, as only 120 have ever been printed. It would thus appear that the value of the latter should be at least equal to that of the Mauritius." Messrs. Bright are the holders of a block of four of these stamps, and may therefore be easily imagined as entertaining a high opinion as to their rarity, which from the facts of the case, as stated by Mr. Hilches, seems a conclusion well borne out.

* * *

MR. A. F. BASSET-HULL has an interesting letter on the subject of Federal Postage Stamps in the *Mercury* of March 18, from which the following extracts may be read with interest — as, indeed, may anything emanating from so accomplished a philatelist: "I notice in the list of subjects to be submitted to the consideration of the Postal Conference now sitting in Hobart, the item, 'universal stamps for the colonies.'"

* * *

AFTER stating that the matter had long engaged his attention, Mr. Hull instances the federalisation of other countries, Germany, Canada, etc., and says, "At the present time each of the Australian colonies has its own series of stamps, which, with the exception of New South Wales and Western Australia, is available either for postage or revenue purposes. The cost of production in the aggregate must amount to a very large sum, and the maintenance of the expensive machinery and skilled staff of workmen in each colony entails a heavy annual charge on the revenue. Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland carry on the entire production of their stamps, from the engraving of the dies to the printing, gumming, and perforating, in departments of their own fitted with expensive machinery and manned by skilled workmen. South Australia, I believe, procures the dies from England and completes the printing, etc.,

locally. Tasmania and Western Australia obtain the greater part of their stamps direct from England, ready for use." "Now the adoption of a series of stamps of the one design, and bearing the name 'Australia,' or any other name intended to embrace the whole group, printed and prepared ready for use either in England or at some central depôt in the colonies, to be agreed upon, would save an annual expenditure amounting in the aggregate to upwards of £15,000! In fact, I am probably far within the mark in estimating that sum. The large amount to be gained by unification might well be applied in improving the facilities of postal communication." "Series of stamps of uniform design, bearing the name of each colony separately overprinted could be provided and supplied in quantities as required. The cost of maintenance of the central depot (if established) would be defrayed by each colony in proportion to the quantity of stamps consumed by it, a fixed rate per thousand sheets being made, which would cover cost of production and maintenance of the establishment. If, on the other hand, the supplies were obtained from England, the initial cost of cutting die and preparing plates and over-prints for a series of, say, 20 values, would amount to about £500, and the cost of printing and preparing the postage stamps ready for use would be £6 per 1,000 sheets of 120 stamps if printed in one colour, or £12 10s. per 1,000 sheets if printed in two colours for each stamp." And in conclusion he expresses the opinion that a "Federal postage stamp" would be one strong link in the chain of events leading up to that Australian Federation which, unhappily, has lately been allowed to droop sadly.

* * *

THE Postmaster-General, in answer to a question by Mr. Henniker Heaton, in the House of Commons, on the 1st April last, said the price of the new letter cards was 12s. 4d. per 1,000, which amounted to £616 13s. 4d. per million. There was a prospect that lower terms might shortly be arranged. The dimensions of the inland post card had been the same from the time of its introduction in 1870, and might be considered to afford a reasonable amount of space for a written communication at half the ordinary rate of letter postage. The inland cards in use abroad were of somewhat larger size. The new card for transmission abroad, which had just come into use in this country, was of a size midway between the card it replaced and the inland card.

MR. J. A. TILLEARD informs us that the date of his discovery of the 2d. diademed head of New South Wales, with watermark thick **1**, is somewhat earlier than that assigned by Mr. Castle in his article last month in the LONDON PHILATELIST. Mr. Tilleard became possessed of the stamp in question at the end of the year 1886, and it was first exhibited to an envious gaze at the Meeting of the London Philatelic Society in April, 1887. This is a striking testimony to its scarcity—six years hunting for by advanced collectors—without, until recently, another copy being found. Mr. D. A. Vindin, we believe, stated on his recent visit that the Australian collectors were quite incredulous on the subject, and that the only evidence he would believe was that of his own eyes. He left satisfied!

* * *

WE cannot do better than give *in extenso* the following letter handed to us by Mr. E. D. Bacon, in order to put collectors on their guard:—"Saint Vincent General Post Office. 4th April, 1892.—Dear Sir, I believe you take a deep interest in stamps generally, so venture to point out a fact which came under my notice about a year ago, but afterwards escaped my memory. In many of the stamp catalogues published from time to time is included amongst 'St. Vincent' stamps, one described: '1882, ½ penny on 1d. drab.' The last catalogue is that of 'Richard Montague & Co., London, E.C.' of March, 1891. I can confidently state that no such stamp has ever emanated from either the Government or Post Office of Saint Vincent, W.I. I write you because I think it but fair that stamp collectors and dealers should have the protection which such a knowledge might afford them. This information could of course only come from the Post Office, as being the supposed origin of the particular stamp referred to.—I remain, yours faithfully, Frank W. Griffith, Acting Colonial Postmaster, Saint Vincent, W.I.—E. D. Bacon Esq., 41, Seething Lane, London, E.C."

* * *

AT the request of the gentleman whose name appears beneath it, we give publicity to the following notice, and can only hope that the mysteriously missing absentee may be restored to his sorrowing friends:—"£10 reward. Lost between the 28th April and the 2nd May, 1892, a 'Circular' 4 Cents First Issue British Guiana Postage Stamp. This stamp is pale yellow in colour, and although it has hardly any margin, the impression is very good and clear. It was attached to an entire letter-sheet, which is addressed to John Kennedy, Esq., and the letter is signed Hugh Greene, and is believed

to be dated December 31st, 1850. Anyone having the stamp shown to them is requested to communicate at once with the advertiser, and meanwhile to retain possession of the specimen. Anyone purchasing the said stamp will be buying stolen property. The above reward will be paid by the undersigned for the recovery of the stamp in good condition.—E. D. Bacon, 41, Seething Lane, London, E.C., 4th May, 1892.

* * *

We have to warn collectors against forged surcharges of the official letters on the South Australian Stamps, having lately received from Paris a delightful assortment—"absolutely genuine," according to the senders' view—showing—to take a charitable view—their great ignorance on the subject.

* * *

The Cape Town *Daily Independent* of April 6th, reports a meeting held at Kimberley for the purpose of electing office-bearers of the newly-formed Philatelic Society. Mr. J. Pooley was appointed President, Mr. Douglas Campbell Vice-President, Mr. L. Bauman Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, and Messrs. Gowie, Nelson, Nothard, and Constable were constituted the Committee. The Society has made a fair start, with several enthusiastic collectors in its ranks, and, doubtless, now that there is organisation, and correspondence with kindred societies can be carried on systematically for the exchange of stamps, the number will rapidly increase. The chief objects of the undertaking are the cultivation and promotion of philately, with special regard to the members' interests, by means of monthly meetings, with philatelic discussions, the procuring of philatelic literature, and the detection and exposure of forgeries."

* * *

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF POSTAGE STAMPS AT PARIS.

We have been asked to give a slight account of the Exhibition to be held at Paris. Attention is called to the fact that Exhibitions have been held at Vienna, Dresden, Munich, Antwerp, Amsterdam and London, but until this year none had been held in Paris, the Exhibition of 1878, like that of 1889, having only included postage stamps to a very limited extent. "It has been generally thought that this idea which succeeded so well in other countries would also succeed in France. M. Lesourd has constituted a provisional committee of several members of the three Philatelic Societies who hold meetings in Paris. An extremely favourable circumstance is that Mr. Bernard, manager of the "Black and White" Exhibition, held in Paris at the Palais des Arts Libéraux, in the Champ de Mars, has offered to the committee all the materials used in the latter Exhibition on very advantageous conditions. The committee is formed of amateurs who have decided to act in consort as follows: that each of the three societies, Français de Timbrologie, Timbrophile d'Echange, and Philatélique Française, should be invited to nominate four members, two collectors and two dealers, in order to make an Administration Committee, which will be thus composed of twelve members, six amateurs and six dealers. To the Adminstration Committee belong the solutions of all the questions affecting the Exhibition. The objects exhibited will be shown in frames of uniform size, to be erected for the use of amateurs at a moderate hire. Dealers will also find very reasonable prices for the necessary places to exhibit their stamps, and to hold their sales in. The Postal Administrators will be invited to lend their help by exhibiting their several collections of proofs of stamps and the materials used for their manufacture. Towards the close of the Exhibition, awards, consisting of all sorts of medals and honourable mentions, will be distributed, and a souvenir of the Exhibition will be offered to all exhibitors. Such are the principal elements of the proposed Paris Exhibition.

"To the Administration Council belongs the right of ruling it, but we must add that the promoters' idea is to open the Exhibition in the early days of July in order to profit by the presence in Paris of amateurs from the provinces on the occasion on the 14th July, and of Parisian families prior to leaving for the holidays, and to make it last during the month of August, the habitual time for travelling, whether provincial or foreign.

"All questions regarding the Exhibition should be addressed to M. Lesourd, Secretary-General, 88, Rue du Cherche Midi, Paris; or to M. le Dr. Legrand, President of the Administration Committee, 136, Avenue de Neuilly, Neuilly (Seine). Such is the report we have asked all our *confrères* of the Philatelic Press to reproduce. We append the list of the members of the Organisation Committee that the three societies named in the report have elected: Société Française de Timbrologie, M.M. Phillipe La Renotière de Ferrary, E. le Roy d'Etoilles, Victor Robert, Schœller. Société Timbrophile d'Echange, M. L'Abbé Poncin (other member not yet elected). Société Philatelique Française, MM. E. Vervelle, Formé, Schwab, M. Tillot. President, M. le Dr. Legrand; vice-president, M. Langlois; secretary-general M. Lesourd."

At the first meeting of the forenamed committee, under the presidency of Dr. Legrand, the date of the Exhibition, *most wisely*, was postponed from July to the end of September. The arrangements for the safe custody of the exhibits and other important matters were discussed, and, at the instance of M. Bernard, the committee decided to inspect the Palais des Arts Libéraux, which that gentleman had kindly placed at their disposal.

The Philatelic Market.

A feature that has lately been developed to a marked extent among the more prominent dealers of this country—the arrangement of their stock in books for each country duly classified, with a proper attention to minor varieties, and (*bien entendu*) to the relative prices—is one that must commend itself to all those collectors who, being philatelists, also desire to see the fullest available knowledge disseminated. We have lately received from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. several volumes of countries thus arranged—amongst them New South Wales, Victoria, and Great Britain. The careful measurement of perforation and general classification bespeak the work of someone who understands his subject; hence these books at once perform the double end of disposing of their owners' wares and of increasing the sum of philatelic knowledge.

No *métier* is an absolute bed of roses, and even a philatelic auctioneer's generally prosperous career has its drawbacks. We have at various times been the recipient of the information that the true basis of auctioneering—*i.e.*, cash down—has not always been carried out to the letter. This is not as it should be; buyers should pay and vendors should receive prompt settlements, or the auctions will certainly be discredited.

The advantages of the Auction as applied to stamps has spread to Paris, for we understand that a sale took place at the well known Salle Drôuot on the 5th of this month. If the prices attained by stamps in any measure correspond to those reached by works of art at this far-famed mart, the French collectors will experience a revelation akin to our own awakening on this side of the Straits.

There has been little to record on auctions during the past month, only two sales having been held—one by Mr. Hadlow and the other by Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co.

Mr. W. Hadlow held his last sale this season on Thursday and Friday, May 12th and 13th, when 520 lots were disposed of at prices which ruled low. The sale, which was mainly comprised of one good collection, included some fine stamps, those that attained the highest prices being:—Great Britain, pair of V.R.'s £16 16s.; New Zealand, 2d., vermilion (lozenge), £2; Tuscany, 60 crazie, £5.

Messrs. Bogert and Hanes have sent us a priced catalogue of their auction of the 29th ultimo, comprising a large quantity of American and Confederate States' adhesives and envelopes, which realised on the average fair prices. A philatelic library was also dispersed, amongst which we notice that the works of the London Philatelic Society found the most favour, "Oceania" realising £1 8s., "British North America" £3 2s. in a bound condition, and "Tasmania" 16s. and "West Indies" £1 12s. unbound. The 12 volumes of the *Philatelic Record* sold at 6s. each, bound in cloth. It appears that the membership of the London Society, which includes the presentation of these works on their appearance, as also this Journal, have a very fair return for their subscriptions.

The 459 lots disposed of at Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co.'s auction, on the 18th and 19th of this month, were largely composed of a fine collection, that included choice lots of unused European and others; it was evident, however, that some of these being "protected," did not change hands. The more noticeable lots were: Naples, cross, £3 15s., arms, £11, both medium; Spain, 1851, 2 reales, unused, slightly "nicked," £10 10s.; the various German stamps, mostly unused, and sold in groups, went for high prices. A Ceylon 8d., unperf. (fair), attained £7 10s., but the two Réunions, 15 and 30 c., failed to reach the high reserve justly placed on them. A fine block of 8 threepenny Natals, two pairs of which were impressed *tête-bêche*, was sold for no less than £26. Amongst other prices were Dominica, first issue, 1 real, black on yellow, £7 10s.; Antioquia, first issue, 2½ c., £8, 5 c., £6; a fine block of 1 real, 1854, Philippine, £10 5s.; Victoria, 4d., beaded oval, rouletted, £5 15s.; West Australia, 2d., chocolate, rouletted, £6, 6d. do., £5 5s. The sale included a large number of Cape and New Zealand Stamps, and presented features of interest in a large proportion of the lots. The attendance was fairly numerous, and the prices, no doubt on the whole, remunerative to the sellers.

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

THE LONDON PHILATELIST will be sent post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of 7s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to our publishers, Messrs. PERKINS BACON & Co., Ltd., 36–40, Whitefriars Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

VOL. I.] JUNE, 1892. [No. 6.

MR. PHILBRICK, Q.C.

A CHANGE of moment that will cause a widespread feeling of regret will be found elsewhere announced, in the *personnel* of the London Philatelic Society. The gentleman whose name appears above having placed his resignation in the hands of the Committee, they had no option, in view of the weighty reasons tendered, but to regretfully accept it. The ex-President of the Society has, in virtue of his many high legal and judicial duties—not to mention other spheres in which he takes a prominent position—so many calls on his time, that he has found himself unable to fully carry out the duties involved in the tenure of the office he held in the London Philatelic Society.

Mr. Philbrick was one of the prime movers in founding the Society, in April, 1869, and in recognition of his great Philatelic abilities, was at once elected Vice-President, which office he held until 1879, when he was unanimously chosen President, and has so remained until last month. Without considering the many other important services Mr. Philbrick has rendered to Philately, his literary work so widely known, his unfailing urbanity and courtesy to all, and the conspicuous ability that perhaps was expected from a gentleman occupying his social status, this fact of his holding continuous office for a period of 23 years from the very foundation of the Philatelic Society, would alone constitute his services as deserving of the highest

gratitude and respect from every member of that body. No more convincing proof that these feelings were entertained by all can be shown than the fact that, at the Annual Meeting, every speaker bore testimony to them, and that the Society, with acclamation, conveyed upon the ex-President the highest honour within its power to bestow—that of an Honorary Life Membership.

We are well assured that Mr. Philbrick will never sever his connection with or lose his love for the Society, whose infant life he watched over with such solicitude, and whose maturer growth he must regard with such a paternal interest. We are therefore entitled as the mouthpiece of the Society in return, to assure him that this consummation is one every member also devoutly wishes for, and that he may be spared for very many years to mingle alike with old friends and new associates.

We welcome also the coming guest, the Earl of Kingston, who succeeds to such a high example, and trust that he will be enabled to help the Society with his courteous as well as frequent presence. The London Philatelic Society has passed its days of tutelage, its upward progress of late years has been rapid, and there are those at the helm who have no intention of leaving it stationary, but with the cordial co-operation of all true Philatelists, do not mean to cease their labours until the Society stands upon an equal basis, and on the same level as other learned or scientific bodies. To attain this laudable aim, the earnest and ungrudging aid of all its officers is a duty that will be expected of them.

THE NATIONAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION.

THE announcement in our last issue that the arrangement of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling's princely collection has now been provided for is one that has elicited a wide-spread feeling of satisfaction in the philatelic world. To the members of the London Society the event is fraught with a high interest. This magnificent bequest, hardly exceeded in point of intrinsic value by any gift to the British Museum during the past century, was a gift to the nation by the late Vice-President of the London Philatelic Society, whose name has been and always will be held in the highest veneration and esteem by all its members, and whose munificence will, we venture to think, reflect a lustre on the London Society for generations to come. Amongst collectors doubtless it always will be cherished under the name of the "Tapling Collection," but the appropriate and obviously fitting title is that which heads this article.

The selection by the trustees of the British Museum of Mr. Edward Denny Bacon as the gentleman whose services are to be utilised in undertaking the enormous work of classification is one that, while it must commend itself to all of our fraternity as the most suitable in every respect, is also—to use a homely adage—another feather in the cap of the London Philatelic Society, at once an acknowledgment of the scientific knowledge and high probity of one of its most

respected members, and in our opinion an acceptance of the position of the Society as a scientific body. This fact, with the Hon. Presidency of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, makes the position of the Philatelic Society of London to-day one of vastly greater dignity and importance, and in our opinion calls for a corresponding effort upon the part of all the members of that body to place it in all respects on a basis worthy of such distinctions.

IT is with the utmost satisfaction that we are enabled to make the announcement that the Philatelic Society of London has taken the most important step of securing a permanent home. A splendid suite of rooms in Effingham House, Arundel Street, W.C., has been selected for the future Head-quarters of the Society. The information reaches us at such an hour as to preclude further present comment, the absence of which, however, we hope in our next issue to fully atone for, and we can only meanwhile tender our hearty congratulations to the London Philatelic Society in having taken a step wise, judicious, and in every way consonant with its membership and reputation.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Austria.—The *Revue Philatélique* has heard of a sheet of the current 3 kr. without the figures in the angles.

3 kr., green (*error*), *no figures of value.*

Azores.—As noted in our columns recently the new issues for Portugal and Colonies are now appearing; nor are they an improvement. Angra, Horta and Ponta Delgada are the three divisions of the Azores, two of which we illustrate.





50 reis,

British North Borneo.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Mr. V. Roberts have shown us a surcharge, accidental of course, that does not surprise us, the normal variety of which was chronicled in our February issue. The former write:—"We

send you enclosed specimens of errors of B. N. Borneo 6c. on 8c., a strip of 3, the centre one of which has the letter "c" of cents reversed. This error does not exist on all the sheets, but only on the last lot that came over, so there must have been at least two separate printings. The error is found on the fourth stamp of the bottom row of the sheet."

A further error is also found on the same sheet, the "t" preceding the "n" in cents.

6 c, black surcharge on 8 c. green, variety, *inverted "c" in cents.*
6 c, „ „ „ „ *cetns.*

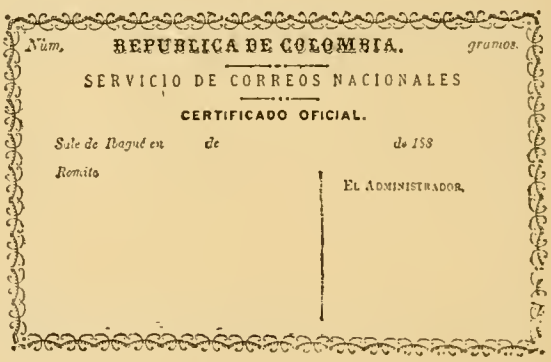
Belgium.—Sundry variations of the lower values of the current issue seem to have been found by various journals, *i.e.*, the 1c., without final "e," the 5c. with *centimés* and other small differences.

Cape of Good Hope.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a 2½d. stamp with the value within a white tablet added in the upper right angle, and the words "Postage 2½ pence" at the base.

2½d., pale brown, wmk. Anchor, perf. 14.

Colombia.—We illustrate the last delightful official invention.

Without expressed value, black on white.



Falkland Islands.—We have the companion value to that noted by us on page 67.

6d., orange-yellow.

Fiji.—Annexed will be found illustrated latest variety of overprint.



Grenada.—St. Thomas was a credulous person compared to our esteemed Belgian contemporary, who evidently "believes nothing that he hears and only half that he sees." Considering that the 6d. orange-vermilion on laid paper passed unchallenged through the hands of some twenty connoisseurs of English Colonial stamps, M. Moen's "humble remark" that the laid lines might be those often found on the edge of the sheet, is thoroughly indicative of the frame of mind conveyed in our last sentence. This is New Zealand 1d. brown *redivivus!* Among the novelty-rubbish that we, in common with other unfortunate editors, are compelled to chronicle, it is possible a mistake may be made, but we never announce a discovery relating to honest genuine ancient issues without in various ways being sure of our *terra firma.*



Imitating the imprints of Trinidad we have the following three values which we illustrate.

Unpaid letter stamps, 1d., black on white, wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.
2d., „ „ „
3d., „ „ „

Great Britain.—Mr. J. H. Anheiser communicates a striking novelty to the *Timbre Poste*, no less than the 10d. brown of July, 1867, with watermark of "heraldic flowers" in lieu of the normal "rose," which he possesses post-marked. Both papers being in concurrent use, the inadvertent use of a sheet may have occurred, despite the rarity of errors in the stamps of our country. On such good authority, however, we chronicle the variety, reserving further remarks until we have a specimen, or are in possession of further details.

10d., brown, 1867 issue, *watermark*, "*heraldic flowers.*"

Hong Kong.—In addition to the two values mentioned in this journal on p. 68, the *Revue Philatélique* has seen the

50 c. on 48 c., violet, *without* Chinese characters.

Holland.—The 1 florin with the young Queen's head has been issued.

1 florin slate-blue.

India (Puttialla).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us what seems a genuine error in the surcharged stamps of this State. It is the one anna of the 1886 issue overprinted "Service" and "Puttialla State" in three lines of block capitals, the former word being twice printed, once normally, and repeated inverted on the lower half of the stamp, the word "State" being directly over it.

1 anna, red-brown, with *double surcharge "Service" (one inverted).*

Italy.—M. Diena calls the attention of the *Timbre Poste* to the fact that the current *timbre taxe*, one lire, has the central figure now in deep red in lieu of brown as formerly.

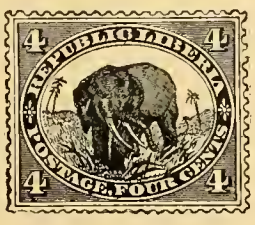
Unpaid letter stamp, 1 lire, blue and *deep red.*

Liberia.—We have been guilty of a zoological outrage, and have to apologise most sincerely to our African friend, the gentle river-horse, for having slandered him him as the ferocious "one-horn"—the rhinocerous. This must have been pure inadvertence, as both graceful quadrupeds have been familiar to us since our earliest, eagerest boyhood—in books—and not in the flesh. We have, however, to thank Dr. Boswell for pointing out our *lapsus cornutus*, as the doctor says:—

"Philatelic zoology has hitherto been correct in what it has taught us of the *habitat* of animals, *vide* the stamps of Tasmania, Guatemala, Canada, Peru, &c. The stamps of Newfoundland show a desire for greater accuracy in *structure*, the artist who depicted the seal with *paws* and *claws*, having, in the latter issue, replaced these by the more correct flappers so familiar to visitors at the Zoo."

We now give illustrations of these beautiful stamps, which seemed to have aroused something like enthusiasm among our foreign contemporaries.























Martinique.—The *Timbre Poste* notes another variety, *i.e.*, the 05 c. on 40 c. of the current type, and the word Martinique on the figure of value.

05 c., black surcharge, on 40 c , vermilion, current type.

Natal.—An interesting variety as a "Resuscitation," was recently recovered by the *Monthly Journal*—to wit—

1d. (1864), wmk. C.C. & Cr., *imperforate.*



New South Wales.—We illustrate the new *grey*, permanent type, noted last month.

Obock.—We remember last year having a dim presentiment that, once euphonious Obock had sipped the philatelic nectar, its libations would be astonishing. We chronicled three varieties of the type of accompanying illustration, and now add the following, without staying to empty the vials of our wrath. The added numerals are in colour, the second illustration shewing the latest accessions.





2 c. on 10 c., violet, surcharged in black and red.
4 c. „ 25 c., rose, „ „
20 c. „ 10 c., violet, „ „ and red.
30 c. „ 10 c., „ „ „ „
35 c. „ 25 c., rose „ „ „

Current types, surcharged in black.

5 c., green.
10 c., violet.
15 c., blue.
25 c., rose.
40 c., vermilion.
1 fc., bronze-green.

Unpaid letter stamps, surcharged in black (as preceding.)

10 c., black.
30 c , „.

The *Timbre Poste*, to whom we are indebted for much of the foregoing, adds the usual official condonation of official pocket inflation !

Panama.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us four values of a new issue on the 1st inst. They are of the map design but delicately engraved from steel dies, the ocean being shaded by fine lines, with fancy side borders. We hope to illustrate them shortly.

New Issue.

1 c., green. perf. 12.
2 c., rose, „
5 c., blue, „
10 c., yellow. „

Paraguay.—There seems to have been some recent surcharges here, but we await further confirmation before acknowledging them.

Peru.—Mr. Stanley Castle has discovered an apparently fresh variety to add to the many already existent. It is the 10 c. blue provisional of 1881, on pelure paper, with the curved black surcharge "Provisional," the date 1881-1882 being in a straight line. The overprint is clearly printed on the reverse side and afterwards gummed over, showing—through the ultra thin paper—reversed in the front of the stamp; it is a used specimen, and undoubtedly genuine.

10 c., blue, 1881, Provisional issue, *surcharged*, in black, *on the reverse side.*

Philippines.—M. Moens corrects an assumption in his recent catalogue that the following stamp was but an essay, having now seen it indubitably used.

Surcharged: Habilitado pa correos de un real.
1 real on 2c., de peso, carmine, black surcharge.

Portugal.—The new issue previously announced in this Journal is now "coming to the front." We have specimens from Mr. Marsden and other correspondents, and illustrate the design which we allude to in this issue under Azores. We have seen so far:—



5 reis, yellow.	25 reis, dark brown.
10 „ puce.	50 „ pale blue.

The editor of the *Monthly Journal* raises a question as to the authenticity of a "current 25 reis in a very pretty pale blue tint which we fancy must be due to some change that has taken place since the stamp was printed," the copy in question bearing date November 19th, and hence at least six months old, still having the original glaze. Our friend will find the same query raised in the *Philatelic Record* for February, 1891, p. 28; the specimen there noted was in our collection; we could see nothing against it, nor have we hitherto gained any further information thereon. Perhaps Mr. Marsden, who is so well up in the stamps of Portugal, can enlighten the darkness that enshrouds both our contemporary and ourselves.

Queensland.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a value that we have not seen hitherto—the 3d. in brown of the current set with head in oval, wmk. and perf. as usual. The colour seems dangerously near that of the 2s. Possibly this latter is withdrawn, or will be.

3d., brown, current type.

Roumania.—The *Illust. Brief. Journal* notes the unpaid letter stamp on a variety of paper. Perf. 13 as heretofore.

Unpaid letter stamp 2 bani, green, on *pale yellow* paper.

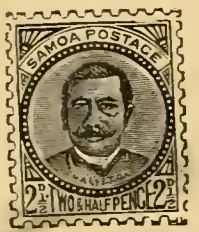
St. Thomas and Prince Island.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write as follows: "We have some of the *Principe*, 50 on 40 reis, post marked 25th June, 1891, which is the date of issue, and not August or September, which was an erroneous surmise on our part. The stamps, of which 180 only are issued, were required for the mail leaving Principe on June 28th. *No stamps were sold to the public*, but on presentation of letters for that mail for which they were specially surcharged, the senders paid the money over the counter, and the postal authorities affixed the stamp already cancelled. We append the order, cut from the *Official Gazette*, authorising their issue, from the S. Thomé *Official Gazette*, dated 27th June, 1891.

[Translation.]

Provincial Postal Administration.

In virtue of orders issued by the Secretary-General's Department, this Administration hereby gives notice, that acting under authority of H. E. the Governor of the Province, and in order to meet the emergency of the Service, telegraphic instructions have been sent to the Postal Administration of Principe to surcharge 40 reis as 50 reis.

Postal Administration, S. Thomé,
23rd June, 1892.



Samoa.—We give an illustration of the stamp described on page 70.

Selangor.—The 5 c. of the tiger type has been sent to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., despite the information of its non-existence on the part of several journals.

5 c., new type, wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

Senegal.—Two more surcharges here *pace* the *Revue Philatélique*. The word Senegal in block capitals traverses the stamp diagonally, and the super-imposed values are added below lying on their sides, *de mauvaise honte!*

75 c., black surcharge, on 15 c., blue, current type.
1 fc, „ 5 c., green, „

Sierra Leone.—As elsewhere noted, Mr. Marsden sends a variety of perforations, surcharged specimen.

1d. pink, wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. 12.

The *Monthly Journal* also notes a

3d. yellow, wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

Straits Settlements.—Our invaluable correspondents, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., write:—"*Re* surcharged Straits Settlements.—The type you illustrate on page 144 is on 8 c. *green*, which is the most recent issue, and the one current at the date of our last advices from Singapore. There is also another you have not yet chronicled, the 1 c. on 4 c., a specimen of which we enclose; we also enclose the 1 c. on 2 c., and the two varieties of 1 c. on 8 c. We have not yet seen the 1 c. on 24 c." The overprint on the 4 cents is similar to those previously described, but that on the 8 c. is in thick block capitals with a heavy bar over the previously existing value, and has a London aspect.



1 c., black surcharge on 4 c., bistre, wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.
1 c., „ 8 c., green, „ „

We illustrate the new type.

Sweden.—The *Monthly Journal* notes the two following varieties:—

Unpaid Letter Stamp: 6 ore, orange, *impression on back.*

Official Stamp: 10 ore on 24 ore, blue and orange, *error of surcharge*—"FR: MARKE."

Tobago.—The fourpenny value has been overprinted, ½ PENNY, a specimen having been shewn to us thus by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

½d., black surcharge on 4d. grey.



Tonga.—We illustrate the recently described surcharge.

Turkey.—We have already noted the 20 paras of the current set, with "imprimé," we now add—

10 paras, green, black surcharge.
1 piastre, blue, „
2 „ ochre, „
5 „ mauve, „



Uruguay.—We append an illustration of the stamp described by us this month.

Zululand.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us specimens of three of the values mentioned last month, the 5d. not having yet appeared. The overprint is in thick block capitals, apparently printed in London.

9d., blue and grey, black surcharge on current English.
1s., green, „ „ „
5s , rose, „ „ „

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Argentine.—The wrapper has its colour changed somewhat, and the word *Impresos* in italic letters larger than hitherto (*T. Poste.*)

2 centavos, *deep mauve, inscription altered.*

Austria.—The *Illust. Brief. Journal* chronicles the current wrappers as under, instead of on chamois.

Wrapper, 2 kr., brown on *white* paper.

Egypt.—A surcharge has appeared on the 2 piastres, in accordance with the new currency.

3 willièmes, black surcharge on 2 piastres, orange.

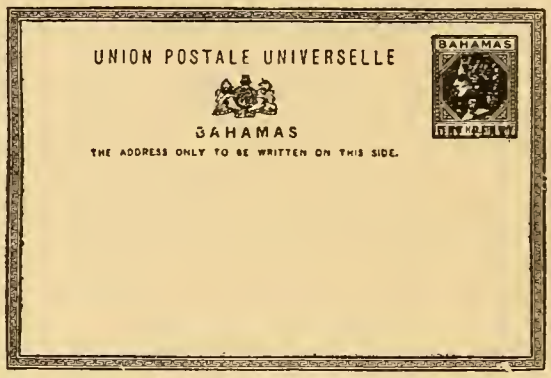
POST AND LETTER CARDS.

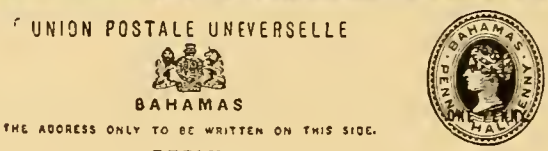
NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Argentine.—The 2 c. letter card has now dotted lines for the address, instead of strokes, the card is thinner, and the perforation is not carried to the outside. (*La Carte Postale.*)

2 c., brown on cream.

Bahamas.—Both single and reply cards have been modified in value for the reduced tariff, in the manner shown by our illustrations. (Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.)





1d., black surcharge, on 1½d., carmine on buff.
1d.+1d. „ 1½d.+1½d., „

Bermudas.—Similar to the single card except for the usual additional inscription has appeared that for the reply.

1½d.+1½d., carmine on buff.

Bulgaria.—The reply card has appeared similar to the single, but in a rather brighter colour. (*Illust. Brief. Journal.*)

10+10 Stotinki, bright red.

Brazil.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 40 and 80 reis cards, with the head of Liberty within a pseudo perforated frame, ensconced amid the usual constellated landscape; the higher value is for the Postal Union, and has the usual French legends.

40 reis, yellow (stamp and inscription), and blue on buff.
80 „ red, „ „ „

Curaçao.—Of the figure type (see p. 73), have appeared the following cards, single and reply (*Timbre Poste*).

2½ cents, green, on sea green.
2½+2½ cents, „ „

Dutch Indies.—From the same source we gather the following of like type, as on p. 109.

5 +5 cents, blue on blue.
7½+7½ cents, rose on rose.

Holland.—The type with the young queen's head to *right* was issued early last month.

5 c., blue on blue (reverse white.)

Also an official card which we will illustrate next month. Without expressed value, black on rose.

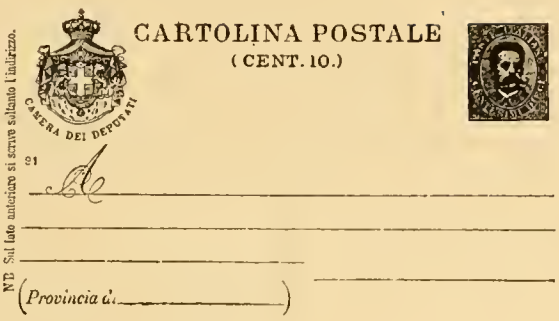


To

India.—We illustrate the official card noted on p. 110.

Italy.—As will be seen from the accompanying illustration, certain alterations have taken place in this Parliamentary Privileged Communication, the flags having disappeared, and the crown appearing in a new guise.

Official card, 10 centimes, red on straw.



Monaco.—The letter card of the new type is now in issue.

25 cents, green on rose.

New South Wales.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us an apparently provisionally issued card on white.

1d., mauve on *white*.

Obock.—The following have appeared here for the Obockese writers! The surcharge is curved as in the first issue of stamps. (*T. Poste*)

10 cents, black surcharge on violet.
10+10 „ „ „ „ pale blue.
15 „ blue „ „ grey.

Letter Cards.

15+15 „ black „ „ rose.

Portugal.—Mr. Marsden informs us of a card of the new type with the stamp on the left.

10 reis purple-brown on buff (?).

Roumania.—A new letter-card with a 5 bani stamp of the current type has been issued, says the *Revue Philatélique*.

Letter Card, 5 bani, black on pearl grey.

Siam.—The *Monthly Journal* has noted two varieties of the overprint on the 4 atts on 1 att; the surcharge in one case being smaller.

4 atts on 1 att red on yellow *variety of surcharge*.

Kedah in the province of Wellesley in the Straits Settlements, and a tributary of Siam has burst upon the Philatelic horizon by inscribing its name on the reply card, according to the same authority.

4+4 atts, carmine on chamois, *surcharged Kedah*.

Tobago.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write: "We are sending you specimens of two provisional Tobago cards, ½d. on 1½d. and 1d. on 1½d. There were printed 3,000 of the surcharged stamps and 500 of each of the cards. Our correspondent writes that none of the stamps or cards were used for postage or sent out of the Island, the whole were bought up, and, *we believe*, entirely by officials or their relatives, who are asking 3s. each for the stamps and 6s. a pair for the cards. Now we should like to know what these provisionals were made for; certainly not for legitimate use. They do not even appear to have been put on sale publicly at the post office."

This surcharge is vertical, in black capitals reading upwards: "half-penny" and "one penny."

½d. on 1½d., brown on buff, current type.
1d. „ „ „ „ „

Stamps of the Transvaal.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

A Paper Read Before the Philatelic Society, London, 20th May, 1892.

THERE are so many interesting questions connected with the study of the earlier issues of the postage stamps of the Transvaal, that I feel sure no excuse will be needed for even the fragmentary contribution which I have to offer. Many of these questions that await a settlement depend for their solution upon an examination of entire sheets, and as I have recently had the opportunity of examining several entire sheets I tender my notes thereon as a small instalment in the study of the postal issues of a country of fascinating philatelic interest.

The sheets which I have examined, and to which I now exclusively refer, are :—

1. The One penny, red, of July, 1877, on thick coarse paper, surcharged "V. R. TRANSVAAL" in capitals.

2. The One penny, red on orange, of 1875, surcharged "V. R. Transvaal" in capitals and small letters, and

3. Several large blocks, but no entire sheets, of the sixpenny pelure of 1875, unsurcharged.

According to Major Evans's excellent Catalogue, the varieties to be met with in the 1877 issue, are :—

(*a*) Inverted surcharge.

(*b*) Double surcharge.

(*c*) No stop after R of "V. R."

(*d*) No stop after "Transvaal"

(*e*) Inverted A for V in "TRANSVAAL."

I have not come across any of these varieties in the eight sheets that I have examined. I have looked particularly for the inverted A for V in "TRANSVAAL," but have never yet found the real Simon Pure. These varieties noted by Major Evans are probably to be found on sheets from another and more faulty setting up of the types of the surcharge.

Most of the sheets examined by me, however, present a notable peculiarity. They are fine rouletted all round the outer edge of the sheet, and I venture to suggest that this was done for the purpose of removing the surplus marginal paper ; for the rouletting, in no case, has been continued into the sheet, for the separation of the individual stamps. One or two sheets are imperforate, except on the right or left-hand edge of the pane, which has been wide rouletted, evidently for the purpose of severing it from an adjoining horizontal pane or sheet. I believe it has been the custom to speak of the early Transvaals as having been printed in sheets of 40 stamps made up of five horizontal rows of eight stamps. But two of the sheets I have

examined have each a portion of another sheet attached, thus proving that some, if not all, the stamps, were printed in two horizontal panes, or sheets, of 40 stamps each. This peculiar use of the roulette will probably account for the varieties catalogued as rouletted vertically and imperforate horizontally, and *vice versâ;* for, of course, stamps severed from the top of the sheet would be rouletted horizontally and imperforate vertically, and those severed from the sides of the sheet would be rouletted vertically and imperforate horizontally. It would also account for the many single labels found showing the roulette on the top, or bottom, or on one side, but otherwise imperforate.

The sheets of these stamps exhibit in a remarkable degree the eccentricities of the local printers. On the same sheet are to be found impressions so blotchy as to render the design almost undecipherable, side by side with stamps printed with commendable clearness. The fault lay in the uneven distribution of the ink on the rollers of the printing machine.

Of the 1877-78 issue, surcharged "V.R. Transvaal," in capitals and small letters, the design printed in colour on coloured paper, Major Evans chronicles the following varieties :—

(*a*) Surcharge inverted.
(*b*) "Transvral" for "Transvaal."
(*c*) No stop after V of V.R.
(*d*) No stop after R of V.R.
(*e*) Stop before R of V.R. instead of after it.
(*f*) No stop after V of V.R. and the letters closer together.
(*g*) No stop after V or R and the letters closer together.

I have not met with any inverted surcharge on the half-dozen sheets of the penny red on orange to which my opportunities of examination have been confined in this issue, nor the error "Transvral" for "Transvaal," which I believe has been met with only in the penny red on blue. But I am able to do something towards locating the minor varieties of types with omitted stops. In the sheets examined by me the positions of these omissions have been as follows, the omission occurring in every case in the stamps of the top row only :—

One sheet with 20 stamps of the adjoining horizontal pane, attached, shows the omission of the stop after V. of V. R. on the top right hand stamp of the left-hand pane, whilst in the right-hand pane there is no stop after V or R of the V.R. on the right hand corner stamp of the top row.

Another sheet shows the omission of the stop after V of V.R. on both the right and left hand corner stamps of the top row.

Another sheet shows the omission of the stop after V and R of V.R. on the right hand stamp of the top row.

Another sheet shows the stop omitted after V of V.R. on the left-hand stamp of the top row.

From the stamps that I have measured, I am inclined to doubt the existence of variety (*c*), that is to say, of the letters V and R separated by exactly the same amount of space as if the stop were in its place. Indeed, it seems but natural that when the compositor forgot to drop in the stop, the letters, V and R, would, for lack of the little bit of separating type, be that much closer together. As a matter of fact, that is so in all the specimens I have measured. The letters V. R. are about a sixteenth of an inch closer together when the stop is omitted, and this fact will help to determine all cases of doubt between defective printing and the actual omitted stop.

The pairs of inverted surcharges, vertical and horizontal, which I have in my own collection, lead me to believe that what we term an "inverted surcharge" is really the result of an inverted sheet. That is to say, the inverted surcharge is not due to occasional types having been dropped into their places inverted, but to the sheet having been passed, upside down, into the machine for the overprinting of the surcharge. If I am wrong in this supposition, pairs will be found with surcharge *tête bêche*. I have not seen one. On the other hand, perhaps the collection of some fortunate collector of Transvaals is gemmed with a sheet of inverted surcharges!

The sheets of the one penny, red on orange, were, with one exception, all of Roman V.R type. The one exception was a mixture. The top row and the five left hand stamps of the second row were of the Roman V.R. type. The remaining stamps of the sheet had the Italic *V.R.* The following diagram will more clearly show the position of the two types :—

V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal

This diagram will also be interesting as showing in what combinations genuine pairs of two types are to be found. It will be noted that the Roman V.R. will always be the top stamp of a vertical pair, and that each sheet yields three vertical pairs of two types of the V.R. and one horizontal pair only of the two types.

Of the sixpenny pelure of 1875, unsurcharged series, I have only been able to examine a few large blocks. But one of these was interesting as locating a stamp *tête bêche*. The block shows the five stamps unsevered composing the first vertical row of the sheet. The fourth stamp from the top was turned topsy turvey in the process of laying the transfer on the stone for lithographing.

Some Remarks on the Triangular Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope.

By EMIL TAMSEN.

I WAS very agreeably surprised when the first number of the London Philatelist reached me, to find Mr. Bacon's article, "Some Official Information on the Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope," as it contained just the matter which I had been looking for for years, and had been unable to unearth owing mostly to my living in such an out-of-the-way place and my inability to spend some time in Cape Town. I have tried to induce collectors residing in the Colony to search the *Government Gazette*, but they all gave it up as too tedious a task, which undoubtedly it is. The thanks of the whole philatelic world are due to Mr. Bacon for the great trouble which it undoubtedly has cost him to collect the above mentioned information.

Mr. Bacon calls for the co-operation of the Society's members residing in the Colony. Although I live in the Transvaal, I may here state that I have made the stamps of South Africa my special study for the last ten years, and I fancy I know about as much of them as any other collector. I see that certain points are not yet fully explained, and I herewith wish to draw attention to them, with a view of getting them settled.

The Woodblocks.—First we find that the sheet of each of the two values was composed of 64 stamps, a rather peculiar number. Previous to this, I do not think any collector had an idea that the size was so large, and this also accounts for my finding it impossible to make up large blocks which I tried to do with a fair quantity of the blue stamps. Had I at that time known the size of the sheet, I would not have attempted it at all, because it is a very difficult matter to find 64 varieties in these stamps, and I have been under the impression that there were as many types as stamps on the sheet. The second and more difficult point is, Mr. Bacon states it as his opinion that lithographic transfers were made from the two engraved wooden dies; and on this point I desire to make some remarks. I know nothing of the lithographic process nor of type printing, or of electrotypes, having never seen either one or the other, as I have never chanced out here to come across an expert in these matters. What I do know I have found out entirely through studying Philatelic literature, and I am under the impression that a lithographic transfer must always give exactly the same type, a variation being impossible. To create such, it would be necessary to specially alter some of the impressions on the stone. If this is correct, how does the error of the 4 p. in the 1 p., and the 1 p. in the 4 p. plate occur; how is the error No. 7 of the illustration (defective right-hand corner) accounted for; and how is it that the stamps vary in size? (I may here remark that there are also other undoubted varieties, although not so very pronounced as the above.) I do not now consider the stamps in which the background between the arms of the anchor is more or less white as varieties, till the question of their production by this or that process is settled.

I enclose four stamps which show at once that they could not have been produced by a lithographic process, but that they were impressed by wood or metal, the lettering and part of the figure of Hope stand out quite distinct above the paper, whereas a lithographic impression is supposed to be quite smooth, the design is neither sunken nor raised above the surface of the paper.

In looking carefully through some forty of these stamps in my collection, I find that only a few have this pronounced distinction, and that these are apparently the first state of the plate, whereas the others could be called lithographs, and for all I know are perhaps such; the lettering has increased in thickness, small openings in some letters have disappeared and now look solid, the outlines of the figure begin to disappear, &c. A few weeks ago I had a couple of the *reprints* in my hands. They were sent to me for my opinion by collectors living in the Colony, and these stamps also look more like lithographs than if printed from wood or metal. This brings me to the idea, could it not be possible that at first the wooden dies in a smaller quantity than 64 were used to print from, and that afterwards lithography was resorted to to meet an increased demand?

My reasons for this opinion are:—

(1) The general opinion of all Philatelic writers on this subject up to now is that the stamps were printed from wooden dies.

(2) The pronounced state of the enclosed four specimens as not having been produced by lithography.

(3) The different types and the errors could not have occurred if all were lithographed.

(4) That the demand was larger than expected, so that the process of printing from the wooden dies, being perhaps only a dozen or even less, could not keep up with the supply required.

The proofs for 1 and 2 most collectors can look up themselves, for 3 I would remark that I have seen it mentioned that only the first sheets contained the errors of the 4 p. in the 1 p., and the 1 p. in the 4 p. plate, and that this mistake was found out, and that the matter was rectified by taking out the *wrong blocks* and placing them correctly. Could this be done by lithography? Does this not seem to prove that at first a number of sheets were printed from wood blocks? May this alteration not have taken place when the lithographic process was adopted? The scarcity of the two errors point to this having been the most likely course pursued. A further question—How many good impressions would a printer be able to take from wooden dies? I am under the impression that wood wears very quickly, the fine lines going first; however, I cannot detect a very great wear in these stamps, the impressions being more or less clear in all shades of the originals, and also in the reprints, as far as I remember at the moment.

Point 4.—Mr. Bacon suggests that only one printing was probably required; I, however, believe that there is no doubt that these stamps were also used in other parts of the Colony besides Cape Town. I know, for instance, in Port Elizabeth, the second largest town in the Colony, and I do think that one printing would have been insufficient to supply wants. A further proof of this may be seen in the various shades (at least five distinctly different shades of the blue stamps are known), and we can expect that for each printing sufficient ink of a certain colour was on hand. This would give alone five different editions. This reasoning is, I think, better than saying that the printers had mixed five different shades for *one* printing only. Further, the large quantity of these stamps which were at one time alone in the hands of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, whereby they were enabled to sell them by the gross!! and to offer them in *any*

quantity, and that at a time when but very few people collected stamps, especially in the Colony, remembering that the stamps were made to supply local wants for interior postage, and not likely to be used for ship letters. Further, according to the dates given by Mr. Bacon, we find in taking the 15th April, 1861, as the date of their issue, and the 1st of April, 1861, as the date the new supply of engraved stamps were sent out to the Colony by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and allowing five to six weeks for time of transit (if sent by Mail steamer, of which we have no evidence as yet), we find that these provisional stamps would have had at least a circulation of four weeks and more, and I maintain that one supply would have been insufficient to meet the demand for the 1 p. and 4 p. values (especially the latter) considering that no other small values, such as ½ p., 2 p., or 3 p., a combination which could have been used instead of the 4 p. value, were then in existence. Or it may have been that the supply of engraved stamps from England was expected sooner, and when it did not arrive at the time expected, or, perhaps, no advice was received as to when it was likely to arrive, that the authorities then only adopted lithographic multiplication to enable a quicker supply to be produced to meet the demand which may have then been more urgent than ever before.

As to the different types, I cannot say anything now, as it is necessary that the question, *if printed by lithography or from wooden dies*, be settled first, so as to enable one to class them, and I would suggest that Mr. Bacon then took the matter, *re* types up, because he can obtain a larger quantity of specimens from the members of the Society and from dealers, for comparison than I, and can always get an expert's opinion at a moment's notice, an impossible thing out here in the Transvaal.

At the same time a study of the paper itself on which the stamps are printed would be of value so as to settle the question of *laid* only or *laid* and *wove*. I enclose four specimens, the paper of which does not appear to me to be laid, although one stamp has some faint lines on the one side.

To be able to make up a correct sheet of the originals I have several times written to the Postmaster-General in Cape Town to sell me at any price a complete sheet of each value of the reprints, but I was always informed that this was impossible, as the stamps were only printed to be used for exchange with foreign Governments, and that none could be supplied to collectors, not even for the purpose I mentioned; since then I found that other collectors had copies of the reprints in their possession, and I have again taken the correspondence up, and have asked for the loan of the sheets, but up to the date of writing I have no reply to this proposal. Now, what I as a collector cannot succeed in getting, the Philatelic Society of London may have a better chance of procuring, and I suggest that they make an attempt, and, if successful, take a photographic enlargement of each sheet, for a copy of which I would be very thankful, and no doubt other collectors would also.

(To be continued.)

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

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Dr. Kalckhoff.
W. Krapp, Esq.
J. N. Keynes, Esq.
H. Kropf, Esq.
F. G. Lundy, Esq.
A. Ludwig, Esq.
A. Lyall, Esq.
C. J. Lambert, Esq.
C. Lindenberg, Esq.
E. C. Luard, Esq.
J. B. Moens, Esq.
W. Matthews, Esq.
Dr. Michelsen.
D. F. Mackenzie, Esq.
T. Maycock, Esq.
R. Meyer, Esq.
Capt. Myers.
J. N. Marsden, Esq.
Dr. Mallman.
G. A. Meyer, Esq.
C. Nevill, Esq.
T. Notthaft, Esq.
G. B. Nicholl, Esq.
E. J. Nankivell, Esq.
Capt. Norris.
T. G. Nicholson, Esq.
J. A. Nix, Esq.
G. F. Napier, Esq.
Capt. Ord, Esq.
F.A.Philbrick,Esq.,Q.C.
G. S. Perkyns, Esq.
R. Pearce, Esq.
A. Passer, Esq.
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F. M. Rigge, Esq.
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L. Rodet, Esq.
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W. Silk, Esq.
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W. Strohmeyer, Esq.
P. Stroehlin, Esq.
P. J. Thorpe, Esq.
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H. H. Townsend, Esq.
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Dr. R. S. Taylor.
T. Vasmer, Esq.
Rev. W. N. Usher.
F. C. Van Duzer, Esq.
Dr. Viner.
A. H. Wilson, Esq.
W. T. Wilson, Esq.
W. A. S. Westoby, Esq.
W. E. Williams, Esq.
A. de Worms, Esq.
G. Whitfield, Esq.
F. West, Esq.
J. Walker, Esq.
A. E. L. Westaway, Esq.
H. Wright, Esq.
E. H. Watts, Esq.
W. T. Willett, Esq.
E. F. Weber, Esq.
Martin Wears, Esq.
E. L. Waterlow, Esq.
H. Winkman, Esq.

THE Sixteenth Meeting of the Season 1891-92, being the Annual General Meeting of the Society, was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet Street, on Friday, the 20th May, 1892, at 7.30 p.m. In addition to the Vice-President (in the chair) the meeting was attended by the following members:—A. W. Chambers, C. J. Lambert, E. D. Bacon, T. Notthafft, C. N. Biggs, W. W. Blest, T. Maycock, F. Ransom, R. Meyer, A. A. Davis, E. Stanley Gibbons, W. Silk, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, Hastings E. Wright, J. A. Tilleard, and Douglas Garth.

The Vice-President having taken the chair the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. R. Ehrenbach, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by the Secretary; Dr. Alexander Boswell, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary; Mr. W. Winkman (of Moscow), proposed by Mr. Siewert, and seconded by the Secretary; and Dr. Stanley Taylor, proposed by Mr. Gibbons, and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society.

The Secretary then read his report on the results of the Society's business and the events of the season, in which he referred, amongst other things, to the important step taken by the Secretary in the publication of its own journal, and drew attention to the fact that there had been a net increase of forty members in the elections to membership of the Society as compared with a net increase of eleven members in the previous year. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Secretary for his services, and the report was directed to be entered upon the minutes.

Some discussion ensued in reference to the question of the place of meeting for the next season, and upon the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Pearce, the question was referred for consideration to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and Mr. Nankivell. The result of their deliberations to be reported at a special meeting of the Society, to be held when the Sub-Committee were in a position to make their report.

The Treasurer presented his annual balance-sheet which had been duly audited, and congratulated the Society upon its satisfactory financial position, and on the motion of Mr. Creeke, seconded by Mr. Gibbons, it was resolved: "That the balance-sheet be adopted and printed and circulated amongst the members, and that a vote of thanks be accorded to the Treasurer and the Auditors for their services." A question having been raised in regard to the proper mode of dealing with moneys received from members who under the statutes had commuted their subscriptions, it was resolved upon the motion of Mr. Chambers, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, "That all commuted subscriptions be placed to a reserve fund, and that the Treasurer be empowered to invest the whole or any part of the moneys standing to the credit of such reserve fund."

On the consideration of the election of officers for the ensuing season the Secretary read a letter from Mr. Philbrick, expressing an opinion that the time had come for his retirement from the office of President of the Society, and upon the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Gibbons, it was resolved, "That this meeting in deferring to the wishes of the President to retire from the office which he had so long occupied, desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered by him to the Society, and to beg his acceptance of honorary membership of the Society." Both the mover and seconder of the resolution referred in fitting terms to Mr. Philbrick's services, and to the great distinction with which he had served the office of President of the Society. The Vice-President also called attention to the fact that the burden of founding and upholding the Society in its early days, and in raising it to its present position had been borne to a very large extent by Mr. Philbrick, to whom, as one of the pioneers of philately, a debt of gratitude was owed by the Society, and expressed the opinion that the labours of the President in the past were such as to confer a permanent benefit upon all Philatelists. Mr. Bacon in endorsing the general opinion of satisfaction in regard to Mr. Philbrick's services expressed the hope that notwithstanding his retirement from office he might still continue to give the Society the benefit of his assistance and occasional attendance at the meetings. On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by the Vice-President, the Earl of Kingston was elected President of the Society for the ensuing season, and on the motion of Mr. Chambers,

seconded by Mr. Meyer, Mr. Castle was elected as Vice-President. The following members were, on the motion of Mr. Ransom, seconded by Mr. Pearce, elected to serve on the Committee with the President and Vice-President, viz.:—Mr. Bacon, Mr. Biggs, Mr. A. W. Chambers, Major Evans, Mr. Garth, Mr. Maycock, and Mr. Tilleard.

Mr. Nankivell then read a paper upon the early surcharged issues of the stamps of the Transvaal.

Upon the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by the Vice-President, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Nankivell for his paper which, with his consent, was proposed to be published in the London Philatelist. The Vice-President called attention to the work which had been done by the Philatelic Protection Association, and to the benefits conferred upon philately by the prosecutions which had been undertaken by the Association, and moved "That a donation of ten guineas be made by the Society towards the funds of the Association, in appreciation of its efforts in the true interests of Philately." The motion having been seconded by the Assistant-Secretary was carried unanimously, and the Treasurer was authorised to forward the donation to the Secretary of the Association. Mr. Nankivell explained the position of affairs in connection with the publication of the London Philatelist.

In the course of the evening Mr. Blest showed a magnificent unsevered pair of the 1d. (error) and 4d. blue wood blocks of the Cape of Good Hope. Mr. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Limited), also sent for inspection a block of the 6d. unsurcharged stamps of the Transvaal on pelure paper, with one variety, *tête bêche*, and also a specimen of the 3d. stamp of the same country printed on wide laid paper, but in the absence of further information the authenticity of the latter stamp was somewhat doubted by the members present.

The date of the first meeting for the ensuing season was fixed for Friday, the 30th September next.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Honorary President: BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: M. P. CASTLE, Esq. *Vice-President:* J. H. REDMAN, Esq.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: W. T. WILLETT, Esq.

A. DE WORMS, Esq.	J. W. GILLESPIE, Esq.
H. STAFFORD SMITH, Esq.	J. H. ESCOLME, Esq.

THE Eleventh Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, May 9th, at 7.45 p.m. The following members attended, Messrs. M. P. Castle, H. Stafford Smith, H. W. Armitage, J. E. Cockburn, Rev. E. H. Rogers, R. J. Thrupp, R. J. Woodman, A. de Worms, S. M. Castle, W. T. Willett, and one visitor, Mr. J. A. Tilleard. The President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President in welcoming Mr. Tilleard to the meeting as a visitor, referred to the useful work he had done in the interests of Philately, and especially with regard to the London Exhibition in May, 1890. The question of the Society subscribing to the London Philatelist was considered, and after due discussion it was resolved, "That in the opinion of this Society it is strongly desirable that all its members should subscribe

to the London Philatelist, the Monthly Journal of the Philatic Society of London. Arrangements were made for drawing up reference lists of the stamps of the British Possessions in Europe, and it was decided to commence next season.

The Twelfth Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, May 23rd, at 7.45 p.m. Present:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. H. Redman, H. W. Armitage, J. W. Gillespie, A. H. Thomas, R. J. Woodman, R. J. Thrupp, W. T. Willett, and one visitor, Mr. W. H. G. Cruttwell. The President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported that in reply to his circular containing a copy of the resolution passed at the last meeting urging members to subscribe to the London Philatelist, a large proportion of members had forwarded subscriptions in addition to those who had already subscribed. The President exhibited his magnificent collection of New Zealand, and considerable interest was afforded by the inspection of the numerous varieties of unofficial perforations, and the number of shades which it contained, the rarest stamps being the 6d. N.Z. rouletted, the 2d. vermilion lozenge unused; he also alluded to the two recently chronicled varieties, the 3d. pelure and 1d. brown (N.Z.). The President's remarks tended to show that the relative dates of the blue paper issue and the star imperf. series were still open to conjecture. He also mentioned the great difficulty in getting a full collection, as in his opinion it was one of the most difficult countries to complete used and unused.

(The next meeting will be held on the second Monday in October).

THE WELSH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

IN accordance with a circular issued, a meeting of collectors was held at 102, Hamilton Terrace, Swansea, on May 17th. It was unanimously agreed to form a Philatelic Society, and the following gentlemen were elected as the first officers:—

President: W. SCOTT, Esq.

Vice-Presidents: S. R. GOLD, Esq., & E. H. WATTS, Esq., Jr.

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: J. RUTHEN, Esq., Jr.

Assistant Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: W. J. HOPKINS, Esq.

Committee:

IVOR DAVIES, Esq. | W. KERSLAKE, Esq.
R. WILLIAMS, Esq. | V. E. BRUKESWICK, Esq.
HUGH TAYLOR, Esq. | A. G. E. DRIVER, Esq.

W. J. TROUNCE, Esq.

Letters of apology were read from several gentlemen residing in South Wales, regretting inability to attend owing to inconvenient train service, &c., but signifying their intention of joining the Society. The Hon. Sec. read a set of bye-laws which he had drawn up, and which having been discussed and amended were on the proposition of Mr. Gold unanimously adopted.

It was resolved that a meeting should be held at an early date in Cardiff if possible. Special attention was drawn as to the library, and it was decided to make the same as complete as possible.

The rest of the evening was spent in examining the stamps and postcards of the Secretary, his unused sets and errors being much admired.

W. J. Hopkins, *Hon. Assistant Sec.*

Correspondence.

THE 4d. NO WATERMARK NEW ZEALAND.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

SIR,—There does not seem to be any "Answers to Correspondents" in the LONDON PHILATELIST, to which I subscribe, and I thought I would ask you if you would be kind enough to tell me if the N.Z. 4d. orange-yellow, perf. 12½ (irregularly), was ever in use.

I have just got the *3me livraison* of Moens' Catalogue, and find no mention of it therein.

It is admitted in S. Gibbons, but not quoted *used*, and is numbered 59.

Yours truly,

W. G.

[We do not have "Answers to Correspondents;" our space can be better filled, as 99 per cent. of the ordinary replies are of no interest to anyone but the questioner, and the 1 per cent. cannot be better served than by the insertion of the query in full, with the hope that it may elicit the information. That certain of the N. Zealand stamps have been reprinted in limited quantities, is our firm opinion, the 2d. vermilion and 4d. yellow without watermark, being possibly among them; we have never seen the latter used, and should be glad to hear from other collectors hereon, with a view to further comments.—ED.]

SHANGHAI STAMPS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—May I, through your columns, be allowed to ask collectors and dealers if they will kindly let me see any Shanghai 1st issue stamps they may have, especially used ones, and if possible on their original envelopes, as well as give me any information, official if possible, of their issue, mode of printing, &c., &c., for the purpose of an article on the 1st issue of this country, about which so little appears to me to be known.

Yours, very truly,

Castle Cosey, Castle Bellingham, Ireland. June 9th, 1892.

W. B. THORNHILL.

GREAT BRITAIN, ISSUE APRIL, 1881.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

Lisbon, 4th June, 1892.

DEAR SIR,—I have noticed the correspondence that has been going on in your columns regarding the above issue, marked "specimen" and perf. 12. I enclose a one penny, Sierra Leone, carmine-pink, wmk. C.A. & Crown, also marked "specimen" and perf. 12. The existence of this stamp may help to elucidate the mystery or *raison d'être* of the similarly perforated English stamps.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

J. N. MARSDEN.

[The stamp enclosed is the 1d. pink, wmk. C.A. & Cr., undoubtedly perf. 12; experimentally?—ED.]

Occasional Notes.

THE arrangements for the forthcoming Paris Philatelic Exhibition seem progressing satisfactorily, despite some little tendency to hold aloof on the part of certain well-known and largely respected firms.

* * *

THE exact date is not yet fixed, but is to be between the 15th September and the 15th October, lasting for fifteen to twenty days. If the Exhibition opens, say on the 1st October, and remains so for a fortnight, with the apparently elaborate and satisfactory precautions taken by the committee against damage to the *objets exposés*, there can hardly be any risk in sending the very finest things to delight the gaze of an envious Philatelic world. *Avancez* M. M. Ph. von Ferrary et le Dr. Legrand!

* * *

THERE are some dangerous forgeries of the Swiss cantonal stamps about, of a fresh manufacture to meet the modern requirements of an enterprising dealer. Collectors are forewarned, and as the *facsimile* types of the real stamps are so early obtainable, it will be their own fault if they are deceived.

* * *

WE hear that a Bremen dealer has issued a set of the 16 varieties of the *ci-devant* stamps of his town, with the exception of the word "Falsch," most dangerously like the genuine article. We wonder the German Postal Authorities do not promptly stop all these colour printed "imitations," whether at Leipzig, Bremen, or elsewhere.

* * *

HERR C. LINDENBERG, a member of the London Philatelic Society, the well-known President of the Berlin Philatelisten Club, has been long engaged in the examination of a large number of the octagonal Prussian Envelope, with a view mainly to determine the question of the Plate numerals, and at the same time to give a history of their several uses and abuses. The result of Mr. Lindenberg's patient and scientific analysis has now been presented in the columns of the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*. The papers are in the highest degree interesting, and worthy of the illustrious position held by their author in the ranks of European Philatelists.

* * *

WE understand that the arrangements for the proper exposition of the National Philatelic Collection have commenced at the British Museum in the shape of unpacking and getting things arranged, a work which will alone occupy a considerable time. The collection is put under the charge of Dr. R. Garnett, the Keeper of the Department of Printed Books, Maps, &c., and the Principal Librarian and Secretary, Mr. E. Maunde Thompson, the latter gentleman having made the arrangements with Mr. E. D. Bacon according to terms agreed upon by the Trustees at one of their meetings.

The Philatelic Market.

The announcement of the liquidation of a well-known firm of Philatelic auctioneers, has been conveyed to us. As the pioneer of the modern revival, in this country, of this system for the disposal of postage stamps, we cannot but express our regret that so favourable a start has not been productive of a more lengthened career.

An auction was held at the Scottish metropolis, on the 11th June, by Messrs. James H. Smith & Co., a firm that has on a previous occasion, some years since, dispersed a collection of postage stamps by the auctioneer's hammer. The 629 lots offered for sale comprised apparently a good few wholesale lots, nor were there any especial varieties submitted that call for particular comment. We understand that there was a fair attendance, and that on the whole satisfactory results were obtained.

We have from the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. two catalogues of auctions held on the 4th and

5th, and the 18th and 19th ultimo. The former comprised the contents of the collection of Mr. D. Proskey, of Paterson, N.J., and included New York, 1843, 3c., blue (£6); 3c., green (£9), and many other good American, adhesives, locals, and envelopes. Among the Confederates were noticeable a pair of St. Petersburg on the envelope (£6); a 5c., Macon (£3 8s.); and a Nashville, 5c., carmine (£3). Among the "Foreign" lots we note some good Bremen, Colombia and Canadas; Dominican Republic, 1r. green, 1862 (£5 8s.); New Brunswick, Connell (£20), and various good English Colonial Stamps. The total realised was slightly over £600 for the 1,141 lots.

The second sale was mainly the the property of Mr. C. Moreau, of New York. Interesting lots sold, were New Haven, 1845, envelope, 5c., red reprint, signed by E. Mitchell, Postmaster (£6 5s.); New York, 1843, 3c., blue (£6 8s.); St. Louis, 10c., black, Die C (£14 5s.); U.S. 1856, 30c., orange, used, imperf., and fine (£7 16s.); and a large quantity of other U.S. envelopes, locals and fiscals, which attained very good prices. Among the "Foreign" lots 2 diagonally halved 3d., New Brunswick, with other stamps making 7½d. postage letters, realised over £6 each, and some 13 Sydney Views averaged over 30s. a piece, while a very fine 5s. Victoria, of 1868, attained the big price of £7 2s. 6d., and a strip of 3 Too-lates unsevered and very fine sold for no less than £25. A total was realised of £600 for 936 lots.

Another auction was held at Paris by M. Sarrus, on the 11th of this month, as the system seems to have "caught on," but we have as yet no record of the prices attained.

Mr. M. Giwelb has removed from his old quarters in Leicester Square to new ones in 188, Piccadilly. The new premises are certainly well adapted for their requirements, and with Mr. Giwelb's well-known courtesy and valuable stock he should have every reason to congratulate himself upon this new venture. They are the lightest Philatelic Show Rooms that we have ever seen, and the situation is the best part of Piccadilly.

That Philatelic enterprise is not confined to European or English-speaking races is once more shown by the following excerpt from the *Times of India*, published at Bombay:—

"We recently had an opportunity of inspecting the extensive stock of postage and other stamps, postcards, &c., of N. D. Botliwala & Co., of Abdool Rehmon Street. The collection is a very costly one, and possibly the finest in India. From an insignificant beginning in 1883 the business has grown most extensively, and Mr. Botliwala has agents in all parts of the world, as may be seen from his voluminous correspondence with them and numerous dealers and exchangers. His specimen album contains nearly 7,000 specimens of stamps, many of them being very rare and of great value. The stock comprises all the rarest kinds of Native State stamps, many of them from comparatively unknown regions. Mr. Botliwala has a large demand for native Indian stamps from constituents in England, America, and Australia especially. He publishes a very good list of his extensive stock, which he sells or exchanges to suit the convenience of his clients."

A feature that in our experience is novel was presented in a catalogue of general effects that recently reached our hands. The hour of commencing the sale being, say 12 o'clock, the number of the lot arrived at at the end of each succeeding hour was noted. The advantages of this system are obvious, as nothing is more wearisome than a continuous attendance at a sale where the *desiderata*, from a collector's point of view, are few and far between.

At the conclusion of the "season," as regards the auctioneer's rostrum, we venture to again urge upon those who have the conduct of these sales the extreme advisability of more accurate description of the lots sold. Unless implicit reliance is to be placed in the described condition of the stamps, buyers from a distance are practically shut out from competition. The extra care involved in this would be quickly repaid to the sellers in the guise of better bids, and we venture to submit respectfully that with the not inconsiderable commission of 15 per cent, this little extra attention should be reasonably anticipated.

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

THE LONDON PHILATELIST will be sent post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of 7s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to our publishers, Messrs. PERKINS BACON & Co., Ltd., 36-40, Whitefriars Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

VOL. I.] JULY, 1892. [No. 7.

THE NEW HOME OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE important step taken by the London Society, briefly foreshadowed in our last issue, is one that will, without doubt, commend itself to all well-wishers of the pursuit, as being in thorough unison with the position and aims of the *doyen* of Philately. The march of events in Philately, as in all else, has been accelerated at this "century end"—the effect of the recent Jubilee Exhibition, the election of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh to the Honorary Presidency of the Society, and the bequest of a National Collection of Postage Stamps to the British Museum by the late Vice-President of the Society, are the most important among a chain of events that have at once arrested public attention, and proclaimed the fact that Philately has at length emerged from the past mists of obscurity, and has earned a place among the body scientific. It is therefore but consonant with the new era that the London Philatelic Society—the undoubted leader in this country, if not in the world—should seek to commemorate this notable march of events in establishing itself on the basis of other learned Societies.

The design now happily consummated has long been cherished among its members, who but waited for a cloudless financial horizon to put it into execution. The rapid increase of the membership of the London Philatelic Society, largely due, we believe, to its literary work, having at length afforded the desired vista, no time was lost, after the appointment of a Committee, in fixing upon an eligible "Home" for its members. The *locale* of the new quarters leaves nothing to be desired, its

remarkable accessibility being on a par with the general appointments of the chambers. As will be noted by Mr. Garth's circular in this issue, the advantages now offered by membership of the London Society include those of a small and select West End Club, in addition to the more solid mental *pabulum* afforded by the free receipt of all the Society's Philatelic Works and the London Philatelist. The aggregate of the advantages offered to a country member probably constitute a better return for the trifling subscription than has ever been given by any like Society in the world, and will no doubt lead to a huge increase of the membership. Country members, as well as foreign, will always feel that they have a congenial place of resort in the Metropolis, where old friends can be met, business appointments held, or correspondence addressed, while the field opened for social evenings, *conversaziones*, minor exhibitions, and general philatelic intercourse is boundless. The Committee in recommending this step have relied upon an increase of members commensurate with the additional advantages (nor have their anticipations so far been belied), and with this anticipated accession the financial future of the Society should rest upon a sure basis. It will doubtless, however, ere long, be advisable to charge an entrance fee, but before this is effected, every possible chance should be given both to home and foreign members to introduce their friends.

The appropriate furnishing of the rooms is an object that will commend itself to all, and in this direction there is a wide field of attraction open. We trust that in course of time the book-shelves and walls of Effingham House may present such an array of Philatelic objects of interest that will attract every collector who may visit the Metropolis. To this end the contributions of members, whether in cash or in kind, is earnestly to be desired: every contributor will have the satisfaction of seeing his good work visibly associated with the Society's existence, hence we trust that the preliminary announcement of subscriptions will find many imitators.

We can but reiterate our firm conviction that the London Society has acted in this matter as boldly as wisely in moving with the times. No ground now exists for the quondam querulous complaints that neither the advantages nor the whereabouts of the Society were manifest. The scientific—not to mention the financial—value of the Society's literary production are a sufficient answer to the former, while the insertion in the various London Directories of the new *habitat* will at once answer the latter, and ease the susceptibilities of those philatelists who in the past "have sighed to find their warmest welcome at an Inn."

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Afghanistan.—The editor of the *Monthly Journal* gives a timely warning as to the acceptance of the so-called re-engraved types, and we hasten to give further publicity to a caution from so high an authority on Oriental stamps.

Azores.—We illustrate the type described last month.



Brazil.—The bi-coloured 100 reis has partly changed its colour, says the *Timbre Poste*, the blue having become somewhat verdant! It also exists with the centre inverted, and, adds the *American Journal of Philately*, *tête bêche:* the two latter varieties *se tenant* will probably next be noted!

100 reis, rose and *greenish* blue.
„ „ red „
„ „ carmine „
„ „ rose *centre inverted.*
„ „ „ „ *tête bêche.*

British Central Africa.—An esteemed correspondent writes:—"Mr. H. H. Johnstone has applied for a new stamp of the value of 4s., it is really intended for revenue purposes, a native poll tax, I think, but will undoubtedly also be used for postage; for this purpose the 5s. stamp has been overprinted, B C A—Four shillings."

4s, black surcharge on 5s. yellow (of B.C.A.)

Bulgaria.—The *Philatelist* notes some varieties as under, of the unpaid letter stamps—the error consisting of an Oriental letter instead of a Roman.

25 stot, carmine, perf., *error* in last letter of TAKCA.
25 „ „ *compound perf.*, (12 and wide perf.)
50 „ blue, imperf., *error* in last letter of TAKCA.

Cochin China.—Being of a fearsome temperament, we had hesitated to chronicle this very Oriental and mysterious looking label, but as they are sent in to us from all sides we must proclaim their auspicious nativity. Fortunately our illustration precludes the necessity of further description. The paper is greyish and varies in thickness considerably.



½ puttan, orange, yellow shades, perf. 12.
1 „ magenta shades.
2 „ violet.

Major Adams Smith writes from Poona (22.5.92) :—"The three envelopes and three stamps enclosed I have through the courtesy of Mr. George Abraham, superintendent of Anchel offices in the Cochin State, received this morning, and now forward them as his present to the London Philatelic Society. These stamps were introduced into Cochin State, Southern India, under Act 1 of 1067, called the 'Cochin Anchel (Post) Act, 1067,' and were first issued to the public on the 1st Medom, 1067, Malabar era, corresponding with our 1st April, 1892.

The half puttan is equivalent to 5 pies.
The one puttan „ 10 pies.
The two puttans „ one anna 8 pies.

A post card will be issued in 1893."

Costa Rica.—We append illustrations of the six lower values of these handsome stamps, recently described in this Journal. They are imprinted on white paper and perforated 15.













French Congo.—A small variety of the overprint on two recently issued stamps is noted in the *Timbre Poste*, namely, two consecutive capitals in the inscription COngo Français.

5 c., on 20, brick on green, black surcharge, *variety.*
10 c., on 40, vermilion on straw, „ „

Grenada.—The *Stamp News* is "amused" at the recent chronicling in this Journal of the 1d. on 8d., with the surcharge inverted, on account of the sheets being, as is well known, printed in *tête bêche* panes. Our information was that the surcharge is also so printed, and that therefore the stamp noted was a distinct variety, and our correspondent has since confirmed this.

Hong Kong.—Mr. M. Giwelb has sent us two specimens of the Jubilee surcharge varying one from the other, in one of which the "J" is distinctly shorter than the other.

2 c., rose ; Jubilee surcharge, *variety.*

Japan.—Another addition has been made to the current set, viz. :—

3 c., lilac-rose, perf. 13.

Labuan.—The stamps surcharged in black mentioned on page 68 of this Journal are variously cited as existing also with a red surcharge. We have not yet seen them—but in any case their philatelic value is about on a par!

Mexico.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly write:—"You make a slight mistake on p. 142. The grotesque Mexican there illustrated is not an unpaid letter stamp, but merely an 'officially sealed' label, which is used to patch up flimsy envelopes that get broken or torn in the post."

Morocco.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"We enclose the new Morocco stamps issued on the 1st inst. by the French Post Office for the new postal service between Tangier and Fez. There is a 1 franc besides those we send you, but our correspondent could not obtain them in time to enclose with the rest. We will send you a specimen as soon as they come to hand." The design is thoroughly typical of Moorish scenery. Within an arabesqued frame is contained a land and sea-scape, shaded by a luxuriant palm tree, but partly concealed by the square label containing the numeral of value. The borders bear native inscriptions on a fancy ground, while "Postes" and the values are inscribed above and "Tangier—Fez" below.

5 c., green on pale green.	25 c., black on white.
10 c., black „ pink.	50 c., carmine on pink.
15 c., blue „ pale blue.	5 francs, mauve on white.

New South Wales.—The 4d., brown, watermark, thin numeral 10, recently noted in the *Monthly Journal*, and now "going the round," is no novelty, as Mr. Vandyck had one in his collection some three or four years since, which we saw, and held for an unfinished stamp at the best, or a proof at the worst.

New Zealand.—There is another addition, *pace* the *Ill. Brief Jour.*, to the Life Insurance Department Postal Stamps.

6d., green, perf. 11½.

Obock.—The *Revue Philatélique* notes the following variety: Obock in horizontal surcharge, two stamps *se tenant*, one with and the other without the figure 4. This error is unaccountable in the issues of the glorious realms of Obock!

4 c., on 15 c., blue-black surcharge, *variety*.

Panama.—We illustrate the low value of the new series described by us last month.



Paraguay.—We briefly alluded to unknown varieties of surcharge in our last number. From various sources we now gather the following:—

1 c., current set, green, *surcharged on black*, 1892.
2 c., „ carmine, „ „
5 c., „ green, „ „

Surcharged Official in black.

7 c., brown.	20 c., rose.
10 c., violet.	50 c., grey.
15 c., orange.	

Patiala.—The following stamps have lately appeared with the surcharge *Patiala.*

9 pies, carmine, black surcharge.
1 an. 6 „ brown-grey, „ „
3 an., orange, „ „
6 „ bistre.
12 „ red-brown, red surcharge.
Service—4 „ olive, black surcharge.
8 „ violet, „
1 rupee, grey, „
Varieties—(*a*) 2nd A of Patiala is smaller.
(*b*) 2nd A is marked Λ.
(*c*) L is smaller.

Portugal.—Mr. J. N. Marsden sends us another of the now current set, viz., 80r., pale yellow-green.

Queensland.—Mr. M. Giwelb has sent us the 5s. with the new watermark, on thinnish paper, imperf, or apparently so.

5s., rose, watermark Q. & Cr., *imperf.*

Russia.—Bouzoulouk (Samara).—There has been a change in the stamps here. It is smaller, but in view of illustration it need not be described. Lithographed in colour on white paper, imperforate.



3 kopecks, rose.

Charkoff (Charkoff).—We illustrate a new type of this local, the outer frame, the oval, and the figure being golden, and the remainder of the impression red on white paper.



5 kopecks, red and gold, perf. 11½.

A variety also exists with an oblique black surcharge on an oblong frame.

5 kopecks, red and gold, black surcharge.

Pskoff (Pskoff).—A stamp of the accompanying design was issued, says the *Timbre Poste*, on the 27th April, lithographed on white paper.



5 kopecks, black, bistre and blue, perf. 11½.

Sarawak.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"There was such a run on the recent 1 c. provisional that the stock of 3 c. stamps available was soon exhausted. As there was a good number of the obsolete 3 c. stamps on hand, they have been converted into one-cent. stamps as per enclosed specimen." The stamp submitted is the second issued, 3 c., brown on yellow (1871): the overprint is in two lines of block capitals, and the value at base is barred out. With reference to the stamps referred to on pages 70 and 106 Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. found out that there are two distinct varieties of the overprint. The one we have illustrated having capitals for each word, and measuring 18 mm. in length, while the other has the surcharge entirely in small letters, and is 3 mm. shorter.

1 c., black surcharge (one cent), on 3 c., blue and lilac, *no capitals.*



Senegal.—We illustrate the last French Colonial rubbish noted in the June London Philatelist.

Shanghai.—In addition to the varieties noted by us on page 106, the *Timbre Poste* adds—

Unpaid letter stamp, 15 c., blue, without watermark.

Siam.—Our excellent correspondents, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us two varieties of the 2 atts. on 3, blue and green, with the overprint differing very materially; the smaller and hitherto unnoted variety has the surcharge extending to a width of 14½ mm., as against 16½, the two central native characters longer, while the numeral both in European and native type is considerably smaller. Two varieties are quoted in Messrs. Senf's Catalogue, but our correspondents add:—"We do not remember seeing the *two* varieties of 2 on 3 atts., Siam, described anywhere, and in the 4th part of Moens' Catalogue received this morning, only one type is mentioned. We send you one of each for comparison; these varieties are not found on the same sheet, they are entirely separate and distinct issues, and seem to be printed by different methods. The one with small figure 2 is much the rarer, and is the one we have never seen chronicled. We can send you a block of 12 of these if you like, and whole sheets of 120 of the type with *tall* figure."

Socotra (?).—Major Adam Smith writes:—"I was at Aden when I received the *Philatelic Journal* for March. After reading it I personally interviewed the leading merchants residing in the Prince of Wales' Crescent, at Steamer Point, and not one of them knew anything of the so-called Sokotra stamps, and several of the most intelligent expressed unbelief in their existence at all. Indeed I am very doubtful of there being a Post Office on the Island, as there are but few inhabitants on it, mostly poor fishermen, and these have no wants beyond what the sea and island yield. If any stamp would be required, it would be the one used in British India, as these are in use at Aden, this station being within the Indian postal limits for inland correspondence, a boon which the inhabitants of Aden are grateful for."

South Australia.—Mr. Maycock has shown us the 9d. of a new shade, a delicate chalky rose lilac, watermark and perforation remaining unchanged.

9d., *pale rose lilac*, wmk. S A. & Cr., perf. 11½.



Sweden.—The annexed representation will avoid the necessity of a description of this recently issued stamp.

4 öre, crimson and blue on white, perf. 13.

Switzerland.—The 30 c. of the current set has made its appearance.

30 c., red-brown, perf. 11½.

Tasmania.—We have letters from this island bearing the 3d. of the 1870 type in a dull reddish brown colour, apparently re-issued, and replacing the platypus; it has the second variety of watermark (TAS oblique), so presume the latter has been superseded.

3d., dull reddish-brown, Wm. TAS, 2nd type, perf. 12.

Mr. Basset Hull has sent us specimens of the current ½d. and 1d. locally printed, imperf., as also the 2½d. surcharge on the 9d. pale blue, with an additional inverted

surcharge falling generally between the normal overprints, and being thus half on each stamp—a fortunate circumstance or else there would hardly have been room for both surcharges on the one stamp! This stamp (with the normal surcharge) is also sent imperforate. These varieties, with those noted elsewhere, are giving a distinctly "Obocky" tone to our Tasmanian friends' Postal administration.

3d. 1870 type, dull reddish brown, *perf. 12.*
½d. (local print) orange, *imperf.*
1d. „ pink „
2½d. black surcharge, pale blue, *imperf.*
2½d. „ „ *surcharge inverted.*

Tonga.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the 1d. and 2d. *Tongese* are being issued with a black star in the two upper corners, to prevent their being fraudulently surcharged for the 4d. and 8d. denominations—a dangerous system which we called attention to when we chronicled the latter. A new series of Tonga stamps is in preparation, consisting of the following values:—1d., 2d., 4d., 8d., and 1s. Our correspondents also send us a specimen of a Government Frank, which travelled to this country without any additional postage; it is composed of two circles, the inner of which has a crown and wreath, and the outer the words "Tonga Government Frank."

Uruguay.—The following pleasing varieties are culled from various sources.

ADHESIVES.

1 c., red and green, *inverted surcharge.*
5 c., on 7 c., red and brown, „
1 c., on 20 c., black and orange, „
1 c., red and green, *double surcharge, one inverted.*
5 c., on 7 c, red and brown, „ „
1 c., red and green, „ *one covering the other.*
1 c., red and green, „ *one below the other.*
1 c., red and green, „ with a *second surcharge* over two stamps.
1 c., on 20 c., black and orange, *imperf. vertically.*

There are also minor varieties of the figures, etc.

West Australia.—The 5d. value of the new type has appeared, and we believe the 2½d., though we have not yet seen the latter.

5d. ochre brown, wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

Wurtemberg.—Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co. send us the 2 mark black and orange in an imperforate condition, a sheet of them existing thus, judging from appearances.

2 marks, black and orange (1881), *imperf.*

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Cochin China.—These quaint looking productions will be found elsewhere referred to, and our illustration will render any lengthened description needless. Major Adam Smith and Messrs. Clark & Co. have kindly sent us specimens of the three values, which are on white laid paper, and measure 119×93 mm. Cochin China has a population of about 400,000.



½ puttan, deep yellow.
1 „ magenta.
2 puttans, violet.

New South Wales.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"We now send you one of the new ½d. New South Wales wrappers just issued, with watermark 'one penny'; we should think this will soon be altered. The surcharged ½d. wrappers were not long in use." The die is the same as the adhesive recently noted in this journal.

Wrapper, ½d., grey (altered die), on white laid paper, watermarked "one penny."

Tasmania.—Mr. Basset Hull sends us some of the private issue of bands, impressed with the oval ½d. red stamp on blue and white laid paper. The 2d., 3d., and 6d. Platypus type have also been seen by our correspondent struck on wrappers; we hear of the first-named (which value is certainly new to us) also printed side by side with the ½d. As will be seen in our correspondence column the envelopes have undergone similar vagaries, and we have been informed that of these, many charming varieties are being offered for sale in various quarters. Mr. Basset Hull states that the Tasmanian authorities do not intend to have any more of this trash printed. It is a pity they did not take this resolution earlier. Collectors will have a sorry return for any investments they may make in this fancy stationery.

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Belgium.—The *Philatelist* notes a new reply card of a different "cut," bringing the two stamps closer to each other—the intervening distance being now only 8 mm. instead of 32 as heretofore.

5+5 c, green on buff, *altered shape.*

British Guiana.—We illustrate the provisional card described on page 146, and note that the corresponding one for reply has now been issued.



2+2 c., black surcharge, on 3+3 c., carmine.

British Honduras.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a reply card of the usual Colonial type.

3+3 c., carmine on buff.

British North Borneo.—We illustrate the surcharge on the provisional card described on page 146.



Congo.—In default of a supply for the needs of the postal service the Congo Administration has, says the *Timbre Poste*, caused the issue of a provisional printing; this has been entrusted to M. Hayes, of Brussels, who has printed the 10 c. on buff,

and the 15 c. on white, reversing the previous order, the inscriptions also varying, notably in the fact that the "M" is distanced from the first line of the address in the 10 c. and close in the 15, also contrary to precedent. New cards are also foreshadowed.

10 c. black, on *chamois*, provisional issue.
15 c. „ „ *white* „ „

Greece.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the cards are now printed at Athens, the colour both of card and impression being changed; by comparison it will be seen that the shade of the new card is a much brighter carmine.

10 lepta, *bright carmine* on *blue*.

Holland.—We illustrate the official card alluded to last month.



Mexico.—Annexed will be found a representation of a new service card, being a variation from the existing 2c. card, but innocent of any stamp, and also presenting differences more or less marked in the general impression.—*Timbre Poste.*

Service Card, 2 c., green on white.



Portugal.—We append illustration of the card described last month.



Tobago.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"Six new post cards which will shortly be issued here are 2d., 1d., and 1½d., single and reply, specimens of which we hope shortly to submit." For so small a place Tobago does not do badly!

Some Remarks on the Triangular Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope.

By EMIL TAMSEN.

(Continued from page 185.)

The Triangular 1 p. Red Watermark Crown & C.C.—The suggestion which Mr. Bacon gives as to the origin of this stamp I believe will eventually be found to be correct; for the last eight years I have carefully examined every triangular stamp passing through my hands, whether red, blue, lilac, or green (I may state that the quantity was very near 5,000 specimens, hailing from all parts of South Africa), more particularly as to the watermark, but have never found the Crown & C.C. type. My reason for examining the other values was, that I did not see why the 1 p. value alone should have been printed on this paper, the 4 p. being more used than the 1 p., and this if even only one supply had been printed it was just as likely to find the 4 p. as well as the 1 p. Any collector who thinks a moment as to when the Crown & C.C. paper came into use, and notes the dates of cancellations found on the stamps (if he does not believe in dates given in leading catalogues) must come to the conclusion that the colour can only be "*red-brown*" a further thought must also bring to his mind how the watermark would show. (I placed, during my search, the largest block of triangular stamps I had on part of a sheet of rectangular ones, watermarked Crown & C.A., and I found in this way how portions of the watermark would be placed.)

The search is a very difficult one; many stamps refuse most obstinately to disclose their watermark. Holding the front of the specimen to be examined against a dark background (black cover of a book), and carefully wetting the stamp, has generally given me good results. Some sheets have been printed sideways. I often found two halves of two anchors at the base of the stamp, also some few specimens showing more than three-fourths of each of the two anchors, and others again on which very little was to be found at all, in fact I have still some specimens out of which I cannot make anything, but they cannot be the Crown & C.C. type, because the paper does not correspond with that of the rectangular issues, which at first was of a quite different make to that in use at present.

The Triangular Stamps Generally.—Before I read the information given by Mr. Bacon in No. 2 of this paper, which proves that Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. handed the plates of the triangular stamps to Messrs. De la Rue & Co., which I think is news to most collectors, I have always been under the impression that the issue of 1863 had been printed from *re-engraved* or *new* plates, and I can even now hardly make up my mind to think that this is not the case. By comparing all four values printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. with similar ones printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., one must undoubtedly acknowledge the latter to be of a superior state to the former; all fine lines and the ornaments stand out clearly, each line is well-defined and can be traced, whereas all the *light red* shades of the 1 p, the pale lilac of the 6 p, and the pale green of the 1s. stamps which I have of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.'s printings, show apparently a wear of the plates; many of the fine lines

cannot be traced, some have disappeared, the ornaments are not clear, the fine lines of shading are disappearing, leaving the figure much whiter than in stamps of the first printing with blued paper, which proves undoubtedly that some wear must have taken place.

It has always been an accepted fact, that through continual printings the plates get worn, the finer lines of the design always suffering most; how can it be then, that after using the plates for ten years, when printings show already a worn state, that a new firm print from the same old plates and get as a result a far superior stamp to that which resulted from the last printings of the former printer from the same plate?

I must own I cannot well understand this, the stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. were always well printed, and it is not their fault that the plates show signs of wear, but how another firm can produce a superior stamp, showing absolutely no signs of wear from the very same plate, is a puzzle to me, which I can only solve by accepting as a fact, either that complete new plates (may be reserve plates) were used, or that the old ones were touched up before a printing took place. Perhaps Mr. Bacon would go to the trouble of taking two large blocks, of say eight stamps of the 1 p., pale red, printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and the other by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., and get them enlarged by photographic process, and then try to discover some differences. Such, I maintain, exist. If I had had an opportunity of getting this done I would have long ago gone to the trouble, but such a thing cannot be done out here, whereas it ought to be an easy task for a collector like Mr. Bacon, living in London, and having all the latest improvements at his command. Mr. Bacon states that in 1868 the remaining stock of the 4 p. blue was re-issued and sold out. Well, I know that up to 1885 all four values of the triangular stamps were to be obtained unused and in sheets in quantities from a firm of booksellers in Cape Town. I myself bought in beginning of that year a quantity through a correspondent resident there, and I must say the prices were very reasonable; the balance of the stock was in that year sold to a dealer in Europe. As a suitable conclusion to my remarks, I append a cutting which I extracted from the *Philatelic Journal of America*, for January, 1889, and which raises the question of *reprinting;* the possibility of which I, however, personally doubt, and prefer to let Mr. H. Gremmel explain.

"Mr. Henry Gremmel, of New York City, writes:—Messrs. W. Sellschopp and Major E. B. Evans claim that *Cape of Good Hope* stamps were not reprinted. Now I came to Cape Town (Capital of Cape of Good Hope), on November 5th, 1883, and remained there about six months at that time. I made the acquaintance of several advanced collectors, and one who was employed in the Post Office, and when I visited his home he showed me his beautiful collection of South African stamps, and when I saw Cape of Good Hope, which he had complete, I saw the set of 1853-58, 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1st doubled, and I asked him why he had these stamps in his collection, and he informed me that these were REPRINTS, and that a large wholesale firm ordered a large number of sets in 1882, but as there were no more in the Post Office they reprinted the four values and sold them face value to English wholesale dealers. Now I am willing to give the name and address of this party if any one wishes to write to him about the reprints of Cape of Good Hope."

[The eight stamps forwarded by Mr. Emil Tamsen have been sent on to Mr. E. D. Bacon, who has promised to reply to the above Paper in our next month's number. —EDITOR.]

Half Hours with the Australian Stamps.

By M. P. CASTLE.

(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London.)

THE *FIJI TIMES EXPRESS* ISSUE.

THERE is still something to learn about these stamps; the information both in the varieties extant and the circumstances under which they were issued being of a scant nature. The London Society's work on "Oceania" gives the following account of them, being all that was then known, and I reproduce it with the very little I can add to it, in the hope that by a discussion some more definite information may, as has happened with other Oceanian stamps, be elicited.

"**Private Stamps.**—*Fiji Times Express.*—In 1870 the proprietors of the *Fiji Times Express*, in Levuka, issued a series of stamps to prepay the postage on their newspaper.

Issue I., 1870.

Five Values, type printed on rose-coloured paper. The design is of the simplest character; consisting of an oblong single-lined frame, containing the words T. 'Times,' B. 'penny,' 'pence,' or 'shilling,' L. 'Fiji,' reading upwards; and R. "Express" reading downwards in Roman capitals. In the middle is the figure of value, plain in the case of the penny, threepence, sixpence, and ninepence, and ornamented in the case of the shilling, which also, like the sixpence has the numeral larger than the other values. The stamps are separated from each other by dotted lines, and all the values are printed together on the same sheet. Shape oblong; rouletted (about) 20 on the dotted lines, on *quadrillé* paper.

1d., black on rose.
3d., „ „
6d., „ „
9d., „ „
1s., „ „

Issue II., 1871.

On laid *batonné* paper, same values as Issue I. A third set is catalogued by Major Evans on laid paper; but no specimens have been seen by the Society.

Reprints.—In 1876 a reprint of these stamps took place for the benefit of collectors. They may be distinguished from the originals by the design, which is smaller, and is better printed, and by the fact that they are pin-perforated, and not rouletted. A bogus set also exists on bright violet-rose paper."

Issue 1870 on *quadrillé* paper; the paper of these stamps is of a medium thick *yellowish* white wove, intersected by lines crossing each other at right angles, making a series of watermarked small squares, measuring about $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. each; the gum is of a yellowish brown colour; the rouletting is as described in "Oceania," being virtually rouletted in colour—as the Thurn and Taxis stamps—but, of course, in this case in black, the colour of the impression itself. The five values, as is well known, were printed on the same sheet—I believe each in one horizontal row of six, beginning with the lower value, and each type varying from the other. I have pairs of the 3d., 6d., and 1s., showing the types, and have seen at least three varieties of the 1d. The 9d. seems a scarce value, on this paper, as I have not yet secured a copy.

The same remarks as to type and rouletting apply to the 1871 issue, on *bâtonné* paper, but the colour of this is a pale *pinkish white* with, as its name implies, narrow laid lines, running vertically, and the gum is nearly white. The types of this issue compare, of course, with that of the preceding, and I have two varieties of the 1d., 3d., and 6d., as also the 1s. used (pen-marked). These two issues constitute all that are real, in my opinion. The "Reprint" series mentioned in "Oceania" are of absolutely different printing; the letters are from a different fount, are thinner and better formed, the frame is composed of a thin unbroken line (that in the first-issued stamps being thick and broken), and they are roughly pin perforated, with wider printed, attempted imitation of the black lined roulettes of the genuine issue. The bogus set on violet-rose paper, mentioned in "Oceania," brings me to the object of this short paper, namely, to warn collectors against either a reproduction of these latter, or their prototype, which is being ingeniously placed on the market. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have lately sent me a sheet of thirty varieties of these on a bright pink, medium thick wove paper, that practically answers to the bogus set of "Oceania." The sheet consists of five rows of six stamps, each row being of a different value, and commencing at the lowest. They were obtained from the Postmaster of Fiji, who himself procured them from Mr. Griffiths, the proprietor of the *Fiji Times*. Their consignee in this country was apparently satisfied with their pedigree, but wisely took further counsel before completing his purchase. I have examined the sheet most carefully, and have no hesitation in denouncing them as an imitation, official or otherwise, of the first issue, and consequently of no philatelic value whatever. The type, as in the case of the "Reprint" set, is quite different, the only real point of resemblance being in the "1" of the shilling stamp, which gives colour to the theory that all the old type was broken up except this solitary fancy numeral. In any case, collectors will do well to examine carefully any specimens offered to them, as I am informed that there are considerable quantities on the market. I trust at a future date, with the help of other collectors, to be able to reunite a sheet of all the original types, and these, if reproduced, would be of great value in enabling us to divide the sheep and the goats.

Reviews.

DR. KALCKHOFF'S WORK ON REPRINTS.*

IT is long since we have perused any work with greater pleasure than this little volume, and we heartily congratulate the industrious author and fellow-member of the London Philatelic Society. Dr. Kalckhoff has evidently made a thorough search in pursuance of his objective—the presentation of a list of all known reprints—and has collated enough to extend to 70 pages, with the illustration of every type, and the explanatory notes to each issue. The latter are succinct and clear, and by their aid many a collector will be enabled to discriminate between the original and the "official imitation." The remarks on the reprinted stamps of the German stamps are, as was to be expected, of a very

*Illustriertes Verzeichnis aller bekannten Neudrucke statlicher Post-werthzeichen. F. Kalckhoff. Leipsic, Ernst Heitmann.

interesting nature, notably in the case of Hanover, Hamburg, Lübeck, and Prussia. The Portuguese list does not approach finality, as there are some later reprints to add, and that of Tasmania requires many additions, and we hope at a future date to tender some assistance as to this colony. The remaining Australian lists are fairly accurate, but will probably be found to embrace a few more varieties by the time the Doctor publishes his second edition. The lists of Cashmere and France, however, require a far more extended treatment—the former can only be handled by some expert in Oriental stamps such as Major Evans—the latter are a most difficult series to properly distinguish, that of the 1 franc Empire especially, and we were certainly under the impression that several reprints of the Empire series exist. However, one of the main advantages of publishing a philatelic work is that it forms the ground-work for future contributory knowledge, and Dr. Kalckhoff deserves the warm approval for the concise, meritorious, and useful work that he has issued. The work is prefaced by an article on reprints by another esteemed member of the London Philatelic Society, Herr C. Lindenberg, of Berlin, in which he handles the question of unused *versus* used stamps and reprints in a most masterly manner. This preface is redolent of the close reasoning of a judicial mind, such as Herr Lindenberg naturally possesses, and of a keen philatelic instinct that at once discards all false issues and drives the truth home in the clearest manner to his readers. If the words of this very clever article are duly weighed and studied, the Continental collectors whose creed is to ignore unused stamps will find it rudely shaken by Mr. Lindenberg's unassailable and powerful arguments. The typography and appearance of the work leave nothing to be desired, a notable feature being the blank spaces allowed for additions to the lists, and in taking leave of it we cannot do better than commend it to all our readers.

M. MOENS' NEW CATALOGUE.*

With the most commendable energy the fourth delivery of the Catalogue issued by the renowned Belgian house has now appeared, thus completing the postal adhesives. We have already given sufficient indication of the general scheme of the work, and can confirm our previous laudatory criticism in every respect. Nearly one hundred pages of letterpress are included in this instalment, making a total of 562 pages devoted to the description of adhesives alone.

The illustrations of the stamps, extending to 192 pages, comprise 5,517 different designs. The "Atlas" containing the type varieties, as mentioned in our last notice hereon, and embracing an equal amount, constitute with the letterpress nearly a thousand pages of matter devoted to one branch of Philately. A stupendous work truly, reflecting infinite credit upon its learned author, and a monument at once to his unwearied industry and the abnormal development of our pursuit.

The present instalment begins with the remanet of Russia and finishes appropriately enough with Zurich, the acquirement of whose modest number of varieties may perhaps involve as arduous a search as in the case of many more pretentious countries. We cannot but regret, however, that the Cantonal or pre-federal issues should not all have been classed under the head of Switzerland. The

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*Catalogue, Prix Courant de Timbres-Poste, Septième Edition. J. B. Moens, 42, Rue de Florence, Brussels.

recent re-classification of the old "Cantonals" is not universally known, and the reference to a dozen different headings will inevitably waste the time of those who use the Catalogue; they should all have been included under the *ægis* of the Republic and duly indexed. The list, however, includes the later information as to dates of issue and sub-varieties of type in the 1850-52 stamp. We do not remember that the 10 rappen, black on yellow and red, exists with *la croix encadrée d'un trait* entirely—the few specimens that have encountered our eager search having but vestiges of a frame round the cross. The Shanghai and Tasmanian lists are very commendable, while that of Transvaal contains most of the information published up to date—which is, however, very far from what is known among the *cognoscenti*. We note that M. Moens does not accept Mr. Bacon's theory as to the uniform value of the early issue of Trinidad, but our Brussels *confrère* is a hard man to convince—and when he holds an opposite opinion it must be proved thrice before the armour of his obstinacy can be pierced. The "too late" stamps might well have been omitted. Turkey with the types of the various overprints will be found an invaluable list to the large class of collectors who are but imperfectly versed in "Ottomans." The Victorians are, as heretofore, classified according to date, and must to the Continental mind present the most delightfully heterogeneous jumble of watermarks, designs, and perforations. We have always held to the advantages of making the Victorian stamps an exception to the general rule by classifying them under their respective designs. In concluding our necessarily cursory remarks on this *chef d'œuvre* of M. Moens, we tender to him on behalf of all true Philatelists in this country our grateful thanks for his magnificent contribution to the literature of the science.

THE ENVELOPES OF BRUNSWICK.*

This *bróchure* is the forerunner of a series treating of all the German envelopes by Herr C. Lindenberg. As the Curator of the Berlin Imperial Postal Museum it is obvious that its learned author's facilities for acquiring special information are immense, while his great philatelic knowledge will combine to present a series of works that to collectors of envelopes will be of the greatest advantage. The present instalment is a sure index of the value and utility of the series, the beautiful embossed envelopes issued by the *ci-devant* state of Brunswick being handled from every side that interests collectors. Each issue has a chapter devoted to it in which official notices, proofs and dates, are fully given, while the more philatelic portion, such as the colour and size of the impressed stamp, envelopes, gum, and the transverse inscriptions, are most accurately treated. A chapter is devoted to the local envelope, and the work concludes with a full list of all the varieties known. The "Envelopes of the German States," when completed. will be an invaluable work, and we heartily congratulate Herr Lindenberg on his excellent commencement.

*Die Briefumschlage von Braunschweig. C. Lindenberg. Berlin, 1892.

The Philatelic Society, London.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S NEW HOME.

WE have much pleasure in presenting the following letter to our readers, a copy of which has been sent to all the members of the Society:—

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON.

DEAR SIR,—I have pleasure in informing you that at the recent Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society, held to receive the Report of the Special Committee appointed to consider the arrangements for our future accommodation and place of meeting, resolutions were unanimously passed, approving the recommendations of the Committee, with the following results as regards the future of the Society.

A Suite of Rooms has been engaged on Lease in EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, within a few yards only of the Temple Station, on the Metropolitan Railway.

The Rooms will be open daily as a Club-room for the use of Members during hours to be hereafter fixed, the largest room being devoted to the fortnightly meetings of the Society. No additional subscription will be asked of the Members for the advantages thus offered, the estimates laid before the meeting by the Committee shewing that the present income of the Society (relying on a moderate increase in the number of its members annually) will suffice to cover all expenses, including a permanent attendant at the Rooms.

The Committee have, however, found themselves obliged to invite voluntary subscriptions towards the cost of furnishing the Rooms. The initial cost will, it is believed, not exceed £100, and a moderate donation from every member would go far to cover the expenses. I am, therefore, directed to invite subscriptions (which may be sent to me), and it is hoped that a sufficient sum may be raised by the month of August to enable the Rooms to be opened in September.

The Committee are further most desirous that the Society's new "Home" should be rendered as attractive and interesting as possible, and they cordially invite Members to present any suitable objects or pictures, prints, &c., of Philatelic interest, for the Club rooms.

Regulations as regards the use of the Rooms, will in due course be drawn up and circulated, and it is confidently hoped that this important step will greatly enure to the progress and benefit of the Society, and supply a long-desired means of intercourse and communication between its members, especially those at a distance from the Metropolis, who only occasionally visit London.

I am asked to advise you that the future welfare and financial success of our Society depends largely upon an increase in our numbers and it is hoped that you will personally use every effort to induce collectors to join the Society, the advantages of which (including, as they now will, the use of a small West-End Club) are fully apparent.

For the present it is not proposed to impose any Entrance Fee, but it is probable that this course will be adopted at no distant date, should the Society, as is anticipated, largely increase its numbers.

Faithfully yours,

23, Tedworth Square, Chelsea, S.W.,
July 1st, 1892.

DOUGLAS GARTH,
Hon. Secretary.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: VERNON ROBERTS. *Vice-President:* F. BARRATT.
Hon. Sec.: W. DORNING BECKTON. *Assistant Hon. Sec.:* C. H. COOTE.
Hon. Treasurer: G. B. DUERST.
Rev. J. W. PAULL. C. P. COLLETT.
J. H. ABBOTT. E. AITKEN.

THE Annual General Meeting of the above Society was held on May 6th, 1892, at which eighteen members were present, the President in the chair.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the Hon. Sec. presented his report, which was in the following terms:—

"During the Session which has just passed, and which, as all the members know, was the first Session of this Society, fifteen ordinary meetings have been held. These meetings have been attended by an aggregate of 203 members, averaging fourteen members for each meeting.

"At ten meetings the chair has been occupied by the President, while at the remaining five meetings, owing to the President's unavoidable absence, the Vice-President has taken the chair.

"It is satisfactory to note the steady increase in the number of members of the Society, nineteen new members having been elected during the Session, while two members have resigned. The Society at present consists of forty-six members.

"Much helpful work to the members has been done by means of the papers which have been read by different members of the Society. The subject selected for special study at the commencement of the Session was the Stamps of Great Britain. The President undertook to read a series of papers on the subject, and considerable progress has been made. The subject, however, being an extensive one, and owing to the President not being able to continue the series of his papers at every meeting, it has been found impossible to complete the study of the stamps in question this Session. It is to be hoped that the President will continue the papers next Session.

"In addition to the papers read by the President, the Vice-President has dealt at some length with the postage stamps of France in two papers, and Mr. Duerst has read instructive papers upon the postage stamps of Heligoland, Lubeck, and Geneva.

"The Committee have also to acknowledge the kindness of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Limited, and Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., in presenting the Society with copies of many of the leading philatelic books; these have formed the nucleus for the Library.

"Every endeavour is being made by the Committee to increase the Library, as they feel that this is one of the most important branches of the Society, and it is to be hoped that more use will be made of it by the members than hitherto.

"During the course of the Session it was found necessary to appoint an Honorary Assistant Secretary, to assist me in the discharge of my duties, and I have further urged upon the Committee that with a view to the more equal distribution of labour the duties of the Honorary Secretary should be further simplified by the severance of the Treasurership from the Secretaryship. This will necessitate the appointment of a new officer, and will, I think, tend to strengthen the Society.

"After twelve months' working it has been deemed expedient by the Committee for a variety of reasons to recommend several alterations in the rules, and you will be asked to pass amendments incorporating the proposed alterations at the Annual General Meeting to-night.

"In conclusion, it is the earnest wish of the Committee that the next Session will be more productive of members who are willing to come forward and read papers, and that the object with which members come to the meetings will be more to assist in the study of the stamps under discussion for the evening than with the object of acquiring the latest variety of surcharge on the stamps of Obock."

On the motion of the President, the report was unanimously passed.

The President then proposed the following special resolution, of which due notice had been given:—"That each member shall pay to the Treasurer, before the 1st of June next, the sum of 8s. in addition to his subscription of 2s. 6d., which will defray his subscription to the 1st of January next, and entitle him to a copy of the London Philatelist, monthly. Those members who have already subscribed to the London Philatelist can, upon application being made to the Hon. Sec., have the sum of 5s. returned to them in lieu of receiving from the Society the London Philatelist for the current year. Any member failing to comply with this resolution will be deemed to have resigned his membership." In the course of his speech he pointed out the advantages which would be gained by the members by adopting the resolution, coupled with the fact that it would be some encouragement to the executive of the paper in question who were so deserving of it, and that it would no doubt be the means of other provincial societies adopting a similar course.

The Vice-President, in seconding the resolution, impressed upon the members the importance of it, and dealt at length with the objections which he understood some of the members had to the resolution in question.

After several members had spoken in favour of the resolution, Mr. Batty proposed an amendment to the effect that "the subscription to the Society should be five shillings per annum, and it should be left to the discretion of each individual member to take any journal he pleased."

The amendment not being seconded, the President put the resolution to the meeting, which was carried with only one dissentient.

The revision of the Statutes of the Society was then proceeded with. Several alterations of an important character having been found necessary after a year's working of the Society.

The election by ballot of the officers for the ensuing year was then taken. The President in announcing the retirement of all the old officers, stated that the Vice-President did not offer himself for re-election, but that he had consented, subject to the approval of the members, to act as Hon. Sec.

The officers and committee appointed for the ensuing year were as follows:—President, Vernon Roberts; Vice-President, Frank Barratt; Hon. Sec., W. Dorning Beckton; Assistant Hon. Sec., C. H. Coote; Hon Treasurer, G. B. Duerst; Rev. J. W. Paull, J. H. Abbott, C. P. Collett, E. Aitken. Mr. Philbrick, Q.C., and Mr. M. P. Castle were unanimously elected Honorary Members of the Society.

A vote of thanks having been accorded to the President for presiding, the proceedings terminated.

Several scarce stamps were exhibited after the meeting, amongst which were two Labuan, 6 on 16 c. surcharged in red, shown by Mr. Barratt and Mr. Fildes, also Colombia, 1863 issue, error 50 c., red, shown by the President.

W. Dorning Beckton.

Correspondence.

TASMANIAN FANCY EMBOSSED ENVELOPES.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—I take the liberty to enclose a variety of envelopes that have made their appearance here to-day. They have been struck to the order of a collector, who seems to have a mania for novelties. Although I have purchased a few of each value, I do not hold with the principle, as I think it is taking collecting to such a pitch that shortly there will be no limit to provisionals or novelties, whichever one can term them, so long as the Post Office people will execute any order, especially as they will strike in small quantities, viz., 480, that is the number of each value I now enclose. I should be pleased to have your opinion on the subject; should you feel disposed to comply with my request, I would like to hear from you, either by letter or through the columns of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

Yours faithfully,

Tasmania, J.
June 9th, 1892.

[We insert our correspondent's letter with pleasure, with a few verbal alterations, and cordially agree with the sentiments therein enumerated. The specimens submitted are:—

1d., red, oval design, white laid paper.
1d.+1d., „ „ „
1d.+½d., „ „ „
1d.+1d.+½d., „ „ „
½d., „ „ „
½d.+½d., „ „ „
½d.+½d.+1d., „ „ „
½d.+2d., green „ „

The latter being the Government issue. The impressions are side by side horizontally, beginning from the right hand of the envelope, except in the case of the ½d.+2d., in which the added ½d. value is to the left.

We have similar copies from other correspondents, used and unused, and the dies have been recently noted, applied to various kinds of stationery. Our opinion of them is summed up in the word "rubbish." We think the Tasmanian Postal Authorities are not increasing their prestige in allowing such fancy varieties to be struck, and we know that collectors who buy them will never see their money again, so *caveat emptor!*—ED.]

PORTUGAL, 25 REIS, BLUE?

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—Seeing the mention of my name under the heading Portugal in the June number of the LONDON PHILATELIST, I beg to give you all the information in my power respecting the 25 reis, recent issue, Portugal, in a pale blue shade.

I have no hesitation in saying that the stamp in question is a chemical-changeling. I have met with this change of colour, not only in the Portugal stamp of 25 reis, but also in almost all of similar colour—violet—of the current Colonial issue.

The change of colour I attribute to exposure to a strong sunlight, and I enclose two stamps which have been so treated. Previous to exposure their colour was of the exact shade of the other specimens I also enclose. You will notice that their original gloss is preserved.

I beg to send you the new series issued on the 1st July. A similar stamp for Angra, Horta, Funchal and Ponta Delgado will be issued in the respective districts on the 1st August.

I am, Dear Sir,

Lisbon, Yours truly,
15th July, 1892. J. N. MARSDEN.

[The specimens sent by our correspondent prove his contention, those that have been exposed to the sun being of a pale bluish shade similar to that under discussion.—ED.]

THE NEW ZEALAND 4D. WITHOUT WATERMARK.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

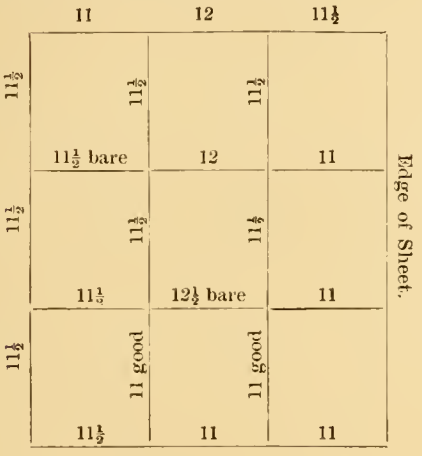
DEAR SIR,—Perhaps the following may be of interest to your correspondent, "W.G." I possessed three copies of the 4d. New Zealand, Issue VI., 1866, two of them of the shade called canary-yellow in the L.P.S. list, and one orange-yellow. One of the canary-yellow was used, and the paper of them was harder and thicker than that of the orange-yellow, which, but for the absence of the star watermark, was very much like the thinnish paper that the ordinary stamp is found upon. Were it not for this fact (the difference of paper) one might almost suppose that the absence of watermark was due to some of the stamps being printed on an unwatermarked portion of the sheet. Your correspondent gives the perforation as 12½, which is correct, although the L.P.S. list gives

13. This brings me to another point: should not some more exact method of measuring perforations be adopted—for official lists at any rate. Nearly all the 13's in the L.P.S. New Zealand list should be corrected to $12\frac{1}{2}$. The "dotty" method of measuring is all right as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough, for all collectors must have met with stamps that fitted, say, $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12 equally well. The only way to be certain is to have an accurate two-centimeter gauge, and *count the number of perforations* in that space. This is very good for most cases, but even with this plan you will discover that there are many stamps which gauge more than $11\frac{1}{2}$ and less than 12. What is to be done with these?

Is there anything worthy of note in the following?:—

"*St. Vincent*, Issue III., 1d., perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ vertically, 11 horizontally at top, imperf. at bottom (strip of 5 bottom row of sheet), also, same, perf. 11 right hand vertically, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ left hand vertically, $11\frac{1}{2}$ at top, $12\frac{1}{2}$ at bottom."

I suppose it is almost hopeless to attempt to chronicle these latter varieties for, in just now measuring a block of these 1d. stamps I find the following curious result:—



In this case measurements are taken, horizontally, from left to right, except in measuring the border, when the order was reversed, and the edge of sheet taken as a starting point, the number of teeth including of course a few of those previously taken in for the stamp itself. The vertical measures are taken from bottom to top.

I do not think it has ever been pointed out that the motto on the Royal Arms on the Trinidad provisional card (No. 298 in Illustrations to L.P.S. list) reads: "Treu" (under lion) "Fest" (under unicorn). I fail to find the connecting "und." This is possibly as worthy of note as the Victorian "Drot" for "Droit" in a similar case.

Yours faithfully,

June 27th, 1892. O. FIRTH.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—I notice letter from "W.G." and your comments thereon *re* 2d. and 4d. New Zealand, no watermark.

I have met with several copies of the 2d. and two of the 4d. used, and Messrs. Buhl have one of the latter in their stock book at present time postmarked.

Both these stamps differ from those usually met with: the intensity of colour seems greater, the gum laid on more liberally, and altogether they appear considerably thicker than the ordinary specimens. One unused pair recently offered me showed a suspicion of star, which I believe would have been clear when the gum was removed. The price asked made the experiment too costly for me to attempt.

I have heard the 1d. brownish, 2d. red, and 4d. yellow have been reprinted without watermark, and will send particulars as soon as I obtain replies to my correspondence on this subject.

The following frauds are reported to me from Australia:—Penny and shilling on blue paper; sixpence and shilling on soft unwatermarked paper; sixpence, watermarked N.Z., all imperforate; sixpence and shilling perforate, watermark N.Z.; penny perforated with star taken out and N.Z. substituted.

Sincerely yours,

June 28th, 1892. R. HOLLICK.

[Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. have shown us a used specimen of this stamp. The postmark consists of a heavily vertically barred oval, containing the figures 070. On examining our collection we find a similar postmark on the 6d. blue, 2d. vermilion (Star watermark), also on the 2d. (N.Z. and no watermark). We have carefully compared our postmarks with that of the specimen submitted, and can find no appreciable difference. This specimen tends therefore to establish the postal authenticity of the issue, and we must frankly own, dissipates our previous doubts on the subject. —ED.]

Occasional Notes.

THE *Philatelic Journal of America* has in its June number made a great leap towards Philatelic worth. Not only has it appeared in a new and attractive cover, but its contents have been increased both in quantity and quality. There are some excellent reproductions of the Fredericksburg types and of some of Placido Torres' Spanish forgeries, while these quaint old stamps form the subject of an interesting article by Mr. J. K. Tiffany. We heartily welcome this new *régime*, and felicitate Mr. Mekeel thereon.

* * *

MESSRS. SENF BROTHERS have issued an illustrated catalogue. This little volume, well printed and illustrated profusely with cuts of the stamps in a reduced size, is of a very handy shape, and can be carried conveniently in the pocket. In point both of size and contents it can be legitimately dubbed a collector's *vade mecum*, and is in every way a credit to this well-known firm, and another example of the excellent handiwork issued in that metropolis of printing—Leipsic.

* * *

THAT the interest in the stamps of this country is not confined to our shores has once more been evidenced in the publication by Herr Paul Beschorren, of Munich, of a *bróchure* on the stamps of Great Britain. So much has already been written on this subject that it is impossible to have made any substantial addition to our fund of knowledge, but our friend has prepared a lucid and concise reference list of the several varieties that will serve as a guide to Teutonic philatelists, and evidences on the part of the author a most commendable acquaintance with his subject.

* * *

THE *Birmingham Daily News* is responsible for this somewhat startling statement as to the weight of the National Philatelic Collection. The quality of the stamps will, however, far outweigh their bulk, as will be readily conceded when Mr. Bacon has displayed some of the treasures: "The unique and well-nigh exhaustive collection of postage stamps which formed the subject of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling's bequest to the British Museum has now been received at that institution, where it has, for the present, passed into the custody of the authorities of the Department of Printed Books. Such a collection, however, is so nearly *sui generis*, and touches in various ways on so many departments, that it is left in some doubt as to the particular department in which it will be displayed when it comes to be sufficiently advanced in classification and arrangement to be submitted to the inspection of visitors. This will necessarily be a process demanding some time for its completion, as may be inferred from the circumstance that the weight of the iron safe in which the bulk of the collection was stored for delivery at its destination in Great Russell Street was estimated at about two tons, and that it required the services of over a dozen labourers for its efficient manipulation."

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT has sent us the following letter, anent our hobby, which appeared in the *Pioneer*, and as it touches upon the use of the official stamps, that frequently constitute themselves as an uninteresting adjunct to our collections, in a new light, it is worthy of consideration and perhaps discussion. "I have noticed several letters in the *Pioneer* lately, suggesting the discontinuance of the use of postage stamps on official correspondence, and if you will permit me I would wish to add a few words on the subject. I think it requires very little consideration to convince anybody of the utter uselessness, not to say absurdity, of using postage stamps on official correspondence. I have served very many years in a large Government office, and I am convinced that a return to the old system of simply franking letters would not only save much time and trouble in public offices—which in itself is a desideratum in these days, when the work of almost every office of the State has increased four-fold to what it was fifteen or twenty years ago—but it would also be a distinct gain to Government financially, for doubtless it costs no small sum for machinery, labour, and material in the manufacture of the several millions of postage stamps which are now literally wasted annually. If, as I believe, the present practice was introduced with a view to show the expenditure on postage in the various departments, then all I can say is that any calculations based on the so-called postage accounts of an office are, and will be, perfectly misleading, for I am certain that inquiry would prove that the postage accounts in quite three-fourths of the Government offices are not worth the paper they are written on. I do not imply that the postage accounts are wilfully falsified, but it can be easily understood that they are carelessly kept, when one

considers that it is a matter of perfect indifference to an office whether its postage account amounts to Rs.10 or Rs.10,000 in the year. It is not in human nature to expect anything else, and I know for a fact, and have seen over and over again, official covers being sent to be posted with stamps on them enormously in excess of the number actually necessary. It is the greatest mistake out, to suppose that the annual postage accounts of departments correctly show their expenditure under this head. Surely then, there is no sense in keeping up a practice which is not only troublesome but expensive."

* * *

An esteemed correspondent writes:—"Collectors of South Africans may look out for some 'natives' ere long. The Boers have trekked into Angola and proclaimed a Republic, and as the Portuguese are not strong enough to drive them out they are likely to hold on to their 'New Republic' this time. The last time they trekked they left behind a trail of worthless postal 'New Republics.' This time a more permanent interest may attach to the product of the rubber stamp. But what about Angola issues? That will be a question for collectors of Portuguese Colonies."

* * *

It is officially announced that the Transvaal has entered the Postal Union, which means that the rate of postage on letters will be reduced to 2½d. per half-ounce, and that we shall probably before long hear of a new issue for the South African Republic of "two-pence half-penny."

* * *

Mr. D. A. Vindin having reached home in Sydney after an apparently enjoyable European trip, has commenced an account of his rambles and impressions in his *Philatelic Monthly;* dilating upon the Tapling collection, portions of which he was enabled to see, he expatiates upon the New South Wales stamps, and after quoting the 1d. plate of Sydney uncut, presumed to be a proof impression, says—"there are several blocks of six and twelve unused twopenny views."

* * *

The opacity of our intellect prevented us from gathering the exact sense of this sentence, hence we applied to an authority well acquainted with the collection, who kindly informs us that it embraces 42 unused penny Sydneys, including a block of 4 and one of 9; 31 unused twopennies, including a block of 4 and one of 3, and 10 threepennies—83 in all. Our Australian friends can hence gather some idea of its richness—those who have sought "Views" unused know their scarcity

* * *

We much regret to find in the columns of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* a confirmation of our fears that the World's Fair at Chicago next year will not possess any special attractions for collectors in the way of a Philatelic Exhibition. After a long discussion, it appears that the old adage that "what is every one's business is no one's business," has once more been verified, that nothing has or will be done collectively, and that collectors are therefore kindly permitted to act on their own initiative. And yet there are American Philatelic Societies and journals!

* * *

The "Barber of Seville" has at length found a philatelic prototype. At a recent auction, among the stamps of Roumania with the barbed head of the King (1871), we noticed a specimen of the scarcest value, the 50 bani, blue and red, with a somewhat ragged-looking beard. A closer examination revealed the fact that a tonsorial artist had added the hirsute appendage to the more youthful presentment of the King in the previous issue, which is innocent of this manly adornment, and had thus presumably materially increased the value of the stamp. Such ingenuity well deserved a reward, and it is to be regretted that our curiosity should have frustrated the laudable design of the artist!

* * *

Our contemporary, *Der Philatelist*, has taken to a comic vein, and now disports a monthly addendum with various cuts of "Humoristic Philately," some of which are really amusing, *e.g.*, the young lady who in one picture gratefully accepts any kind of stamp from an admirer as she takes a languid interest therein, and in the companion drawing writes to a correspondent that she can now supply an 18 kr. Wurtemberg at 60 marks, the anticipated price for which in the new catalogue will be 80 marks! A *facsimile* of the Brunswick oval stamp is given plus a *danseuse* on the back of the steed prepared to plunge through the circus hoop of our boyish days!

* * *

The omission on the part of this Journal to comment upon the contents of its contemporaries should in no way be attributed to a deficient estimation of their relative merits. We are content to read and inwardly digest them, and to appropriate with due acknowledgment such items of philatelic novelty as may have reached them before us; it appears to be

fashionable in some circles to reproduce very considerably the articles of other journals—in our judgment it is preferable to indite original matter, but of course this is purely a matter of literary taste.

* * *

THE new venture, inaugurated by Mr. Wm. Brown, of Salisbury, the *Philatelic Review of Reviews*, as being quite out of the ordinary course, may well furnish an exception to the rule previously mentioned. The idea of culling all that is best in the Philatelic journals of the world, presenting them *réchauffé*, with editorial sauce (the simile is culinary), is one that presents exceptional features of interest. Our contemporary has been steadily improving each month in its Review; the critiques are smartly written, the articles well selected, and (*crede experto*) now furnish an agreeable hour's reading each month.

* * *

OWING to pressure of work Mr. C. J. Phillips has been compelled to resign the Hon. Secretaryship of the Philatelic Protection Association. It is but the truth to aver that this excellent and useful body owes its very existence to Mr. Phillips, without whose characteristic energy and Midland enterprise it could hardly have inaugurated its brilliantly successful career. Mr. F. R. Ginn has been appointed Secretary, and will, no doubt, efficiently perform the duties.

The Philatelic Market.

"Owing to the political excitement now prevailing, the market has ruled decidedly flat, and business has almost been at a standstill." The foregoing is not without its application on the Philatelic Bourse!

The recently inaugurated Paris auctions do not seem to have been an unmitigated success, the attendance of collectors being meagre according to the *Revue Philatélique*, and many of the lots bought in, although such stamps as the "Trinacria" and the 2 reales (1851) of Spain attained nearly their normal values.

Messrs. Philips Lea, & Davies, at their 11th sale on June 16th had a good attendance and satisfactory results, the bargain-hunters being quite nonplussed. A British Columbia, 2½d. *imperf.*, in a general lot, though undescribed, afforded ample verification of this, as after keen competition, Mr. Giwelb secured it for £15 10s. There were also offered some fair Australians, Newfoundlands, and a choice selection of Oldenburgs, which also were not "*un occase.*"

Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson, & Co., contrary to their custom, and, we understand, to oblige a client, held a Midsummer sale on the 22nd and 23rd ult. The Europeans were not fine, but, none the less, were freely sold. A Ceylon 5d., no w'mark, unused, went reasonably enough for £6 10s.; the same remark applying to a large filled Mauritius at £9 10s. A strip of the Bolivar, 10 c., green, 1st issue, realised £15—an uncommon acquisition; and two specimens of the orange Buenos Ayres sold well at £9 10s. each. *En revanche*, some of the lots were sold at absurdly low prices, *e.g.*, Tasmania, second issue, 1d., with error of watermark 2, at 40s.! The general want of attractiveness of the 464 lots, added to the lateness of the season, may, however, well be accountable for the variations in the prices attained.

The Scott Company's sale of Mr. R. Wormeley's stamps on the 9th ult. does not seem to have been of an heroic nature, as the total received for the 459 lots was only about £175. An 8 c., green, British Guiana, on part of original letter, even if creased and cut to shape, should have been a veritable bargain to its purchaser at £6 8s.!

A private sale by tender above the fixed reserve was also "functioned" by the same firm last month, and included a red Buenos Ayres (£10); a 15 c. Réunion (£40); and the companion, 30 c. (£46); an early unused 1d. Mauritius (£8); an 1861 Mexican error, 1 r, black on rose (£10); a plate of the lithograph, of Nevis (£7); a ½ peso, unused, yellow Peru (£6); an octagonal, small size, 7 gr., Prussia, unused (£9); and other good things, the aggregate of the 34 lots sold being nearly £200.

Messrs. Bogert and Durbin held a sale at Philadelphia on the 1st, and a second at New York on the 22nd and 23rd of last month. A St. Louis, 5 c. (£12), seems to have been the most valuable item in the former, while in the latter "mediocrity seems to have marked it for its own."

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of The London Philatelist, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. Nankivell, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

The London Philatelist will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of 7s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the publishers, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.

Vol. I.] AUGUST, 1892. [No. 8.

PHILATELIC CONVENTIONS.

BY the time that this Journal is in the hands of its readers the American Philatelic Convention will be a thing of the past, while as will be seen by reference to another column of this month's issue, the "Philatelic Day" or Convention of the Amalgamated German Societies has been brought to a most successful issue. In view of these significant conclaves of stamp collectors, it may not be without use to consider for a moment the objects to be thereby attained and their future development. *Imprimis*, the question arises, how is it that in this country—the initiator of the postage system and the home of many of the most "advanced" collections and amateurs—there has been no attempt to promote any such Philatelic *ré-union!* The English nation has earned—rightly or wrongly—the title to be considered ungregarious if not unsociable in its habits, and it is probable that the spirit of self-reliance and individual independence that has given colour to the forementioned (assumed) defect in the national character, has also permeated the Philatelic ranks. Bearing on this question is the fact, that despite a numerous body of collectors, there has not, until quite recently, been any attempt to form Philatelic Societies, other than that of the Metropolis. Better late than never, however; the last two years has seen a remarkable growth of what we may not inaptly term Philatelic Communism, and it is to be hoped that this spirit will be fostered and developed. The advantages

of association among the followers of any pursuit are apparent, hence we trust that ere long all the leading cities of Great Britain may rejoice in Philatelic Societies. When this hope bears fruition, the question of an annual conclave or Parliament will probably come to the fore; our insular instincts will doubtless ensure discussions on subjects of practical utility, nor render them second to the social intercourse and hospitality that is a necessary concomitant of such gatherings.

As will be seen from the account of the Prague "Festival," kindly contributed by Mr. Harry Hilckes, who was present, the fourth "Philatelic day" has been deemed a distinct advance on any of its predecessors, while the fact of the selection of Berlin for the next one is an *imprimatur* of the acknowledged success of the movement. Were further proof needed of the widespread interest taken in the discussion it would be noted in the fact of the attendance of no less than 125 collectors, representing by delegates nearly 5,000 collectors. Some of the resolutions resulted in "beating the air," such as the guarantee stamping of specimens, while that as to the formation of a Philatelic Protection Society justly awakened an animated discussion. The English Society, founded by Mr. C. J. Phillips for this purpose, has attained a brilliant success, and the question arises whether in a pursuit so universal in its character as Philately, protection is not better secured by one *International Society* with branches in each leading country. Forgeries are more likely to be found out in the country whose stamps they purport to imitate, and this, with a large and powerful Society having ramifications all over the world, would be readily attainable, while its financial resources would then admit of that which we hold for a *sine quâ non*—a paid secretary and permanent offices.

The American Convention has important questions to discuss, notably that of the foundation of a really National Society, formed on the existent lines of the American Philatelic Society, and developed by delegation from all the States, so as to form (if we may use such a word as touching a Republican country), an Imperial Institution. The *venue*—Niagara—is certainly one that should add attractions, other than Philatelic, and we hope that the eloquence of the members constituting the assembly may possess the force without the volume of the celebrated waterfall. It is devoutly to be wished that trade recriminations and jealousies may be relegated to their proper sphere, and that when the report of the proceedings is published it will be found at once less desultory than some of its predecessors, and more in consonance with the high intellectual faculties of the many prominent collectors in the United States.

OUR NEW POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

AS philatelists we are naturally much interested in the appointment of our Postmaster-General. A change of Government has led to a change in the head of the Post Office, the post this time having fallen to a comparatively young man. Mr. Arnold Morley was born in 1849, He is a son of the late Mr. Samuel Morley, the eminent London philanthropist. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1871 and M.A. in 1874. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1873. He sits as member for East Nottingham. As Liberal Whip he has served an apprenticeship to an active official life, and as Postmaster-General, with Mr. Henniker Heaton urging him forward, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer keeping a tight rein on his expenditure, he will need all the wisdom of the ancients to steer a clear course. He follows a deservedly popular holder of the office in Sir James Fergusson.



MR. ARNOLD MORLEY, M.P.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Austrian Levant.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"We enclose an Austrian Levant stamp *8 paras* on 2 kr. This was issued and immediately withdrawn, as it caused some difficulty with the Ottoman Post Office, the denomination of 8 paras not being recognised on a postage stamp."

The specimen submitted is of the type of the other and current values. It seems doubtful if this stamp was ever in circulation, and should not therefore come under the more appropriate designation of a still-born issue!

8 paras, black surcharge, on 2 kr. brown (? issued).

Azores.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have specimens of additions to this type described on page 171.

5 reis, yellow, Ponta Delgada.
10 „ reddish-mauve „ „
80 „ yellow-green, „ „

Barbados.—We are indebted to several correspondents for specimens and information as to the new issues here. Messrs. Ridpath & Co. state that there were 120,000 of the provisional ½d. on 4d. issued, and that they were all, of course, quickly bought up; while Messrs. Maitland & Co. write: —

"We herewith beg to hand you a sheet of Barbados, ½ on 4d. prov., black and brown, which we received about the middle of last month. Our correspondent writes us as follows:—There were 120,000 of these prov. stamps issued with the surcharge in black. There were also four sheets printed with the surcharge in red, *i.e.*, 240 stamps with red surcharge [of course!]. We beg, at the same time, to point out that there are two errors which appear in every sheet. The first surcharge on second line from top, at the left hand side, has no hyphen, and also the second stamp on second line from the bottom of sheet on the left. There is also a minor variety of error on the third line from bottom, second stamp on the right hand, where the surcharge has an imperfect H."

This last named small variation is doubtless due to imperfect printing, and there are several specimens on the sheet kindly submitted to us showing the "F" shorter than the other letters, its relative position also varying, while the nineteenth stamp has an abortive kind of "H."

½d, black surcharge, halfpenny on 4d. brown, wmk. C A. & Cr, perf. 14
½d., red „ „ „ „ „ „

Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us the full set unused, and Messrs. Maitland & Co. used specimens, dated July 30th, 1892, of the new permanent issue, as we hope to shew by illustration, of a strikingly novel feature—Britannia ruling the waves in the most arbitrary and approved fashion! These handsome stamps, apparently the work of Messrs. Waterlow & Co., will receive a hearty welcome in the albums of collectors.

NEW DESIGN.

½d.,	green, wmk. C A. & Cr,	perf	14.
1d.,	rose,		„
2½d,	blue,		„
5d.,	olive-green,		„
6d.,	purple, value in	red,	„
8d,	yellow, „	blue,	„
10d.,	green, „	red,	„
2s. 6d.,	black, ,	orange,	„



Cape of Good Hope.—Annexed will be found an illustration of the stamp described on page 172.

Ceylon.—A new surcharge has been added again here to the numerous list. When will the Philatelic camel's back break? In sending us a specimen, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that this has been issued in consequence of a change in the postal rates, and that as there was only a small stock of the 28 c. stamps in hand, and this value is not in demand, the whole of the balance will be overprinted; on the exhaustion of the stock of this value, the 4 c. will be treated in like manner, so there is still something novel to look for among the Cingalese surcharges. Our correspondents naïvely add, that "as yet they have found no error



or inverted surcharges." This may, however, happen before our readers have received specimens, meanwhile we note that the overprint consists of "3 cents" in small thick black lower case, with an initial capital, the original value being *biffé* by a thin line extending across the stamp.

3 c., black surcharge, on 28 c. slate.

Cochin.—Messrs. Clarke & Co. kindly send us sheets of the stamps described last month, to which we inadvertently added the suffix "China." The State of Cochin is in the Madras Presidency, on the Malabar coast, somewhat to the North of Travancore, and shares its "Resident" with this district. The sheets consist of

½ puttan, 48 stamps.
1 „ 24 „
2 „ 12 „

The paper of the 1 puttan sheet is thinner and more greyish in tone than that of the other values, the perforation of all being well and evenly executed. Our correspondents, as also Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. point out the vastly inferior workmanship in the design of the highest value, the latter surmising that the 2 puttans were native imitations of the other two denominations, these being presumably of European origin. The manner in which the inscription of the 2 puttans is set up is primitive, the letters being badly and irregularly drawn and unevenly spaced; the last letter of the words of value—"S"—is squeezed in, while the "W" of "Two" closely resembles an inverted "M."



Colombia.—We illustrate the recent issue of this value.

2 c., red, on rose, perf. 14.

Curaçao.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"The current unpaid letter stamps will shortly be superseded by a new issue, of the same colour and values, but the figures of value will be smaller, and underneath them the word 'cent' will be added."

Fiji.—We give an illustration of the permanent design for the ½d. value, which, it will be seen, is a somewhat more ornate combination of the type so long in use on white wove paper.

½d. bluish-green, perf. 10.



Great Britain.—Mr. E. Stock has sent us for inspection a specimen of the 6d. lilac with large white letters in the angles without hyphen, duly postmarked on a letter, and beyond suspicion, having the vertical "perforation" resembling a small regular saw-like roulette, "measuring" about 40 points in the height of the stamp, and occurring probably, as in the case of Colonial stamps that we have seen, from some slip in the perforating machinery.

"Quilp" writes as under:—"I have much pleasure in enclosing you a rough sketch of the new 4½d. stamp, which will be issued in about six or eight weeks.

"The inscriptions are:—T. 'POSTAGE'; B. '& REVENUE'; and the colours *vermilion* and *green*—same as those of the 2d.—not blue, which latter colour I had to use in default of green ink; the stamp is, of course, the usual size.

"The design was chosen by the Postmaster-General on the 10th February last; and copies have lately been submitted in the following colours, the first being that of the head and inner frame, the second being that of the corners and outside frame:—Purple and green, green and purple, *green and vermilion*, purple and brown, purple and orange, and green and blue. The two last seemed the handsomest, especially the one in purple and orange (a *pure orange*)."

The design in the sketch contains the Queen's head to left within a solid band of colour, impinged on at the four angles by the labels of value. We understand that the centre will be green, and the outer portion "vermilion."

Madeira.—A further instalment of the flock of Portuguese and Colonial varieties is to hand, viz., four values for this Island bearing the designation of Funchal, as will be seen from our illustration.



5 reis, yellow, perf. 11½, Funchal.
10 „ mauve, „ „
25 „ green, „ „
50 „ pale blue, „ „



Morocco.—We illustrate this rather pretty and novel design, chronicled in our last issue.

New South Wales.—Another new value has been added to the unpaid letter series, namely:—

1 shilling, green.

Messrs. Ridpath & Co. have shewn us a specimen of the 5d. green that, despite our tendency to doubt partially imperforate stamps of recent issue, we cannot hesitate to accept.

5d., green, *imperf. vertically.*

New Caledonia.—From our indefatigable correspondents, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co, we have a sheet of fifty of the last "thing" in this settlement, the 10 c. on 30 c, which shews that one half of the stamps have the surcharge inverted; as also a copy of the Official Journal duly authorising their issue with all the circumlocution worthy of a better cause. The imprint consists of large black numerals "10," with "centimes" in small lower case letters below, and "N.C.E." above in thick plain capitals within a fancy ornamental frame, as illustrated. There are no errors *mirabile dictu!*



10 c., black surcharge, on 30 c brown on pale brown, current type.

Obock.—Despite the obloquy that has been appropriately and deservedly heaped

upon these stamps, "the cry is still they come," and from the columns of the *Timbre Poste* we cull the following delectable varieties of recent issues.

1 cent, on 25 c., surcharged in red "1" with companion stamp without the figure.
5 „ „ „ „ "5" „ „ „ „ "Obock."
35 „ „ „ „ "35" „ „ „ surcharged "3."
75 „ „ „ „ "75" „ „ „ „ "5."
1 „ „ „ „ "Oboc."
1 on 25 c., red, double surcharge.
4 „ „ black „ „
5 „ „ red „ „
75 „ on 1 fc., „ „ „
2 „ on 15 c., „ „ „ surcharged above and below.

Portugal.—Mr. J. N. Marsden writes :—"I now enclose for the purposes of the London Philatelist two new stamps, which have been issued, with the translation of the documents authorising the same. You will thereby see that we shall have no remainders, it is said, and I think it very probable, that the same will be done with the remainders of the Colonies as the new stamps get issued.

"Translation of the portaria, which appeared in the *Diario do Governo*, of the 14th May, 1892 :—

"As it has been deemed expedient to make use of the postage stamps which may be withdrawn from circulation, and so avoid the unnecessary loss of an important sum, His Majesty the King, through his Secretary of State for Public Works, Commerce and Industry, orders that the said stamps of all values re-enter into circulation, after having had applied to them the surcharge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ reis, such stamps to circulate simultaneously with the stamps of $2\frac{1}{2}$ reis of the present type.

"Palace, 7th May, 1892. Visconde de Chancelleiros.

"Translation of the portaria, which appeared in the *Diario do Governo*, of the 23rd May, 1892 :—

"His Majesty the King orders, that the surcharge to which the portaria of the 7th inst. refers shall be substituted by the word 'Provisoria,' from which it shall be understood that the stamps of the substituted type circulate at the respective values, simultaneously with those of the new type.

"Palace, 19th May, 1892. Visconde de Chancelleiros.

"It should be noted that the surcharge, as actually applied, is 'provisoriO,' not 'provisoriA.'

"I think the list of stamps to be issued for Portugal—the values, the colours, and even the districts—as given in the May number of the London Philatelist, should not be taken as absolutely correct. There has been no official notification of these.

"The new stamps for the Continent and the Islands are not perforated 14 as stated, at least I have not seen any, but vary from 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$."

Illustrations of the stamps described by Mr. Marsden will be found annexed. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., who also send specimens, add :—"The reason for this is, directly the new stamps are issued, the old ones are demonetised, and are not receivable for postage. We have had some letters from Portugal and Azores lately, franked with the old issue stamps, but treated as unpaid, and charged double postage on delivery."



5 reis, black, *surcharged Provisorio.*
10 „ green, „ „



Philippines.—The already extensive set of the current stamps has received the following fresh accession, for which we are indebted to various sources.

6 m. de peso, rose.
40 c. „ slate.
80 c. „ orange.

Russia—Oustioujna (Viatka).—The 1891 type has been recut, differing somewhat in the details. There are six varieties of type in two vertical rows, the sheet containing twice this number of impressions. In the preceding issue the word "posta" is punctuated and the stamps are rouletted; in this they are perforated and the stop is absent.

3 kopecks, orange, perf. 11½.

Zolotonoscha (Poltava).—Two fresh varieties have just been issued, says the *Timbre Poste*, to whom we are indebted for all information on the rural stamps in this number. We illustrate the variety, and need only add that the arms and shield are golden, on green and red backgrounds, while the remainder of the stamp is imprinted in black on white paper.



3 kopecks, gold, black and green, perf. 12½.
10 „ „ black and red, „



Sarawak.—We give herewith an illustration of the provisional issue described in our last issue.

San Marino.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"Two provisional stamps have been issued, 5 c. on 10 c., and 10 c. on 20 c., 20,000 of the former and 40,000 of the latter, and were all bought up by speculators immediately on their appearance. It is not quite clear to us why these were made simultaneously. If they were so short of 10 c. stamps, why did they use 20,000 of them to surcharge 5 c.?" The reason is fairly clear, we think, judging from various statements in our contemporaries' column, it being as the Scotchman said, "just a matter of dry money"! There is an additional variety on the 30 c. brown. The surcharge consists of "C^{mi} 5" and "10" in thin upright letters and figures, and there should probably be varieties!

5 c., black surcharge on 10 c. blue, perf. 13½.
5 c., „ „ 30 c brown, „
10 c., „ „ 20 c. red, „

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., write:—"We have just received the 5 c., 30 c., and 40 c. San Marino in new colours, specimens of which we enclose. There are also two new values, 45 c. and 1 lira, but we have not yet seen them."

5 c., *green*, perf. 14, wmk. Crown.
30 „ *yellow*, „ „
40 „ *brown*, „ „
45 „ red on yellow, „ „
1 lira, olive green, „ „

St. Pierre and Miquelon.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 25 c. black on pink of the current Colonial type, surcharged diagonally "St. Pierre M. on" in small Roman capitals, and "cent." in large lower case, surmounted by the respective numerals of value in thick figures.

1 c., black surcharge on 25 black on pink.
2 „ „ „
4 „ „ „

South Australia.—Mr. Gordon Smith informs the *Stamp News* that he has discovered a copy of the 6d. perf. and rouletted, printed on both sides. There have been chronicled in all, quite a number of these South Australian stamps with the extra and superfluous impression. A list of all the varieties noted would be of interest.

6d. blue, perf. and rouletted, *printed on both sides.*

Suaheli.—We print illustrations of the accompanying queer-looking objects, not so much in any faith as to their postal nativity or capabilities, but rather with a view that some of our many Indian subscribers may further enlighten us. They are presumed to emanate from this Sultanate whose capital is Witu, which, if we mistake not, is the name given to the tract of country ceded to Great Britain in exchange for Heligoland. Whether the march of civilisation under British rule has been so rapid as to demand postage stamps, is a matter for conjecture; meanwhile, "with all reserves," we note that of this first type, the following varieties have been seen:—





1 pesa, green.
2 „ yellow.
3 „ brick.
4 „ rose.
5 „ dark red.

And of the second type:—

1 rupee, pale brown.

Surinam.—The *Monthly Journal* gives a scant note of the appearance of the 2½ c. stamp, surcharged 1 cent, in violet black, apparently done by a hand stamp. We hope it is all right and chronicle—

1 c, violet, black surcharge on 2½ c., rose.

Sirmoor.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write as under:—"The official Sirmoor are now surcharged in a different type to that hitherto used. We enclose specimens of both types for comparison. The 6 pies is now surcharged in red instead of black. All are overprinted in strips of 10, the third stamp in the row having one of the letters S upside down, and the period misplaced; we also have the 6 pies with inverted surcharge. We send a whole strip of the 3 pies, showing the error." The new surcharge is in much smaller type, is badly formed, and worse printed, much resembling a fictitious overprint.

3 pies, red, *smaller, black surcharge.*
6 „ green, „ *red* „
1 anna, blue, „ *black* „
2 „ pink „ „ „
3 pies, *red* „ "S" to left inverted.

Tangiers.—Several other papers have chronicled the 15 c., blue French stamp overprinted "15 centimos" for use in Tangiers. "We can assure you," say Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., "on the best authority that this stamp has no existence. If any are offered for sale they must of necessity be bogus so far as surcharge is concerned."

Turks Island.—The accompanying official notice forwarded by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., will be found of interest in view of the surcharges elsewhere recorded, which do not, however, extend to the adhesives.

No. 28.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

REDUCTION IN POSTAL RATES FROM TURKS ISLANDS TO ALL OUTSIDE DESTINATIONS.

NOTICE is hereby given that on and after the 1st of July ensuing, the rates of Postage from Turks Islands to all places will be as under :—

For letters, 2½d. per ½ oz.

For postcards, 1d. each.

For reply postcards, 2d. each.

For newspapers, books, printed papers, commercial papers, patterns and samples, ½d. per 2 oz. with the Postal Union proviso of a minimum payment of 2½d. for a packet of commercial papers, and of 1d. for a packet of patterns or samples.

Fee for registration of any of the above-named articles, 2d.

Fee for an acknowledgment of the delivery of a registered article, 2½d.

By order, J. C. CRISSON,

Grand Turk, June 6th, 1892. *Postmaster.*

United States.—We read in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that an issue is contemplated of a series of stamps with new designs, commemorative of the recently celebrated 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. The current issue will, we hear also, not be permanently retired, hence the *raison d'être* of the new series is hardly apparent. They promise to be a handsome set, as they will emanate from the American Bank Note Company.

West Australia.—The new 2½d. value alluded to in our last issue has now been seen.

2½d blue, wmk., C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Argentine.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us a specimen of the ½ centavo wrapper with the inscription of the name of country in the same type as the 2 c. recorded last month, the word "Impresos" to the left being in large script type. The design of the stamp, which is apparently lithographed, is also entirely changed, the label of value being at the base. There are a number of varieties of these wrappers on unofficial papers.

Wrapper, ½ c., red-brown on buff.

Bahamas.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have the new 2½d. envelope, handsomely executed in a bright, pale blue on white laid paper. Size, 152×88 mm. We hope to illustrate this shortly, hence need not further describe.

2½d., pale blue.

Bermudas.—There are two series of the registered envelopes noted on page 107, 131×83 mm., and 226×103 mm. *(Timbre Poste).*

Cape of Good Hope.—We have to note the issue of a new 1d. envelope not unlike that current in this country, but like the fore-mentioned Bahamas, with a row of pearls inside the oval band containing the name of the country; it is impressed on stout white laid paper in two sizes.

1d., bright rose, 147×91 mm.
1d., „ 120×95 „

Colombia.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. have shewn us a minor variety of the Railway Postal Envelope recorded last year, the paper being distinctly thicker and of a paler pink color.



Egypt.—The 2 piastres envelope has been surcharged, as illustrated, 5 millièmes: there are two sizes, 145×11 mm. and 176×117 mm.

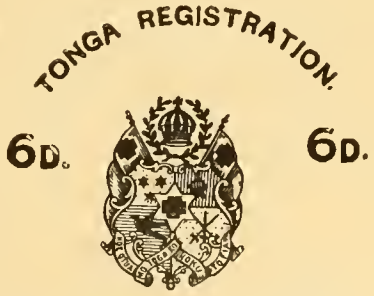
5 millièmes, black surcharge on pink and orange.

Great Britain.—Mr. J. A. Keynes writes:—"You have no doubt noticed that this now appears in quite a distinct shade (less pink). I enclose specimens."

The new colour is of the warmer shade, to be designated as salmon-pink. The exact tint can be seen on some of the older issues.

Tonga.—We give an illustration of a new type of the registered envelope. The "stamp" is on the *patte*, and it varies in many of the other details from that recently issued.

Registration envelope, 6d. red, on white linen, *new type.*



Travancore.—We have from Messrs. Clarke & Co. two used specimens of these envelopes of very varying shades; the paper is white laid, of a thinnish and inferior quality.

2 chuckrams, *pale orange-vermilion.*
2 „ *deep red.*

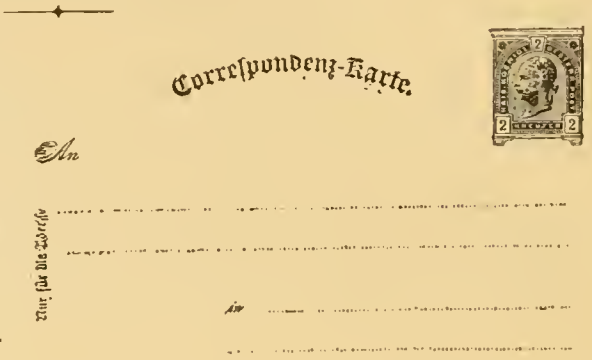
Uruguay.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. have shewn us specimens of the 1879-81 issue, which we do not remember to have seen before, with the stamp embossed "upside down."

5 c., red, *embossed in lower left angle.*
10 c., blue, „ „

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Austria.—We illustrate the hybrid card that was recently issued on the occasion of the Musical and Theatrical Exhibition at Vienna. The stamp is as that on the ordinary issue, but without the frame, and, as will be noted the inscription above is curved.



2 kr., bistre on pale buff (special issue).

Bahamas.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the surcharged Bahamas cards are now all exhausted, and a new 1d. card, single and reply, will be issued shortly.

Bulgaria.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new card of the type of the current adhesives, printed without frame, having the inscriptions entirely altered, and without the arms on the left; the card is of a pale buff shade *vice* white, and is of slightly thinner material.

5 stotinki, green on buff.

Cape of Good Hope.—The reply card has been issued similar to the single, but with necessarily altered inscription.

1d.+1d. brown on buff.

Ceylon.—We have a new reply card from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. of the usual current type.

5+5 cents, blue on buff.

Hungary.—An advertisement card has been issued here, bearing the usual stamp, but with the inscription changed to "Union Postale Universelle—Verkaufs—preis 1 kreuzer—annoncen Postkarte—Postkarte—Weltpostverein" as also its Hungarian designation, and a notification that an addition of 3 kr. is requisite for foreign transmission. The reverse side has the advertisements with room in the centre for the writing. Size 145×90 mm.

Advertisement card, 2 kr., blue on bluish-grey.



Madeira.—We illustrate the new Funchal card.

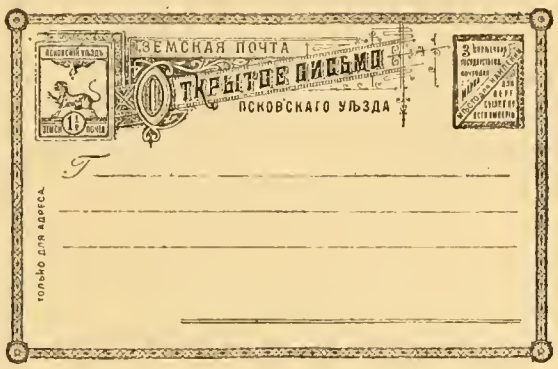
10 reis, green on buff.

Natal.—The reply card of the current type has been issued.

1d.+1d., carmine on buff.

Russia—'Pskoff (Pskoff).—We illustrate a dangerous innovation, and trust that it is not the precursor of cards for all the Russian Local Posts! The size is 136×87 mm, and on thin card.

1½ kopecks, blue on blue.



Spain.—*The Philatelic Record* notes the appearance of a 5 c. card with inscription in Roman letters in place of Gothic, and announces the issue of 15 c. value, with the head of the "Baby King."

5 c., green on buff, *altered inscription*
15 c., blue „ new type.

Turk's Island.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"The rate for postcards being reduced to 1d., and there being only 1½d. cards issued, the stock has been surcharged 1d., both the singly and reply." The overprint consists of a large numeral "1d.," with the existing value barred out by a thick central and two outer thin strokes; on the reply card the numeral has the appearance of being double lined, but this, doubtless, arises from careless printing.

1d, black surcharge on 1½d brown on buff.
1d.+1d. „ „ „

Travancore.—Reply cards are now in use here according to the *Ill. Brief Zeitung*, perforated above, and in size 136×78 mm.

8+8 chuckrams, carmine on buff.

Some Further Remarks on the Cape Triangular Stamps.

A Reply to Mr. Emil Tamsen's Paper in the June and July Numbers of this Journal.

By E. D. BACON.

I WAS glad to see from the June number of the London Philatelist that one of the Members of our Society, residing in South Africa, has so promptly responded to the appeal I made in my paper on the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, which appeared in the first three numbers of this Journal.

The two most important points raised by Mr. Emil Tamsen in his article are, *first:* What was the system of production employed for the "native" printed stamps; and, *secondly:* What plates did Messrs. De la Rue & Co. use for printing the triangular stamps sent out by their firm.

As regards the first question, it is unfortunate that Mr. Tamsen, as he admits, knows nothing of the practical methods of printing, or he would not have made several of the statements he has. For instance, he would know how the two errors might occur supposing the stamps were printed by lithography. There is no need for me to repeat here the process employed for taking lithographic transfers, as I gave a full description of the operation in my "Preliminary Notes" to British Guiana in the Society's *West Indian Catalogue*, pages 37, 38, and 39, to which I refer Mr. Tamsen. He will see at once that the errors might be accounted for by the printer pasting an impression of the one penny on the sheet of the four pence, and *vice versâ*, during the time he was making the transfers. He will also notice that in taking a number of transfers flaws will and do occur in some of the specimens.

When I spoke of the printing of these stamps I said one of the two following methods "must, I think, have been used:—1. Lithographic transfers made from the two engraved wooden dies; or, 2, Electrotypes taken from the two dies and clamped up together to the number of sixty-four stamps," and I went on to say I felt confident the first was the one employed. I came to this conclusion from the appearance of the stamps I examined (these, however, were not very numerous, as at the time I wrote this portion of the paper the stamps in the "Tapling Collection" were not accessible), from the great simplicity of the lithographic plan over any other, and the fact that the same printers in after years employed lithography for the production of the first one penny postcard issued in the Colony.

Mr. Tamsen has kindly sent over some specimens of the four pence, which Mr. Castle has been good enough to forward on to me. Four of these stamps, as Mr. Tamsen says in his article, distinctly show that they were not printed by lithography, and after a careful examination of those in the "Tapling Collection," which I have now had an opportunity of making, there is not the slightest doubt that many, if not all, the stamps of both values were not so printed. I have submitted specimens to two large London firms, both of whom are conversant with the printing of postage stamps, and their opinion is that these stamps were printed either by means of stereotypes or electrotypes, and they incline to the former rather than the latter theory. These two methods are somewhat similar, and it may be interesting to collectors if I give a concise description of the more essential parts of each process.

Stereotyping.

An impression is taken from the engraved die upon plaster of Paris or *papier-mâché*. Metal is then poured over the transferred object, which after cooling, presents a facsimile of the original die. The transfer can either be made in the shape of a thick metal block as in casting type, or can be made to form a thin metal surface, which is afterwards attached to a wooden block, and is then ready for printing.

Electrotyping.

An impression is taken from the engraved die upon wax, which is afterwards brushed with plumbago, and over which an electric deposition of a thin film of copper is thrown from a solution. This produced a facsimile, which after being backed with metal is mounted upon a wooden or metal block, and is then ready for printing purposes.

Both the firms I consulted state that it is impossible to say for certain whether or not some of the specimens I showed them were lithographs, but both think it far more probable that all the stamps were printed from the same blocks, whether stereotypes or electrotypes. My own views entirely coincide with theirs, as

in a reprinted specimen of the one penny I have examined I believe I can detect traces of the impression of the block.

The printers I consulted further told me they believed the variety of the four pence, with the defective corner, arose from some accident or damage that had occurred to one of the "blocks."

It will be seen that I am now convinced I was wrong in thinking that these stamps were lithographs, and I have to thank Mr. Tamsen for putting me right upon this point.

I still cannot, however, admit that these stamps vary in type, and I have no hesitation whatever in saying that they have all been produced from the two engraved dies. The small differences which are to be found may either be due to printing, set down to flaws in transferring the impressions from the dies, or to damage to some of the "blocks."

In addition to the four stamps I have mentioned, Mr. Tamsen sends four others of the same value, which he considers are upon wove paper. I have shown these specimens to Major E. B. Evans, R.A., and his opinion entirely agrees with my own, *i.e.*, that the paper is practically the same throughout for this issue, but that in some specimens only portions of the laid lines can be made out. In the four stamps sent by Mr. Tamsen, Major Evans and I can both see traces of the laid lines. The same difficulty is met with in some of the issues of Afghanistan and Cashmere. As collectors of these stamps know, specimens exist which are undoubtedly on exactly the same paper as the majority of the issues they belong to, but the laid lines are almost, if not impossible to make out. In the case of the Cashmere, the lines may generally be detected by looking along the surface of the stamp when it is held slanting towards the light, and I have seen a pair of Afghans on which part of the laid lines could distinctly be seen on one stamp, while invisible on the other.

Mr. Tamsen goes on to say he believes these provisional stamps were used in other towns besides Capetown, and he mentions Port Elizabeth as an instance. I certainly in my paper never confined their employment to the capital, in fact my opinion has always been that these stamps were used more or less all over the Colony.

With reference to the number printed, in the absence of official information it is hardly worth discussing, as it is not a point of much importance. When I stated I thought there was probably but one printing, I did not intend to convey the impression that all the stamps were necessarily struck off in a day, or that the colours were mixed but once, but rather that only one supply, of an at present unknown quantity, was ordered. Because Mr. Tamsen has found five shades of the four pence it does not follow that there were five separate printings, for shades, and very distinct ones too, may often be found upon the same sheet. These are due to the uneven inking or imperfect cleaning of the plate or blocks, and may be found in the stamps of most countries, notably in those printed locally, like the Transvaal stamps of the first design.

I now pass on to consider Mr. Tamsen's remarks upon the triangular stamps printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. Mr. Tamsen is quite wrong in thinking that these stamps were printed from either new or re-engraved plates. There was never but the one set of four original plates engraved by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and I do not believe that any of these were ever re-touched by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. The difference in appearance of the stamps printed by the two firms is most striking in the case of the one penny, for in the three other values it

is not so marked. There is little doubt that the clearer impressions of Messrs. De la Rue & Co. are simply due to the different colours they employed. The same peculiarity may be seen in the stamps of every other colony printed by the same firm from Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.'s old plates. And if Mr. Tamsen will compare the two printings of the stamps, say of Ceylon, St. Vincent, &c., he will see that what I state is a fact. I have often said, and still maintain, that some of the finest and most beautiful stamps ever produced are those printed and perforated by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. from the old plates engraved by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and they are as near perfection as one can wish.

I will even go so far as to assert that the Cape plates showed no sign of wear when they were handed over to Messrs. De la Rue & Co., for let us look at the number of impressions that had been taken from them. If reference is made to the quantities given in the Appendix to my previous paper at page 84, it will be found that there were 24,375 sheets in all of the one penny struck off by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. This, after all, is a comparatively few number for a steel plate to produce, as in the London Philatelic Exhibition of May, 1890, Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. exhibited a sheet of the old one penny Great Britain which was the *one-millionth* impression taken from the plate, and it might from its appearance have been a proof sheet, for there was no appreciable trace of wear. Mr. Tamsen says he maintains that differences exist in the stamps of the two printings, but he does not enlighten us as to what these are. I think before making a definite statement of this kind, a writer should produce his proofs, and I for one shall be glad to know what they are.

With regard to the old stock of four penny triangular stamps being sold out in 1868, I can only say that there is no doubt this stamp was re-issued at the end of that year, as a statement in the *Timbre-Poste* for March, 1869, confirms, and the Editor of that paper adds that the remainder of these stamps were all issued. One would hardly think the Post Office would go to the trouble of surcharging the rectangular six pence "Four Pence," as long as any four penny triangulars remained in the Office. Mr. Tamsen's remarks scarcely affect this question, as it is quite possible the triangular stamps were to be had from some of the licensed stamp vendors (of which there were a large number in Cape Town) years after the last had been sold out at the Post Office.

In conclusion, I would add that it is only by comparing different collectors' ideas, that we can hope to solve the many perplexing problems of our science, and so eventually arrive at the truth. I thank Mr. Tamsen, on behalf of myself and fellow philatelists in this country, for his interesting article, and I hope we may often see his name, as well as those of other Colonial members of our Society, at the head of similar papers in this Journal.

Current Issues of the Transvaal.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



THE report of the Postmaster-General of the South African Republic for the year 1891 gives some interesting details concerning the current issues of the postage stamps of the Transvaal. We are told that the current series came into being as follows:—

½d.	issued in	April,	1885.
2d.	„	September,	„
2s. 6d.	„	December,	„
5s.	„	„	„
10s.	„	„	„
Postcards	„	November,	„

As to the birth of the 1d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. of the same series the report is silent. The series was first chronicled as forthcoming by *Le Timbre-Poste* in the autumn of 1884, and presumably the stamps omitted were issued at the end of that year. The following table gives the sales of the various values for each year from and including 1885:—

Year.	½d.	1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	6d.	1s.	2s. 6d.	5s.	10s.
1885	129,299	562,934	57,507	66,215	38,580	31,724	27,032	178	64	32
1886	409,822	196,039	563,613	8,824	23,567	46,572	28,242	4,260	2,327	771
1887	681,872	720,516	1,096,200	31,100	56,473	140,743	201,386	20,642	7,475	986
1888	744,067	1,085,395	1,569,552	191,139	86,640	319,251	481,902	19,456	5,267	1,091
1889	1,132,101	2,810,152	2,720,342	41,533	252,714	623,292	917,049	46,320	12,263	1,411
1890	1,468,134	1,779,793	2,368,004	59,059	52,005	775,154	644,123	24,602	3,568	4,000
1891	1,200,435	2,068,248	2,005,465	64,054	248,550	469,042	585,279	24,185	12,765	5,180

There are a few remarkable fluctuations in the sales, the most notable is perhaps the drop in the sales of the 3d. from 66,215 in 1885, to 8,824 in 1886. A rise from 31,100 sold in 1887, to the extraordinary number of 191,139 sold in the following year, and then again a drop in the very next year to 41,533. What could have occasioned such a sale of 3d. stamps in 1888? In no other year since its issue have the sales of the 3d. label reached more than a third of the sales of 1888. The sales of the 4d. label have also been somewhat striking. From 1885 there was a gradual increase, till in 1888 the sales reached 86,640. Then at a single bound they rose to 252,714 in 1889, to drop back to 52,005 in 1890.

Measured by the issue of its postage stamps, 1889 appears to have been the most prosperous for the Transvaal. In several of the values the sales of that year largely exceed the sales of 1890 and 1891.

Review.

THE SANTIAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S ANNUAL.*



OWING to the pressure on our space we were unable last month to review this interesting work, a copy of which had been courteously sent to us by the Santiago Society with its accompanying permission to reproduce any of the articles therein contained. A very interesting chapter is that devoted to the first issue of Chili, from which, with a somewhat limited knowledge of the Spanish language, we gather that there are several distinct printings of the first issue, which were in the first instance supplied from England by our publishers, varying in tone of impression and in the watermark; the lithographic plates and designs of these that are appended will be found most useful, and remind one forcibly, as may be expected from their source, of the double-lined numeral stamps of New South Wales. A table of the quantities of each value used until their supersession—May to September, 1867—by the perforated set furnished by the American Bank Note Co. is also given, and the whole chapter will be found of high Philatelic interest. An excellent list of the varieties of the 5 c. envelope from 1872-1891 is also given, and illustration of their "Knives," from which it appears that their name is legion! Considerable space is also devoted to a paper by the Secretary of the Santiago Society dealing with the issue of 1880-81, annotated with the several official documents; in view of recent developments it seems curious to read the name of Balmaceda appended thereto! Other chapters deal effectively with the official stamps of Ecuador, and the embossed series of Peru, the Chilian postmarks and envelopes (by Arturo Brant). The work, extending to 112 pp. quarto, is excellently printed on surfaced paper, and redounds in every way to the credit of the Santiago Society, whom we venture to heartily congratulate on behalf of their *confrères* in London.

The Fourth Philatelic Congress in Prague.

By HARRY HILCKES.



NO less than 125 prominent philatelists, mostly Germans, representing 49 clubs with about 5,000 members, gathered in Prague on the 9-11th July, in order to debate and discuss the burning questions of the day. The programme was of great magnitude, so large indeed that many very important points had to be abandoned.

The first part of the programme was devoted to the reports of those questions which were left in the hands of delegates by the third Philatelic Congress at Dresden last year.

On the question of "cut-outs" Mr. Schoenig (President I.P.V., Dresden) opined that it was a practical impossibility to taboo cut square envelopes and cards altogether, as too much money was at stake; further, this project having been practically shelved by Gebr. Senf's so-called reform album which did not provide for "cut-outs," and, on being brought out, found only a very small sale.

*Anales de la Sociedad filatelica "Santiago." Santiago de Chile: 1892.

Mr. Koenig, the editor of the *Confidential News*, a paper, decided upon by the last Congress, circulating among clubs only, was enabled to report that it was a signal success, and, although only a year old, it had been adopted by over 150 clubs. It is chiefly devoted to the publication of internal club matters, and to the disclosure of everything which might prove dangerous to philately, such as forgeries, swindlers, defaulters, etc.

The President of the Frankfort Society gave a final report on the Brunswick false roulette question, and in the result it was unanimously resolved to caution against all stamps bearing the guarantee marks of the dealer who supplied the stamp as not being reliable. It was mentioned that this dealer, according to his own statement, does not guarantee the genuineness of a stamp in imprinting his name on the back, but simply means it to be a kind of recognitory sign between himself and his goods.

The next point, *re* "Guarantee stamp," proved to be the "question of the day." A very spirited debate arose on the proposal of the Reichenberg Club to adopt one uniform scheme, at the same time laying a fully worked out plan before the Assembly. Most of the speakers (Schwaneberger, Kalckhoff, Umpfenbach, etc.) recommended the leaving of the genuine stamps alone altogether, and the marking of every forgery as such. As it was impossible to come to a final decision within the time limits, seven delegates were elected to sift the matter thoroughly and to report the result of their investigations next year to the fifth Congress in Berlin. As the names include two large dealers (R. Senf and Moehrke), four philatelists (Kloss, Kalckhoff, Umpfenbach, Schwaneberger), and one expert (Decker), there is a great likelihood of something tangible being proposed.

It was further resolved to elect four philatelists whose endeavours should be to make Philately more known among the masses; the names of Lindenberg, Kalckhoff, Brendicke, and Greimel (Vienna) are a guarantee for the due execution of this very sound idea.

A permanent Board was then agreed upon to conduct the business of the next "Day;" the names being Lindenberg, Kalckhoff, Kropf, Brendicke, Fraenkel and Huff.

Other points, too numerous to mention, were touched upon, and after choosing Berlin for next year, the meeting came to an end.

If nothing of great importance has yet been achieved by these "Days," the fact cannot be overlooked that each Congress has been more fruitful than the preceding one; it was the means of bringing the leading men into personal touch; a friendly feeling has sprung up among the visitors of each "Day" which should not be underrated, as it will ensure a uniform working in the future. I should be very much surprised indeed if the Berlin Congress next year will not be of greater value than the four preceding ones together. A business-like basis has at last been found, and with the present Board success cannot be wanting.

It is mainly due to the splendid management of the Prague Club, and its able president, Mr. Kropf, that no hitch occurred in the management. I may mention that for the very modest sum of 10s. a supper, a dinner, and two nights' rest at a first-class hotel were provided.

Surely it would not be impossible to start a similar movement in this country. The result of the labours of two such bodies in the two leading countries in matters philatelic, if working in uniformity, could only be of the highest importance, for the future of our science. Perhaps one of the leading societies will take the suggestion up.

The Philatelic Society, London.

FURNISHING FUND.

List of Subscriptions Received or Promised up to August 19th, 1892.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
The Earl of Kingston	5	0	0	W. Silk, Jun.	0	10	6
M. P. Castle	5	0	0	R. Pearce	1	1	0
E. D. Bacon	3	3	0	E. A. Elliott	1	0	0
C. N. Biggs	3	3	0	Vernon Roberts	1	1	0
D. Garth	3	3	0	C. J. Daun	1	1	0
Sir D. Cooper	5	0	0	H. Grey	2	2	0
R. Greening...	1	1	0	R. Ehrenbach	3	3	0
A. C. Ewerson	1	1	0	F. Ransom	1	1	0
C. F. Casella	1	1	0	W. Armistead	1	1	0
A. W. Rawcliffe	5	0	0	E. J. Nankivell	1	1	0

Total ... ... £45 13s. 6d.

The foregoing preliminary list is furnished by the Hon. Secretary of the Society; very many of the Members are during August and September away from home, and there will doubtless speedily be many accessories to this first score of names.—Ed.]

Correspondence.

THE *FIJI TIMES EXPRESS*.

To the Editor of the London Philatelist.

Dear Sir,—In reference to your interesting article on the *Fiji Times Express* stamps, in the last number, I beg to point out that in the *Philatelical Journal* for 1872, I think the January number, you will find a full description of the sheets of these stamps, showing the number of each value on the sheet and the method of arrangement. The London Society, when compiling the work on "Oceanea," does not seem to have recognised the fact that there were doubtless as many varieties of type as there were stamps on the sheet, or at all events did not make up a sheet for reproduction.

In the same number of the *Philatelical Journal* you will find the three varieties of paper chronicled, and I should suppose that Pemberton possessed specimens of each. He was not very likely to have made a mistake in a matter of this kind, or to have chronicled stamps on *laid* and on laid *batonné* without good evidence of the existence of both. I drew attention to this in the *Philatelic Record*, as soon as the Society's book was published, but I fear that I shall nevertheless be handed down to posterity as the sole authority for these stamps on laid paper.

The so-called *reprints*, set up from type resembling more or less that used for the originals, are of no value or interest. Fortunately, so far, they have been printed upon quite different papers to those of the real articles; I saw some of these a few years ago, which were duly authenticated by a letter from Mr. Griffiths or his successor, and I think they were described in the *Ph. R.* at the time; I cannot give you a reference to this, as I am away from home and have not my books at hand.

Yours faithfully,
Edw. B. Evans.

To the Editor of the London Philatelist.

Dear Sir, — In "Half-Hours with the Australian Stamps" in your last issue, you make the following statement with reference so the *Fiji Times Express* Stamps:—"Their consignee in this country was apparently satisfied with their pedigree." Now this is hardly consistent with facts. On their arrival

I at once advised their *not* being offered for sale, as I felt sure that they were quite different to any I had previously seen, but it was so long since what are called originals had come under my notice that I was uncertain as to what the variations were, hence they were sent to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., who submitted them later on to your good self. What I contended was, there is *at present* no good reason given for the existence *as postage stamps* of any of the issues; such being the case, and all being issued from the *Fiji Times* office, one form has a right to be considered as good as the other

The variation of paper in a place like Fiji counts for little, as doubtless all paper of a suitable colour and size would be used irrespective to its style of make.

What has yet to be ascertained is, firstly, whether more than one setting up was originally made and printed from; secondly, for what purposes these stamps were used, and thirdly, if used as postage stamps, were they available out of Fiji. On these and other points I hope later to be able to afford fuller, if not the fullest, information.

I have heard that the addressed newspapers were despatched in bulk by private ship, the stamps being placed on the wrappers to indicate to the *Fiji Times* correspondents in Australia that postage to the extent noted had been paid, and that the correspondents on receipt removed the labels, and paid the postage on to the recorded destination, the stamps being returned to the proprietor of the *Fiji Times* as vouchers for the money so paid. I am unable, now, to verify this and give it you for what it is worth, but it seems feasible, and would, in some measure, account for the scarcity of the stamps; moreover, as soon as the mail service became regular, such a practice would be made illegal as detrimental to the Revenue of Fiji, and this would again account for the cessation of the issue.

I am, dear sir,

Yours truly.

106, Portsdown Road, Maida Vale, W.
August 12th, 1892.

E. J. FEILDEN.

ST. LUCIA.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR, A friend of mine, Mr. C. H. Nevill, having lately returned from a trip to St. Lucia, obtained for me three of the surcharged stamps issued between January and April, 1892, which appear in Gibbons' addendum, No. 28. He ascertained from the Postmaster-General there that about £60 worth only of the "one penny" on 4d. were printed, only about £8 worth of the "one half penny" on 3d., and from £10 to £12 worth of ½d. on half 6d. The latter the Postmaster-General did not intend to print, but during a temporary absence from business owing to illness, they ran short of ½d. stamps, and the employés, or some one in the office struck them off. There are none to be got at the offices in the Island, and he only obtained them for me with difficulty in the Island, and at 120 times face value!!!

I send you this small scrap of information, as the amount of each printed is interesting, and may be of use if the surcharge is forged, as there cannot be many about.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. THORNHILL.

Occasional Notes.

THE arrangements for the instalment of the London Philatelic Society in their new Rooms are progressing satisfactorily; the decorative work has been completed, and the furniture selected; it should be borne in mind that the expense of this will be defrayed by subscription, and we trust that those members who have not yet subscribed, will not fail to communicate with the Hon. Sec. of the Society.

* * *

WE are informed that Mr. Gooch has been appointed to the post of Assistant to the Society, and will be in residence at Arundel Street towards the close of this month.

* * *

THE most wide-spread and sincere sympathy has been expressed with Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., the ex-President of the London Philatelic Society, under the sad calamity that has afflicted his family circle. We are but expressing, therefore, the wishes of the whole Philatelic community, in trusting that Mr. Philbrick's daughter may recover from the dastardly and wanton attack of which she and her companion were the victims.

* * *

MAJOR ADAM SMITH writes:—"The Native States of Chamba, Faridkot, Gwalior, Jhind, Nabha and Puttialla, have in use Imperial Indian postage stamps, Post-cards, and embossed envelopes, overprinted with the name of the Native State. These stamps, cards, and covers can be used for correspondence posted within the limits of the State and intended for delivery in any part of British India; but they are not recognised in payment of postage for correspondence posted in any Imperial Post Office or letter-box."

* * *

"THERE is a Parsee firm within the Fort, Bombay, which is dealing largely in Scinde Dawk and Afghan and other forgeries, under the euphonious name of reprints. Some of these are extremely well done, and would defy detection by inexperienced stamp collectors. Kashmir and Soruth have also come in for special attention, Jhind also figures there. So it would be well for all Philatelists to scan closely all receipts from Bombay."

* * *

THE following resolution, we observe, was unanimously passed by the Commercial Congress at a recent meeting:—"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the establishment of a uniform penny rate of postage between the mother country and her colonies and dependencies would not only tend to promote trade and freedom of intercourse throughout Her Majesty's dominions, but would, in an eminent degree, foster and extend the cordial relations which at present exist between the various parts of the Empire. This Congress, therefore, respectfully urges Her Majesty's Government to take steps to secure, as speedily as may be, the establishment of a system of uniform penny postage throughout the whole of the British Empire.

* * *

THE Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST will feel much obliged to any correspondents who will send him pairs and dated specimens of the first issue of Victoria—with the half-length portrait of the Queen—with a view to supplementing the information in a Paper thereon, to be read at an early meeting of the London Philatelic Society.

* * *

OWING to pressure on our space, we are compelled to defer the publication of most interesting articles on the West Australian stamps, and those of the *Fiji Times Express*, both emanating from that unwearied and able wielder of the Philatelic pen, Mr. E. D. Bacon.

* * *

THE counterpart of the old *dictum* "whom the gods love die early," has its philatelic aspect also in the case of rarities, as following closely upon Mr. Bacon's missing yellow round British Guiana, we note the following lost sheep in the *Stamp News*, and hasten to extend the publicity that in such cases is most desirable:—*Lost*, In the Registered Mail which left London February 19th, 1892, for Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, a letter mailed by Theodor Buhl and Co., to A. A. Bartlett, containing—A "Connell" Stamp, and a 2 Pence P.E. Island, Rouletted. The "Connell" can be easily distinguished, as it had been damaged by acid, the original colour, brown, having been turned to red, by the action of the acid, along the top and down the right-hand side of stamp. Dealers and Collectors are warned against purchasing these stamps, and any one returning the stamps, or giving information whereby they be recovered, will be suitably rewarded. Any information may be sent to the Editor of *The Stamp News*, or to A. A. Bartlett, P.O. Box 679 Charlottetown, P.E. Island.

Mr. L. Schwarz, a Viennese member of the London Philatelic Society, has recently acquired used specimens of the large-sized Austrian envelopes, issue of 1861, of the 20 and 25 kr. values, which he showed to the admiring gaze of his brother philatelists at a recent meeting. We have ourselves never seen but the 5, 10, and 15 kr. of this dimension postally used, and it appearing that the 20, 25, 30, and 35 kr. had even in Austria never been seen obliterated until now, the question of their postal issue had been mooted. Herr Schwarz' recent acquisitions to his princely collection of Austrian *Ganz-sachen* is, therefore, of distinct Philatelic importance, and he is to be duly felicitated thereon.

* * *

The Austrian Philatelic Society (*Oesterreichische Philatelisten Club*), several of whose leading members are also comrades in the London Society, has since the fusion of previously co-existent bodies, made remarkable progress. The membership has largely increased, and the club has, we are informed by a correspondent, a splendid locale in the Tuchlauben, that well-known Viennese thoroughfare, where free from the importunity of the Kellner, or the curiosity of other "gäste," our Austrian friends can always find a Philatelic and a social *rendezvous*.

* * *

The thirty-eighth Report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office has been issued. During the twelve months ended March 31 there was a grand total of 2,710,578,365 letters, post-cards, book packets, circulars, samples, newspapers, and parcels delivered in the United Kingdom. This was an increase of 3·5 per cent. on the preceding twelve months, and amounted on the average to 17·4 deliveries to each person Of letters, there were 1,767,500,000 delivered, post-cards numbered 241,600,000 newspapers made up a total of 162,800,000, and parcels 49,378,365. The increase in letters was 3·6; in post-cards, 5·2; book packets, &c., 2·9; newspapers, 1·1; and parcels, 6·6. The number of letters registered was 12,077,368, an increase of 720,171, or at the rate of 6·3 per cent. Of the 2,667,200,000 letters, &c., delivered, about 85·2 per cent. were delivered in England and Wales, 29.3 per cent. being delivered in the London Postal District alone, 8·9 per cent. in Scotland, and 5·9 per cent. in Ireland. The number of post offices has been increased during the year by 295, and of public letter boxes by 1,464. There were 6,790,645 returned letters dealt with, and out of that number, 135,914 were re-issued to corrected addresses, 6,000,601 were returned to senders, 234,252 were returned unopened to the post-offices of foreign countries, and only 430,078 remained which could not be disposed of. The number of returned registered letters dealt with was 207,212, or 5,945 more than in 1890-91, and included 30,179 letters containing articles which rendered compulsory registration necessary. About 32,000 letters were posted without any addresses, and of these 1,721 contained cash, bank-notes, and cheques, &c., of the value of over £15,700. Of the returned parcels dealt with 89,598 were re-issued to corrected addresses or returned to the senders. Respecting the staff, the report says that the total number of officers on the permanent establishment of the department, together with the sub-postmasters, is 68,231.

* * *

A correspondent has kindly sent us a copy of the *Brisbane Courier* of June 22, from a paragraph in which it will be seen that Mr. Basset Hull is at work on his further study of other Australian Colonies:—"The collecting of postage stamps may well be called a mere hobby, but the study of the stamps, their life history, production, and the facts illustrating their sphere of usefulness, has been dignified with the title 'Philately,' that is, the study of those stamps which denote that a tax has been paid. The name is derived from two Greek words signifying a friend of that which is free from taxation. The subject is just now receiving considerable attention in the Australian colonies, and Mr. Basset Hull, of Hobart, the author of a history of stamps of Tasmania, is now in Brisbane engaged in compiling a similar work on the stamps of Queensland. The Hon. the Postmaster-General has kindly granted permission to Mr. Hull to search the official records for information on the subject, and the compiler anticipates weaving together a complete narrative of the stamps of Queensland."

* * *

Some good folks have stated that the British South Africa postage stamps have not yet been used for postage. We are, however, authorised to state that they are available, and have been used for postal purposes ever since the first supply was sent out. It is true their use has been restricted to the British South Africa Company's territory, and that other stamps have had to be added for franking letters beyond. Letters have reached the writer with combinations of B.S.A. and Bechuanaland stamps, but arrangements have now been made with the Cape authorities for the franking of letters to all parts with B.S.A. stamps.

The Philatelic Market.

A somewhat significant financial note as to the *fin de siècle* appraisement of philatelic gems is sounded in the Scott Stamp & Coin Co's advertisement in our pages to wit, "Special offer, Canada, 12 pence, black, magnificent unused unsevered pair, *on wove paper*, with original gum, £200."

Collectors in Brighton may be interested to hear that Mr. Wm. Feldwicke has "opened" as a stamp dealer in conveniently situated premises adjoining the terminus (67, Queen's Road). Mr. Feldwicke has been connected with the stamp trade for some fifteen years, and should therefore be in a position to cater efficiently for the wants of the philatelists of London-super-Mare.

The energetic pilot of the well-known firm of Stanley Gibbons & Co., Limited, has taken a fresh departure as regards the *Monthly Journal*, for not only has our esteemed contemporary been reduced in price, but has blossomed forth in a highly ornate cover designed by Mr. H. Furniss.

The physiognomies of illustrious philatelists and dealers, to the number of fifty, now adorn the frontispiece, among them many past and present members of the London Philatelic Society—the late Mr. Tapling, Messrs. Burnett, Bacon, Westoby, *cum multis aliis;* our neighbours across the Channel are to the fore, Royalty, and Literature, (represented by the editor, Major Evans,) are conspicuous, while the past and present heads of the firm, in their sphinx-like dimensions, benignantly survey the minor satellites that form their Court!

Availing himself of the probable assemblage of a large number of collectors at the Convention at Niagara, Mr. Albert R. Rogers, of New York, has issued a catalogue of a sale of stamps to be held at that place on the 15th of this month. It will be remembered that the private auction or tender system has been inaugurated with apparent success by Mr. Rogers, and he now proposes to make the further experiment of a public auction "to find out if the results will be better." Almost all the lots in the catalogue we have received are protected by reserve prices set against each. It remains to be seen if this plan answers, but the system is one that has obvious disadvantages, nor do we think it would find favour in this country.

The stamp auctions do not seem to have fully "caught on" in Germany. The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* states that no less than twelve sales were held in Berlin during the past season, but that the attendance was poor and the lots not fine, the best being infrequently sold. From the somewhat limited experience we have had of these sales, and by the study of the several catalogues, we have arrived at the conclusion that our Teutonic friends regard the auction as a means of disposing of their worst duplicates, hence we can affect no surprise at the results detailed by our contemporary.

In the same columns we note some comments on the fact that many stamps, notably the Swiss, were bought in at the recent Paris sale, and the question is asked "if the unnatural rise in the Swiss stamps is coming to an end?" The Cantonal stamps in old days were nearly all represented by forgeries in medium collections, and many collectors feared to buy them, hence they remained for years under a financial cloud. Many of these stamps were, however, never easy to find, nor could their use half a century since, within the narrow limits of a Swiss Canton, have been anything but a restricted one, hence when the real Simon Pures became generally recognisable, the available specimens were quite inadequate to meet the demands of collectors, and their prices advanced very rapidly. With a full knowledge of these facts many Swiss collectors and dealers commenced to "corner" the subsequent finds of the old issues, the result of which has been to force these stamps to the great price alluded to by our contemporary. We do not, however, believe in any fall from the present value, even if large numbers were unloaded; the interest and popularity of these Cantonal stamps, coupled with the fact that many of them are "typed," and the ever increasing volume of collectors would still maintain them at present prices. If, on the contrary, no hoards are disgorged, there will be probably further financial leaps and bounds. *Exempla grâtia*, how many stamps in Europe are scarcer than the 4c. of (the so-called) Vaud?

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

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PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS.

THE series of Philatelic Exhibitions that have marked the course of the last few years has received a notable accession in that held at Paris during the present month, a full account of which will be found elsewhere recorded. Nor is it the only one held during this year; although on a necessarily smaller scale, the Stuttgart Exhibition, held at the end of June, was one that attracted considerable local interest, and in its aims and results was on all fours with its more important rival in the French Capital. *L'appétit vient en mangeant!*

We take leave on behalf of English Philately to tender our cordial felicitations to our Gallic neighbours on the brilliant success that has attended their initial Philatelic *Exposition*. That the French taste, refinement and elegance are material factors in the organisation of successful International Exhibitions has abundantly been proved by the great Shows of 1867, '78, and '89; it was therefore to be anticipated that the same qualities applied on a minor scale to Philatelic requirements would be equally productive of good results. Despite many and apparently serious difficulties, Dr. Legrand, M. Lesourd, and their colleagues, have triumphed over them all, and have afforded a great source of delight to a vast number not only of Philatelists but of the general public—among whom, let us devoutly hope, that many "who came to scoff remained to"—collect.

In the columns of some of our contemporaries, notably the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, the question of further Exhibitions in this country has been discussed at some length, and it may therefore be deemed an auspicious moment to briefly

glance at the obstacles to be surmounted and the advantage to be attained by Philatelic Exhibitions. Some of the writers who favour a renewal of the enterprise betray an absolute ignorance of the obstacles to be overcome in arranging a Metropolitan Exhibition. The expenses and difficulties of securing an adequate site are fresh in the memory of those who formed the Executive Committee of the London Exhibition in the Postal Jubilee year of 1890. The necessity of holding it during the month of May, as commemorative of the exact half-century's existence of Postage Stamps, in the middle of the London Season, materially added to the expenses involved, but assuming that any period of the year can be chosen, the organisers of any future London Exhibition will find that the hiring of a suite of rooms large enough for the purposes required is not only a difficult but an expensive matter; nor will suitable show cases be found easily procurable. In our view the charges inevitable in the arrangements for a Metropolitan Philatelic Exhibition are so heavy that unless the exhibits are first-class there can be no possibility of success; to obtain first-class exhibits the practically unanimous approval and co-operation of the leading collectors and dealers is therefore obviously necessary. The London Philatelic Society, representing the cream of the English collectors, is naturally content to rest upon its oars for awhile after 1890; under these circumstances the prospects of any London Exhibition in the near future seems misty and vague, and it is "beating the air" to continue the discussion.

Under the altered condition of the London Society there is, however, ample scope for limited and minor—such as *specialité*—Exhibitions at Effingham House, and we sincerely trust that use will be made thereof from time to time in exhibiting to *all* members of the Philatelic fraternity the accumulated treasures of the Metropolitan Society. The primary object of the existence of that body is the advancement of Philately, and far from deprecating Stamp Exhibitions we are most strongly of opinion that they are potent factors both in the spread of knowledge and the creation of good collectors and fine collections. Notable instances of these are within our recollection in connection with the Jubilee Exhibition, and we shall cordially welcome any reasonable scheme by which the philatelic possessions and knowledge of the few are made available to the many. In one direction notably, the influence of Exhibitions palpably makes for the general good—*i.e.*, in the survival of the fittest as regards specimens. The contemplation of the really choice collection of picked examples of stamps is a very education to those who have groped along on their own lines and without a true knowledge of what is really conveyed by the expression "fine" or "superb." For this, as for many other patent advantages, the educational uses of Philatelic Exhibitions are not to be denied, and we hope hence that even without any heroic programme much may be done during the ensuing and following winters to ensure the placing on view of those really fine collections that are at once a just source of pride to their owners, and a laudable incentive for others to emulate.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Austrian Levant.—Mr. W. Ravaison has sent us a specimen of the 8 paras on the 2 kr., alluded to last month in this journal, that has every appearance of having been through the post—having the post mark "Osterreichische Post" and "92" within a circle. It would appear therefore that during however short a period this stamp *was* in issue.

Azores.—We have to chronicle, thanks to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., in addition to the four values on pages 171 and 219, all Ponta Delgada.

Angra	5 reis,	yellow.	Horta	5 reis,	yellow.
„	10 „	lilac.	„	10 „	lilac.
„	25 „	green.	„	25 „	green.
„	50 „	pale blue.	„	50 „	pale blue.
„	80 „	yellow-green.	„	80 „	yellow-green.

Ponta Delgada, 25 reis, yellow-green.



Barbados.—We annex illustrations of the new issue and the recently described provisional. The new issue, we are informed, is the work of Messrs. De la Rue. It marks a truly startling departure from their stereotyped designs.



Belgium.—It is a day of "fads" and fancies; salvation by dint of the big drum is within the reach of all, while every one whose intellectual capacity would probably ordinarily escape notice, has only to enter upon a crusade against something to leap into fame as the great ante—itionist! The most egregious act of folly within philatelic lines was probably the issue of the "Connell" of historic fame, but M. Van den Peereboom, of the Belgian Post Office, intends to outshine his New Brunswick predecessor in monumental folly. He has invented, by a stroke of genius, an instrument, as illustrated, by which a day of rest can be secured for the letters and the postmen. As will be seen the pious Van Peereboom has added to the ordinary stamp a perforated label below with the inscription in French and Flemish—"Not to be delivered on Sunday," the idea being that the letters bearing these "Dominical" stamps should be sorted out by the employés, and remain dormant until the Sabbath is passed. The idea, to our thinking, is chimerical,



The sorting out will be extra labour; nor will the quantity of "Sunday stamped" letters probably be enough to counterbalance it. Most people who write letters on Saturday want them delivered as soon as possible, and it seems to our possibly impoverished intellect that if a person does not require his Saturday letter delivered till Monday he will wait twenty-four hours before sending it instead of adorning it with this stamp and leaving it in the Post Office. Only the annexed value has appeared at present.

25 c., blue, current issue, *with label indicating non-delivery on Sundays.*

British Bechuanaland.—Mr. Morley writes us with regard to the surcharged 4d. blue Cape type, noted in our April issue, in view of the denial of its existence by the Postmaster of the Colony. Mr. Morley has forwarded the stamp for our inspection, and says, justly, that the watermark is not very clear, but that it was labelled C. A. & Cr. in the collection of a well-known member of the London Society. The stamp appears to us to be the corner one of the sheet, and to show just the top of the letters "C C!" *Hinc illæ lachrymæ!*

British North Borneo.—We are indebted to Mr. William Harrison for the information that a fresh surcharge has been issued, consisting of the current 5 c., grey, overprinted "1 cent" in red; the numeral is thickly formed, and the letters are in bold lower case. Mr. Harrison adds that his copy was received here on the 19th inst.

5 c, grey, current issue, red surcharge, 1 cent.

Ceylon.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and Messrs. Ridpath & Co., send us specimens of the two following provisionals, and the former firm, in sending the under-cited cutting, state they are informed, so great has been the care exercised in the printing of these two surcharges—3 on 4 and on 24—that no errors of any kind other than forgeries can exist. Illustration appended.



"To the Editor of the *Ceylon Observer*.

"Forged Surcharged Stamps.

"Dear Sir,—The recent surcharge of 3 cent stamps has given the 'wideawakes' an opportunity of forging and uttering an inverted 3 on 4 rose. As soon as I saw these stamps I made inquiries at the proper quarters, and find that owing to frequent representations regarding the issue of inverted stamps on previous occasions, special attention was bestowed in the present instance by the printer as well as the clerk of the Stamp Office to prevent the issue of a single stamp of this description. The inverts now offered are therefore nothing but forgeries, and I warn all collectors to be on their guard.—Yours faithfully,

"Colombo, *August 3rd.* A Collector."

We wish that this "extreme care" extended to the furnishing of the Cingalese Post Office with the proper and normal requirements in the shape of stamps. The surcharges allowed to be issued by the Ceylon Post Office constitute a disgrace to our Colonial administration. Why should not Lord Knutsford's Radical successor at the Colonial Office inquire into the matter?

3 c., black surcharge on 4 c. rose.

3 c., „ „ violet.

Colombia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a series of new stamps for this country, consisting partly of fresh designs and partly of alterations of colour. We illustrate the new designs.







NEW DESIGNS.

2 centavos, green on grey, perf. 13.
20 „ brown on blue, „ 10½.
1 peso, blue on green, „ 13.

TOO LATE STAMP.

2½ centavos, violet on pink, perf. 13.

CURRENT TYPES.

1 centavo, *vermilion on yellow*, perf. 13.
5 „ *dark brown on straw*, „ 11×12.
10 „ *red-brown on pink*, „ 13.
50 „ *blue on grey-blue*, „ 11½.

REGISTRATION STAMP.

10 centavos, *brown on buff*, perf. 13.

Congo.—From various sources we learn that the colour of the 5 francs has been changed to grey, and in its "later manner" been reduced to franking parcels.

5 francs grey.
3 „ 50 c., grey, black surcharge on 5 francs.
(Parcels Post)

Cook Islands.—We illustrate the set of stamps recently described.





Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that these stamps are only for temporary use, and will be superseded by a permanent new issue which is in preparation.





Great Britain.—Some of our contemporaries who mistrusted our information as to the 4½d., will have had their doubts duly allayed by the sight of the new postal label on the 15th of this month, as foreshadowed by us on most excellent information.

4½d, carmine and green; wmk. Crown, perf. 14.

Grenada.—Mr. A. C. Emerson sends us specimens of the latest provisional for this island. The 8d. is the value selected to be imposed upon by the numerals "1d." and "2d." respectively in large type above, and "surcharge postage" in two lines of small Roman capitals below. We hardly gather the purport of the inscription unless it implies unpaid letter dues.

1d., black surcharge (Surcharge Postage) on 8d. brown.
2d., „ „ („ „) „ „

Labuan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"After using the Borneo stamps for a time, the Island of Labuan has reverted to using its own stamps. The design is the same as the old issue, but in different colours, and the stamps are unwatermarked, on medium white wove paper, 10 to a sheet, and perf. 14. We send you the 2 c. carmine and 6 c. yellow-green; these are the only ones we have received."

2 cents *carmine*, *no watermark*, perf. 14.
6 „ *yellow-green*, „ „

Liberia.—Mr. Hayman has kindly sent us a set of the recently chronicled beautiful stamps with the addition of the word "official" in minute Roman capitals, impressed either once horizontally or twice vertically, according to the designs of the stamp, so as not to interfere with its beauty in any degree. This is a touching testimony that "the beautiful" and "the useful" are one, to which philately has been hitherto a stranger.

Black surcharge "Official."
1 c. to 5 dollars (see page 101).

North Borneo.—The *Monthly Journal* notes a second variety of the 25 c. with the words, "*British North Borneo*" and "cents" somewhat larger than what is accredited in the normal type.

25 c., slate, *variety of type*.

New Zealand.—The accompanying illustration denotes an apparently new surcharge, but one that we must hesitate to finally accept for the present.



Oil Rivers Protectorate.—We have to chronicle an addition to our African Protectorate stamps. Some half-dozen of the stamps of Great Britain have been surcharged for use in the territory known as the Oil Rivers Protectorate on the West Coast of Africa. The overprint is in three lines, in black block letters, "British—Protectorate—Oil Rivers."

½ penny, vermilion: overprinted in black.
1 „ purple „ „
2 pence, green and red „ „
2½ „ purple on blue „ „
5 „ purple and blue „ „
1 shilling, green „ „

Queensland.—Mr. O. Firth has kindly sent us the following announcement which appeared in the advertisement columns of the *Queenslander* for June 18th last.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Duty Stamps.

On and after 1st July, 1892, all Duties hitherto payable by Interchangeable Postage and Duty Stamps must be denoted by Duty Stamps only (new issue), with the exception of the 1d. stamp, which may be used as heretofore for either Postage or Duty purposes.

The New Duty Stamps can be obtained from all Postmasters and other officials who have been in the habit of supplying stamps to the public.

E. B. Cullen,
Under-Secretary.

The Treasury, Brisbane, 2nd June, 1892.

Russia.—From Mr. John Siewert we have the information of the existence of the 35 kopecks with the additional "lightning": it has apparently been in use during the last two months.

35 kopecks, lilac and green, *with thunderbolts.*

Tichvin (Novgorod).—The figures "1892" now suppress those of last year; this stamp otherwise resembles closely its predecessor, the three-lined upper inscription being wider, and the figures in the centre "1773" being in white instead of black. Paper white wove (*Timbre Poste*).

5 kopecks, black, red, blue, gold and silver, perf. 11½.

A variety exists in which that portion of the stamp printed in blue has been omitted; among so many colours *one* would hardly be missed, or for the matter of that the absence of the whole five could be spared!

5 kopecks, black, red, gold and silver.

San Marino.—The colours of the 45 c. are olive-green, and of the 1 franc red on yellow, and not the reverse (see page 224) as assumed before seeing them.





Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us another provisional, the 20 c., with black numerals only, to right and left over the value, which "thing of beauty" was issued on the 9th, and to the tune of 40,000 specimens were sold out the same day to local





speculators. There is enough of this venal and paltry plundering of Philatelists outside Europe, and we trust collectors will not encourage it here by paying more than a nominal price for such ineffable and unnecessary trash—created only to swell

the pockets of some speculator or needy official. We illustrate the type, as also one of the provisionals described last month, and the higher values whose colour has been changed.

10 c, black surcharge, "10" on 20 c. vermilion, current issue

Shanghai.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"We send you a specimen of a surcharge, 2 c. on 5 c., of which only 1,500 were issued, and they were in use only two days. A fresh supply of Shanghai stamps had been ordered from England and sent out, but the stock of 2 c. stamps ran out just as the steamer arrived, and although the invoice of the new stock had arrived, they could not be landed in time to meet the demand. The local Postmaster's instructions were not to surcharge more than were absolutely necessary, but he did all in his power to prevent any surcharges being made at all. He even went so far as to send out circulars, &c., without any adhesive stamps, simply a postmark. It was only at the last moment, when it was found unavoidable, that the provisional stamps were made. It is quite a mistake to suppose that Shanghai provisionals are made for speculative purposes, whatever may be the case elsewhere. In fact, for some years past, the Postmaster has had strict instructions not to sell any stamps to stamp dealers, and we have had to get what we wanted through an agent." In view of our illustration a further description is unnecessary.



2 c., blue surcharge, on 5 c., pink.

In confirmation of their previously cited remarks as to the genuineness of these provisionals, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write under date September 19th:—"We have just received some of the new 2 c. which were effected when the provisionals were made; in type they resemble the current set." The perforation is very rough, the paper thickish white wove, and the watermark a curious-looking arrangement of a large T standing on a square-shaped figure composed on two sides of parallel lines."

2 c, brown; watermark, native design; perf. 12.

South Australia.—Mr. Wm. Hadlow sends us another variety of double impresssion that we have not, he thinks correctly, so far met with.

10d., yellow, perf. 11½, and roulette, *printed both sides.*

Surinam.—Mr. Ludwig, in sending us a specimen of the new provisional 2½ c., writes, "It is alleged that only a small number of these have been issued, and that the stamps are only affixed by the Postal Authorities on usual matter handed in." In support hereof he sends a 2½ c. post card bearing the additional provisional in the lower left angle. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. corroborate this, and state, "A provisional 2½ c. surcharged on 50 c., has been issued in consequence of the stock of 2½ c. (King's head) having run out, and the new ones (numeral in centre) not having arrived from Holland. The specimen we send you was affixed to a 5 c. post card addressed to us. Our correspondent states that not a single unused specimen could be purchased, as they are affixed to circulars, &c., by the postal officials themselves, who are strictly forbidden to sell any." Mr. Ludwig further sends us a strange-looking black and yellow typographed Provisional. It is made up of two



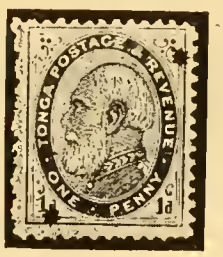


printings: the first a ground work in yellow consisting of two (top and bottom) horizontal and five vertical repetitions of the word "Frankeer Zegel" inside a long rectangular yellow band. This ticket-like label is then over-printed in black with "$2\frac{1}{2}$ cent." in two lines, enclosed in a central rectangular frame, with "Suriname" above, in capitals and small letters, and "Frankeer Zegel" in capitals, in two lines below. The overprint is completed with an outer rectangular band, which partially covers the yellow band beneath.

Messrs. Whitfield & Co. also send us a specimen of the same stamp, and explain that the authorities evidently had recourse to this locally-manufactured provisional to avoid exhausting their stock of other values. Mr. Ludwig's specimen is post-marked "Paramaribo, 13.8.1892", and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s "Paramaribo, 1.9.1892."

$2\frac{1}{2}$ c., black surcharge on 50 c., ochre.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ c., black and yellow, Provisional.

Tonga.—According to *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, the new set consists of five stamps, representing 1d., 2d., 4d., 8d., and 1s., designed and engraved by Mr. Cousins, a New Zealand engraver. The 1d. and 4d. stamps are very similar in appearance. In each a shield of the Tonga Arms, enclosed in an oval band, forms the centre. On the top of the band in the 1d. stamp are the words "Buleaga o loga," while at the bottom appears the word "Postage." At the top of the stamp there is the word "Tonga," with the figure "1" at each side of it, while at the very bottom appear the words "Peni e taka." The only difference between the 1d. and 4d. stamps is the figure in each top corner and words at the very bottom. The three other stamps in the series have a pearl border, and instead of the shield there is shown a miniature of King George of Tonga. The figures on each are of course different, the 2d. stamp having "Peni e ua," the 8d. "Peni e valu," and the 1s "Silini e taha." We illustrate the variety with the additional star noted on page 200.



Transvaal.—Mr. A. C. Emerson has sent us a specimen of a five pound value, resembling, except in the inscription, the current issue. The stamp in question came on a registered parcel of gold to London, and is beyond suspicion; its value is expressed by the words VIJF PND STG.

£5, dark green, current type.

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Bahamas.—Illustrated herewith will be found the envelope which we chronicled on page 227.





Cape of Good Hope.—We give an illustration of this envelope, described on page 227.

Great Britain.—The pink stamp alluded to last month was of course the 1d. envelope; unless otherwise stated (as above) envelopes only are here referred to; but we should have added that the new variety of colour sent by Mr. Keynes was impressed on the ordinary and oblong envelope.

Tasmania.—From a correspondent in the island we have further chromatic variations of the ½d. oval embossed stamp—this time on wrappers of yellow, orange-red, pale blue, and white—with "newspapers only" and "From" impressed above in black. The paper is wove, so the next will *certes* be laid. These private issues are on a par with the higher values embossed stamps of this country, and are essentially *articles de luxe* and not philatelic necessities.

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Azores.—Resembling the type illustrated on page 202 of this journal, except as to the inscription, have appeared the "district" or island cards for this group, to wit:—

Angra,	10 reis,	green	on buff.
Horta,	„	„	„
Ponta Delgada,	„	„	„

British North Borneo.—Of the card described on page 146, and illustrated on page 201, there are three varieties, according to specimens kindly furnished to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The first, already illustrated and chronicled, has a double-lined numeral of value and large Roman capitals for "cent"; the second, a large flat-headed numeral of value, double-lined fancy Roman capitals, and the value at base barred; the third bears a strong resemblance to the last named, but numeral and lettering are thicker and bolder, while the line barring the value has a thin counter-part.

1 c., black surcharge on 8 c. green, current type, variety B.
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ C.

Bahamas.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we hold single and reply cards of what may be called the normal oval type with the usual inscriptions.

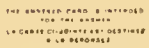
1d., carmine on buff.
Reply, 1d.+1d. „ „





Barbados.—Of the new type we have the single and reply cards.

1d., carmine on buff.
Reply, 1d +1d. „ „



Belgium.—In addition to the reply card described on page 201 it appears from the *Monthly Journal* that there exists also an ordinary one also with the inscriptions nearer to the top edge.

5 c., green on buff, *altered shape.*

Bosnia.—Two new cards have appeared here with the stamp of the current type, but with necessary modifications of text as shown on the accompanying illustration.

5 kreuzer, rose.
Reply, 5+5 „ „



Cook Islands.—We illustrate the card recently referred to, the impression being on white and not bluish.



Curaçao.—We illustrate the card mentioned on page 178.



Cape of Good Hope.—The *Philatelic Record* notes as under—presumably of the current type, on stout card.

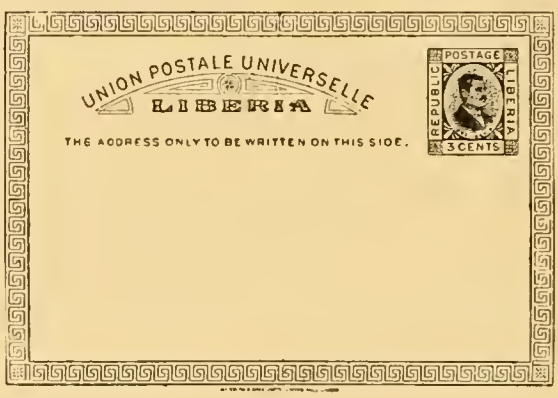
½d., *green on white.*

Gwalior.—The *Monthly Journal* says that a variety of the ¼ anna card has been noted, with the surcharge 15 mm. long instead of 13½ mm.

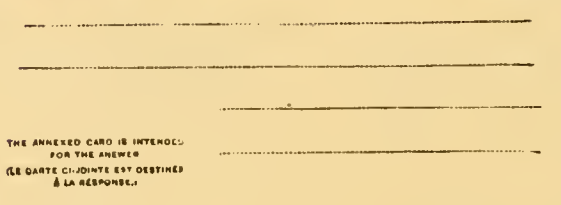
½, brown on buff, *variety of surcharge.*

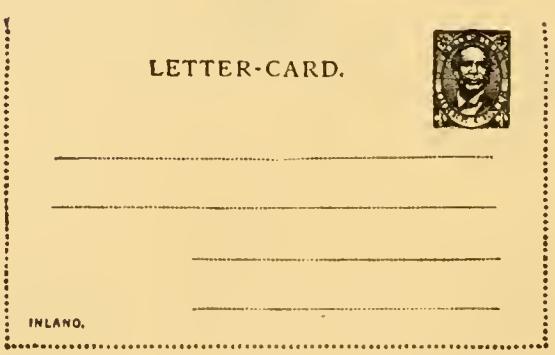
Liberia.—We hold, through the good offices of Mr. Hayman, specimens of the newly-issued cards, which we illustrate. The portrait on the single card is that of a former Postmaster General, J. T. Wiles, whose years of office are noted on the stamp.

3 c., red on buff.
Reply 3+3 c., blue „
Letter Card 3 c., black „









Madeira.—As with the Azores, the new card has now appeared for a district, to wit:—

FUNCHAL: 10 reis, green on buff.

Norway.—A fresh variety of both the single and reply cards has appeared in this country. The word Brevkort is now in one word, and there is no frame, says the *Timbre Poste.*

5 öre, green on white.
5+5 „ „ „

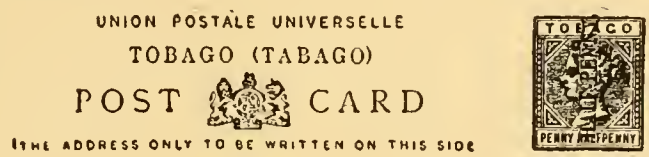
Patiala.—The reply card has followed the lead of the adhesives as to the spelling of the surcharge.

Reply card, ¼+¼ anna, brown on buff (PATIALA).

Tasmania.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that reply cards have just been issued here, but we have not yet been enabled to see them.

We have also received from a collector the current 1d. card with an additional embossed ½d. stamp beneath. This is the oval type referred to elsewhere in this number, and is, of course, a private and not Governmental issue.

Tobago.—We give an illustration of the card mentioned on p. 179.



The Stuttgart Philatelic Exhibition.



THE pleasant and bright little capital of the Kingdom of Wurtemburg has signalised its stamp-collecting propensities by a three day's Philatelic Exhibition, held on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of June. Held in the Königsbau, the affair, which was inaugurated by the Dresden Philatelic Society to celebrate its tenth anniversary, and was limited to members of that Society and affiliated bodies, seems to have been quite a success. Among the many interesting exhibits were Dr. Kloss' well-known *specialité* collection of Saxony, complete, not only used and unused, but also on letters bearing every variety of cancellation: Dr. Kloss' 3 pfennigs *Sachsen* would, we know, excite feelings of envy in most European collectors' breasts. Herr Schmidt de Wilde showed a complete collection of Wurtemburg cards and *Post-anweisungen*, some 450 in all, as also rare envelopes, such as the 1s. Mauritius, and some of the scarcer United States. Another well-known collector, Herr Steudel, of Moscow, was to the fore with an exhibit of Sydneys, and English philatelists will read with interest that the 1d. plates were all but complete, while the 2d. and 3d. were also represented, as also the sheet of "registered" in all its 50 types. We are glad to find that the acceptance of types is being found on the Continent as full of interest, and as eminently collectable as the post-natal varieties of obliteration. Nor did Herr Steudel's philatelic riches rest here, as evidenced by a liberal assortment of the old Mauritius, inclusive of the fillet, and last, though not least, both the Cape errors! The president of the Magdeburg Society, Herr Oscar Friese, showed a rich collection of Europeans—nearly 100 cards of adhesives and 2,000 *ganzsachen*.

The Schweizerhof at Lucerne is a hostelry that we, in common with most of our readers, have sojourned at, with the happiest experiences, but it may not be known to the collecting world that one of the enterprising proprietors has also for years been an ardent philatelist. Herr Hauser is a great specialist on the stamps of his own country, and was good enough to exhibit his superb collection of Swiss, comprising, on no less than 95 cards, almost every variety of Cantonal, as also in an unused condition. Some idea of its magnitude can be gleaned, that the collection (as also that of Herr Friese), was insured for £1,500. We trust that whenever we or any of our readers may again alight on the shores of the charming Lake of the Four Cantons, that Herr Hauser will be good enough to further extend the privileges of inspection of his treasures.

Among many other exhibits may be cited a collection of Hamburg, by Herr Becker, with special regard to the cancellation—a most laudable endeavour—that would be of signal service in this country in view of the large number of spuriously postmarked (?) Hamburg stamps that are constantly met with. The general exhibits seem to have been of a varied character, and to have been productive of a good attendance, while the success of the skilfully contrived little venture reflects the highest credit to the Stuttgart Society, and offers a good example to other bodies of collectors. We are indebted for a large portion of the information to our contemporary—the *Deutsche-Briefmarken-Zeitung*.

The Paris Postal Exhibition.

By M. P. CASTLE

(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London).



LTHOUGH the necessary preparations for the *Exposition* had been expedited as usual with "shows" of all kinds, the opening day—on the 15th September—hardly saw everything in working order. The quarantine regulations held to be necessary at various ports on account of the cholera, had mainly caused this temporary incompleteness, owing to the detention of several of the exhibits. However, very few days sufficed to remedy these slight drawbacks, and on the occasion of my first visit but little remained deficient on the score of completeness.

The plan of exhibition arrangements, and names of the organisers, have already been detailed in the columns of the London Philatelist, and it only remains, therefore, for me to briefly but emphatically acknowledge the successful issue of the labours of the Committee, and to congratulate them upon a splendid Exhibition which should not only generally serve to promote Philately, but especially should show to the three great schools of collectors—English, American, and German—that in the modern and scientific guise that stamp collecting has assumed, France is destined to be their rival in all the best aspects of the pursuit.

Most of us have, without doubt, visited the International Exhibition of 1889 in the *Champs de Mars*, and the vast building that originally formed, as the Picture Gallery, so striking a portion thereof, will be familiar to many under its more modern nomenclature of the *Palais des Arts Libéraux*. The magnificent proportions of the building almost dwarf an exhibit composed of such small items as stamps, but *en revanche* its ample space, good lighting, and ornate character fully atone for this drawback.

To proceed in detail to a description of the *points d'appui*. First and foremost is the exhibit of that veteran philatelist, Dr. Legrand, a magnificent collection of the Japanese stamps, embracing plates and almost every variety of postals and fiscals, the rare Japanese cards being well to the fore. The Doctor's exhibit of the Buenos Ayres stamps is calculated to awake the envy of most collectors. No less than 32 "ships" are exhibited, the sets of all values being complete, both used and unused, the grand shades of the red and yellow varieties being especially noteworthy. The *pièce de résistance*, however, of the Doctor's exhibit, and I may almost say of the whole *Exposition*, is the case labelled *Timbres Anciens*. To be seen here are both of the "Post Office" Mauritius, fine plates of the "Post Paid" series, of the large fillet (10 of the 12 types), two of the 1s. envelopes *entire*; both Cape errors, the blue one *se tenant*; three of the 13 c. Sandwich (both types). British Guiana first issue, the 2 c. rose and 4 c. yellow; the double Geneva unused, and a fine lot of Swiss stamps, both the Réunions, and a parcel of first issue Roumanians. It will thus be seen that Dr. Legrand's exhibit is worthy of his reputation.

M. A. Schœller makes a fine show with his Mexican cards and other scarce things in this interesting branch of philately.

M. E. Vervelle has a good lot of French, including two of the 1 franc orange, unused, and many other fine stamps. It is, however, to be regretted that some

stamps of doubtful originality have been allowed to remain in this and other exhibits. A very interesting and really fine lot of rarities is also to be noted, shown by M. Vervelle, including such things as the blue Naples Arms, the 15 c. U.S. centre-inverted, Mauritius 1s. envelope, and fine Oldenburgs, Tuscany, and West Australians unused. The stamps of New Granada are also placed to the credit of the same exhibitor, and in a great profusion of shades, the 1861 and 1862 issues being strong.

Another veteran in the annals of Philately is M. Pierre Mahé, among whose exhibits I noticed the Medio Peso, rose, Peru, as also the same stamp in yellow, unobliterated.

M. J. Bernichon also shows some good things, *e.g.*, the United States 30 c., with inverted centre, the blue Naples Arms, and some good Swiss and German stamps.

Mr. Douglas Mackenzie's exhibit of Nevis constitutes a prominent feature, and is of exceptional merit, no less than 27 cards of these interesting and beautiful stamps being on view. Complete plates of the 1d., 4d., and 6d., of the first issue are shown, in addition to a splendid array of shades of all the values, and some old friends of mine, in the guise of proofs sheets; the lithographed series are also present in complete plates; sheets of almost all the later issues, and a great variety of shades and impressions of all the other stamps go to make up an exhibit that is a credit to our compatriot in every way.

M. Dorsan Astruc, as was to be anticipated, is no laggard where rarities in fine condition are to be sought; his exhibit is most artistically shown, and includes a brilliant array of imperforate Ceylons of all values, of Cape wood blocks, of early Mauritius, of "V.R.'s," and of 3 pfennige Saxony, *cum multis aliis.*

M. E. Mors, a Parisian collector, has most of the European rarities, including four of the "Trinacrias," and the set of first Moldavians, excellent English Colonials, such as a very fine large fillet Mauritius, a brilliant unused 1d. Sydney, and the Lady McLeod; the whole constituting a most creditable and interesting display.

Another English exhibitor is Mr. W. Morley, who sets forth a large and varied assortment of English stamps, in which are noticeable many vagaries of postmarks and perforations that must have given its owner an immensity of trouble to arrange and classify. It is, however, weak in the unused rarities.

The immense variety of the forgeries of the Swiss Cantonal stamps is well exemplified by the exhibit of M. Henri Goegg.

Messrs. Thompson & Co. have on view a large number of the Fiji stamps, including some imperforate specimens that have done postal duty, as also sheets of their recent large purchase of the West Indian remainders.

Mr. Wm. Brown, of Salisbury, has on view, among many other good things, a splendid strip of three of the 1862, 20 c. red of Colombia, a 9d. Natal postmarked, and some fine Ceylons and British North Americans, as also a comprehensive exhibit of the component states of the Straits Settlements. Messrs. Bright & Son have some fine Tolimas on blue paper, as also specimens on buff, the former including a block of no less than 18 specimens; a fine lot of the early Spanish stamps in unused condition were also shown to me by their representative, Mr. H. Hilckes, to whom I was personally much indebted for assistance in penning these somewhat hurried lines.

Mr. E. Hellé, the engraver of the Rue de Seine, shows some fine specimens of his handiwork, notably in the case of the Turkish stamps, as also some wonderfully well executed essays for Brazil and other countries.

The Swiss stamps are, thanks to MM. Blanchard and Hauser, better represented than any others in the Exhibition. The former gentleman, whose stamps will be well remembered as having figured at the London Exhibition, where (owing to their

having been shown in books) they were, though appreciated by the judges, unfortunately not fully capable ef examination by the visitors.

The 10 c. Geneva and 4 c. "Vaud" unused, and postmarked on letters, as also numerous very fine copies of the 4 rappen Zurich, not to mention Basles, Winterthurs, and the other earliest issues, constitute a splendid array. The Orts-Poste and Poste Locale are also shown complete in all their types, while every issue with the smallest varieties of shade, silk thread and impressions will be found. This collection is a most beautiful exhibit.

In the remarks on the Stuttgart Exhibition, elsewhere in this number, will be found a reference to the Swiss collection of Herr Hauser, of Lucerne, and I am glad to be able to bear out thus early the testimony thus afforded of its great excellence. Commencing with the 4 rappen Zurich, no less than 21 specimens are to be seen, inclusive of the five types and unused specimens, many being postmarked on the original letters. Of the 10 c. Geneva there are not fewer than nine specimens, used and unused, in addition to a *brilliant* "double pair," the 1847 5 c. of this Canton, are also magnificently represented in blocks of 10 and 12 in both yellow and blue-green, the latter having the whole of the inscription at the top of the sheet. The 4 cents "Vaud" are conspicuous by a *pair*, seven other used copies and an unused, while the 5 cents, though of course less rare, are ranged in most tempting rows, the Basle, Winterthur, and other Cantonals, being present in equally fine condition and numbers. Of the Orts Poste and Poste Locale it is difficult to speak without exhausting one's vocabulary of admirative adverbs—sheets, blocks, used and unused, with numberless perfect copies, presenting the finest *ensemble* it has so far been my good fortune to behold of these stamps. Amongst other noticeable features, I may cite the Luxemburg of M. J. G. Kück, and M. Rausch, and the *Société Timbrophile d'Echanges* (two used 15 c. Réunions on a letter); nor should mention fail to be made of the exhibit of all the justly renowned works of M. J. B. Moens.

Last, but not least, are the "shows" of what I may without offence perhaps term the two leading English dealers. Messrs. Theodor Buhl have a brilliant used plate of the Registered imperforate New South Wales, some rare Chiapas, and made-up plates of the Australian stamps. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. have, perhaps, the most valuable exhibit in the *Palais*. Their Western Australians are what English collectors already know—simply superb. New South Wales is also a splendid exhibit, almost all the sheets of Sydney and Laureates being complete. Nevis are only second to Mr. Mackenzie's—high praise indeed! Many and varied are also the other good things shown by this enterprising firm, whose eight splendid exhibits have a special position assigned to them, free from any possible action of the sun's rays.

Of the great variety of fancy decorative work, *tapisserie*, and the ingenious and painfully elaborate ways in which postage stamps have been twisted and turned into artistic decrees, I have no need to further advert to, as being beyond the purview of the London Philatelist. The general impression I have formed of the Exhibition is that it is of much interest, owing to several of the exhibits that I have already referred to—but that, as a whole, its success is more due to the co-operation of dealers than was the case with our Exhibition of two years since. It is a pity that some of the other leading collectors in the French metropolis found themselves unable to contribute towards the undoubtedly successful issue of the Paris Postal Exhibition. I have finally only to congratulate Dr. Legrand, M. Lesourd, and their colleagues upon the result of their labours, which, judging by the comments in the press, and the large attendance of visitors, seems to have given general satisfaction.

The Triangular Cape Provisional Stamps of 1861.

By E. D. BACON.



SCARCELY had my article on the Cape Triangular Stamps appeared in the last number of this Journal, when I received, on August 29th, the following very important communication from the Postmaster General of the Cape of Good Hope.

General Post Office,
Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope,
6th August, 1892.

Sir,—With reference to your further letter of the 1st April last, addressed to the late Postmaster General, I beg leave to acquaint you of the due receipt by Book-post of the three numbers of the London Philatelist, containing a paper you have written upon the postage stamps, etc., issued in the Cape of Good Hope, for which allow me to thank you.

As regards the questions put forward by you, some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining information on the several points, which accounts for the delay that has occurred in replying to your communication.

In reply to questions 1 and 2.—The triangular 1d. (red) and 4d. (blue) postage stamps, known as woodblocks, were printed on the 10th and 12th April, 1861, respectively, from 64 separate type metal plates, which were cemented on to a wooden block. These type metal plates were reproductions of an original steel die.

3.—The number of fourpenny stamps printed in 1861 was 12,840, and of the penny stamps 24,660 were printed.

4.—Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co. reprinted 195 sheets of 1d., and a like number of sheets of 4d. in March, 1883. Of the former denomination, each sheet contained 62 stamps (having two stamps deficient), and of the latter 63 stamps (having one stamp deficient).

These reprints were made solely for the purpose of distributing specimens to the various Postal Administrations throughout the world, the stamps not being issued or sold to private collectors.

5.—As stated above, the stamps are only for distribution to Postal Administrations, and I regret therefore that it is out of my power to grant you a set.

6.—The reprints in March, 1883, were taken from the same dies as those used in the printing of the 1861 supply.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) S. R. French.
Postmaster General.

The list of questions enclosed in my letter of April 1st, to which the above is a reply, was as follows:—

"1. Were the triangular stamps, printed in Cape Town in April or May, 1861, produced from a lithographic stone upon which impressions had been transferred from the two engraved wood blocks of 1d. and 4d.?

2. Or were these stamps printed from 64 separate dies which were clamped up

together, these dies having been prepared by taking transfers from the two engraved wood blocks?

3. Can you give me the number printed of each value?

4. Some re-impressions of these two stamps were taken in the year 1884, or perhaps earlier. Can you tell me the reason why this was done, and the exact date?

5. Can you let me have a few copies of each value of these reprinted stamps if I pay face value for them?

6. These reprints were probably printed in the same way as the stamps issued in 1861; so questions 1 and 2 might perhaps be answered by referring to the method of printing employed for the re-impressions of 1884?"

It will be seen that the Postmaster-General's letter not only confirms every point I put forward in my last article, but, what is of far greater importance, may be said to complete the history of this interesting series of stamps.

The contents of the letter are so clear that, after my previous articles in this Journal, there is but little further to be said. One or two comments may perhaps not, however, be considered superfluous. It is perfectly obvious from the reply to my first and second questions that these stamps were printed from stereotypes multiplied from two engraved steel dies. The stamps cannot, therefore, be considered in any true sense of the term as woodblocks, and thus one more of the old traditions must be referred to the limbo of myths. The answer to my third query is certainly singular. From the fact that the fourpenny is the commoner of the two values, and moreover represented the rate, at that time, for half-ounce letters transmitted within the Colony, with the two exceptions of local letters posted in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, which were charged one penny, one would naturally have expected to hear that the larger number printed would apply to the fourpence instead of the one penny. I cannot, therefore, help thinking that the numbers given in the letter may have been reversed. As regards the reprints, from the reply to my fourth question it appears that before taking them, two impressions were removed from the one penny plate and one from the four penny. These probably included the two errors, and a damaged impression of one of the one penny stereotypes. Whether these were removed just previous to printing the re-impressions, or before the completion of the batch of genuine stamps in April, 1861, there is no evidence to show.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

[We have been asked by an esteemed correspondent to insert under this heading the following account of the proceedings of a Society that is indeed somewhat far removed geographically from those whose minutes are ordinarily here recorded. We have pleasure in acceding to the request, and are gratified to note that Philatelic Societies are now taking root and spreading in all portions of Her Majesty's Dominions. We wish all success to our African friends in their good work.—Ed.]

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.



ON Wednesday evening, the 20th July, the Second Annual General Meeting was held at the Algoa House Hotel, at which the following members were present:—Messrs. G. A. Meyer (President) in the chair, W. T. Hoal, A. H. Sytner, H. M. Howard, J. L. Drege, H. Hormann, S. Rous, and D. M. Jacobs, with Mr. F. W. R. Hirsch as a visitor, introduced by the President.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the following report, which had been forwarded to each member, was taken as read and adopted. It was resolved that a prize of £1 10s. be offered to Philatelists in South Africa for the best essay (to become the property of the Society) on the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope. It was also resolved that a world collection of stamps be made for the Society, that special prominence be given to the stamps of South Africa, and that the Governments of this and neighbouring States be asked to contribute specimens of past and present issues to be used only as a reference, the Society being in a position to assist the Governments in putting down forgeries, &c. The Committee as at present constituted was re-elected for the ensuing year. Several Philatelic papers for the benefit of the Society were laid on the table. The new issues by the Cape Government of the 2½d. stamp, 1d. embossed envelope, ½d. green and 1d. reply cards were reported. Messrs. F. W. R. Hirsch and R. Peycke were nominated as members of the Society.

Report of the Committee presented at the 2nd Annual Meeting, held at Port Elizabeth, on Wednesday, the 20th day of July, 1892.

Gentlemen,—Since the last Report was presented to you the Society, notwithstanding the fact that several members have, through departure from the country, &c., resigned, still maintains the same strength and it is, we believe, the intention to propose several new members at this meeting.

The Library of the Society has been considerably increased in the shape of several volumes, presented by Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., Stanley Gibbons (Limited), and the Scott Stamp and Coin Company (the latter by means of monthly magazines), to all of whom our best thanks are due; purchases of catalogues, &c., have also been made so as to keep the Society up to date in new issues of stamps, &c.

When the forthcoming Kimberley Exhibition was being satisfactorily pushed forward in its early stage, steps were initiated by the Society, and strongly supported by your Kimberley member and his friends, with a view of obtaining a section put apart for the exhibition of philatelic objects, but after a long correspondence the Exhibition Committee had to put the matter on one side, no definite arrangement being able to be come to between them and your Society.

During the past year one of your members, Mr. S. D. Bairstow, secured possession of the rare Error Wood Block 4d. Red attached to one of the ordinary kind, and presented a photo of the rarity to the Society.

In a collection exhibited at a meeting by Mr. H. Powys-Jones, present as a visitor, were two unused copies of the Cape Wood Blocks. Your Society being assured they were reprints, at once wrote to the Postmaster-General for explanations, but his reply does not bear upon the point, and further inquiries are being made.

A futile endeavour was made to charge Customs duty on stamps sent to one of your members, but after some trouble they were allowed to pass without such charge being enforced.

The financial position of the Society still remains good, the cash balance in hand being £3 2s. 6d. as per statement annexed. There being one or two items of arrear subscriptions, this balance together with the amount of the current year's subscription, will probably be raised to some £7 or £8. The album referred to in last year's report has been provisionally cancelled, a new scheme for effecting the Society's collection of stamps having recently been brought forward, and upon which your views will be asked at this meeting.

You will also be called upon to discuss the question of affiliating the new Society which has been formed in Kimberley with your Society, and as to the terms upon which the same could be carried out.

A prominent philatelist, not at present a member, having suggested that a philatelic conference be held during the forthcoming Exhibition in Kimberley, inquiries have been privately made amongst collectors, and this matter will also be brought forward for your opinion, as the Kimberley Philatelic Society seems to be favourable towards the idea.

A system of exchange amongst the members should also be established, and to effect this it will be necessary to appoint an officer to look after this department and to frame special rules for its working. At present no such system exists, which is, we believe, partly the reason of the Society having so few country members, as country collectors can see no advantage to be gained by themselves in joining a society which has no such system of exchange.

A suggestion has also been made that prizes for essays on stamps of South Africa be offered and awarded to members, and that the prize essay be afterwards published in one of the philatelic papers. While we shall be glad to have your opinion on this point we cannot but point out that this would prove a rather expensive item, and if carried out at present must necessitate either a large increase of membership or of increased subscription.

We regret to inform you that the interest taken in the Society during the past year has not been so keenly kept up as we should like to have seen, and in bringing this to your notice we do so with the object of endeavouring in the future year to alter this considerably.

You will be required to elect a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Librarian, three members of Committee, and Secretary, as Committee for the ensuing year.

For the Committee,

G. A. Meyer, *President.*

D. Montague Jacobs, *Hon. Secretary.*

Occasional Notes.

A MOST significant testimony of the wisdom of the new venture of the London Philatelic Society is afforded by the election of no less than 19 fresh members at the meeting on the 16th inst., an election record being thus established.

* * *

THE Society's new rooms are now available for the use of members, the furnishing having been completed, *i.e.*, the more substantial portion of it. The walnut tables supplied by Messrs. Maple & Co. have given great satisfaction to those who have seen them, as being light, durable and comfortable. The installation of the gas by the Wenham Light Co. is also of the most modern and handsome kind. There remains, necessarily, much in the shape of ornamentation, pictures, books, and suitable *bric-a-brac*, which we are sure will be speedily forthcoming from members. We understand that there are a number of additional subscriptions to the Furnishing Fund, of which we hope to give a list next month.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT of a daily contemporary, at present residing in Austria, writes complaining of the general "smudginess" of our English postmarks as compared with those of Austria, and stating that owing thereto the date of posting (in the case of some of his letters of great importance) was quite illegible. The advantage of good clear obliterations is obvious, nor do collectors despise a neatly dated circular post-mark. Early Philippines and Sydneys did *not* get them!

* * *

WE are sincerely glad to hear that the improvement in Miss Philbrick's health still continues, though painfully slowly, and that her ultimate recovery may be hoped for. In all quarters the greatest sympathy is expressed for our honoured ex-President and his family under so great a trial.

* * *

THE following paragraph, culled from the columns of a Society Journal, is probably not more untruthful than the majority of the statements contained in that class of "literature!"

"A PRICELESS STAMP.—Lord Brassey is an enthusiastic stamp collector, and, as he has practically unlimited means of indulging his hobby, he has one of the finest collections in the world. He is the happy possessor of an absolutely unique stamp from the sacred city of Thibet. Of course this is quite unbuyable, but it is willingly shown to the enthusiastic philatelists who think nothing of walking several miles for one look at it."

* * *

AS we imagined, the preceding paragraph had a very airy foundation, as we gather from the *Daily Graphic*, and "as a lie travels fast" we repeat the information in case any of our readers should be tempted to worry his lord-hip philatelically:—"Lord Brassey requests us to deny the statement which has been so extensively published to the effect that he has one of the finest collections of stamps in the wor'd, including hundreds of exceedingly rare and valuable specimens. His lordship does not take the smallest interest in foreign stamps, and, as far as he knows, has not one in his possession. A similar impression seems to exist with regard to other tastes of Lord Brassey, and he wishes it to be known that he is not a purchaser of curiosities of any kind. He has, in consequence of the statements referred to, been troub'ed with letters offering curiosities for sale and asking permission to view his collection."

* * *

IN the "gigantic gooseberry" season almost any item of "news" is considered mental food for the British public, and we are not, therefore, surprised to find that more or less amusing variations of the following paragraph have gone the round:—"The exhibition of postage stamps at the Palais de l'Industrie in Paris, has given a notable fillip to the trade in used stamps. The Stamp Exchange in the Champs Elysees fell for some time into a state of langour, now it is brisker than ever. One sees there every morning between three and four hundred philatelists, or speculators. They meet in the open air near the Marigny end of the gardens, and make as great a hubbub as if they were at the Bourse. Quotations of the prices are telegraphed all over France and abroad." The closing sentence is distinctly good. How the London Stock Exchange must shake when it has a wire stating that a 1s. 9d. Ceylon has sold for 35s., and what consternation must reign on the Berlin *Bourse* when it hears of the successful planting of a fresh French Colonial surcharge. Verily it *is* a small world!

COLLECTORS in the main will agree with the following comment of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and will re-echo our contemporary's wish for the good old days of the Perkins Bacon *régime*. Economy is, however, the order of the day as to the production of postage stamps in this country, which is, of course, less able to afford the luxury of handsome stamps than Liberia!--"The new Postmaster-General has gone to work almost as soon as he has been appointed to office, and his prompt action about money-orders is of good omen. In the meantime he might turn over in his mind the question of a new penny stamp. Nothing can well be said in favour of the existing one, except that the colouring matter has chemical advantages. It dates from the good old time - not so very far back either—when the Post Office was a very centre of circumlocution and obstruction. At that time there were two penny stamps—one red, for postage, the other violet, for revenue purposes. The old red label on thickish paper came to be superseded by a carmine stamp, which for some reason was objected to and discontinued. Thenceforth the violet stamp had to do double duty. It was quite right that the same stamp should be indifferently serviceable either for franking a letter or witnessing a payment. The defect was that no new stamp should have been struck to serve this double purpose. English colour is red—the red that we have in the Royal liveries and the uniform of the Horse Guards—and our penny stamp had hitherto been always red. The national colour, certainly, should be observed. As to design, the existing head of the Queen, though not irreproachable, is good enough. In art matters it would seem that when we vary we do not always improve. The new stamp on the foreign post card, a full-length of Her Majesty, is a conspicuous failure —ambitious, ugly, and confused."

* * *

MESSRS. STAFFORD SMITH & CO. have sent us a copy of *The Press*, published at Christchurch, New Zealand, for the 16th July last, in which no less than seven columns are devoted to the "alleged dealing in fictitious stamps," by Adolf Schlesinger, of that town. The informations were laid under the Post Office Act of 1887, Sec. 2 – well-known on this side of the water. Some interesting evidence was given as to the extent of trading in and value of postage stamps, notably those of the Australian Colonies, and after a protracted hearing before the presiding magistrate the defendant was convicted of dealing in forged stamps and fined £1 with costs, £14 19s. 2d., or in default two months' imprisonment with hard labour, the fine being made nominal in view of the heavy costs. The manufactures of Schlesinger have been liberally sent over to this country, and we have seen many of them that are of a specially dangerous nature, hence it is to be hoped that—despite the notice of appeal given—we may be spared from seeing any more of this rubbish, by this action of the New Zealand Postmaster-General, to whom the credit of instituting the proceedings belongs.

* * *

WE are indebted to Mr. F. Breitfuss, of St. Petersburg, for two photographs of the plate of the Providence stamp—11 types of 5 c., and one of 10 – the one taken from an original sheet and the other from an imitation thereof seem to bear a particularly dangerous resemblance to each other, and we hope collectors may be forewarned in time. Our correspondent says:—

"No. I. is from the original plate in possession of Mr. Th. Notthafft (member of the Philatelic Society of London), and No. II. is taken from a *phototypic* forgery in the collection of a German well-known collector. Similar forgeries have been offered to members of our society (section of the Dresden Society) by Mr. Bernichon in Paris, for 500 francs. Of course Mr. Bernichon acted *bona-fide*.

Both photographs are taken with the same lens from the same distance, and therefore you can easily remark that the forgery is a little smaller, and besides that the horizontal lines are not so clear in the forgery, which looks a little darker on the original.

It is one of the most dangerous forgeries that I have seen until now, as it is in all details conform to the original."

* * *

SOME interesting information as to the last days of the Heligoland English Postal Administration is given in the columns of the *Philatelist* for August, by Herr S. Pollatsek. The rush to send letters through on the last days was enormous, collectors sending letters through by the thousand, in addition to which no less than 1,200 registered missives were despatched by the amateurs of "stamps on the entire letter." So great was the pressure, that the ordinary obliterating stamps were not alone available, and recourse was had to others, long obsolete, which hurriedly and imperfectly impressed, must, in many cases, afford but a slight satisfaction to their possessors as a true certificate of posting. There would seem also to have been a considerable remainder of unused stamps disposed

of *en bloc* to an enterprising Heligolander, so there should for the present be no great rise in the price of the lately current set.

* * *

THE Seventh Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association, on the 15th, 16th and 17th of last month, at Niagara Falls, seems to have passed off pleasantly and satisfactorily, the attendance being numerous, and the entertainments provided being of a varied and interesting nature. The subscription to the Association, including the receipt, free, of the *American Philatelist* was reduced to one-and-a-half dollars *per annum*. This journal will, therefore, we are glad to learn, still be continued, but will in future be printed in St. Louis owing to the acceptance by the Convention of the spirited and liberal offer for its production made by Mr. C. H. Mekeel. It was wisely decided that the Convention number of the official Journal would only give an abstract report of the proceedings. The President, Mr. J. K. Tiffany, gave a most excellent inauguratory address, and both the *locale* and general nature of the proceedings seem to have given general satisfaction. We wish all success to our *confrères*; with more collectors properly united and *fewer journals* philately will do better on both sides of the Atlantic!

* * *

MR. WILMOT CORFIELD writes to us as follows:—"I have just received No. 8 of the LONDON PHILATELIST, and am charmed therewith. I write now to suggest the insertion in an early issue of a photo-view of the exterior of the house in Arundel Street, where the Society's new rooms are. I also beg to suggest a emblematical design or coat-of-arms with crest, motto, &c., for the London Philatelic Society. With due care an artistic device might easily be thought out—the subject of Philately lending itself readily to heraldic treatment."

The Philatelic Market.

A "globe-trotting" post-card, with 72 obliterations, recently sold for £10 at the *Petite Bourse* in Paris: we should prefer the cash to the card.

Mr. W. Hadlow, the Philatelic auctioneer, has opened offices at 36, High Holborn, London, and announces his intention of selling for the future at 12½ per cent. commission. It should be borne in mind that high commissions tend to exclude good stamps: a graduated scale of charges might, however, meet the mutual aims of collectors and auctioneers.

Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper have once more entered the Philatelic auction arena, and announce a sale on Saturday, 8th October, at the Auction Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C.

The auction season in the States has apparently recommenced early, as we have received a catalogue of a sale at Chicago on the 15th of this month by Mr. S. B. Bradt. This firm announces its intention of holding "three auction sales of more than usual importance during the progress of the World's Fair, probably in June, August, and October."

An interesting collection, commenced in 1863 and continued until a comparatively recent date, has been lately acquired by Mr. W. T. Willett, the Hon. Secretary of the Brighton Philatelic Society. The volume in question, which we have inspected, contains some 4,000 varieties, and includes all the European rarities as well as fine Colonials, Buenos Ayres ships, St. Louis, the Cape Errors, and a strong lot of Australians. It is, indeed, a genuine representative of the good old class of general collections such as are, alas! but rarely to be met with now-a-days.

Mr. A. C. Emerson, as will be seen elsewhere, has started as a dealer in stamps. Mr. Emerson has been for many years known to the older generation of collectors and has, we are confident, not only the appreciation of all who have come in contact with him, but their sincere wishes for his success in his new *métier*. He has inaugurated his new venture by the purchase of a fine collection containing many valuable stamps.

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

THE LONDON PHILATELIST will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of 7s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the publishers, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, W.C.

VOL. I.] OCTOBER, 1892. [No. 10.

"THE SEASON."

WITH the near advent of "drear November," the pursuit whose annals it is the subject of this Journal to record, may be said, Minerva-like, to make its reappearance on the scene. A glance at the various items of intelligence in our columns will at once evidence the renewed vitality of Philately after its summer slumber. Numerous auction sales, and trade announcements galore, show that "the market is astir," while the minutes of the Philatelic Societies denote an awakened sense of the future capabilities of the science. As the premier body in the British Empire, the honour of leading the van falls on the London Society, hence doubtless, the important steps recently made by it. We desire, however, to clearly place before its members the fact that the Society has "burnt its boats," and that it has only one course open—the forward one. It is, therefore, incumbent upon every member to do his utmost to increase its membership, and strengthen its funds. As regards the latter, the Furnishing Fund is one that has the strongest claim on all members; we call, therefore, upon the great majority of members who have not yet subscribed, to add their mite. To furnish the Society's home in an adequate manner will require a sum largely in excess of that at present attained by the subscription list, nor in view of the other heavy liabilities of the Society, can any portion of this be defrayed out of its ordinary revenues.

The increase of membership is most gratifying, over 30 proposed accessions having been notified since the commencement of "the season," and this good work must go on. When the London Philatelic Society numbers 300 members, there will be but two things between it and a lengthened career of prosperity as a scientific body—the annual production of good Philatelic literature, and the imposition of a substantial entrance fee; nor is this future of a millennial nature; by a determined effort on the part of *all* its present members it is capable of attainment by the time the London Society attains its Jubilee—in April, 1894. *Marchons, Messieurs!*

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

Austria.—There seem to be more than the usual vagaries of perforation as regards the ½ kr. green, and 1 kr. blue, current newspaper stamp, no less than seven varieties of the former and thirteen of the latter having been found.

Benin.—Yet another *Colonie Française*, hailing from the West Coast of Africa on the Gulf of Guinea, where it acquires the sub-title of Bight of Benin, and about 350 miles east of the British colony of the Gold Coast! The entrance of yet another "Colony" within the circle of the stamp issuing dependencies of the Republic is, in our opinion, despite the felicitous name it bears, *malin*. As was to be expected, and in order to fill the pockets of the stamp dealer, post official syndicates, there are at once varieties of surcharge created. Meanwhile we have received recently numerous excerpts from leading French journals, in which the good intentions (!) of the French Government and the impending disappointment of collectors (!) on the cessation of these abominable creations is dwelt on in a most delightfully naïve manner. We can but repeat that no one benefits by these surcharges, whether in French or English Colonies, but certain stamp dealers, and some of the officials connected with the several postal administrations.

Overprint in large block letters "Benin."

5 c, black surcharge on green, current type.
10 c., „ „ violet. „
15 c., „ „ blue, „
25 c., „ „ rose, „

Further—on the same type—

40 c., black surcharge on 15 c. blue, figure red.
75 c., „ „ „ „
75 c., „ „ „ „ black.

Bavaria.—Mr. Robt. Ehrenbach has shown us the current 3 pfg. stamp destitute of any perforation—whether error or unfinished stamp we are quite unable to say.

3 pfg., green, with vertical wavy lines, *imperf.*

Bulgaria.—The current 15 c. has been noted, perforated 11½. We believe there are further perforation varieties, if some correspondent would kindly enlighten us by an examination of his collection.

15 stot, orange, *perf.* 11½.

Congo.—Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., write:—"The current 50 c. stamp of Congo (with full face of the Belgian King) appears to have assumed a new colour. Instead of a rich chocolate we have just received a specimen decidedly *purple-grey*." It appears that the 5 francs grey, alluded to in our last issue, has not yet been put into circulation, according to the *Timbre Poste*, which Journal denies its existence surcharged. We are glad to hear it.

Deccan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., write:—"A whole sheet of the current issue *8 annas* Deccan has been issued perforated only horizontally. We have two vertical rows off this sheet, no perfs. between each pair nor on either side, only top and bottom."

French Congo.—In addition to the varieties described on page 196 with the *two* first letters of Congo in Capitals, we have to note a third, to wit:—

15 c., black surcharge on 25 c., black on rose.

Variety of surcharge COngo français.

Great Britain.—Mr. A. B. Creeke writes to inform us that the new (and not beautiful) 4½d. value will be ere long speedily improved further by being surcharged "Govt. Parcels," orders to this effect having been given last month.

Honduras.—The enterprising Mr. Seebeck has signalised his hardy annual crop of stamps by the adoption of the great "Amiral" Christopher Columbus as the subject for his vignettes. As with their forerunners, and to be noted from our illustrations, in point of execution there is little to be desired as regards these stamps—as regards Philately their existence is but an ugly pimple on a fair figure! The paper is wove and the perforation gauges 12.

1 c., slate, blue.
2 c., deep „
5 c., yellow-green.
10 c., blue „
20 c., red.
25 c., bistre.



30 c., ultramarine.
40 c., orange.
50 c., chocolate.
75 c., carmine.
1 peso, mauve.

Labuan.—On page 246 we noted the somewhat unexpected re-appearance of these stamps on unwatermarked paper. We have now received a further instalment, thanks to Mr. Wm. Harrison, and trust that the Labuan Post Office may in future, being already secure in the possession of a really good set of stamps, abstain from surcharging and the like abominations for the benefit of certain persons whom we will not name! In addition to the 2 and 6 cents previously announced by us, we have the following:—

8 c, purple, *no watermark*, perf. 14.
10 c, brown, „ „
12 c., blue, „ „
16 c., grey, „ „
40 c., orange, „ „

The sheets of the 2, 8, and 10 c., contain 5 rows of 6 stamps = 30 in all—while the others have but 2 rows of 5=10 as heretofore.

Madeira.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we receive three further varieties of the new set in addition to those described by us on page 222. It will be seen that the perforation is of a different gauge.

15 reis, brown, perf. 12½.
20 „ pale lilac, „
80 „ yellow-green, „

Mexico.—In addition to those described on page 102 of this Journal the *Timbre Poste* notes as under:—

2 c., carmine, laid paper, watermark correoseum.
4 c., vermilion „ „
1 c., green, wove paper. „
2 c.. carmine „ „
10 c., vermilion „ „

New Caledonia.—From the *Timbre Poste* we hear of a further avalanche of rubbish. The surcharge consists in the words "Nlle Caledonie," printed obliquely in large black Roman capitals.

35 c.,	black	surcharge, on	black on yellow.	(Type of 1887-8.)
1 fr.,	„	„	olive-green	„
5 c.,	„	„	green.	(Current set.)
10 c.,	„	„	violet.	„
15 c.,	„	„	blue.	„
20 c.,	„	„	brick on green.	„
25 c.,	„	„	black on rose.	„
30 c.,	„	„	brown.	„
75 c.,	„	„	rose.	„
1 fr.,	„	„	olive.	„

New South Wales.—The current 1/- has been found, says *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, imperforate, owing to the defective working of the perforating machine which left some dozen stamps untouched in the centre of a sheet.

1 -, brown, current issue, *imperf.*

New Zealand.—We have on a previous occasion alluded to the *soi-disant* new official surcharge, of which we gave an illustration, without, however, feeling assured as to its authenticity. Mr. C. F. Casella wrote, however, as under, on the 6th of this month, enclosing specimen, on which there could exist no doubt.

"As there appears to be some little doubt with regard to the new surcharge O.P.S.O. on some of the New Zealand stamps, I now have much pleasure in sending for your inspection the larger part of a sheet of sixty 1d. stamps, surcharged as above, and which I think will remove any doubt as to their genuineness. I received these last week in a parcel sent to me direct from the Chief of one of the Government Departments at Wellington, New Zealand. On the parcel were also some of the 6d. current stamps similarly surcharged. Kindly return the enclosed sheet of stamps when you have examined them, and oblige."

The surcharge is in violet block capitals, imprinted diagonally, and, we presume, means "On Public Service Only," but in our humble opinion the additional words "Public Only" seem quite unnecessary.

1d., rose, violet surcharge O.P.S.O, perf. 11½.
2d., lilac, „ „ „ (?)
6d., brown, „ „ „ (?)

Obock.—A further infliction on the pockets of some collectors and on the credulity of all! We take the following choice lot from the *Timbre Poste*, and conclude that the surcharge Obock in one straight line is that noted on page 174 of the

London Philatelist (in which case the 10 and 30 of the unpaids have been already noted.)

4 c., violet, current set, black surcharge.
20 c., brick on green, „ „
75 c., rose, „ „

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

5 c., black, black surcharge. 40 c , black, black surcharge.
10 c., „ „ 60 c., „ „
15 c., „ „ 1 fr , brown, „
20 c., „ „ 2 fr , „ „
30 c., „ „ 5 fr , „ „

Oil Rivers.—The stamps mentioned last month are, without doubt, surcharged in London. We omitted to state that the specimens we saw were kindly shewn by Mr. M. Giwelb.

Patiala.—In addition to the varieties noted in the London Philatelist on page 198, we have to note, partly from our Belgian contemporary :—

3 annas, orange, black surcharge, Service.
6 „ bistre, „ „
12 „ brown, „ „

With " FATIALLA " Error (!).

6 annas, bistre, black surcharge
6 „ „ „ Service.

With PATIALA.

½ anna, green, black surcharge.

Portugal.—The 15 and 20 reis of the new type have appeared, and vary from the colours that were assigned to them at the outset.

15 reis, brown, perf. 11½.
20 „ grey-lilac, „

(See page 143.)

Russia. Bougulma (Samara).—The 1889 type has been slightly altered as regards two specimens on the sheet of 70 stamps, consisting of 7 rows of 10.

2 kopecks, greenish-blue.

Gadiatsch (Poltava).—M. Roussin has seen the 1st type having "3 emck" above, and printed in orange. The *Timbre Poste*, to whom as usual we are indebted for Rural Post information, says, "What is this?" Perhaps one of our Russian members will oblige with the required solution.

3 kopecks, orange.

Liebedjan (Tamboff).—The 1891 issue with embossed swan is found as under instead of on yellow-green.

5 kopecks, *pale bluish-green.*

Sarawak.—The provisional noted on page 198 has been supplanted by the permanent issue of the (now) usual type with coloured label.

1 c., violet and black.

South Australia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have lately supplied our collection of officially surcharged stamps with a variety that has not, we believe, been chronicled. It is the current 2d. stamp with a double surcharge, one in normal position and one inverted—the specimen in question is duly postmarked, and was found in a large parcel of South Australian stamps.

2d., O.S., double surcharge, *one inverted,* watermark, S.A. & Cr., perf. 10.

The change of colour in the 9d. value, noted on page 198, was, as then stated, unaccompanied by any other alteration, the "S.A. & Cr." being obviously a printer's error for the word "Star"—not dissimilar when written.

We hear that the permanent 2½d. and 5d. values are out, but have not yet seen them.

Straits Settlements.—Mr. H. J. Wildsmith sends a specimen of the 1c., with the value in label type (in monochrome), adding that it was issued on the 22nd of last month. Illustration herewith.



1 c., green wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

Swazieland.—Mr. Tamsen has sent us specimens of the current set from which we note that the halfpenny value is surcharged apparently impartially in red and black; in one of the former specimens the "E" is somewhat misplaced.

½d., green, *red* surcharge.

United States.—We are indebted to Mr. Wm. C. Stone, of the *A. P. A.* for the following additional information as to the proposed new postage stamps, which will serve to illustrate important incidents in Columbus's life. "Postmaster General Wanamaker has decided to issue what will be known as the Columbian series of postage stamps, to be furnished by the American Bank Note Company of New York. The denominations of all of the series have not as yet been fully determined upon, but they will embrace all of the present series, and probably some others. The new stamps will be of the same height as the present series, but twice as long, the increased size being thought necessary in order to properly display the illustrations. These are intended to commemorate the discovery of America by Columbus, and several of the illustrations have been already decided upon. These are: "Discovery of America by Columbus—First Sight of Land;" "Columbus's Fleet at Sea," from Revista de la Marina; "Landing of Columbus," after the Van der Lyn picture in the United States Capitol; "The Santa Maria," Columbus's flag-ship, after Alfred Harrisse; "Columbus Asking Aid of Queen Isabella;" "Columbus Reciting the Story of his Discovery to Ferdinand and Isabella on his Return from his First Voyage." It is expected that the entire series will be put on sale January 1st, 1893, and during the succeeding year will entire supersede the present series."

Uruguay.—We illustrate the new type already chronicled by us.



Virgin Islands.—The *Monthly Journal* notes a queer variety of the 1st issue, perforated 15 to the right and 12 on the left, bottom and (presumably) top.

1d., green, *perf.* 12 × 15.

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Great Britain.—The oval halfpenny embossed die applied to the cards has been recently applied to the wrappers and unsealed envelopes, the impression being in vermilion. The specimens we have seen were on ordinary white laid paper, and we need hardly say are not in any sense an official issue.

Honduras.—The Seebeckian envelopes with the embossed Columbus vignette, as illustrated, are as under, on amber paper.



5 c., dark green,	size	153× 90
10 c., „ blue,	„	158× 92
20 c., carmine,	„	182× 96
25 c., deep brown,	„	240×106
Wrappers, on buff paper.		
1 c., slate,	size	170×280
2 c., carmine,	„	„
5 c., dark green,	„	„
10 c , „ blue,	„	„

New South Wales.—Mr. O. Firth writes as under, the specimens referred to being presumably of an unofficial nature:—

"I have neglected to advise you that under date of August 8th, 1892, a N.S.W. correspondent tells me "there is nothing fresh this way, with the exception of a halfpenny envelope, which, however, has only been printed for one private firm as yet. I had some trouble in getting a few copies, one of which I enclose. The envelope is used 'open' for transmission of circulars only." The envelope referred to is "commercial" size $5\frac{39}{64}$ in. long, by $3\frac{19}{64}$-in. wide, stamped in right upper corner with current $\frac{1}{2}$d., and "Harrison, Jones & Devlin, Limited, Sydney, N.S.W.," in sanserif type, top left hand."

Oil Rivers.—The current registration envelope of this country has been overprinted in black with "British—Protectorate Oil—Rivers," says the *Philatelic Record*.

Regtn. Env., 2d., black surcharge: sizes, F,G. and H2.

Persia.—Envelopes of the values of 5, 7, 10, and 24 "chahis" (as of cards) are announced to appear shortly on the authority of the *Timbre Poste*.

Roumania.—The issue of a wrapper is variously announced with the type of the 1890 issue, as on the post cards.

Wrapper, 1½ bani, black on buff (?)

Russia. RJEFF (TVER).—The envelope with the circular stamp now appears in the new size, 148×81 mm., the stamp being impressed to left as heretofore.

3 kopecks, gold on grey, *altered size*.

Uruguay.—The envelopes referred to by us recently with impressions on left lower angle were the embossed series—1866 issue—which are chronicled in M. Moens' catalogue, with stamp on upper and lower *right* angles only.

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Argentine Republic.—The *Carte Postale* describes a variety of the 2 c. letter card, having the impression apparently erroneously printed in the wrong colours—the inside being buff.

Letter Card, 2 c. brown on *white*, error.

Bulgaria.—From various sources we learn that the Bulgarians, proud as they should be of their recent successful exhibition at Phillipopolis, have celebrated it, amongst other ways, by printing the representation of the building across the upper portion of a card in blue gray, to remain in circulation to the end of this month only. The stamp of the current type and the inscription are in green.

5 stot, green and blue-grey, on cream.

France.—The 10 c. card now comes to hand on pale blue *vice* pale violet.

10 c. black, *on pale blue*.

Honduras.—The extremely ornate cards of the new issue (to be illustrated later), that scarce leave a place for so important a thing as the address, are :

2 c., dark-green on buff.
2+2 c., „ „

Holland.—We have already alluded to the altered position of the stamp on the cards, and have had letters from correspondents thereon with a view to further information. We are glad, therefore, to read from an extract published in *Smith's Circular* that orders were given to Messrs. J. Enchede & Sons, of Haerlem, the printers of the Dutch stamps, to prepare a postcard for abroad of the same design as the previous one, only substituting the head of the Queen for that of the late King. The card was therefore printed in the right upper corner of the card, but, as in the present stamps, the Queen is looking to the right, while in the former stamps the King looked to the left. In the new card the Queen had her back turned to the Arms, and thus a serious heraldic offence had been committed. As soon as this had been noticed the Postmaster-General ordered the further printing to be stopped, but 20,000 had already been printed, and the stamp was ordered to be placed in the left corner. The Government stopped the issue of the left-corner stamps in certain places for a time, and issued the right corner ones, but the left-corner ones are now again current.

Oil Rivers.—From the *Philatelic Record* we hear that the current 1d. card has been overprinted.

1d., black surcharge, on vermilion on buff.

Orange Free State.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"We send you a provisional Orange Free State card, 1½d. on 3d., which was issued in the early part of last month." The illustration will avoid necessity of further description. The card is white, the impression black, and the adhesive 1½d. stamp blue.



1½d, black surcharge on 3d. adhesive blue, on white.

Wurtemberg.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two cards of unofficial nature, similar to those issued by this country, Tasmania, &c. The one headed "Bücher—Zettel," and the other "Drucksache," with the current 3 pf. impression on the upper right corner. They sell doubtless, or they would not be made!

Porto Rico.—The reply card similar to the ordinary 3 c. has now been issued.

3+3 c., blue on buff.

Roumania.—A letter card has been issued here, says the *Coll. de T. Poste*, presumably of the normal type.

15 bani, brown on grey.

Switzerland.—The cards, previously alluded to on pages 92 and 147, with the modified type, have been issued as follows:—

5 c.+5 c., black on buff.
10 c. carmine „
10 c.+10 c., „ „

The Paris Postal Exhibition.

By M. P. CASTLE

(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London).

THE notes that I contributed to this journal last month were somewhat hurriedly drawn up in order to appear in time for that issue, and I have to make a few additions and corrections. Taking the latter first, the fine exhibit of Dr. Legrand, which, added to his great exertions on behalf of the undertaking, has worthily secured him the Grand Medal, did *not* contain the 2 c., rose of the first issue of British Guiana, but embraced both varieties of paper of the 4 c. yellow. In my remarks as to M. Vervelle's stamps a somewhat deprecatory reference is made to the admission of stamps of doubtful originality, in the Exhibition, and his exhibit was inadvertently included. This is not so, as far as I am aware, as not only were M. Vervelle's stamps of rarity and fine quality, but they were evidently selected with a care that should surely ensure the exclusion of anything of a doubtful nature. In my notice of the exhibits of the veteran M. Pierre Mahé, I also omitted to notice several scarce things, and I regret that in so doing I should have incurred his displeasure. Owing to illness M. Mahé was unfortunately prevented from attending, or the omission would have been rectified. His exhibits of rare stamps would undoubtedly have secured him a medal had his wide experience not been requisitioned as a judge. A very interesting exhibit that I omitted to mention was that shewing the 10 c. Geneva stamp affixed to an official letter of the period shewing the proposed alterations.

The somewhat protracted time during which the Exhibition remained open was, in my opinion, a mistake, as not only did it naturally deter would-be exhibitors from incurring the risk of lengthened exposure, but it prevented many of the dealers who had hired stalls from remaining to the end. Several of the leading English firms closed their "shops" long before the end of the Exhibition, and I may, I think, without exaggeration say that the last days were considerably worse than the first. The French have done very well for a first attempt, but next time they should do better. The *Champ de Mars* is too far out, and the building, on account of its vast size, unsuitable. They, moreover, suffered from the want of competition on the part of both the foremost collector and the leading dealer of their country—defections that are to be as much regretted as wondered at. The exhibition of the dealers, especially those hailing from this country, had much to do with the perhaps slightly qualified measure of success attained, while the reflection that the English section contributed thereto in no small measure is gratifying to our national instincts—the more so as the incomparably superior London Exhibition was ungraced by any contributions from our neighbours across the Channel.

M. Astruc, who most efficiently performed the duties of Secretary to the jury, has kindly sent me a copy of the awards. As one of that body I can conscientiously

express my conviction of the great trouble taken by all its members to arrive at results that should duly recognise the several merits of the exponents. From M. Astruc's excellent report I glean as follows :—

LIST OF AWARDS.

Grand Medal of Honour of the Exhibition. Gold Medal, Dr. Legrand.

First Grand Prize of the Exhibition. Gold Medal, J. B. Moens.

Second Grand Prize of the Exhibition. Gold Medal, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Replacing the following medals, two silver gilt, one silver, and one bronze.

1st Class.—For the largest number of Rare Stamps. Silver Gilt Medal, M. Emile Mors. Silver Medals, 1st, Theo. Buhl & Co.; 2nd, M. Piet-Lataudrie. Bronze Medals, 1st, M. Bernichon; 2nd, M. Victor Robert. Honourable Mention, 1st, M. Langlois; 2nd, M. Schaupmeier.

2nd Class —For the most complete collection of all kinds of stamps from a single country. Silver Gilt Medals, 1st, M. Hauser Doepfner; 2nd, M. Blanchard. Silver Medals, 1st, M. D. Mackenzie; 2nd, M. J. G. Kuck. Bronze Medals, 1st, M. A. Rüstant; 2nd, M. E Petritz: 3rd, M. Rausch. Honourable Mention, 1st, M. W. Brown: 2nd, M. Tcharkian; 3rd, M. Marquez-Oscar.

3rd Class.—The most important collection of Postage and Telegraph Stamps. Not awarded.

4th Class.—Collections of Entire Envelopes, Wrappers, Post and Letter Cards. Silver Gilt Medal, M. Adolphe Schoeller. Bronze Medal, M. Schwab. Honourable Mention, M. Huet.

5th Class.—Collections of Fiscal Stamps. Silver Medal, Mr. Walter Morley. Honourable Mention, M. Roussillon.

6th Class.—250 to 500 Stamps remarkable for the fineness of the copies, relative rarity, and general condition. Silver Medal, M. G. P. Grignard. Honourable Mention, 1st, M. Devoitine; 2nd, M. Levillain.

7th Class.—City, Delivery, Private Offices, and Local Post Stamps. Not awarded.

8th Class.—Publications.—1st Section: Catalogues, Monographs, &c. Silver Gilt Medal, Major E B. Evans. Silver Medal, Société Française de Timbrologie. Bronze Medals, 1st, M. Camille Blondiot; 2nd, MM. Gebrüder Senf; 3rd, Société de Santiago (Chili). Honourable Mention, 1st, M. Ed. Planus; 2nd, M M. Belin. 2nd Section: Journals. Silver Gilt Medal, Philatelic Record (MM. Theo. Buhl & Co) Bronze Medals, 1st, Philatelic Journal of Great Britain (M. W. Brown); 2nd, Revue Philatelique Française (Société Française Philatelique); 3rd, Stamp News (MM. Theo. Buhl & Co.) Honourable Mention, 1st, Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal (MM. Gebrüder Senf); 2nd, Echo de la Timbrologie (Frémy).

9th Class.—For the best Album (Printed). Silver Medal, M. M. Gebrüder Senf. Bronze Medals, 1st, MM. Yver et Tellier; 2nd, MM. E. Bernard et Cie. Honourable Mention, MM. Theo. Buhl & Co.

10th Class.—Collection of Philatelic Publications of one or more countries with a catalogue of the collection. Honourable Mention, M. Tillot (Collection of Journals).

11th Class.—For the best system of mounting and arranging Stamps and Cards. Bronze Medal, M. Derepas. Honourable Mention, 1st, M. E. Petritz; 2nd, M. Johann K. Konig.

12th Class —Apparatus used for the Manufacture of Stamps. (No exhibitors.)

13th Class.—Chemical or Mechanical processes used for the Prevention of Forgery. (No exhibitor.)

14th Class.—Apparatus used in the Postal Service. Honourable Mention, M. Oüy.

15th Class —Articles relating to stamps, not comprised in the preceding classes. 1st Section: Dies, Essays. Bronze Medal, M. Hellé. Honourable Mention, M. E. Grean. 2nd Section: Ornaments and Pictures. Silver Medal, Madame Wroomars-Leclercq. Bronze Medal, M. Ph. Tissier. Honourable Mention, M. de Michailowitsch. 3rd Section: Panels and Tapestry. Bronze Medal, M. La Caille. Honourable Mention, M. Bardy.

17th Class.—For the encouragement of Societies and Journals. Silver Medal, Société Timbrophile d'Echanges. Bronze Medal, Union Postale Universelle. Honourable Mention 1st Société Timbrophile de Reims; 2nd, Société Philatelique Lombarde

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Engraved by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.

By E. D. BACON.



SINCE the publication of the Paper on the stamps of New Zealand, the late Mr. John Davies read before the Philatelic Society of that Colony, no further information upon the early issues has been vouchsafed to collectors.

The Paper of Mr. Davies, which appeared in the *Philatelic Record* for September, 1889, is, without doubt, the most valuable and important contribution towards the history of the stamps of New Zealand that has yet been written.

Mr. Davies, after serving his apprenticeship at Messrs. Virtue & Sons', entered the employment of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. When the latter firm were asked by the New Zealand Government in 1861 to send out a skilled printer to the Colony, Mr. Davies volunteered for the work, and his services being accepted, he left London about July of that year. On his arrival in the Colony he was placed in the printing portion of the Postage Stamp Department, and in 1864 he was appointed to the newly-created Stamp Department, in which office he was employed until his decease on the 25th December, 1889. He was, from the nature of the position he held, able to speak with greater authority upon questions connected with the printing and production of the various issues of postage stamps, than perhaps anyone else could possibly do. Added to which, he has included in his Paper copies of several of *The Government Gazette* notices, which fix the exact date of the first and some of the subsequent issues. His death was an unfortunate event, not only for the Colony which he had served as a tried and faithful servant for twenty-eight years, but also for philatelists, for had he lived he would doubtless have still further added to our knowledge of these interesting stamps.

I have written the present Paper with the view of supplementing the information given by Mr. Davies. The fresh particulars I am able to furnish are based upon notes communicated to me by Mr. Alfred Bacon, the secretary of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., Limited. It is almost entirely due to the kindness of this gentleman, and to the trouble he has taken in obtaining me replies to the list of questions I handed him, that I am enabled to lay before collectors the following important facts connected with the stamps of this Colony.

Mr. Davies states that the stamps first issued were printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., but he does not mention upon what paper these were, and we are left in the dark as to whether it was blue (the usual colour assigned to this issue), or whether it was white wove, or watermarked. Further on he says, after the first supply was used up, the stamps were printed in the Colony indiscriminately upon blue and white foolscap.

Mr. Alfred Bacon informs me that his firm forwarded 12,000 one penny, 66,000 twopenny, and 8,000 one shilling stamps, together with the three plates, a printing

press, ink, &c., to the Colony on September 22nd, 1854. These stamps were printed upon *star* watermarked paper, and 6 reams, say 3,000 sheets, of similar paper was sent out at the same date. It is clear, therefore, that the first issue was upon the "star" paper, and that the stamps on blue and white wove papers did not come till later, in fact not until the supply of the star paper imported from England had become exhausted. Mr. Davies must consequently be inaccurate when he states star paper was not used previous to February, 1862. On referring to the "Remarks" appended to Issue II. in the *Oceanic Catalogue*, it will be noticed a statement is made that the twopence on stout unwatermarked paper had "been seen on a letter postmarked August, 1855. This I have since proved is an error, and in making the correction, it is only fair to state in what way the mistake arose. During the period when the Publication Committee were correcting the proof sheets of the New Zealand list, the late Mr. T. K. Tapling happened to receive a large quantity of stamps from New South Wales upon letter-sheets. Amongst these stamps were a pair of the twopence New Zealand upon white paper, imperforate, on part of a letter-sheet bearing two postmarks, one of which reads "Auckland, New Zealand, August 1st, 1855," the other, "Ship Letter, Sydney, August 17th, 1855." It was at once seen that the date was a very early one, in fact that it was four years earlier than the stamps on white unwatermarked paper had ever been catalogued, the date of which had always been given as 1859. This being so, and in the hurry of passing the proofs through the press, it never occurred to any member of the committee to remove stamps to see if they were watermarked, as the first watermarked stamps were not chronicled as being in use before 1862. The stamps in question were therefore put down as belonging to the first unwatermarked set on white paper. It was, moreover, for this reason that the date of the stamps on blue paper was put back to 1852 (?), as tradition had always assigned a space of about four years between the two issues.

I have recently taken another opportunity of examining the pair of twopenny stamps referred to, and on raising them from the paper, I found they have the well-known watermark of a six-rayed star. This fact conclusively proves, as I have previously stated, that the stamps first issued were watermarked with a star, as from the *Gazette* notice given in Mr. Davies' paper, stamps were only issued for the first time on July 13th, 1855, and this pair of stamps was postmarked on August 1st of that year.

The stamps forwarded on September 22nd, 1854, were the *only* New Zealand printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., all further issues until the change was made in the design being produced in the Colony from plates sent out by this firm.

The accompanying list gives the dates the other plates and further consignments of paper were dispatched by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.

Jan. 21, 1859.	6d. Plate.
„ „	1 ream of star watermarked paper.
Oct. 5, 1861.	4 „ „ „ „
July 24, 1862.	6 „ „ „ „
„ „	3d. Plate.
April 1, 1864.	50 reams of star watermarked paper.
Nov. 18, 1864.	4d. Plate.
Oct. 27, 1865.	102 reams of star watermarked paper.
July 4, 1867.	100 „ „ „ „
April 14, 1870.	20 „ „ „ „
May 23, 1870.	80 „ „ „ „
July 28, 1873.	20 „ „ „ „

They can discover no trace of paper watermarked N.Z. in their books, so this variety must have been obtained from some other source, probably from Messrs. De la Rue & Co., who I believe furnished all the N.Z. paper used for printing the "stamp duty" series. The N.Z. paper of the postage and fiscal stamps is identical, and it seems more probable that some of the fiscal paper was used as a trial for printing postage stamps after the supply of the star paper was exhausted, than that this variety of paper was imported specially for the latter purpose, as Mr. Davies seems to imply.

Towards the end of 1864, the twopenny plate became so worn that the New Zealand Government found it necessary to order a fresh one from England. The Agent for the Colony in London having received instructions to this effect, wrote the following letter to Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.:—

OFFICE OF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT AGENCY,
4, Adelaide Place, King William Street,
London, E.C., 20th January, 1865.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.,
Fleet Street,

GENTLEMEN,

Be pleased to execute the annexed order for postage stamp plate, 2d., for the Govt. of New Zealand, observing particularly the sizes indicated—and be good enough to let me know the earliest day you can name for shipment.

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) JOHN MORRISON.
For the Postmaster-General, New Zealand.

1 Plate for printing twopenny Postage labels precisely to specimen.

The size of the Plate should be 22½ by 11 inches and contain two hundred and forty stamps twenty by twelve.—Care should be taken that the engraving occupy a space of nine and seven-eighths by twenty and one-fourth inches, leaving an equal margin all round. Should you deviate from this it will materially interfere with their being perforated.

The stamp, which still remains attached to this interesting letter, is an unused specimen of the twopence blue imperforate, watermarked N.Z., and it distinctly shows signs of wear of the plate from which it was printed.

This second plate of the twopence was forwarded to the Colony by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., on April 21st, 1865. Stamps printed from it can only be told from those of Plate 1. by the more regular distance that exists between the specimens, those on the first plate being very irregularly placed as regards one another.

The fact that the stamp attached to the above letter is watermarked N.Z., is sufficient to prove that this variety of watermark was in use in the year 1864.

In conclusion, I may mention that all the plates of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. were steel, and contained 240 stamps in twenty horizontal rows of twelve. Proofs in black from the dies upon white card exist of all six values, and similar proofs from the plates upon plain white paper, are known of the twopence (Plate II.), threepence, fourpence, and sixpence. I have also seen a plate proof of the fourpence in black upon slightly bluish paper, as well as a plate proof in blue of the twopence (Plate II.) upon stout white wove paper.

[Our apologies are due to Mr. Bacon, his most interesting paper having been unavoidably held over for the past two or three months for want of space.—ED.]

The Stamps of Western Australia.

A Paper Read Before the Philatelic Society, London, September 30th, 1892,

By E. D. BACON.



THE Society's catalogue of the *Stamps of Oceania*, has been in the hands of Philatelists now for nearly five years. At the time the work was published (October, 1887), it may be said, without fear of contradiction, to have included not only everything that was generally known of the history of the stamps with which it dealt, but it also contained an immense amount of new information that was entirely unknown to but one or two collectors.

No sooner had the *Catalogue* made its appearance, than certain of our brother philatelists at the Antipodes took up the investigation of the stamps of the Colonies in which they live. I refer more particularly to the invaluable papers by Dr. Andrew Houison, which culminated in the publication of his magnificent monograph on the *History of the Post Office and Stamps of New South Wales*, in 1890, and the work of Mr. A. F. Basset-Hull, on the *Stamps of Tasmania*, which was published by the Society during the same year. Both these gentlemen were fortunate in obtaining access to Official Records, and it is not too much to say that each has produced one of the most accurate and perfect philatelic works ever published. They have certainly been most successful in unravelling the history of the stamps of these two Colonies, and there are very few points now left for future explorers in these fields to clear up.

In addition to the two works just quoted, there have been published, at various times, papers on some of the other colonies, of which the following are perhaps the most important :—

(1) *A Paper on the Stamps of New Zealand*, by the late Mr. John Davies, in the *Philatelic Record*, for September, 1889.

(2) *A Notice, giving the Date of the First Issue Stamps of Queensland*, by Mr. A. F. Basset-Hull, in the *Philatelic Record*, for July, 1889.

(3) *Copies of the Official Notices of Issue of the Early Stamps of South Australia*, by Mr. F. C. Krichauff, in the *Federal Australian Philatelist*, for April, 1891.

(4) *A detailed List of the Official Stamps of South Australia*, by Mr. M. P. Castle, in the *Philatelic Record*, for July-December, 1891.

(5) *A Paper on the Official Stamps of South Australia*, by "Delta," in the *Stamp News Annual*, for 1892.

(6) *Papers on the Stamps of Victoria*, by Mr. David H. Hill, in each number of the *Federal Australian Philatelist*, and now being continued in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, commencing with April, 1892.

It will be noticed that nearly every Colony included in the *Oceania Catalogue* has had fresh light thrown upon its stamps, but amongst all the new information there has been forthcoming no one has succeeded in adding to our knowledge of the issues of Western Australia. The only article I have found on this Colony is one that appeared in the *Philatelic Record* for August, 1888, by the then editor, Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, in which he reviewed this portion of the Society's *Catalogue*. As I shall have occasion to refer to this article later on I will not do more than mention it here.

Some three years ago I commenced to gather materials for a paper on the stamps of Western Australia, but I was compelled to abandon the attempt until after the publication of the Society's *Catalogue of the Stamps of the British West Indies.* Since the appearance of that work I have renewed my researches, and the following paper contains all the information I am at present able to lay before collectors.

Before dealing directly with the stamps it will be more convenient if I give first a list of the postal rates in force at the time of the introduction of postage stamps, which I shall show took place in 1854. The rates then current were those that came into operation on the 1st July, 1852, in accordance with the terms of the following "Proclamation," which appeared in *The Western Australian Government Gazette* for June 15th of that year.

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency CHARLES FITZGERALD, *Esquire, Commander in the Royal Navy, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, in and over the Territory of Western Australia and its Dependencies and Vice-Admiral of the same.*

WHEREAS by the 2nd section of an Ordinance passed in the 9th year of the reign of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria No. 6, intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the Conveyance and Postage of Letters," it is enacted that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor of Western Australia to fix the rates and sums of money to be demanded by the Postmaster-General and Postmasters respectively and their Assistants, for the receiving, despatching, and delivering of Letters, Newspapers, and Packets, and to increase and reduce the same from time to time as to the said Governor shall seem meet. Now, therefore, I the Governor aforesaid, by virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred on me by the said recited Act, do hereby notify and proclaim that from and after the 1st day of July in this present year of our Lord 1852, the charge to be demanded and received by the said Postmaster-General and all other Postmasters and their assistants respectively throughout the said Colony for the receiving, despatching, conveying, and delivering of Letters sent from one part of the said Colony to another part, and also for all Foreign Letters received and delivered in the said Colony shall be at the rates respectively set forth in the schedule hereunder written : —

OUNCES.	½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	4½	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½	
ALL SHIP LETTERS.	d. 1	d. 6	d. 8	d. 10	s. 1	s. d. 1	s. d. 2	s. d. 1	s. d. 1	s. d. 1	s. d. 6	s. d. 8	s. d. 1	s. d. 10	s. 2	And 2d. for every ½ oz. extra
	s. d. 2	s. d. 4	s. d. —	s. d. 7	s. d. —	s. d. 10	s. d. —	s. d. 1	s. d. 1	s. d. —	s. d. 1	s. d. 4	s. d. —	s. d. 1	s. d. 7	And 3d. for every oz. extra
INLAND.																

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Colony, at Perth, this 7th day of June, 1852.

(Signed) CHARLES FITZGERALD,
Governor, &c.

By His Excellency's command,
(Countersigned) W. A. SANFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

The above Proclamation reduced the rates for Inland Postage to half those fixed on May 9th, 1850, and also greatly lowered the rates for ship letters. In addition to the foregoing, rates for parcels and local letters had been established at the latter date, in the following words :—"All parcels passing through any Post Office are liable o half postage only, provided they do not contain any writing."

"Letters or packets posted at any Post Office addressed to parties residing within

the precincts of the town or district in which that Post Office may be situated are liable to the charge of one penny."

The rate for parcels was, therefore, also reduced half on the 1st July, 1852, while that for local letters remained unchanged.

On May 22nd, 1854, the Legislative Council of the Colony passed two ordinances authorising the issue of postage stamps, and making their employment compulsory for the prepayment of both inland and foreign letters. The following are copies of these two important documents :—

No. 12. 1854. "An Ordinance to provide for, and regulate the issue and use of Postage Stamps."

WHEREAS, by an Ordinance No. 6, passed in 1845, power was given to the Governor to fix the rates and sums of money to be demanded for the receiving, dispatching, and delivering of letters, newspapers, and packets, and to increase and reduce the same from time to time; and whereas it has been deemed advisable that letters, newspapers and packets, stamped as hereinafter provided for, should pass by the Post free of postage;—Be it therefore enacted, by His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia and its Dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, that from and after the 1st day of August next, all letters, newspapers and packets, which shall be liable to postage under any law for the time being in force shall, if posted in any place within the said colony, and written or printed on stamped paper, or enclosed in stamped covers, or having a stamp or stamps affixed thereto (the stamp or stamps in every such case being affixed on such letters, newspapers and packets, appearing on the outside, and of a value or amount equivalent to the amount of duty for postage payable by any law for the time being in force in respect of the same respectively), and if the stamp or stamps shall not have been used before, pass by this Post free of postage.

II.—THAT from and after the 1st day of August next, all letters, newspapers, and packages, addressed and posted to places within or without the said Colony (not being part of a ship mail arriving from places beyond seas, between which places respectively and this Colony, there shall not be any reciprocal arrangement for the free inland transmission of stamped letters), shall be prepaid by affixing upon the same the full amount of stamps to cover the postage due thereon, and any letter, newspaper or packet, not so fully prepaid by stamps as aforesaid, shall be retained in the Post Office and not be forwarded until the full amount of postage by stamps shall have been paid.

III.—THAT it shall be lawful for the Governor, from time to time, to provide proper and sufficient dies, plates, or other implements, for expressing and denoting rates of such value or amount as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes herein mentioned; and also to use, for the like purpose, any dies, plates, or other implements, which have been provided and made by the Government for the said purpose; and all stamps and impressions which have been made, or shall be made or impressed, by, or from any such last mentioned dies, plates, or other implements, shall be valid and available for the purposes of this Ordinance.

V.—(Long clause relating to forging dies, &c.)

V.—(Clause relating to making use of stamps that have been already employed.)

VI.—(Certain sections of Ordinance No. 11, of 1853, to be incorporated in this Ordinance.)

VII.—That the Postmaster-General, Colonial Treasurer, or other authorised person, shall, with the approval of the Governor, cause stamps to be made, or procured and sold, indicating such amounts of postage as may be directed in that behalf by the Governor, and that the lawful stamp or impression shall represent the figure of a Swan, on a black or other ground, in addition to any other Figure, mark, or words (if any) thereon impressed.

VIII.—That this Act may be cited as "The Postage Stamp Ordinance, 1854."

(Signed) Charles Fitzgerald,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief."

Passed the Legislative Council the 22nd day of May, 1854.

(Countersigned) A. O'Grady Lefroy,
Clerk of the Council.

(To be continued.)

The Philatelic Society, London.

FURNISHING FUND.

List of Subscriptions Received or Promised up to October 15th, 1892.

We are glad to be able to acknowledge some further donations to this fund—and sincerely trust that it may be largely supplemented. The amount required for actual necessities will be largely in excess of this, without allowing any margin for the purchase—and we hope gifts—of the pictures, ornaments, and bric-à-brac, that are as equally to be desired to make the Society's home attractive.

Amount acknowledged up to August 19th ... ... £45 13s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
W. W. Blest	1	1	0	A. A. Davis	1	1	0
E. S. Gibbons	1	1	0	A. B. Creeke...	1	1	0
Capt. St. G. Ord	1	1	0	W. D. Beckton	1	1	0
A. Boswell	1	1	0	J. H. Abbott	1	1	0
F. Street	2	2	0	J. A. Tilleard	5	0	0
L. Gibb	2	2	0	Major Evans	3	0	0
T. Maycock	2	2	0	Lord Kingston (2nd Donation) ...	5	0	0
T. W. Jones	1	1	0	Dr. G. Michelsen	1	1	0
R. Greening (2nd Donation) ...	1	1	0	J. A. Nix	2	2	0
Perkins Bacon & Co., Limited ...	1	1	0	C. E. Fox	2	2	0
T. W. Kitt	1	1	0	R. Meyer	1	1	0

Total ... ... £83 17s. 6d.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

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E. D. BACON. | MAJOR EVANS.
A. W. CHAMBERS. | T. MAYCOCK.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held at the Salisbury Hotel on Friday, the 17th June, 1892, at 5.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle (Vice-President), E. D. Bacon, H. Grey, C. N. Biggs, W. T. Willett, H. E. Wright, A. de Worms, F. Ransom, T. Maycock, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, R. Meyer, F. Street, D. Garth, J. A. Tilleard, and W. Silk.

The Vice-President having taken the chair, Mr A. G. Driver, proposed by Mr. W. Scott and seconded by Mr Nicholl; and Mr. J. H. Hallett, proposed by Mr. W. Scott and seconded by Mr. Watts, were elected members of the Society. The Chairman then proposed an adjournment for inspection of the rooms at Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, proposed to be taken for the future meetings of the Society, after which the report of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the subject was read.

On the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Bacon, it was resolved that the Report be adopted and be entered on the minutes.

The Vice-President then laid before the meeting the general details and estimates relating to the proposals in regard to the new rooms.

After some discussion it was resolved, on the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, that the arrangements should be left to the Committee, who should have power to decide in whose names the lease of the premises should be taken under the guarantee of the Society.

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An extraordinary general meeting was held in the Society's rooms at Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, on Friday, the 16th September, at 5.30 p.m., for the election of members. The Vice-President was in the chair, and the following members were also present, viz.:—Messrs. E. J. Nankivell, E. D. Bacon, E. A. Elliott, W. T. Willett, C. N. Biggs, F. Street, J. A. Tilleard, E. Stanley Gibbons, T. Wickham Jones, W. Silk, T. Maycock, and R. Greening. The following gentlemen having been severally balloted for were duly elected members of the Society, viz.:—Messrs. F. Barratt, J. Flohr, G. F. H. Gibson, J. H. Abbott, J. F. Hofgaard, and W. Gaddum, all proposed and seconded by Mr. Vernon Roberts and Mr. Beckton. Messrs. S. M. Castle. J. W. Gillespie, R. Woodman, P. de Worms, J. Escollme, and G. Hodgson, proposed and seconded by the Vice-President and Mr. Willett. The Rev. W. Bell, proposed by Mr. Nankivell and seconded by the Secretary; Mr. H. Champion, proposed by Mr. Street and seconded by the Secretary; Mr. W. R. Burrell, proposed by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by the Secretary: Messrs. J. F. Sharples and E. Lentz, proposed by Mr. Breitfuss and seconded by the Vice-President; Mr. H. Loveridge, proposed by the Secretary and seconded by Mr. Philbrick; and Mr. T. D. F. Evans, proposed by Mr. W. T. Wilson and seconded by the Secretary. No further business was taken.

———

The first meeting of the season 1892-93 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 30th September, at 7.30 p.m. The Earl of Kingston (President) occupied the chair, and was supported by the following members, viz.:—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, A. W. Chambers, T. Maycock, E. S. Gibbons, C. N. Biggs, H. Grey, W. T. Willett, W. Silk, A. A. Davis, A. B. Creeke R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, D. Garth, J. A. Tilleard, and F. Ransom. One visitor was also present. The minutes of the last meeting and of the two extraordinary meetings having been read and confirmed, Mr. A. de Reuterskiold, proposed by Mr. Bacon, and seconded by the

Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Browse, proposed by Mr. Gibb, and seconded by the Treasurer, and Mr. Alfred A. Good, proposed by Mr. Vasmer, and seconded by Mr. Bacon, were duly elected members of the Society. Mr. Bacon announced that the directors of Perkins Bacon & Company, Limited, in addition to making a contribution towards the furnishing fund, had kindly promised to present to the Society a frame of proofs of stamps representing the work of their firm. Mr Bacon then read a Paper on the Stamps of Western Australia, containing a large amount of valuable information culled from official sources. As the result of his researches Mr. Bacon had been able to determine the dates of most of the issues, and to dispose of many of the questions remaining unsettled in the works previously published in regard to the stamps of the country under consideration. Upon the motion of the Secretary, seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bacon, and, with his consent, it was determined that the Paper should be published in the Society's Journal. Mr. Nankivell, in pursuance of notice previously given, moved, "That, for the current season, the business of the revision of the reference lists be referred to a Committee of the whole Society, and that such Committee meet fortnightly in weeks alternating with those in which the ordinary meetings are held." After some discussion the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stanley Gibbons, was carried. Upon the motion of Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mr. Biggs, it was resolved, "That the Committee be directed to proceed with the revision of the reference list of the stamps of the British Colonies in South Africa, and to report to the Society when the revision of such list was completed." In reference to the question of the management of the Society's rooms it was resolved, upon the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by the President, "That Mayor Evans, Mr. Nankivell, Mr. Wickham Jones, and Mr. Tilleard, be appointed a sub-committee to complete the furnishing, and superintend the arrangements for the use of the rooms, two members to form a quorum of the sub-committee. Mr. Davis gave notice that at the next meeting he would move a resolution in reference to an entrance fee being paid by new members after the number of members should reach two hundred.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: VERNON ROBERTS. *Vice-President:* F. BARRATT.
Hon. Sec.: W. DORNING BECKTON. *Assistant Hon. Sec.:* C. H. COOTE.

Hon. Treasurer: G. B. DUERST.

REV. J. W. PAULL. E. P. COLLETT.
J. H. ABBOTT. E. AITKEN.

The First Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on Friday, the 23rd of September, the Vice-President in the Chair; also present, J. H. Abbott, E P. Collett, the Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Grunewald, Buxton, Petrie, Gibson, Batty, Fildes, Ranck, and the Secretary.

The Vice-President expressed the regret he felt at the unavoidable absence of the President, and desired to tender to him on behalf of the members their sympathy in his recent bereavement.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Three new members were proposed and will come up for election at the next meeting.

The Secretary reported the negotiations which were taking place with the Brighton Society with a view to establishing an exchange of Stamps between the two Societies.

The Hon. Treasurer then read a Paper on the Carlist Stamps, which was very much appreciated by the members, who accorded a hearty vote of thanks to him for his able Paper.

Mr. Collett then exhibited (as a warning to members) a set of the old issue Samoa received from a friend who saw the Post Office official postmark the same, and stating the price at which they could be obtained at the Post Office in Samoa either unused or obliterated.

Many new issues and recent provisionals were exhibited, among the former being Great Britain 4½d. which was criticised by some of the members, although the general opinion was favourable.

The Second Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on Friday, October 7th, 1892, the President in the chair, there being

also present the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Assistant-Secretary, Messrs. Abbott, Aitken, Collett, Grunewald, Munn, Gibson, Farrer, Ranck, Fildes, and Batty.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Messrs. John Ernest Heginbottom, W. Yaddum, and Edwin J. Reynolds were elected members of the Society.

The Secretary read the bye-laws, made by the Committee, regulating the proposed exchange of packets with the Brighton Philatelic Society, and distributed a copy of the same to the members present.

The Secretary then read the first part of a Paper upon the Postage Stamps of Japan, and was requested to continue the same at the next meeting.

The President then showed a number of rarities, the most noticeable being Switzerland double Geneva unused; Zurich 4, two types unused; so-called Vaud 4 c., 5 c.; Basle unused; Naples, ½ tornese arms, ½ tornese cross; Tuscany, 60 crazie, 2 soldi red, and 3 lire; Saxony, 3 pf.; Wurtemburg, all the high values in fine condition; Spain, all the rarities, except 1851 2 reales; Levant, both the provisionals, &c., &c.

Several novelties were shown, including Ceylon 5 on 8 c., yellow, inverted surcharge, shown by the President, and Cape of Good Hope, threb pence on 4d., by the Secretary.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: H. W. MAYNE, L.D.S. *Vice-President:* J. MILTON.
Exchange Superintendent: H. TUCKER. *Hon. Sec. & Treasurer:* A. LEVY.

Session 1892-3.

The First Ordinary Meeting was held at the rooms of the Law Society on October 5th, 1892. The President in the chair. Present: Fourteen members and three visitors.

Mr. A. Wears and Lieut. Nicholl (Bedfordshire Regiment) were elected members.

The President read a paper dealing with various matters of interest to philately, and after some discussion on points raised, a vote of thanks was carried for the same. It was resolved that in future the annual election of officers and committee should take place at the final ordinary meeting of the Session instead of early in January, and that the election for the present session should take place at the next meeting, and that subscriptions should become due at the first meeting of the Session. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Co. for their present of several numbers of the *Philatelic Journal of America* for distribution among the members, with a promise that a copy of same monthly as published should be forwarded for the library of the Society.

The Exchange Superintendent reported that the result of the first three months' exchange packets had been most satisfactory, and mentioned that the sales from the packet for the fourth month (September) largely exceeded those of the preceding ones.

The Second Ordinary Meeting was held at the rooms of the Law Society, October 19th 1892. The President in the chair. Present: Fourteen members and two visitors.

Mr. A. Levy presented statement of accounts for the past Session, showing a small balance in favour of the Society, which was received and unanimously adopted.

Mr. W. F. Webber was unanimously elected member.

The election of officers for the present Session was then proceeded with, in accordance with resolution passed at the last meeting, Messrs. Mayne, Milton, Tucker, and Levy, were unanimously re-elected to the respective offices held by them in the past session.

Messrs. A. R. Barrett, L.P.S., R. T. Stevens, C. Leleux, and T. H. W. Turner, were unanimously elected as a committee.

The Hon. Sec. read the Review of his paper on the "Stamps of Great Britain," which had appeared in the September number of the *Philatelic Record*, and his reply to same, which he had forwarded to the proprietors of that magazine for publication.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. A. Levy for his paper.

Mr. R. T. Stevens exhibited a set of the recently issued "Oil Rivers Protectorate" stamps, and Mr. Turner showed a used copy of one of the Cooks Islands stamps.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Committee for the Session 1892-93.

President: WM. BECKWITH.
Senior Vice-President: O. FIRTH. *Junior Vice-President:* J. H. THACKRAH.
ex-Presidents: JOSEPH SCOTT & Rev. T. S. FLEMING.
Hon. Treasurer: W. B. SIMPSON.
Hon. Secretaries: W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S., & T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH.
Hon. Librarian: F. J. KIDSON.

The Session was opened on the 1st October at the Leeds Mechanics' Institute. Present: Messrs. Beckwith, Roebuck, Skipwith, Kidson, Roper, and Egly, the President in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, after which thanks were voted for presents of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal* and *Mekeel's Philatelic Journal of America*.

The evening was devoted to the exhibition of novelties and other interesting stamps. The novelties included Fiji 1d. lilac, ½d. grey-green, and provisional ½d. on 1d. blue; Straits Settlements provisionals, 1 cent on 8 c., green and on 6 c. lilac, and 30 cent on 32 c. orange; St. Lucia provisional one, halfpenny on 3d. green and lilac; Barbados, new design ½d. green and 1d. carmine, and provisional halfpenny on 4d. brown; Tasmania, 5d.; Ceylon, provisional 3 cents on 28 c. slate; and the current penny British surcharged British Bechuanaland (by the President): the new 4½d. British (several members): Cape of Good Hope, early used copies of the new 2½d. (Mr. Roebuck); and a private wrapper bearing the ½d. embossed stamp, formerly used for certificates of posting, &c., in a new colour, red (Mr. Skipwith).

The other exhibits were a number of entire sheets of various Tasmanian stamps unused (Mr. Roper), and several Schleswig-Holstein stamps on the original envelopes (Mr. Kidson).

The following programme for the first half of the Session was announced: Oct. 15th, Labuan (Mr. O. Firth); Nov. 5th, South Australia (Mr. J. H. Thackrah); Nov. 19th, New Zealand (Mr. T. K. Skipwith); Dec. 3rd, French Balloon Letters (Rev. T. S. Fleming) Dec. 17th, United States, early issues (Mr F. J. Kidson).

Philatelists from a distance visiting Leeds are requested to communicate with the secretaries, with the view of an invitation to attend one of the meetings.

Communications for the secretaries may be addressed, No. 13, Victoria Road, Headingley, Leeds.

Occasional Notes.

The enterprising Swiss gentleman who confined his exhibit at the Paris *Exposition* to forgeries of his native land's stamps received but sorry encouragement, as although he was he sole exhibitor *in his class*, the jury rightly, in our opinion, considering such an assemblage of counterfeits unworthy of any encouragement, declined to award any recognition of its merit (!) We are tempted to wonder this competition (No. 15) could have been allowed to creep into the programme.

* * *

We hear from Mr. E. D. Bacon that, although the British Museum has no fund for purchasing stamps for the "Tapling Collection," he has already had presented to it several valuable stamps that were wanting, and he states that when stamps are donated to the collection the name of the donor and the date of the gift are in every case notified on the page where the stamps are arranged. In case any Philatelist would like to add to the National Collection we append a short list of some of the varieties wanting.

Mauritius.

1818, 2d., unused, worn impression, varieties 1 and 12. Wanted to complete plate.

1859, 2d., small fillet, unused, worn impression, variety 12. Wanted to complete plate.

New South Wales.

Wanted to complete plates of the "Laureated" issues—

2d., greyish-blue, first stage of plate showing all the fine lines of the background Varieties 11, 15, 24, 30, 31, 47.

2d., re-engraved plate, no watermark. Variety 11.

3d., watermark numeral 3. Varieties 1, 3, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20, 27, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 38, 40, 44, 46, 47, 48.

8d. Variety 9.

Lagos.

6d., green (colour of first issue) watermark, Crown C.A.

Any communications with reference to foregoing should be addressed to Mr. E. D. Bacon, 41, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

* * *

Le Collectionneur de Timbre-Poste gives the following particulars of the stamps with "Swazieland" surcharged in black on the stamps of the Transvaal Republic :—

Date of Issue, Oct. 18th, 1889.

	No. Printed.
½d., grey	30,000
1d., carmine	30,000
2d., bistre	30,000
6d., blue	30,000
1s., green	30,000
Oct. 20th, 1890.	
2s. 6d., yellow	1,500
5s., greenish-blue	600
10s., brown	300
Jan. 30th, 1891.	
2d., bistre	30,000
2s. 6d., yellow	3,000
Aug. 10th, 1891.	
5s., greenish-blue	1,200

THERE seems urgent need of a Helvetian Philatelic Protection Association, as we hear that a gentleman named Ghisletti in Coire has been endeavouring to supplement the somewhat scanty supply of the so-called 5 c. of Neuchatel by his own improvisation. In order to satisfy the modern exigencies of collectors this gentleman supplies them postmarked on the letter or not, *à discretion!* These forgeries, though fairly successful, says the *Illust. Brief. Journal*, can be readily detected by a comparison with the real insect, when the ornamentation at the right and left, towards the centre of the stamp, will be found quite at variance with the original, of which collectors know there is only one type.

* * *

THE fact that three members of the Brighton Philatelic Society are about to undertake a somewhat extended tour, will probably cause some alteration in the executive of that body. The matter will, we understand, be discussed at the next meeting, and it is to be hoped that this flourishing Society will in no way suffer from its temporary deprivation of membership.

* * *

WE hear that the formation of a new Philatelic Association for Hants is in contemplation. Several well-known collectors have promised to co-operate, and with a populous county such as this, containing large towns like Portsmouth and Southampton, its success should be assured.

The Philatelic Market.

The appalling prices demanded for stamps that are either "unique," or whose existent numbers can be counted on one hand, has, in at least three instances, been lately demonstrated.

Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper held their first sale under what we may term the new *régime* on the 8th inst.; and we are pleased to note successfully, for collectors cannot fail to recognise the fact that owing to the ability and knowledge of a late member of this firm the present flourishing system of Philatelic auctions is largely indebted. The lots submitted were mostly Colonial, amongst which were good lots of Mauritius, New South Wales, and Western Australia. Amongst the lots that attained good prices were British Guiana: 1850, 12 cts. circular, dark blue, cut square, £8 15s.; 1862, 2 cts. with border of grapes, £5 15s. Buenos Ayres: 1851, 3 pesos green, £3. Queensland: 1st Issue 6d. green, wmk. star, imperf., unused, £3.

Mr. W. Brown has, we hear, sold the fine strip of 3 horizontally-placed specimens of the 20 c. red, 1862 issue of Colombia, exhibited by him at Paris, at a price commensurate with its scarcity in such a condition. The early "New Granada" issues are as interesting as almost those of any country; had our former predilections for these stamps been still to the fore our philatelic soul would have been seized with envy of the purchaser!

A charming collection of unused Victorian stamps has recently changed ownership from one well-known collector "out there" to another in this country. Amongst interesting things are a block of 11 of the 2d. first issue with coarse sides and borders, a pair of the Too lates, a pair of the 4d. beaded oval *without* watermark, some 50 fine emblems, a choice lot of the first and many of the latter issues that, common enough used, are as rare in their unused condition as some of our own English Stamps.

The Army and Navy Co-operative Stores, of Victoria Street, have established apparently quite a successful philatelic department; the catalogue for October extends to some two dozen pages, and embraces a considerable variety of sets and varieties. The departure constitutes a signal recognition of the general acknowledgment of the pursuit of stamp collecting.

Messrs. Senf Brothers, of Leipsic, have fallen foul of the late French Colonial stamp, and announce in prominent type both their disgust and intention to have no more dealings with them. The opinions we hold hereon have been frequently expressed, and our sympathies are entirely with Messrs. Senf; these issues being speculative and of no interest to the true-collector.

The Bradt Company's auction at Chicago on the 14th ultimo was but a comparatively small affair, the total amounting to but 576 dollars; nor are there any lots calling for especial mention; the prices obtained are very neatly marked in red type, a commendable example to our own auctioneers.

Mr. Albert R. Rogers held another "Private Sale" by tender on the 17th of this month at New York. We note that he has adopted a plan for description of condition as advocated recently in our columns, which we append, and that seems, *if adhered to religiously* in cataloguing, to be a very good one in the interest of buyer and seller alike.

* Stands for unused; o. g. stands for original gum.

AAA will represent a stamp that is perfect—if an imperforate, good margins; if perforated, evenly centered, good colour; if cancelled, lightly—what we term a grand specimen. A stamp always worth more than the catalogue price.

AA will represent a stamp that is fine, but not quite as fine as AAA, a stamp worth full catalogue price.

A will represent a very good specimen but not as fine as AA, a stamp worth nearly catalogue price.

B will represent a fair specimen, worth about 75 per cent. of the catalogue price.

C will represent a poor specimen, not evenly centered, or heavily cancelled, but not damaged.

D will represent a damaged specimen (will generally be described).

Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson, & Co. held their 31st sale on the 5th and 6th inst. I hear Asiatic stamps were well to the fore, two lots of Cashmeres on original envelopes realising £31. In Afghans the sunar of 1793 realised £10, there being numerous other lots of this country's issues. In Capes a superb pair of 1d. wood blocks sold for no less than £8 10s., while the 1d. blue, error, in good condition, attained £30. Some remarkably fine Natals of the first issue were a feature of the sale, the 9d. used on the letter realising in two instances about £13. The green, however, of these—a 9d., and a block of four 1s., used together on the original letter, was not sold. Turks Island 1s., prune, £4 10s.; Newfoundland 1s., £7; Tasmania, Plates I. and II. of 4d., £19 10s.; and New Zealand 2d. Star, £3 3s., with serrated perforations, formed the remaining lots of special interest.

The first sale this season of Mr. W. Hadlow, who has now offices at 36, Holborn, on the 14th and 15th of the month, was well attended and productive of good results. The most striking feature of the sale, perhaps, was the disposal of some 34 small books of Colonial and other stamps of most excellent quality, which realised in the aggregate the substantial sum of £370. The European lots were not fine, *per contra* the Afghans *were*. A 1 shahi black of 1293 (value in shield) attained £8 8s, while the 6 shahi and 1 rupee of 1289 were reasonable enough at £7 apiece; the remaining 24 lots of these also included other good stamps. A good lot of Philippines were noticeable, the best being 5 c. 1884, unused (£4). Dominican Republic, 1865, ½ real, black on green (£3 6s.); 1 real, black on yellow (£6); Colombia, 1862, 1 peso, unused (£4 8s.); ditto, on bluish, used (£3 15s. Mexico, 1864, 3 cents, brown, £3 10s., were the best American lots, all hailing from an old collection. In Australians, a 2d. N. S. Wales, stars in angles, unused, went cheaply at £4 4s.; contrariwise, the South Australia, 9d., printed on both sides, recently noted in this Journal, went dearly for £3 3s. Several collections helped to swell up the sale to a substantial amount; one of the books was described valued by Rev. R. B. Earee, at £167, but it only realised half-a-crown in the pound of the reverend gentleman's "valuation."

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Assistant Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

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VOL. I.] NOVEMBER, 1892. [No. 11.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH COLONIAL SURCHARGES.

IN another column will be found an interesting and suggestive paragraph anent the French Colonial stamps, culled from the pages of a leading French newspaper, *Le Temps*. The most iniquitous system of surcharging almost every French Colonial stamp by a combined gang of unscrupulous Post Office employés and stamp dealers, in order to *vider les pôches* of collectors, has had the long and successful run that is generally associated with threatened lives of institutions. The comments contained in our contemporary, which have been produced from most of the leading journals across the Channel, are evidently *communiqué;* it may therefore be hoped that the French Government is at last prepared to put a stop to this grave scandal. By this news—to the public rather than to Philatelists—it will be seen to what interesting lengths this unholy pact between greedy dealers and venal officials has proceeded. The refreshingly naïve suggestions contained in the article cited that collectors will mourn the loss of these abortions, are as amusing as the candid admission of the division of the spoil. It seems that some officials have already lost their posts—"When rogues fall out, etc."

The wonder is not that the French Government should now promulgate this edict, but that it should have allowed so grave a misappropriation of funds to have

gone on so long. Collectors of social standing must have informed the Postal authorities long since of the real state of things. An invitation from any Philatelist of assured position for an inspection of his French Colonial surcharges by a Post Office official, would in a few hours have opened the eyes of anyone not wilfully blind. We are almost tempted to wonder if the "2 or 3 million" had not an effect even upon the simplicity of Republican Administration—we hope not; such tactics may fit in with the expiration of Monaco or San Marino, but the dignity of *La Grande Nation* is ill associated with blackmail on the followers of an innocent pursuit. Nor are our Colonies blameless. The over printed stamps of Ceylon, amongst others, have long constituted a crying evil, having evidently been made to swell the incomes of two classes; these we have before alluded to. The mischief, if less marked than with some of the French Colonies, is still one that requires stern repression. The postal necessities of Obock and Ceylon are not on a par. There has been more than enough of this overprinting scandal—we allude to the stamps of Labuan. This Colony, with its population of over 7,000, was ceded to this country by treaty in 1847, but the British North Borneo Company would seem to have since acquired Governmental or semi-proprietary rights, as it is but a short time since that a notice of the supersession of the Labuan by the British North Borneo stamps was issued; the same time meaningless varieties of surcharges in red and black on the 8 c. were issued—some sheets with the surcharge normal, and an extra one put on *upside down* for luck (to the sellers!); others with all the surcharges inverted, and so on *usque ad nauseam*. As soon as these instructions had been "floated," the notice of the superseding of the Labuan stamps was withdrawn, and they reappeared, as our novelty columns showed, in all the glory of a new issue on an unwatermarked paper! The stamps of North Borneo speak for themselves; that the Company have a legitimate need for postage stamps is, from their amazing commercial vitality, abundantly apparent, but that during their few short years of existence they should have required for both these islands more varieties than a European nation during half a century is—to say the least—surprising. If the Company *must*, like the French Colonies administration, pay for the production of their stamps by their sale to collectors, let them do their spiriting gently, and, like Claude Duval of pious memory, plunder their victims with some slight regard to the *convenances*.

British Guiana Provisionals of 1882.

By A. de REUTERSKIÖLD.

A Paper Read at a Meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, 11th Nov., 1892.

HAVING for the past three or four years made a special study of these Stamps, I am now able to lay before my readers a few new facts concerning them. Let us call

A the setting up in six rows of two stamps, and
B the „ four „ three „

It will be seen that the same types did duty for both settings up, and we find numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 of setting A forming the left vertical row of setting B (10, 1, 7, 4 respectively).

Both values were printed from the same types, the value only being altered, so that at each printing there was a new setting up of the lower label, causing some of the remainder of the type to be more or less shifted and so forming minor varieties. As to which of the settings up was first used, nothing is definitely known, but I place setting B first for the following reason: —

All the unused lots in the dealers' hands, which seem to have been obtained in blocks of ten,* and which therefore I class as remainders, are of type A, whilst unused specimens or blocks of type B are rare. When making up the plates of these stamps I soon discovered, as stated in the London Society's *West Indian Catalogue*, that there was a second setting up of B for the 2 cents (B2), and I was lucky enough to get together eight varieties of it. (*Illustration 112.*) The four types now illustrated complete this sheet. Whilst searching for these latter I came across a number of stamps varying slightly from their corresponding types on the sheets. I had almost arrived at the conclusion that the type had been loosely set up and had moved during printing, causing slight variations in the types; when examining a large lot of unused sheets I was struck by the ever-recurring curious position of the word "specimen."



In setting A it reads upwards (inverted) from *right lower* to *left upper* corner on the first column, and downwards from the *left upper* to the *right lower* corner on the second column. In setting B, on the contrary, it reads upwards from *left lower* to *right upper* corner on the first and third lines, and downwards (inverted) from *right upper* to *left lower* corner on the second and fourth lines. This I explain in the following manner: The punching machine was only deep enough to take one

* The stock in these stamps of one of our largest dealers is almost entirely composed of blocks of ten—types 1-10 or 3-12—and of sheets of ten stamps made up of the missing pairs 1-2 and 11-12.

stamp, so that with A when one column was punched the sheet was turned round to punch the other one; this would also explain why B is always found divided into two blocks of six, as to pass the stamps under the machine the sheet would have to be so divided and passed through sideways.



This explanation ought to be easily tested in the Colony, as it is stated that the punching machine is still in existence, and in use as a door-weight in the printer's office in Georgetown.

On examining my minor varieties, I found they all had the word specimen as setting A, so at once decided there must be a second setting A2, and placed my specimens accordingly. I had succeeded in placing eleven varieties when I at last secured the uncut sheet here illustrated. It will be at once noticed that the principal difference between this and setting A (*Illustration 111 of the West Indian Catalogue*), is that type 4 has a small 2 in place of a large 2, and type 11 a large 2 in place of a small 2; but on closer examination slight differences will be found in all the other types.

There are, therefore, two plates of each of the settings of the 2 cents. It must be supposed that this value was much more used than the 1 cent, as there do not seem to be more than the two plates of the latter value. The only varieties I have found of the one cent are due to slipping of the type.

Of type 2, setting A, I have a specimen where the 2 in the right lower corner is to the left of the inner vertical line of the frame, and I have seen others where the 2 is in an intermediate position between this and its normal position to the right of the vertical line. The only other variety of this value I have found is a specimen of type 4, setting A, where the line above 1 cent has slipped slightly to the right, so as to extend from the middle of the third ornament in the lower frame past the stop after "cent," in place of extending from the beginning of the third ornament to exactly above the stop.

The Stamps of Western Australia.

A Paper Read Before the Philatelic Society, London, September 30th, 1892,

By E. D. BACON.

(*Continued from page 282.*)

No. 13, 1854. "An Ordinance to facilitate mutual Postal Communication between this Colony and other Countries."

Whereas it is expedient to facilitate the Postal Communication of this Colony with all other Colonies and Countries;—Be it enacted, by His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia and its Dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, that the postage on all letters or packets intended to be forwarded from this Colony to any other Colony or Country, shall be prepaid by means of stamps, from and after the first day of August.

II.—That all letters and packets on which the postage, including the ship postage, has been prepaid into this Colony, from any Colony or Country reciprocating the same arrangement and advantages, shall be free from all further postal charges in this Colony, whether delivered in any part of this Colony, or passed *in transitû* to any other Country or Colony.

(Signed) Charles Fitzgerald,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Passed the Council the 22nd day of May, 1854.

(Countersigned) A. O'Grady Lefroy,
Clerk of the Council.

The above Ordinances show that postage stamps were to be first issued on August 1st, 1854, and that this actually took place is proved by the fact, that in the *Government Gazette* for August 15th of that year, Mr. A. Helmich, the then Postmaster-General, inserted a notice dated Perth, 12th August, 1854, which gives a "list of letters detained for non-payment of Ship Postage," and also a list of letters "bearing stamps insufficient to cover the postage."

The question now arises, what was the value or values of the stamp or stamps issued on the 1st August, 1854. The Society's list in the *Oceania Catalogue* does not include the One Penny black in the first issue, but this stamp is given under Issue II., which is dated 1860-61. The four other values which are grouped under Issue I. are said to have been "issued in the following order: Two Pence and Six Pence, 1855; Four Pence and One Shilling, 1858." Mons. Moens, on the other hand, gives the one penny as issued at the end of 1854, the four pence in January, 1855, the sixpence in 1856, the two pence early in 1857, and the one shilling in 1858. Mr. Westoby in his article in the *Philatelic Record*, to which I have called attention, agrees with the dates given by Mons. Moens rather than with those in the Society's list.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., Limited, inform me they forwarded a consignment of 1,000,000 one penny black stamps to the Colony on August 31st, 1853. They also sent out, at the same date, the plate, a printing press, a supply of black ink, and about 17 reams of paper with "Swan" watermark, which was sufficient to print 2,000,000 stamps. This lot of one penny stamps must have arrived in the Colony long before August 1st, 1854, and as we have seen from the Ordinances I have

quoted, all letters had to be prepaid by stamps from that date, and a one penny value was moreover required for the urban letter rate, it is clear that this stamp was issued at the date mentioned.

The one penny black stamp was printed from a steel plate containing 240 specimens in twelve horizontal rows of twenty. The original die was engraved by Mr. W. Humphrys, and proofs taken from it in black upon white card are known. I also possess a proof in black upon white card, which was struck before the four corner blocks were filled in, as well as a proof in black upon plain white paper which was taken from the plate.

Now, with regard to the other values, if we refer to the Proclamation of the 7th June, 1852, we see, that given a supply of one penny stamps, the only other value there was much call for, was one of four pence for ship letters. And, as there would be plenty of time between the arrival of the watermarked paper from England and the 1st August, 1854, it seems probable that the fourpenny stamp, which was printed in the Colony, was also issued at the same date as the one penny.

On November 10th, 1855, it will be seen from the following notice published in *The Gazette*, of November 13th of that year, that an alteration took place in the rate for Ship Letters.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, PERTH,
November 10th, 1855.

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for general information that from this date, the following scale of charges will be adopted for all letters received from or forwarded to England or any other places beyond the Seas. All letters from the Australian Colonies will be delivered free in accordance with existing regulations.

For a letter not exceeding ½ oz.		sixpence.
Do.	exceeding ½ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	one shilling.
Do.	„ 1 oz. „ „ 2 oz.	two shillings.

and so on, increasing one shilling for every additional oz. or fraction of the same.

By His Excellency's command,
(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE,
Colonial Secretary.

Here, perhaps, we have the reason for the issue of the six penny value, which I think probably came into use soon after this date, say early in 1856. The stock of one penny black stamps must have been considerably reduced by this year, and it is possible that when the sixpence was prepared, it was determined to also print a two penny value for Inland Letters. These two stamps are, at any rate, similar in design, and we shall perhaps not be far wrong if we assign the same date of issue to them.

There now remains to account for the one shilling. Were it not that all writers are agreed that this was the last of the four values to make its appearance, I should, from its resemblance to the four pence, and the fact that I have found no postal rate in after years to account for its existence, have given it the same date as the one penny and four pence, *i.e.*, 1st August, 1854, thinking it might perhaps have been issued for the prepayment of rates to foreign countries. But as I have no evidence I can produce in confirmation of this theory, I must leave the question of the date of issue of this value untouched.

We see from Clause VII., of Ordinance No. 12, of 1854, the reason why the figure of a swan appears invariably on the postage stamps of this Colony. I believe

this Clause has never been rescinded by the Legislative Council, and, consequently, a stamp without this emblem could not lawfully be used for postal purposes.

Mr. Westoby in his article in the *Philatelic Record*, to which I have before alluded, drew attention to the inaccuracy of the statement in the Society's *Catalogue* that the two pence, four pence, six pence, and one shilling were printed from "lithographic transfers from dies engraved on steel by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., of London." This firm, as Mr. Westoby remarks, had nothing whatever to do with the production of these four stamps, which is not surprising, for one can recognise at a glance the work is totally different and not to be compared for a moment with the elaborate method employed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. in the manufacture of their stamps.

The four values in question were produced in the Colony, and were printed by lithography upon the watermarked paper sent out by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., on August 31st, 1853. In all probability these stamps were prepared in the Surveyor-General's Department at Perth, and printed by the lithographic press in that office. Mr. Horace Samson was draughtsman and lithographer to the Government in 1854, but resigned his appointment in July of that year, when he was succeeded by Mr. A. Hillman. These two gentlemen are possibly responsible for the production of the four stamps.

There is no doubt, as Mr. Westoby pointed out in his article in the *Philatelic Record*, that the central portion of the fourpence and one shilling were obtained by taking transfers from the one penny. The method of procedure employed for printing these two stamps was as follows:—Transfers were taken from the one penny plate, and after the borders had been removed the central portions were pasted upon a sheet of stout paper or card at equal distances apart. Transfers were then taken from new engraved borders, which in the case of the four pence were octagonal, and in the one shilling transverse oval. These were then cut out and pasted round the central parts of the design. The whole sheet of stamps was then transferred to the lithographic stone at one operation. It was in pasting the borders of the four pence round the centre parts, that the inverted variety occurred. Consequently, the correct way to describe this stamp is to say the frame is inverted, rather than the figure of the swan, as writers have been in the habit of stating. The varieties sometimes found in the size of the inscriptions on the same value, to which attention has been drawn in the *Oceania Catalogue*, were also due to the carelessness of the workman, who did not place the frames accurately round the central portions of some of the stamps, but the *Catalogue* is incorrect in saying that "several different frames evidently were drawn, in which the size of the lettering differs," for they were all transferred from one and the same engraved die. The process of adding the frames is a somewhat difficult one, as can be understood when it is borne in mind that the workman is unable to touch the transfers with his fingers, or his work, from the sensitive nature of the paper and ink employed, would be spoilt. In taking the transfer of the one shilling value, which perhaps was not made until some time after the fourpenny, greater accuracy was attained, as I know of no variations in the inscription of this stamp, although the border, as might be expected, sometimes varies as regards its position round the central part. For instance, in some specimens, it is found nearer the swan's head than it is in others. *Should* varieties exist in the inscription, they may be traced to the same cause as those of the four pence.

The transfer for the sixpence appears to have been made from an engraved die with the value upon it, which accounts for no varieties being found of this stamp. The transfer for the two pence was taken from the die of the six pence, the value being afterwards cut out, and a new one substituted in the manner I have ascribed for the

frames of the four pence and one shilling. This addition of the value, as in the case of the border of the four pence, was not very carefully carried out, and consequently varieties may be found in the lettering of the words Two pence.

A note at the end of the issue in the Society's *Catalogue* states that, "considerable differences exist in the sizes of the swans in the watermark." Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. tell me that two moulds were made for the manufacture of this paper, and that each was constructed to produce a sheet with 240 impressions of the swan watermark, every watermark of which would be liable to differ more or less from one another. Small wonder then that varieties have been found.

I have no new information I can give collectors regarding the origin of the roulettes found upon some of the stamps of this and the succeeding issue. There is no doubt, whatever, that some of the varieties are strictly official, as Mons. Moens in the *Seventh Edition* of his *Catalogue* states that he has received rouletted stamps direct from the Post Office. It is probable that some of the roulettes were either applied at certain Post Offices, or, as in Tasmania, the sheets were rouletted by a private firm for the Government. Other varieties, again, probably had no connection with the Post Office, and were only due to private enterprise.

No direct mention is made in *The Gazette* of the issue of special stamps for official use. It will, however, be seen from the following notice, which was published in *The Gazette* for November 13th, 1855, that the power of franking letters by Government Departments was abolished from the 1st January, 1856, and it seems therefore probable, that the so-called official stamps with the round punch, first came into use at this date.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
November 10th, 1855.

His Excellency the Governor having decided on the abolition of the present system of franking letters on Public Service, notice is hereby given that from and after the 1st January, 1856, no letters will be forwarded from any Post Office in the Colony unless covered by stamps of the proper value, according to the existing regulations for prepayment.

By His Excellency's command,
(Signed) Fred. P. Barlee,
Colonial Secretary.

The above notice was followed by the passing of an Ordinance (No. 4, 1856) on the 9th June, 1856; Clause II. of which read as follows:—

II. That from and after the passing of this Ordinance, all letters and packets sent by post in this Colony from one part of it to another, not being received from beyond seas, by or to whomsoever sent, shall be prepaid by stamps, without any exception, any Proclamation or notice under the authority of the said repealed Ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding.

(*To be continued.*)

French Colonial Stamps.

THE Post Office decided some months ago to issue special stamps for the Colonies. Instead of having, as at the present time, one stamp for all the Colonies, a small figure will be the design, similar in all our Colonial stamps, but holding a scroll on which the name of the Colony will be printed. This change has a double end in view. A wish has been expressed from the first to put a stop to certain financial operations, which consist, subject to market fluctuations, in sending quantities of stamps from one Colony to another. Further, and perhaps not unreasonably, the augmentation of the sale of postage stamps has been sought by exciting among *virtuosi*—their numbers are legion—the desire to procure the new Colonial stamps. No less a sum than two to three millions (of francs) has been supposed to have been hereby added to the postal receipts! The exact truth cannot of course be arrived at, but what we do know is, *that speculation in Colonial stamps has already been excited, a speculation which has caused the intervention of the Central Administration and the dismissal of three or four postmasters.* Stamp collectors, being like all other collectors, naturally attach the greatest pecuniary value to rarities. The stamps themselves, in this instance, are not rare, hence the improvisation of surcharges.

It is easily comprehensible that stamp dealers keenly watch these transformations. *To corner the greater part of these surcharged stamps is a lucrative speculation.* The percentage on these surcharged stamps is 10, 15, or 20 fold! Collectors who happen at the present time to pay *five or six thousand* francs for a rare specimen will not hesitate *to give a hundred francs for a surcharged stamp if the issue has been curtailed.* From this fact there arises naturally an *entente* between postmasters and wholesale stamp merchants. Colonial Governors are not necessarily philatelists, and they do not attach the same importance, as do amateurs of stamps, to the signature authorising the surcharge. Lucky "speculations" have been made; some have even been named, and, as we have already remarked, some officials have paid with their situations for their complaisance to the wishes of these philatelic speculators.

The intention of the Postal officials to create a special stamp for each Colony has been forestalled, in some degree, by the application on the current design of surcharge indicating the name of the Colony. The general stamp has thus been specialised for Réunion, Guadeloupe, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Obock, French Congo, &c. *Great has been the joy of the stamp collectors*, who delight in these "surcharges." But the Postal Authorities have decided to cut short this too fascinating speculation for the employés of the Post Office. The Sub-Secretary of State has requested the Governors to apply restrictions to the sale of surcharged stamps, especially all those that undergo change of value. Postmasters can no longer constitute themselves the commissionaires of wholesale stamp merchants. As an instance of this, Article 3 of a proclamation of the Governor-General in the French Congo, published on the 20th August last in the Official Gazette of that Colony, stipulates that "the sale of surcharged stamps will only be enabled to take place in order to serve the purpose of immediate franking at counter of the Post Office. The "*Petite Bourse*" of the *Champs Elysées* will certainly experience the

effects of these administrative measures. But whilst the *enthusiastic amateurs* may accord the *place of honour* to high-priced "surcharges" the more youthful collectors will console themselves when they hear of the issue of a series of Colonial stamps.

[The foregoing is an approximate translation, with necessary abridgments, from the *Temps*, the italics and exclamatory notes being ours.—Ed.]

Reviews.

THE NEW "IMPERIAL" ALBUM.*

That enterprising firm—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited—have, in response to latter day requirements, issued a new and entirely rearranged edition of this well-known work. These albums—for despite its considerable increase in size, two volumes are requisite—are in our opinion the best that have as yet been issued for the guidance of the general collector. This is saying much in view of the excellence of some of the German albums, but we have no hesitation in saying that doubtless, thanks greatly to the indefatigable and accurate work of Major E. B. Evans, the Imperial Album can take precedence of any kindred publication. As evidence of the progress of the times, watermarks, varieties of perforation, surcharges, &c., are now noted, and the general collector (whose name is still legion) will find that there will long be many *lacunæ* on the square lined spaces devoted to each stamp. As heretofore, the letterpress and type illustrations are on the left, leaving the right hand page for the collection. Volume I. contains Europe, including the Russian and other locals (except German) all duly illustrated, and Asia, the other continents appearing in the companion volume. The paper, typography, and binding are all excellent, and we can only hope that such an enterprising undertaking may have the wide sale that it so well deserves.

THE ENVELOPES OF MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN AND STRELITZ.†

From the accomplished pen of one of our Berlin members, Herr C. Lindenberg, we have to acknowledge this, the second, treatise on the German envelopes. The commendations that we expressed as to its predecessor are equally due in this instance, the context shewing that Herr Lindenberg has associated his most interesting official discoveries with an amount of philatelic knowledge that renders the book in every way acceptable to its readers. The quotation of some of the official notices necessarily includes a reference to the adhesives, by which we learn that the sheets of the adhesives 4/4 ;—3, and 5 schillinge consisted of 120 stamps, and it is almost to be regretted that in countries with so limited an issue, the adhesives, also few, could not have been included. Even without these this *brôchure* extends to 68 pp., inclusive of excellently rendered *fac-simile* illustrations of each issue it treated upon. Where all is of interest—to those who wisely collect European entire envelopes—it is difficult to make a selection, but the

* The Imperial Postage Stamp Album, arranged and compiled by E. S. Gibbons, edited by Major E. B. Evans. Two vols: Stanley Gibbons, Limited, 8, Gower Street, London.

† Die Briefumschläge von Mecklenburg-Schwerin und Mecklenburg-Strelitz, von Carl Lindenberg, Berlin, 1892, Verlag von Dr. H. Brendicke.

following tables seem so pregnant with lessons philatelic—and pecuniary!—that we reproduce them. We congratulate the learned author, and only trust that the companion volume may speedily appear for the benefit of all *ganzsachen* collectors.

MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN ISSUE OF 1856, WITH LARGE INSCRIPTION.

Quantities issued.

3 sch.,	small size	153,000	stamps.
1½ sch.,	small size	121,400	„
1 sch.,	small size	98,300	„
3 sch.,	large size	66,900	„
1½ sch.,	large size	57,900	„
1 sch.,	large size	50,700	„
5 sch.,	small size	46,000	„
5 sch.,	large size	25,300	„

MECKLENBURG-STRELITZ.

Quantities used.

1 sqr., small size, prepared for use	119,900
Provisionals for North German Confederation ...	37,737
Used	82,163
2 sqr, small size, prepared for use	60,000
Provisionals for North German Confederation ...	27,778
Used	32,222
3 sqr., small size, prepared for use	60,200
Provisionals for North German Confederation ...	41,167
Used	19,033
1 sqr., large size, prepared for use	30,300
Provisionals for North German Confederation ...	27,236
Used	3,064
2 sqr., large size, prepared for use	20,100
Provisionals for North German Confederation ...	18 892
Used	1 523
3 sqr., large size, prepared for use	20,000
Provisionals for North German Confederation ...	18,577
Used	1,108

These embossed stamps were not allowed to be cut out and attached to other envelopes as were the Prussian stamps, but despite this, specimens have occasionally been found that no doubt were inadvertently passed over by the post office *employés*.

ARMY AND NAVY STORES ALBUM.

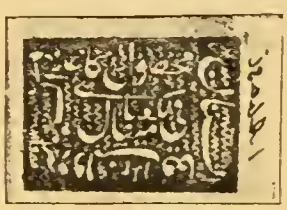
WE have received from the Army and Navy Stores, Victoria Street, a handsome Album for the use of advanced collectors. It is composed of hinged movable leaves, fastened to the cover by means of brass screws working within small hollow tubes, and judging by the experiment we have made, seems well adapted for the use of advanced collectors. The leaves are faintly ruled in small squares (*quadrillé*), thus rendering the placing in line an easy task, while each page has a neat border space above for the title. The book is large quarto, handsomely bound, is in every way a credit to the enterprise of its publishers, is one that we can with confidence recommend to the notice of collectors, and that we trust will induce many of the numerous visitors to "the Stores" to turn Philatelists also!

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Afghanistan.—Mr. G. Hynes, of Calcutta, sends us a new set of three stamps, viz.: 1 abasi, 2 abasi, and 1 rupee, all lithographed in slate-blue on a very thin pale pink wove paper, and are oblong in shape. Mr. Hynes also sends an impression of the obliteration which we illustrate as well as the stamp. This gigantic obliteration is to take the place of the old practice of tearing a piece out of the stamp. Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, writing of this new issue, says, "The stamps are oblong, the design is still composed principally of native characters, the only attempt at ornamentation is a pattern of wavy lines between the characters, the whole being upon a ground of solid colour. The characters have the appearance of being drawn by some one who understood them, and we have little doubt that they are not of a mere fancy nature. Upon the three values sent us, 4 a., 8 a., and 1 rupee, we can trace the characters for *abasi*, *two abasi*, and *rupee* respectively; and we believe there is the date "1310," corresponding with the present year. They appear to have been lithographed, the two lower values in horizontal rows of three, the 1 r. in a single vertical row. We have examined a block of 12 of the 4 a. with margin on two sides, a similar block of 8 a. with margin on three sides, and a strip of 12 of the 1 r. with margin all round. These blocks are all carefully obliterated with a post-mark in very greasy *red* ink, which is not altogether in their favour, unless the Afghan authorities have become far more accommodating than they used to be."





Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., who also send us the two lower values of this issue, write, "There was a 4 abasi stamp issued, but it was only in use for three or four weeks, when it was withdrawn by the Ameer."

1 abasi, slate-blue, on very thin pink paper.
2 „ „ „ „
4 „ (1 r.) „ „ „

Argentine.—A new set of stamps with portraits finely engraved by the American Bank Note Co. has been issued as illustrated. We have received the ½ c. to 50 c., but the higher values have not yet reached us. The stamps are perf. 11½, are water-marked as illustrated, and are printed in distinct colours on cream wove paper as per following list:—





½	centavo,	slate-blue,	Portrait of	Rivadavia.
1	„	brown,	„	„
2	„	green,	„	„
5	„	carmine,	„	„
10	„	slate-blue,	„	Belgrano.
12	„	blue,	„	„
16	„	grey,	„	„
24	„	brown,	„	„
50	„	green,	„	„
1	peso,	dark carmine,	„	San Martin.
2	„	dark green,	„	„
5	„	dark blue,	„	„

On the 12th October two Jubilee stamps were issued to be used on that one day only, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. The stamps are oblong in shape, and show Columbus ships in full sail. The illustration which we append from a used copy sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., will speak as to the design.



2 c., pale blue.
5 c., dark blue.

Bermuda.—The ½d. green has come at last. It was chronicled at the end of last year, but its existence was denied, and it was even stated on authority (see page 34) that no change of colour was even contemplated. We are indebted to Mr. W. J. Wilson for our first copy.

½d. green, wmk. Crown C.A., perf. 13½×14.

Bolivia.—This country has commemorated the opening of its first railway by the issue of a new series of very ugly stamps for printed matter, which we illustrate from specimens sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. They are lithographed on coloured paper, and perf. 11.

½	centavo,	red on yellow.	50	centavo,	red on rose.
1	„	rose on pink (?).	1	boliviano,	yellow on yellow.
2	„	violet on blue.	2	„	brown on lilac.
5	„	blue on blue.	5	„	black on white.
10	„	yellow on yellow.	10	„	(?)
20	„	green on green.			



Deccan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"Some months ago the *Monthly Journal* described the current ½-anna in a *full rose* tint, from a single used specimen they came across. We wrote to Hyderabad for some, or information about them, and were officially informed that they were never printed in rose. We have just received a parcel of many thousands of used Deccan, and in sorting them we

found several specimens of this rose stamp. So much for official knowledge. We enclose one of these stamps, and you will see there can be no doubt at all about the colour. We never saw an unused one."



Fiji.—We are indebted to Mr. R. Myers for a copy of the 4d. brown of last year, surcharged 5d. in black, which we illustrate. When will postal authorities agree in recognising the danger of overprinting low values with a higher value surcharge?

Labuan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"The issue on unwatermarked paper has, after a very brief existence, been withdrawn; and the stamps of the British North Borneo are now exclusively used in Labuan. We have bought up the last of the stock of these Labuans at a premium over face value. The total number printed was 5,000 of each value." The unwatermarked stamps were in use about six months. Thus endeth Labuan!



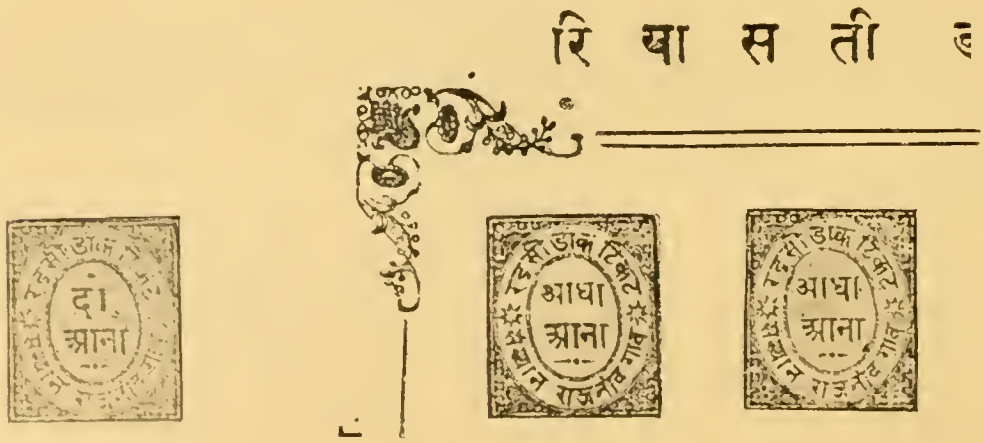
Macau.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two new provisional stamps for printed matter, which we illustrate.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ on 40 reis, brown, black surcharge.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ „ 80 „ grey, „ „

Madeira.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"We have just received a quantity of stamps from Funchal, and have noted a curious circumstance. The stamps are in sheets of twelve only, and one of them has on the margin part of the word 'Angra,' which shows that the stamps of more than one Colony are printed simultaneously in panes on the same sheet."

Nándgáon.—There has been a new issue here. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a whole sheet of the 2 annas and a block of six of the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna. The sheets consist of four rows of four stamps each unperforated, surrounded with a border with ornamental corners, with native inscriptions on each side. The paper is a common wove, and is ungummed. We illustrate each variety, and also the border. The old issue of large stamps with English inscriptions has been withdrawn.

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green, imperf.
2 annas, red, „



North Borneo.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us another variety of the 8 c. on 25 c., the difference consisting in the value being denoted by a figure "8" instead of the word "Eight." The surcharge is in red. Only 300 are said to have been issued.

8 cents, in red, on 25 c. blue.

Sarawak.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the total number of surcharged stamps issued was as follows:—

1 c. on 3 c., new type, 48,060.

1 c. on 3 c., old type (brown on yellow), 100 000.

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Argentine.—The new Envelopes and Wrappers bear the portrait of Rivadavia, in a somewhat similar design to that of the lower values of the adhesives, the list being as follows:—

Envelope.	5 c., carmine on	*straw: 2 sizes.*
Wrappers.	½ c., blue on	*buff.*
	1 c., brown	„
	2 c., green	„
	4 c, dark green	„

British South Africa.—A new Registered Letter Envelope, in two sizes, is being issued for Mashonaland. It has a stamp on the flap of the envelope somewhat similar to that for British Central Africa, the value of the stamp being 4d. instead of 2d. on the former. They will be obtainable at the Company's offices in London, at 5d. each. We are indebted to Mr. J. F. Jones for the copy which we illustrate.



POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Argentine.—The new post and letter cards bear the portrait of Rivadavia in a somewhat similar design to the lower values of the adhesives, as illustrated on another page. The list is as follows:—

Post Cards.	2 c., green on	*cream.*
	4 c., grey	„
	6 c., claret	„
	6+6 c. „	„
Letter Cards.	2 c., green	„
	4 c., grey	„

Bahamas.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two varieties of the surcharged reply cards, chronicled on page 178. One has a double surcharge on the first half, and the other on the second half. The second surcharge is evidently intentionally done, as the first one was misplaced, being below the stamp.

Curaçoa.—A new postcard, for a copy of which we are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., has appeared here. The design, as illustrated, is printed on pale green card.



2½ c., green on pale green.

Gambia.—We illustrate a new provisional postcard from a used copy sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.



1d., black surcharge on 1½ green on buff.

Great Britain.—Mr. W. Beckwith, President of the Leeds Philatelic Society, sends us the Letter Card *unperforated*. Evidently these little accidents will occur in the best-regulated establishments.

Letter card, 1d, dull carmine on blue, unperforated.

Macau.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a provisional 10 reis reply card for local use between Macau, Timor and Hong Kong, which consists of the Postal Union card printed in blue with the 10 reis green adhesive stamp attached. We have also from the same source a provisional 30 reis reply card, consisting of the Postal Union card printed in red, bearing the 200 reis slate adhesive stamp with the numerals of value overprinted "30" in red.

10+10 reis, green on white.

30+30 surcharged in red on 200 r.+200 r. slate on white.

Spain.—We have two new postcards from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., which we illustrate. It will be seen that the inscription on each is in a different type to former issues, whilst in the case of the 10 centimos the arms are added on the left upper corner. And, sad to relate, the serious heraldic offence of turning the back of the young King to the Arms, which offence led to the stoppage of the recent issue of postcards in Holland, is here repeated.





10 c., brown on buff.
5 c., green on buff, for postage to Gibraltar.

Tasmania.—In addition to the varieties with the additional oval—and privately impressed—red stamp noted in our September issue, we have now received the 1882 card, rough impression, carmine on buff, with this ubiquitous red stamp added immediately under the original value, thus making it available for over-sea postage. An esteemed Tasmanian correspondent who sends this, also forwards a variety, duly postmarked, in which the additional stamp is impressed inverted in the lower left corner, with the information that 100 only of the first-named, and 6 only of the second passed the post! This was to be expected! Our views on this class of "goods" have been already fully explained *usque ad nauseam*.

We illustrate a new reply postcard from a copy just received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.



$1\frac{1}{2}$d.+$1\frac{1}{2}$d., dark brown on ivory.

United States.—We illustrate a new reply postcard, the first half of which is designated on the stamp "Message card" and on the reply half "Reply card" in the inscription over the portrait of President Garfield.



1+1 c., black on buff.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

The Philatelic Society, London.

Honorary President:
H.R.H. the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., &c.

Committee for the Year 1892-93.

President: THE EARL OF KINGSTON.
Vice-President: M. P. CASTLE.
Secretary: D. GARTH.
Assistant Secretary: J. A. TILLEARD.
Treasurer and Librarian: C. N. BIGGS.

E. D. BACON. | Major EVANS.
A. W. CHAMBERS. | T. MAYCOCK.

THE Second Meeting of the Season 1892-93, was held at Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, on Friday, the 14th October, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the Vice-President (in the chair), and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, T. Wickham Jones, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, W. Silk, H. E. Wright, A. A. Davis, C. Harrison, T. Maycock, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, C. N. Biggs, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair having been taken by the Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter from Mr. A. C. Emerson, tendering his resignation of membership under Article 12 of the Society's statutes, was read, and after some discussion it was resolved unanimously, upon the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by the Vice-President, that Mr. Emerson be requested to withdraw his resignation.

Mr. A. A. Davis moved, in pursuance of his notice previously given, "That as soon as the members of the Society number 300 an entrance fee of £2 2s. be imposed on all new members, in addition to the annual subscription for the current year, and that the Society's statutes be amended accordingly."

The motion having been seconded by Mr. Bacon, Mr. Biggs moved as an amendment to strike out the words "300 an entrance fee of £2 2s.," and to substitute the words "250 an entrance fee of £1 1s. to be increased to £2 2s. when the number amounts to 300."

After a lengthy discussion, the amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Wickham Jones, was adopted by the meeting, and was then put as a substantive motion, and carried in the following terms, viz.: "That as soon as the members of the Society number 250 an entrance fee of £1 1s, to be increased to £2 2s. when the number amounts to 300, be imposed on all new members in addition to the subscription for the current year, and that the Society's statutes be amended accordingly."

On the motion of Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, it was then resolved that the preceding resolution should be embodied in the statutes as Article 17a.

Mr. Nankivell gave notice that at a future meeting he would move a resolution in reference to an Exhibition in the Society's rooms of the Stamps of India and Ceylon, to be held at an early date after the publication of the proposed work on the stamps of those countries.

The Vice-President then read a paper on the first issue of the stamps of Victoria. The various points of interest specially noted as the result of Mr. Castle's careful investigation into the subject were illustrated by a fine series of examples of all the values, which were handed round for the inspection of the members present, and, amongst other interesting facts recorded, it was clearly demonstrated that there are two distinct types of the first 3d. value.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vice-President for his valuable contribution, on the motion of Mr Bacon, seconded by Mr. Biggs, and, with the consent of the writer, it was determined that the paper should be published in the Society's Journal.

———

THE Third Meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 28th October, at 7.30 p.m. The Vice-President occupied the chair, and there were also present Major Evans and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, H. E. Wright, R. Meyer, W. Silk, S. M. Castle, W. T. Willett, W. T. Wilson, T. Maycock, E. S. Gibbons, R. Ehrenbach, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, J. A. Tilleard, and D. Garth (members), and one visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting having

been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported that in pursuance of the resolution passed at the last meeting, Mr. Emerson had withdrawn his resignation.

A letter was read from Mr. Bambridge, the private secretary to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, announcing the intention of the Honorary President to present to the Society a portrait of H.R.H.

The Secretary also read a letter from Mr. Lundy tendering his resignation of membership, which was decided to be accepted.

Mr. Hynes forwarded for inspection of the members, specimens of the new issue of Afghanistan stamps received from the Post Master at Peshawur.

The Secretary also reported the receipt of a letter from the President and Secretary of the Frankfort Society in reference to a resolution passed by that Society, and a correspondence which had ensued, in regard to stamps alleged to have been sold by Mr. H. G. Hanson, of Cardiff, and commenting on the course adopted by the latter, and his repudiation of the suggestion that the mark placed by him upon stamps which he sold, conveyed any guarantee as to the "genuineness" of such stamps.

The letter was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

Mr. Wm. Pattison, of Montreal, proposed by Mr. Gibb, and seconded by the Treasurer; Mr. C. F. Larmour, and Mr. F. A. Larmour, both proposed by Mr. W. T. Wilson, and seconded by the Secretary; Lieut. Raby, R.N., proposed by Major Evans and seconded by the Secretary; Mr. H. W. Bolland and the Rev. Neville Borton, both proposed by Mr. Geldard, and seconded by the Secretary; and Mr. W. L. Mellersh, proposed by the Rev. H. Cummings, and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society.

The Vice-President, in referring to his proposed voyage round the world, explained the arrangements which had been made in reference to the editing of the Society's journal during his absence, and, in approving of the arrangements, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Biggs, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, "That in leaving England Mr. Castle takes with him the best wishes of the Society for a very prosperous, safe and pleasant journey."

Mr. Nankivell then read a paper on the wide rouletted stamps of the Transvaal, for which, on the motion of Mr. Bacon seconded Mr. W. T. Wilson, he was accorded a cordial vote of thanks, and with his consent it was determined that the paper should be published in the LONDON PHILATELIST.

Two meetings of the Society as a committee for settling the Reference Lists of the Society have been held at Ellingham House, on the 21st October, and the 4th November, and there was a good attendance of members at each meeting. The subject chosen for discussion for the current season consists of the stamps of the British Colonies of Africa. At the first meeting the Reference List of the stamps of British Bechuanaland was dealt with and completed. At the second meeting the list of the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope was proceeded with and adjourned for completion at the next meeting to be held on Friday the 18th November.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President: VERNON ROBERTS.
Vice-President: F. BARRATT.
Hon. Secretary: W. DORNING BECKTON.
Assistant Hon. Secretary: C. H. COOTE.
Hon. Treasurer: G. B. DUERST.

REV. J. W. PAULL. | E. P. COLLETT.
J. H. ABBOTT. | E. AITKEN.

THE Third Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on Friday, October 21st, 1892, the President in the chair, there being also present the Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Messrs. Abbott, Collett, Munn, Gibson, Petrie, Grunewald, Hanmer, Ranck and Fildes.

The Secretary read the continuation of his paper on Japan, illustrating the same with entire sheets of many of the stamps he described.

The Treasurer then read a short paper on the forgeries that were being sold in Japan, with the alleged cognizance of the Post Office officials. The stamps are extremely well executed, but have the word San-Ko, *i.e.*, facsimile, printed on the face in Japanese. They can thus be easily distinguished from the genuine article, although by reason of the word San-Ko being printed in the same colour as the stamps themselves it cannot be seen in all cases at once. Some of these stamps were minutely described, and the differences between them and the genuine ones pointed out.

The most interesting of the stamps exhibited afterwards were a quantity of Mulready envelopes, including an entire sheet of twelve twopenny wrappers, Sydney views, and lau reated New South Wales entire plates, nearly complete, shown by the President.

THE Fourth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on Friday, November 4th, 1892, the Vice-President in the chair, who was supported by Messrs. Duerst, Abbott, Collett, Beckton, Petrie, Munn, Grunewald, Coote, Farrer, Batty and Fildes, and one visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary read the continuation of his paper on the Stamps of Japan, showing further entire sheets of the stamps of this country.

The Hon. Secretary addressed the Meeting upon the various kinds of papers used for postage stamps, illustrating the same with the stamps themselves.

The packet received from the Brighton Philatelic Society was inspected by the members present.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties.

Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society.

Honorary President: BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: M. P. CASTLE.

Vice-President: J. H. REDMAN.

Acting Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: A. DE WORMS.

W. T. WILLETT. | J. W. GILLESPIE.
H. STAFFORD SMITH. | J. H. ESCOLME.

THE First Meeting of the Season 1892-93 was held at Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton, on Monday, October 10th. Present: Messrs. J. H. Redman, J. W. Gillespie, A. H. Thomas, H. Clark, R. J. Thrupp, G. G. Hodgson, W. T. Willett, S. M. Castle, H. Stafford Smith, and one visitor, Mr. F. C. Scarr. The Vice-President in the chair.

Mr. Otto Pfenninger and Mr. C. F. D. Marshall were elected members of the Society. A discussion ensued as to the future place of meeting, and, after some consideration, it was adjourned to the next meeting.

THE Second Meeting of the Season was held at Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton, on Monday, October 24th. Present: Messrs. M. P. Castle, P. de Worms, S. M. Castle, A. de Worms, J. W. Gillespie, H. Stafford Smith, R. J. Thrupp, O. Pfenninger, W. T. Willett. The President in the chair.

Mr. E. H. Gonin, was elected a member of the Society. The question of the Society's future place of meeting was again discussed, and it was decided to make no change for the present.

The Secretary gave notice that he would be away from England during the next few months, and Mr A. de Worms having kindly consented to act as Hon. Sec. during his absence, was unanimously elected. Proposals from the Manchester Philatelic Society for an exchange of duplicates were brought before the meeting, and, with some slight alterations, were agreed to.

The Plymouth Philatelic Society.

Session 1892-3.

President: H. W. MAYNE, L.D.S.

Vice-President: J. MILTON.

Exchange Secretary: H. TUCKET.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: A. LEVY.

Committee:

A. R. BARRETT, L.P.S. | C. LELEUX.
R. TYETH STEVENS. | T. H. W. TURNER.

THE Third Ordinary Meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on the 2nd November, the President in the chair. Present, eleven members and one visitor.

The Vice-President read an instructive paper on "Watermarks," and was accorded an unanimous vote of thanks for the same.

It was resolved that those who reside some distance from Plymouth should be eligible for election as members of the Society, but that the exchange packet could only be sent to them after it had passed through the hands of members who resided in Devon and Cornwall.

THE Fourth Ordinary Meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on the 16th November, the President in the chair. Present, fifteen members.

Mr. E. Coppin and Miss D. C. Yeo were elected members.

Mr. R. Tyeth Stevens read a contribution dealing with the manufacture of paper. After explaining the earliest forms of the mode of making paper from the papyrus of the Egyptians and the various stages of hand-made paper, he described the present mode of manufacturing by machine which he illustrated by a large sectional drawing of a paper-making

machine. In the course of his remarks he gave his explanation of different matters which had puzzled philatelists, amongst them being the reason why some sheets of stamps have been found printed on paper, a portion of which is laid and a portion wove. A lengthy discussion followed which consisted principally of questions put to and answered by Mr. Stevens, who was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and who promised a further paper on the same subject.

Leeds Philatelic Society.

Committee for the Session 1892-93.

President: WM. BECKWITH.

Senior Vice-President: O. FIRTH.

Junior Vice-President. J. H. THACKRAH

ex-Presidents: JOSEPH SCOTT, AND REV. T. S. FLEMING.

Hon. Treasurer: W. B. SIMPSON.

Hon. Secretaries: W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S., AND T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH.

Hon. Librarian: F. J. KIDSON.

THE Second Meeting of the Session 1892-3 was held at the Leeds Mechanics' Institution on Saturday, the 15th October, the President in the chair. Also present, Messrs. Skipwith, Roebuck, Simpson and Kidson.

The President showed a large number of wood-block and other triangular Cape stamps on the original envelopes, Mr. Skipwith four values of the newest issue of Turkey, and Mr. Roebuck a Tasmanian Official Frank stamp as used for the publications of the Royal Society of Tasmania. It was resolved to have an extra meeting on the 22nd, when Mr. Firth would describe the stamps of Labuan.

THE Third Meeting was held on the 22nd October, the President in the Chair. Also present, Messrs. Fleming, Skipwith, Roebuck, Egly, O. Firth, Kidson, and Simpson.

Mr. O. Firth then read an interesting and valuable paper on the "Adhesive Stamps of Labuan" (which will be printed in the LONDON PHILATELIST), showing in illustration his fine collection of them, including entire sheets of most of the values. The President also showed his series, after which, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Firth was passed on the motion of the Rev. T. S. Fleming, seconded by Mr. Skipwith. In reply, Mr. Firth advocated members taking up and studying countries for which there was no standard list, and so contributing materially to the progress of philately.

THE Fourth Meeting was held on the 5th of November, the chair being occupied, in the absence of the President, by the Rev. T. S. Fleming, ex-president. Also present, Messrs. Thackrah, Roebuck, Skipwith, Egly, and Kidson. Mr. Harold Beckwith, son of the President, was present as a visitor.

Mr. Thackrah described in detail the stamps of South Australia, in illustration of which were shown his own, Messrs. Fleming's, Skipwith's, and Beckwith's collections. The customary vote of thanks was passed.

The Secretaries announced the completion of the arrangements for the Exchange Club to which a limited number of non-members will be admitted. Particulars may be obtained of the Hon. Secretaries, who may be addressed at No. 13, Victoria Road, Headingley, Leeds.

Occasional Notes.

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO. write to us as follows:—"In making an examination of a collection, for auction purposes, we have just dropped upon something which we deem it advisable to bring to the notice of philatelists. Under 'St.Lucia,' we found a blue stamp, against which the owner had written, 'star watermark.' As the colour of the stamp led us to doubt the accuracy of this description, we placed it in water in order more readily to see the watermark. On laying the stamp face downwards the watermark 'C.A. & Crown' became clearly visible. *This* we had anticipated. We had *not*, however, anticipated seeing the words 'Three Pence' in block type standing out boldly *in white* against the surrounding surface of the paper, darkened as it was by being wet. The words, we must explain, were *reversed*, showing that they had really been printed on the face of the stamp. Yet the face of the stamp, whether wet or dry, exhibits no trace of these words, even under a strong glass. It appears evident to us that this is a 3d. fiscal stamp, from which the value (surcharged) has been erased, probably by an acid which was potent enough to remove all trace from the face of the stamp, but also potent enough to so affect the paper itself

that the parts acted upon showed up white when placed in water. Moral: When examining a stamp, 'Vide *alteram partem*.'"

* * *

ACCORDING to an American contemporary, "the time is coming when a poor man can stick a postage stamp on a mule and ship it from Georgia to Texas."

* * *

HANDY Reference Lists of individual countries for specialists, giving all minor varieties and their market prices, will yet be classed as "a long felt want." Mr. R. F. Albrecht has led the way in America with a vest pocket catalogue of United States issues.

* * *

WITH reference to the paragraph in our last number, in which we gave a list of some varieties of stamps wanting in the "Tapling Collection," Mr. E. D. Bacon informs us that Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have most generously presented to the "Collection" the types wanting to complete the sheet of the first 2d. "laureated" New South Wales, and also no less than fifteen of those missing on the sheet of the 3d. watermarked with numeral 3. The only varieties now wanting on the latter sheet are numbers 1, 14, 34, 35, 46, 48.

* * *

MR. S. C. SKIPTON, Mount Shadwell, Mount Park Road, Ealing, writes to us:—"In order to encourage the collection of post cards, entire envelopes, &c., which are much neglected in this country, I propose to form a Post Card Exchange Society, and should be glad to receive the names of any collectors wishing to join. The following are the rules under which I propose to conduct the Club, others may be added from time to time as found necessary: 1st, Members wishing to join must send two references if they are unknown to me. For members wishing to see the packets there will be no subscription. 2nd, Any gentleman can send a selection of post cards, &c., without seeing the packet, in which case, 8½ per cent. will be deducted from total value of cards, &c., disposed of (1d. in the 1s.) 3rd, Selections of cards should be priced so as to allow of a discount of 50 per cent. for cash, and a list should be sent with each selection. Balances will be made up every three months. The selections should reach me before the 5th of each month. 4th, The packet will be sent first to the member who contributes the best selection. Members who desire to see the packet can do so without sending a selection. 5th, The packets must be sent on by Registered Parcel Post within 24 hours of receipt.

M. VICTOR FLANDRIN, of St. Omer, has sent us a handy little volume, entitled *Connaissances Philatéliques*, which aims at being a sort of *vade mecum* to collectors of the more unpretentious order. A chapter is devoted to the method of organising or forming a collection, and there would seem to be some useful hints to beginners, but when M. Flandrin sails out on the troubled waters of "valuating" the scarcer stamps, his little book comes nigh to shipwreck!

* * *

OUR Editor has gone a-globe trotting on a voyage round the world. His itinerary will be as follows. Any communication addressed to Cook's Agency at each place of stoppage will find him. Meanwhile, and until the wanderer returns to the Philatelic fold, all editorial matters connected with this Journal should be addressed to the Assistant Editor, Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

DEPART.		ARRIVE.		STAY.	
Ismalia ..	Nov. 24	Bombay ...	Dec. 5 1893	1	day
Bombay ..	Dec. 6	Calcutta ...	Jan. 16	41	,,
Calcutta ...	Jan. 17	Colombo ...	Jan. 23	14	,,
Colombo ...	Feb. 6	Hong Kong	Feb. 19	14	,,
Hong Kong	Mar. 5	Nagasaki ...	Mar. 11	1	,,
Nagasaki ...	Mar. 12	Yokohama	April 24	42	,,
Yokohama	April 25	S. Francisco	May 13	7	,,
S. Francisco	May 20	Chicago ...	May 27	7	,,
Chicago ...	June 3	New York...	June 22	3	,,
New York	June 25	Liverpool ...	July 2		

* * *

BEFORE Mr. Castle left he handed over to us a ponderous bale of Philatelic lore in MS., sufficient, in fact, to justify his extending his holiday over a considerable portion of the few remaining years of the present century. In addition to this supply, we hope to receive from him for publication in the LONDON PHILATELIST, a series of interesting letters and sketches relating to Philatelic matters which he may find worthy of note *en route*.

* * *

THE Philatelic Society of London now meets every Friday evening in its new Rooms at Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C. The meetings are alternately devoted to the reading of papers and the revision of the Society's Reference Lists. As we go to press, we learn that at the next meeting, Friday, 25th November, a paper on "Specialism," will be read by Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, and followed by a discussion.

* * *

THE firm of Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., auctioneers and stamp dealers, of London and Birmingham, has dissolved partnership. Mr. Cheveley, as Cheveley & Co., will continue the auction business at 63 and 64, Chancery Lane,

W.C., and Mr. W. T. Wilson continues his business as stamp dealer and expert, at 6, Westminster Road, Birmingham.

* * *

Mr. Harry Hilckes has resigned his position as manager to Messrs. Bright & Son, of Bournemouth, and in partnership with Mr. Kirkpatrick, of Bournemouth, will, on the 1st of December, commence business as dealers in Foreign Stamps and Philatelic Publishers, at 64, Cheapside, E.C., under the style of Hilckes, Kirkpatrick & Co.

* * *

Every genuine collector, even those who hope to share the spoil, will learn with regret that Mr. De Coppet, the well-known American collector, acting on the orders of his physician, has decided to sell his magnificent collection of stamps of the Western Hemisphere. Philately is heavily indebted to his untiring researches. The auction, which is to be conducted in New York, by Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co. will be one of the events of the coming year. Already leading English dealers are making arrangements to be present, and illustrated catalogues in *édition de luxe* will be issued for the occasion.

* * *

It is not the custom of this journal to notice the criticisms of its contemporaries; whether in kindly view, as is frequently the case, or in *malice prepense*, as most rarely occurs. A malicious and utterly false statement, however, levelled at the editor of this journal by an insignificant Paris dealer, whose literary (!) venture in the journalistic line has but survived its first number, calls for an absolute denial in these columns in order that the character of the London Philatelist should be like Cæsar's wife. After giving vent to sundry sneers at the English exhibitors in the Paris Exposition, and disparaging both the jury and its method of selection, the venomous little party probably not having been the recipient of a prize himself states that, "one of the gold medals was secured by an English firm who showed the collection of an English amateur who was a member of the jury," this being the highest form of "art" as applied to decorative purposes. Mr. M. P. Castle, the Editor of this journal, was the only English amateur on the jury, and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, received (and justly) a gold medal. We have Mr. Castle's absolute authority for stating that he neither lent nor showed a single stamp to any exhibitor at Paris. The lie is an absurd one on the face of it, but the insult is so gross that the French Society should exact from the "gentleman" in question a retraction as absolute as the apology.

* * *

The Introduction of Adhesive Stamps in New South Wales.—The following notice is of interest to collectors, and its existence arises doubtless from the fact that the public were at first unaccustomed to the use of adhesive stamps and required teaching. Our contemporary, the *Federal Australian Philatelist*, from whose columns we cull the notice, adds: "Frequently when searching through old correspondence we have been disappointed at finding a great many letters posted during 1850 without stamps."

Notice.

Prepayment of Postage by Stamps Compulsory.

From and after the 1st May next no Letter Posted in the Colony will be forwarded to its address unless it shall have been Prepaid; and the Prepayment must be made by Postage Stamps affixed to the letter, and not by Money.

No Postmaster will be allowed to receive money for the prepayment of a Letter, unless he shall have at the time no Postage Stamps on hand for sale.

All Letters not prepaid by Stamps will be sent to the Dead Letter Office, in Sydney, to be opened and returned to the writers.

Stamps will be procurable at all the Post Offices throughout the Colony.

The Stamps should be placed on the Letters at the right-hand corner above the Address.

Francis L. S. Merewether,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Sydney, March, 1852.

* * *

The well-known collection of Mr. Henry Clotz, of Staten Island, New York, is in process of disposal, that gentleman having decided to collect only the stamps of the West Indies. Some idea of the magnitude of Mr. Clotz's collection may be gleaned from the fact that his United States stamps are estimated to be worth £1,500.

* * *

Mr. Deats, we are informed by our esteemed contemporary, the *American Philatelist*, will be the fortunate gentleman making this splendid acquisition, which, combined with his own stamps, will, in the opinion of our contemporary, render his United States stamps probably the best in existence

* * *

Many friends of Mr. Philbrick, Q.C., the genial and popular ex-President of the Philatelic Society, London, have noticed with plea-

sure his nomination as legal assessor of the London Chamber of Arbitration about to be established at Guildhall under the joint auspices of the Corporation and the London Chamber of Commerce.

* * *

At last we have an explanation of the suspicious so-called reprints of New Brunswick. Mr. W. H. Bruce, of Hartford, explains in the *Post Office*, U.S.A., that he had the curiosity during a recent trip to inquire into the matter. "The history in a nutshell," he says, "is this: Early last season the magnificent new custom house at St. John, N.B., took fire and was completely burned out, nearly every department in the immense pile being thoroughly scorched before the flames were extinguished. In the north wing was located the offices of the provincial post office inspector, and in some private drawers in a large secretary in one of the rooms was packed away a large number of the old stamps, at the time that they were superseded by the Dominion issue. Their existence appears to have been forgotten, as inspectors had been several times changed since they were stored there. At all events, in the general disturbance of things after the fire, they came to light, and a large quantity of them came into the possession of a number of small boys in the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Agency, at St. John, including the Messrs. Coram Bros., the two Coombs boys, and others, and were bought from them at a very low figure by the collectors, who, until recently, controlled the sale. The heat had caused the old gum to soften, and the stamps when found were for the most part thoroughly stuck together, which necessitated soaking them, and incidentally removing the gum. There were 1, 2, 5, 10, 12½, and 17 cent stamps found, and but very few of the 1 and 10, and a great number of the 2 and 17. Most of the lot has now been secured by American dealers." Such is the explanation which Mr. Bruce offers, and if it be correct he is entitled to say that the stamps are not reprints but genuine remainders.

* * *

The inevitable paragraph ascribing all sorts of possible values and imaginary philatelic predilections with reference to the possessions of a well-known Paris member of the London Society, has been again trotted round, and this time it is *Truth* (*absit omen*) that has been the victim of autumnal imagination. The only point worth a moment's consideration in the "news," is that which seeks to place on level terms "the two greatest collectors of the world, Herr von Ferrary, and the Czar, whose collection is said by experts to be worth 3,000,000 francs," commenced when its illustrious owner was Czarewitch, and continuously added to since. This rumour as to the Imperial collector has been often repeated, and now that the industrious paragraphist has even been able to assess the Czar's Philatelic treasures, we are tempted to invite further information from some reader as to the point. Can the "experts" in question favour us? If only the number of the Post Offices and Hawaiians in the Imperial collection could be given, it would be of interest!

* * *

The *Fiji Times* reprints—recently alluded to in this journal, and on which we have further notes—have evidently been well circulated, as Mr. G. J. Hynes from Calcutta writes as under. The specimens submitted are identical with the bright rose coloured reproductions already described: "I enclose herewith a set of *Fiji Times* Express Stamps sent me as specimens of the original issue. I doubt their being genuine? I shall feel much obliged if you will let me know whether they are, or are only reprints, some of which were, I see from Capt. Evans' catalogue, issued for collectors in 1876."

* * *

The Swiss papers are again taking up the important subject of the creation of a "universal postage-stamp," which shall have currency in all the States included in the Postal Union. As the Union now includes nearly all the civilised world, the movement ought to find zealous advocates in every nation. The *timbre-poste universel* could be inserted in any letter which required an answer, and would effect a most profitable revolution in commercial and other correspondence. None of the successive postal congresses, as the *Journal de Genève* observes with regret, have yet ventured to deal practically with the subject, as they have been too conscious of the financial difficulties in several States where the post is profitable. It is hoped, however, that the perseverance of the bureau of the Union des Postes in Berne will in time find a way to smooth the difficulties, and secure the accomplishment of this much-needed international blessing.

THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Assistant Editor of The London Philatelist, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr. E. J. Nankivell, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

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Vol. I.] DECEMBER, 1892. [No. 12.

"THE LONDON PHILATELIST."

WITH this number we bring the first volume of The London Philatelist to a close. The numbers published must speak for themselves. All we claim for them is that they afford evidence of the desire of the Philatelic Society of London to produce for its members, and for collectors generally, a journal of the first rank—a journal which shall be a credit to the Society, and a pleasure to those collectors who look to it for information and guidance in matters philatelic.

The first twelve months of a journal are necessarily more or less a time of experiment—a feeling of the pulse of the public to which it appeals for support. From all quarters we have received the most flattering encouragement. The leading philatelic journals in this country, in America, and in the Colonies, have accorded us a most kindly welcome. Everything, in fact, points to a career of usefulness for The London Philatelist.

That being so, we may venture to lift the curtain for a moment on some of the arrangements for our second volume. We shall have in an early number a paper of exceptional interest on "The Philatelic Horizon," compiled from materials specially collected by the Philatelic Society of London; also a History of the Society, illustrated with portraits of the founders, past presidents, and other officers, with views of the early and present homes of the Society. Under the title of "Wanderings of a Philatelist," Mr. Castle, the Vice-President, will contribute a series of articles on matters of philatelic interest met with *en route* during his trip around the world; and

his "Half Hours with Australian Stamps" will be continued. Important contributions may, of course, be expected from the fertile and experienced pen of Mr. E. D. Bacon; and Mr. Edward J. Nankivell will supply "Stray Notes on Transvaals." The Earl of Kingston, Mr. Gilbert Harrison, Mr. Douglas Garth, Mr. J. A. Tilleard, and other leading members of the Society, have also promised papers.

With such an array of helpers our Journal will certainly not be lacking in articles of permanent interest to collectors. But to complete the programme we appeal to all our readers to give us their kindly co-operation in so increasing the circulation of THE LONDON PHILATELIST that we may be financially free to indulge in further developments.

A Catalogue of Reprints.*



OUR July issue contained a review of Dr. Kalckhoff's excellent little list of Reprints. Animated by the like feeling that this work was of a distinctly useful nature, Mr. H. Hilckes has translated it into our own language, and has, "with the aid of eminent English and foreign Philatelists," materially enlarged and added to the *bróchure* in question. The eminently practical preface of Herr C. Lindenberg is deservedly reproduced *in extenso*, and an esteemed member of the London Philatelic Society, Major E. B. Evans, has revised the entire book, while the assistance of such other well-known English Philatelists as Messrs. Douglas Garth, W. B. Thornhill, Gilbert Harrison, W. B. Kirkpatrick, E. D. Bacon, and M. P. Castle has been secured. The result of this co-operation has been to materially add to the contents and quality of the work; nor should the services of well-known Continental experts be overlooked, such as Herren, Th. Haas, H. Kroff, D. Kohn, and others.. The Afghanistan, Cashmere, and native Indian lists bespeak the consummate Oriental knowledge of Major Evans, while those of Austria and the several German States have been strengthened. The existence of the Japanese stamps as reprints, according to Mr. E. D. Bacon, still remains doubtful. As regards the New South Wales Laureate reprints, of 2d., 6d., and 8d., coarse background, the somewhat doubtful opinion is ventured—with which we cannot agree—that the plates have been retouched. The information on the stamps reprinted of Portugal and Papal States is somewhat meagre, and is capable of further development. The information that not only the plates but the cancelling stamps of some of the early Italian stamps are in private hands is certainly alarming. Other lists, such as Tasmania and Wurtemburg, have been materially added to, and, as a whole, this, the second edition, constitutes a marked advance upon the first, and renders the work an absolute necessity for every scientific collector, as, by its aid, many knotty points as to the originality of specimens can be promptly settled. To the collectors of unused stamps it will at once be a convenience and a consolation, as showing that the number of reprints is not legion, and that they may be avoided by careful study with comparative ease.

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*A complete Illustrated Catalogue of Reprints by Harry Hilckes: Hilckes, Kirkpatrick & Co., 64, Cheapside, E.C., and W. Brown, Salisbury, 1892.

Half Hours with Australian Stamps.

By M. P. CASTLE.

(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London.)

POSTMARKED *VERSUS* UNUSED.



IT has been premised that the course of these "half hours" might be marked by a discursive, not to say wayward tendency, hence the above heading will not, perhaps, excite feelings of undue alarm in the minds of those who are good enough to follow my "chattings," that I am going to meander as far from my subject as a leader writer in the *Daily Telegraph*. The fact that I was for the first time, in the columns of this Journal, following the Teutonic fashion of revelling in the post-natal inky additions to the fair face of a stamp, in some cases supposed to add to its value, seemed to call for *apologia mea*.

The much mooted question of used *versus* unused stamps, is one that is not destined for a speedy settlement, the partisans of either side being respectively numerous and enthusiastic; the ultimate future being possibly that of many another and more sanguinary engagement, a drawn battle in which each side hails the victory. In my humble judgment the claim of the unused stamp as representing their pristine absolutely perfect condition is unassailable; the fact that the fear of acquiring reprints or imitations has caused in many quarters a somewhat unnatural revulsion in favour of postmarked specimens is to be attributed to the want of Philatelic knowledge on the part of collectors. The study of the stamps and their literature will, in the long run, by ensuring a safer judgment and a more unfailing discrimination, do more than all the postmarks ever made, to produce a true philatelic collection of *original* postage stamps. I am strongly of opinion that no collection can ever attain to first or second rank that does not embrace unused specimens, either alone or in addition to used. A well-known member of our London Society, Herr Carl Lindenberg, sums up most excellently the *pros* and *cons* of this question in the preface to Dr. Kalekhoff's recent work on reprints in the following words, and alluding to the condition of things appertaining to the "Fatherland":—"The aversion of a large number of collectors to unpostmarked stamps that has lately again been the subject of controversy in the Philatelic Journals, has partly arisen from the fear of reprints. Every unused stamp, notably if of the older issues, is viewed with mistrust and regarded as a reprint." After alluding to the various *griffes de complaisance*, and the imitation postmarks that are often made to conceal the inaccuracies of the forged or reprinted stamp, Mr. Lindenberg winds up by stating that the immaculate condition of an

unused specimen is frequently the surest credential of its authenticity. I cordially endorse my colleague's opinion; if a stamp is forged the postmark should probably render its detection *more* difficult, and if it is a reprint, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred, the distinctions are visible to the *cognoscenti:* in this case if the faculty of philatelic prescience is denied to any collector, he will not fail to have the desired knowledge imparted to him by those higher in the ranks. The arguments as to the appearance of a collection of unused stamps are self-evident, and after well weighing the question in all its aspects, I am confident that with the advance of philatelic knowledge, and the necessary limitations of collecting, the future of unused stamps is only a question of time.

Per contra, there are many points on which the postmarked specimens are of great value, and in none more than the building up a history of a country's stamps where official information is not to be had. In the case of the Colony of Victoria, to whose first cancellations I propose to call attention, many collectors have for the above reason searched (alas! mostly in vain) for specimens with dated postmarks. *On revient toujours à son premier amour*, so I will conclude this ramble by having a "last word on my side" in saying that if I and others have found it difficult to get Victoria complete used, the work of gathering it together unused is Titanic! And so, as good Samuel Pepys would have said, to—

THE VICTORIAN CANCELLATION ON THE SYDNEY VIEWS.

The existence of the stamps of the first issue of New South Wales bearing the cancellation, herewith illustrated, of the Colony of Victoria, has long been known to collectors, and will be found alluded to in the London Society's work on "Oceania." Like others doubtless I have always had a kind of geographical fascination for these varieties of obliteration, and had preferred them to specimens bearing what I may term the indigenous postmark. Conceiving, however, that the matter was not of great philatelic moment, I had never attempted to draw up any list of the varieties so known, but as I read a note hereon in the *Illustriertes Brief-Marken Journal* of July 2 last I thought the information therein given might be extended in these columns. The existence of the 3d. value bearing the "Butterfly" cancellation is in our German contemporary's pages given as not being known, probably in confirmation of the note appearing in "Oceania" to this effect; but as will be seen by list following I have a specimen. All Australian collectors are fully aware how much they are indebted to the unfailing energy and philatelic knowledge of Mr. David H. Hill, of Melbourne, for the unravelling of the mysteries that still enshroud the stamps of Victoria. I have been in communication with this gentleman on this point, *inter alia*, and feel that I cannot do better than reproduce his remarks in a recent letter on the subject of these interesting postmarks. Mr. Hill writes:—



"With regard to the remarks in my letter of 20th October, 1890, upon the first issue of stamps for Victoria, I have found no evidence in support of the theory that the Sydney views were used in Victoria *pending* the preparation of the local supply. My views on the subject are given on page 48 of the F.A.P., and I do not think that any Sydney stamps were supplied to the Melbourne office. It would be interesting to know whether any letters or covers having Sydney views on are known to exist with the Melbourne postmark as the earliest. Are any of your 'butterfly' cancellations on the Sydney views $\frac{V}{1}$, and have you any with date stamps on the cover, showing that they were *posted* in Melbourne? There is also another aspect of the

question which it would be well to consider. At the introduction of postage stamps the province of Port Phillip was not actually separated from New South Wales; as you are aware this took place a year and a half later, viz., on 1st July, 1851. The system of prepayment by stamps being entirely new here, persons coming from Sydney might, and probably would, think that N. S. Wales stamps would be available for postage here. Although the letter quoted on page 48* and the *Gazette* notice quoted on page 69 of the F.A.P. are to my mind strong presumptive evidence that the use of N. S. Wales stamps in Port Phillip had been to a certain extent allowed, I think the use of them must have been very limited, or the practice would have been stopped earlier. That the Melbourne office would or could continue supplying the Sydney stamps to postmasters in Port Phillip is out of the question—there then remain three ways by each of which we may partly account for the stamps of New South Wales bearing Victorian postmarks:—1st, the stamps being supplied direct from Sydney to certain of the country offices in Port Phillip and issued by the postmasters; 2nd, persons arriving from Sydney using stamps they had brought with them. (Similar instances have come under my own observation.) 3rd, letters posted from N. S. Wales may not always have had the stamps cancelled, and if noticed in the Melbourne office it would probably be done there. In the early days they were not nearly so particular about cancelling the stamps; I have seen a good many specimens of the early issues which had been taken off letters and were not cancelled."

Mr. Hill's initial remark that there is no evidence of the Sydney stamp having been used in Victoria, pending the preparation of a local supply is obviously correct, as we know, on the faith of the official documents recently unearthed by him in the columns of the *Federal Australian Philatelist*, that the first issues of Victorian and New South Wales were practically simultaneous. Nor unfortunately was I in a position to help him by the production of stamps "on entire letters" bearing the desired obliteration. I have, however, since the receipt of his letter been enabled to see further specimens according to the following list:—

---

*It is, however, certain that some of the New South Wales stamps were used to prepay letters in Port Phillip, and that very shortly after the Act (Act 13 Vict. No. 38) came into force. It is quite possible that these stamps were supplied by the General Post Office at Sydney to some of the post offices in Port Phillip through inadvertence or misunderstanding, the province being part of N. S. Wales; or some postmasters, not being aware of the local arrangements, may have made application to Sydney and received a supply direct. That these stamps were issued in Port Phillip is implied by the following extract taken from the copy of a letter addressed to the Colonial Secretary at Sydney, and dated 20th June, 1851. His Honour the Superintendent of Port Phillip, in forwarding a letter from the Chief Postmaster asking for instructions respecting the postal arrangements and charges under the Act, says:—"In so doing I take leave to recur to the consideration which this subject received from His Excellency during my recent visit to Sydney, and to the opinions which were at that time entertained by both of us as to the expediency of adopting the course proposed by you in your minute (date not given), namely, that until the Legislatures of the two distinct colonies were in a position to pass the requisite enactments no alteration should be made in the present system, with the exception that the issue of the respective stamps of New South Wales and Victoria should be confined to the colonies in which they were issued." From the date of the above letter it would appear that the issue of these stamps to some of the Port Phillip post offices had not been merely a temporary one, until the local arrangements had been completed, but had continued longer. It seems very unlikely that these could have been supplied by the Melbourne office. A gentleman residing in Geelong has shewn me two letters bearing the Portland postmarks of 25th and 27th January, 1850, and addressed to Geelong, from each of which he has taken a twopenny "Sydney View." The same gentleman also has a twopence, half length portrait of Queen, coarse background and fine side borders, with cover showing date of 11th February, 1850. (*Federal Australian Philatelist*, April, 1889, pp. 48-49.)

SYDNEY VIEWS BEARING VICTORIAN "BUTTERFLY" CANCELLATION.

Value.	Plate.	Paper.	Numeral accompanying Postmark.
1d.	I.	Soft wove	5
„	II.	Hard, bluish wove	Figure illegible.
2d.	I.	Soft wove (Retouch)	15
„	II.	„ „ (Early State)	2 (?) 2 (?)
„	„	„ „ „	33
„	„	„ „ ultramarine	52 (?)
„	III.	Hard „	4
„	III.	... ...	1 *
„	IV.	Laid „	Figure illegible
„	V.	„	4
„	„	„ ? Plate	37 *
3d.		Hard bluish wove	15

LAUREATED HEAD ISSUE.

2d.	I.	Blue wove	1
2d.	III.	White wove, w'mked 2	1
6d.	II.	Bluish wove	1

* In Tapling collection.

Of the three possible reasons for this alien obliteration named by Mr. Hill the first seems unlikely. Even assuming that the Port Phillip Post Offices had been possibly supplied with New South Wales stamps, it is certain that this practice would have been of short duration, whereas we note that the list of stamps found with this cancellation extends in the case of the "laureates" to as late as 1854. I have further in my collection a 4d. Tasmania, Plate II., of the first issue with the Victorian postmark, consisting of a large barred oval enclosing the letter "V" surmounted by a numeral I.

Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., in addition to the 1d., Plate I., have also kindly shewn me a specimen of the laureated (N.S.W.) 2d., Plate I., on blue paper, similarly cancelled, as also the following specimens bearing the somewhat later Victorian postmark, composed of a large solid numeral in the centre of an irregular circle, composed of three horizontal lines.

1860, 3d. dark green, diademed head, perf. 12½
„ 6d. purple, large square, „ „
1862, 1d. red, wmk. thin 1, „ „

It seems, therefore, evident, that the use of these Victorian cancellations was, judging from their scarcity, firstly, intermittent and occasional, and secondly, continued over as long a period as twelve years, and in more than one Colony.

I am, therefore, inclined to believe in the last reason adduced by Mr. Hill, namely, that the stamps were uncancelled at their posting place, and that this omission was rectified on their arrival in the neighbouring Colony. I have in my collection a 1d. unperforated Queensland, bearing *alone* the English circular cancellation, Bath 1861, which is a home corroboration of this colonial oversight. I am sorry, therefore, to think that these interesting and doubtless cherished cancelled varieties have not any strong claim on our philatelic judgment, and that they can but be classed as minor varieties of obliteration only. They have an interest assuredly, inasmuch as they shew the unsettled condition attaching to the relatively early introduction of the postal system in our energetic Australian Colonies; and remembering that New South Wales—with its prepaid penny covers—was in spirit the postage pioneer, and that the stamps that bear the "butterfly" are second to none in their philatelic interest, the refutation even of an erroneous theory may not form unreadable matter to collectors of "Australians."

The Stamps of Western Australia.

A Paper Read Before the Philatelic Society, London, September 30th, 1892,

By E. D. BACON.

(*Continued from page 296.*)

REFERRING to Issue II., which in the Society's *Catalogue* is dated 1860-1861: 1860 being given for the one penny black, which I have shown was issued on the 1st August, 1854, and 1861 for the three other values, two pence orange-vermilion, four pence deep blue, and six pence sap-green.

The plates for the last three values were made by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and like that for the one penny were of steel, but only contained 120 specimens in twelve horizontal rows of ten. These plates were made in January, 1860, and with them one for one shilling stamps, which corresponded in size. As in the case of the one penny, die proofs in black upon white card, and plate proofs also in black, but upon plain white paper, exist of all four values. The four plates were forwarded to the Colony on March 31st, 1860, but beyond a proof-sheet from each, no stamps were struck off. The two pence, four pence and six pence of Issue II. were therefore printed in the Colony, and not, as stated in the *Catalogue*, by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. The one shilling plate was not, however, made use of in the Colony, there being no doubt a stock of this value of Issue I. left on hand.

The plates for these stamps, and that of the one penny which had been also used in the Colony for printing purposes, got damaged, and were returned to England about August, 1860. The plates of the two pence, four pence, and six pence could, therefore, have been but little used in the Colony, as they did not leave England until March 31st, 1860, as I have already mentioned.

On the arrival of the five plates in London, in December, 1860, the Agents-General forwarded them to Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. with a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

Office of the Agents-General for Crown Colonies,
6, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C.,
11th December, 1860.

Gentlemen,

The Government of Western Australia having returned the Postage Plates and Paper formerly supplied by you, with a request that the stamps may be struck off in this country, under the supervision of the Officers of Inland Revenue, I have to request that you will, acting under the instructions of Mr. E. Hill, prepare with as little delay as possible the following stamps.

Viz.:	One penny,	240,000	Brick colour.	Similar to English Stamps of equal value.
	Two penny,	960,000	Blue.	
	Four penny,	240 000	Carmine.	
	Six penny,	720,000	Slate or Lavender.	
	One shilling,	240,000	Green.	

the whole to be gummed and perforated.

It is most desirable that at least a portion of these Stamps should be despatched by the mail steamer which leaves Southampton on the 20th inst., and care must be taken to have them securely packed in strong tin-lined cases of moderate size, addressed as per margin.

Send, in the usual way, a proof sheet of each denomination of Stamp to this Office.

O.H.M.S.

To the Postmaster-General,
Perth,
Western Australia.
(Per P. & O. Co.'s Steamer.)

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) P. G. Julyan.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.,
Fleet Street.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. appear to have received some additional communication as regards the above order, for on the 13th and 14th December, the Agents-General sent them two further letters as follows:—

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., *13th December, 1860.*

Gentlemen,

I am much obliged to you for pointing out the discrepancy between the two orders for stamps for Western Australia.

The correct numbers are as follows, viz.:—

1d.	=	240,000	= £1,000
2d.	=	480,000	= 4,000
4d.	=	60,000	= 1,000
6d.	=	60,000	= 3,000
1s.	=	20,000	= 1,002
Add to make full sheet	=	40	
			£10,002

Be good enough to consider so much of the order of the 11th inst. as refers to numbers cancelled, and substitute those on the other side.

With respect to the specimens you have sent, I wish you would endeavour to impart more of a slate colour to the sixpenny, and make a greater distinction between the 4d. and 1d. stamps.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) Penrose G. Julyan.

14th December, 1860.

The Agents-General beg to inform Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., in reply to their note of yesterday's date, that *120,000* 6d. stamps is the correct number, and not 60,000 as appears to have been stated.

In reply to these letters Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. wrote to the Agents-General on the 17th December as follows:—

69, Fleet Street, London, E.C.,
17th December, 1860.

Gentlemen,

By the greatest exertions we have been able to get a small supply of the Western Australia postage stamps ready for the present mail, and which will doubtless be sufficient for use until the arrival of next month's mail.

We have enclosed an invoice of the same, and beg to say that one of the plates came to us materially damaged, and the paper was all injured by salt water, but the

amount of printing upon the face, and of gum upon the back of the stamps very nearly conceals this defect from the eye, so that we found it would answer for you.

We annex a statement of paper received, which you will see to be insufficient to print the number ordered of any one denomination, besides which there will be considerable spoilage in the printing and gumming of even that which has come to hand.

Will you please inform us whether you will have fresh paper made, in which case the quantity ordered must be for more than is now required, or it will be very expensive, or perhaps you would reduce the quantity to be printed of each kind within the limits of the present paper and afterwards order more watermarked paper at your leisure.

We are, Gentlemen,
Respectfully your obedient servants,
(Signed) Perkins Bacon & Co.

Stamps Ordered.			Paper Received.
1,000 sheets	1d.	... ...	874 sheets
4,000 ½ „	2d.	... ...	3,500 ½ „
500 ½ „	4d	... ...	450 ½ „
1,000 ½ „	6d	... ...	878 ½ „
167 ½ „	1s	... ...	170 ½ „

The correspondence on this subject closed with the following reply from the Agents-General.

19th December, 1860.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of the 17th instant I request you will limit the printing of the Postage Stamps to the quantity of paper received from Western Australia until a reference can be made to the Colony on the subject.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) P. G. Julyan.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.,
Fleet Street.

The stamps ordered were despatched by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. on the undermentioned dates:—

1860.		
Dec. 17.	... 24,000 ...	1d., red.
„	... 6,000 ...	2d., blue.
„	... 2,400 ...	4d., carmine.
„	... 12,000 ...	6d., lilac.
„	... 3,600 ...	1s., green.
1861.		
Jan. 17.	... 155,520 ...	1d , red
„	... 72,000 ...	2d., blue.
„	... 12,480 ...	4d., carmine.
„	... 41,040 ...	6d., lilac.
„	... 12,840 ...	1s., green.
Feb. 8.	... 317,400 ...	2d., blue.
„	... 3,960 ...	6d., lilac.

In carrying out this order there was a large amount of "spoilage," which no doubt in a great measure arose from the indifferent condition of the paper, which we see from Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.'s letter of the 17th December, 1860, was

injured by salt water. The firm has given me an account of the quantity spoilt, and the following statement shows how the paper they received from the Agents-General was all disposed of :—

ONE PENNY.

748 sheets (179,520 stamps) sent to Colony.
125 „ spoilage.
1 „ (240 stamps) sent to Agents-General.

874 sheets.

TWO PENCE.

3,295 ½-sheets (395,400 stamps) sent to Colony.
204 „ spoilage.
1 „ (120 stamps) sent to Agents-General.

3,500 ½-sheets.

FOUR PENCE.

124 ½-sheets (14,880 stamps) sent to Colony.
325 „ spoilage.
1 „ (120 stamps sent to Agents-General.

450 ½-sheets.

SIX PENCE.

475 ½-sheets (57,000 stamps) sent to Colony.
402 „ spoilage.
1 „ (120 stamps) sent to Agents-General.

878 ½-sheets.

ONE SHILLING.

137 ½ sheets (16,440 stamps) sent to Colony.
32 ½ „ spoilage.
1 ½ „ (120 stamps) sent to Agents-General.

170 ½-sheets.

The Agents-General having no doubt communicated with the Colony upon the question of ordering a fresh supply of the watermarked paper, and on receiving instructions to do so, wrote the following letter to Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. :—

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., *26th April, 1861.*

GENTLEMEN,

Have the goodness to inform me if the moulds last used for making paper for Postage Stamps for W. Australia are in your possession.

viz.—For 1d, 2d., 4d, 6d., and 1s. stamps.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours most obediently,
(Signed) P. G. JULYAN.

After a short correspondence, which is not of sufficient interest to Philatelists to reproduce here, Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. were requested early in May, 1861, to furnish 8,000 sheets of the "Swan" watermarked paper, for printing stamps 240 at a time.

On the 20th June, 1861, the Agents-General wrote again to Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., as follows :—

20th June, 1861.

GENTLEMEN,

Have the goodness to provide for the Government of Western Australia—

452 sheets, or 108,480 ... 1d. stamps,
25 sheets, or 3,000 ... 6d. stamps, and
13 sheets, or 1,560 ... 1s. stamps.

from the paper you have prepared pursuant to order of the 2nd ultimo, and forward the same (packed in the usual way) to Mr. Winkley, 23, Birchin Lane, E.C.

The paper which will remain after the above stamps have been provided is to be sent to this Office.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. (Signed) P. G. Julyan.

These stamps were forwarded on July 17th, 1861, and the numbers sent correspond to those ordered in the letter. The one penny was printed in red, the sixpence in lilac, and the one shilling in green. On September 5th of the same year, Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. forwarded a further batch of 1,020,000 of the one penny, and the same quantity of various other denominations, but I am unable to give the number of each separate value in this consignment. At the same date they returned to the Agents-General the balance of the "Swan" watermarked paper left on hand, which amounted to 15 reams 475 sheets, equal to 7,975 sheets in all. Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. must consequently have provided a further quantity of paper in addition to the 8,000 sheets ordered in May, 1861.

The stamps sent out on September 5th, 1861, were the last lot of Western Australian printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. The five steel plates were handed over by them to the Agents-General on the 28th January, 1862, and Messrs. De La Rue & Co. have since printed all the stamps, &c., required by the Colony.

The first consignments of stamps made by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. were printed upon the 7,975 sheets of "Swan" watermarked paper given to them by the Agents-General. After this became exhausted, Messrs. De La Rue & Co. printed the stamps upon unwatermarked paper, until a supply of paper with "Crown C.C." watermark was available. The *Oceania Catalogue* is therefore incorrect in assigning the printing of the no watermarked series to Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.

As regards the succeeding issues printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., I have no new information to give collectors beyond fixing the exact dates of some of them by the following notices, which I have extracted from *The Official Gazette.*

The note appended to Issue V. in the Society's *Catalogue*, in explanation of the error two pence pale lilac, as other writers have pointed out, is certainly inexact. There is no doubt that both this and the error one shilling bistre are due to some sheets of these stamps having been printed in the wrong colours for these values.

LIST OF GAZETTE NOTICES.

The Gazette, February 20*th*, 1872.

Notice to Postmasters and the Public.

General Post Office,

Perth, 13th February, 1872.

It is hereby notified, for general information, that the Postage on Newspapers for the United Kingdom forwarded *viâ* Brindisi has been reduced from 4d. to 3d. for every four ounces in weight.

(Signed) A. Helmich,

Postmaster-General.

The above gives the reason for the issue of the threepenny brown adhesive, which first came into use about this time.

The Gazette, 22nd April, 1879.

Postal and Telegraph Department,

General Post Office,

Perth, 9th April, 1879.

Notice is hereby given, that impressed stamp telegraph message forms, and adhesive telegraph stamps, which may be used in payment of telegraphic messages,

have been obtained from England, and may be procured at the General Post Office, and at the Post and Telegraph Offices throughout the Colony at the following rate :—

	£	s.	d.
A single impressed telegraph message form	0	1	0
20 impressed message forms in book ..	1	0	0
6d. adhesive telegraph message stamps, each	0	0	6
1d. „ „	0	0	1

(Signed) A. Helmich, *Postmaster-General,*
and General Superintendent of Telegraphs.

The Gazette, 6th May, 1879.

Postal and Telegraph Department,

General Post Office,
Perth, 28th April, 1879.

Notice is hereby given, for the information of the public, that Post Cards, being each impressed with a half-penny and penny stamps respectively, may be transmitted through the Post Office between places in the Colony, subject to the following conditions :—

1. The front or stamped side of the card to be for the address only, in addition to the words "Post Card." There must be nothing else written, printed, or otherwise impressed on the front side of the card, nor must there be any writing or printing across the stamp. On the reverse side any communication, whether of the nature of a letter or otherwise, may be written or printed. Nothing whatever may be attached, nor may the card be folded, cut, or in any other respect altered.

2. Should a Post Card be observed to bear upon it anything of an obscene, libellous, or otherwise obviously objectionable nature, it will not be delivered.

3. The impressed stamp of a Post Card cannot be used as a Postage Stamp.

Cards may be bought at the several Post Offices throughout the Colony, as under :—

Post Cards for delivery within the limits of the City or any Townsite,
One half-penny each.

Post Cards for delivery beyond these limits, and within the Colony,
One penny each.

(Signed) A. Helmich, *Postmaster-General,*
and General Superintendent of Telegraphs.

The Gazette, 31st January, 1884.

Notice to Postmasters and the Public.

Postal and Telegraph Department,
General Post Office,
Perth, 25th January, 1884.

Notice is hereby given, for the information of the public, that on and after Friday next, the 1st February, the following reduced rate of postage will be charged on newspapers addressed to South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, and New Zealand, viz. :—

For each Newspaper ... ... ½d.

By command,

(Signed) A. Helmich, *Postmaster-General,*
and General Superintendent of Telegraphs.

The above explains why a halfpenny stamp was required in this year, and gives the date when it first came into use.

Jubilee Stamps of Paraguay.

OFFICIAL DECREE.



THE following extract from the Paraguayian newspaper, "La Democracia," of the 11th October, 1892, will be of interest to collectors as evidence of the spread of the Jubilee epidemic in Postal matters, and of the special consideration shown to Philatelists in the sale of Jubilee Postal issues. The arrangements for "postmarking while you wait" are deserving of special mention :—

DIRECTION GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

In order to mark by an Act which recalls the event of the 4th centenary of the discovery of America, the 12th day of October of the current year, a date which the American people are commemorating and fêting in view of its great importance, and in conformity with the Government resolution of yesterday's date, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs directs :—

Art. 1. There shall be put in circulation on the said day a unique pattern of stamps and also of 5 centavos envelopes surcharged to a value of 20 centavos.

Art. 2. The stamps of which the former article speaks are printed with blue ink on white paper, bearing impressed their value of 10 centavos in white, with the bust of ex-President of the Republic, Candido Bareiro, and the following inscriptions on a violet ribbon :—*1492—12 de Octobre – 1892.*

Art. 3. The envelopes are those which are actually in circulation of the value of 5 centavos, and will bear another impression in black ink, which expresses a surcharge of 15 centavos, and will have in addition a bust of Columbus and the inscriptions :—*República del Paraguay—Colon—15 centavos—12 de Octobre—1492—1892.*

Art. 4. Persons wishing to buy them, whether for collections or for franking letters, will only be able to do so upon the said day at the Post Offices, which for the purpose will remain open from 5 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Art. 5. No more than ten envelopes can be sold to one person.

Art. 6. The 10 centavos stamps can be sold to any amount desired.

Art. 7. There will be at the disposal of the public an office set apart especially for cancelling the stamps and envelopes with date stamps of that day, thus giving complete authenticity to those who may wish it.

Art. 8. The envelopes and stamps of the issue of 12th October shall have no currency through the post but on that day.

Art. 9. The surplus of this extraordinary issue shall be burnt on the 13th instant at the General Post and Telegraph Office at 9 a.m. in the presence of the Director-General, the Accountant-General of the Nation, and the President of the Bank of Agriculture.

Art. 10. This is to be communicated to whomsoever it may concern for the accomplishment of what is ordered.

ANGEL D. PENA,
Director-General of Posts & Telegraphs.
BLAS GARAY,
Secretary.

Asuncion, 11th October, 1892.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

ADHESIVES.

Austria.—A prominent philatelist in Vienna sends us three specimens of the 2 kreuzer first issue, thin paper, with second impressions on the reverse. He states that the latter impression has recently been added, and says that other values are being offered with similar fraudulent designs on the back. It behoves collectors to be, therefore, on their guard.

Azores.—A new value of 75 r. is chronicled by *Le Timbre Poste* for registered letters.

75 r., carmine.

Bolivia.—We omitted the colour of the 10 bolivianos in the set chronicled last month on p. 301. It should be mauve on lilac.

10 bolivianos, mauve on lilac.

Brazil.—The 500 reis of the Southern Cross series, which originally appeared in olive-green, is chronicled by *Le Timbre Poste* as now appearing in pale yellow-green. The same journal chronicles the issue of the 700 reis of the same type.

500 reis, olive-green, pale yellow-green.
700 reis, chocolate.

British Honduras.—Mr. G. F. Napier sends us an imperforate pair of the one penny blue, watermarked Crown C.C. It is probable that, like many other Colonial imperforate stamps, these specimens are proofs.

Canada.—The 15 c., 1868 issue, has been shown by Mr. F. de Coppet to the *American Journal of Philately*, on thin paper, horizontally laid.

15 c., violet, 1868, on horizontally *laid* paper.



Curaçoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 12½ c. and 25 c. unpaid, new type, differing from the old one in size and shape of the numerals and the word "cent" added beneath.

12½ c., black and green.
25 c., „ „



Fiji.—A lot of 5,000 of the twopenny stamp was recently printed, in error, in a pale blue colour, instead of green; but, as they closely resembled the one penny stamps in everything except the inscription, they were all destroyed, with the exception of one specimen, which had been sent to a firm of stamp dealers in this country. It

is to the credit of the Postal authorities of the Colony that they acted upon the advice of the Crown Agents, and destroyed the lot instead of accepting a tempting offer to sell them to a firm of English stamp dealers. The one specimen which is known to exist of this non-issued stamp has been sold to a well-known Parisian collector for £50, and as it establishes the claim of the stamp to be chronicled, we are bound to recognise it. We are indebted to Messrs. Hilckes, Kirkpatrick & Co. for this information. They have shown us the official documents and the stamp in question

2d., pale blue, instead of green, error of colour.

French Colonies.—The much talked of new designs for these Colonies, which we hope will put an end to the little eccentricities of the surcharging officials, have at last made their appearance. The general design is the same for all, the only change being made in the name in the tablet. The designs are printed in colour on a ground-work of solid colour on white wove paper. The name in the tablet is a separate printing in a different colour. They are all unwatermarked, but the 15 c. has a ground-work of squares on the back, and also differs from the rest of the series in not being printed on a ground-work of colour. Perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. We illustrate the design from a set sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The following is a list of all the Colonies as inscribed on the respective tablets :—



Sultanat d'Anjouan.	Côte d'Ivoire.
Benin.	Mayotte.
Diego Suarez et Dèpendances.	Martinique.
Congo Français.	N^lle. Caledonie et Dèpendances.
Guinée Français.	Obock.
Guyane.	Réunion.
Etablissements de l'Inde.	Senegal et Dèpendances.
Guadeloupe et Dèpendances.	St. Pierre et Miquelon.
Indo-Chine.	Etablissements de l'Oceanie.

1 c., black	on blue,	name in red.		25 c., black	on pale pink,	name in red.	
2 c., brown	on straw,	„	blue.	30 c., brown	on pale brown,	„	blue
4 c., chocolate	on pale grey,	„	blue.	40 c., red	on straw,	„	blue.
5 c., green	on pale green,	„	red.	50 c., carmine	on pale pink,	„	blue.
10 c., black	on lilac,	„	blue.	75 c., black	on yellow,	„	red.
15 c., blue	on white,	„	red.	1 f., olive green	on straw,	„	red.
20 c., brown	on green,	„	blue.				

Gambia.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited., recently sent for the inspection of the Society copies of the current halfpenny printed in rose, violet, and grey, and the three pence in sap green. All four specimens are watermarked Crown C.A., and are perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, state these stamps came out of the collection of one of the Government officials in Gambia, and it is probable they are "trials for colours," sent out by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. to the Colony. Perhaps some of our readers can give us further information concerning them ?

Grenada.—We are indebted to Mr. Rudolph Meyer for a second variety of the 1d. and 2d. "surcharge postage" stamps chronicled on p. 246. The new variety is on the 6d. lilac instead of on the 8d. brown.

1d. black "surcharge postage" on 6d. lilac.
2d. „ „ „ „

Iceland.—Our American contemporaries chronicle the issue of two high values of the current series. Perf. 14. Watermark Crown.

50 aur., red and blue.
100 „ violet and light brown.

India.—Mr. C. N. Biggs has shewn us what we consider is a satisfactory imperforate specimen of the obsolete 2 annas orange-yellow, watermarked with elephant's head. The specimen, which is postmarked, was taken off an old letter addressed to Mr. Biggs' firm.

2 annas, orange-yellow, *imperforate.*

Liberia.—Mr. H. L. Hayman informs us that the old issues of Liberia are no longer current, and in order to utilise the small quantity remaining of the 3 cents and 6 cents stamps, they were sent back to London to be surcharged for "Postage due" purposes. The 3 cents and 6 cents are the only two values authorised. They have been surcharged from a stone, so as to avoid any possible errors. We illustrate the surcharge.



3 c. on 3 c. purple, black surcharge.
6 c. on 6 c., pearl grey, „ „

Madeira.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a 75 reis, pink, to be added to the Funchal series, illustrated by us on page 222.

75 reis, pink, Funchal.

Morocco.—A new value, one franc, has been added to the stamps issued for the Postal Service between Tangier and Fez. The new value is of the same type as those chronicled by us on page 196, and illustrated on page 222. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., to whom we are indebted for our copy, inform us that this Postal Service is to be taken over by the French Government on January the 1st, when these stamps will become obsolete.

1 f., pale green.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. also send us a 25 c. stamp, which we illustrate, used for prepayment of postage on letters from the Port of Mazagan to the City of Morocco. Perf. 11½.



We have also from the same source the 25 c. surcharged "10 cents" in black.

25 c., red.
10 cents on 25 c. red, black surcharge.

Orange Free State.—A provisional for the Postal Union rate of postage has been provided by surcharging the 3d. blue with "2½d." in black small figures.

2½d. on 3d blue, black surcharge.

Paraguay.—We publish on another page the official decree authorising and describing the issue of some jubilee stationery. The 10 cent adhesive stamp has been converted into a jubilee label by surcharging it in violet ink with the inscription "1492. 12 de Octobre, 1892," within an oval line.

10 c., blue, Jubilee surcharge in violet.

Shanghai.—We illustrate a new "Postage due" Stamp received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., watermarked T in frame. Perf. 11½.



10 c., orange, surcharged "Postage Due" in black.

Suaheli.—On page 225 we chronicled some Postal curiosities then credited to a "Sultanate of Suaheli," concerning which we were very sceptical. The following letter, received by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. from the Postmaster at Mombasa, and forwarded by them to us for publication, effectually disposes of the Suaheli pretender:—"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 25th July, addressed to 'The Postmaster, Witu, Suaheli, East Africa'—which appears to have been mis-sent and delayed—and to inform you that Witu is a station in the I.B.E.A. Co.'s territory, and, of course, use the Company's stamps. There is no 'Sultanate of Suaheli' and no Post Office at Witu." Exit Suaheli!

Sweden.—We have the 3 öre of the new type, illustrated on p. 199, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. Perf. 13.

3 öre, orange and brown on white.

Timor.—Three new provisionals have been provided by surcharging 2½ r. on the 20 r., 40 r., and 80 r., as illustrated from a set sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.



2½ r. on 20 r., red, black surcharge.
2½ r. on 40 r., brown, „ „
2½ r. on 80 r., grey, „ „

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description of Novelties under this heading applies to ordinary Postal Envelopes.*

Great Britain.—During the month of November an addition was made to the inscription on the face of the Registration envelopes, sizes F. & G., the words "FEE PAID," with a line underneath, being printed directly below the large letter "R." in an oval. On the 1st December the Insurance for Inland Registered Packets was carried from £25 to £50, upon payment of a corresponding fee. In consequence of this change, all the current registration envelopes are now sold with a new notice pasted on the back. This notice is the same as the previous one, except that for the

following fees, 7d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 11d., compensation, in case of loss, may be obtained to the extent of £30, £35, £40, £45, or £50 respectively.

Regtn. Env. 2d. ultramarine, with "FEE PAID." Sizes F. G.

" " " " " new notice pasted on the back. Sizes F. G. H. H. H2. K.

Paraguay.—We illustrate the Jubilee envelope stamp fully described in the Official Decree printed on page 324. Our illustration is photographed from an unused, officially cancelled, copy sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.



15c.+5c. black and blue.

POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—*Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.*

Azores.—*Le Timbre Poste* chronicles a letter card for these islands.

25 r., green on buff.

Chili.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles official postcards. They are lithographed in black on various coloured cards. The stamp, which is without value, is in the upper right corner, and has the Chilian arms surmounted by a bust of Columbus in a central oval, surrounding which is another oval with "Correos" above and "Chile" below the central figure. In the left upper corner is a locomotive with a circular band inscribed "Administracion Ppal de Correos—Santiago." The inscription in the upper centre of the card is, "Tarjeta de Servicio." The whole is enclosed in an ornamental frame.

Without expressed value; black on orange.
" " " " blue-green.
" " " " pale green.
" " " " greenish-white.
" " " " brown-grey.
" " " " salmon.
" " " " rose.

Variety.—With bluish highly glazed face, unglazed white back, no circle and locomotive in the right upper corner.

Curaçoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a reply postcard of the same design as the single card illustrated last month.

2½c.+2½c., green on pale green.

Tobago.—We have received the following from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.:—A single postcard of the ½d. value for inland use, and a reply card of the same value. A single postcard of the 1d. value for Postal Union purposes, and a reply card of the same value. All four cards bear the same design of the Queen's head to left in a circle of solid colour with the name of the island above, and the value below in straight labels, with white letters on a solid ground.

½d., green on buff.
½d.+½d., " "
1d., carmine on buff.
1d.+1d. " "

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

The Philatelic Society, London.

Honorary President:
H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., &c.

Committee for the Year 1892-93.

President: The Earl of Kingston.
Vice-President: M. P. Castle.
Secretary: D. Garth.
Assistant Secretary: J. A. Tilleard.
Treasurer and Librarian: C. N. Biggs.

E. D. Bacon. | Major Evans.
A. W. Chambers. | T. Maycock.

The Fourth Meeting of the Season 1892-93, was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 11th November, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., the following members being present:—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, (in the chair), D. Garth, R. Meyer, W. Silk, T. Maycock, A. Davis, E. J. Nankivell, F. C. Van Duzer, and J. A. Tilleard.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. Phillips, enclosing cards with specimens of perforations made by the machines in the possession of the police in connection with the recent prosecutions, and also offering to present to the Society an engraved portrait of Sir Rowland Hill. The letter was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society. A letter was read from Mr. Creeke in reference to the gauge of the perforation of stamps taken from the "unappropriated dies" of this country, which was directed to be referred to the publication committee.

Mr. Joynt forwarded for inspection a specimen of the black stamp of St. Lucia with surcharge "one penny" in red, bearing a double surcharge, and a specimen of the 4d. stamp of Jamaica surcharged "Twopence halfpenny," with errors in the surcharge, probably due to defective printing. The Secretary was requested to communicate with Mr. Joynt asking for further information in reference to the St. Lucia stamp.

Major A. St. Leger Burrows, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Vice-President, was elected a member of the Society. The names of four other candidates for election were mentioned in the notices of this meeting, but in the unavoidable absence of the proposer and seconder in each case, the ballot was postponed to the next meeting. The Secretary referred to the subject of the annual dinner of the Society, and it was arranged that he should give notice that the subject would be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Bacon then read a paper written by Mr. A. de Reuterskiöld on the provisional stamps of British Guiana of 1882, containing much information which had not been previously published in reference to these stamps. Amongst other facts discovered by the writer in the course of his investigations into the subject, it was established that there were two plates of each of the settings in the case of the 2 cents value. On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. de Reuterskiöld for his interesting paper, which it was determined, with his consent, should be published in the Society's journal. Some discussion ensued in reference to Mr. Nankivell's proposal as to an Exhibition of Indian and Ceylon stamps being held in the Society's Rooms, and it was arranged that notice should be given for a further discussion on the same subject at the next meeting.

The Fifth Meeting was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 25th November, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members:—Messrs. E. D. Bacon (in the chair) D. Garth, A. W. Chambers, C. N. Biggs, R. Meyer, H. E. Wright, W. Silk, T. Wickham Jones, E. S. Gibbons, T. Maycock, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, J. A. Tilleard, and R. Ehrenbach.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from Mr. Joynt as to the source from which he had obtained the surcharged St. Lucia stamp shown at the last meeting, but, in the absence of further information, the Society were unable to accept the variety as genuine. Mr. H. C. Hart, proposed by Mr.

Joynt, and seconded by the Secretary; Dr. David M. Finlay, and Mr. R. C. D. Greathead, both proposed by Captain Morris Newman, and seconded by the Treasurer; Dr. Charles E. Cameron, and Mr. Herbert C. French, both proposed by Mr. Gibb, and seconded by the Treasurer; Mr. Erskine Beveridge, proposed by Mr. Emerson, and seconded by Mr. W. T. Wilson; the Rev. G. H. Rayner, proposed by Mr. Wright, and seconded by the Secretary; Mr. H. Oldfield, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary; Captain F. Northey, proposed by Mr. Emerson, and seconded by the Secretary; and Dr. Maitland Lumley, proposed by Mr. Davis, and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society. On the further discussion of the proposal that an Exhibition of stamps of India and Ceylon should be held in the Society's Rooms at an early date after the publication of the Society's work on the stamps of those countries, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Biggs, "That the matter should be referred to a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Bacon, the Secretary, and the members of the House Committee, to consider and report at a future meeting as to the feasibility of the proposal, and the arrangements which would be necessary in case it should be decided that the Exhibition should be held." Mr. Nankivell then read a paper on "Specialism" in stamp collecting, in which he explained the principal reasons which had given rise to the study and collection of stamps of particular countries, to the exclusion of others, and the various arguments for and against the adoption of such a course. After a lengthy discussion on the subject, in which most of the members present took part, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Nankivell for his interesting paper, on the motion of Mr. Garth, seconded by Mr. Gibbons. The report of the House Committee as to the use of the Society's Rooms was read, and after some discussion it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by the Secretary, that the report be adopted and entered on the minutes, and that notice should be given to the members as to the hours during which the Rooms would be available.

Two further Meetings of the Society, as a Committee for settling the Reference Lists of the stamps of the British Colonies in South Africa, have been held, and the lists of stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, and Gambia, have been completed. At the last Meeting the Society were indebted to Stanley Gibbons, Limited, for the loan of their stock books of the stamps of Gambia, for reference, and comparison in settling the lists, and also for forwarding specimens of the ½d. and 3d. values of these stamps, printed in various colours.

At the same Meeting, specimens were shown of the first issue of Austria, printed on both sides. These stamps are known to have been recently manufactured, and were forwarded by Mr. Schwarz as a warning to collectors.

Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society.

Honorary President: BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

President: M. P. CASTLE.

Vice-President: J. H. REDMAN.

Acting Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: A. DE WORMS.

W. T. WILLETT. | J. W. GILLESPIE.
H. STAFFORD SMITH. | J. H. ESCOLME.

THE Third Meeting of the Season 1892-93 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, 7th November. Present: Messrs. M. P. Castle, P. de Worms, J. W. Gillespie, O. Pfenninger, R. J. Thrupp, E. H. Gonin, W. T. Willett, A. H. Thomas, A. de Worms. The President in the chair.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the stamps of Gibraltar were studied, and a preliminary revision list made from the collections of the members present. The exchange sheets from the Manchester Philatelic Society were then handed round. The President, Hon. Sec., and Mr. E. H. Gonin, who attended the meeting for the last time prior to their absence on an extended tour, expressed regret at their temporary severance from the Society, and were accorded a hearty farewell by the members present.

THE Fourth Meeting of the Season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, 14th November, at 7.45 p.m. Present: Messrs. J. H. Redman, O. Pfenninger, J. W Gillespie, H. Stafford Smith, R. J. Thrupp, S. M. Castle, P. de Worms, A. de Worms. The Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the study of the stamps of Malta was proceeded with and

adjourned till the next meeting. Mr. Otto Pfenninger then presented four books to the Society, and a cordial vote of thanks to him for his kind gift, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by Mr. Stafford Smith, was carried unanimously.

Leeds Philatelic Society.

Committee for the Session 1892-93.

President: WM. BECKWITH.
Senior Vice-President: O. FIRTH.
Junior Vice-President. J. H. THACKRAH.
ex-Presidents: JOSEPH SCOTT, AND REV. T. S. FLEMING.
Hon. Treasurer: W. B. SIMPSON.
Hon. Secretaries: W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S., AND T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH.
Hon. Librarian: F. J. KIDSON.

THE Fifth Meeting was held at the Leeds Mechanics' Institution, on Saturday, the 19th November, 1892, the President in the chair. Also present, Messrs. Thackrah, Egly, Kidson, Rev. T. S. Fleming, and the Secretaries. Mr. Arthur N. Skipwith was present as a visitor, and at a later stage of the meeting was proposed as an Associate.

Mr. T. K. Skipwith described the stamps of New Zealand in the light which Mr. E. D. Bacon had recently shed upon the subject by his paper in the LONDON PHILATELIST. His remarks were illustrated by his own and the collections of Messrs. Beckwith, Fleming, and Thackrah.

THE Sixth Meeting was held on the 3rd December, the Rev. T. S. Fleming occupying the chair in the unavoidable absence of the President. Also present, Messrs. Egly, Kidson, Jefferson, and the Secretaries Mr. A. N. Skipwith was elected an associate. The Chairman showed new varieties of Railway Letter Stamps, as used by the N.E., L. and Y., L. and N.W., G.N., and Midland Companies.

Mr. Skipwith having been voted to the chair, the Rev. T. S. Fleming read an interesting paper on the Balloon and Pigeon-Posts as used during the siege of Paris in 1870-71, showing examples, used and unused. A cordial vote of thanks was passed.

The Committee will be pleased to welcome members of other Philatelic Societies at any of the meetings, should they be in Leeds. Secretaries' address,—13, Victoria Road, Hyde Park, Leeds.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President: VERNON ROBERTS.
Vice-President: F. BARRATT.
Hon. Secretary: W. DORNING BECKTON.
Assistant Hon. Secretary: C. H. COOTE.
Hon. Treasurer: G. B. DUERST.

REV. J. W. PAULL. | E. P. COLLETT.
J. H. ABBOTT. | E. AITKEN.

THE Fifth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on Friday, 18th November, 1892, the President in the chair, supported by the Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Messrs. Collett, Gibson, Grunewald, Munn, Hesketh, Petrie, Ranch, Hanmer, Fildes, and Batty.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The question of changing the Meeting place was discussed, and a Committee, consisting of the Treasurer, Secretary, and Mr. Hanmer, appointed to report to the next meeting.

A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Limited, for their kind gift of books, which would form a valuable addition to the Library of the Society.

Mr. Duerst then read a paper on the Stamps of Bergedorf, upon which a prolonged discussion took place, and which was not concluded on the adjournment of the meeting.

W. DORNING BECKTON.

Daisy Bank,
Swinton Park.

The Welsh Philatelic Society.

A MEETING of the Welsh Philatelic Society was held on Saturday, 3rd December, at Cardiff. Among those present were Mr. Walter Scott (President), Mr. Councillor Trounce, Messrs. A. G. E. Driver, Tucker and Bowden, and Mr. John Ruthen, jun. (Secretary, Swansea). The President said, in opening the meeting, he had received letters and telegrams apologising for non-attendance from Mr. Watts (Newport) and Messrs. S. R. Gold (Swansea) and Hallet (Cardiff). He then briefly touched on the science of stamp collecting, and strongly urged the members of the Society to use their influence in boycotting stamps which were made and issued solely for stamp collectors, and were not *bonâ fide* stamps. The Secretary reported he had received several donations of books to the Society's Library, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the donors.

Mr. Scott proposed, and Mr. Trounce seconded, that:—"The next quarterly meeting

take place in March, that it be held in Cardiff, and that the stamps for discussion should be those of Great Britain and her Colonies."

JOHN RUTHEN, jun.,
Hon. See.

Bombay Philatelic Society.

Committee for the Year.

President: THE HON. H. J. PARSONS, C.S.
Vice-President: E. S. GUBBAY.
Hon. Secretary: J. SEYMOUR SUMMERS.
Hon. Treasurer: KRISHUARAO RAMCHUNDRA.
Members { JULIO REHEIRO, M.A.
ARTHUR C. TRAPP.

THE Fourth Committee Meeting of the Session was held at 7, Church Gate Street, Fort, on Monday, the 14th November, at 5.30 p.m., Mr. E. S. Gubbay, Vice-President, in the chair. Members of Committee present were Mr. J. Seymour Summers, Hon. Secretary; Mr. Krishuarao Ramchundra, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. J. Reheiro, M.A., and Mr. Arthur C. Trapp. The Vice-President read the revised rules, and after some discussion and slight alterations they were passed.

With reference to the anticipated visit of Mr. Castle, the Vice-President of the London Philatelic Society, it was decided by the Committee that the President of this Society should be written to informing him of the same, and that a circular should be sent round asking members to bring any rarities they might have to the special meeting to be held to welcome the visitor from the London Society. It was also resolved that the Secretary should write on behalf of the Society to Mr. M. P. Castle, asking him when it would be convenient for him to meet the members, and requesting him to appoint the time which would be most convenient and suitable to him.

The Secretary read the circular from C. J. Phillips, Esq., Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Protection Association, London, and after a short discussion it was decided, on the proposition of the Vice-President, seconded by the Hon. Secretary, that a subscription for the funds of the Association should be opened at the next ordinary meeting.

It was proposed by Mr. Arthur C. Trapp, and seconded by the Hon. Secretary, that the question of exchanges between members should be left to members to arrange among themselves.

Correspondence.

CAPE PROVISIONALS OF 1861.

SIR,—It is stated by the Postmaster-General of the Cape of Good Hope, in his letter of 6th August to Mr. E. D. Bacon, that there were 12,840 4d., and 24,660 1d. stamps printed.

If these figures are correct, and I see no reason to doubt them, how does Mr. Bacon arrive at the conclusion that there is no evidence to show whether or not the two errors and damaged stereotype were removed previous to printing the re-impressions, or before the completion of the batch of genuine stamps in April, 1861.

I maintain that the figures quoted by the Postmaster-General clearly show that the two errors, and damaged stereotype, were removed before all the sheets of genuine stamps were printed, because, it is admitted—

(1st) That 24,660 1d. stamps were printed, which would represent 385 sheets and 20 stamps over; and

(2nd) That 12,840 4d. stamps were printed, which would represent 200 sheets and 40 stamps over, which proves that there were printed of the genuine stamps 365 sheets of the 1d with, and 20 without, the 4d. red error; and 160 sheets of the 4d. with, and 40 without, the 1d. blue error and the damaged stereotype.

If my reasoning is sound it follows that there could only have been 365 4d. red, and 160 1d. blue, genuine errors printed.

It now only remains for me to state that in discussing this matter I have assumed that the genuine stamps were all to have been printed in sheets of 64 stamps.—I am, etc,

E. PATERSON.

Durban, Natal,
2nd November, 1892.

P.S.—If my figures are correct, do you con-

sider that these errors are as valuable as the P.O. Mauritius?

[The inference, regarding the "errors," drawn by Mr. Paterson from the letter of the Cape Postmaster-General, does not necessarily follow. If the printers were ordered to supply a certain number of each value, they would print off the requisite sheets, and destroy the surplus specimens, taking no notice of the "errors," which they may not have seen. I think it is jumping to an unwarrantable conclusion, in the present state of our knowledge, to say that the numbers *prove* there were 365 of the 1d. error and 160 of the 4d. I wrote some weeks ago, again, to Mr. S. R. French, and I hope I may be able to throw some further light upon this subject at a no very distant date.—E. D. BACON.]

Occasional Notes.

THE *Daily Chronicle* gives prominence to the following announcement :—

"We believe ourselves justified at length in conveying to our readers the assurance that the Government have practically decided to introduce a reform which will be hailed with enthusiasm throughout the whole Empire. The assurance we speak of relates to no less a subject than Imperial Penny Post. The authorities immediately concerned have been giving the project a very careful examination, and it has been discussed more or less formally by the members of the Government generally, with the result that it may be said to be practically determined upon. We do not say that it has come up for final decision, or even that every difficulty and objection has been completely disposed of; but the principle has been so fully and freely conceded, and most of the practical obstacles have proved so comparatively unimportant, that we believe the establishment of a uniform penny postage throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire may be regarded as to all intents and purposes a certainty."

* * *

MR. W. W. BLEST writes to us :—"I see in our Journal that Mr. de Coppet will sell his stamps by auction in America, and that leading dealers are going. Why should not the amateurs club together and send a representative to bid for their desiderata? Of course we must know first what is 'on sale.'"

* * *

MR. E. STANLEY GIBBONS, Chairman of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., has left England for a winter tour in India. His itinerary will be as follows :—

Colombo,	Jan. 7-10	Agra,	Feb. 20
Madrás,		Delhi,	,, 23-26
Calcutta,	Feb. 7-10	Jeypore,	,, 27
Darjeeling,	,, 10	Ahmedabad,	Mar. 4
Benares,	,, 14-17	Bombay,	,, 10-18
Lucknow,	,, 18-20		

THE Paris Exhibition, despite its many drawbacks, is said to have given a decided impetus to stamp collecting in France. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., exhibition of Sydney views in particular created such a run on those issues, that a leading Paris dealer reports having sold out every copy he had in stock.

* * *

SEVERAL foreign Governments were recently favoured with a cordial invitation from "The Postal Union of America" hailing from Boston, Mass., to co-operate in establishing "a grand exhibit" of postal issues at the World's Fair at Chicago. They were asked to furnish "specimens of current and obsolete stamps, envelopes, &c." One of the Governments being desirous of knowing something more about "The Postal Union of America," applied to the United States officials. The inquiry was passed on to Mr. Calman, who, with the help of a fellow philatelist in Boston, was enabled to forward the information that "The Postal Union of America" was nothing more nor less than a grocer's assistant by the name of Chute.

* * *

ON the 20th inst. Benjamin Laurence, a labourer, was convicted at the Old Bailey of receiving £2,000 worth of Indian stamps, which had been stolen from the Victoria Docks. He was sentenced to eight months' hard labour. The stamps formed part of a consignment of Indian stamps which left Messrs. De La Rue's premises in June last. They were packed in a case lined with iron, were not shipped from the Victoria Docks until nearly two months later, when they were placed on board the *Chyebassa* for dispatch to the Indian Government. After the case left the Government stores in Lambeth, and was placed with other merchandise on a lighter and so taken to the docks, it is supposed that the robbery was effected while the lighter lay in the docks.

The Philatelic Market.

The sale of the de Coppet collection has been fixed for April. Meanwhile speculation is rife as to its value. Some put it at £8,000. According to *The Post Office* of New York, Mr. de Coppet reserves the Mexican portion of his collection.

Mr. H. Gremmel, of New York, announces "a Complete Catalogue of all Postage Stamps, Envelopes, and Postal Cards of the Western Hemisphere, also U.S. Revenues." Mr. Gremmel advises Americans to make a specialty of American stamps. His catalogue is to be of small pocket size; price, one shilling.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Limited, of New York, claim to have beaten the record of high prices for a single stamp at auction. Last month they paid 780 dols.=£156, for a specimen of the 5 c. blue stamp issued by the City of Livingston, Alabama, in 1861. We understand that the stamp was bought for an English firm who have since re-sold it to an English collector for £200.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co.'s catalogue takes the lead in fixing prices in the States. In the fifty-third edition, published last month, the price of obsolete issues was raised from ten to forty per cent.

On the 2nd and 3rd of this month Messrs. Cheveley & Co. sold by auction a very fine collection of Australian stamps, the property of Mr. Robert Ehrenbach, who is now confining his attention to Europeans. The constructed plates sold as follows:—

Sydney Views, 1d., plate I. complete,	£30	0
Do. magnificent unused specimen, No. 4	£14	0
Do. 1d., plate II. complete ...	£38	0
Do. 2d., plate I. complete ...	£33	0
Do. 2d., plate I., retouched, complete, except No. 20, but with an extra No. 11	£22	10
Do. 2d., plate II. complete ...	£26	10
Do. 2d., plate III. complete, except Nos. 5, 9, and 16	£19	0
Do. 2d., plate IV. complete ...	£15	0
Do. 2d., plate V. complete, except No. 3	£18	0
Do. 3d., complete plate ...	£18	10
Registered Stamps, imperf., plate complete...	£30	0
Laureated, 1d., no watermark, complete plate	£13	0
Do. 1d., vermilion, with watermark, complete plate except No. 11	£7	10
Do. 2d., with stars in upper corners, part plate, 39 out of 50 types	£20	0
Do. 3d., no watermark, plate complete, except Nos. 5 and 10	£17	10
Do. 3d., watermarked, plate complete...	£7	5
Do. 6d., brown, plate II. complete, except Nos. 7, 11, 18 & 19	£10	10
Victoria, enthroned, 2d., engraved, complete plate	£9	0
Do. same lithographed ...	£7	5
Do. same later transfer ...	£7	0
Tasmania, first issue, 1d, octagonal, plate I. complete	£8	10
Do. plate II. complete ...	£7	10

END OF VOL. I.