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THE

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M. P. CASTLE

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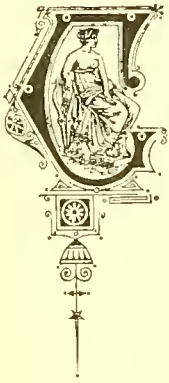
The Death of the Earl of Kingston.



GLOOMY has been the commencement of the New Year on all sides, and the same sad beginning has fallen to the lot of Philatelists in this country. It is with the deepest grief and concern that we have to announce to our readers the death of the esteemed President of the London Philatelic Society, the Earl of Kingston.

The noble Earl had been for many weary months past a great sufferer, and had borne with a manly fortitude the illness that so long threatened to blot out all the brightness of his life. It is but a few months since Lord Kingston underwent a long and serious operation, which was considered most successful, and resulted, after a period, in a recovery to almost wonted health and spirits, that afforded unbounded delight to all the noble Earl's relations and friends. Alas! this recovery was but a transient flicker, and has been succeeded by the blackness that is past rekindling.

On the resignation of the Presidency of the Society by Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., the late Earl was elected to the office of President on the 20th May, 1892, and has thus been for nearly four years the acting head of the London Philatelic Society. The period has been all too short, and the state of Lord Kingston's health too precarious to admit of his participation in the Society's work to the extent that he wished. It has, however, been abundantly evident by his articles, and attendances at the meetings whenever possible, that the lamented President had not

only a great love and affection for the London Society, but was possessed of Philatelic ability of an order that in every way justified his election. Those who have had the pleasure of his personal acquaintance have always known that Lord Kingston possessed a vast general fund of Philatelic knowledge, whether on the question of the stamps of our own country, or of any of its Colonies. The late President rejoiced in the possession of a superb collection of the stamps of Great Britain, in addition to a vast number of the stamps of our Colonies and other countries.

We have alluded elsewhere to the more public offices held by the noble Earl, and it but remains for us to pay a just tribute to his personal worth. In all his relations in life, Lord Kingston exhibited the same charm of manner, the same ready courtesy, and utter absence of self-assertion, that are the real attributes of a gentleman, whether or no he bears an additional title. In his occupancy of the chair at the Society's meetings, as in his conversation with each and every member, Lord Kingston invariably evinced the *bonhomie* that emanates from a kindly and generous nature. It is sad beyond measure, for us to reflect that we now have but the remembrance that our late President upheld the best traditions of the Society, that he added lustre to it by his Philatelic abilities and noble birth, and that he has, far beyond this, secured a lasting place in the memory and affections of all his fellow-members.

We can but bow our heads, with what grace we may, to the inevitable, tendering to Lady Kingston and her family the sincere and thorough sympathy of one and all, not only of the members of the London Philatelic Society, but of all sections of the community to whom the late Earl of Kingston was known.

Philately in the Expiring Century.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on January 10th, 1896.

By M. P. CASTLE, Vice-President.

WELL-WORN is the path that traverses the domain of Philatelic platitudes, and numerous are the footprints that plod along the beaten track, each one making but a temporary impression above its predecessors, and being as speedily effaced in its own turn. It can, therefore, be readily imagined that it is with some compunction that I have ventured, under a title that apparently invokes but a repetition of platitudes, to approach a subject that has been dealt with from many sides. I would, however, plead in extenuation, that I believe there are aspects and

possibilities of the case that have not yet been brought home to the multitude, although those who think, and those who look ahead, may have already grasped this position; as plain truths and homely advice, however, generally require reiteration before they bring conviction, I have thought that my quarter of a century's connection with Philately may have given me an experience and a broader view of things that might cast some light upon the Philatelic *dénouement* of the nineteenth century.

In order to avoid the repetition of well-worn facts, I will but very briefly glance at the present situation. The stupendous increase in prices of numbers of issued stamps, and the ever rapidly-increasing array of collectors, investors, and speculators, has brought us face to face with a further development of the old query—"What shall we collect?" I may here say that, by "we," I am referring to the very important and increasing class of Philatelists who "do not take everything," and in whose volumes, or hoards, are probably represented eighty per cent. of the total value of stamps that are not in the hands of the trade. The greater bulk of collectors, probably (reversing the proportion) eighty per cent. of the aggregate, who collect in printed albums, and make general collections with one stamp of each type, are but relatively little affected either by the increase of prices or of the number of stamps issued. If, on the one hand, there are *lacunæ* which are increasingly hard to fill, there is, on the other, a perennial source of delight in the numerous new issues that are always obtainable. The broad result is that the general collector, while he can hardly ever dream of attaining completeness, is, and is likely to be, in a better position than ever, to become the owner of a large and varied collection at a moderate outlay. My remarks are, therefore, intended to apply only to those who devote themselves to particular fields of study, and who are now generally denominated Specialists.

Before I proceed, however, to my attempted purview of the situation at the present epoch, there is another class that I must allude to, briefly, as being also beyond the scope of the remarks I have to offer. In this country, in the United States, and also, to a fair extent, in other parts of the globe, there are many men possessed of such a large share of this world's goods that they can afford to despise ordinary economic problems, and to purchase, *and hold*, collections of all that is fine and rare. The accumulations formed by these lucky mortals are invaluable to the student, and frequently form the foundation stone upon which a substantial Philatelic superstructure is reared. With practically unlimited acquisitive powers, they pass however, for the moment, from my ken, as the purport of this article is mainly to consider how the collector of limited means is to face the situation at the latter end of the nineteenth century.

It is but very few years since the first general disruption of the ranks of general collectors took place. The fancies of Philatelists, during the past decade, have mainly run in the grades of Great Britain and Colonies, Europeans, and the United States, with British North America, or Australians, or West Indians, as subdivisions. These great groups have necessarily, in many cases, been further subdivided, and other parts of the world grouped for collectable purposes. It will be obvious, at a glance,

that almost any of these groups—if to be collected according to *fin de siècle* ideas—is beyond the scope of the collector of limited means, and also that the time has come when further subdivisions are necessary, and new and fresh areas of collecting are expedient.

There are four main factors that have helped to constitute the existing situation. The first three of these are so patent that I will merely enumerate them without comment. Firstly, the great increase of the number of stamps issued; secondly, the large accession to the ranks of collectors; and thirdly—mainly attributable to the latter fact—the enormous rise in the value of specimens. With regard to the rise in value, I may say, *en passant*, that beyond the requirements of collectors another element has done much, *and will do more*, to enhance the price of stamps. I allude to the acquisition of large quantities of the rare stamps by those who do it either as a permanent investment, or as a temporary speculation. The market in certain stamps is a limited one, and it is easily within the power—having regard to the general demand—of a few speculators to rapidly drive up the selling price of particular stamps. It is incontrovertible that this operation, pleasantly known as "cornering," is largely instrumental in inflating—often unduly—the prices of certain classes of stamps.

The fourth reason is one that is as important in its action as any other, and is partly the outcome of the other three causes combined. I allude to the modern ideas of what constitutes collecting on specialised lines. This is the feature on which I propose mainly to dwell in this article, and, accepting it as a permanent factor in the situation, to endeavour to draw from it the necessary adaptation to the altered circumstances.

I may premise that I am now, as I have always been, an advocate of that comprehensive system of collecting or accumulating that ultimately frequently results in an average of a page to each value, with its ramifications of shades and conditions, so aptly christened by Mr. Maitland Burnett as "bloating." Despite the ridicule of many, and the opposition of most other collectors, this feature has grown to an enormous extent, and if I may venture to prophecy, will continue to grow. Those who, like myself, were always adherents of the system, or "complete bloaters," have also gradually, and almost unconsciously, become still deeper impregnated with the—perhaps selfish—but highly delightful task of accumulating every possible variation of each stamp. Gradually but surely there has been an evolution among us of a higher perception of the freshness of colouring of first printings, of well-centreing, of sharp embossing, of the advantages of original gum, of the general superiority in appearance of unsevered pairs and blocks, of the gradation of shades to embrace every separate printing, and, above all, of the vital necessity—to a specialist—to have as many stamps as possible in perfect or mint state; that is, as nearly as may be in the condition attached to the day of their production. The great spread of intercourse among collectors and societies all over the world, and the examples of those who have already been long imbued with the foregoing ideas, has latterly spread this "end of the century" specialism with great rapidity; but, in my humble judgment, I may say that I believe the movement is only yet in its infancy. Assuming for the nonce that I am correct in my vaticinations, I think it not superfluous to

enter into a consideration, firstly, of the different modern schools of specialising; and, secondly, to apply these several schools to the subject-matter to be collected.

The modern apostles of specialising may be subdivided into the four classes of collectors:

A. Used stamps entirely.
B. Unused stamps entirely.
C. Both unused and used stamps.
D. Unused and used stamps indiscriminately.

With regard to Class A, beyond the old and rapidly dying fallacy, that used stamps are more likely to be genuine than unused, there can be no doubt but that—independently of the very important financial reasons—there are many points of interest and value in the collection of used specimens, and that in the best interests of Philately their collection is to be encouraged. There are, however, ways and ways of collecting, and I do not mean to advocate the system of collecting postmarks *plus stamps* that has latterly come somewhat into vogue. To paraphrase Mr. W. S. Gilbert, "a little of postmark, but not very much of it," is my idea, which I will allude to more fully in touching upon Clause D. In countries such as South Australia, Wurtemburg, and some of the West Indians, where dated postmarks are frequently available, their friendly aid will be at once gratefully recognised by all Philatelists. I do not, however, personally, immediately see the necessity—or, I may add, the attraction—of collecting all the different postmarks that may be found, say, on the stamps of Great Britain, or the German States, with the exception of the so-called Alsace-Lorraine stamps, which, to the Teutonic student, must have an historic interest that transcends all other arguments. Perhaps used German occupation stamps of Portsmouth, Brighton, Liverpool, and London will also some day have their historic interest! I am therefore an advocate for the collection of used stamps where—on doctrines of general expediency—unused are not available, and subject to the postmarks being relegated to a secondary position in regard to the stamp itself.

As regards the generality of used stamps that are commoner than uncancelled specimens, they are, unless spoilt by the postmark, the next best thing to unused, and I am very far from advocating anything like their non-collection. They have, as a rule, the great advantage of being far more easily attainable, and they are frequently invaluable for the following reasons, amongst others:

The dates of the postmarks.

The help towards discriminating between reprints and originals.

The exposition of all the shades and printings of a stamp (almost impossible in unused alone).

I need hardly dwell further upon so obvious a part of my proposition, especially as I must again refer to it subsequently.

There are, to every rule, exceptions, and so in this case. It cannot be gainsaid that the pivot on which stamp collecting—and, indeed, most other kindred pursuits—turns, is the rarity of the specimen. Obstacles but increase the ardour of the chase, and as long as there exist stamps and collectors, so

will the latter hanker after the things that are rare among the former. Under this head of rarity, undoubtedly come some postmarked specimens, and I think it may be well to recapitulate the principal countries in which the specimens with postmarks, for various reasons, are more valuable than those that have never fulfilled their destiny, in remaining uncancelled.

List of Countries whose Stamps are mainly rarest used.

	GROUP
Bergedorf	Germany
Bremen	
Lübeck	
Mecklenburg-Strelitz	
Romagna	Italy
Ionian Islands	Great Britain
Prince Edward's Island	
Virgin Islands	

Partially rarer.

Hamburg, early issues	Germany
Heligoland ,,	
Mecklenburg-Schwerin, later issues	
Schleswig-Holstein, early issues	
Thurn and Taxis ,,	
Modena, later issues	Italy
Parma ,,	

There are, of course, here and there, stamps in other countries falling under this category, but the foregoing countries, all of minor importance, represent the necessity for the inclusion of a superfluity of printer's ink within the album of a scientific Philatelist.

I come now to Class B—unused stamps. The pioneers of advanced stamp collecting, almost without exception, from the "sixties" downward, have always held the stamp unused as the special object of their adoration. Their example has slowly but surely gained way, in spite of the tremendous obstacles to the general acceptance of the creed. In olden days, there was a general belief among the multitude that postmarks in some way were a guarantee of genuineness. This fallacy, though it long lingered on the Continent, has passed away. Its successor was the fear that used stamps were safer, on account of the reprints. Thanks to the great strides made in Philatelic knowledge, this bugbear has almost disappeared, and it is safe to say that, within a very few years, the means of discernment between genuine Original and Reprint will be so generally spread, that no collector who is not inherently lazy will need to be deceived.

The mists of prejudice and ignorance having been dispelled—to continue the metaphor—the light of the *perfect* impression in *perfect* state is safe to spread its rays, with ever-increasing power, in the Philatelic collections of this expiring century and the next. Except in the cases of those leaders of the pursuit to whom I have previously referred, the fashion of collecting unused stamps had not, until comparatively recently, spread to any marked degree. The great collections of the world are not to be seen by everyone, hence the

force of example was greatly minimised. There are, however, in the "nineties," a great and ever-increasing number of collectors, all over the globe, who have formed, or are forming, collections of unused stamps only. The sight of these collections will inevitably, by their beauty, appeal to the sympathies of many to whom the brilliant appearance of a country's stamps, *as issued*, will be a revelation. It would not be within the power of all to collect New South Wales, Great Britain, Mauritius, or Wurtemburg in mint state, but many will at once see that other and less difficult countries, whose stamps postmarked are uninviting, will, if unused, present a stately array. There is one class of stamps which, once postmarked *to any appreciable extent*, are quite shorn of their good looks: I allude to stamps with embossed white central devices, *e.g.* Portugal, Gambia, Austria (middle issues), Wurtemburg, Bavaria (later), German Empire, Great Britain (octagonals), &c. The like results affect all light-coloured or printed stamps in a lesser though important degree.

There is, of course—and this applies in a lesser degree to even countries not yet "fashionable"—the item of expense. The result of collecting the stamps of our own country unused has driven them up "by leaps and bounds," and the German and Italian States are already following the same lead. In the case of our own Colonial stamps—in many cases they are so scarce, either used or unused, that the relative difference in *price* is less, the fact remaining that their *real value* is frequently *tout autre chose!* I advocate, in short, the collection of unused stamps for all who can afford it, I believe that not only do they constitute the greatest beauty, but also the true Philatelic difficulty of collecting. I think, further, that those who consider the financial aspect of the question will find their best investment, however large, in immaculate unused specimens.

Outside the more difficult countries to be named in Classes B and C, there are plenty whose stamps, *unused*, will constitute, for years yet, a happy hunting ground of real rarities, at comparatively low prices; and they will be wise, in my humble judgment, who "take time by the forelock."

It may, without doubt, be urged that in this class, as also in that succeeding it, it is impossible to gather together a respectable "show," without a large expenditure of money. This is, of course, in a measure, true, but with almost any country's issues, it is marvellous what time, labour, and knowledge will build up with but a little of the golden cement. There are, practically, three grades of pecuniary motive power, for whose behoof I endeavour to "point a moral." I have omitted the Alpha and Omega of the Crœsus, and the printed album of general collectors. For the more difficult specialised countries of this and the succeeding class (C), only men in good financial positions and of liberal incomes, or who have (as is fortunately often the case) started collecting years since, can expect to be successful. Among the less difficult, those who can afford to lay by a fair proportion of a moderate income should do well.

List of Countries whose Stamps are generally far rarer unused than used.

Austria, Lombardy, and Hungary.
Australia (all seven colonies).
Baden.
Belgium.
British West Indies (almost all).
Brunswick.
France.
Great Britain.
Hanover.
Naples.
Parma (except last issues).
Portugal.
Prussia.
Sweden.
Thurn and Taxis.
Tuscany.
Wurtemburg.

Class C—namely, the aggregation of both unused and used stamps—is next in order, and as it is obviously the most difficult of all, its inducements can only be for the fortunate few to whom these lines were not indited. I would merely now say *en passant* that the collection of both states is of enormous interest and value in constructing a fine collection of a difficult country. My own experience has been, that in many cases, had I not taken used stamps as well as unused, I should never have known what to look for among the latter. It frequently happens that there are repeated printings of the same stamp in (nominally) the same colour, and some of these may be unattainable, or nearly so, unused. A hundred instances will spring to your minds, but for example's sake, I name at random—Wurtemburg, Issues 2, 3, and 4; Nevis, 1s. values; Great Britain, early engraved 1d. and 2d.; Canada, 10 cents; Spain, 1851; South Australia, &c.

In these joint collections the used stamp acts as a sort of reserve to the unused, filling up the *cadres* until the arrival of its superior. The "great" countries, of course, cannot be "completed" in all shades by anyone, Crœsus or not, and the biggest collections in the world have perforce here in shades—fine and rare—stamps postmarked that are an unknown quantity, in pristine condition. The acquisition of used stamps, temporary or permanent (as previously alluded to), is also a great help to scaring reprints out of the field of the unused.

The majority of the countries in the list I am next citing are, however, so difficult that few will attempt them, unused *and* used; nor is it to be recommended for any but the most advanced Philatelic student, or the wealthiest class of collectors.

List of Countries whose Stamps are mainly rare, unused, or used.

British North American Possessions.
British Guiana.
Buenos Ayres.
Cape of Good Hope.
Ceylon.
Colombia, United States of.
Confederate States of America.
Fiji.
Hawaii.
Mauritius.
Moldavia (pre-Roumania).
Mexico (including component states).
Natal.
Nevis.
New South Wales.
New Zealand.
Oldenburg.
Philippines.
Portuguese Indies.
Réunion.
Shanghai.
Spain.
Switzerland.
Transvaal.
Trinidad.
United States (Postmaster's Issues, [Locals, &c.)

I have now, with some degree of prolixity, eliminated the countries presenting more or less difficulties to the collector, and I arrive at the fourth Class D, viz., unused and used stamps indiscriminately. It is here, if anywhere, that my remarks are intended to have a practical bearing upon "Philately in the Expiring Century." It is but the very few who can ultimately lock up "thousands" in their collections, even but a limited number who can spare "hundreds," and it is to the many, who can spare but tens and scores of pounds, that I more especially address this portion of my notes.

I must commence by explaining my meaning as to the "indiscriminate" system of collecting. It is briefly the choice of unused or used in every stamp, guided by the financial powers or other facilities of the "investor." In many countries of the following list, there will be found stamps whose acquisition, in unused condition, means a fairly heavy expenditure, and there are, moreover, again included therein, several of the countries in Class B, where the stamps are *mainly* rare unused. Under the amalgamated system that I am, however, now advocating, they fall well within this category. As to unused stamps, I would advocate taking them in preference to used, wherever the difference and expense is but slight, as generally is the case with low values, and often in the case of remainders. As to used stamps, I would advocate the taking of them in the exact inverse ratio to the unused.

It is on this latter point, however, that I should like to make a few remarks as to the choice of specimens. It is hardly necessary to point out the advisability of weighing with used stamps as well as unused, the several important points of colour, impression, well-centreing, margins, etc. The one feature, however, which is all important for my Class D is the obliteration. My motto for Class D is briefly *A minimum of postmark at a minimum of outlay.* Except in the case previously mentioned, of the few countries where the obliterations are of more value than the stamps (and of an occasional date-stamp), it should be the view of collectors that postmarks are in the nature of acquired evil to the stamp (as innocent of it at its birth), and that the less there is of it the better. The general disregard of this view has been frequently brought to my notice, for many years past, as I find stamps with perhaps fifty per cent. of their entire design *obliterated*, but slightly differentiated in appraisement from others that have not perhaps ten per cent. of postmark-covered surface. A golden rule in this matter is to endeavour, as far as possible, to avoid taking specimens in which the centre is not clear of printer's ink. The main feature of a stamp—there is no better word than the *point d'appui*—is almost invariably the central design, whether a head, an heraldic design, an animal, or a landscape, and if the prominent features of any of these are blurred out by postmark, not only the stamp suffers itself, but the whole row on which it is placed. To convince yourselves of the truth of this statement, it is but necessary to temporarily introduce or remove a specimen thus "afflicted" in any row in your albums, and the effect will be at once borne in upon you. In order then, to *make your used stamps fit companions for the unused ones in the same row or page*, it is necessary to exercise great discrimination in their choice. In such cases, such as early New South Wales, Victoria, the De La Rue

English, and Colonials, etc., it is tedious work acquiring specimens that will not clash with the unused, but even here it is astounding how much can be effected with patience and waiting. *Per contra* many of the countries in this next list are noticeable for light and kindly obliterations, and it only requires "a steady persistence in well" choosing to ultimately acquire pages of "indiscriminate used and unused," in which the one will not put the other to shame, and of which the total cost shall be so modest, that this form of specialised collection shall be within the reach of many Philatelists. I may say that for some years (a long while since) I collected in this fashion. To use my own phrase of the time, "I took used where I couldn't get unused," and I am not boasting when I say that the chastening influence of unused stamps on the same page as used, prevented the acquisition of badly-used specimens, and vastly elevated the standard by which they were collected. In order to show that I have not altogether turned my back upon my ancient faith, I have brought a number of specimens of my French stamps, to emphasize my views as to the choice of used specimens. I think it will not be denied that while—as I shall always hold—the unused ones are best, the used ones are so clean that they are, if not the rose, next to it.

The adoption of this system of mixed collecting opens the gate to a wide field for those who like to specialise, in the full modern acceptation of the term; *i.e.* to embrace all possible shades and printings of an issue, to include all varieties of paper, watermark, and perforation, to enliven their pages with pairs, strips, or blocks, and, in a word, to revel in the number of specimens and infinite gradations that is really the true joy of the specialist. Many of the following countries could be classed together in groups—notably, in the South American and European countries—in both of which portions of the globe there are yet scarce stamps undervalued, and many things to be found out by the careful student. I have italicised the countries that I think especially neglected and worthy of study, and have marked with a star those that are the more difficult.

Argentina.
Austria, Austrian-Italy, and Lombardy.
Baden.
Barbados.*
Bavaria.
Belgium.
*Bolivia.**
*Brazil.**
British European Possessions (including Heligoland.)*
British West African Possessions (including St. Helena.)*
Chili.
Cuba and Porto Rico.
Dutch Colonies.
Denmark.
Dominican Republic.
Egypt.
*Finland.**
*France.**
Germany, Thurn and Taxis, Emp. and Conf.
Great Britain.*
Greece.
Hamburg.
Hanover.
Holland.
Hongkong.
*India.**
Italy and Sardinia.
Jamaica.
Japan (not plates).*
Luxemburg.
Norway.
Paraguay.

Parma.*
Prussia.
Roumania.
Russia (Imperial).
Servia.
Sicily, Naples, and Two Sicilies.*
*South Australia.**
Straits and Minor States.
Sweden.
Turkey * (issued varieties only).
*Tuscany.**
*Uruguay.**
*Venezuela.**
Wurtemburg.

I fear that I have been somewhat wearisome in my endeavour to put before my fellow-members that which constitutes really the outcome of many a half-hour's reflection over the Nicotian weed. The subject is so vast that it has been difficult to keep it within the limits of your patience; but, in common with many others, I have had my Philatelic spirit perturbed by the recent rapid evolution of values. I therefore thought it an opportune time to endeavour to open out other Philatelic prospects, and to shew collectors other fields than those so crowded at the present day. If my lucubrations should succeed in widening, in any degree, the choice of Philatelic acquisition, I shall be more than satisfied, as I feel sure that the present "rush" for certain groups is at once a marvellous feature, and an element of danger to "Philately in the expiring century."

The English Embossed Stamps Struck to Order.



E are enabled to publish the following important and interesting correspondence between the Hon. Secretary of the London Philatelic Society and the Inland Revenue Department, respecting the use, or, rather, the misuse, of the embossed dies struck upon envelopes, to suit the purchasers' requirements.

16th December, 1895.

Sir,—I am requested by the Philatelic Society, London, to direct your attention to what appears to my Society to be an abuse arising from the system now in vogue of stamping private envelopes.

It is presumed that the object of the privilege afforded by your department is to enable persons, who for the purposes of their correspondence, have need of envelopes of a higher value than the stamped envelopes sold by the Post-office, to obtain what they require for the purposes of their business, but the practice would seem to have resulted in the production of unnecessary and speculative combinations of stamps.

It would appear to be the custom of many Stamp Dealers to obtain the compound envelopes in as many different combinations as possible, with the object of creating varieties for sale to Stamp Collectors.

In this manner envelopes are stamped in such a form as in many instances to duplicate, and sometimes even to triplicate, varieties of one value, a course which clearly cannot be necessary for ordinary Postal purposes. That the stamps so obtained are not required for such purposes in a large number of instances, is rendered abundantly clear by the fact that they are advertised and offered for sale by Stamp

Dealers in an unused condition, either singly or in quantity, at prices generally double, and sometimes more than double, the face value, the stamps being also sold in sets of as many as 42 varieties at a slightly reduced price.

If I correctly understand the regulations of the Board of Inland Revenue, persons who are licensed for the sale of stamps are forbidden to charge more than the specified value of the stamps with which they are authorised to deal; but in the cases to which I refer, unlicensed persons would seem to be able to put a fancy price upon stamped envelopes as soon as they are received from the Stamping Office.

If this is to be permitted or countenanced, it appears to my Society that the effect of the action of the Authorities is to encourage the creation of unnecessary and speculative issues.

It may possibly be asked what remedies can be suggested, and I am instructed to submit the following for consideration.

1. That, for the future, persons applying for stamps necessitating a combination of values to represent the rate required shall have no voice in the choice of such values, but that the same shall be provided by the use of two dies only, to be specified by the Authorities, no variations from these being permitted; and further, that where one value can be represented by the use of one die, no combinations shall be permitted.

2. That compound envelopes shall only be issued to persons holding a license to sell stamps, on condition that they shall not be sold at a higher price than that fixed by the Authorities, and that such envelopes shall only be issued to unlicensed persons upon a declaration that they are required for *bonâ fide* postal purposes, and will not be offered for sale in an unused condition.

If these conditions were enforced, it is the opinion of my Society that the multiplication of unnecessary combinations would be avoided.

I am quite aware that the result would, possibly, be a diminution of the income derived from impressing paper and envelopes with stamps to denote rates of postage. It is, however, conceived that the production of postage stamps is not a matter which would be considered from a purely commercial or trading standpoint, apart from the actual requirements of the Postal service.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

(Signed) J. A. TILLEARD,
Hon. Secretary, Philatelic Society, London.

J. S. PURCELL, Esq., C.B., Comptroller of Stamps,
Somerset House, W.C.

INLAND REVENUE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, W.C.
4th January, 1896.

SIR,—I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your letter of the 16th ult., addressed to the Comptroller of Stamps and Stores at this office, relative to the system of stamping envelopes for the public with particular combinations of postage rates.

In reply, I am directed to acquaint you that, having given the subject their careful consideration, they do not think it necessary to alter the present regulations, which are founded on the convenience to the Department, and not on the request of the individuals who apply for the stamps.

I am, however, to add that the Philatelic Society is mistaken in thinking that persons who apply for a combination of values have a voice in the choice of such values. As a matter of fact, the values are impressed in the way most convenient with the course of business of the Department.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

W. W. COUSINS.

J. A. TILLEARD, Esq.

Philatelic Notes.

FORGERIES OF JAPAN.

IN volume iii., pages 217 and 241, we had cause to warn collectors against forgeries of the obsolete issues of Japan, which were imported, both unused and used, by an enterprising Japanese, who had printed and mounted them on one sheet. We commented at the time on the sanction of these by the Japanese Government, but have since learnt that each of these stamps bears somewhere the two characters shown,  which stand for "*facsimile*." We have examined the sheet, kindly sent us at the time by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and find that, although in some cases a strong glass is necessary, each stamp bears these marks. Collectors will, therefore, do well to carefully search for these marks on any unused or used copies of these obsolete issues of Japan offered them.

DISCOVERIES.

NEW ZEALAND.—Yet another discovery in the prolific field of the varieties of these Islands, for which we are indebted to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited. The stamp in question is the 2d. imperforate, star watermark, *slate blue*, assigned—erroneously, in view of the present specimens—to the year 1863. The plural refers to another similar stamp, but imperforate, kindly sent us by Mr. P. H. Lee Warner, also obliterated December 3rd (or 23rd), 1862, whose advent curiously coincided with the first-named specimen, which bears the obliteration "B 2—No. 6—1862," in three lines within a circle. The discovery in the latter stamp consists in its being *percé en scie*. The same value, in the dark rich blue, has been long known as a fairly rare stamp thus perforated, the 6d. of the same series being less scarce. The stamp under consideration is a remarkably clear, fine specimen, postmarked upon part of the original letter, and its authenticity is beyond doubt. This slate-blue colour is approximately found among the pelure paper series, and we should think it not improbable that this colour followed on next. This slate-blue twopenny is therefore now known imperforate, rouletted, and *percé en scie*, and the possession of these three varieties, including the imperforate unused, will be found a task not unworthy of achievement by the most advanced and energetic Australian collector.

THE AUSTRIAN MERCURY STAMPS.

THESE "new found stamps" were briefly alluded to in our last issue, it being stated that they had been condemned by the Austrian Philatelic Club. Without in any degree impugning the accuracy of this decision, it is only fair to state that Mr. S. Friedl, of Vienna, from whom the stamps

mainly emanated (who has, moreover, most loyally re-imbursed all purchasers when required), still strenuously affirms the genuineness of these stamps, and has issued a circular—briefly to the following effect. It appears that the suppositious forgeries were submitted to Herr C. Angerer, sen., of Vienna, who is an expert in printing matter, by a gentleman in the Viennese Society, and were by him dubbed "zinco-photographic reproductions." Mr. Friedl has now submitted to this same gentleman other—and presumably similar—copies of the Mercuries in his possession, with the result that Herr Angerer affirms that these latter stamps submitted by Herr Friedl do not possess the same characteristics as the previous ones, and do not justify his ascribing their reproduction to the aforesaid process. Herr Friedl also announces, in furtherance of his strong opinion as to the genuineness of the stamps, the institution of a Commission of Experts to sit upon the whole matter.

This last step is eminently advisable in the interests of all concerned, and we can only hope that Herr Friedl's views may be justified by the result. Our own opinion is against the stamps, from a critical examination (after attention was called to their dubious origin). We did not find the undoubted colours of the rose or the red values, and utterly failed, after examination of some thousands of used Austrian stamps, to find a single specimen on which the postmark tallied with any one of those of Herr Friedl's "find."

There are two items of evidence which Herr Friedl should endeavour to procure in support of his case. First, the full and substantiated history of where and how these stamps were found; and, secondly, the production of specimens bearing similar postmarks, and adhering by similar mucilage, to those of common varieties of Austrian stamps of that period. Q. E. F.

Occasional Notes.

THE ANTI-SPECULATIVE CRUSADE.

THE following item of news is good if true, and will be better still if Ecuador's example finds imitators.

"Ecuador has been the first of the South American States to respond to the appeal of the American Philatelists for a reform of their stamp issues. The appeal was addressed to all the Spanish-American republics of South and Central America, and was directed against the issue of fresh series of stamps each year, which were obviously not intended to meet the postal requirements of the countries issuing them, but were both speculative and unnecessary, as they were solely designed to catch the ever-increasing army of collectors. Ecuador is at this moment in the hands of a Dictator—General Eloy Alfaro—who, in the decree promulgating the new postal regulations, signs himself as 'Supreme Head of the Republic,' and not as President. The decree states that it is unworthy of the Dignity of the Republic to continue the existing contracts for the supply of postage stamps, and accordingly declares that the contract is rescinded. It absolutely forbids the sale of 'remainders,' and instructs the Treasury to take measures 'in order to re-establish the credit of the postage stamps of Ecuador.'"

THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

IT is with the gravest regret that we have to announce the death of the President of the London Philatelic Society, the Earl of Kingston, who died at Cairo on Monday, in the forty-eighth year of his age. Lord Kingston was the son of the sixth Earl by his marriage with Ann, daughter of Sir R. N. Gore-Booth, and was born on July 31, 1848. His father died in 1869, and his elder brother, Robert, seventh Earl, having died in 1871, he succeeded to the Earldom. He was a Major and Honorary Lieut.-Colonel of the 5th Battalion Connaught Rangers, a Magistrate for the counties of Roscommon and Leitrim, was Lord-Lieutenant of the former county, and had been Representative Peer since 1887. In 1872 he married a daughter of the late Colonel E. King-Tenison, of Kilronan Castle, and in 1883 assumed, by Royal License, the additional surname of Tenison. He is succeeded by his only surviving son, Viscount Kingsborough, who was born September 19, 1874, was educated at Eton, and has been a Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion (Militia) of the Leicestershire Regiment since 1894.

The connection of the noble and lamented Earl with Philately is alluded to elsewhere in this issue. His untimely and sad decease, after the lately raised hopes of recovery, will evoke the deepest sympathy, not only from the members of the London Society, but from all sections and ranks of the Philatelic world.

A GOOD INVESTMENT.

WHAT energetic and almost ubiquitous firm—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited—have recently purchased the collection of a gentleman, who gathered his treasures together in "the good old days," when used stamps were to be had for the asking, and modern rarities could be purchased at the Post-offices for a few pence. The total result of the expenditure of this misguided gentleman, who risked the loss of interest and depreciation of stock (!) for over thirty years, was £69, while the amount paid to him by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons is £2200! This is an increase of about 3200 per cent., or, roughly, 100 per cent. per annum, which, even in these days of diamond mines and gold fields, is not to be despised.

The collection is mainly composed of unused specimens, mostly in brilliant condition, and, although it only numbers some 3000 specimens, would delight any collector. The rarest stamp therein, and one of the rarest in the world, is the Cape "wood block" error, fourpenny, red, *unused*. The 4 c., British Guiana, on blue "sugar paper," of 1856, and the 81 paras, Roumania, are also no trifles, and there are scores of other rare stamps in perfect condition. "Prodigious" (to quote the Dominie) is the result achieved in one generation by the simple rule of "not being in a hurry to part"!

MR. E. D. BACON.

WE have received the following notice from Mr. Bacon, to which we give publicity, in the hope that his numerous correspondents may take due notice thereof. Mr. Bacon has retired from his late business, a fact upon which it is hardly our province to comment, except to express the hope of all Philatelists that he will now be enabled to devote more time to the pursuit of which he is such a prominent and respected member.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

41, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.
31*st December*, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—Please note that after the above date all communications for me should be addressed to

"Fairview,"
Spencer Road,
South Croydon, Surrey.

I remain, yours faithfully, E. D. BACON.

SEEBECK ISSUES.

"THE main issue," writes Mr. Seebeck, "is that the stamps so issued are really required by the Governments."

That stamps are required by every Government possessing a Post-office may be granted, but *the main issue* is whether a new design is necessary for every year.

If remainders are to be accepted as payment, it is certain that the number printed will be far in excess of the estimated requirements, more especially if there is no reprinting; and the whole thing is a speculation, not on the part of the Government, but of the contractor.

Writing of the latest "Revenue" issues, Mr. Seebeck acknowledges that he will lose money on them, because of "the small quantity of these species that will ever be sold to collectors."

While fully appreciating Mr. Seebeck's statement, that he desires to put an end to these contracts as soon as he can honourably do so, it must, I think, be acknowledged that the chief blame rests, not with the Governments who accepted, but with the contractor who offered the present arrangement.

The worst feature in the matter is that the main sale of these labels is to schoolboys and others who do not understand the facts, and are induced to part with their money in exchange for worthless rubbish.

Let dealers, catalogue writers, and Philatelic editors combine to ignore these issues, and the business instincts of Mr. S., and all others who have followed his lead, will soon induce them to terminate unremunerative contracts.

[The foregoing pertinent remarks are made by an esteemed correspondent.—ED.]

THE SANTIAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S ANNUAL.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of the annual book of this enterprising Society, which contains a variety of articles upon various phases of the Chilian and South American stamps. We regret that our want of education, as regards the Spanish language, hardly enables us to do full justice to the work, but, aided by numerous illustrations, the purport of the several interesting articles can be gathered, and should stimulate the reviving interest in the *genuine* stamp-issuing South American countries. We congratulate our Chilian friends upon their work, and urge their excellent example upon other societies nearer home.

THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF AMERICA.

IT is not our custom to criticise our contemporaries, but the "semi-annual" magazine issued by the Mekeel Co., under the new arrangement, can hardly be classed as a periodical. The work, which comprises fifty-six pages, with a number of interesting and well-written articles, is an exquisite production as regards typography, paper, and illustrations. The main feature is an elaborate history of the recent marvellous discovery of St. Louis stamps. Their previous history, the incidents of the discovery and subsequent distribution, are fully treated on, as is their more strictly Philatelic aspect, ably seconded by a number of "fine grain" illustrations of the various plates and alterations thereof. The work is so excellent that the fame of the firm alone would have been well and deservedly spread without its pictorial representation!

Reviews.

THE SCOTT CATALOGUE FOR 1896.*

THE benefits of competition among publishers to the general army of collectors are once more evident in the perusal of Messrs. Scott's new catalogue. It is in almost every way better than any of its predecessors, and taken as a whole, is certainly not surpassed by any recent work of the like nature. Each new catalogue embodies the improvements of its competitors, and introduces in turn new features, some of which, in this instance, in the preliminary Hints and Lists for Collectors, being of great utility. Among the latter is a list of the Colonies controlled by European States, and we were surprised to find herein included, under "British Colonies," Heligoland, Madagascar, and Transvaal! We are glad that the German

* *The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, 1896. The Scott Stamp and Coin Co. Ltd., New York. Sole Agent for Great Britain: W. T. Wilson, 192, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

Emperor is not a Philatelist, or Messrs. Scott's catalogue would assuredly be banished from the Fatherland!

The lists of stamps have been further amplified and brought up to date, both the great Anglo-Saxon countries having really excellent lists of all the existent varieties. A further feature is the inclusion, at the end, of a list (unpriced) of the Speculative Stamps, with a warning against them; while in the Special Notices we read that no reprint will be sold without that word imprinted on the reverse side. This is a common-sense view of the situation, for reprints are necessary to all advanced collectors, as finger-posts to the true goal.

The illustrations are in the main excellent, but in a few cases very indifferent, and the text and paper all that can be desired. We are surprised, however, to see that while the Norwegian and Danish "locals" are justly omitted, the Egyptian "officials" (of the bottled-ale label type) should be included, as they are in no sense postage stamps. The prices, although far more up to date, are frequently fallacious, an inevitable result from the attempt to price nearly every stamp. The defects are, however, but spots on the surface of a thoroughly good and commendable catalogue, which will assuredly find a wide circle of appreciators.

HERR PAUL KOHL'S EUROPEAN CATALOGUE.*

We have been favoured with a copy of the revised edition of this Catalogue, now well and favourably known on the Continent. The alterations in text and price are printed in red, thus adding in the latter case an additional element of interest. The lists of varieties in nearly all countries, especially those of Germany, are far fuller and more faithfully worked out than those of the general catalogues, and it is a book that should be on the table of every collector of European stamps. The Philatelic part is of far more value than the financial—the prices being in many cases very wide of the mark. The various foot-notes will be found to give concisely the broad results of all recent results and discoveries, while the Finger Index is only one of several innovations which characterise Herr Kohl's Catalogue as both ingenious and meritorious.

* *Catalogue of the Stamps of Europe.* Corrected Edition. Paul Kohl, 16, West Strasse, Chemnitz, Germany.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—The date of the annexation of this colony to the Cape of Good Hope is officially announced as being the 16th November, 1895. No change of the current surcharged Great Britain stamps has as yet been heard of, although such a change would seem to be highly probable.



BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—We illustrate the surcharge constituting the first issue of this new Protectorate, and chronicled on page 328, vol. iv.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—We are indebted to Messrs. Cameron and Co. for a further set of makeshift surcharges, pending the arrival of the permanent issue. This time the Indian current and obsolete series have been brought into use. It is said these were surcharged and sent out by Messrs. De La Rue, but we should rather say that what values were available were procured from Zanzibar, as among the set we find the obsolete 8 as., mauve, and 1 rupee, slate, surcharged. The overprint consists of "British East Africa" in lower-case type, with capital initials, the surcharge on the higher values being slightly larger than that on the lower. Besides the four mentioned last month, we have :

Adhesives. 1 a. 6 pies, brown ; black surcharge.
2½ a. on 1 a. 6 pies ,,
3 as., orange ,,
4 ,, olive ,,
6 ,, bistre ,,
8 ,, mauve ,,
12 ,, brown on *red* ,,
1 rupee, slate ,,
2 rupees, brown and rose ,,
3 ,, green and brown ,,
5 ,, violet and blue ,,

Since the above was written, we have news that the Indian Post Office has been withdrawn from Zanzibar, and that two new sets of stamps—one for the B.E.A., and one for the Zanzibar Protectorate—are being prepared, but we understand that the headquarters of both Protectorates are at Zanzibar, both being worked by one office.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.—We have it on good authority that a complete new series of adhesives, envelopes, and cards is being prepared in London; also, that the designs have been engraved on steel, and are to be printed in two colours. Further particulars will follow.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—A new Letter Card came into use on November 15th last, bearing a similar stamp to that on the one-penny post card.

Letter Card. 1 penny, red on *grey*.

GIBRALTAR.—We have two novelties from Messrs. Whitfield, King, and Co., one of which appears to be a new value.

Adhesives. 20 centimos, bistre.
2 pesetas, black and carmine.

INDIA.—We illustrate the "Postal Service" series spoken of on page 144, vol. iv., and are indebted to the *M. J.* for the following description of their use. "The stamps of India, with the surcharge 'On Postal Service,' are supplied to post-offices to represent Customs' dues, levied on foreign inward parcels. The amount of Customs' duty recovered from the addressees is indicated by these labels, affixed to the parcel receipts, which are either despatched to the Comptroller of Post-offices at Calcutta, or to the Local Examiner. The stamps are obliterated with red ink, and are ultimately destroyed by being punched with a large round hole. They are not available for sale to the public, although specimens have no doubt been sold, and otherwise obtained, both obliterated and unobliterated."



QUEENSLAND.—Our illustration represents the new 5d. adhesive, which is of the usual watermark and perforation.



Adhesive 5d. brown.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The *Australian Philatelist* has received the 1d. label with the new perforation 13. *Adhesive.* 1d., green.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Native States.* We can now add the following to our lists, as having actually appeared; to economise space, we omit colours, which are the same through the whole series (see page 270, vol. iv.)

PAHANG. 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 8 c., 10 c., 50 c., $1, $5.

PERAK. $1, $5.

NEGRI SEMBILAN.

1 c., 2 c., 3 c., 5 c., 8 c., 10 c., 50 c., $1, $5.

SELANGOR. 1 c., 2 c., 8 c.

SUNGEI UJONG.

1 c., 2 c., 3 c., 5 c., 8 c., 10 c., 50 c., $1, $5.

VICTORIA.—As the *M. J.* quaintly remarks, the authorities are determined that there shall be no excuse for any confusion between the 9d. and the 2s. stamps; besides having withdrawn the latter in its new colour (page 270, vol. iv.), they have changed the tint of the former from green to *rose!* the watermark as usual, and perforation 12.

Adhesive. 9d., rose.

EUROPE.

BAVARIA.—Previous to the issue of the new value of Postage Due stamps, the *Echo* states that some 5 pf. stamps were surcharged "2" in red, in the four corners of the stamp.

Postage Due. "2" in red on 5 pf., red and grey.

NORWAY.—*Le T.-P.* mentions the following in the redrawn type of NORGE:

Adhesive. 1 öre, grey-brown.
Post Cards. 3 öre, orange on *white.*
5+5 „ green on *white* (reply).

AMERICA.

URUGUAY.—We now chronicle and illustrate the remaining values of the new issues. These are the work of Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, and, but for the very ordinary selection of colours, form a very handsome series; the perforation is 14½.

Adhesives. 2 c., blue.
7 c., green.
10 c., brown
20 c., green, centre black.
25 c., red-brown „









UNITED STATES.—We are indebted to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* for the following list of dates upon which the current values were issued upon the watermarked papers.

1 c., April 29, 1895.
2 c., May 2, 1895.
3 c., 1895.
4 c., June 8, 1895.
5 c., June 11, 1895.
6 c., Aug. 31, 1895.
8 c., July 22, 1895.
10 c., June 7, 1895.
15 c., Sept. 10, 1895.
50 c., 1895.
$1 00, Aug. 12, 1895.
$2.00, „ 13, 1895.
$5.00, „ 16, 1895.
10 c., Special Delivery, Aug. 16, 1895.

We must apologise to our American readers for our lateness with the illustrations of the higher values of newspaper stamps.















OTHER COUNTRIES.

FORMOSA.—*Le Timbre-Poste* reproduces a smudge which is explained to be an illustration of the new stamps for the Republic of Formosa! and quaintly remarks that where the centre is supposed to contain a tiger, nothing at all is to be seen (a case of, Puzzle—find the tiger). From another contemporary we learn that the die is in philatelic hands, and further that the stamps have already been imitated; the values are said to be in "cash" (very much so!) and are—

Adhesives. 30 cash, green.
50 cash, red.
100 cash, violet.

CURAÇAO.—On the 15th November last, the 10 cent. stamp with the effigy of the King, was surcharged "2½ cent." in carmine, and three days later the permanent 10 cent adhesive, bearing the effigy of the young Queen, was issued.

Adhesive. 2½ c. on 10 c., ultramarine, red surch.
10 cents, ultramarine.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.
Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.
Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD. | *Hon. Assistant Secretary*—R. PEARCE.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS. | *Librarian*—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON. | E. B. EVANS. | T. WICKHAM JONES.
R. EHRENBACH. | D. GARTH. | H. R. OLDFIELD.

THE ninth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 13th December, 1895, at 7.30.

The members in attendance were Messrs. T. Maycock, R. Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, E. A. Elliott, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, E. Stanley Gibbons, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President the chair was occupied by Mr. Maycock, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The receipt from Messrs. R. F. Albrecht & Co. of a bound copy of the priced catalogues of their auction sales in 1894 was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

Letters were read from Mr. A. Ludwig, Mr. F. H. Kay, Mr. W. T. Spink, and Mr. T. G. Nicholson, resigning their membership of the Society as from the end of the current year, and the resignations were accepted with regret.

Surgeon-Major A. E. Newland, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Gordon Smith then read a paper on "The Re-touch of the General Colonial Plate," in which, after referring to the several plates made by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. for the Colonial stamps produced by them in recent years, and the particular uses for which they were employed, he dealt particularly with the General Plate which was not appropriated to any particular colony or value, but was used for several colonies and values, including, in some cases, fiscal as well as postage stamps. He explained the discovery of the fact that the first die had either been re-engraved, or that a second die had been prepared, and gave a description of the differences between the

two dies, and a list of the stamps made from each. For the purpose of comparison an enlarged photograph of two Cyprus stamps, shewing the differences referred to, was handed round for inspection by members present, as well as specimens of several of the stamps mentioned in the paper.

On the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Oldfield, a resolution, expressing the cordial thanks of the Society to Mr. Gordon Smith for his most interesting paper, which will be published in the *London Philatelist*, was carried unanimously.

THE tenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 20th December, 1895, at 7.30 p.m., being attended by the following members, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, F. E. Horton, A. A. Davis, T. Maycock, F. Ransom, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox, and O. P. Rubeck.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The business of the evening consisted of a discussion on the prices of stamps, which was opened by Mr. Ehrenbach. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Ehrenbach referred to the special reasons which from time to time affected the market prices of stamps, and gave a large number of instances in which the prices quoted and obtained in this country and elsewhere could not be strictly justified on their merits; and he also commented on the numerous cases in which disparity in values was apparent to most collectors. Many of the members present took part in the discussion, which was summed up by the Chairman in an interesting speech, and, on the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Pearce, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ehrenbach for introducing the subject for discussion.

THE eleventh meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 3rd January, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., the members in attendance being—Major Evans, and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, R. Pearce, C. N. Biggs, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, C. J. Daun, J. G. Tolhurst, F. L. Cator, G. B. Routledge, E. J. Nankivell, T. Maycock, F. Ransom, O. Pfenninger, W. Barnard, E. A. Elliott, W. Cowland, L. S. Wells, H. Quare, A. W. Chambers, O. P. Rubeck, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox, and A. A. Davis. Five visitors were also present.

The chair was taken by Major Evans, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported the receipt from the Philatelic Society of Santiago of a copy of their "Anales" for 1895, which was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

A letter from Mr. Edward Chambers, announcing his resignation of membership, was read, and the resignation was accepted with much regret.

Mr. Tilleard then read the reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the communication sent to him in the name of the Society, on the subject of the New South Wales Official Stamps, recently issued by the postal authorities of that colony, stating that a copy of the Society's letter had been forwarded to the Governor for communication to his Ministers, but that no further action could be taken, as the matter was within the competence of the Colonial Government.—On the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by the Secretary, it was resolved that the views of the Society on the subject of the issue should be represented to the Governor of the colony direct.

Lieut.-Colonel Frederick W. Joseph, proposed by Mr. G. J. Hynes, and seconded by the Secretary, and the Rev. R. T. de Carteret, proposed by Mr. F. Ransom, and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society.

The remainder of the evening was occupied with the inspection of a very fine selection of stamps of the Leeward Islands, entrusted to Messrs. R. F. Albrecht and Co., of New York, for sale by auction, in upwards of 600 lots, and kindly placed by them at the disposal of the Society for inspection by members attending the meeting. The Secretary explained that Mr. Albrecht had expected to be able to attend personally with the stamps, but had been compelled to postpone his contemplated visit to England. A resolution according a vote of thanks to Messrs. Albrecht and Co. for kindly sending the stamps, and to Mr. W. H. Peckitt, who was present at the meeting, for showing the collection, which had been placed in his charge, was carried by acclamation.

Mr. O. Portman Rubeck showed a set of the new newspaper stamps of the United States of America.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: W. T. WILSON, ESQ.
Hon. Sec. and Treas.: MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

DECEMBER 19th, 1895. Messrs. A. Tsimis (Athens), E. F. Wurtele (Quebec), H. B. Squire (London), R. Reid (London), were unanimously elected members.

Votes of thanks were accorded Mr. E. F. Wurtele for fifteen Philatelic periodicals, and Mr. R. F. Albrecht for a bound copy of "Auction Prices."

Mr. W. Pimm then gave his paper on St. Vincent, which was illustrated by one of the finest displays we have had, including his own collection and those of Messrs. G. F. Jackson, R. Hollick, G. Johnson, together with selections from other members. Almost every variety of watermark and perforation was shown in unused and used condition, in singles, pairs, and blocks. The 4d. on 1s. was shown in both types, used and unused. All recent values and provisionals, from ½d. to 5s. inclusive, were shown in complete sheets. It was noted that the only stamp required to complete the exhibit was a *used* copy of the 5s., star watermark. Several unused copies were shown, but no one showed it used.

JANUARY 2nd, 1896. Messrs. W. Hadlow (London), H. L. Hayman (London), H. J. Stuart (Pietermaritzburg), H. Gremmel (New York), G. C. Philippides (Alexandria, Egypt), were unanimously elected members.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded all those publishers who had sent their periodicals, and had printed the monthly reports of the Society during the past year.

A vote of thanks was given to the Santiago Philatelic Society for a copy of their "Anales."

It was decided to purchase volume i. of the *London Philatelist* and ten volumes of the *Philatelic Record* for the library.

A Committee Meeting was called for January 13th, and an Extraordinary General Meeting for January 16th, to decide as to division of exchange packets, sheets for packets, &c.

Then followed the display of the stamps of West Africa. All countries, excepting Liberia, which only one member showed at all, were exhibited complete, very many varieties being shown in complete sheets.

January Exchange Packet. This easily beat last month's "record," and reached the total of £1422 2s. 6½d., more than half of which consists of *unused* colonials, including early Mauritius, British North America, and West Indies, all in mint condition. Besides this, £200 worth has been received from Colonial members, but has to await enquiries as to discount, &c., and three sheets were refused owing to untidiness. Soiled or untidy sheets will not be circulated under any circumstances, and senders of such will have them returned at their expense, and will lose their position on the postal list.

BENGAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

MEETING of the society, held on the 21s. November, 1895, at Mr. Larmour's residence.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. C. F. Larmour was voted to the chair.

The following gentlemen were ballotted for: H. F. Samman, Esq., I.C.S., proposed by the Hon. Secretary, seconded by E.W. St. Russell, Esq.; Dr. C. L. Faulkner, proposed by the Hon. Secretary, seconded by Wilmot W. Corfield, Esq., and elected unanimously.

Mr. Wilmot proposed that the Government be petitioned again regarding the import duty on postage stamps, which duty, as previously represented to Government, is unjust, while not beneficial to the State. The matter will be taken up again at next meeting, when a fresh petition will be submitted for approval.

Mr. C. F. Larmour said that, considering the popularity of the last exhibition, it should be desirable to have one again this season, when even a greater success may be expected. It was resolved by the members present, that at next general meeting this matter be definitely discussed, and practical measures taken to carry out the proposal.

A vote to the chair closed the meeting.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—BARON DE WORMS. *President*—M. P. CASTLE.
Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. WILLETT, West House, Brighton.

THE fifth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, December 9th, at 8.15 p.m. Nine members and one visitor were present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Dr. Seymour Burrows took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. W. T. Willett exhibited his collection of Great Britain, which was practically complete, and included specimens of all the rarities, and several shades of the principal varieties. A cordial vote of thanks, proposed by Dr. Seymour Burrows, seconded by Mr. Marshall, was accorded Mr. Willett for his interesting display.

THE sixth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, December 23rd, at 8.15 p.m. Eight members and one visitor attended. The President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. R. J. Woodman exhibited his collection of the stamps of the United States of America, which included a fine series of shades of the early issues, complete sets of departmentals, and many interesting minor varieties. Mr. Castle showed a complete set of the very handsome proofs of this country.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S.

AT the meeting held Saturday, 16th November, Mr. Wm. Beckwith, an ex-President, in the chair, there was a moderate attendance of members. Mr. George Smithson, of Hull, was elected a member, on the proposition of the Hon. Secretaries. The donations, for which thanks were voted, included the Report of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*, the *Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser*, the *Post Office*, the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, *El Heraldo Timbrologico*, etc.

Mr. John H. Thackrah then gave an interesting description of the stamps of Antigua, illustrated by his own and other members' collections, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks at the close.

AT the meeting held Monday, December 2nd, 1895, the President occupied the chair, and there was a fair gathering of members.

A vote of sympathy with the Rev. T. S. Fleming on his recent accident was passed, and one of thanks to Mr. J. F. C. Sieber for contributions to the Black Book, and to Mr. Hilckes for the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*. Mr. T. K. Skipworth showed the 1s. Queensland on Beer Duty paper, and new issues of Transvaal and Brazil; and Mr. Herbert Hepworth also showed novelties.

Mr. Eugene Egly then read a most valuable and interesting paper on the Occupation Stamps issued during, and after, the Franco-German war, entering into the subject in considerable detail, and illustrating it by a fine series of examples. At the close he received the thanks of the meeting.

AT the meeting held Saturday, December 14th, 1895, the chair was occupied by the President. Mr. E. Egly exhibited a new shade of the 2d. Victoria—postage due; and other stamps were shown.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Oliver Firth, his paper on "The Stamps of the Virgin Islands" was read by Mr. W. Beckwith, and illustrated by the collections of various members.

The paper contains many valuable suggestions and opinions, but having been, in the first instance, read to the Bradford Society, we refrain from any further details. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded, on the motion of Mr. T. K. Skipwith.

T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH, 13, *Victoria Road, Headingly, Leeds*; JOHN H. THACKRAH, 54, *St. Michael's Road, Headingly, Leeds.* } *Hon. Secs.*

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT. *Vice-President*—R. TYETH STEVENS.
Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the session was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, December 4th. There were ten members present, the Vice-President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Vice-President commenced a series of informal papers on the stamps of the West Indies; Antigua and Bahamas forming the subject of his remarks on that occasion. Assisted by his carefully-arranged collection, he took the members through the various issues, and cleared the way for the younger Philatelists to understand how to form and arrange their collections of these interesting countries.

Mr. Stevens's study and careful observation of the stamps also enabled him to give some valuable "tips" to the members as to which stamps were, in his opinion, at present underrated, and consequently desirable ones to be obtained before their rarity is generally known.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded him, the members present agreeing that the evening was one of the most pleasant and instructive they had had.

At the next meeting the Vice-President will give his attention to the stamps of Barbados, and the meeting after Mr. A. E. L. Westaway will occupy the evening, with an explanation of the various printings of the 1872 issue of the United States stamps.

THE fifth ordinary meeting of the session was held on Wednesday, December 18th, at 7.30 p.m., nine members and a visitor being present, the Vice-President taking the chair. The Hon. Secretary reported having received donations to the library from Mr. Ewen and Mr. Hadlow, to both of whom a cordial vote of thanks was passed.

The Vice-President read an extremely interesting paper on the stamps of Barbados, being the second of a series of papers relating to the stamps of the West Indies. He was enabled to illustrate his remarks with his own very complete collection. He gave those present some excellent suggestions as to the collecting of these stamps, at the same time exhibiting some uncatalogued varieties, the relative rarity of which he explained.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of* THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—THE LONDON PHILATELIST *will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of* 6s. ($1.50). *Subscribers' remittances should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

CHILIAN VARIETIES.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—May I be permitted to put forward two or three queries, in the hope that some of the many readers of the *London Philatelist* may be able to elucidate the points in question.

1. What was the date, and what the *raison d'être*, of the 10 cts. blue Chili, imperf., being tranversely bisected, and used provisionally as 5 cts.?

2. What are the 5 cts. and 10 cts. (?) 2nd issue Chili on *thick card paper*? Are they proofs? If so, how is it that they are found perforated and postmarked in no wise differently to the ordinary specimens of this issue?

I have a copy of the 5 cts. (I am not sure if the 10 cts. exists thus, but I hear so), which was found among several hundreds of ordinary copies and *has undoubtedly franked a letter*. Should anyone be able to give me information on these two points, I should be very thankful. Yours truly,

P. H. L. W.

Jan. 1st, 1890

THE LITHOGRAPHED CANADIAN 3 CENT ENVELOPE STAMP.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose a stamp, 3 c. Canada envelope, lithographed. There were only 500 *issued*. Mr. F. A. Wise, C.E., Superintending Engineer, Rideau Canal, sent in "requisition" for 500 stamped envelopes, in 1890. This was forwarded to the British American Bank Note Co. At that time, the die from which the ordinary 3 c. embossed envelope was printed was mislaid. They informed him so. He insisted in having envelopes at once; so they made the *lithograph*, and printed 500. They found the missing die. I noticed these in 1894, and had the envelopes saved. They had been forwarded to all the "Lock Masters on Rideau Canal," and I had the present Acting Superintendent Engineer (Mr. Wise is now dead) save me the envelopes. What I have, cost me over 50c. each. I can guarantee that there are not as many as 90 in existence. Every year the envelopes are forwarded to lock masters, in order that they may make their weekly reports. Yours truly,

J. B. LEWIS.

OTTAWA.

[The two specimens forwarded are roughly lithographed imitations of the 1877 issue, and both have apparently done postal duty within the last twelve months.—ED.]

BRITISH INDIAN POST CARDS.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to Surgeon-Major Harris' letter on the colour of British Indian post cards, I beg to state that I possess a specimen of an English thick post card, with border, dated *December 30th*, 1875, in deep blue-green.

The original colour was violet, and the card was among a quantity of baggage recovered from a sunken vessel. The change in colour is evidently due to the action of sea-water. Is it not possible that this may be the cause in the case of the Indian cards? I am, yours truly,

ERNEST A. ELLIOTT.

41, HOLLAND PARK, W., *Jan. 1st.*, 1896.

AFGHAN FORGERIES.

DEAR SIR,—Will you, through the medium of your columns, kindly warn collectors and dealers of Afghans of the following two forgeries which have just come to my notice?—a collector in Bombay, to whom they were offered for sale, having sent them to me for opinion.

The stamps he sent purported to be two distinct types of the 1293 "tablet" Shahi, both of which, on examination, I found to be clever forgeries, very likely to be accepted as genuine by collectors who are not well acquainted with the whole twelve types of the Shahi: one especially was a very good imitation of the type which Mr. E. D. Bacon believes to be No. 13 on the tablet plate. Doubtless they both emanated from the same source, as the forger is referred to by the late Mr. G. Harrison, in the *London Philatelist* for *June*, 1894; but, being of different value to those he therein names, I thought you might like to warn collectors of the Shahi being now forged.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. H. HANCOCK,
Captain, 26th Punjab Infantry.

JHELUM, PUNJAB, *Nov. 30th*, 1895.

THE 2 C., ORANGE, PERAK (TIGER).

DEAR SIR,—On page 270 of the *London Philatelist*, under the heading "Straits Settlements," is stated that the 2 cents, orange, Perak, never existed. This is not correct. I myself have 100 copies of the stamp in question, of which I enclose a copy for your acceptance. I have also seen postally used copies.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

G. FRASER MELBOURN.

SUMATRA, *5th December*, 1895.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes — Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used.

Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.

The sale on January 6th and 7th :—

	£	s.	d.
Bremen, imperf., 7 gr.	2	4	0
France, first issue, 20 cts., blue, error	3	12	6
Afghanistan, 1294, Jellalabad, ½ and 1 rupee, black, unused (2)	7	15	0
British Colombia, perf. 12½, 25 cents, unused strip of 3	3	2	0
Ditto, a pair	2	2	0
United States, Columbus set	4	4	0

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper.

The sale on January 2nd :—

Oldenburg, second issue, ⅓ gros., black on green, unused	6	7	6
Wurtemburg, 1858, 3 kr., orange, unused	4	10	0
Ditto, 7 kr., dull blue, rouletted, unused	2	2	0
Naples, 50 grano, lake	2	4	0
Geneva, double stamp, joined	6	5	0
Ceylon, star wmk., 8d., brown, perf.	3	0	0
Canada, 7½d., green, unused	12	12	0
Ditto, 6d., purple-black, perf., unused	12	10	0
Ditto, 10d., blue, unused	6	0	0
Newfoundland, 4d., orange-verm.	3	10	0
Ditto, 2d., carmine-vermilion	6	6	0
Ditto, 6½d., carmine-vermilion	7	5	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., cold violet	17	0	0
British Guiana, 1851, 1 c., black on magenta	4	0	0
Nevis, 4d., rose, unused	3	10	0
Ditto, 1s, green, perf. 13, unused	4	10	0
St. Vincent, 1d., rose-red, imperf., unused, horizontal pair	13	10	0
Ditto, perf. 12, 1s., indigo-blue, unused block of 4	10	10	0
Ditto, perf. 11, 1s., indigo-blue, unused, vertical strip of 3	11	0	0
Tobago, Cr. CA, 6d., ochre	10	0	0
New Zealand, 1d., red on blue paper, horizontal pair	4	0	0
Ditto, 2d., ultramarine, on thick paper, serrated perf	5	10	0

The following were sold at the two days' sale on January 14th and 15th :

Gibraltar, first issue, complete	4	0	0
Spain, 1852, 2 reals, red	10	10	0
„ 1853 „ „	6	0	0
Tuscany, 3 lire, yellow	40	0	0
Wurtemburg, 6 kr., green, unused	5	5	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	15	15	0
„ 2s., blue „	7	0	0
„ wmk. Star, perf., 8d., yellow-brown, unused	10	0	0
Mauritius, large fillet, 2d., blue	8	0	0
Natal, 1s., green, curved, carmine surcharge	14	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., cold violet	18	10	0
Dominica, CA, 1s., carmine	7	10	0
Peru, medio peso, rose	12	0	0

Mr. W. Hadlow.

The sale on January 13th :—

Spain, 1850, 10 reales, green	3	6	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2½ rap., red and blue	4	15	0
Ditto, Vaud, 4 c., black and red	14	0	0
Afghanistan, 1293, value in tablet, ½ rupee, black	5	15	0
Mexico, 1872, 100 c., green, error, surch. "47," "68"	5	5	0
Nevis, Cr. CA, 1s., purple, unused	2	6	0
Ditto, perf. 13, 4d., carmine, unused	3	2	6
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine-verm.	3	3	0
Ditto, 1s., ditto, cut close	8	5	0
Ditto, 6½d., ditto, unused, cut close	5	5	0
Ditto, 6d., ditto, cut close	3	12	6
St. Vincent, perf. 11½ × 15, 1s., light lake, unused	3	7	6
Ditto, perf. 11½, 1s., deep brown, unused	5	10	0
S. Australia, first issue, 1s., orange, pair	3	9	0

Messrs. R. F. Albrecht & Co.
(New York City.)

The following were disposed of at the sale on December 3rd and 4th ($5 = £1) :—

United States, 1857-60, 90 c., blue, unused	3	10	0
Ditto, 1868, 3 c., rose, grilled all over	2	17	0
Ditto, 1869, 30 c., unused	2	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 90 c.	3	7	0
Ditto, 1893, $1, vertical pair, unused	2	9	0
Ditto, Agriculture, complete set, unused	3	16	0
Ditto, Justice, 30 c.	2	12	0
Ditto, ditto, 90 c.	5	0	0
Ditto, Navy, complete set, unused	4	4	0
Ditto, State, ditto, ditto (1 c.–90 c.)	5	15	0
Barbados, 5s., rose	2	2	0
Brazil, 600 reis (Italics)	2	8	0
Canada, 7½d., green	3	4	0
Fiji, *Times Express*, 1d., black on rose quadrillé, unused	3	15	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., ditto, ditto	2	16	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., ditto, ditto, ditto	2	12	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2½ rap. (fair)	3	0	0
Ditto, Zurich, 1843, 4 rap, black (horizontal lines), No. 5 on plate	20	0	0

A total of £845 was realized on 725 lots.

At the sale on Dec. 17th and 18th, the collections of Messrs. J. English and W. G. Jerrems, Jr., were disposed of, £768 being realized on 598 lots. Some of the most interesting items were :

	£	s.	d.
United States, 1857-60, 90 c., blue, unused	3	5	0
Ditto, 1868, 3 c., grilled all over	3	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 90 c., a pair	4	0	0
Ditto, State, set, 1 c.–90 c., unused	6	8	0
Barbados, 5s., rose (!)	3	2	0
British Guiana, 1876, 96 c., bistre, unused	2	17	0
Canada, 6d., violet, imperf., on thick wove paper, unused (cut close)	9	5	0
Ditto, 7½d., green, unused	11	12	0
Ditto, 10d., blue, ditto	5	11	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	13	7	0
Ditto, wmk. star, perf., 8d., brown	3	8	0
Dominica, C A, 1s., lake, unused	4	1	0
Great Britain, £5, orange	2	16	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue, C A, unused	7	12	0
Nevis, *lithographed*, 4d., orange, unused	9	12	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow	3	11	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve	21	9	0
Western Australia, 1857, 2d., brown on red, *rouletted*	13	0	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & Co.

The following were disposed of at the two days' sale on January 8th and 9th.

	£	s.	d.
Baden, 1862-64, 3 kr., rose, perf. 13½, unused	3	3	0
Gibraltar, first issue, complete, unused	3	10	0
Naples, ½ tornese, blue, trinacria	14	0	0
Ditto, ½ t., dark blue, "Cross"	4	4	0
Oldenburg, second issue, ⅓ gros., black on green, unused (no gum)	6	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 2 gros., black on rose, ditto, ditto	4	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 3 gros., black on yellow, ditto, ditto	4	15	0
Ceylon, 2s., blue, imperf.	6	5	0
Gambia, 1s., green, unused	2	6	0
Hong Kong, 96 c., yellow-brown, unused	7	0	0
Antioquia, first issue, 2½ c.	10	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1 peso, red	7	0	0
British Honduras, 1882–85, 1 sh., gray, unused	2	12	0
Ditto, 1888, 50 c. on 1s., unused	3	3	0
Lagos, 1885, 2s. 6d., brown, unused	3	12	0
Dominican Republic, 1865, 1 real, black on yellow	7	5	0
Ditto, ½ rl., black on green, unused	4	7	0
Nevis, perf. 13, 4d., rose, unused	3	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., green, unused	3	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., yellow-green	4	·	
Ditto, lithographed, 4d., orange, unused	9	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., olive	13	0	0
Nova Scotia, 6d., dark green, unused	10	0	0
St. Lucia, star wmk., 1d., 4d., and 6d., unused	9	0	0
St. Lucia, 1886, 6d., lilac, unused	3	12	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., orange	6	0	0
St. Vincent, 1s., blue, unused	4	10	0
Ditto, star wmk., 4d., dark blue, unused	6	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 5s., rose, unused	15	0	0
Tobago, C A, 6d., ochre	11	10	0
Trinidad, 1862, 1s., purple, unused	7	10	0
Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, perf. 15, unused	6	10	0

BOGERT & DURBIN CO.
(New York City.)

The following were disposed of at the sale on January 4th.

	£	s.	d.
United States, 1869, 24 c., unused	2	2	0
Ditto, State, $5, unused (fair)	14	12	0
Ditto, ditto, $10, unused (fair)	8	4	0
Ditto, ditto, $20, ditto, ditto	7	0	0
Barbados, 1d. on 5s., unsevered pair	16	8	0
Ditto, ½d. on 4d., double surcharge, one in red and one in black (!) unused	4	18	0
British Guiana, 1850, 8 c., green, cut round	18	0	0
Ditto, 1851, 1 c., black on magenta	6	12	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., black on blue	7	4	0
Dominica, Revenues, postally used, 6d. and 1s.	4	0	0
Madeira, 1879-80, 150 r., yellow	2	9	0
Monaco, 1885, 5 francs	2	8	0
St. Vincent, 4d., orange	3	8	0
Tobago, 1879, 1d. on half of 6d. orange	3	8	0

A total of £496 18s. realised on 390 lots.

BINDING.—FINAL NOTICE.

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THE

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The English Embossed Stamps Struck to Order.

LIKE all that emanates from the Hon. Secretary of the London Society, a letter—concise, able, and courteous—addressed by him to the Inland Revenue Department, with its reply also, was presented to our readers in the January number of the *London Philatelist*. Writing in the name of the London Society, Mr. Tilleard calls the attention of the Department to the "unnecessary and speculative" creation of embossed stamps, on the ground of needless varieties of compound values. If we remember rightly, in former days, not only were these compound values printed *à discretion*, but the use of variously-coloured papers was permitted, so that collectors who craved for "infinite variety" could have their wants almost fulfilled.

As the Department had seen fit to limit the varieties of paper, it would have only seemed another step in the same direction to have placed some restraint upon the manner in which the dies should be impressed. The reply, however, of the Inland Revenue Department is redolent of official routine, and merely states that their combinations of values "are founded on the convenience to the Department, and not on the request of the individuals who apply for the stamp," who have no choice in the matter. Even this information is of distinct value, as it places a limit upon the number of varieties issued, and at least precludes any further abuse of the system.

It is unfortunately the fact that the Envelopes of this country attract but a very small amount of attention among English collectors. Whether this is owing to the difficulty of procuring them in unused condition, or

owing to their somewhat monotonous character, and the fearful aspect of Registered Envelope stationery, we know not; but the fact remains, that the Envelopes and Post Cards of these islands are as much neglected as the Adhesives are favoured. It should follow therefore, *a fortiori*, that the demand for these private issues is likely to be even less; but this is hardly borne out by our experience. An advanced collector or specialist would probably acknowledge the use of these dies by showing one set containing all the values, regardless of paper and combinations. This class is, however, limited; whereas the number of collectors who are guided entirely by the spaces provided in the printed albums is very large. That these stamps have advantages in the eyes of this numerous class is obvious. They are cheap, always obtainable, and very handsome—qualities that go far in the eyes of the many to whom the number of stamps they possess is the great feature. The question as to their repurchaseable value is hardly worth discussion, as they fall in with the majority of common stamps which collectors are content to purchase, and are satisfied to ignore in selling. We do not therefore think that, on the whole, any very serious harm is done, although we should certainly prefer that our own Inland Revenue Department should adhere entirely to the issue of stamps for the public. The one material point is, that collectors should be instructed, both in catalogue and album, of the true nature of these Envelopes, in which case there can be no reason urged against their sale or purchase in any quantity. The same argument applies to Seebecks, Wuhus, or any other rubbish. The inevitable tendency, among the leaders of the pursuit to-day in all countries, is to limit more and more the sphere of their acquisitions, and they are naturally inclined to deprecate all issues that are not strictly necessary, as in the present case. These Envelopes, however, in no way constitute a parallel case with the Seebecks, as they are not a postal issue, in the generally-accepted sense, at all, and need therefore only be collected at the sweet will of the collectors themselves.

The Postage Stamps of the Transvaal,

TO THE END OF THE PERIOD OF THE BRITISH OCCUPATION.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, January 24th, 1896.

By R. PEARCE.

WHEN, in 1893, the Society was engaged in preparing its Reference List of the Stamps of the Transvaal, it had, as regards the early issues, to rely for guidance on the meagre and frequently erroneous details which had been chronicled in philatelic journals, and on the information that could be supplied by members, or derived from a study of the stamps themselves. Of available official information there was practically none. Fortunately the knowledge we

then had has been largely supplemented by the information, extracted from official records, contained in the series of articles contributed by Mr. Tamsen, from August, 1893, to October, 1894, to the *Monthly Journal* of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited. As one of the few collectors who give special attention to the Transvaal issues, I desire to express my deep sense of our obligation to Mr. Tamsen for the details supplied by him, from which I shall draw largely in this paper. I propose to set out the principal facts connected with the history of the early issues, to make some suggestions as to the arrangement of the stamps, and to indicate some of the points which have still to be cleared up.

But before I enter on my subject-matter proper, I pause to ask, how is it that Transvaal stamps are not more popular with collectors? I believe that in the early days of this Society several of its members took great interest in these stamps, and that some good collections were formed; but that interest, if not dead, has long been dormant, although one of our members has—with all the energy of an enthusiast—striven manfully to revive it. Among philatelists generally, too, there has been an attitude of aloofness and indifference as regards these stamps, that cannot be altogether attributed to the generally assumed difficulty in making an intelligent arrangement of them. The real deterrent has been the existence, in quantities which probably exceed the genuine specimens, of the well-known Mecklenburg bogus stamps and forgeries. But even before these bastard issues flooded the philatelic world, the very earliest genuine stamps had been received with a certain amount of reserve, which arose out of circumstances which need not now be specified.

The adoption of postage stamps by the South African Republic (commonly called the Transvaal) was suggested to Mr. Fred. Jeppe (then acting Postmaster-General at Potchefstroom), in the latter part of 1867, by an individual in this country, who had previously seen the Consul-General of the Republic in London, on the subject. In February, 1868, the Consul sent out an estimate from a London firm for printing and perforating stamps, but before that estimate came to hand, Mr. Jeppe had instructed his brother, who resided in Germany, to order plates, printing press, and materials; and also some stamps in the colours and after the design furnished by Mr. Jeppe. It was stated, in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for March, 1869, that there were to be four values, in the colours of the national flag—green, white, blue, and red. The order for the materials and stamps was placed with Mr. Adolph Otto, of Gustrow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin. A correspondence which ensued respecting the details of the design (which was copied from the arms of the Republic), delayed the manufacture of the plates, so that the first lot of the stamps, which had been ordered early in 1868, was not dispatched until June, 1869.

In the meantime Mr. Jeppe, who had been appointed Postmaster-General, had been organizing a regular postal service. Mr. Tamsen tells us that, up to 1868, the postal arrangements had been of a very primitive nature. Connection was maintained between the few inland Post-offices which existed, by native runners, and by the same means fortnightly communication was kept up with Kroonstadt, the nearest Post-office in the Orange

Free State. Postage was collected in cash, and sent with the letters to Kroonstadt, where stamps of the Orange Free State were affixed, and the letters forwarded to the coast. Mr. Jeppe started a weekly mail-cart on the main road from Pretoria to the Orange Free State and Natal; laid in for the convenience of the public a stock of Cape and Orange Free State stamps (which were necessary because those shortly to be issued would only frank letters within the limits of the Republic); and drew up the first postal law. This law was sanctioned by a Resolution of the Volksraad of the 18th June, 1869, and was published on the 31st July, 1869. It set out the rates of postage; provided that the date for the issue of stamps should be fixed by the State President; described the forthcoming stamps, and stated that they would be of one penny, sixpence, and one shilling values; and declared that the colour of each value "will be fixed by the State President." We have seen, however, that Mr. Jeppe had, long before, himself settled design, values, and colours.

The first lot of the German printed stamps were sent by post to England, and thence to South Africa by steamer. They arrived at Potchefstroom in August, 1869. Now, the advent of a new stamp-issuing State had been heralded in the philatelic press as early as February, 1869; and, naturally, orders from dealers in Europe poured in on the Postmaster-General of the Republic. These orders and the first lot of stamps, must have arrived at about the same time, and, possibly, also an enquiry from the printer as to how it was proposed to pay his bill. On the 8th September, 1869, Mr. Jeppe addressed a letter to his Government, of which we have no copy, but which came before the Legislative Council on the 28th October, when it was agreed "to ratify the arrangements made by Mr. Fred. Jeppe, and to accept his proposals." Possibly those proposals were that the moneys received from Europe, from dealers, should be used to pay the printer's bill. At any rate, that is what was actually done. We are told that there were then no banks in the Transvaal, and that it was found convenient to re-transmit to the printer in Germany the actual notes and drafts which had been received from Europe.

At that time it was believed that the remainder of the stamps ordered, and the plates and press, would shortly be received, and consequently a Government notice fixed the 1st January, 1870, as the date on which stamps would be issued. But when that date arrived, all the stamps that had been received had been sold to dealers and collectors, while the plates and press had not arrived. The issue of stamps was, therefore, postponed. Mr. Tamsen has furnished details of the printer's invoice, dated 1st October, 1869, which amounted to £66 5s. It covered the cost of the stamps already forwarded; of a second lot shipped later; and of materials for printing stamps, including three matrix dies, *i.e.*, one for each of the values; six plates (2 for each value); 1 iron printing press; tins of red, blue, and green printing ink; a ream of gummed paper; and "1 cutter" (rouletter). The cases containing the second supply of stamps, and the materials, arrived at Potchefstroom on the 23rd February, 1870. Mr. Jeppe took them to Pretoria on the 2nd March, and delivered them to Mr. M. J. Viljeon, who had been appointed printer of stamps. Mr. Viljeon shortly afterwards began

his work, and, everything being at last ready, the date for a public issue was definitely fixed, by a Government notice, as follows:—

"No. 317. Whereas by Act 74 of the Law regulating the Postal Administration of the South African Republic, Art. 242, it is stated that the day of issuing postage stamps for use shall be fixed by me, I have thought fit to appoint, which I do herewith, that the issue of postage stamps shall take place on the 1st May, 1870.

"Given under my hand in Pretoria on the 14th May, 1870,

(Signed) "M. W. PRETORIUS, State President."

It will be noticed that this decree is dated thirteen days after stamps had come into use. Apparently Mr. Jeppe had made the issue without waiting for authority, as he had previously ordered and settled all the details of the stamps, and got his acts ratified afterwards.

Mr. Viljeon printed stamps only so long as the ink sent from Germany with the plates lasted. He greatly disliked the work, which he carried on in a private house, and was relieved of it at his own request. Further on, I cite from Mr. Tamsen's articles the text of four interesting letters addressed to the Postmaster-General by Viljeon, which vividly pourtray the conditions under which he worked and furnish clues to the recognition of his stamps. From September, 1870, to April, 1874, the local printing of stamps was entrusted to Mr. J. P. Borrius, a practical printer in business at Potchefstroom; in September, 1874, a supply was printed by Messrs. P. Davis and Son, of Pietermaritzburg, Natal; and, later, a Government department, described as the "Stamp Commission," printed all stamps required from April, 1875, until some time after the annexation of the country by Great Britain.

The stamps of the first type were printed from copper plates, made up with electrotypes from the matrix dies. A die for each value had been sent with the plates, but those dies were not separately engraved in their entirety. As regards the central parts—the arms, bird, flags, and motto—they were reproductions from an original matrix, and do not vary in the three values. There is a peculiarity in each stamp which I have not seen noticed. In the lower part of the escutcheon, the lines which slant downwards from left to right are cut, above and to the left of the waggon, by two white lines slanting downwards from right to left, although frequently only one of these lines can be seen. The outer framework of the design for each value was necessarily engraved separately, so far as concerned the side labels which contain the values; but we also find differences in the top and bottom labels. The P of "POSTZEGEL" is nearer the margin of the top label in the 1d. value than it is in the 6d.; and in the 1d. stamp the K only of "REPUBLIEK" in the lower label comes beneath the label of value on the right, while in the 6d. a part of the E also comes beneath the latter label. There were two plates of 40 impressions in five horizontal rows of eight, for each of the three values. In the construction of the plates, impressions from the 6d. and 1s. dies were inverted, so that one pane of the plates for each of those values has one stamp *tête-bêche*. On the sheets, the first stamp of the fourth row of the right hand pane of the 6d. value, and the first stamp of the first row of the right hand pane of the 1s., are the *tête-bêche* varieties. Mr. Tamsen, after an

inspection of the plates, described them as mounted on blocks of wood two inches larger "all round" than the plates, but so cut as to enable them to be joined to form a single plate of two panes. I think that Viljeon printed only from one pane of each plate, as in the official records the printed sheets are spoken of as of 40 stamps each, and we have been told that the printer made the plates with 40 impressions, because the printing press would not be strong enough to print with plates of a larger size. *Tête-bêche* stamps of both values of Viljeon's printing exist, so that he used the plates with the errors. Borrius probably used both plates, either together as one or separately, and we know that the Stamp Commission sometimes printed in sheets of two panes, and that the same was done by the printers of the Second Republic. When the stamps were printed in sheets of two panes, the distance between the panes was 16 millimetres. In all probability the printing press sent from Germany was only used by Viljeon. In course of use the soft copper plates got damaged; a distinct variety from this cause will be noted later on, but collectors of minor varieties may find several small defects arising from injury to the plates.

In the locally printed stamps very great differences are found in the quality and texture of the paper, in the tone of ink of the same official colour, in the gum, and in the general style or quality of the execution. When postage stamps were adopted by the Transvaal, the country was only thinly populated with a pastoral people; it had no large towns and no facilities for printing stamps cheaply and well. The Post-office obtained its supplies as best it could, in small quantities at a time, from different sources. Hence the marked differences I have named, which lead the student of these stamps to attempt to identify the distinctions in paper, colour, and general appearance with the work of the individual printers, and to classify by printings, as well as by the broader and more comprehensive arrangement by issues. Something can now be done towards a classification by printings, although there is still much to be learnt in that direction. Unfortunately, used specimens of the early issues with dates are very rare. The stamps were cancelled with defacing-stamps which did not give a date. From 1870 to October, 1874, the cancelling-stamps consisted of four concentric circles; from the latter date until the middle of 1878, or later, the pattern was three rings with a numeral in the centre, but Potchefstroom office continued to use the old pattern without numeral. At the end of 1870 Pretoria was made the head office, and used the number 1. At first, blue defacing ink was used, but black ink soon came into general use.

The rouletter sent from Germany consisted of a single wheel fixed to a handle, and gauged 15½. It had been officially intended that all stamps should be rouletted; Viljeon and Borrius rouletted their printings to a great extent, but it is doubtful if the Stamp Commission rouletted any. Mr. Tamsen says: "The Stamp Commission did *not* roulette stamps, but handed the entire sheets over to the Treasurer-General." Apparently that statement was intended to apply only to the period of British occupation, but possibly it also applies to the stamps printed by the Commission for the Republic. Besides the stamps rouletted 15½, we have others rouletted 6½. Mr. Tamsen says that the wider rouletter was not official, and that it was probably used

by some business firm. There is no doubt, however, that this rouletter was used at the Pretoria office, not only to divide the stamps sold to the public but, as you will see from the sheets I show you, to cut off the marginal paper from the panes; thus we find specimens rouletted on one side only, and with compound roulettes. It is probable that from 1875 to 1878, or later, the fine rouletter was also used only at the Pretoria office, and not by the printers. I have found no locally printed stamps of the first Republic with either the fine or the wide roulette, with any other numeral cancellation than the figure 1.

It had no doubt been intended that the first stamps should include a 3d. value, but perhaps the printer was puzzled to know how to make the stamps represent the fourth colour of the national flag—*i.e.*, white. At any rate, no 3d. stamp was sent with the other values, and when these latter arrived in the Transvaal there was dissatisfaction with the bird in the design, supposed to represent an eagle. Consequently when Mr. Jeppe, in August, 1869, definitely ordered a 3d. value, he directed the printer to re-draw the bird. That was done, and other parts of the design were also altered. But orders from dealers for 3d. stamps had long before been received, and it was to comply with these orders that Mr. Jeppe made a most unfortunate blunder. As he could not himself supply 3d stamps, he told dealers to apply for them direct to the printer in Germany, and he wrote to the latter authorizing him to sell, and to credit the moneys received against the cost of the plates and stamps. Had the matter ended there it could only be said that collectors of those days bought 3d. stamps sixteen months before any of that value had been received in the stamp-issuing state, and four months before it had officially issued any stamp of any value. But a greater mischief soon followed. The first 3d. stamps arrived in the Transvaal in June, 1871, and with them the plates and matrix die. But a duplicate of the die had been retained by the printer, and he continued to make and to sell 3d. stamps—presumably without authority. It is evident, also, that he had a duplicate (probably the original matrix) of the centre of the design of the 1d., 6d., and 1s. stamps of the first type. He added the bird, motto and frame, and printed and sold forgeries of those three values. These forgeries are commonly called "Mecklenburg prints." In 1871 something was done to stop the unauthorized traffic, and consequently obliterated specimens only were sold until the British occupation. Then the printer considered himself free, and largely circulated his rubbish. It has been stated that after the re-establishment of the Republic, in 1881, legal steps were taken, which resulted in the destruction of the plates. The forgeries have been more than once described, but I will state some of the points by which they may be recognised. Unfortunately it is difficult to indicate precisely how the Mecklenburg prints of the 3d. value, and of the later 6d. of the same type, can be distinguished from the genuine stamps, with which they are identical in design. The bogus 3d. are brighter in colour, and in both values, when obliterated, the cancellation marks are sharper and smoother than on genuine specimens. Collectors should buy, from good sources only, used copies of these two values ("improved eagle" type) until familiar with the tones of colour and texture of paper. Luckily the forgeries of the 1d., 6d.,

and 1s. stamps of the first issues can be so easily detected that it is surprising they should have been so long a stumbling block to collectors. Apart from the general appearance of the stamps, which, as a rule, is better in the forged than in the real, there are distinct differences in the design. In the genuine copies the eye of the bird is in a *circle* of white, from which a line extends to the extremity of the closed beak. In the forgery the eye is in an irregularly shaped patch of white which extends into the beak without break, and the beak appears partly open. In the real stamp, the flagstaff in the lower *right-hand* side, which passes behind the word "Magt" in the motto, is formed by *one* scratched line which does not quite join the escutcheon, but in the forgery this staff has *two* distinct lines and joins the escutcheon. There are other differences which I need not define.

I now return to the first German printed stamps, which were received in the Transvaal in 1869 and 1870. Should they be recognised as an official issue? I think not. Mr. Jeppe, who had sole control over them, assured Mr. Tamsen, and has always stated, that not only the first lot received in August, 1869, but those received in February, 1870, were all sold to dealers and others before the 1st May, 1870 (the official date of issue). In the *Philatelic Record* for May, 1889, Jeppe wrote: "There were no stamps of the first series of 1d., 6d., and 1s., first issue, printed in Germany, issued in *this* country," *i.e.*, the Transvaal. He furnished Mr. Tamsen with notes showing that between the 1st September, 1869, and the 30th March, 1870, he sold 4,800 1d., 800 6d., and 400 1s. stamps—that is, £20 worth of each value. Looking carefully at all the circumstances, I think we may fairly suppose those figures to represent the actual quantities sent from Germany. The stamps were printed on white wove paper, of medium thickness and good quality, and the colours were: 1d., bright orange-vermilion to brownish vermilion; 6d., bright ultramarine; 1s., deep emerald green. No doubt some of these stamps were legitimately used for postal purposes, but used copies are very scarce; I have not seen one of the 1s. value. No imperforate copies were chronicled when the stamps were distributed, but a few exist in that state. The stamps which have been quoted in dealers' catalogues as used German prints, are really stamps of a much later date.

ISSUES OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC.

Excluding the first German printed stamps from the official issues of the first Republic, I set these latter out as follows:

ISSUE I.

1st May, 1870.

Eagle-owl type. Rouletted 15½ and imperf.

1d., crimson-red.

6d., dull ultramarine (1870); later prints, blue, in shades (1871–74).

1s., green.

Printings.

		1d.	6d.	1s.
4th April, 1870	Viljeon ...	6,840 ...	12,480 ...	—
26th April „	„ ...	4,280 ...	— ...	8,560
10th May „	„ ...	— ...	4,800 ...	—

	Printings.	1d.	6d.	1/-
24th May, 1870	Viljeon	4,320	—	—
4th July „	„	7,760	12,200	4,040
25th July, 1871	Borrius	—	8,680	—
2nd Dec., 1871	„	—	4,000	—
5th Jan., 1872	„	—	4,400	—
29th March, 1872	„	—	12,960	—
27th August „	„	—	13,720	—
19th Dec. „	„	—	8,400	—
25th Dec. „	„	—	—	4,040
2nd Jan., 1873	„	—	11,600	—
19th April „	„	—	—	8,000
24th April „	„	—	4,000	12,000
2nd May „	„	—	20,000	—
8th May „	„	—	16,160	—
24th March, 1874	„	—	16,000	—
30th March „	„	—	8,280	—
21st April „	„	—	16,600	—
Early 1877?	Stamp Commission	—	—	No. not known
		23,200	174,280	36,640

Plus printing of 1877.

Issue II.

21st October, 1870.

Type, &c., as Issue I. Rouletted 15½, and imperf.

1d., black. On medium wove, and on pelure paper.

Printed 28th Sept., 1870, by Borrius, 24,000. And probably later printings?

Issue III.

30th June, 1871.

Improved Eagle type. Rouletted 15½; imperf.; and last printing also rouletted 6½.

3d., mauve.

	Printings.	
30th June, 1871	A. Otto, Germany	8,000
25th December, 1872	Borrius	8,040
30th September, 1875	Stamp Commission	24,000
		40,040

Issue IV.

27th June, 1872 (?).

Type of Issue I. Rouletted 15½, and imperf.

1d., vermilion (?).

	Printings.	
27th June, 1872	Borrius	14,000
5th July „	„	10,520
9th Jan., 1873	„	1,200
8th May „	„	2,800
21st April, 1874	„	12,960
		41,480

Query.—If some, if not all, of above printings were not in *black*, and therefore applicable to Issue II.

ISSUE V.

September, 1874.

Type as Issue I. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1d., vermilion.

6d., blue.

Printed by P. Davis and Son, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

24,120 1d., and 40,600 6d.

ISSUE VI.

Early 1875.

Improved Eagle type. Rouletted $15\frac{1}{2}$.

6d., ultramarine.

Received 30th September, 1874. Printed by A. Otto, Germany, 39,320.

ISSUE VII.

Type as Issue I. Imperf.; and rouletted $15\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$.

29th April, 1875. 11th May, 1875.

1d., vermilion. 6d., blue.

Printings.

		1d.	6d.
29th April, 1875	Stamp Commission ...	24,000 ..	—
11th May ,,	,, ...	— ...	24,000
7th June ,,	,, ...	— ...	20,000
30th Sept. ,,	,, ...	24,000 ...	40,000
29th Feb., 1876	,, ...	33,080 ...	53,000
12th Sept. ,,	,, ...	— ...	13,200
28th Sept. ,,	,, ...	— ...	48,000
12th Oct. ,,	,, ...	35,680 ...	—
		116,760	198,200

Varieties.—The 6d. and the 1s. may be found *tête-bêche* in all printings.

The chief point open to controversy in the list given turns on the date when the 1d. *black* gave way to the 1d. *vermilion* (officially "red"), which I shall presently discuss.

To what extent can we identify the stamps of each separate printing of the different printers? And should an attempt to do so be made? I think we can recognize each of the five printings of Viljeon, and as his stamps have striking points of character, I think collectors should subdivide them. But no one would attempt to identify the stamps of each of the so-called printings of Borrius or of the Stamp Commission, because the dates of deliveries are in some cases so close together that two or three printings may be taken as one. But I think we can distinguish the stamps of Borrius from those of the Commission, and divide both into groups. As a preliminary to such an attempt, I will set out the text of Viljeon's four letters, to which I have already referred. They were as follows:—

"*2nd April*, 1870.

"I have the honour to send you with this post—

12,480 postage stamps of 6d. for . . . £312 0 0

6,840 ,, ,, ,, 1d. ,, . . . £28 10 0

"Further, I beg to inform you that the supply of paper is exhausted, and that it was very difficult to print stamps on that gummed paper; it would not lie flat, and thus caused several misprints. If you desire more stamps to be printed, then send a supply of paper, and state what sort of stamps you desire, and how many of each sort."

"*24th April*, 1870.

"With this post you will receive the following stamps:—

214 sheets of 1s. stamps = 8560 stamps	. .	£428	0 0
107 „ 1d. „ = 4280 „	. .	£17	16 8

"I was awaiting the instrument which you promised in your letter of the 6th of this month to send me by first post. I have not received anything—even a letter. I was, therefore, in doubt what to do—whether to send the stamps uncut or to keep them back, the more so as you had complained that I did not cut those formerly sent, which I could not do owing to the shortness of time. Taking into consideration that the time for issue of stamps is near, I have sent the above-mentioned stamps. Whether the gum will be found satisfactory I do not know; it does not seem to dry well. Your brother made it up. It would have been better if a supply of gum had been handed to me with the press, etc. I hope you will now send me the instrument in question."

"*7th May*, 1870.

". . . According to your letter of 27th April, I have printed for £200 of the 6d. stamps, of which I send you herewith for £120. The others are not yet cut, because I have had to wait for the gum which your brother prepares. In the meantime, I shall prepare the penny or sixpence stamps, and will send them by next post. Your remarks *re* gum are very correct. I have tried to make the gum as thin as possible, according to prescription; but with wet weather the gum will not get dry, therefore I would propose to you that, if the stamps stick fast again, to take a quantity of hot water and hold the stamps thereover, then you can get the sheets easily asunder without tearing them."

"*2nd July*, 1870.

"Enclosed I have the honor to send you the following stamps . . .

205 sheets = 12,200 6d. stamps	. . .	£305	0 0
101 „ = 4,040 1s. „	. . .	202	0 0
194 „ = 7,760 1d. „	. . .	32	6 8

"As the coloured paint (ink) has been used up, can you (if possible) supply me with same?

"M. J. Viljeon."

It will be seen that those letters specify four of Viljeon's five printings. These were all printed with the ink (one tin of each colour) sent from Germany with the plates; thus, although there are wide variations in *shade*, caused by an uneven distribution on the plates, by the ink having settled and thickened in the tins, and by the extent to which it was absorbed by the different papers, all his stamps of each value harmonize in *tone* of colour. The 1d. are in crimson-red; the 6d. in dull ultramarine; the 1s. in green.

As an attempt to subdivide the first issues, I submit the following, dealing with the printings in order of value:

ISSUE I.

The One Penny.

(*a*) 6,840 stamps, 4th April, 1870; printed by Viljeon in crimson-red on the hard crisp white wove paper, sent from Germany ready gummed. The paper is a good guide to these stamps, but specimens can frequently be recognized by the wavy, crinkled appearance of the ink, owing to the difficulty in printing on gummed paper. (*b*) 4280 stamps of Viljeon's printing of 26th April, 1870. Ink as before, but on local wove paper, and with local gum. It is the gum which gives the clue to this printing. It is of a light brown colour, and without gloss, and at the present time does not seem to have any adhesive property. It was applied with a stiff brush, which has given it a "combed" look. I have not found these rouletted. (*c*) 4,320 stamps; Viljeon's print of 24th May, 1870. On white wove paper, of fair quality; impressions generally clear; gum of better quality, and with a gloss. The letters quoted show that special pains had been taken to provide a good gum. Rouletted and imperf. (*d*) 7,760 stamps of Viljeon's print of 4th July, 1870. Paper as the last; gum thicker and yellower. On this date Viljeon printed stamps of all three values, and exhausted the ink sent from Germany. The series is known as the "blotchy" one, and the stamps can be distinguished by the ink, which appears to have got dry and sticky. The term "paint" applied to it by Viljeon was probably appropriate. I think all the stamps of this printing were rouletted.

The Sixpence.

(*a*) 12,480 stamps printed by Viljeon, April 4th, 1870; in ultramarine, on the already gummed paper. Better printed than (*a*) of the 1d. value, and not found with the same wavy appearance of ink. The paper is the best guide. In unused specimens this is crisp and hard, but it has a softer feel in used specimens which have the gum washed off. These stamps were not rouletted when sent off by the printer, and complaint was made to him on that score, although the rouletter had not been sent to him. Because the printer at Pretoria had not the rouletter, Mr. Tamsen has assumed that these stamps were issued imperforate. But I believe that the Postmaster who had the rouletter—and who kept it for some weeks, although the printer was pressing for it—had the greater part of the 6d. stamps (the value which would be most required) rouletted at Potchefstroom. I have a rouletted 6d. stamp postmarked with the date 4th May, 1870; that is, only four days after stamps came into use. This must be one of the first printing. This specimen led me to identify others, which are all rouletted, and bear the blue cancellation mark. (*b*) 4,800 stamps, Viljeon's print of 10th May, 1870. The letter of the 7th May show that the printer was careful to roulette these 120 sheets. The gum is white and smooth; the paper is not so hard and crisp as (*a*), and as the ink was still fluid, it does not present the dry, mottled look of the next lot. (*c*) 12,200 stamps; Viljeon's print of 4th July, 1870. These belong to the "blotchy" series, and are easily recognized. I would say here, with regard to all Viljeon's stamps that a medium specimen of each

value of this series should be taken as a guide to colour. The crimson-red, the dull ultramarine, and the green used by him differ from the inks of the other printers. (*d*) We now come to Borrius's 6d. stamps, classed under Issue I., because there had been no such alteration as would constitute a new issue. I cannot subdivide his numerous printings; I will only try to show some points which, I think, distinguish them from the later stamps of the Stamp Commission classed under Issue VII. The stamps printed by Borrius should, as a rule, be rouletted, and used copies should be cancelled with the four circles without numeral. The defacing stamp with a numeral was not used till after Borrius ceased to print. The blue of his ink is dull, without lustre, but it varies from a very dark to a light chalky blue. I believe that his first 6d. stamps were printed in an intense indigo, darker in colour than any of the other blue stamps. The *Timbre-Poste* for September, 1871, chronicled them as in "indigo blue, and rouletted."

The One Shilling.

(*a*) 8,560 stamps of Viljeon's print of 26th April, 1870. These can, like (*b*) of the 1d., be recognized by the dull and streaky gum; not rouletted. (*b*) 4040 stamps; Viljeon's print of 4th July, 1870. These are of the "blotchy" series. Rouletted and imperf. (*c*) The printings of Borrius from December, 1872, to April, 1873—24,040 stamps. These are on thin wove paper, and rouletted. The used 1s. stamps, commonly sold as "German prints," belong to these printings. The paper is not of so good a quality as that of the German stamps, and the shade of green differs. Used shilling stamps of the first Republic on *thin* paper may safely be put down to Borrius. (*d*) An unrecorded supply of the 1s. value; printed by the Stamp Commission. Number unknown. It is clear that there must have been another printing of 1s. stamps. Those printed in 1873 would not have lasted until the arrival of the Queen's Head type in July, 1878; and the 1s. stamps overprinted by the British authorities, in 1877, differ very markedly from those on thin paper printed by Borrius. Mr. Tamsen thinks that the printing took place after the change of Government, and that it was unrecorded because of the derangement of the departments consequent on the change. But the change was a peaceful one, and there was not so much excitement for some time afterwards as there was during the agitation and troubles which brought the annexation about. Besides, the same Stamp Commission continued to work. The existence of 1s. stamps *not overprinted*, but on the same thick, soft paper, and with the same shade of ink as those which were overprinted, is the best evidence that the printing took place during the Republic.

Issue II.

The One Penny, in Black.

Borrius delivered 24,000 of these stamps on the 28th September, 1870, which were issued on the 21st October. These have generally been spoken of as an "error" of colour, but it is scarcely correct to so speak of them. Borrius printed in black because he had no red ink, but no doubt he did so by consent of the authorities. Did Borrius print more than one supply of

1d. stamps in black? That is a question which exercises the minds of specialists in the Transvaal issues. The general opinion is that he did not. I hold a different view, and not only believe that the greater part of the 1d. stamps printed by him were in black, but think it very doubtful whether he printed any red stamps at all. Should this latter supposition be correct, then my Issue IV. would disappear, and the printings there named would come under this Issue II. Mr. Tamsen advances two arguments in favour of the theory that there was only one printing in black. He says that the 1d. black is much scarcer than the 1d. red. That is not so. The 1d. black is much commoner in Europe than any 1d. red, or vermilion; and is cheaper. Mr. Tamsen's second argument is more difficult to meet. He points out that a revised postal law, published on the 18th August, 1873, set out the colours of the stamps (as the first had done) and named that of the 1d. as "red." I can only give the poor answer that the official intention is not always in harmony with actual facts. On the other hand, the arguments in favour of my belief that Borrius printed more than one delivery in black, are as follows: First, the black stamps themselves furnish evidence of more than one printing. We have them both rouletted and imperforate on paper of varying quality; in both cases the ink is jet black, more or less intense, and the gum is of a drab or yellowish colour and opaque. We have them also in very thin, almost pelure paper, with a very thin, smooth, transparent gum, and with ink of a sooty black. I do not think we should have these differences from one printing only—that of September, 1870. Secondly, what *red* stamps can be attributed to Borrius? The stamps in crimson belong to Viljeon. Besides those I only find three groups of red stamps. There are the vermilion on thin, and very thin paper (sometimes called pelure); these I attribute to the Stamp Commission, because the great majority of used specimens have the cancellation with a numeral which did not come into use until long after Borrius ceased to print, and until after the intervening issue of the Natal perforated stamps. Then we have two other divisions of the red stamps—those on the soft thick paper, which sucked up the ink and blurred the design, and those on a hard surfaced paper, on which the ink has a glossy look. Both of those, I think, belong to the Stamp Commission, because similar stamps are found with the overprint of the British authorities, and which I take to be the unused stock in hand at the time of the change of Government. Thirdly, if Borrius printed any stamps in red, why were they not chronicled? The *Timbre-Poste* for December, 1870, says: "The 1d. has reached us in bright carmine red, rouletted" (those were the last of Viljeon's stamps. It goes on—"since then it has been printed in black, more or less intense." If Borrius had returned to red in 1872 or 1873, would not the fact have been noticed? But I find no mention of red stamps until the *Timbre-Poste* for February, 1875, announced those printed in Natal and perforated. Further, Jeppe, who was Postmaster-General while Borrius printed, and who resigned office concurrently with the appointment of the Stamp Commission, asserts that Borrius printed only in black. For those reasons I think that Issue IV. should be struck out. I know only one point that would seem to indicate a printing in red by Borrius. I have a 1d. stamp in dull claret-red, distinct in

appearance from the carmine of Viljeon and the vermilion of the Stamp Commission. The only other similar stamp known to me is one which, Mr. Bacon informs me, is in the Tapling collection. I should be inclined to allot this stamp to one of Borrius' small deliveries of 1873, but cannot think that he then printed in red, and returned to black for the larger printing of 1874.

Issue III.

The Three Pence.

There were three printings. (*a*) 8,000 sent from Germany, and issued 30th June, 1871. It is difficult to distinguish these from the stamps sold in Europe by the printer. They are of a bright mauve, on white-wove paper of good quality; rouletted and imperf. (*b*) 8,040 printed by Borrius, December, 1872, with ink sent from Germany. I do not distinguish these from the German stamps. (*c*) 24,000 stamps printed by the Stamp Commission, 30th September, 1875. These are on thinner paper, and in a duller colour. Used copies of (*a*) and (*b*) should have the four rings, and of (*c*) three rings and a numeral.

The disputed Issue IV. I have dealt with, and Issues V. and VI. call for no subdivision.

Issue VII.

The One Penny.

Four printings for a total of 116,760 stamps, printed in vermilion by the Stamp Commission. These may be divided into the three divisions already specified, viz.: very thin wove paper; thick soft paper; and hard surfaced paper.

The Six Pence.

There were six printings, also by the Stamp Commission, for a total of 198,200 stamps. I think they may be classed into four groups—(*a*) thin soft wove paper; (*b*) pelure surfaced paper, on which the ink has a lustrous appearance; (*c*) thicker, hard white paper, with gum varying from light brown to a very dark brown; and (*d*) thick soft paper—similar to that on which the British authorities overprinted. The ink of all four divisions varies greatly in shade. There are two aids to the identification of the prints of the Stamp Commission which make up Issue VII. They are commonly imperforate, as the Commission did not use the rouletter; and used copies should have the numeral cancellation.

All stamps printed by the Commission may have the wide roulette.

It has been generally assumed that the last stamps printed by the first Republic were those on the thin paper; but that can scarcely be so. Stamps of the 1d. value, on pelure, are found cancelled by the Heidelburg office—which apparently had not been supplied with one of the regulation defacing stamps—bearing dates early in 1876, and which, therefore, cannot belong to the printing of 35,680 of October, 1876. I think, also, that, without doubt, the 6d. pelure preceded the 6d. on thick, soft paper.

Stamps of the 6d. value are found with the word "zes" almost erased by a white mark, arising from an injury to the plate. The injury must have been done at an early date; it is found on most of the 6d. stamps of the first Republic, and also on the stamps of the British authorities. The damaged stamp was the fourth of the fifth horizontal row of the left hand panel.

If I have dwelt at great length on the stamps of the first Republic it is because they are, in themselves, of great interest, and they only give real trouble to collectors. I hope to draw forth further information about them.

(To be continued.)

The St. Louis Postage Stamps.*

PROBABLY no more sensational "find" has occurred in the history of Philatelic exploration than that which has recently caused so much stir in the stamp world, the discovery of no less than 137 used specimens of these rare stamps in the vaults of the Court House of Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A.

The outcome of this is one of the most elaborate articles treating on the subject that has yet been written, which has been published both in the semi-annual magazine, the *Philatelic Journal of America*, and separately as a complete work under the above title. The article in question is written by Mr. C. H. Mekeel, and published by the Mekeel Company, of St. Louis.

The story of the "find" is interesting and actually exciting; but of this suffice it to say that the discovery amounted to 75 of the 5 cents, 46 of the 10 cents, and no less than 16 of the 20 cents, a stamp of which, up to the time of the discovery, only four specimens were known, one of which was shown to us in New York by Mr. J. W. Scott in 1893, and commented on in this Journal.

It is well known that, previous to the issue of any adhesive postage stamps in the United States, the hand stamp was in use, to show the amount of the postage (with the additional words "Paid," "Due," or "Collect"), either paid in advance, or to be collected upon delivery. But, following on the introduction of the adhesive postage stamp in Great Britain, an agitation arose in the United States Congress for a similar innovation, as well as a reduction in the postal rates; and the result of this agitation was the introduction of the "United States City Despatch Post," in the year 1842.

The first issue of the St. Louis stamps was in 1845, when a notice appeared in the *Missouri Republican*, of November 5th, announcing that Mr. Wimer, the postmaster, had prepared a set of letter stamps, or, rather, marks to be put on letters, to indicate that the postage had been paid. No official value was intended to be put upon these stamps outside the Post-

* *The History of the St. Louis Postage Stamps*, 1845-47, by C. H. MEKEEL, St. Louis, 1895. The C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., Station C, St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A.

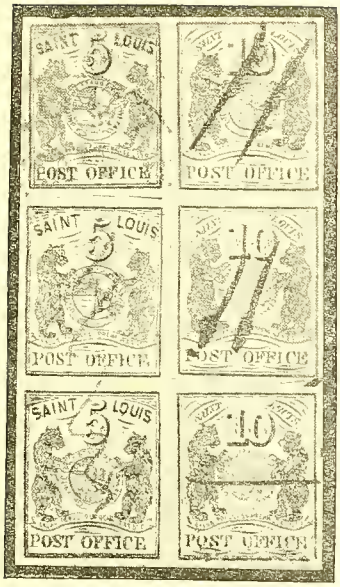

Plate I.

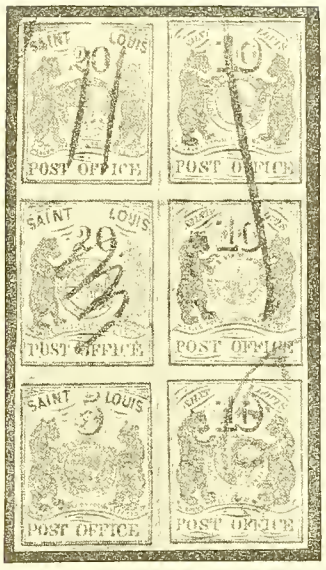

Plate II.



Plate III.

office, they merely representing the amount of postage paid by the sender to the postmaster, all letters bearing specimens of the stamps having, in addition, the words before mentioned—"Paid," "Due," or "Collect."

Mr. Wimer had engaged Mr. J. M. Kershaw, proprietor of the Western Card and Seal Engraving establishment in St. Louis, to engrave these stamps, and the denominations were 5 cents and 10 cents. These were engraved on an ordinary copper visiting-card plate, the design of each value being repeated three times upon the plate. Methods of duplicating and transfer were unknown at this time, hence each stamp was separately engraved, thus making three varieties of each of the two values, and 500 sheets were printed off from this plate on a greenish wove paper. Soon after the issue of these stamps, the need being felt for a higher value, the two 5 cent stamps in the upper left corner of the same plate were altered to 20 cents, the plate probably being laid flat upon a hard surface, face downwards, and the back hammered at the point the alteration was desired, until the surface was flush, when the new numerals were re-engraved. The alteration of the plate has been denied by Mr. Kershaw as being his work, but possibly may have been done by some other engraver, or by an assistant in his shop. The alteration displays very inferior work to that of the original die.

The entire issue of the St. Louis stamps was constituted by three separate plates, consisting of six stamps to a plate, the position of the various values being as follows (as illustrated):

Plate I.

Plate II.—The second condition of the same plate, with the two upper stamps (5 c.) changed to 20 c.

Plate III.—The latest condition of the plate, with the two 20 cent stamps re-altered to 5 cents, and with the third 5 cent value (which had not been altered) retouched.

We have but attempted a brief *resumé* of the very interesting articles published hereon by Messrs. Mekeel, to whom we are much indebted for their courtesy in supplying us with means for illustration and information. We can cordially recommend all those who wish to add a most interesting book to their library to purchase the work from which we have quoted.

Having regard to the extreme rarity of these stamps, to the fact of the authenticity of the 20 c. having been held for many years in question, and to the present discoveries of the altered Dies unsevered, it is abundantly clear that the History of Philately can show no more interesting stamps, and that the discoverers and present owners of these St. Louis stamps are alike to be congratulated.

Philatelic Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

THE BELGIAN STAMPS OF 1865.

ANY collector who has long been a student of European stamps, will be cognisant of the difficulties that have always existed as regards the separation of the Belgian and the London prints of this issue. The 1 franc, perforated 14, was naturally clearly to be distinguished; but the whole of the five values perforated 14 by 14½, ascribed to London, failed to distinguish themselves in any definite manner from those printed in Belgium. The 10 c., in the pearly-grey shade, was the only one that we felt reasonably sure of as being executed in this country; but it is evident that even this is not so, from an article in the *Timbre-Poste* of last month, which contains the following interesting letter from Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, that we take the liberty of reproducing :—

"FOLKESTONE, 15*th January*, 1896.

"DEAR MR. MOENS,—The doubts which you put forth in regard to the stamps printed in London, of 10, 20, 30, and 40 centimes of the issue of 1865, are fully established. I can tell you for a positive fact, that the only impression of the stamps of this issue, which was made in London, is limited to 1500 sheets of stamps of 1 franc, and *all were* delivered perforated (?).

"The consignment was accompanied, it is true, by some proofs, in colour, of the 10, 20, 30, and 40 centimes, but there were never any of these values used for postage. "Accept, dear Sir, etc.,

"W. A. S. WESTOBY."

It appears that when the plates from the engravers arrived in Belgium, Messrs. De la Rue & Co., of London, further despatched a consignment of various inks and paper intended for the printing of the stamps, and also sent English workmen, who executed the first impressions, in order to instruct the Belgian printers, who afterwards continued the work, and did not improve on it!

This first printing, done on Belgian soil by English workmen, has always caused confusion with the London impression, which latter now consists only of the 1 franc. The list amended reads :

LONDON Print, 1865, on white satin-like paper, perforated 14.

1 franc, lilac.

Local print, *on the same paper*, perforated 14 × 14½.

10 c., grey.
20 c., pale blue—blue.
30 c., red-brown.
40 c., carmine.
1 franc, lilac.

VICTORIA FIRST ISSUE.

THE Rev. P. E. Raynor writes us:

"*February 16th*, 1896.

"I enclose for your inspection a curious variety in lettering of the 2d. Victoria, evidently due to a bad transfer. I do not know whether this has been noted before. If not, perhaps you will think it worth a note in the *London Philatelist*."

The specimen in question more than bears out our correspondent's description. We have before now seen copies of the so-called VICTOPIA, consisting of an obvious blurring of the lower portion of the letter "R," due to excessive working of the stone. These are mentioned in *Oceania*, but without stating which variety of the 2d. is referred to. We believe, however, that it was the second type with fine border and coarse background. Mr. Raynor's stamp, however, is one of the third series, with coarse border, and the variety is more important than the foregoing.

The "R" of Victoria is too far away from the "O," while it almost touches the "I," and the "A" has practically disappeared. There is furthermore a large mass of solid colour impinging upon the background immediately below the forenamed letters, in the right upper angle. It is probably a variety of a temporary repair to the Plate, similar to those described by Mr. Castle in his paper on the first issue of Victoria, read before the London Society, but a specimen which he had not succeeded in securing.

Occasional Notes.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

MR. BACON kindly informs us that the stamps placed for public inspection at the Museum have been recently changed, and that those of the following countries are now on view:—Lagos, St. Helena, Labuan, British North Borneo, Fiji Islands, and Mauritius. The stamps of the latter country are simply superb, and should be seen by every collector who affects the stamps of our Colonial Empire.

THE EHRENBACH GERMAN COLLECTION.

IT is with regret that we have to announce the sale of this celebrated collection to the omnivorous Limited Liability Company of the Strand. We are informed by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons that the price paid was no less than £6,000—a sum that will seem prodigious to the uninitiated for a collection of the German Stamps alone. Those who have, however, plunged deeper into the depths of *unused* stamps will perhaps be less astonished, as Mr. Ehrenbach was not content with a single specimen of a rare unused stamp, but had the liveliest pleasure in securing any number of

shades thereof. An examination of the 16 volumes of his grand collection would almost invite the opinion that the rarer the stamp the more copies he pleasured in possessing. We cannot do more than briefly enumerate a few of the interesting features; the most concise and shortest list would be that of the stamps not included in the collection, consisting really of a few shades only, that in unused condition are "*introuvables*."

Oldenburg: The first and second issues—many unused copies, including even pairs thus of some values; all subsequent issues in splendid condition, used and unused, and frequently *se-tenant*.

Wurtemburg: First issue especially strong, the 6, 9, and 3 kr. orange each being represented by several copies; the silk thread and thick paper issues also very fine, including the 6 kr. of the latter.

Brunswick: Very strong in the first issue, there being about a dozen undoubtedly unused specimens. All through this country the Ehrenbach collection was very strong, and it constitutes, with Baden, the finest Philatelic features of the collection.

Saxony: A re-constructed sheet of 24 of the 3 pf. in strips and pairs, and a pair of the rare Errors speak for themselves.

Baden, Hanover, Thurn and Taxis, are magnificently represented in all shades, *unused*—a task that has to be finished before it can be properly appreciated.

The collection comprises many thousand specimens, and we can but regret, from a Philatelist's point of view, that it is not to be preserved and improved, instead of being scattered to the four corners of the globe—an operation that is now in rapid progress.

THE DISPOSAL OF LARGE COLLECTIONS.

PARIS has lately been the scene of considerable Philatelic transactions. In addition to the collection of Count Primoli, which was purchased by M. Victor Robert for several thousand pounds; another, and almost equally important one, has been secured by M. Bernichon. A recent visit to the gay Metropolis of France has imbued us with considerable astonishment, not only at the big sums paid readily for the purchase of collections, but at the remarkably rapid rate in which their contents, however rich, are digested. It seems abundantly clear that in fair Lutetia, Philately is becoming more than ever popular, and Paris may yet "return to her first love," and be, as of yore, *the* leading place in the world for stamps.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES POSTMARKED REPRINTS.

WE are indebted to Mr. Wilmot Corfield, of the Philatelic Society of Bengal, for a copy of the following letter from Mr. Chamberlain. It is in reply to an excellently-worded and temperate letter, addressed by Mr. Corfield to the Colonial Office, some three months since, on the subject of these most obnoxious reprints. So much pressure has been brought to bear

upon the N. S. W. Postal Department, that we feel sure that good will result to the World Philatelic.

"DOWNING STREET, *30th November*, 1895.

"SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ult., regarding the action of the New South Wales Postal Department in offering for sale reprinted labels of certain obsolete stamps, obliterated by imitations of postmarks.

"A similar complaint has been received from another correspondent, and a copy of his letter has been sent to the officer administering the Government of the Colony, for communication to his Ministers, and a copy of your letter will be forwarded in the same way.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

(Signed) "JOHN BRANSTON.

"W. CORFIELD, ESQ."

Review.

BRIGHT AND SON'S "A, B, C" CATALOGUE.*

JUST as we are going to press, a copy of Messrs. Bright and Son's "A, B, C" Descriptive Priced Catalogue of the World's Postage Stamps comes to hand, and what has long been heralded by advertisement in the Philatelic Press is now before us in the shape of a neat and handy little book of the accepted modern catalogue type. Taken as a whole, the "A, B, C," both in printing and illustrations, and especially in the latter, is a distinct advance on recent productions, although the illustrations are very uneven in quality; and certainly, when the size of the book is considered, and the enormous trouble and care which it must have entailed preparatory to its issue, we cannot but re-echo the words of the publishers themselves—"A marvel of cheapness."

After referring to the work of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, and their desire to fall in with the objects of the society, in eliminating all stamps condemned by them from the Catalogue, the publishers refer to such stamps, coupled with the much-maligned "Seebecks," as the "rocks ahead" in Philately. There is much to be said in favour of such a view, but we should have liked to have seen included in the coming danger the ever-increasing, necessary and unnecessary, flood of new issues, and, what can no longer be hidden, a desire on the part of both dealers and collectors to "corner" and speculate in any such specimens as may be deemed likely to become scarce.

Time has been too limited to carefully investigate the descriptions of the various countries, but one or two omissions and errors have revealed themselves by a casual glance through the pages.

* *Bright and Son's "A, B, C" Descriptive Priced Catalogue of the World's Postage Stamps.* Messrs. Bright and Son, The Arcade, Bournemouth.

Turning to Great Britain, we can find no mention of the following stamps, copies of which are certainly known, *used:*—

4d., vermilion; large Garter. Plate 16.
4d., sage green; large Garter. Plate 17.
6d., chestnut-brown; Spray. Plate 12.
6d, pale yellowish-brown; Spray. Plate 13.
10d., red-brown; Spray. Plate 2.
2s., blue; Spray. Plate 3.

And in the inclusion of the so-called ivory head variety we have no faith whatever.

In France we can only find the 10 c., imperf., described as bistre, while this stamp is to be found in a great variety of shades. The list of France bears a striking resemblance to other catalogues, and is singularly incomplete.

In Prussia the two sizes of envelopes are included, but these are omitted in Oldenburg—a very important omission. Transvaal is wanting in description of the exceedingly scarce *wide roulette*, and we can find no distinction made between the first VR Transvaal surcharge and the smaller surcharge of later issue, while the 3d., lilac on green, stamp, which forms an issue by itself, coming after the small VR series, is included in that of 1878–79.

In the addenda we find a list of the South Australian departmentals, the prices attached to which can only be described as ridiculous.

We especially note the prices attached to the Mauritius Post Paid, 1848, issues, the value of which can only be ascertained by the condition of the specimen, both as to margins and the state of the plate.

We have on previous occasions expressed our views as to the inadvisability, on various grounds, of universal pricing.

Despite the few inevitable drawbacks in the production of a work such as this, the "A, B, C" Catalogue will be found both a useful and acceptable aid to the Philatelic student, and we venture to congratulate the publishers on the success of their enterprise.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—In our issue of December, 1895, we inserted a note, on the authority of Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., that the £25 stamp had not been issued; notwithstanding we have heard of a copy which has been going begging under face value, and have also seen the stamp quoted in the auction catalogues.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—We should have mentioned last month that the surcharge "2½" on 1 a. 6 pies (India) was in red, and in addition to the usual surcharge, "British East Africa" in black.

Our illustrations show—(1) the "2½" on 4½ annas, first surcharge on the Company stamps; and (2) the second overprint on the Indian current set chronicled last month.





We also have some stationery to add, as follows, all of which belong to the late Company series.

Envelope. 2½ as., green; black surcharge.
Registration ,, 2 as., blue ,, (two sizes).
Post Cards. ½ anna, brown ,,
1 anna, violet ,,

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—We are indebted to Mr. T. H. Thompson for specimens of the 2d. and 4d. adhesives, which differ both in paper and perforation from the ordinary issue, the paper being of a thicker quality, and the perforation 12½ in place of 14; the colours also are of a distinct shade. These form a temporary printing by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co. We also have the sixpence value on a thick paper, but the perforation remains 14.

Adhesive. 2d., green and red; perf 12½.
4d., yellow ochre and black: perf. 12½.
6d., blue.

CEYLON.—The following are the values said to have been overprinted "On Service."

Adhesives. 2 cents, green; black surcharge.
3 cents, green and brown; black surcharge.
5 cents, lilac ,,
15 cents, olive ,,
25 cents, buff ,,
30 cents, red and mauve ,,

CYPRUS.—Following the higher values printed in two colours, we have news of a similar change in the lower values, as follows:

Adhesives. ½ piastre, green and carmine.
30 paras, lilac and green.
1 piastre, rose and blue.
2 piastres, blue and chocolate.
4 piastres, olive and purple.
6 piastres, brown and green.
12 piastres, pale brown and black.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—We have received the One Shilling value on watermarked paper, and also two new values—viz., Twopence and Ninepence—all watermarked Cr. CA; perf. 14½.

Adhesives. Twopence, red-lilac.
Ninepence, vermilion.
One Shilling, yellow-brown.

INDIA.—The *I. B. J.* gives the following as being the stamps which have received the overprint "Postal Service."

½ anna, green; black surcharge.
1 anna, plum ,,
2 annas, blue ,,
4 annas, olive-brown ,,
8 annas, mauve, ,,
1 rupee, carmine and green; black surcharge.



MAURITIUS.—We give an illustration of the new type 3 cents.

PERAK.—After the letter which appeared last month, we must reinstate the 2 c. orange adhesive.

Adhesive. 2 c., orange (tiger).

QUEENSLAND.—We reproduce some interesting information from the *M. J.*, about the late surfeit of varieties in paper, printing, &c.:

"A correspondent in this Colony sends us some interesting information as to the causes of some of the numerous varieties that have been issued of late. Two or three years ago, when the finances of the Colony were not in a satisfactory condition, orders were given for economies of all kinds, and that all stocks should be kept as low as possible, and this was the reason for the proper paper first running short. Various samples of paper obtained locally were tried, but were not found to answer, and recourse was then had to the large Crown & Q paper, previously used for the higher value postage and for the Beer Duty stamps. This paper is thick and soft, it was found to absorb the gum, and the public complained that the stamps would not stick! The paper with a *burélé* band on the back was then taken into use for the 1d. value, but this formed so distinct a mark that the public bought up the stamps for speculative purposes, and after the new penny appeared, on the proper paper, the *burélé* pennies were sold on the spot at 30s. to 40s. per sheet of 120.

"The same thing then happened with the ½d. value, except that the *burélé* paper was tried first, and when there was a run upon this variety the Beer Duty paper was employed. But the public had learned a little Philately by this time, and the second lot disappeared as fast as the first had done. Lastly, the plain paper, with invisible embossing, was brought into use, and this appears to have stopped the speculation, for, as our correspondent tells us, 'the public saw nothing in these, and did not buy except for legitimate use.'

"Just before the new supply of paper arrived, the 1s. stamps ran short, and in order to prevent these (the supply printed provisionally?) being bought up by collectors, the precaution was taken of sending them to small towns only, where they would be asked for in limited quantities."

We do not think the above is any excuse for what must necessarily appear to be a mere money-making scheme on the part of the postal authorities *and* official speculators. Had either extra large quantities of the Beer Duty paper, or the paper with *burélé* band, been issued, speculation would have been stopped. Freaks like this, in the best of our Colonial Post-offices, bear a bad impression both to the perpetrators and Philately.

We have to thank Mr. Ernest Jones for pointing out the omission of the chronicle of the 2d. value, on thick unwatermarked paper. We were not aware of the existence of this before.

Adhesive. 2d., blue (*thick paper, no wmk.*).

ST. HELENA.—As will be seen by a reference to our advertisement columns, the Crown Agents have disposed of the remainders of the late 1s. adhesive, on CC paper, to Mr. T. H. Thompson, the purchaser of the obsolete Leeward remainders. We understand that the quantity was 9,600 copies. It is a well-known fact that matters have assumed a "hard up" nature for some time now in this Colony, which has been the means, we fear, of many a doubtful necessity for various issues; although, to the praise of the Crown agents, this "cornering" and speculating has to some degree been squashed. But we fear another boom, or attempted one, is in the wind, and regretting that we have not space for the reproduction of the paragraph, we cordially invite our readers to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the news conveyed to us by the veteran recorder of new issues, the Editor of the *Monthly Journal*.

VICTORIA.—The 2s. stamp has reappeared, this time in blue-green, and the *A. J. of Ph.* has the current 1 penny letter card surcharged in blue "Two Pence."

Adhesive. 2 shillings, blue-green.
Letter Card. 2 pence, in blue, on 1 p. rose on *azure*.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The 3 pence adhesive has been made (November 25th, 1895) the subject of some freaks in surcharging. It is said that 12,000 copies were surcharged "Half penny" in green, of which 90 specimens were as a trial printed with red surcharge; but this not being pronounced enough, the colour was finally changed to green, the 90 copies being put into circulation (?) with both surcharges!!

Adhesive. Halfpenny on 3d., brown; green surcharge.
" " " red and green "

We are indebted to Mr. C. W. Perryman for the following interesting note on this somewhat "speculative," even if not "unnecessary," issue. The Reprint on the CA paper speaks volumes.

"A friend of mine has just returned from Perth, W. A., and happened to be there when the ½d. on the 3d. Provisionals were made,

*

and succeeded in getting a sheet or two. He had an opportunity to overhaul the stock, and, seeking for Philatelic trifles, he discovered one sheet among the whole issue that had the lower pane doubly printed. He also was lucky enough to obtain a copy of the bi-coloured first attempt at the surcharge, which was printed in red first, and afterwards in green : and he informs me, on the authority of the Postmaster there, that only 3 panes of 30 each were so made. This appears to me to be curious, as I understand that the surcharging was made on the 2 panes of 30 each right through the whole of the issue. Apparently the sheets were sent out by De la Rue in 120's, *i.e.*, 4 panes of 30 each, but were cut in two, and used in the half sheets of 60 ; so that an ordinary person would imagine that either 60 or 120 of the first surcharge was made, although I have no reason to doubt my friend's information that only 3 panes of 30 were so done.

"I enclose for your inspection one of the sheets of 2 panes of 30 each as sold in the Post-offices there, and also the original bi-coloured print. It appears that these were all sold very quickly, and, in reply to many anxious enquiries at the Post-office for the first "red and green" prints, the Postmaster decided to reprint a further large issue in the error colours ; but, curiously to relate, this appears to have been done from the stock of CA current issue paper, the original provisionals having been done on the old stock of CC paper; but I am informed, on the same authority, that the original issue exhausted the whole of the CC paper.

"Strong representations were made that this Government reprint was not required, and, in fact, was an omission that should come under the cognizance of the S. S. S. S. ; and I understand that two sheets, in all 120 stamps, were only sold, and the balance was supposed to be going to be destroyed. I have no information as to whether this was done, or whether any more were subsequently sold ; but inasmuch as the new supply of ½d. stamps had then arrived, there could be no reason for any dearth of this value, and I presume that they have not been issued, or they would be more plentiful. My friend was able to get hold of one or two copies of this Government reprint, which I enclose for your inspection. You will note that on one copy of the CA that the second overprint has been made exactly on the top of the first overprint, causing the surcharge to appear in a chocolate colour ; but if you will examine it carefully, you will find it is the green printed exactly over the red. I do not know how many were printed in this manner, but should imagine that it is the first attempt, which was subsequently set aside in consequence of the stamp appearing like the CC one that was attempted to be copied.

"My friend tells me that he searched through quite a third of the CC green surcharge, and he discovered that the bottom pane in one sheet had a double imprint of the single green surcharge. He obtained this sheet, and I enclose you a strip taken from it, and the top half, showing you the difference caused by the double imprint.

"I have no doubt these facts will be of interest to you, and possibly of service to the readers of *The London Philatelist;* and I take this opportunity of forwarding you the copies for your inspection, together with an addressed envelope for their return to me.

"I might also tell you that the CC paper with the single overprint exists in two shades of paper, the second shade being almost the colour of the CA paper."

The specimens kindly submitted tally with our correspondent's remarks, and are—

Half-penny, red and green surch., on 3d., bistre-brown ; wmk. CA & Cr.
,, ,, ,, 3d., brown; wmk. CC & Cr. (reprint).
,, green ,, 3d , bistre-brown; wmk. CC & Cr.
(2 panes of 30 each.)
,, ,, double surcharge, on 3d.. bistre-brown ; wmk. CC & Cr.
(2 vertical strips of 6, proving that double surcharges occur only in lower part.)

ZANZIBAR.—We illustrate another makeshift set of surcharges, pending the arrival of a permanent De La Rue set. This time the Indian series has again come into use. Altogether the output of the two territories (B. E. A. and Zanzibar) under the one Post-office has been decidedly prolific, and we can only hope that by this time handstamps, remainders, and all signs of surcharges have been demolished (! ?) and the permanent series in use. The following is a list of the stamps, etc., surcharged, the list including an error on the 6 annas, Zanzibar reading "Zanzidar."

Adhesives. ½ a., green, black surcharge.
1 a., plum ,,
1 a. 6 pies, brown ; black surcharge.
2 a., blue ,,
2½ a , green ,,
2½ in red on 1 a. 6p., brown ; black surcharge.
3 a., orange ; black surcharge.
4 a., olive ,,
6 a., bistre ,,
8 a., purple ,,
12 a., brown on *red* ,,
1 rupee, slate ,,
2 rupees, carmine and brown ; black surcharge.
3 rupees, brown and green ,,
5 rupees, blue and violet ,,

Error.
6 a., bistre, surcharged "Zanzidar."
Envelopes.
½ a., green, blue surcharge.
2 a. 6 pies, black surcharge on orange; blue surcharge.
Registered Envelopes.
2 as., blue (2 sizes); blue surcharge.
Wrappers. ½ a., green; *blue* surcharge.
1 a., blue ,,
Postcards.
½ a., red-brown; *blue* surcharge.
½ a. + ½ a., red-brown ,, (reply)
1 a. on 1½ anna blue ,,
1 + 1 a. on 1½ + 1½ anna blue; *blue* surcharge.





EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—As prophesied in an earlier number, the change in the colours of the two high value stamps has taken place, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us specimens of both the ordinary stamps, and also those surcharged in piastres for use of the Austrian offices in the Levant, as follows :—

Adhesives. 1 gulden, pale lilac; granite paper; perf. 10½.
2 gulden, pale green ,, ,,

AUSTRIAN LEVANT.—
"10 piast. 10" on 1 g., pale lilac; black surcharge; granite paper; perf. 11½.
"20 piast. 20" on 2 g., pale green; black surcharge; granite paper; perf. 10½.

There appear to be some varieties in perforation; just as we go to press, among some copies received from a friend in Prague, we have the 1 gulden ordinary stamp perf. 11½.

HOLLAND.—*Le T.-P.* announces the approaching appearance of a 5 gulden stamp, and also two new letter cards of 3 and 12½ cents, bearing stamp with portrait of the young Queen.

SPAIN.—*Die Post* states that the new stamps, bearing a portrait of the young King with older features, have been issued, as also post cards, as follows :—

Adhesives. 1 c., green.
2 c., blue-green.
5 c., light blue.
10 c., red.
15 c., violet.
20 c., light green.
25 c., blue.
30 c., grey.
40 c., dark brown.
50 c., rose.
75 c., yellow.
1 p., light violet.
4 p., carmine.
10 p., flesh.
Post Cards. 5 c., green on *buff*.
10 c., carmine ,,
15 c, blue ,,

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Writing to the *M. J.*, Messrs. Cameron say that they have received a letter from Buenos Ayres, stating that the current stamps have hitherto been printed upon paper with an artificial watermark, impressed upon it after it was made. That this being found unsatisfactory, not being uniformly visible throughout the sheet, and apt to disappear when the paper is wetted, the stamps are in future to be printed upon paper with a true watermark, made in Germany. The design of the wmk. is the same as before, but it is a little larger, as well as more distinct, and the paper is whiter.

We hear of the following values in use on the new paper :

Adhesives. ½ c., blue.
2 c., green.
3 c., orange.

ECUADOR.—The current series has been supplied with a new date—1895, and but for this change remains the same as before.

HONDURAS.—The *A. J. of Ph.* illustrates an extraordinary vagary of a new issue in the shape of a 10 c. adhesive, which is lithographed on white paper, perf. 11½—the design being of a decidedly home-made character, portrait in an oval, surrounded by "Correos de Honduras" in a broken oval band with ornamental ends. We do not fancy our readers will want a further description. *Adhesive.* 10 c., red.

MEXICO.—We have received from Mr. S. Chapman some varieties in the stationery line, including post cards with inverted stamps, etc. We do not propose to take up much space with any long description of these; we rather fancy that this, of late, very doubtful Republic can supply anything in the novelty line, from an extraordinarily large series of new issues, down to all sorts and conditions of errors and varieties of same—*to order!*

Envelope.—4 c., orange on white, *eagle to left omitted.*

Wrappers.—1 c., green on buff, 7 *varieties of paper* (*!!!*)

Post Cards.—Previous issues from 1891 impressed with current stamp to use up the stock (the stock in some cases being 4 !)

Letter Cards.—Copies of the 1895 card (10 c. stamp), with the space for stamp left blank, and impressed with 5 c. stamp for reduced postage, also extraordinary varieties of same, double impressions, etc.

PERU.—Some of the old issues have been re-issued in new colours, as follows, with some additional information of a gruesome nature, for which we are indebted to the *Weekly Stamp News* :

"Our correspondent has sent us specimens of stamps of the old designs recently issued in new colours. The 1 c. with a sun in the centre, is vermilion ; the 2 c., with arms in centre, is in blue ; the 10 c. of the Llama type, in orange. We are advised, at the same time, that the Peruvian Government has ordered a new issue of stamps of the American Bank Note Co., of New York, that will be issued early in 1896. The order is as follows :

"*Adhesives :*

"Type I. Portrait of Inca Manco Capai, 1,000,000 each of 1 c. ultramarine ; 2 c., Prussian blue ; 5 c., indigo.

"Type II. Portrait of Francisco Pizarro, one million 10 c., yellow ; 200,000 20 c., orange.

"Type III. Portrait of General La Mar ; 100,000 5 c., rose ; 50,000 1 sol, vermilion ; 25,000 2 sol, carmine.

"*Official :*

"The regular 1 c., 10 c., and 50 c. adhesives with the surcharge 'Gobierno.'

"*Envelopes, white paper :*

"Type I. 50,000 5 c., indigo.

"Type II. 50,000 10 c., yellow ; 30,000 20 c., orange.

"*Wrappers, straw paper :*

"Type I. 100,000 1 c., ultramarine ; 100,000 2 c., Prussian blue ; 50,000 5 c., indigo.

"Type II. 30,000 20 c., orange.

"*Postal Cards :*

"50,000 3 c., vermilion on white ; design, National Arms."

SALVADOR.—The 1896 crop is to hand, pretty, and extensive in numbers, but dear even at 2s.! This time the values run from 1 to 100 centavos, and pesos seem out of the question. Advice gratis—leave them alone.

URUGUAY.—We now give illustrations of the 7 c. (omitted last month), and the 50 c., 1 peso, 2, and 3 pesos adhesives, which completes a very handsome, and we hope, for some time to come, permanent set. We have not yet received the colours of the higher values. The perforation is $14\frac{1}{2}$.











OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—The colours of the current adhesives have again been changed.

Adhesives. ½ a., blue-green.
1 a. ,,
2 a. ,,
3 a. ,,
4 a. ,,
8 a. ,,
1 c., de p., lilac-brown.
2 c., claret.
2½ c., rose.
5 c., slate-blue.
10 c., emerald-green.
20 c., violet.

We chronicle the above on the authority of the *A. J. of Ph.*, but we rather think our American friend's colours differ somewhat in description to ours.

CURAÇAO.—Our illustrations represent two surcharges, the necessity for which is of an extremely doubtful nature.





Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, K.G., &c.
Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. The Duke of York, K.G.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—
Vice-President—M. P. Castle.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. Tilleard. | *Hon. Assistant Secretary*—R. Pearce.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. Biggs. | *Librarian*—T. Maycock.

E. D. Bacon. | E. B. Evans. | T. Wickham Jones.
R. Ehrenbach. | D. Garth. | H. R. Oldfield.

The thirteenth meeting of the season 1895-6 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 17th January, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., when sixteen members attended, namely, Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, E. B. Evans, R. Ehrenbach, C. N. Biggs, R. Meyer, J. C. Potter, B. D. Knox, C. J. Daun, T. Maycock, A. C. Emerson, F. E. Horton, G. B. Routledge, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, and J. A. Tilleard.

On taking the chair, Mr. Castle adverted to the news announcing the death of the Earl of Kingston, the President of the Society, which had been received too late to allow of arrangements being made for a postponement of the meeting. He reminded the members of the great services rendered to Philately and to the Society by Lord Kingston, and in a few feeling remarks bore testimony to the high character and capabilities of the late President, and to the esteem and affection in which he was held by all who claimed the privilege of acquaintanceship with him.

In conclusion, Mr. Castle moved the following resolution, namely—

"That the Philatelic Society, London, has heard with the deepest concern and regret of the death of its President, the Earl of Kingston, and desires to place on record the appreciation of the great services rendered to Philately and the Society by its late President."

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. Bacon (who in endorsing all that had fallen from the Vice-President, spoke of the great affection which Lord Kingston had for the Society, and of the fact that even while suffering from the disease which had resulted in his untimely death, he had contributed papers, and assisted in the work of the Society), was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by Major Evans, it was further resolved—

"That the members of the Society respectfully tender their profound sympathy to the Countess of Kingston and family, upon the irreparable loss they have sustained."

On the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by the Secretary, it was also resolved—

"That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent to the Countess of Kingston."

By unanimous desire, it was determined that out of respect to the memory of the late esteemed President, no formal business should be taken, and the meeting was accordingly adjourned.

The fourteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on the 24th January, at 7.30 p.m. The following members were present, namely, Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, R. Ehrenbach, W. Silk, H. R. Oldfield, T. Maycock, G. B. Routledge, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, R. Meyer, L. S. Wells, J. A. Tilleard, and Gordon Smith.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. L. Gibb, sending for members interested in Canadian stamps, unused specimens of the Official Customs Post Cards, which were directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. Charles E. Baker, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary; Mr. A. W. Haviland, proposed

by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and seconded by the Secretary; and Dr. T. J. W. Burgess and Mr. Henry H. Lyman, both proposed by Mr. Chapman, and seconded by Mr. Gibb, were elected members of the Society.

The Treasurer reported that Mr. R. Greening had signified his desire to resign his membership, and his resignation was accepted with regret.

Mr. Bacon informed the meeting that the Council were of opinion, and recommended, that the election of a member to fill the office of President, vacant through the death of the Earl of Kingston, should be deferred until the Annual General Meeting, and it was determined to adopt the recommendation of the Council in this respect.

Mr. Pearce then read a paper on the "Stamps of the Transvaal," dealing with the whole of the issues up to the end of the period of the British Occupation of that country. In his history of the postal arrangements of the Transvaal, Mr. Pearce gave a large amount of detailed information as to the number printed of the stamps of various issues, and explained his views of the various printings, the work of the several persons employed in the production of the stamps. He also handed round photographs, to illustrate his explanations of the means of distinguishing the genuine stamps from the "Mecklenberg" reprints, or forgeries. The paper, which was of great length, dealt with the whole subject of the Transvaal stamps in a masterly and exhaustive manner, and will well repay a careful perusal by all Philatelists.

On the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Bacon, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Pearce for his most valuable and interesting contribution, which will be published in the *London Philatelist*, as also for kindly affording the members present an opportunity of inspecting a large portion of his fine collection of the stamps under consideration.

THE fifteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 31st January, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., the members in attendance being Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, C. N. Biggs, J. C. Potter, A. A. Davis, C. J. Daun, E. L. Cator, T. Maycock, T. Wickham Jones, F. E. Horton, T. W. Hall, B. D. Knox, L. S. Wells, G. B. Routledge, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, and W. T. Wilson.

The chair having been taken by the Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. W. E. Peebles, proposed by Mr. W. R. Joynt, and seconded by Mr. J. N. Mostyn; and Mr. Douglas Ellis, proposed by Mr. F. Ransom, and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society.

The business of the evening consisted of a discussion on "cleaned stamps," which was opened by Mr. F. E. Horton. In his remarks, Mr. Horton divided the subject into two general classes, viz., the cases in which stamps are cleaned for the mere purpose of removing defects, or of restoring the stamps so far as possible to their original state of colour, and the cases which involve the removal of pen marks or other obliterations employed for cancellation, when the stamps have been actually used for fiscal or postal purposes. In commenting upon the latter class of cases, Mr. Horton pointed out the danger of such stamps—however honest or legitimate may have been the reason for the cleaning operations in the first instance—being eventually used for fraudulent purposes, and invited an expression of opinion as to what steps could be taken to discourage the circulation of cleaned stamps, and to minimise the risk of danger to collectors.

A large number of the members present took part in the discussion, and although it was felt that it would be difficult for the Society to lay down any rule on the subject, it was generally agreed that it might be possible to issue a warning to collectors, with an intimation of the best known means available for the detection of cleaned stamps.

It was eventually resolved, on the motion of Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Wickham Jones, that the whole subject be referred to a Committee, consisting of Mr. Castle, Mr. Bacon, and Mr. Ehrenbach, to consider and report to a subsequent meeting, with a request that they should prepare a list of the stamps which are known to have been operated upon in the past, or which are likely to be found with obliterations or cancellations removed.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Horton, for introducing the subject for discussion, on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Bacon.

THE sixteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 7th February, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., when the following members, in addition to one visitor, were present, namely, Messrs. T. Maycock, T. W. Hall, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, W. Silk, E. A. Elliott, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, J. A. Tilleard, and B. D. Knox.

The chair having been taken by Mr. Maycock, in the absence of the Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Surgeon-Major G. F. A. Harris, proposed by Mr. G. J. Hynes, and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

The Secretary, in the absence of Mr. E. D. Bacon, then read a paper, communicated by Mr. Charles H. Mottram, entitled "Notes on the first locally printed stamps in New Zealand."

Before dealing with the subject matter of the paper, Mr. Mottram discussed the question of the "bleuté" paper, and, in dealing with this variety in the early stamps, gave reasons for his opinion that the stamps showing a bluish tinge should be assigned to the first supply sent out to the Colony from England in 1854.

The principal questions dealt with in the remaining portion of the paper were—(1) Why the exclusive printing of the 1d. value was decided upon when the 2d. value was apparently required for Inland and Foreign postage; and (2) What class of paper was employed for the earlier printing in the Colony; and after referring to the information contained in the published correspondence, Mr. Mottram proceeded to give his reasons for arriving at the conclusion that the first printings were upon unwatermarked wove paper.

After some discussion, in which the author of the paper, who was present at the meeting, gave further explanations of his views on the several questions raised, a hearty vote of thanks was, on the motion of Mr. Maycock, seconded by the Secretary, accorded to Mr. Mottram for his interesting paper which, with his consent, will be published in the *London Philatelist*.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: W. T. WILSON, ESQ.
Hon. Sec. and Treas.: MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

JANUARY 16th, 1896. Messrs. R. F. Albrecht (New York), J. A. Schiedt (Germantown, U.S.A.), A. Obregon (Mexico), A. Norman (Natal), B. Oxehuvoud (Sweden), C. Fendelow (Birmingham), were unanimously elected members.

Dr. G. H. Hart then read his paper on the Minor Varieties of the Stamps of Great Britain—a most interesting subject, and it was treated in a very able manner. Dr. Hart afterwards gave a lantern display of scarce stamps, which was very instructive; as in the case of minor varieties; they were placed side by side. This is the first lantern display we have had, but we trust they will be repeated, owing to the success of this one.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, called to give effect to the recommendations of the Special Committee called to arrange for the large increase in the Exchange Packets. It was decided that, in future, three packets be circulated each month.

a. To be conducted exactly as on present lines. All countries. All colonies. Members see it first in turn.

b. British and British Colonial stamps only. Position by value of sheet.

c. All countries except British and British Colonials. It is expected that this will be strong in Europeans and U.S.A. Position by value of sheet.

Positions in *b* and *c* will be decided by the value of the members' sheets sent to those sections. No notice, of course, will be taken of any stamps priced ridiculously high, whether by mistake or on purpose.

These and other proposals were ordered to be printed and sent to all members; and although it was so late in the month, it was decided to divide the packet for February. No foreign member could receive the notice in time to send sheets, and many other members could not make them up for this month at such short notice; but, nevertheless, three nice packets were started—(*a*) £813 15s. 5d.; (*b*) £1093 18s. 3d.; (*c*) £226 6s. 11d. Total—£2134 0s. 7d.

Accounts for September quarter were all made up, and all cash due to members was paid within four days of the return of the last packet. More than 24 per cent. of the total value of all the packets had been purchased.

FEBRUARY 6th. Messrs. C. H. Grell (Dominica), A. K. Aftandiloff (Persia), H. C. R. Bell (South Australia), J. H. Parry (New South Wales), J. M. Moses (India), G. T. Macdougall (Tobago), A. Hogan (Epsom), Mrs. Simpson (Bath), Lieut. T. E. Madden (India), were unanimously elected members, bringing the total of active members up to 122. Two applications were postponed, and one refused.

A vote of thanks was accorded Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. for a copy of the *Stamp News Annual.*

The subject for the evening was—"A Debate on Reprints, for and against." Some time was taken up in classifying the various Reprints—Government and Private—also in distinguishing between these and Government and other forgeries. It was the opinion of the majority that no reprints should be placed in a general collection; that they were, however, necessary for the student and specialist of any particular country; that the reprints made by private parties were absolutely worthless to anyone, whether general collector or specialist; that all interest is gone as soon as the proper authorities have let go the dies and materials; that no reprint, of any kind whatever, should be sold or circulated, without being marked as such.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—BARON DE WORMS. *President*—M. P. CASTLE.
Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. WILLETT, West House, Brighton.

THE seventh and annual general meeting of the season 1895–96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, January 6th, at 8.15 p.m. Eleven members and one visitor were present, the President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous, and last annual general meeting, having been read and confirmed, Mr. E. D. Bacon was elected a member of the Society.

The Secretary presented his report and balance-sheet for the year, and Mr. Thrupp his report of the Exchange Circuit, which were unanimously adopted, the reports showing much greater interest taken and activity shown by the members.

Mr. Thrupp said that he was obliged to tender his resignation as Hon. Sec. of the Exchange Circuit, which was accepted with very great regret, and a cordial vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Thrupp for his valuable services during the past three years.

All the officers and committee were re-elected, Mr. de Worms being Exchange Superintendent, and Mr. W. T. Willett being provisionally elected Assistant Hon. Sec.

THE eighth meeting of the season 1895–96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, January 20th, at 8.15 p.m. Ten members attended. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Gillespie took the chair.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the election of Mr. W. T. Willett as Assistant Hon. Sec. was confirmed.

An alteration in the Exchange Circuit rules was made to the effect that all expenses (with the exception of returning sheets to members) should be payable from the Society's funds.

On the motion of Mr. de Worms, it was decided to remove the words "and Sussex" from the title of the Society.

It was also decided to have printed and circulated among the members a list of books in the library.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE session of 1894–95 consisted of sixteen meetings, all of which were held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton.

The President occupied the chair on ten occasions, Mr. Willett on four, and Mr. J. W. Gillespie on two.

At the first meeting a syllabus for the whole session was drawn up, and the following papers were read, viz., "The Stamps of Geneva and Spain, and Auction Prices," by the President; "Labuan and Ceylon," by

the Hon. Secretary; "St. Helena and Nevis," by Mr. Willett; "The General Postal History and Unpaid Letter Stamps of Switzerland," by Mr. Pfenninger; "British North America," by Mr. Woodman; "Denmark, Iceland, Danish West Indies, and Schleswig-Holstein," by Mr. J. W. Gillespie; and "Roumania," by Mr. Thomas.

A letter was received from the Manchester Philatelic Society asking this Society to join a "Federation Exchange," which was about to be formed between several provincial societies. After some deliberation, it was decided to take part in the Exchange. The proposal, however, fell through, and the Exchange was never constituted.

Several donations were made to the library by the President, Mr. Willett, Mr. Otto Pfenninger, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and Messrs. Albrecht and Co., of New York.

The Annual General Meeting was held on January 14th, at which the officers and committee for the ensuing year were elected. The Hon. Secretary presented the report for the past session, and balance-sheet for the year ending December 31st, 1894. He also read, on behalf of Mr. Thrupp, who was unable to attend the meeting, the report for the Exchange Circuit. There were during the session four new members elected, and two resignations, making the total number of members thirty-two.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S.

THE seventh meeting of the session was held on Monday, January 6th, the President in the chair.

A number of donations to the Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted.

The President showed the advertising post card of Victoria, printed in dark blue; and Mr. T. K. Skipwith a series of the type-written stamps of Uganda: five values —5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 shells—some of them obliterated by initials in pen and ink.

THE eighth meeting of the current session was held on Saturday, January 18th, 1896, the President in the chair, with a fair attendance of members.

Mr. D. Fenton was unanimously elected a member.

Mr. Sidney E. Nixon then gave a most interesting paper on "The Stamps and the Postal Administration of Norway," based upon personal experience during a lengthened sojourn in the country. The paper was illustrated by his own and the collections of Mr. Joseph Scott and Mr. J. H. Thackrah, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks was accorded on the motion of Mr. F. J. Kidson.

T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH, 13, *Victoria Road, Headingly, Leeds;* } *Hon.*
JOHN H. THACKRAH, 54, *St. Michael's Road, Headingly, Leeds.* } *Secs.*

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

THE third ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars' Hotel, Manchester, on the 25th October, 1895, Mr. W. D. Beckton presiding. Mr. G. B. Duerst read a paper on the "Stamps of Alsace-Lorraine," or, as he preferred to term them, "Occupation Stamps," meaning "stamps used in French territories occupied by German troops in 1870-71." The stamps began to appear in September, 1870, and the occupation postal service came to an end on 24th March, 1871, when all offices outside Alsace-Lorraine were handed over to French officials, with a few exceptions. Seven values were used. The design was set up in type 150 times repeated (the number of stamps on each sheet), and then stereotyped. A covering of copper was then deposited on the soft metal to help it to wear. From this the stamps were printed in colours on a ground of coloured network. There exist three forgeries of these stamps—one made in Paris, one made in Belgium, and, lastly, the so-called "Official Reprints," printed in Berlin.

THE fourth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars' Hotel on Friday, 8th November, Mr. W. D. Beckton in the chair. Mr. W. Grunewald read a paper on "The

History of the Penny Postage," based on the diary of Sir Rowland Hill, detailing the various events that led to the final establishment of penny postage on 10th January, 1840.

A MEETING was held on the 15th November to discuss "The best Stamp Mounts and methods of mounting a Collection." Hugo Krötzsch, of Leipzic, and C. Petritz, of Dresden, sent an interesting collection of albums and various appliances for mounting stamps. Buhl and Co, Limited, sent publications, and W. Brown, Whitfield King & Co., and J. W. Scott & Co. contributed specimens of stamp mounts. A series of experiments resulted in a decided expression of opinion that the foreign stamp mounts were not so good as those of home manufacture.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

25, ANN STREET, ROOM 1.

THE annual meeting for the election of officers was held Monday evening, December 16th, at the Society's rooms, President Thorne in the chair. Members present, Messrs. Duveen, Scott, Hunter, Kerfoot, Lehman, Davison, Andreini, Quigley, Herrick, Thorne, Gregory, Rich, Clotz, and Nast. Visitors, Messrs. Levick, Lynde, Brown, and I. A. Mekeel.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read, amended, and approved.

The following gentlemen were elected auxiliary members: W. Patterson, 38, Torrance St., Montreal, Canada; James T. Callender, 194, Common St., New Orleans, La.; J. A. Ulman, 41, South Gay St., Baltimore, Md.; George E. Boynton, 926, Cathedral St., Baltimore, Md.

The committee on the S.S.S. reported as follows:

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY,

Gentlemen,—The Committee on the Suppression of Speculative Stamps met Dec. 14, at Room 1, 25, Ann Street.

Meeting called to order at 3.20 P.M. by Chairman Herrick. Present, Messrs. Herrick, Andreini, Calman, Davison, Rich, and Scott.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Sub-committee on European letter reported progress.

The committee have under consideration a set of stamps purporting to emanate from the "Republic of Formosa," and, pending further investigation, warn all collectors to refrain from purchasing this issue as probably speculative.

Moved by Mr. Calman, and seconded by Mr. Scott, and unanimously carried, that the action of the S.S.S.S. in condemning the sale of New South Wales stamps, surcharged O.S. by the Post Office Department of that colony is fully endorsed by this committee.

Adjourned, subject to the call of the Chairman, at 4.45. JOS. S. RICH, *Secretary.*

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

I am glad to report that the membership of the Society has increased materially during the past year. In addition to the regular membership, a new division of auxiliary members, instituted at the November meeting, promises to grow into an important section of the Society. If the members of the Society will make up good books of stamps for the exchange circuit, the advantages of auxiliary membership in this Society will bring the best out-of-town collectors into our ranks.

The regular meetings of the Society during the past year have been fairly well attended, but too many of our members fail to show any interest in the work of the Society. I am sorry to say that some of the members best qualified to write instructive papers on various branches of Philately, either have not the time, or will not give the labour, necessary to the preparation of such papers. We have had during the past year a number of papers read before the Society, all of which were not only interesting, but instructive as well. Mr. Herrick's papers on stamps of various French Colonies, Mr. Deats' paper on the Petersburg Confederate Local, and Mr. Scott's papers on U. S. stamps, have all been models of what such papers should be.

It is to be hoped that our members will wake up to the fact that the interests of the Society demand a constant presentation of similar papers.

In the matter of exhibiting the Philatelic treasures in their possession, all of our members have been very liberal. Those of of our members who have not attended the meetings regularly, have missed seeing numerous things well worth a journey of many miles to look at.

The plan adopted by us during the past two years of having the regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month, has continued to meet the approval of the Society, and the Governing Committee have determined to continue the same date during the coming year. F. A. NAST, *Secretary.*

The retiring officers received the thanks of the Society for their services during the past year. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows :

For President,	WILLIAM HERRICK.
„ Vice-President,	CHARLES GREGORY.
„ Treasurer,	HENRY CLOTZ.
„ Secretary,	FREDERICK A. NAST.
„ Librarian,	R. W. QUIGLEY.
„ Governing Committee,	WILLIAM THORNE.
	JOHN W. SCOTT.
	ALVAH DAVISON.
	J. O. HOBBY.
	J. M. ANDREINI.

Mr. Andreini read a paper on the plate Numbers of the U.S. 1894 issue, illustrating his remarks by his own collection, supplemented by the collection of Mr. E. H. Mason, of Boston. Taken together, the collections probably contain a complete set of all the Numbers in all the different colours and shades of colours.

On motion of Mr. Gregory a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Andreini.

The paper will be printed in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*. A vote of thanks was also ordered to Mr. E. H. Mason for the loan of his collection.

Mr. Scott, chairman of the Exchange department, reported progress, and expressed the hope that the department would be in fair running order by the next monthly meeting.

Mr. Gregory gave notice that at the next meeting the following resolution would be made the regular order.

Resolved: That the auxiliary members of the Society shall have the right of joining as full members at any time, upon payment of the initiation fee and balance of the yearly dues for the year current at the time of making the change.

Mr. Bogert has sent the Society priced copies of his late auction sales, for which the Society returned thanks.

Mr. Duveen exhibited his Australian and West Indian stamps, probably the best collection in existence.

Mr. Thorne exhibited his West Indian collection. The members present enjoyed this opportunity of seeing those beautiful and rare collections in their entirety. Mr. Lynde exhibited sheets of a number of counterfeits made by some photographic process in Philadelphia. Mr. Lynde kindly gave specimens, which approximate closely to the genuine stamps of each, to the Society. Adjournment made at 11 P.M.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes — Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used.

THE ELLIOT WOODWARD CO.'S SALE.

As already announced, there will be a very important sale in Boston, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of March. The catalogues show over 600 lots, many of which, judging by the full illustration, and even fuller description, are of great value, so that the aggregate of the sale will probably be several thousand pounds. A pair of the 12d., Canada, unused, on laid paper, is the gem, but British North American Shillings, and other like "trifles," are in radiant profusion. Collectors, despite the fierceness of competition, should have an interesting time at this auction. Mr. H. K. Sanderson, of Lynn, Massachusetts, U.S., writes us that he is ready to act as agent in inspecting and buying; and from our knowledge of that gentleman, we have every confidence in him.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

The following lots were disposed of on January 30th and 31st :—

	£	s.	d.
Parma, 5 c, yellow, unused	4	4	0
Servia, first issue, 2 pare, green on rose, error	9	17	6
Tuscany, 2 soldi, brick-red	5	2	6
India, 1867, Service stamp, 8 as., green and lilac	8	0	0
Another	9	0	0
Labuan, Cr. CA, 12 c., carmine, unused.	3	15	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 2d., deep blue, one of the earliest impressions, pen-stroked, good margins	31	10	0
Ditto, large fillet, 2d., blue	31	0	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange-vermilion, good margins	18	0	0
Ditto, 1s., carmine-vermilion	10	10	0
New South Wales, laureated, 3d., green, error, watermark 2	18	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Tasmania, wmk. star, 1d., dull carmine, unused	5	5	0
Victoria, 10d, grey, unused	3	10	0
„ 5s., blue on yellow	7	10	0

Sale on February 11th and 12th :—

Lubeck, 2½ sch, brown, error	6	0	0
Gibraltar, first issue, complete	4	0	0
New South Wales, Sydney, 1d., red, plate 2, on laid paper, horizontal pair, Nos. 14 & 15, (error, no clouds)	6	17	6
Canada, 7½d., green, unused	10	10	0
„ 10d., blue, „	6	15	0
„ 6d., purple-black, unused	8	15	0
New South Wales, Sydney, 2d., deep blue, plate 2, horizontal pair, Nos. 4 & 5	8	10	0
Western Australia, 2d., brown on red, unused, rouletted	20	10	0
Ditto, 1s., brown, unused, rouletted	8	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s.	7	7	0
Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, perf. 15, unused (no gum)	5	15	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON.

Some very desirable specimens of the rarer class changed hands on January 28th and 29th, of which the best prices obtained were :—

Great Britain, octagonal, 10d., brown, unused	4	7	6
Hanover, 10 gros., green, unused	3	3	0
Naples, ½ tornese, "cross"	5	5	0
Switzerland, "Basle," 2½ rappen	5	13	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie, red	7	0	0
Wurtemburg, 70 kr., violet, unused	3	12	0
Ditto, ditto, rose-lilac	3	16	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	20	5	0
Lagos, CA, 2s. 6d., brown, unused	3	12	0
Ditto, ditto, 5s., blue	5	7	6
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., red on *white*, early state of plate	10	0	0
Ditto, ditto, pair	25	0	0
Ditto, ditto, vertical pair	20	0	0
Ditto, Britannia, Fourpence, surcharged in black on green, strip of three	10	5	0
British Columbia, 5 cents, rose, imperf.	13	0	0
Canada, 7½d., green, imperf., unused, large margins	14	0	0
Ditto, 10d., blue, imperf., thin paper, block of three, unused	15	0	0
Ditto, 6d., purple-black, perf., unused	10	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve	15	0	0
Confederate States, Tellico Plains, unused pair, showing the two values 5 and 10 cents	21	0	0
United States, 1869, 90 c., unused	4	10	0
St. Lucia, 1s., orange, unused	5	0	0
St. Vincent, wmk. star, 4d., dark blue, unused	5	0	0
Ditto, 1s., rose, large perf., unused (no gum)	7	5	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s.	11	5	0
Bolivar, 1863, 10 cts., green, pair, unused	11	10	0
British Guiana, 1850, 8 cts., green, cut round	15	0	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

The sale on January 23rd and 24th :—

Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, unused (no gum)	15	10	0
Ditto, CA, 6d., green	10	10	0
St. Christopher, CA, 4d. blue, unused	8	0	0
St. Lucia, first issue, blue stamp, unused.	3	6	0
Ditto, 1s., black and orange, unused	4	10	0
Ditto, 1s., orange, unused	7	0	0
St. Vincent, star wmk., 4d., dark blue, unused (no gum)	6	5	0
Ditto, 1d. on half 6d., blue-green, unused	4	0	0
Tobago, CC, 6d., ochre, unused	3	16	0
Ditto, CA, ditto, ditto	12	0	0

The sale on February 6th and 7th :—

Switzerland, Zurich, 4 rappen, type 4	13	0	0
Tuscany, 1 quatt, black on *blue*, unused pair	5	5	0
Mauritius, envelope, 1s., yellow, cut square	10	10	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., single line border, unused	4	15	0
Dominica, CA, 1s., carmine, unused	5	10	0
New Brunswick, 1s., violet	17	10	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s.	11	10	0
United States, 1869, 90 c., unused	6	10	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

The sale on January 20th and 21st :—

Labuan, wmk. sideways, 12 c., carmine, unused	6	10	0
British Guiana, 1851, 1 c., black on magenta	3	15	0
Nevis, CA, 6d., green, unused	9	0	0
New Brunswick, "Connell," 5 c., brown, unused	17	0	0
Ditto, 1s., violet	14	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-vermilion, unused	6	10	0
Ditto, 1s., ditto	12	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., deep violet	14	10	0
St. Vincent, 1s, brown, unused	5	0	0
Queensland, first issue, 2d., deep blue	8	5	0

The sale on February 6th :—

United States, 1894, periodicals, set complete, unused	26	0	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. V. MARCH, 1896. No. 51.

Philately on the Continent.

IT has been the fortune of the writer to have recently spent several weeks on the Continent, and a brief epitome of the Philatelic impressions formed *en route* may be deemed of sufficient interest in our readers' eyes to redeem the intrusion of any personal element.

First and foremost is the pleasing conviction, once again borne home, that in Philately there are no "foreigners," that the Freemasonry of Stamp Collecting is universal, and that in every town the greatest courtesy, and frequently the greatest hospitality, is extended to the traveller who is imbued with the knowledge of Philately, or is the possessor of some of its treasures. The idea that any estimate of a man's Philatelic worth is limited by his birth in another country can be refuted in every Continental city. The politeness in which all our friends across the Channel so far excel us, and the prestige attaching perhaps to any known member of the London Philatelic Society, may account for the warmth of some of the welcomes; but quite irrespective of this, it may be assumed beyond doubt, in this and any other country, that Philately has a universal nationality, and that the only "foreigners" are those whose general conduct is not approved by their compeers.

We have elsewhere called attention to the fact of the fusion of the two leading Societies of France, and this, in our view, may be taken as a sign of the times in that country. There is every reason to believe that France and Paris will again assume the prominent Philatelic position they formerly played. There seems every indication both of interest in Philately, and demand for really fine stamps, with the result that, as in numerous recent cases, no

sooner has a really fine collection been placed on the market than it has been depleted of all its treasures.

In Germany and in Belgium the impression conveyed is, that the number of collections is larger than ever, and that the fine specimens available for acquisition are far fewer, while the general interest in Philately, and all that appertains thereto, is most keen. The number of collectors in the Fatherland is doubtless in excess of that in any other country in the world, but it lacks men of sufficient "pith and moment" to make collections of first or second rank. No present-day traveller in Germany who knew the country a quarter of a century since but would be struck with the enormous increase in the material prosperity of Germany, and it is therefore to be regretted that the Germans should allow, principally from want of pluck, so many of their finest stamps to go abroad. Philately—to use an Americanism—has come to stay, and some day the richer German collectors will be repurchasing their own stamps from abroad at prices far beyond those paid at this end of the century. In the literature affecting Philately Germany has made vast strides recently, and now stands in the very first flight among nations.

It is naturally but a truism to state, that fine stamps, of any country, from Hawaii and Buenos Ayres downwards, find appreciators in every market; but the setting currents of Philately are more than ever marked on the Continent. England and Colonies, Europe, and United States, form the burden of desire. Each of these groups appeals strongly to the instincts of the collector, and, alas! still more forcibly to those of the "Spekulant," who form a large and important section of Philatelic humanity. We must confess to a limited sympathy with them, as being neither open buyers or sellers, but simply enhancers of the market prices; but they must be taken as an accepted factor in the situation. The broad result of the writer's experience in some dozen prominent cities of the Continent, inclusive of the capitals of France, Germany, and Belgium, is that in all these three great branches of Philately there is an ever-growing demand for rare stamps and fine specimens, and an ever and *most rapidly decreasing supply*. The true appreciation of unused stamps, notably Europeans, is also becoming daily more and more apparent, while the standard of condition is enormously raised. The combined result of the forenamed factors is naturally, that there has been such a great and continuous increase of prices as to constitute an accelerated momentum, which latter movement —we presume—must have a terminus. This end, however, is not yet reached, and there is yet scope for many stamps to "go up" before the absurd maximum height is attained, that makes a fall inevitable. Meanwhile, and in our humble judgment, for centuries to come perhaps, the *real rare gems* of Philately will remain as highly priced, and as keenly appreciated, as the precious stones of mother earth.

The Postage Stamps of the Transbaal,

TO THE END OF THE PERIOD OF THE BRITISH OCCUPATION.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, January 24th, 1896.

By R. PEARCE.

(*Continued from page 44.*)

THE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH OCCUPATION.



I WILL go through these by issues, only making short notes on them. Soon after the change of Government, probably in the latter part of April, 1877, the British authorities overprinted the stamps taken over from the Republic with the letters V.R., and the word TRANSVAAL, all in capitals. On the 1d. red stamps the overprint was in *black*. On the 6d. and 1s. it was at first in *red*, but apparently only very few were so printed; the colour did not show clearly, and a *black* overprint was adopted for all values.

Issue I.

Early 1877.

(1) Type of Issue 1 of Republic. Imperf. and rouletted $15\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$.
1d., vermilion; overprint in *black*.
(*a*) on very thin paper.
(*b*) on thick, soft paper.
(*c*) on hard-surfaced paper.
Number taken over from Republic not known.
21,440 printed 28th September, 1877.

(2) Improved Eagle type. Imperf. and rouletted $15\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$.
3d., dull violet-mauve; overprint in *red*.
On thin paper. Probably only a small quantity taken over from Republic.

(3) Type as Issue I. Imperf. and rouletted $15\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$.
6d., blue; overprint in *red* and in *black*.
On thick, soft paper.
Number taken over from Republic not known.
16,080 printed 7th July, 1877.

(4) Type as Issue I. Imperf. and rouletted $15\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$.
1s., green; overprint in *red* and in *black*.
On thick, soft paper.
Overprinted on the remainder of the unrecorded supply of the Republic.

Issue II.

7th July, 1877.

Improved Eagle type. Imperf. and rouletted $15\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$.
3d., lilac; overprint in *black*.
14,400 stamps, on white paper.

ISSUE III.

31st August, 1877.

Type as Issue I. Imperf. and rouletted $15\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$.

6d., blue on rose; overprint in *black*.

26,880 stamps.

The undermentioned varieties may be found on Issues I. to III.:—

(*a*) The 1d., with double overprint.

(*b*) The 1d., 3d., 6d., and 1s., of Issue I., with a wider space between the two lines of the overprint by four millimetres.

(*c*) The 6d. and 1s., of Issue I., and the 6d., Issue III., *tête bèche*.

(*d*) The 1d., 6d., and 1s., of Issue I., the 3d., of Issue II., and the 6d., of Issue III., with black overprint inverted.

(*e*) The 3d., of Issue I., with overprint in both *black* and *red*.

(*f*) The 3d., of Issue I., with overprint in *red* on the back instead of on the face of the stamp.

(*g*) The 6d., blue on rose, Issue III., without overprint.

I can say that the 1d. and 1s. values, of Issue I., were printed in sheets of two panes; probably the others were also. The variety with a wider space between the two lines of overprint was the third stamp of the second horizontal row of the right hand pane. Minor varieties exist, such as battered and shifted letters, omitted stops, &c.

Then came a change in the type of the overprint. The letters V.R. were in capitals (either roman or italic) and the word Transvaal had the initial capital only. The overprint was in *black*.

ISSUE IV.

24th October, 1877.

3d., lilac on buff.

Two printings.

21,960, 24th October, 1877. Roman V.R. only.
74,480, 15th April, 1878. Roman and italic V.R.
96,440

ISSUE V.

27th November, 1877.

6d., blue on green.

Two printings.

17,920, 27th November, 1877. Roman V.R. only.
14,800, 24th January, 1878. ,, ,,
32,720

ISSUE VI.

6th December, 1877.

1d., red on blue.

13,160 stamps. Roman V.R. only.

ISSUE VII.

18th January, 1878.

1d., red on orange.

Two printings.

48,160, 18th January, 1878. Roman V.R. only.
40,000, 15th April, 1878. Roman and italic V.R
88,160

ISSUE VIII.
20th March, 1878.
6d., blue on blue.
Two printings.
20,000, 20th March, 1878. Roman V.R. only.
34,720, 13th May, 1878. Roman and italic V.R.
54,720

There are several points of interest to be noticed as to these stamps. The 6d., blue on green, and the 1d., red on blue, are found with the Roman V.R. only; probably both were printed from single plates of 40 stamps. The number printed of the 1d. is not divisible by 80, but is by 40; so that, if these stamps were printed in sheets of 40 (*i.e.*, from one pane only), there should be 329 stamps with the error "Transvral." Probably the first printings of the 3d., lilac on buff, 1d., red on orange, and 6d., blue on blue, which had only the one type of V.R., were also from single panes. It is known that the second printings of those values were in sheets of 80—that is, of 2 panes of 40 stamps each. The two types were distributed as follows:—The left hand pane of each of the three values had the Roman V.R. only; the right hand panes of the 1d., red on orange, and 6d., blue on blue, had the eight stamps of the first horizontal row, and the first five stamps of the second row, with the Roman V.R., and the remainder of the panes had the italic—*i.e.*, there were 27 with the italic of each value to the pane of 40. The 3d., lilac on buff, had the first three horizontal rows with the Roman V.R., and the other two rows with the italic—*i.e.*, 16 of the latter to the pane of 40 (not 27 as erroneously stated by Mr. Tamsen). The number of stamps of each type, of each value, can be calculated, and are as follows:—

3d., lilac on buff	Roman V.R.,	81,544	Italic V.R.,	14,896
6d., blue on green	,,	32,720	,,	nil.
1d., red on blue	,,	13,160	,,	nil.
1d., red on orange	,,	74,660	,,	13,500
6d., blue on blue	,,	43,002	,,	11,718

The following varieties may be found on Issues IV. to VIII., and I add, in brackets, the numbers printed of some of the varieties. It will be seen that some are very scarce:—

(*a*) The 1d. red on blue with the error "Transvral" (329).

(*b*) The 1d. red on blue, 3d. lilac on buff, 6d. blue on blue, and 6d. blue on green with overprint inverted.

(*c*) The 6d. blue on blue without overprint (probably only one sheet was so printed).

(*d*) The 6d. blue on green and 6d. blue on blue *tête-bêche*. The latter can only exist with the italic V.R.

(*e*) The 1d. red on blue (329), and 6d. blue on green (818), with the lower half of the letter V broken off.

(*f*) The 1d. red on orange with no stop after V, and the letters V and R spaced close together, Roman type only (1204); and the 6d. blue on green, with two stops between the V and R, but no stop after R, and the letters spaced wider apart (818).

There are other minor varieties arising from battered or shifted type, omitted stops, etc.

The authorities had up to this date been printing from the old plates, and only small supplies at a time, pending the arrival from England of stamps of a new type. I think that coloured paper may have been used, with the object of making the stamps more distinctly differ from those of the Republic than could be done with the overprint alone. The Stamp Commission appointed under the Republic, manufactured all stamps required until the English supply arrived; then the Commission was dissolved. The first English-printed stamps were received on the 24th July, 1874, and issued shortly afterwards.

ISSUE IX.

26th August, 1878.

1d. red-brown and 4d. pale green.

25th November, 1878.

3d., claret; 6d., black; 1s., green; and 2s., blue.

These are the Queen's Head type. They were printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, and Co., in sheets of 60, in six horizontal rows of ten stamps, and were perforated $14\frac{1}{2}$. A second supply was received on 31st October, 1879.

The first supplies of the 1d. and 3d. Queen's Head type were exhausted before the arrival of the second printing from England, so what had been intended as a permanent type was soon interrupted by necessary printings of provisional issues.

ISSUE X.

18th April, 1879.

3d., lilac on green.

From the plates of the first Republic. Overprinted as Issues IV. to VIII.

Two printings.

29,680,	18th April, 1879.	With the two types of V.R., Roman and Italic.
30,800,	30th May, 1879.	„ „ „ „
60,480		

These were printed in two panes to the sheet, but I do not know the arrangement of the types of overprint. This stamp has been chronicled without the overprint, but I have not so met with it. There are numerous so-called varieties arising from faulty printing.

ISSUE XI.

22nd April, 1879.

1 Penny, surcharged in *red* and in *black* in the 6d. Queen's Head type.

Three printings.

18,000,	22nd April, 1879.	
6,000,	28th „	„
36,000,	6th May,	„
60,000		

No doubt the first few sheets of these stamps were surcharged in red, but as the new value was scarcely legible in that colour, the remainder were

surcharged in black. There were several varieties of type in the surcharge, of which I annex a diagram. It will be seen that Mr. Tamsen's list is not quite correct.

1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	1	1*a*	1*a*	1	1	1	1
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

(1) A thin bottom stroke to both numeral and P (11 to the sheet).
(1*a*) The same as (1), but with no tail to the y (2 to the sheet).
(2) No bottom stroke to numeral (4 to the sheet).
(3) A thick bottom stroke to numeral and thin bottom stroke to P (4 to the sheet).
(4) A thick bottom stroke to both numeral and P (9 to the sheet).
(5) Surcharge in thin upright capitals (25 to the sheet).
(6) Surcharge in italics (5 to the sheet).

The width of the surcharge of each type varies slightly; in type (6) the distance between the figure 1 and the capital P varies nearly a millimetre.

When the next supply of 1d. stamps was required, the authorities apparently hesitated to draw further on their reserves of the Queen's Head type and to surcharge; they, therefore, again reverted to the old plates.

Issue XII.

26th August, 1879.

1d. red on *yellow* and on *orange* paper.

54,000 printed from old plates and overprinted "V.R." and "Transvaal"—the V.R. in smaller type and closer together than before. The quantities on the respective papers are not known,

Issue XIII.

5th September, 1879.

3d. lilac on *green* and on *blue* paper.

Also from plates of the first Republic. Overprint as in Issue XII. 52,960 printed.

In Issues XII. and XIII., the last stamps of the second, third, fourth, and fifth horizontal rows have a smaller "T" to "Transvaal." Both issues I believe, were printed in sheets of one pane of 40 stamps. The sheet of

the 3d. which I have has wider side margins than the space which separates the double panes of Issue VIII. and of the 3d. and 1s. issues from the same plates printed by the second Republic.

On the 31st October, 1879, further supplies of the Queen's Head type of the values which had been issued in 1878, arrived from England, and stopped the need for provisionals from the old plates. The provisionals had been manufactured by the printer of the Government Gazette. Although the rate for postage on letters to foreign countries (except England) had long been 7½d. the ½ oz., no half-penny stamps had yet been provided.

ISSUE XIV.

1st September, 1880.

½d. vermilion, Queen's Head type. Perf. 14½. 12,000 received.

This was the last issue under British rule.

Some of the supplies of the 31st October were in hand when the country was handed back to the Boers, and the following table shows how the total number of the stamps of the Queen's Head type were used:

	½d.	1d.	3d.	4d.	6d.	1s.	2s.
Used by the British authorities, unsurcharged.	12,000	389,840	189,920	96,000	180,990	29,993	5,000
Do. surcharged for 1d.	—	—	—	—	60,000	—	—
Used by the Second Republic unsurcharged.	—	90,160	150,080	104,000	147,790	7	4,000
Do. surcharged "Een Penny" in 1882.	—	—	—	120,000	—	—	—
Do. surcharged 2d. Provisionals in 1885.	—	—	–	—	11,220	—	—
Total Nos. printed	12,000	480,000	340,000	320,000	400,000	30,000	9,000

Of the 4,000 2s. blue handed over to the second Republic, a large proportion were only used for telegraphic purposes.

The postal law of the Republic of 1873 had made it compulsory that letters for foreign countries should, in addition to the Transvaal inland rate, bear sufficient stamps of Cape Colony or Natal (in accordance with Conventions with those countries) to defray the postage of the letters to their ultimate destination. The records quoted by Mr. Tamsen show purchases by the Transvaal post-office of Cape stamps only; it would appear from the Postmaster-General's report for 1878 that ocean postage on letters *viâ* Natal was prepaid by Transvaal stamps, and that a proportionate amount was refunded to Natal in cash. I have an envelope sent to Italy, *viâ* Natal, in 1878, which has only Transvaal stamps; I also show you other envelopes, sent *viâ* the Cape, which bear both Transvaal and Cape stamps. In 1879 it was arranged with the Cape authorities that ocean postage should be no longer prepaid by Cape stamps, but by those of the Transvaal, and that accounts should be settled quarterly in cash.

All the locally-printed stamps issued under British rule may exist rouletted, with both the fine and the large roulette, but some have not been

chronicled with the latter. Specimens are known pin-perforated, but probably these were unofficial. It will be seen that many of the stamps of the Transvaal should be very scarce, and I think I have shown that they present a most interesting field for research, which has been sadly neglected by philatelists. I would also add that, however indiscreet Mr. Jeppe may have been before the first postal law came into operation, he appears to have been a zealous and capable official, and that at no time after the actual issue of stamps, either during the first Republic or the British occupation, was there any pandering to supposed needs of collectors. All the numerous varieties of paper, ink, and surcharge were the outcome of the actual needs of the country, and of the difficulties under which the administration was carried on during its unique and, at times, sensational development.

In conclusion, I wish again to express my indebtedness to Mr. Tamsen for the dates and figures on which I have based my calculations and conclusions. I would also say that I have only mentioned varieties which are vouched for. Most of those named are in my own collection.

Notes on the De La Rue Series of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, the 15th of February, 1895.

By J. A. TILLEARD.

THOSE of us who were present at the meeting of the Society, on the 11th May last, may remember that we had the privilege of looking through a very beautiful collection of Indian stamps, kindly forwarded by our Honorary Vice-President, H.R.H. the Duke of York, for inspection by the members attending the meeting.

This collection consisted of about 160 imperforate stamps, and comprised a copy from each registered sheet of the whole of the postage and telegraph stamps prepared for the Indian Government by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

It doubtless occurred to many of the members, that a careful study of this collection might possibly add to the store of knowledge already possessed by the Society, as recorded in its work on the stamps of *British India and Ceylon.*

Although this work received very little notice from the Philatelic press of this country, the fact that, during the time which has elapsed since its publication, there has been little or no attempt on the part of Philatelists to question its accuracy, or to correct any of its details, or to supply omissions in the text, shows how exhaustive and complete was the history of the stamps with which the book deals. It was, therefore, not without

some misgivings as to the possibility of adding anything useful to the information already published, that I made a note of a few points which seemed to call for further investigation.

It is generally admitted that one of the chief charms of the scientific pursuit of our "hobby" lies in the fact that, however careful our study of the stamps of any particular country may be, and however wide may be the information we have been able to obtain, there remains, almost invariably, some points on which further light can, from time to time, be thrown I have accordingly put together such facts as I have been able to ascertain, in the hope that some of you may, perhaps, think that they are of sufficient interest to be recorded.

The first stamps manufactured for India by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. were prepared in 1855, and were printed upon paper without watermark. Two out of the five values of this issue, viz.: the 4 annas, and the 8 annas, are found upon bluish glazed paper, as well as upon the white wove surfaced paper common to all the values.

In the case of the "record" sheets of the various registered plates, it is noticeable that there is only one which is on the first-named paper. This is the sheet from Plate I. of the 8 annas, and as only one plate of the first type of this value was ever registered, it is fair to assume that the stamp first issued was on the blue paper.

The first plate of the 4 annas was printed on the white paper, and perhaps those found on the bluish paper were of a later printing, although it is of course possible that impressions on both papers were sent out with the first deliveries.

It will be remembered that, in some catalogues, the 1 anna and 2 annas values have been mentioned as also existing on bluish paper, but they are not generally believed in; and, as the result of enquiries I have made on the subject, I have been officially informed that there is no record of these values ever being printed on bluish paper, and the manufacturers themselves only know of the 4 annas and 8 annas being so printed. The Society has expressed an opinion against the existence of any other values on the blue paper, and I think we may safely consider that this question is now definitely disposed of.

In the Society's list, the colour of the 2 annas stamp is given as "brown-pink," and in the remarks to Issue III., there is a statement that this was the colour of the stamps as originally transmitted from England, a date nearly two years later than that given for the Issue being assigned to the well known variety in green. Now the registered sheet of Plate I. of the 2 annas was undoubtedly printed in green. The date of registration is the 8th June, 1855, while the stamp in brown-pink does not appear to have been registered until the 2nd September, 1858, when the second plate was made.

I have ascertained from head-quarters that "the stamp was first printed in green," that those first sent out to India were of "this colour," and that there was "no subsequent printing in green."

In the descriptive list prepared by Lieut. Col. Mainwaring, in 1871, to which I shall presently refer, the 2 annas is given, amongst the other stamps issued in 1855, as "green." It is natural to suppose that this would have

been the first colour chosen, the native-printed stamps of this value being also green; and Col. Mainwaring deals with the two annas, "pink," as a separate stamp. In referring to it he says that it is the same stamp as No. 9 c. (the green 2 annas), "of which very few were issued," and he adds: "the similarity of the original colour (green) to the half anna, blue, occasioned it to be changed to pink." He further says: "The selection of pink for this stamp was a mistake, as the colour bore a resemblance to the 8 annas, rose. Like its predecessor, therefore, it had but a very short reign—one set only was issued; it was succeeded by No. 11, 2 annas yellow."

I am somewhat puzzled to ascertain how the date, "September to December, 1857," for Issue III. (which only treats of the stamps we are now considering in the green and yellow colours), as given in the Society's book, has been arrived at. If it is assumed from the official correspondence referred to in the work, I cannot help thinking that there must have been some misunderstanding as to the letter set out at page xxxiii. of the appendix. In this letter, the Director General of the Post-office, replying to an enquiry by the Superintendent of stamps, under date September 11th, 1857, states "the green two-anna labels will not be issued; it is impossible by candle-light to distinguish between them and the half-anna labels." We have seen that the stamps in the green colour were sent out in 1855, and, if Col. Mainwaring is correct in saying that very few were issued, practically the whole stock, in all probability, remained on hand in 1857. Under these circumstances, is it not fair to assume that the Superintendent's letter had reference merely to the desirability of using this stock?

It may perhaps be asked, How it is that we do not see more used specimens of the 2 annas, "green," if it was actually the first sent out? But I should imagine that it was at once found to be unsuitable, and was only employed to a very limited extent, if at all. The native-printed 2 anna stamps had only been issued late in 1854, and probably there was a sufficiency of these in hand to meet the demand, until a fresh supply in a more suitable colour was received from England, as it is on record that the "country manufactured" stamps were not called in or destroyed until 1858.

One of the reasons for the green stamp being considered as of a later date, appears to be that it was assumed that the plate for this value in green was numbered 4. Seeing that we have Messrs. De La Rue & Co's statement that green was the first colour, and that there was no second printing in green, I think some mistake must have been made. Plate IV. (3 c) was only registered on the 2nd May, 1866, the stamps being printed on the paper watermarked with an elephant's head, which was then in use, while all the specimens of the green stamp which I have seen are invariably upon the unwatermarked paper. I cannot understand how any plate of this value could be numbered 4. The first plate was numbered 3 (the 2 anna stamp being the third of the series), the subsequent plates being 3 a, 3 b, &c. This was the practice with all the stamps of the first De La Rue issues, and if any specimen of the 2 annas has been seen bearing the figure 4 in the margin it has no reference to the number of the plate. Possibly the number should have been given as 3, which would be Plate I. of this value.

If Col. Mainwaring is correct as to one printing only of the 2 annas, "pink," being used, it would seem that for some years there were no 2 anna stamps of the De La Rue type employed, as I find that the first sheet registered in "pink" is dated the 2nd September, 1858. This was an impression from Plate II. (3 a). There was doubtless a delivery in this colour about that time, but unfortunately the manufacturers are unable to find the records of their deliveries of the "pink" stamps.

It is of course possible that Col. Mainwaring was mistaken, and that as soon as the "green" stamp was condemned, printings were made in "pink," and sent out to India. These would have been impressions from Plate I., so that no further registration would have been deemed necessary.

On the other hand, none may have been required until the date when the enquiry above referred to, as to the use of the stock in green, was made, and the change of colour was then ordered. The dates of the enquiry and of the subsequent registration of the sheet in "pink," would tend somewhat to confirm this view of the case, and the only dated specimens which I have been able to find were used in 1862.

It would seem to follow that the date of the yellow stamp was later than that given in the Society's work. I learn from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. that those in yellow were first sent out in 1862, and the earliest dated specimen I have found amongst a great number is one used in September of that year.

If I am correct in my conclusions, it would appear that in Issue II. the 2 annas should be described as "green," and that Issue III., if still retained as a separate issue, should be altered so as to comprise the "pink" and the "yellow" colours of this value. The stamps on the unwatermarked paper had a life of nearly ten years, so that, possibly, it would be better to include all the stamps on this paper in Issue II., giving approximate dates for the later colours; as, if they are to be divided, each of the three colours would appear to require to be described as a separate issue.

Reference is made to a specimen of the 2 annas in a reddish-brown colour. This stamp is in the collection of our late Vice-President, but I have not been able to learn anything in regard to it, beyond a statement by the manufacturers, who say "no red-brown were printed; they were printed in pink, and then altered to yellow."

I have appended to this paper a table showing a detailed list of all the plates of the "De La Rue" stamps, of which there are record sheets, with the dates of registration; and a reference to this list will show the number of plates employed for this and each succeeding issue.

The first plate of the 8 pies stamp (Issue IV. of *India and Ceylon*) appears to have been registered on the 21st May, 1859; but this value does not seem to have been issued for use until May in the following year. There were only two plates registered, the first being printed on a very highly glazed paper, which should be readily distinguishable from that used for the later printings.

The change of colour of the 4 annas stamp to "green" was not recorded by a registered sheet, probably because plate 3—which had been registered, and was the last plate used for the stamps printed on unwatermarked paper—was still in use at the date of the change.

With Issue VI. we come to the introduction of the paper watermarked with an elephant's head, which was first employed in the year 1865. The values were not all printed on this paper at the same time, and, from the information I have obtained, it is not quite accurate to give "early in 1865" as the date for the issue.

I imagine that this has been assumed to be the date in consequence of the letter written in October, 1864, by the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General, set out in the appendix to the Society's work. Reference is here made to the fact that a watermarked paper would be employed for the future; but, although instructions were no doubt given at the date named, the paper was not actually introduced until new supplies of stamps were required. I find that, as a matter of fact, the first deliveries of the ½ anna, 1 anna, and 2 annas values were sent out in December, 1865, so that the date of issue should probably be given as "early in 1866." Of the other values the 8 annas stamps were delivered first in January, 1866, the 4 annas in May of the same year, and the 8 pies in September, 1867. I was led to make the enquiries, which have enabled me to give these dates, from the fact that the registration sheets could not be relied upon as giving, even approximately, the time when the supplies commenced, a fresh impression only being registered in many cases, when a new plate was brought into use. Thus, there are no sheets of the 4 annas and 8 annas values, owing, probably, to the fact that the plates in use at the time when the change in the watermark was effected continued in use throughout the remaining lives of these stamps.

In 1866, the design of the 4 annas stamp was altered, and the first plate was registered on the 28th March, the colour being "yellow-green," changed, in 1872, to a dark green. The colour given in the Society's work for this stamp is "dark green," but there is a somewhat contradictory note that the dark shade was not employed until 1876. Seven plates in all of this design were registered; the last on the 12th May, 1880.

There has recently appeared, in a French journal devoted to Philately, an account of the discovery of specimens of this stamp printed from a "retouched" die. The only differences which I have seen mentioned so far appear to be a thickening of the lips, and a lengthening of the oblique descending line, which is found at the part where the lips join, technically known to engravers as the fish-tail. Our esteemed member, Monsieur Moens, in commenting on this discovery, adds that extra lines are found in the forehead, and that the head-band is slightly modified.

A comparison of the specimens from the several registered plates shows an apparent difference between the impressions from plates 6, 7, and 8, and those from the earlier plates. The differences are not very pronounced, and I was at first inclined to think that there were no changes which could not be accounted for by the work upon the plates, which is always necessary, in the case of surface-printed stamps, in the preparation of the plates for printing, to enable satisfactory impressions of all the stamps to be obtained. Several other careful investigators had, I found, come to the conclusion that there had been no alteration in the die; and, but for the fact that Mr. Bacon, whose valuable aid I sought, thought that he could trace signs of slight

alterations, I should possibly have contented myself with the erroneous opinion that the discovery was of little importance.

On consulting an authority whose opinion ought to have been conclusive, it was declared, on examination, that the specimens from the several plates which I submitted were all made from the same die. As, however, after seeing the entire registered sheets, I still felt some doubts, a search was made for my satisfaction, and it was discovered that, in 1877—the year in which plate 6 was made—the working die was "opened up a little," and a new plate was prepared from it, thus confirming the accuracy of observation of the French authorities, and the "infinite capacity for taking pains" of our friend, Mr. Bacon.

I have since had an opportunity of inspecting proofs in black on card from the die as it existed, both before and after alteration, and, in these proofs, the changes are naturally easier to distinguish than is the case in the ordinary impressions from the plates. There are a number of minor differences which might be described, but the principal are, in the shape of the "fish tail," the rounding of the chin, an increased curve in the upper lip, and, as pointed out to me by Mr. Bacon, an alteration in the shading just beneath the mouth, caused by the removal of two of the shading lines.

The chief guide for distinguishing the plates will, however, be found in the fact that the stamps from the altered die have a somewhat different general appearance, the profile from the point of the nose downwards, extending to half way down the neck, being outlined by a well-defined line of colour, which does not appear in the earlier printed stamps. The specimen from which the illustration of this value in the Society's work was taken, is one of the "retouched" type.

There does not seem to be any record of the precise reason for the change in the case of this stamp, but I understand that it was probably in consequence of some difficulty in working from the plates made from the die as it originally existed.

I am told that it is no uncommon occurrence to find that plates are not capable of all the work that should be obtained from them. Small defects in the detail, or otherwise, are discovered which causes "inking up," resulting in difficulty and delay in printing, owing to the constant attention and frequent cleaning of the plates which is required. When this happens, the working die is softened, and the parts which give rise to the defects in the plates are deepened or modified, as may be found necessary, new plates being then made. Sometimes, in this operation, the die is damaged, necessitating the making of a fresh working die from the original "mother" die, which is never used for the making of the plates. I understand that it is often necessary to resort to some slight retouch of dies, and it is probable that a close examination of surface-printed stamps which have had any length of life, and have demanded the employment of many plates, may bring to light similar instances, in stamps of this and other countries, which have hitherto passed unobserved, owing to the change effected in the dies being so minute.

I have not been able to find any other examples amongst the Indian

postage stamps, but there are some similar cases in the second issue of the telegraph stamps, to which I shall presently refer.

The date of the first registration of the new value of 6 annas 8 pies (Issue IX.) is given as 21st August, 1872. There is, no doubt, an error in this date, which, doubtless, should be 1866, as the second plate was registered on the 1st December, 1869, and I have ascertained, from the manufacturers, that the first printings were delivered in October, 1866. Possibly the date of issue was earlier than that suggested in *India and Ceylon*, viz., May (?) 1867, as in the annual Post-office Report, published in September, 1868, this stamp is one of those mentioned as being on sale in 1866–67, and 1867–68.

In 1867 an alteration was made in the 8 annas stamp. (*See* Issue X.) The first plate was prepared in April, 1867, and the second in December of the same year, but there was no registration until the 13th April, 1870, the record sheet being printed from Plate IV. of this value. The altered die was first employed for the official stamps, a supply overprinted "service" being sent out in July, 1867, followed by a consignment of the ordinary postage stamps printed from the same plate in September, 1867.

The differences in the design are so distinct, owing to an entire change in the form of the diadem, and the increase in the size of the lettering, that no mistake can well be made in the type in the case of this stamp.

In regard to the reasons for the change in the design in this value and, later on, in that of the half-anna stamp, all that I can learn from the manufacturers is, that the alterations were effected "to generally improve the stamps."

In *India and Ceylon* the next issue (XI.) in 1874 comprises the one rupee value alone. It would appear that the 9 pies value should also be included in this issue instead of in that of October, 1876, as I find that the first order for 9 pies stamps was completed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. in 1874. In the remarks on this stamp, in the Society's work under Issue XII., the probability of its use in 1874 is noted; and the annual Post Office Report for 1874–75 states that "a 9 pie postage stamp was substituted for the formerly existing 8 pie label"; so that it must have been issued before the date of Issue XII., under which it is classed in the Society's catalogue.

It follows, from what I have said above, that Issue XII. should consist of two values only, viz., the 6 annas and the 12 annas. The lower value was registered on the 26th April, 1876, and the other on the 4th May, 1876; and the former has continued in use unchanged up to the present time.

(*To be continued.*)

Occasional Notes.

THE RE-BAPTISM OF PRINCE BORIS.

THE political exigencies that have necessitated the re-baptism of this much-discussed Royal infant, are tolerably well known; but the ludicrous side of the affair (assuming that it possesses the reverse) has now been displayed in the issue of Commemorative Stamps and Post Cards—six in all. They are doubtless the precursors of others to celebrate the Royal regenerate Infant's recovery from measles and whooping-cough, which will, of course, equally merit the attention of serious Philatelists!

THE PARIS PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

AN important step in the progress of Philately in Paris has recently been taken—namely, the fusion of the two largest and most important Philatelic Societies of the French Metropolis. Henceforward the quondam *Société Française de Timbrologie* and the *Société Philatélique Française* will be known only by the former name, and a complete amalgamation of all the several members has been effected. At a joint meeting of the members of both Societies, held at the residence of M. Donatis on the 22nd January, the new Society was fully constituted, and the following gentlemen duly elected as the officers of the new body:

President . .	MM. Donatis	*Members of Committee*	MM. Langlois
Vice-President . .	Bernichon	,, .	Mahé
Secretary . .	Schoeller	,, .	Auscher
Assistant Secretary .	Vincent	,, .	Vervelle
Treasurer . .	Christophe	,, .	Beil
Librarian . .	Schwab	,, .	Grignard

Chief Editor of the "Revue Philatélique" . M. Grignard.

It will be seen that M. Donatis, so long and honourably connected with Philately, extends his Presidency of the first-mentioned Society to that of the whole body, while M. J. Bernichon, who was the President of the *Société Philatélique Française*, accepts the post of Vice-President. The address of the Treasurer is 126, Rue de Tocqueville, Paris, to whom all subscriptions should be sent.

This important *démarche* is largely due to the active and intelligent initiative of M. Jules Bernichon, than whom there is no more popular or esteemed dealer in "all Paris," and we can but wish to our friends across the Channel that the joint efforts of the new Society may be productive of all the good results anticipated.

In a masterly exposition of the existing situation, and the advantages obtainable by amalgamation, addressed to the President of the *Société*

Française de Timbrologie by M. Bernichon, he calls attention to the necessity of having a leading Society in each country, and instances the London Philatelic Society and others. There can be no doubt but that it is of distinct advantage that every country should possess one Society that is acknowledged as *facile princeps*. It should, however, be borne in mind that mere numbers alone do not entitle to the lead, as we can call to mind other Societies in both hemispheres where the large roll of members is in exact inverse ratio to the amount of Philatelic work achieved. The new French Society embraces many men who are well calculated to carry out the latter object, and we sincerely trust that in papers read before the Society, and published in its journal, the *Société Française de Timbrologie* will show itself fully capable of upholding the great traditions of French literature as applied to our Philatelic field.

THE GENEVA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

WE have received the prospectus of this Exhibition, which will be held from the 8th to the 23rd of August next, in the beautiful city that gives its name to Switzerland's greatest lake. The exhibits are divided into 14 groups, of which the first 5 are all Swiss. It is hence apparent that the Exhibition will, in its main features, be one of Swiss stamps; and as there are more of these interesting Philatelic specimens in Switzerland than in the rest of the world, there will probably be found such a consensus of cantonals that will well repay inspection. From all present indications we gather that there will be a large influx of Philatelic visitors to Geneva from all parts of Europe next August, and there is every reason to anticipate a great success. The jruy is composed as follows:

PRESIDENT:

M. DE REUTERSKIÖLD, *Ouchy*.

MEMBERS:

MM. J. BERNICHON . .	*Paris.*	MM. EDLER-BLAUL . .	*St. Gall.*
M. P. CASTLE . .	*Brighton.*	J. JOERIN SUTER .	*Basle.*
DR. E. DIENA .	*Modena.*	E. STOCK . .	*Berlin.*

M. Ed. Cremieux, of Geneva, and M. de Reuterskiöld, are the Presidents of the Committee of Management, which contains many influential names from France, Germany, and Switzerland. *Floreat Geneva!*

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making these columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen, such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. All communications to come under this heading should be addressed: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

BARBADOS.—We clip the following from the *Monthly Journal*: "A correspondent in this Colony kindly sends us a wrapper, handstamped 'PAID AT BARBADOES,' in three lines, within a circle, with a Crown at the top, which he tells us represents a *Farthing*, the rate to which the local postage on newspapers has recently been reduced. The use of this commenced on January 24th.

"The handstamp is identical with that employed for the provisional ½d. envelope, and we are not sure whether these wrappers are actually sold at the Post-office, or whether the stamp is applied to packets after they are posted. A ¼d. stamp, however, will doubtless follow, and we congratulate the Colony on being the first to introduce this rate." *Wrapper.* (¼d.), black on *buff.*

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.—With reference to our remarks last month regarding the £25 stamp, we are indebted to the courtesy of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, for a letter bearing on the subject, in which they inform us that "Stamps of the value of £25 have been supplied and sent out to the British Central Africa Protectorate, but we have no information as to whether they have been issued or not."

In the meantime our remarks appear to be confirmed, and we shall hope to be able to supply our readers with more definite particulars at an early date. Will anyone who knows of, or possesses, a copy of this stamp, kindly either send same for inspection, or particulars of its origin?

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—We have to thank Mr. D. Montague Jacobs for sending us an early specimen of the new issue alluded to on page 19; we have had a block made which describes itself. Mr. Jacobs writes: "There are six rows, of ten in each row to the sheet, which has an outer line of colour, similar to the colour of the value outside the perforations on each sheet. The left-hand margin of the sheet has a small figure 2 in a small circle opposite the top row of stamps. These stamps are not to be brought into use until the present issue is completely exhausted, which is not likely to be for a couple of months yet."



The specimen before us is printed in two colours: the small shields in the four corners bearing the value in figures, and the tablet at base inscribed "PENCE," are in red-lilac, and the remainder of the design in ultramarine.

The stamps are the work of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., and are printed on white wove paper, perforated 14.

Adhesive. 4 pence, ultramarine and red-lilac.

We are further indebted to Mr. Jacobs for the following information: "I also have to report the surcharging of the £2, £5, and £10 stamps into £50, £100, and £200 values, for use on licenses, transfers, and other sources of revenue, so do not come in for postal requirements. They are overprinted in bold figures in the centre, and value in words across the original value, one line for the £50, and two lines for the other two."

CEYLON.—The accompanying illustration shows the type of the "On Service" surcharge recently chronicled.



GIBRALTAR.—We hear a rumour that the 5 pesetas stamp has become obsolete, the remainders, amounting to 6000 copies, having been sold. Whether this means that the bi-colour stamp is to take its place, or that the value is not required, we do not know.

HONG KONG.—We have omitted to mention the 4 c. adhesive, which is now printed on CA paper. Peculiar interest perhaps attaches to the obsolete CC stamp, it being the stamp longest in use without change of colour or watermark. The only modification it ever saw was a change of perforation, from 14 to 12½, and *vice-versâ*.

Adhesive. 4 c., grey ; *wmk. Cr. CA.*

MAURITIUS.—In the new type (page 52) we have,

Post Cards. 6 c., purple on *pale buff.*
6+6 c. ,, ,, (reply).

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The 2 c. adhesive has had its colour changed from vermilion to brown. *Adhesive.* 2 c., brown.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*Le T.-P.* announces a change in the 1891 card. The stamp has the figure 1 larger and thicker, and the "½d." is nearer the "1," with a small "d"; the value on the tablet at base reads "PENNY, HALF-PENNY." The size of the card has been reduced to 147×81 mm., to conform to the Postal Union regulations.

Post Card. 1½d., deep blue on *straw.*

ST. LUCIA.—We are glad to be able to state, on the authority of Messrs. Cameron & Co., that the 10s. adhesive has by no means become obsolete. They write, "We received by last mail a letter from head office, stating that there were as many as we might require."

A similar report has been spread, that Tobago stamps were to be withdrawn! We can only warn our readers to await the confirmation of such reports in some *reliable* journal, before high prices are paid for stamps, which have been perhaps temporarily boomed to suit the seller's purpose. The votaries of Philately are not so scarce in these days that news of any such changes is passed unnoticed.

SEYCHELLES.—We are glad to learn that, for the present at any rate, the little (or big) speculative scheme of reduction in rupees, and consequent reduction in postage rates, has been quashed ; and, for the present, we have no need to fear the surcharges recently spoken of.

SIERRA LEONE.—The sixpenny stamp has for some time been the object of interest to many collectors. We now have it printed in red-violet, in place of violet-brown ; but the CC paper still continues, with perf. 14.

Adhesive. 6d., red-violet.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The *A. P.* chronicles the 2½d. and 4d. values perforated 13, the latter value being printed in a much deeper shade of mauve.

Adhesives. 2½d., chocolate ; perf. 13.
4d., deep mauve ,,

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—A mistake occurred in our chronicle of the Halfpenny provisionals last month ; the reprint was on the CA paper, and *not* the CC ; the corrected list should read :

Adhesives.

Halfpenny, red and green ; surcharge on 3d., bistre-brown; wmk. Cr. CC.

Halfpenny, red and green ; surcharge on 3d., bistre-brown; wmk. Cr. CA (reprint).

ZULULAND.—The current set has been supplemented by a new value—2s. 6d. The *I. B. J.* informs us that the stamp is printed in green, with the value in black, wmk. Cr. CA ; perf. 14.

Adhesive. 2s. 6d., green and black.

EUROPE.

FINLAND.—The 10 penn., rose, is now current with the perforation 14.

Adhesive. 10 penn , rose ; perf. 14.

FRANCE.—Now that the design for the new stamps has been (presumably) settled upon, we have gone to the expense of reproducing the accepted design, which will be seen to be at once tasteful and unpretending. We are indebted to the *Monthly Circular* for the following description, taken from *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. It speaks for itself, leaving us to remark that critics should only form a final opinion from the finished stamp, when it appears, an opinion which we hope to have the pleasure of forming *soon*.

"Here, at last, is the new postage stamp as it left the pencil of Grasset, after eight months of ardent toil, in which the great designer recast his work twenty times over. As a well-known critic has justly said, all this labour does not make itself apparent ;

but is it not in the nature of perfect works of art—as well in design as in music and all other things—to hide under their outward appearance combinations which have cost their creators the greatest pains?

"As our sketch shows, the new stamp will represent not the joyous Republic with the Phrygian cap, but France bareheaded, crowned with laurels, leaning with one hand on a sheathed sword, and with the other holding the olive branch of Peace. In the background are the lictors' fasces crowned with the Cap of Liberty, and encircled with a laurel wreath. The design is shown here



in outline only; we publish it at the earliest opportunity, incomplete as it is, for it will give our readers a sufficient idea of the long-expected stamp, but we must complete it by some explanations. It is a gem with a brave play of three tints—one dark, for line and ground; then a half tint to colour and strengthen certain parts of the composition; and lastly, in reserve, the white of the paper itself, which will light up the hands and features, and give life and animation to the whole.

"In two printings the little engraving will be made perfect; one printing for the strong tint, the other for the pale. The hair which twines and gleams on the proud young head conceived by the master, is in the half-tint, which also plays on the lamellated cuirass, and in the folds of the covering robe; it also serves to soften into the background the governmental emblems, which must needs be present, but are not to be emphasized.

"In spite of the care given to the engraving, and the expense of the machines and the double printing, the new stamps will cost only 24 centimes the thousand; while abroad, in the countries where recess-engraving is employed, the price is at least 50 to 75 centimes a thousand. Our stamp will not be inferior to any other; for it is a work of art, freshly inspired and executed, noble in character, and, furthermore, a true engraving, the engraving of an artist.

"Foreign stamps, and those which we have hitherto used in our own country, have been almost exclusively paper medals. They have not had the rich and flowing style of Grasset's stamp, their composition being inspired rather by the sculptor's art than that of the limner. It seems to us that it is rather in the latter that the postage stamp should find its birthplace."

HOLLAND.—The 20 c. postage due has been issued in the new colour, and the advent of the 1 gulden will complete the set.

Postage Due. 20 c., ultramarine, type III.

LUXEMBURG.—We hear of the following stamps, with perforation changed from 12½ to 11½.

Adhesives. 12½ c., slate-blue; perf. 11½.
20 c., orange ,,
30 c., olive ,,
37½ c., green ,,
50 c., brown ,,

NORWAY.—The 35 öre has appeared in the redrawn type.

Adhesive. 35 öre, deep green.

ROUMANIA.—The *A. J. of Ph.* has received the 60 bani unpaid letter stamp, with watermark, consisting of Coat of Arms sideways.

Adhesive. 60 bani, emerald-green.

SERVIA.—The *I. B. J.* announces a 1 dinar stamp, in new colours.

Adhesive. 1 dinar, red on *blue*.

AMERICA.

HONDURAS.—The extraordinary new issue, mentioned last month, turns out to be the forerunner of a new set of 8 values, all of which are now current.

Adhesives. 1 c., blue.
2 c., bistre.
5 c., violet.
10 c., red.
20 c., green.
30 c., blue.
50 c., carmine.
1 peso, brown.

SANTANDER.—We appear to have overlooked the following 5 c. adhesive, which was issued on January 1st.



Adhesive.
5 c., brown; perf. 13.

URUGUAY.—Accompanying the new issue already illustrated was a postal notice to the following effect:

"GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

"WARNING.

"By command of the General Administration, on the 1st January, 1896, there will be put into circulation a new issue of postage stamps of the following values and colours:

50 centesimos, sky-blue and black.
1 peso, brown and black.
2 ,, violet and green.
3 ,, carmine and sky-blue.

"The period of 90 days from the date indicated is allowed for the withdrawal from circulation of the stamps of equal value now in use. The exchange of these for those of the new issue must be made within the last 30 days of the period allowed. This change is authorised at all the offices of this service.

"The public is warned that after the period mentioned, postage stamps of the old issue will not be considered of any value for the prepayment of postage.

"THE SECRETARYSHIP."

The above fills up the colours of the high values which we could not supply last month. *Le Timbre-Poste* mentions the perforation as 15?

Adhesives. 50 c., sky-blue and black.
1 peso, brown and black.
2 ,, violet and green.
3 ,, carmine and sky-blue.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—Probably some of our readers have been wondering how "annas" got into Cuban currency; our chronicle last month should, of course, have read "mils."

ERITREA.—The following Italian stamps have been overprinted "Eritrea" in black.

Adhesives. 20 c., orange, black surcharge.
25 c., blue ,,

FERNANDO PO.—We have two new adhesives of the "Baby" type, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives. 2 c. de peso, carmine.
5 c. ,, blue-green.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—The *M. J.* has received a batch of new colours, as follows:

Adhesives. 2 c. de peso, ultramarine.
5 c. ,, green.
10 c. ,, orange-brown.
15 c. ,, bluish-green.
20 c. ,, orange.

PORTO RICO.—From the same source we hear of the following new colours:

Adhesives.

½ mil, violet.
1 ,, chocolate.
2 ,, yellow-green.
4 ,, blue-green.
1 c. de peso, carmine.
2 ,, red-brown.
3 c. de peso, ultramarine.
4 ,, bronze-brown.
5 ,, ultramarine.
6 ,, mauve.
8 ,, bright rose.

SAMOA.—A post card has recently been issued. It has a 1d. stamp, of the current type, impressed in the right upper corner, and inscription in three lines.

Post Card. 1d., green on *greenish.*

TONGA.—The latest is the 2½d. stamp, cut diagonally, and used for 1d. But we have now got accustomed to any news emanating from this fertile field of the speculative and unnecessary.

TRANSVAAL.—The *Record* states that although chronicled in the new type, the 2½d. value has not been issued; further, that even the current, lately issued, series is to undergo a change, but although an "improved design" is spoken of, no further enlightenment is given as to what it is to consist of, and probably a change in colour is all that is anticipated; further news will no doubt be coming to hand shortly.

ZANZIBAR.—There is a further error of the surcharge on the Indian series, the ½ anna also reading "ZANZIDAR."

Adhesive. ½ anna, green, error "ZANZIDAR."

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, K.G., &c.
Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. The Duke of York, K.G.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—
Vice-President—M. P. Castle.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. Tilleard. | *Hon. Assistant Secretary*—R. Pearce.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. Biggs. | *Librarian*—T. Maycock.

E. D. Bacon. | E. B. Evans. | T. Wickham Jones.
R. Ehrenbach. | D. Garth. | H. R. Oldfield.

The seventeenth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 14th February, 1896, when the following members attended, viz., Messrs. C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, N. Newton, F. Ransom, D. Ellis, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, J. A. Tilleard, and B. D. Knox.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Biggs, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The agenda for the evening contained the names of two candidates for election to membership of the Society, but the taking of the ballot was postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. E. J. Nankivell, in opening a discussion on "the collection of new issues," called attention to the movement in favour of a new School of Collectors, confining their studies to the stamps issued since 1890, and invited comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of this system, both from the educational and financial standpoints. Many of the members present took part in the discussion, and the opinion was generally expressed that although the collection of new issues only could not compare in interest with the collection of the stamps of any country or countries from the time of their first issues, the movement was from many points of view worthy of support, provided it could be freed from the principal dangers and objections pointed out by Mr. Nankivell and other members.

On the motion of Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mr. Maycock, the thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Nankivell for introducing the subject for discussion.

The eighteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 21st February, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., the following members being present, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, T. Maycock, W. Silk, T. W. Hall, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard. One visitor was also present.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The receipt from Messrs. Bright & Son of a copy of their recently published *A B C Catalogue*, sent by them for the Society's Library, was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

The Secretary read a letter from Major George S. Lowe, forwarding specimens of the 5 kr. Austrian stamp of the issue of 1890, and calling attention to several variations in the printing of the inscriptions in black. The stamps were examined by the members present, and the opinion was generally expressed that the minor varieties referred to were all due to want of care in inking the plates in the operation of printing the sheets. A letter was also read from Mr. F. R. Fraser, sending for inspection a small sized registered envelope of "Chamba State," in which the inscription of the name of the State had been printed in error on the face of the envelope, instead of on the stamp. The Secretary was directed, in acknowledging both letters, to thank the writers for their communications, and for sending the stamps for inspection by the members.

Mr. E. J. Nankivell showed an unsevered used pair of the 5 c. stamp of the 1865 issue of Chili, watermarked with the long numeral 5, and printed on *laid* paper.

Mr. R. Pearce then read the concluding portion of his paper on the stamps of the Transvaal, comprising all the issues since the commencement of the second Republic. The numbers of the stamps printed for each issue were given, together with much valuable information in connection with their history, and the numerous varieties and errors to be found, and Mr. Pearce handed round for comparison his fine collection of the stamps under consideration.

On the motion of Mr. Oldfield, seconded by Mr. Meyer, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Pearce for his interesting paper, which will be published in the *London Philatelist*, and for giving the members present an opportunity of inspecting his collection of Transvaal stamps.

THE nineteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 28th February, 1896, at 7.30. The members present were :—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, C. N. Biggs, A. A Davis, T. Maycock, D. Ellis, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter from the Secretary of the Leeds Society communicating a resolution expressing the sympathy of the members with the London Society in the loss of the late President, the Earl of Kingston, was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. W. L. Chew, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, and Mr. A. Holland, proposed by Mr. G. L. Toppan, and seconded by Mr. F. W. Ayer, were elected members of the Society.

The business of the evening consisted of a discussion on "Envelopes and Post Cards," which was opened by Mr. R. Meyer. The chief reasons for the general neglect of this interesting branch of Philately were considered, as also the best mode of collecting so as to minimise the principal objection on the ground of bulk, and difficulty in arrangement. Many of the members present took part in the discussion, and on the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, the thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Meyer for introducing the subject for discussion.

THE twentieth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, 6th March, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz. :—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, T. W. Hall, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, W. Silk, J. C. Potter, C. Stewart-Wilson, E. J. Nankivell, R. Meyer, R. Pearce, C. W. Viner, T. Maycock, and J. A. Tilleard. Three visitors were also present.

The chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, in the absence of the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing a copy of a minute by the Postmaster-General of New South Wales, in reference to the sale of the Official Stamps, forwarded by the Governor of the Colony. The Postmaster-General in his minute stated that looking at the matter in its broadest sense, he considered that the function of the Post-office should be limited to the issue of stamps for postage and revenue purposes only, and that he had given promises that no more obliterated "O.S." stamps should be issued.

Mr. Charles E. McNaughtan, proposed by Mr. M. E. Hughes-Hughes, and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. H. R. Oldfield then read a paper on the "Cantonal Stamps of Switzerland," comprising a very complete history of these interesting stamps, and containing a description of the various designs and types, with particulars of the principal tests available in each case for distinguishing the genuine stamps from the numerous forgeries which exist.

Details of the various forgeries were also given, and Mr. Oldfield presented to each of the members attending the meeting a very fine series of photographs of genuine and forged stamps, in illustration of his observations, together with a lithographed reproduction of the postmarks employed at the time when the stamps were in use.

In dealing with the "Vaud" stamps, it was explained that they should strictly be classed with the Geneva issues, and that, like the Winterthur stamps, they were really a Federal issue, the Neuchatel stamp being also probably in the same category.

The paper, for which the hearty thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Oldfield, on

the motion of Dr. Viner, seconded by Mr. Bacon, will be published in the *London Philatelist*.

A vote of thanks was also awarded to Mr. Otto Pfenninger, for his assistance in the preparation of the excellent photographs presented to the members, being moved by Mr. Oldfield, and seconded by Mr. Pearce.

BENGAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

MINUTE of the nineteenth meeting held at Messrs. Larmours' on the 21st November, 1895.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, both at home, Mr. C. F. Larmour was voted to the chair.

As no meeting was held during the summer recess, the new season now opens.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: H. F. Samman, Esq., proposed by the Hon. Secretary, and seconded by E. W. S. Russell, Esq.; Dr. C. L. Faulkner, proposed by the Hon. Secretary, and seconded by W. Corfield, Esq.

Mr. Corfield suggested that the Government be petitioned again regarding the import duty now levied on postage stamps, which duty, as previously represented to Government, is unjust, while scarcely beneficial to the State. The matter will be taken up again at the next meeting, when a fresh petition will be submitted for approval.

Mr. C. F. Larmour, referring to last year's stamp exhibition, said that, considering how favourably it had met with public patronage, it would be desirable to have another this season, when even a greater success might be expected. It was resolved by the members present that at the next general meeting the matter be definitely discussed, and practical steps taken to carry out the proposal.

The next meeting will be held on the 27th December, 1895, at the same place.

With a vote to the chair the meeting closed.

MINUTE of the twentieth meeting of the Society held at Messrs. Larmours' on the 27th January, 1896, at 9.15 p.m.

It was decided that the Society's Exhibition be held possibly on the 28th–29th February, at the same place as last year, and the Secretary requested to ask the permission of the authorities for the local required.

The following committee was formed: Alf. A. Lyall, Esq., Vice-President, E. Berthoud, Esq., Hon. Secretary (*ex-officio*), Goodwin Norman, Esq., F. N. Schiller, Esq., Dr. Fowler Greenhill, G. O. B. Saunders, Esq. Messrs. C. F. Larmour and F. A. Larmour, Joint Secretaries.

The following gentlemen sent in their resignation: Capt. Slade Thomson, P. J. Lancaster, Esq., which the meeting accepted with regret.

A paper received from Mr. C. Stewart Wilson, on the subject of "Postage Stamps bearing Foreign Postmarks," was read by Mr. Larmour, and different views on this important matter were discussed by the members present. Thanks were sent to Mr. C. S. Wilson for his interesting paper.

Some very rare Mauritius and West Indies stamps were circulated for members, inspection. Among others Mr. Schiller produced the Virgin Island, crimson, coloured margin, shilling, surcharged 4d., but with double surcharge and used. This is an unchronicled specimen, and, so far as we know, unique.

With a vote to the chair the meeting closed.

MINUTE of the twenty-first society meeting, held at the Adelphi Hotel on the 13th February, 1896, 9.15 p.m.

A list of the members sending stamps for the exhibition was made out, as well as the classification of their respective exhibits. Arrangements were made in order that the most interesting countries be well represented, and a successful exhibition is anticipated.

A very interesting paper from our President, on "Stamps of British India, surcharged for the use of Native States," was kindly read by Mr. Larmour, and thanks voted by the appreciative meeting for their worthy President.

With a vote to the chair the meeting closed.

E. BERTHOUD, *Hon. Sec.*

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: W. T. Wilson, Esq.
Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Mr. G. Johnson, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

February 20th. Major G. S. Lowe (Devonport), Captain C. L. Norris-Newman (South Africa), H. Edelmüller, Esq. (Birmingham), were unanimously elected members. One application was postponed.

A vote of thanks was given to the Sheffield Philatelic Society for their invitation to the exhibition in Sheffield, which was accepted.

A display of "Novelties and New Issues" was then given by Mr. W. Brown and other members. A large number of rarities were shewn, and the exhibit was especially interesting, because in the case of the recent surcharged stamps, they were mostly shewn in complete sheets, to allow the minor varieties to be more clearly noticed.

March 5th. Sir Edward Sullivan, Bart. (Dublin), Messrs. F. E. Wilson (Birmingham), and A. E. Griffiths (London), were unanimously elected members.

A vote of thanks was given to Messrs. Bright and Son (Bournemouth), for a copy of their Catalogue.

It was decided to hold no meeting on April 2nd.

Then followed the "Display of the Stamps of Tasmania," in which several members exhibited a very fine lot of the early issues and rare varieties, used and unused.

Exchange Packets for March. The total value of these beat our record of last month for the highest amount ever circulated in one month by any Society.

	£	s.	d.
A. Colonials and Foreign	599	12	10½
B. Colonials only . .	1292	2	0½
C. Foreign only . .	314	11	7½
Total .	£2206	6	6½

One sheet in "B" contained the ordinary stamps of Turks Islands complete, and the surcharged ones in good variety. "C," although the smallest in value, contained some very nice sheets of unused Europeans, etc., and as a number of our Continental and United States members have promised to send regularly to this, we hope that very shortly it will rival the Colonial packet in value as well as interest.

THE BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday evening, the 4th February. There was a good muster of members present, Mr. Oliver Firth, the President, occupying the chair.

The formal business of the meeting having been disposed of, Mr. W. M. Gray read a carefully-prepared and interesting paper on the Stamps of Hamburg, illustrating the same with a good collection of those stamps which he possesses. He also showed some envelopes which had contained letters received from Samoa, which had been franked with the present issue of Samoan stamps, upon which he stated no extra postage had been paid, and which, therefore, showed that the statement that had been recently made, that such stamps were not available for postage to this country, is incorrect.

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd March.

W. H. Scott, *Hon. Sec.*

1, Piccadilly, Bradford.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—Baron de Worms.
President—M. P. Castle.
Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. Willett, West House, Brighton.

The ninth meeting of the season 1895–6 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 3rd, at 8.15 p.m. Ten members were present. The President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the President read a very interesting paper on the stamps of Tuscany, illustrated by his superb collection, practically complete, both unused and used, and including magnificent series of shades of all values. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Castle for his paper.

The tenth meeting of the season 1895–96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 17th, at 8.15 p.m. Nine members and one visitor attended. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Gillespie occupied the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, a discussion ensued on the revision of the exchange circuit rules, the consideration of which was eventually referred to a sub-committee of three members. Mr. Marshall read an extremely interesting paper on "The post-marked Adhesives of Great Britain," and exhibited a great number of reconstructed sheets, many being quite completed. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Marshall for his interesting display.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. Denison Roebuck, F.L.S.

The ninth meeting was held on Monday, the 3rd February, the President in the chair. Thanks were voted for donations of the current numbers of periodicals.

The Hon. Secretaries announced, with great regret, that the London Philatelic Society had sustained a great loss by the death of their President, the Earl of Kingston, and a vote was unanimously passed, on the motion of Mr. T. K. Skipwith, assuring the London Society of the deep sympathy felt by the Leeds members.

Mr. W. K. Skipworth then gave a lucid and minute description of "The Minor Varieties of the United States from 1870 to the present time," illustrated by his collection and enlarged drawings of the distinguishing marks, after which he received a cordial vote of thanks.

Mr. E. Egly exhibited a series of envelopes in illustration of postal irregularities.

T. Kershaw Skipwith,
13, *Victoria Road, Headingly, Leeds*:
John H. Thackrah,
54, *St. Michael's Road, Headingly, Leeds.*
} *Hon. Secs.*

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

THE fifth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars' Hotel on the 22nd November, Mr. J. H. Abbott in the chair. Owing to the President not being able to give his paper, Mr. W. W. Munn read a paper on "The Stamps of San Marino," describing the primitive arrangements of the postal service, and proving that the many changes of stamps were intended more for the benefit of the Republic than the philatelist. Entire sheets of various surcharges, shewing varieties of type, were exhibited by Mr. Munn, having been kindly lent by Mr. William Brown, Salisbury, from his private collection.

THE sixth meeting of the session was held on the 6th December, at the Grand Hotel, Mr. W. D. Beckton in the chair. Mr. D. Ostara read a paper on the "Stamps of Spain, 1850-56," describing method of printing, varieties, and numbers issued. Of the two reales, 1851, only 1,432 stamps were sold, thus accounting for the great rarity of this stamp. The early stamps of Spain were printed very carelessly, and the Government were much troubled with forgeries intended to defraud the revenue. These stamps have also been largely forged for sale to collectors. One forgery, by a Leipzic printer, is produced by photo-engraving, and it is difficult for an expert to distinguish it from an original.

The third Annual Dinner of the Society was held at the Grand Hotel, on 20th December, Mr. Vernon Roberts presiding. There were present a large number of members and friends. A novel menu card, decorated with the postage stamps of various countries, had been prepared for the occasion. After dinner, the Chairman proposed the toast of "The Queen," which was duly honoured. The remainder of the evening was devoted to music and song, contributed by the following gentlemen: Messrs. Vivian, Petri, Murray, Wallace, Harrison, Gibson, and Dr. Williams.

The eighth meeting of the session was held on the 17th January, at the Grand Hotel, Mr. J. H. Abbott in the chair. Messrs. H. E. M. Rolsted and J. W. Etherington were elected members. Mr. G. B. Duerst read a paper on "Aerial Post" The first part dealt with the history and construction of balloons, and the second part with their use as a means of communication during war. The first French Republic used a balloon at the siege of Conde, in 1793, and established a school for aeronautics in 1794. The study and practice went on; but it was not until the siege of Paris, in 1870, that war balloons were fully utilized.

It being necessary to keep in touch with the outside, a decree of the 27th September notified that the post was authorized to send, by means of balloons, ordinary letters for France, Algiers, and foreign countries, weight of letters not to exceed 4 grammes ($\frac{1}{7}$ oz.), charge 20 centimes. Altogether, 64 balloons were despatched from Paris, of which 5 were captured, and 2 lost at sea. They conveyed 64 aeronauts, 91 passengers, 363 pigeons, 5 dogs, and 9,000 kilos (nearly 9 tons) of letters. This would mean about 3,000,000 letters.

An exhibition of the stamps of Bavaria was held on the 31st January, Mr. W. D. Beckton presiding. The Chairman alluded to the death of the Earl of Kingston, one of the honorary members of the Society, and a vote of condolence with the family was passed. Mr. A. H. Harrison read a paper on the first three issues of the "Stamps of Bavaria," giving a short historical sketch of the country, and describing the various stamps. Mr. G. B. Duerst also contributed some notes on the Bavarian stamps.

WM. W. MUNN.

ASHFIELD, PEEL CAUSEWAY, NEAR ALTRINCHAM.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

25, ANN STREET, ROOM 1.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Society was held at its rooms, January 20th, 1896, President Herrick in the chair. After the reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting, the regular order was taken up, and Mr. Gregory's resolution

"Resolved: That any auxiliary member of the Society shall have the right of joining the Society in full membership at any time, upon payment of the initiation fee, and balance of yearly dues for the year current at the time of making the change," was adopted by a unanimous vote, after full discussion.

The Secretary was ordered to acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to attend the annual banquet of the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club of Cleveland, Ohio, on Feb. 6th, 1896.

Mr. Clay W. Holmes, Elmira, N.Y., and Mr. Fred O. Conant, 229, Commercial St., Portland, Maine, were elected auxiliary members by a unanimous vote.

Mr. J. W. Scott, Chairman of the Exchange Department of the Society, reported that the blank books were now ready, and that the control stamps for members would be ready in a week. The Department is fully organized, and intends, if possible, to put on the first circuit books containing stamps to the value of several thousand dollars. Almost all members of the society have announced their intention to participate in this department.

Mr. Gregory was called to the chair by President Herrick, who then read an exhaustive paper on the stamps of "Reunion," illustrating his remarks and arguments by his own collection of these stamps. The paper was greatly enjoyed by all present, and was ordered to be printed in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

After the conclusion of Mr. Herrick's paper, stamps were exhibited. Mr. Gregory showed a block of 87 one cent U. S., 1857, unused, with the full ornaments. This is probably the largest block known.

Meeting adjourned 10.30 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting was held at its rooms, 25, Ann Street, on Monday evening Feb. 24, 1896.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read a communication from the Metropolitan Stamp Society of San Antonio, Texas, which was laid on the table.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Hinton, of England, for certain publications sent to the Society, "in memory of a pleasant evening spent with the Society in the preceding year."

An album for counterfeits was ordered to be bought for the use of the Librarian.

Mr. Scott, the manager of the Exchange Department, reported that the first circuit, consisting of sixteen books each containing 100 stamps at an average value of over $1.00 per stamp, had been forwarded, up to date, to ten members, each of whom had taken a number of the stamps. A second circuit would be forwarded in a few days, beginning the same with the last person on the first circuit.

Each person on the list would eventually receive a circuit first, thus equalizing the advantage. Any member desiring to join the exchange department is requested to send his name to the manager.

The committee, on the celebration of the anniversary of the Society, reported that a dinner at Delmonico's was deemed the most desirable form of celebration. The committee was ordered to put in circulation a list, among the members, with a suggestion as to the date, etc.

Notice was given that the regular order of the next meeting would be the amendment of Article VIII., which is self-contradictory in its present form.

After the routine business of the Society was completed, the attention of the members was directed to a portion of Mr. Wm. Thorne's great collection, in two volumes, and to Mr. Andreini's three volumes of U. S. stamps of issues previous to 1894, showing plate Nos.

This was a revelation to many members, of the possibilities within the reach of any philatelist, to collect the earlier stamps in strips and blocks showing imprints.

Adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

FREDERICK A. NAST, *Secretary*.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT. *Vice-President*—R. TYETH STEVENS.
Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—W. J. W. MILLER.

THE sixth ordinary meeting of the fifth session was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, January 8th, at 7.30 p.m., nine members being present. Mr. Mayne in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Messrs. A. E. L. Westaway and F. A. Cocks were appointed Auditors. The accounts of the late Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (Mr. A. Levy) having been audited, and found correct, were received and adopted. Mr. A. E. L. Westaway read a very interesting and instructive paper on the 1872 issue of the stamps of the United States. He first dealt generally with the whole issue, giving a brief history of the production of, and paper used for, the stamps; and afterwards explained in detail the differences in the several printings of the 1 and 2 cents, reserving the other values for a future paper. He divided the issue into those printed on brittle paper, and those printed on thick porous paper. As regards the 1 cent, he pointed out that there were four printings on the first paper and three on the second. He particularised the several companies who printed these issues, and explained which were printed by hand-roller press and which by steam-roller press. He showed that all those printed in the former way had points in common, which differed materially from the characteristics to be found in the latter prints. Several members brought their collections of these stamps, for reference and comparison with those of Mr. Westaway. A hearty vote of thanks was, on the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Millman, accorded to Mr. Westaway for his most interesting paper. At the next meeting, on January 22nd, Mr. Westaway will continue his paper on these stamps.

THE seventh ordinary meeting of the fifth session was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 7.30 p.m., there being six members and one visitor present, the Vice-President (Mr. R. T. Stevens) being in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. A. H. Saunders-Knox-Gore, of Torquay, was elected a corresponding member of the Society. The Committee was authorised to make such alterations and additions to the rules as were deemed desirable.

Mr. A. E. L. Westaway continued his interesting paper on the 1872-84 issues of the stamps of the United States, dealing more particularly with the 1, 2, 3, and 6 cents values. He pointed out to the members the secret marks to be found on the different prints, and showed them how to easily distinguish the earlier stamps from the re-engraved ones. Aided by the Vice-President, he kindly went through and sorted into the different printings a large number of these stamps, which had been brought by several members for that purpose.

A vote of thanks was, on the motion of the Hon. Secretary, seconded by Mr. Mayne, accorded Mr. Westaway for his very entertaining paper.

THE eighth meeting of the session was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, February 5th, at 7.30 p.m., there being 9 members and 2 visitors present. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. James Paterson, of Slamannan, Scotland, was elected a corresponding member of the Society. The rules of the Society, which had recently been revised and amended by the Committee, were presented and read. It was resolved that the same should be adopted as the rules of the Society. Mr. A. E. L. Westaway gave the third of a series of papers on the United States' stamps. He said that it was essential that anyone who intended to classify the stamps of the 1872-84 issues should be able to easily distinguish the

early hard paper from the later porous paper, and pointed out that there were no secret marks to be found on any of the stamps of a higher value than 15 cents. Mr. Westaway and the Vice-President (Mr. R. T. Stevens) both exhibited their very complete collections of the stamps in question. Mr. Westaway and the Vice-President afterwards kindly sorted a considerable number of these stamps belonging to different members of the Society. On the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Cocks, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Westaway for his interesting paper. The Vice-President was also accorded a vote of thanks for the assistance he had given.

Mr. Westaway will read the fourth paper of the series at the next meeting, and will deal with United States' stamps up to 1890.

THE ninth ordinary meeting of the session was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, 19th February, at 7.30 p.m., there being eight members present, the President (Mr. A. R. Barrett) taking the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary read the correspondence, including a letter from Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, promising to supply the Society regularly with a gratis copy of the *Philatelic Record* and *Stamp News*. The Hon. Sec. also reported receiving copies of the latter paper, and a copy of the *Stamp News Annual*, from the same firm. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, for the above. Mr. George S. S. Lowe was elected a corresponding member of the Society. Mr. A. E. L. Westaway gave the fourth and last of a series of interesting papers on United States Stamps. He said that the blue-surfaced paper, sometimes found on the 5 cents blue (Taylor), was only due to the plate from which the stamps were printed having been badly wiped. He also explained that the frequent changes in the method of printing the stamps in question were due to the fact that two kinds of paper were used (brittle and porous), and that while the hand roller press gave good impressions on the former paper, it gave poor ones on the latter. The case was exactly the opposite with the steam roller press, it giving good impressions on porous paper, and bad on hard, brittle paper, so that a hand roller press was substituted for the steam roller press at first used, and when the change of paper came, it became necessary after a time to revert to the steam roller press. The collections of Mr. Westaway and the Vice-President (Mr. Stevens) were exhibited, and served to illustrate the former's remarks.

THE tenth ordinary meeting of the session was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, March 4th, at 7.30 p.m., there being eight members and two visitors present, the President in the chair. The Hon. Sec. reported having received a copy of Bright's *A B C Catalogue* as a donation to the library, and was instructed to convey the best thanks of the Society to Messrs. Bright & Son for the same. The following resolution was then passed, "That the Hon. Secretary be instructed to so amend the rules as to convey the restriction that in the future corresponding members living within Plymouth, Devonport, Stonehouse, or Mannamead, should not be entitled to the reduced subscription."

The Vice-President (Mr. R. Tyeth Stevens) gave what he termed a "conversational paper" on the stamps of Queensland, having especial regard to the Reference Lists lately published by Mr. W. Hadlow and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons. Assisted by his collection, he went through the various issues up to 1879.

In the earlier issues he pointed out the differences in the sizes, etc., of the two star watermarks, which will probably be known hereafter as large and small star, and in the latter case should not be confounded with the truncated star, and gave as the result of his investigations that the perforations of these issues were (a) clean cut, (b) rough cut, (c) square cut—these, of course, agreeing with both Hadlow and Gibbons—and (d) round holes perf. 13.

In the (a) clean cut perforations he found that perf. 14 was obviously a distinct issue, but that the others varied from $14\frac{1}{2}$, 15, $15\frac{1}{2}$ to 16, and were usually compounds of two or more of these gauges, and expressed his opinion that the arbitrary perfs. mentioned in Gibbons' Reference List should have been more elastic, and include all from $14\frac{1}{2}$ to 16.

In the (b) rough cut, his experience was, that in the majority of the stamps it was almost impossible to correctly gauge the perfs., and that where gaugeable the measurements varied from 14 to 15½.

In the (c) square cut (which he grouped for collecting purposes with the other star wmk. stamps), he found the 12½ in compound with the 13 in the 1d. value, and the 12½ was, as in the no wmk. issue, always the clean cut perf.

In the (d) round holes (perf. 13) Mr. Stevens exhibited a fine copy of the 2d. value, which must be rather a *rara avis*, as, although recorded by Mr. Bassett Hull, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons say they have never seen a specimen. In referring to the no wmk. series, Mr. Stevens confessed himself perplexed at the descriptions of the perfs. given by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, but stated his investigations quite coincided with Mr. Hadlow's list. He found the perfs. to be (a) square cut rough, 13, (b) compound of square cut clean by square cut rough, and (c) round holes, 13.

Of these issues he said the (a) and (c) called for no special remarks, but that in (b), the compound square, the clean cut perf. was always 12½, and the rough cut always 13, as previously mentioned in the compound square of the small star issue. He had seen no copies of the compound of square and round holes mentioned in Gibbons' list, but did find in the subsequently issued litho 4d. a perf. that might answer this description. In the "script capitals" issue both Reference Lists agreed with Mr. Stevens' experience, and in the succeeding truncated star issues he had also no differences to report, and almost the same might be said of the two perfs. of the Crown and Q issue, except that he showed a copy of the 4d. yellow perforated distinctly 11½ × 12, which he had not seen recorded.

Mr. Stevens also showed unused and used copies of the 4d. Cr. and Q, perf. 13, and a used copy of the 1s., while his shades of colours of the same values, of both 12 and 13 perfs., were very carefully arranged, and showed the varieties of shades most distinctly.

W. J. W. MILLER, *Hon. Sec.*

5, ATHENAEUM TERRACE, PLYMOUTH.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of* THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

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BRITISH EAST AFRICAN PROVISIONALS.

(*To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."*)

DEAR SIR,—In the December number of the *London Philatelist* "Philo" mentions my name in connection with the British East Africa provisional ½ anna in manuscript on 3 annas.

The first specimens I received were from a friend, who was passing through Mombassa on the 22nd of March, 1895, and who found that the stamps were then being used provisionally. I afterwards wrote to a friend who lives at Mombassa, asking him if he could procure me more, and in reply received a number, but all dated 9th July. They were sent from there on the 24th October, and had been obtained from the Postmaster. Thus the stamps were used for a longer period than the few days—as "Philo's" correspondent asserts—or there must have been two periods when the surcharge was resorted to. My first specimens were in my hands before the 9th July, so there can be no great mistake as to the date.

While I am on the subject, it may be interesting to give the names of the different Postmasters whose initials appear on various stamps that have been catalogued. *A. B.* (not M. B., as has been stated) stands for Archibald Brown; *A. D.* for Andrew Dick; *V. M.*, or *V. H. M.*, for Victor Henry Mackenzie; *T. E. C. R.* (not I. E. C. R., as "Philo" asserts) Thomas E. C. Remington.

Yours very truly,

J. N. MARSDEN.

PHILATELIC ALBUMS.

DEAR SIR,—Now that the plain album with movable leaves is becoming more and more an absolute necessity to "advanced generalists," as well as "specialists," I beg permission to suggest to Philatelic publishers an idea which, if they adopted it, would, I think, meet with wide appreciation among a large class of collectors who find the cost of the 6 or 8 plain albums with hinged leaves, which fairly large collections require, somewhat prohibitive.

A friend of mine, an old and experienced Philatelist with a grand general collection, has arranged his stamps as follows: At small expense he has had suitable covers made (about a dozen of them, I think), each with a plain elastic band inside the back. He then inserted 40 or 50 plain doubled foolscap leaves in each cover, and thus found himself the possessor of a number of plain albums.

The idea, if primitive, is also inexpensive, and appears to me to work admirably, and to those who cannot afford the more elaborate hinged albums I would recommend its serious consideration.

My suggestion is, however, that dealers should supply doubled sheets of paper, of suitable quality, quite plain, but with a network of semi-visible *quadrillé* lines, and offer them to collectors at a reasonable price per dozen.

I think a large demand for such sheets would be the reward of their enterprise.

I enclose my card, and am

Yours faithfully,

DÂK.

CATALOGUE PRICES.

SIR,—I venture to take exception to a remark of your reviewer in the notice of Messrs. Bright's catalogue appearing in your last issue; viz., "In the addenda we find a list of the South Australian Departmentals, the prices attached to which can only be described as *ridiculous*." The writer does not specify whether this is to be interpreted as meaning "ridiculously high," or "ridiculously low." In the latter case, this letter need not have been written: but I think most of your readers will interpret it in the former sense. In this case, as a collector who has resided in South Australia for several years, and has paid special attention to these stamps, I venture to join issue. The only previous list which attempts to price these stamps is, I believe, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Co.'s handbook, published two years ago. These stamps have certainly not become more plentiful since that date, though perhaps the depression in Australian stamps may have led to some depreciation in their market value. Still, apart from the caprices of fashion, the true value of a stamp must depend upon its rarity, *i.e.*, the number of copies known to exist. Now, in the case of many of these Departmentals, less than half-a-dozen copies are known, in some, only one or two; so that they are really as scarce as "Post-office Mauritius" or "circular British Guianas." Messrs. Stanley Gibbons do not attempt to price the rarer varieties, but a comparison of a dozen, taken at random from the two lists, results as follows:—

No. in Stanley Gibbons'.	No. in Bright's.	Stanley Gibbons' Price.		Bright's Price.	
		s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
267	812	15	0	10	0
269	815	10	0	7	6
273	818	7	6	6	0
287	833	25	0	15	0
323	901	40	0	25	0
456	1029	45	0	36	0
827	1469	40	0	28	0
828	1470	20	0	14	0
845	1466	12	6	10	0
850	1459	8	6	6	6
860	1482	30	0	25	0
861	1483	30	0	27	6
Totals		283	6	210	6

It thus appears that Messrs. Bright's prices (where a comparison is possible) are about ¾ of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons'; and while in every case the latter exceeds the former, I have not found a case to the contrary. It is, of course, difficult to accurately price stamps which are sought after by so few collectors; but it is significant (1) that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, very soon after the appearance of their handbook, were unwilling to supply stamps at the prices quoted; (2) that in exchange clubs, when such stamps are offered, the price is nearly always marked in excess of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' prices. The reason why these interesting stamps are not more collected, is doubtless the difficulty of getting together anything like a representative collection. But surely they are worthy of more attention than they receive, issued as they were by the only Australian Government which has never pandered to the speculator, or condescended to issue speculative stamps. If, in the fulness of time, these stamps should become as fashionable as West Indians have until lately been, it would indeed be found that Messrs. Bright's prices are "ridiculously low."

Yours truly,

P. H. RAYNOR.

SCHOOL HOUSE, IPSWICH.
March 3rd, 1896.

[Our esteemed correspondent has slightly misunderstood our meaning. We consider it "ridiculous" to price so many stamps, as in Messrs. Bright's catalogue, which are not likely either to be in stock, or in regular demand, and whose price depends upon exceptional circumstances. We do not believe in any "depression" as to fine or scarce Australian stamps. The lettered South Australian are most interesting, and many are very rare. If *they* are "depressed," it is, in our opinion, solely due to inflated prices, in this and other recent kindred publications. To read such a list with its formidable array of prices, taken as an average, and notably in the case of unused specimens, is an ample deterrent for the collector of modest means. ED.]

THE TWO TYPES OF THE BLUE RECEIPT STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

DEAR SIR,—I do not know whether the two distinct types of the early blue receipt stamps have been noticed by any chroniclers, and thought that perhaps it might be a matter of sufficient interest to your readers

were they to be put in possession of the most salient points of difference between the two types. I therefore enclose copies of the stamps, and eighteen detailed points of variance. Yours faithfully,

O. FIRTH.

BAILDON, YORKS.

TYPE I.	TYPE II.
1. Size of design, 3 × 2·525 cm.	1. 3·05 × 2·525 cm
2. Colour, blue.	2. Pale blue.
3. Width of garter, 3 mm.	3. 2·75 mm.
4. Width of inner lines of garter, 2 mm.	4. A shade more than 2 mm.
5. Lettering, small.	5. Lettering nearly fills these lines.
6. 3 complete lines, and one part line, of shading in garter to left, above buckle point.	6. 10 more or less complete lines, interfered with by point, evidently intended for strap-hole.
7. Buckle-pin rests upon small round ornament in middle of buckle, not extending beyond.	7. Extends quite across buckle, ornament being absent. The design of the buckle is plainer.
8. 5 distinct lines form shading of curved part of garter-end, where it curves, and white line separates them from outline.	8. No distinctly-marked shading, and no separation from outline.
9. There are four complete curves (counting the corner one), and one partial one, between each corner and where the garter-curve cuts the border, excepting the right bottom corner, where no attempt is made to indicate the partial curve. This refers to horizonal measurements only. There are similar vertical differences.	9. There are three complete, and one partial one, exeepting in the right upper corner, where there are 3 only.
10. The frame ornaments, outside the border-curves, consist of elongated dots.	10. Consist of distinctly tripartite, wing-like designs.
11. Nose, eyebrow, and temple are shaded by distinct diagonal dotted lines.	11. These lines appear to be almost entirely absent.
12. The hair is shaded by continuous wavy lines.	12. Lines weak and broken.
13. Lines of shading on cheek continuous with those of neck, and very clear, coming well across cheek.	13. Lines finer, and partly broken, to show line of jaw; not coming nearly so far on to the cheek.
14. Point of bust thick and up-turning.	14. Thin, and less up-turned.
15. Lines shading base of bust nearly vertical, pointing slightly to right.	15. Pointing markedly to left.
16. Shading beneath eyebrow.	16. None.
17. Eye full; eyelid curving.	17. Not so full; eyelid nearly straight.
18. Marked horizontal line beneath eye.	18. None.

The curls of the chignon differ considerably, as do also the ears.

Type I. is so-called because it more nearly approximates to the brown "Draft," and because II. is that used for the enamelled-surface issue.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes — Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used.

Messrs. Cheveley & Co.

Sale held on February 27th and 28th.

	£	s.	d.
Zurich, 4 rap., horizontal lines, type 3	18	0	0
Ditto, ditto, vertical lines, ditto	18	0	0
Great Britain, "V.R.", unused	11	0	0
Ditto, 1d., red, on *Dickinson* paper, silk thread, block of 6, unused	10	0	0
Lagos, 10s., purple, unused	15	0	0
Zululand, 5s.	2	8	0
Newfoundland, 4d., orange-vermilion, unused	7	10	0
Dominica, CA, 1s., carmine	5	0	0
Turks Islands, 1s., prune (no perfs. at top)	12	10	0
St. Lucia, CA, 1s., orange, unused	6	5	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange-vermilion	28	0	0
Ditto, 1s., carmine-vermilion	23	0	0
Nevis, first issue, 6d., on blue paper, unused	5	10	0
British Guiana, 1876, 4 c., blue, perf. 12½, unused	6	10	0

The following lots were disposed of at the sale held on March 4th, 5th, and 6th, which consisted of the collection of Surgeon J. S. Lambert, R.N.:

	£	s.	d.
Spain, Madrid, 3 cuartos, unused	15	10	0
Switzerland, Geneva, 5 c., double stamp	30	0	0
Ditto, Vaud, 4 c.	24	10	0
Ditto, Basle, 2½ rap.	5	5	0
Ditto, Zurich, 4 rap., type II., horizontal lines	17	10	0
Naples, ½ tornese, "Arms"	15	0	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf., fair margins	16	10	0
Ditto, 8d., brown, imperf.	23	10	0
India, ½ anna, red, unused pair, showing margins of sheet, with inscription	13	10	0
Gold Coast, 20s., carmine and green, unused	9	10	0
Natal, first issue, 9d., blue	23	0	0
Transvaal, 1877, 1d, red, small roulette, surcharge inverted	5	15	0
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., black on crimson, specimen, measuring 30 mm.	21	10	0
New Brunswick, 1s., violet	19	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet	20	10	0
St. Lucia, 1s., orange, unused	6	5	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s.	12	15	0
Ditto, wmk. Star, 5s., rose	16	0	0

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson.

Sale on February 24th.

	£	s.	d.
Cape, woodblock, error, 1d., blue (repaired)	25	10	0
Buenos Ayres, 1858, 3 pesos, green	5	10	0
Columbian Republic, 1863, 50 cents, red, *error*	17	1	0

Sale on March 2nd and 3rd.

	£	s.	d.
Geneva, double stamp, joined	7	15	0
Labuan, CA, sideways, 12 cents, red	4	0	0

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper.

At the sale on February 25th and 26th.

	£	s.	d.
France, 1 franc., deep orange	9	0	0
Spain, 1852, 2 reales, red, a vertical pair	22	0	0
Canada, 10d., blue, unused	6	10	0
Zululand, 5s., carmine	2	8	0
St. Lucia, 1885, 6d., lilac, unused	3	5	0

Messrs. R. F. Albrecht & Co.
(New York City.)

We have received a priced catalogue of the "Vatable" collection of West Indians, which for quantity and condition ranked as one of the finest collections got together. Buyers were by no means lacking, and Messrs. Albrecht & Co. are to be congratulated on the success of the sale, a total of £2060 being realised on 637 various lots ($5 = £1$).

For want of space we have had to restrain ourselves somewhat, much to our regret, in the quotations.

	£	s.	d.
Dominica, CA, 1s., lake, block of 4, unused	20	0	0
Ditto, ditto, single copy, unused	5	5	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, *used*	6	10	0
Montserrat, CA, 4d., blue, unused	7	8	0
Ditto, ditto, *used*	4	18	0
Nevis, engraved, 6d., grey-lilac, blue paper, unused	5	12	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., green, blue paper, unused	12	0	0
Nevis, engraved, greyish paper, 4d., rose, unused	4	16	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 6d., grey-lilac, unused	5	12	0
Nevis, lithographed, 1d., scarlet-vermilion, imperf.	7	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 4d, orange, unused	9	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., grey, unused	10	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, *used*	10	0	0
Nevis, CA, 6d., green, unused	8	4	0
St. Christopher, CA, 1d., lilac-rose, unused	5	12	0
Ditto, CA, 4d., blue, unsevered pair, unused	12	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, single copy, unused	9	8	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, *used* pair	8	12	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., olive-brown, entire sheet of 20	60	0	0
Ditto, "One Penny," small surcharge on 2½d., blue, unused	18	0	0
Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, perf. 15, unused	9	2	0
Ditto, CA, 1s., brown, strip of 4, cancelled "A 91"	12	8	0
Ditto, another strip, date cancellation	18	0	0

THE WALTER S. SCOTT STAMP CO.
(New York City)

The second auction of the above firm took place on February 19th, when the following were sold :

	£	s.	d.
United States, 1861, 5 c., yellow, unused	6	12	0
Ditto, 1869, 90 c	3	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 90 c., no *grille*, unused	5	4	0
Ditto, Justice, 90 c., purple, unused	8	0	0
British Guiana, 1850, 1 c., magenta	5	19	0
Ditto, 1862, provis., 1 c., pink (first type)	5	10	0
St. Christopher, 1882, CA, 4d., blue, unused	7	12	0
Confederate States, *Marion*, 5 c., black	11	0	0
Western Australia, 1864, CC, perf. 14, 4d., carmine, unused	10	2	0

THE

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

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A Suggestion for a Philatelic Exhibition.

HER GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN will, if happily spared until next June twelve months, have completed the sixtieth year of her reign, and will thus have passed the record of any sovereign who has ever occupied the throne of this country. The loyal affection of all Her Majesty's lieges will find utterance in varied ways in celebration of so auspicious and unprecedented an event, and there is no reason why those of the Queen's subjects who are also Philatelists, should not take their part in some suitable demonstration. No more fitting means to this end could be devised than by the holding of a high-class Philatelic Exhibition, which would abound in evidences of National progress made under Her Majesty's long reign, and which, it might reasonably be hoped, would obtain the patronage and presence of the Royal relatives of the Queen, whom Philately is privileged to class among its adherents.

The last exhibition in London was held in May, 1890, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Penny Postage, and the intervening space of seven years represents a long hiatus in the recent abnormal development of Philately. There is abundant evidence that such an enterprise would elicit the widest support, and receive the most cordial welcome from all classes connected with the pursuit of Postage Stamp collecting; hence we feel confident that, started under proper auspices, the undertaking would be not only a great success, but would give a marked impetus to Philately.

The experience gained by those connected with past exhibitions has shewn that such an undertaking is indeed one of "pith and moment,"

and that the difficulties to be met and overcome are many and onerous. The avoidance of some of the obstacles that militated against the complete success of the last exhibition would probably be secured by the early appointment of an influential committee, who would thus have twelve months to herald the exhibition, and to work out the scheme in all its details.

The advantage of such an exhibition would be shared by all classes connected with stamps alike, and it seems to us, therefore, fitting that the committee should be a widely representative one. This would involve the presence thereon of members of the London and Country Philatelic Societies, and of the leading dealers, and possibly, later on, necessitate the selection of a paid Secretary to carry out the behests of the Committee. This suggestion is not to be taken as emanating from the Philatelic Society of London, although we imagine that its support would be lent to any soundly devised scheme, but it results from a widely expressed conviction that the time is ripe for another exhibition, and that it would be of signal service in the best interests of Philately in this country.

The Postage Stamps of the Transvaal.

A Paper read at a Meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, February 21st, 1896.

By R. PEARCE.

THE STAMPS OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC.

IN the paper which I read before the Society on the 24th January last, I brought my notes on the stamps of the Transvaal down to the close of the period of the British occupation. I now make some observations on the stamps of the second South African Republic. Those stamps, however, neither supply so many points of interest, nor present so many difficulties to the collector, as the earlier issues of the State which, under whatever form of Government, has been generally called the Transvaal, and whose Philatelic history has been usually treated as a whole. I shall again draw on Mr. Tamsen's valuable articles for my statistical information.

The postal service passed from British control into that of the Second Republic on the 11th August, 1881; and it is a curious fact that if a collector should desire to secure the stamps of this Republic only, he would have to take as its first issue, stamps which had been brought into use by a former and foreign Government, and which would be identical with the stamps classed by other collectors as an issue of that Government.

Mr. Tamsen has pointed out that the Convention signed prior to the retrocession provided that: "All unused postage or revenue stamps issued by the Government since the annexation shall remain of value, and shall be accepted by the coming Government against the amount expressed thereon."

That provision was intended for the protection of those who may have had unused stamps in their possession. But doubtless the new officials would have been at liberty to have followed the example which had been set when the country was annexed, and to have at once overprinted the British stamps with some sign or mark of the Republic. No immediate change, however, was made, and the unexhausted stamps of the Queen's Head type which had been supplied to a British colony continued to be used by the Republic, and were, in fact, its first provisional issue, although I do not so treat them. As and when they were used up, supplies were printed from the old plates of the first Republic until stamps of a new design arrived from Europe. But a rapid increase in the postal requirements, frequent reductions in the rates of postage, and delays in the delivery of the Dutch printed stamps, were all causes which have produced the motley array of surcharged and provisional stamps which mainly constitute the issues with which I now deal.

In my former paper I stated the quantities of the stamps taken over, so I will not repeat the figures here. They included no halfpenny stamps, and no issue of that value was made until nearly four years later, although necessary to make up the rate for foreign countries excepting England. The first value to run out was the One Penny, and exactly twelve months after the change of Government we have the first alteration, in the shape of a provisional stamp, and this I take as the first issue.

Issue I.

11th August, 1882.

"EEN PENNY" (1d.), surcharged in black on the 4d. Queen's Head type of 1878.
Number surcharged, 120,000.

Varieties. (*a*) Surcharge inverted.
(*b*) Surcharge in larger letters.

I do not know how many sheets were printed with the inverted surcharge, but the variety is scarce. The other variety—that with the larger type—is still scarcer, and gives ground for interesting speculation. Mr. Tamsen does not believe in its genuineness, and says of the normal type that "the printing took place on one day, and was done with one machine." He therefore "sees no possibility of two different surcharges existing." Members of the Society have doubtless seen entire sheets of these stamps, and noticed that the surcharge is all of one type, and, as a rule, well printed; yet the variety has always been accepted by the Society, and I see no sufficient grounds for rejecting it. I think it probable that some local office ran out of these provisionals, and, having some of the unsurcharged 4d. stamps in hand, had one sheet, or more, locally printed with the larger type. On the variety the printing is rather roughly and unskilfully done, and would lead one to suppose that it was applied by means of a hand-stamp. But on the copies I have seen the surcharge has been well centred, and fairly uniform as to position on the stamp, and it is probable that the printing was done by machine. I should be glad to be informed of the numeral on used copies in the possession of members of the Society. If it should be found that most specimens bear the same numeral, that would go far to fix the office of origin.

ISSUE II.

20th February, 1883.

3d., black, on rose coloured paper. Perf. 12.

Number printed, 23,520.

A reduction in the inland rate of postage from 4d. to 3d. the ½oz., came into force in October, 1882, and caused the stamps of the latter value, Queen's Head type, to become quickly exhausted. A new supply was printed from the 3d. plate of the first Republic, and were the first stamps to be perforated in the Transvaal. It has been said that the paper taken for this issue was the remainder of the stock which had been used for the 6d. value of May, 1878 (British occupation), with which it corresponds. As Mecklenburg forgeries (from a duplicate of the original plate) exist, collectors should compare doubtful stamps of this issue with the paper of the 6d. stamps named. As compared with genuine specimens, the impression of the bogus stamps is sharper and clearer, the gum is smoother, and the paper thinner and paler in colour, especially when looked at through the gum.

ISSUE III.

5th April, 1883.

1d., black, on white paper. Perf. 12.

Number printed, 658,400.

These, also, were printed from the old plates (eagle-owl type) of the first Republic. There were many printings, which continued down to 1885, and specimens may be found varying from grey-black to jet-black. Mr. Tamsen has "pairs and strips imperforate, some pairs with sides imperforate and perforated horizontally, and others horizontally imperforate and perforated vertically." I have not met with similar stamps. Imperforated copies would be distinguishable from imperforate stamps of Issue II. of the first Republic, by a difference in the tone of the ink, and by being on thicker and softer paper.

ISSUE IV.

7th May, 1883.

3d., vermilion, on white wove paper. Perf. 12.

Number printed, 494,475, of which 442,395 were issued without surcharge.

I think we may safely date this issue from the second printing of a 3d. value, and that it may be assumed that only one supply was printed in black on rose paper. There were many printings of this issue, and the stamps may be found varying from a very pale to a bright vermilion; some specimens are in a deep red-brown. Mecklenburg forgeries are plentiful; they are better printed than the genuine stamps, and on thinner paper.

ISSUE V.

3rd August, 1883.

1s., green, on white wove paper. Perf. 12.

Number printed, 48,240, of which 38,400 were issued without surcharge.

In my former paper I showed that only seven 1s. stamps of the Queen's Head type were in stock at the time of the change of Government in 1881, and it is strange that two years should have passed before any stamps of this

value were provided. Probably in view of the number of 6d. stamps in hand, and of the proposed adoption of a new design for all values, a local printing of the 1s. stamps was deferred so long as possible. That there was a demand for this value is shown by the number of shilling stamps sold between 1883 and 1885, which was about 20,000 a year.

Variety.—This issue was also printed from the old plates, consequently the *tête-bêche* variety exists. As the sheets were in two panes of 40 stamps each, there would be only 480 *tête-bêche* stamps—that is, omitting those which were surcharged "Halve Penny" in 1885.

Issue VI.

Various dates in 1885.

½d., grey	(30th March).
1d., carmine	(13th March).
2d., brown	(2nd November).
3d., violet	(13th March).
4d., bronze-green	(„).
6d., blue	(„).
1s., green	(„).
2s. 6d., yellow	(2nd December).
5s., slate-blue	(„).
10s., fawn	(„).

As a matter of convenience I bring all these values into one group, although in fact some of them would, in a strictly chronological arrangement, come after some of the provisional issues named later on. The stamps were of a new design, with the arms of the Republic, on a white ground, in a circle. They were printed in sheets of 60 stamps, in six horizontal rows of ten stamps each, by Messrs. Ensgeden and Son, of Haarlem, Holland, printers to the Dutch Government, who have continued to make stamps for the Transvaal down to the present time.

By a decree of the Volksraad, dated 3rd November, 1884, the Government had been empowered to enter into postal conventions with Cape Colony and the Orange Free State, and to reduce the inland rates so that they should agree with those which might be fixed for the countries named. The conventions were duly concluded, and from the 1st January, 1885, the inland rates were reduced to 2d. for ½oz. letters, and to ½d. each for newspapers; and on the 1st April, 1885, the same rates came into effect for Cape Colony and the Orange Free State. In announcing the reduced inland rates, an official notice stated that a supply of halfpenny stamps had been ordered, but that until they arrived the rate for papers would continue to be 1d. each. In face of that notice it is strange that the halfpenny stamps should not have been issued until seventeen days after the other values which arrived at the same time. It is also to be noted that as the reduced rates had not been anticipated when the new stamps were ordered, only 24,000 halfpenny, and no 2d. stamps were supplied, and that no permanent stamp of the latter value was in use until ten months after the 2d. rates came into operation. This will explain the early need for provisionals.

Mr. Tamsen says that the first stamps received of all the values which I

have classed under this issue were perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, and that there was no other perforation until 1887–8, when that of $12\frac{1}{2}$ all round came into use. He supposes the $13\frac{1}{2}$ named by Moens to have been a misprint for $12\frac{1}{2}$. I cannot say whether Mr. Tamsen is correct as to the first deliveries, but think that he cannot have measured the perforations of many specimens. When I began to collect Transvaal stamps, about six years ago, I could find no other perforation than $13\frac{1}{2}$ on the 4d. stamps then in use, but could not find it on any specimens then current of the other values. I have measured some thousands of these stamps, and have met the following perforations:

On the ½d.	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$; $13\frac{1}{2}$.
1d.	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$; $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.
2d. (brown)	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.
3d.	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$; $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.
4d.	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$; $13\frac{1}{2}$.
6d.	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$; $13\frac{1}{2}$.
1s.	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$; $13\frac{1}{2}$.
2s. 6d.	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$.
5s.	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$.
10s.	$12\frac{1}{2}$.

The 10s. doubtless exists $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. Mr. Tamsen has the 6d. imperforate, a few sheets having been issued only partly perforated. I should be glad to have additions made to my list. (For the 2d., olive, see Issue XII.)

When the 3d., 6d., and 1s. values of this series were issued, there were still in hand supplies of the 3d. and 1s. stamps from the old plates and of the 6d. Queen's Head type.

Issue VII.

22nd May, 1885.

"HALVE PENNY" in *black*, surcharged on the 3d. of Issue IV.

Number surcharged, 52,080.

The 24,000 ½d. stamps received from Holland in March, 1885, did not last long; hence the early need for this provisional. Of the 3d. stamps of Issue IV. (old type), 46,480 were, on the 9th May, surcharged "HALVE PENNY" vertically in the centre of the stamp; the value reads downwards on the left hand pane, and upwards on the right hand pane. On the 25th August, 1885, the remainder of the 3d. stamps of the same type were similarly surcharged.

Issue VIII.

1st September, 1885.

"TWEE PENCE" (2d.) and the letters "Z. A. R." surcharged in *red* on the 6d. Queen's Head type.

Number surcharged, 11,220 (subject to the "error" named below).

The 2d. stamps, classed for convenience under Issue VI., had not yet arrived; consequently 1d. stamps had been doing double duty, as they had to be used for the 2d. ½oz. rates. The 1d. stamps were becoming exhausted (of 600,000 received in March, 592,934 were used in the year 1885), whilst the 2d. were in transit. In the meanwhile the remainder of the 6d., of the type named, were converted into this provisional issue.

Error.—"HALVE PENNY," instead of "TWEE PENCE." It is said that the printer, having been engaged a few days previously in printing the "Halve Penny" of Issue VII., by inadvertence printed some sheets for that value (instead of for 2d.), but quickly became aware of his error. Apparently he did not advise the postal authorities of his mistake, and as the over-printing showed very indistinctly on the stamps, the error seems to have escaped notice until discovered by the public. It is not known how many stamps were wrongly surcharged. Mr. Tamsen thinks probably a packet of twenty-five sheets, which would give 1500 copies of the error; but that number is purely a supposition. Used copies of the error are very scarce.

ISSUE IX.

3rd September, 1885.

"HALVE PENNY" in *black*, surcharged on the 1s. of Issue V.
Number surcharged, 9,840.

A second supply of ½d. stamps was on the way from Holland, but until they arrived provisionals had to be provided, and the 3d. stamps from the old plates having been exhausted, the remainder of the 1s. of the same type were now surcharged in the same way as those of Issue VII.

Variety.—These stamps were in sheets of two panes of 40 stamps each, consequently we have the *tête-bêche* variety with this surcharge. This variety is one of the scarcest of Transvaal stamps, as only 123 were printed.

ISSUE X.

28th September, 1885.

"HALVE PENNY" in *black* on the 3d. (new type) of Issue VI.
Number surcharged, 30,000.

The stamps from the old plates had now been used up, and this issue was surcharged on the 3d. of the new type. The new value was printed in capital letters down the centre of the stamps, with lines above and below. The space between these lines is 15 millimetres, except on the third, fourth, eighth, and tenth vertical rows, when it is 14½ millimetres. The words of the surcharge measure 21 millimetres in length, except on the stamps of the tenth vertical row, where they measure 20 millimetres.

Varieties.—In addition to the varying measurements we have:

(*a*) The second N of "HALVE PENNY" inverted on the eighth stamp of the third horizontal row.

(*b*) The word "PENNY" misspelt "PRNNY" on the sixth stamp of the bottom horizontal row.

(*c*) There is a minor variety on the second stamp of the bottom horizontal row; the E of "HALVE" is broken and misplaced.

Shortly after the issue of this provisional the second supply of halfpenny stamps arrived from Holland.

Issue XI.

15th January, 1887.

"2d.," surcharged on the 3d. of 1885.
Number surcharged, 270,000.

Of the 2d., brown, classed under Issue VI., 600,000 arrived on the 2nd November, 1885. But the demand for this value had been increased by the extension of the 2d. rate to Natal on the 1st January, 1886, and the supply was now exhausted. In addition to the surcharge "2d.," two horizontal lines were printed (below the value) across the sheet. There were four printings of this issue, extending from January to April; but so far as we know, the type was the same throughout. On the first five horizontal rows of the sheet the numeral has a curved foot, whilst on the bottom row it has a straight foot. There would be 225,000 of the former, and 45,000 of the latter type.

Variety.—Mr. Moens has chronicled a stamp with double surcharge, the existence of which Mr. Tamsen doubts. We may generally accept what Mr. Moens says, and I show a used specimen of the variety, which I believe to be undoubtedly genuine.

The printing of the provisional and surcharged stamps of the second Republic down to this date (1887) had been done by Mr. T. F. Celliers, printer and proprietor of the "Volkstem" newspaper. In 1889 the Government purchased his establishment, and converted it into a state printing office, which supplied the later provisionals of 1893 and 1895.

Issue XII.

14th April, 1887.

2d., olive, in the type of 1885.

It is said that the colour of this value was changed for the somewhat insufficient reason that the obliterating marks did not show clearly on the former brown stamps. I have this issue perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

Issue XIII.

19th March, 1892.

£5, dark green, in the type of Issue VI.

This high value was required, owing to the Government having made it compulsory that parcels of raw gold should only be sent through the post. I have only found this stamp perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.

On the 1st December, 1892, the letter rate to England *viâ* Cape Colony was reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$d., and on the 1st January, 1893, the Transvaal entered the Postal Union. A $2\frac{1}{2}$d. stamp was consequently required, and was temporarily provided by surcharging the 1s. stamps. At the same time there was a greater demand for 1d. and $\frac{1}{2}$d. stamps, which ran out of stock, and provisional supplies were created by the usual method. To shorten my paper, I also class together all the temporary issues of 1893 as follows:

Issue XIV.

Various dates in 1893.

Date of Issue.	Value.	Number printed, and dates.
2nd January, 1893	... "2½ Pence" (in one line) on the 1s. of 1885	21,000 ... 21st December, 1892, with the *error* 2/$^{1}_{2}$ on one stamp of each sheet of 60.
		127,860 ... Later printings, with error corrected.
		148,860
26th January „	... "1 Penny" on the 6d. of 1885	179,340 ... January, 1893.
		299,100 ... February „
		298,140 ... March „
		776,580
27th May „	... "Halve Penny" in *red* on the 2d. of 1887	89,520 }
		89,580 } May and June, 1893.
		59,760 }
		60,000 }
		298,860
24th June „	... "2½ Pence" (in two lines) on the 1s. of 1885	29,460 ... June, 1893.
2nd July „	... "Halve Penny" in *black* on the 2d. of 1887	29,580 ... 30th, June, 1893.

In each issue, two lines, in the colour of the surcharge, were printed across the stamps, one above and one below the new value. The distance between these lines was 12½ millimetres, except on the fifth horizontal row, where it was 13½ millimetres. On the "2½ Pence" the surcharge measures from 15 millimetres (second stamp of third row) to nearly 17 millimetres (third stamp of first row). On the "1 Penny" the surcharge measures from 14 to nearly 15 millimetres.

Varieties. (*a*) The error on the "2½ Pence" of January mentioned in the list above. On the last stamp of the first horizontal row, the printer inserted the divisional line before the figures of the fraction instead of between them. 350 were thus printed.

(*b*) Sheets of all the issues were printed with surcharge inverted.

(*c*) The differences in measurements named above.

(*d*) The "One Penny" on 6d. with double surcharge.

There are many other so-called varieties arising from careless printing and battered type. Mr. Tamsen has a pair of the 1d. on 6d. with one stamp

surcharged and the other not. You will see a similar variety on the sheet which I show you of the "Halve Penny" in red.

The figures in my list are taken from Mr. Tamsen's articles, but I doubt if he is quite correct. The number of the "Halve Penny" in *red* given by him (298,860) does not quite agree with the number (299,289) named by Mr. J. Van Alpen, the Postmaster-General, in his letter to Mr. Nankivell, read by the latter to the Society in November, 1893. Further, the wording of that letter implies that there were other stamps printed in red, of which we do not know the number. The date for the printing of the ½d. black is given as the 30th June, 1893; but I think they must have been printed before the 2½d. of the second type issued on the 24th June, because both the ½d. in red and the ½d. in black were from the same setting of type. I think, also, that a part of the type was kept intact in the printer's form for the entire series.

In the second stamp of the fourth row we find the same defective P in the 2½ Pence (one line), in the 1 Penny, in the Halve Penny, both red and black, and in the 2½ Pence (two lines). A peculiar n in the second stamp of the third row, and a defective P in the last stamp of the bottom row, will also be found in the corresponding stamps of each of the issues. The space between the lines across the stamps measures the same in all values. The second stroke of the second n of "Penny" is bent inwards on the eighth stamp of the third row of the "1 Penny," and in the corresponding stamp of the "Halve Penny" of both issues. Other peculiarities also show that the letters "Pen" of the first 2½ Pence remained intact for the succeeding 1d., ½d., and 2½d. values, and that the type of the word "Penny" remained unbroken for the 1d. and the two ½d. values. Perhaps it is going rather far to draw attention to these small points; but I was led to examine the type by Mr. Tamsen's statement that, "owing to the type of the first printing having been broken up, a new setting had to be made" for the second issue of the 2½d.

Issue XV.

19th August, 1893.

2½d., dark mauve. Perf. 12½.

The arrival of 2,100,000 stamps of this value on the 17th August supplied the requirements for the Postal Union rate. The stamps were similar in design to the issues of 1885.

In December, 1893, stamps were ordered from Holland of a new design selected from proofs which had been submitted to the Transvaal authorities. The first of these new stamps began to arrive in July or August, 1894. The arms, motto, &c., are on a background of horizontal lines in an upright octagonal frame. The stamps ordered in December were of the ½d., 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1s. values; and when the first supplies of these came to hand, it was found that the waggon had two shafts instead of a pole, or disselboom. This was altered in the subsequent deliveries; other values, ordered later, were correctly printed. I can only give approximate dates of the issues of these stamps, and, to save space, again bring all the values together.

Issue XVI.

1894 and 1895.

March, 1895. ½d., grey, with shafts; May, 1895, with disselboom.
January „ 1d., carmine „ „ „
„ „ 2d., olive „ „ „
May „ 3d., violet, with disselboom.
October „ 4d., dark olive-brown, with disselboom.
August, 1894. 6d., blue, with shafts; May, 1895, with disselboom.
January, 1895. 1s., green „ „ „

All perforated 12½.

With the Transvaal a member of the Postal Union, and with a new design just brought into use, it was to have been hoped that there would have been some permanency in the issues. It was with great regret, therefore, that collectors heard in August last year of more surcharges.

Issue XVII.

August, 1895.

"Halve Penny," in red, with two lines below, on the 1s., green, of March, 1895.
1d., surcharged in green, with a bar below, on the 2½d. of 1893.
The 6d., rose, fiscal stamp, overprinted "Postzegel," in green, for postal use.
Varieties. (*a*) The "Halve Penny" with the latter word misspelt "Pennij" on the sixth stamp of the bottom horizontal row of the sheet.
(*b*) The 1d. with surcharge inverted.

There are minor varieties of the 1d., such as a wider space between the numeral "1" and the "d," and square stops after "d" instead of round. The relative positions of the two words "Halve" and "Penny" also vary.

I have now dealt with all the issues of the second Republic. The harmoniousness of the series is sadly broken by the numerous provisional stamps. Perhaps these, for the reasons named, were unavoidable. The rapid development of the postal business of the country is shown by the fact that whereas in 1871 the number of stamps of all values issued was 65,280, in 1893 the number used was 10,449,183. As I stated in my first paper, the stamps of the earlier issues are of very great philatelic interest. Of late there have been grounds for suspicion, with respect to some of the "varieties" of the provisional issues. I do not suppose that the chief postal authorities have had any hand in the manufacture of varieties for collectors; but it is doubtful whether some of the minor officials concerned in the printing or sale of the provisionals have not been in league with outside speculators. If "errors" have not been "made for collectors," it is possible that varieties and abnormal prints have been got together and passed, by arrangement, into the hands of speculators. I would earnestly appeal to the Postmaster-General (himself a Philatelist) to do everything in his power to maintain unblemished the past philatelic good name of his country. He may do something by enforcing more stringent regulations, and by exercising a stricter control over the printing department. Should any temporary issues, unluckily, again be required, I would suggest that only the higher

values (say from 2s. 6d. upwards) should be used for purposes of surcharging.

In conclusion, I ask you to deal leniently with my treatment of a complicated series of stamps. I have doubtless made some mistakes, which I shall be pleased to have corrected, or to receive any information which would throw light on points which are still obscure.

NOTE.—*The American Journal of Philately* for the current month (April) contains an instalment of Scott's Catalogue for Advanced Collectors, dealing with the stamps of the South African Republic. English specialists in these stamps will be greatly disappointed with the list: it is incorrect in many cases, and omits many varieties. It is to be hoped that the list will be carefully revised before it appears in the catalogue itself.

Without reviewing the list in detail, I desire to say a word with regard to what is chronicled, both in the list and in a separate article by Mr. John N. Luff, as a new and interesting variety, although in a footnote Mr. Luff adds that the stamp is named in Millington's *Stamps of the British Empire*.

The "variety" in question is a 1d. label, type of the first Republic, with "an extra frame line around the numerals in the upper corners, within the regular frame lines of the corner squares." So far from being new, specimens in red and in black were exhibited at a meeting of the Philatelic Society on the 15th March, 1873, and it was then said that they first appeared in 1872. (See report of meeting in *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for April, 1873.) It was also mentioned in a list published in the *Philatelic Record* for April, 1880. I have long possessed this "stamp," both in red and in black, but did not refer to it in my paper, because I am satisfied that it is not a genuine variety, and that no such stamp was printed from the plates sent to the Transvaal. It differs from the genuine in execution and paper, and my copies have bogus cancellations. The entire sheets of Borrius' black penny stamps contain no such variety. But, although spurious, this stamp was not printed from the same plate as the common penny Mecklenburg prints.

I take advantage of this opportunity to name a point of detail with respect to the 1d. stamps of the first Republic which I omitted to mention in my paper, and which, I think, has not yet been noticed. In the centre of the knob of the right-hand staff (in the lower part of the stamp) there is a small dot of colour. This dot may be found in all the clearly printed penny stamps (red and black) of the first Republic, and in the perforated penny black stamps, from the same plate, of the second Republic. There is no similar dot in the knob of the staff on the left, nor can I find one on the 6d. and 1s. stamps. It is not found on the "Mecklenburg prints."

R. P.

20th April, 1896.

Notes on the De La Rue Series of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, the 15th of February, 1895.

By J. A. TILLEARD.

(*Continued from page 44.*)

WE now come to Issue XIII. in 1879. This is the date assigned for the alteration in the die of the half-anna stamp; but although, doubtless, some good reason existed for naming this year, I think it is pretty clear that the type here described must have been in use many years previously.

The first plate was registered some six years earlier, viz., on the 21st May, 1873, and there were in all twenty-three plates of this type. The half-anna stamp was more in demand than any other value; and between May, 1873, and January, 1879, seventeen plates, out of the twenty-three which were required during the life of the stamp of this type, had already been registered. I think it may safely be assumed that the issue commenced in 1873, during which year three plates were prepared, and in 1874, at any rate, we find it is employed for the stamps overprinted "On H.M.S.," and the demand for official stamps certainly cannot have been sufficient to account for the use of seventeen plates. The total number of plates, of the half-anna of both types, registered between 1855 and 1880 (the date of the last registration) was forty-nine, giving an average of about two plates for each year during the whole period. The requirements during the later years show three, and sometimes four plates to the year; and as it is believed that after May, 1873, no plates of the first type were employed, the supply for the next six years must have come from the new plates.

The description of the difference between this stamp and that previously used, as given in *India and Ceylon*, has always seemed to me to be somewhat incomplete and misleading. For example, I have never been able myself to distinguish the flat or "squat" shape of the letters in the inscription. I fail to observe any real difference in the lettering; and I have been informed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. that there was no alteration in this respect, or in the general design, but that "the head only was altered." Personally, also, I see very little difference in the position of the ear, and it would be difficult to distinguish the two types, if the description given were all that existed as a guide. The most striking difference by which one can immediately determine the type is in the mouth. In the first type this is closed, while in the second it is very distinctly open; and the added curl of the nostril in the later type is also very pronounced, and is another infallible guide.

The years 1881 and 1882 saw the introduction of an entirely new series of stamps for India. These are all included in the Society's list under Issue XV., the dates there assigned being January, 1882, to April, 1888. It was assumed that the designs of all the values given were "probably approved in 1882"; but as a matter of fact the 4 annas and 6 pies, and the 12 annas values were not prepared until some years later. The designs for all the rest were approved in December, 1880. In September, 1881, the 1 anna 6 pies, and the 3 annas stamps were first printed, the 1 anna in March, 1882, the 8 annas and the 1 rupee in July, and the half-anna, the 9 pies, and the 2 annas were sent out in August of the same year. The 4 annas stamps were not delivered until October, 1885.

Of the 6 annas value none have yet been printed for use, although the plate was registered on the 3rd January, 1882. I am indebted to Mr. G. J. Hynes for the information that so large was the stock on hand of 6 anna stamps of the previous design, that up to the present time it has sufficed for the demand; but that the next "indent" for stamps of this value from England will be for those of the new design, which has been so long waiting to make its appearance.

From the foregoing dates, I should imagine that, in all probability, the various values were issued somewhat earlier than the dates assigned to them in *India and Ceylon*, except, perhaps, in the case of the 4 annas. I observe that the issue of this stamp was chronicled in the number of the *Philatelic Record* for July, 1885; so that possibly Messrs. De La Rue & Co. may have made a mistake in giving the month of October as the date of their first supply, unless, as is not unlikely, the description given in the *Record* was taken from a proof of the stamp in question.

The design for the 4 annas and 6 pies stamp was approved in August, 1885, and that of the 12 annas in January, 1886. The first order for the lower value was completed in January, 1886, the first printing of the other being made in April, 1887; and these two stamps should, I think, be included in a separate issue. There does not appear to be any registration-sheet of the 12 annas value.

The only remaining ordinary postage stamps are the 2 annas 6 pies, and the 1 rupee in the double colour, both of which were registered in Sept., 1891, and made their first appearance in 1892. The two last-named stamps are the first to have the addition of the Jubilee line round the sheets.

It has already been mentioned, in the *London Philatelist*, that the authorities have in contemplation the issue of three new stamps of the value 2, 3, and 5 rupees, and also of a new "wrapper." In all of these the distinguishing feature will be a representation of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, taken from the well-known portrait by Angeli. I am able to show you to-night a series of essays for the 2 rupees stamp, and essays of the new wrapper, kindly lent for the purpose by our Honorary Vice-President. The postage stamps are, as you will see, of large size, and the design is very elaborate, and they are to be printed in two colours. The essays shown are merely a selection, for submission to the authorities, taken from a very much larger number, in which almost every combination possible in two colours has been employed.

In regard to the official stamps, none were printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. until 1866. These form Issue III. in *India and Ceylon*, and there is a query in the list as to the number of the values employed in this Issue.

The word "Service" was only printed in one size in England, and I have been officially informed that the 8 pie stamp was never overprinted for official use by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. From Col. Mainwaring's list of the first watermarked stamps the 8 pies value is accidentally omitted, and the same omission occurs in his list of the service stamps issued in 1866; and, apparently, correctly so, in so far as concerns the English overprint.

The 4 annas, and 8 annas mentioned in the list in *India and Ceylon*, and overprinted in England, were, as pointed out in that work, of the altered types, and not of the first types of those stamps.

The 1 rupee is the other value which is questioned, and I have ascertained definitely that this stamp was not surcharged for official use by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

There would appear to be a slight confusion in regard to Issues IV., V., and VI. In Issue IV., in 1874, the surcharge is chronicled upon both the types of the half-anna blue, but in Issue V. the second type is omitted, and it is treated as a separate issue in 1879. This was the supposed date of the appearance of the stamp without the surcharge—a time which, for the reason I have already explained, should be ante-dated by some years.

I have ascertained that Messrs. De La Rue & Co. never applied the surcharge described under Issue IV. They have only used the one type, namely that with the first line reading "ON," the second "H S," and the third "M," as described in Issue V., so that the overprint of the other type must have been applied in India.

The question of the two types of the half-anna (blue) being used for the official surcharge appears to be open to some doubt. Messrs. De La Rue & Co. have no record of any printing of stamps of the first type after the early part of 1873. They say—"The $\frac{\text{ON}}{\text{H S}}$ plate was made in March, 1874, and $\frac{1}{2}$ anna $\frac{}{\text{M}}$ stamps so printed were delivered by us in May, 1874; so probably none of the first were so overprinted." I should imagine that this assumption is correct, as the first delivery of unsurcharged stamps from the altered die took place in June, 1873; and it is not very likely that the printers would have reverted to the old plates, especially as a reference to the record-sheets shows that by January, 1874—some months before the delivery of the official stamps—they had five plates from the altered die ready for use. The type used for the overprint under consideration is of a common description, which would be found in almost any printing-office; and I am inclined to think that a similar surcharge may have been applied in India. This would account for the specimens printed upon the stamp of the first design, some of which probably still remained on hand when Issue V. of the official stamps came into use.

On this assumption also the specimens of stamps of this issue, known with the surcharge in blue, can be accounted for, as I am assured by Messrs.

De La Rue & Co., that they have never overprinted any stamps in blue, black ink only being employed by them. The 8 pies, 9 pies, and one rupee stamps bearing the surcharge for official use, are questioned in the Society's list. These, I am informed, were never sent out from England, none of the three values in question having been overprinted here.

There only remain for consideration the stamps used for telegraphic purposes. I observe that the first issue is assumed to have made its appearance in February, 1860, and I presume that this date has been assigned by reference to the *Gazette* notice set out at pages xlix. and l. of the appendix to *India and Ceylon*. The plates for this issue were all registered on the 17th September, 1857, and the stamps were sent out to India shortly after that date. The notice above referred to merely contains an announcement of the use of the stamps in the Bombay District. It is dated the 16th February, 1860, and it states that a small supply had been received from Calcutta. I would suggest, in view of the time when the supply was sent out from England, that it is possible that the stamps were employed in Calcutta and the district before the date at which they were sent to Bombay. It would seem from a report as to the use of the stamps, dated in 1866, giving details of the total supply received at Calcutta, and showing what remained on hand at that date, that a portion only of the stock was forwarded to Madras and Bombay, and I do not see anything to indicate that the stamps were issued only in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.

In the case of the second issue reference is made to varieties of the 4 annas, 8 annas, and 2 rupees 8 annas values, on paper blued by the chemical action of the ink. I have not seen the particular specimens which gave authority for the chronicling of the varieties here mentioned, but it is noticeable that the first registered sheets of all the values prepared in 1866 are on a blue tinted paper, the colour being in the paper itself, and not being due to the chemical action of the ink.

Eight of the twelve values forming this issue were registered in December, 1866, three in July, 1869, the remaining value (the one anna) not appearing until August, 1878. The paper used in 1869 is not so blue as that of 1866, but it is nevertheless distinctly tinged with blue, and all the sheets registered up to that year, whether the first or subsequent plates of the earlier printed values, are upon bluish paper. From this it would appear that one might expect to find all the values above one anna upon blue paper, and I should presume that the varieties referred to in the Society's list are specimens from the early printings of the three values specially mentioned.

A careful examination of the stamps from the various registered plates shows that, in the case of the values first printed in 1866, collectors may expect to find them on three distinct descriptions of paper; the first a thinnish hard blue paper, the second somewhat similar, but less deeply tinged, and the third a paper of stouter texture and very white. In the stamps of 1869, the two last-named papers only would be found, and in the one anna the last of the three papers alone.

In the summary of the stamps slight shades only are mentioned, but the registration sheets, where more than one plate is registered, show very marked shades, from light to dark, in their respective colours.

I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration of the manner in which the descriptions of these stamps have been dealt with in *India and Ceylon*. If I remember rightly, the lists of the telegraph stamps were not settled at general meetings, as in the case of the postage stamps, and the descriptions of the numerous and complicated designs, which vary considerably in the case of each value, must have been a most arduous task, calculated to give many a headache to the members or member of the publication committee on whom this duty devolved. After a very careful comparison I find very little to add, and some of the alterations which I suggest are merely corrections of obvious clerical errors.

In regard to the one anna value, the ovals in which the head appears are single-lined instead of double-lined. What has been taken for the second line is, in reality, part of the frames in which the ornaments in the corners are enclosed, and only extends part of the way at the top and bottom of, and does not surround, the ovals.

In the case of the 2 annas, 4 annas, and 8 annas values there is a slight error, in reference to the inscription "Department," on the right side of the stamp. This in each case reads "upwards," instead of "downwards," as described in the Society's work.

There is also a slight clerical error in describing the 2 rupees 8 annas, as having, at the top and bottom of the stamp, white labels containing the value in figures and words in "white block type." This obviously should be "coloured block type."

For the values of 14 rupees 4 annas, and 28 rupees 8 annas, which were added to the series in 1869, there was probably not much demand—only one plate of each was registered. The stamps were withdrawn in 1878, and neither value was continued in the new series, which was prepared in 1890. In describing the first of these stamps, no reference is made to the spandrels, which are nearly filled by a large foliate ornament in white on solid colour. In the other value, by a clerical error, the inscription on the right side is called "telegraphic department," in lieu of "telegraph department."

In the design of the 50 rupees stamp, it should be noted that the whole of the triangular spaces, forming the spandrels and interstices, are filled in with colour, on which appear the foliate ornaments in white, thus differing from the design of the 25 rupees value, where the triangular blocks of colour containing the ornaments do not fill up the whole of the spaces, but have a margin of white between them and the other portions of the design. In the values at the top and bottom of the stamp, and at the intersection of the bands, the word "rupees" is abbreviated to Rps., and is not inscribed in full, as described in *India and Ceylon*.

The stamps up to the value of 10 rupees were first printed in sheets of 80 labels, arranged in four horizontal rows of 20, the sheets of the values of 10 rupees and upwards containing 40 stamps in 4 horizontal rows of 10. In each case there was printed, in the top and bottom margins, "Electric Telegraph," and at the sides, "Government of India." In 1882, and in the subsequent printings, the whole of the values were arranged in two panes of 40 stamps, each containing 4 horizontal rows of 10, and the marginal inscriptions are omitted.

*

The date assigned to Issue III., consisting of the 1 rupee, 25 rupees, and 50 rupees, with slight alterations in the design, is 1879; but I observe that, in the addenda, reference is made to a copy of the 1 rupee of the altered type used in 1872, showing that an earlier date should be given, at any rate for this value. The plate for the 1 rupee was registered in June, 1869, that of the 50 rupees in September, 1874, and the plate of the 25 rupees in July, 1877, and, instead of treating them as a separate issue, it would, perhaps, be better to include them in Issue II., as second types of their respective values, giving the approximate dates of their appearance.

The description of the differences in the design of the 1 rupee stamp might, perhaps, be somewhat amplified with advantage, by stating that the triangular ornamentation, in the spandrels and interstices, is in colour on white, instead of being in white on colour, as in the first design, and the fret-work, as well as the other ornamentation, is all double lined.

There seems also to have been a further small alteration made in the design at a later date, making three distinct types of this stamp. The plate registered on the 30th March, 1882, shows the "fretwork," but not the rest of the ornamentation, again in white on colour, with the addition of a small white dot below each angle, formed by the lines of the fretwork. There are other minor variations in the design, and the lines are not so fine, the whole stamp having a coarser appearance.

In the case of the 50 rupees, I do not think the foliate ornamentation, in the spandrels and interstices, has been enlarged, as suggested in *India and Ceylon*. At any rate, the difference, if any, in size, is so minute as to be practically unobservable. It is true that the ornaments in the altered type fill the spaces, but this is due to what, in my opinion, is the principal alteration made, viz., that the spaces themselves are reduced in size. In the first design the solid colour extended up to the marginal line of the bands and labels, whereas in the second type they are surrounded by an extra outer line of colour, which necessitated a reduction in their size.

I find also signs of a retouch in the head of the 2 rupees 8 annas, and the 10 rupees, values; in the first case, in the plates registered on and after the 23rd October, 1878, and in the other, in the plates registered on and after the 18th April of the same year. The alterations are very similar to those made in the 4 annas postage stamp, as before described, and, as in the case of that stamp, they consist chiefly in a strengthening of the lines, the profile being, in consequence, more distinctly outlined by a line of colour. There are also modifications in the lines and shading of the hair, &c., and in the "fish-tail" of the mouth. The alterations were doubtless effected in the same manner, and were due to the same causes as led to the changes in the die of the postage stamp.

Although somewhat outside the scope of this paper, I may perhaps be pardoned for referring here to the use of the stamps of these issues in Ceylon, in relation to the vexed question of their use without being surcharged with the name of the Island. In June last I received a letter on this subject from Mr. A. Rossi Ashton, of Agra Patnas, Ceylon, and I cannot do better than allow him to impart the interesting information communicated to me, in his own words, as contained in the following extract from his letter:—

"In your Society's publication, *The Postage Stamps, &c., of British India and Ceylon*, on page 81, referring to the use of Indian Telegraph Stamps in this Island, I find the following remarks: 'The Indian stamps have been catalogued as employed in Ceylon without any surcharge, but no specimens thus employed have been met with by the Society. . . . It does not seem probable that unsurcharged stamps were thus used.'

"I now send you, enclosed, a sheet of fifteen stamps, from which you will see that, not only were the stamps mentioned employed in Ceylon without any surcharge, but the 1 a., green, 1 r. (1869 issue), 14 r. 4 a., lilac, 25 r. (1869 issue), and 28 r. 8 a., green, have also been used unsurcharged, although I have not come across a specimen of any of these five stamps *with* the surcharge.

"Further than this, with reference to the statement that, according to Mr. E. D. Bacon's paper, telegraph stamps only came into use on the 1st of July, 1880, I would call your attention to the fact that these stamps are dated 1870 and following years (I have not found one dated 1869), and I have several specimens showing these dates.

"I am unable to say whether the 50 r. (1869 issue) was employed here without surcharge, as I have not a specimen of that value."

Amongst the specimens sent, all of which had been used in Ceylon, and bore no surcharge, were the 1 anna and 2 annas, dated in 1880, the 4 annas in 1870, a pair of the 8 annas in 1879, the 1 rupee of the first and second types, and the 2 rupees 8 annas, used in Colombo, but without date; the 5 rupees, dated 1870, and the 10 rupees, 14 rupees 4 annas, 25 rupees (of both types), and the 28 rupees 8 annas.

From the above it will be seen that the only value which Mr. Ashton has not met with unsurcharged is the 50 rupees of the first type, although there are some of the values which he has not been able to find used in Ceylon with the surcharge.

In looking through the Indian stamps in the "Tapling Collection," with Mr. Bacon a few days since, we found a strip of three of the upper portions of the 8 annas value (imperforate), which had been used in Colombo. This, no doubt, had escaped attention when the Ceylon list was settled.*

The date of 1st July, 1880, given for the first issue in Ceylon, is taken from a *Gazette* notice of the rules and rates for Inland and Foreign Telegrams. I do not know anything of the telegraphic arrangements in Ceylon prior to 1880, but I would suggest, for further enquiry, the possibility that, in the earlier time, the telegraph may have been under the control of the Indian Government.

The fifth issue does not seem to call for special remark, except that from the dates of registration of the several plates, it would seem possible that the stamps came into use somewhat earlier than the queried date assigned to them. The Publication Committee have, I think, exercised a wise discretion in not giving detailed descriptions of each of the designs, which are of even more intricate and complicated forms than those of the previous issues. The admirable general description which has been given, is amply sufficient for all the ordinary requirements of collectors, and only requires completion by noting the addition of the Jubilee line.

* *Since the above was written, I have also acquired specimens of most of the values used in Ceylon, without the surcharge, including the* 50 *rupees stamp of* 1869, *which Mr. Ashton had not succeeded in finding.*—J. A. TILLEARD.

(*To be continued.*)

THE

Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

CIRCULAR NO. 5.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C., *April*, 1896.



HE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all collectors and dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

21. ECUADOR.—The Government of this country is an old offender, and its delinquencies were referred to in a previous circular. (See No. 4, paragraph 17.)

From a Circular Notice in four languages, dated 5th December, 1895, it appears that a special postage stamp is to be issued on the 5th June, 1896, which will be available for postal purposes only on the day of issue, and ten following days. This issue is to commemorate the Esmeralda incident. It is perhaps scarcely necessary to advise dealers to beware of it.

22. INDIAN NATIVE STATES.—The postal departments of several of these States either have been or are about to be taken over by the Central Government. In the case of Jhind and Cashmere this has already been done, and it is reported that a similar course has been, or is shortly to be adopted, with regard to Bamra, Bhopal, Poonah, Wadhwan, Nowanugger, Bhor, Nangaon, and Faridkot.

It appears that the issues of some of these States have been reprinted, and are now being offered for sale. Collectors and dealers should therefore be on their guard.

23. REPUBLIC OF CUBA.—Stamps of an issue prepared in 1877 are now being offered for sale. The values are 2, 5, 10, and 25 centavos.

In the Third Circular, under the heading No. 13, reference was made to a contemplated speculative issue of Grecian stamps to commemorate the Olympian games. From a recently published notice, the issue appears now to be an accomplished fact, and to consist of twelve stamps, in value from 1 lepta to 10 drachmas.

BULGARIA.—An issue has appeared in commemoration of the conversion of Prince Boris.

Collectors and dealers should exercise discretion with regard to these stamps, unless they are intended permanently to supersede the current issue.

By order, HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Sec. to Special Committee, London Philatelic Society and Acting Hon. Sec. (pro. tem.) to S.S.S.S.

THE S.S.S.S. AND TONGAN STAMPS.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following interesting letter for publication, coupled with some remarks upon the policy of the S.S.S.S. in condemning "*bonâ-fide* issues like these Tongans."

[*Copy.*] AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND,
February 11th, 1896.

SIRS,—My attention has been drawn to a notice grounded on insufficient data, and emanating from the S.S.S.S., to the effect that late issues of Tongan stamps have been unnecessary and speculative, and perhaps my evidence as an Official of the Imperial Government resident in Tonga, and therefore entirely disinterested, may be believed, when I state most emphatically that they have been neither one nor the other.

Upon the accession to the throne of his present Tongan Majesty, he was, like other youthful monarchs nearer home, anxious to see his own features on the stamps of the country, and he commissioned the late Premier of Tonga, who was resident in Auckland, to superintend the execution of the new stamps, which was all the more necessary as the lower values of the 1892 issue were nearly sold out.

This commission resulted in the abortions referred to in the notice first referred to; but as these could not be at once available, the various surcharges of the latter end of 1893 were resorted to.

It further appears that a large number of essays were sent in to the late Premier, some fifteen I believe, and he, knowing that the Post-office of Tonga was very short of stamps, on his own authority, I believe, had the surcharges in red and the 1½d. blue set struck off and sent on to Tonga.

Native governments are slow to move, and since the dismissal of the late Postmaster, the Premier has been more than ever distrustful; he will take no action himself, and will not authorise the present Postmaster to do so either; but to accuse him of speculating, or knowing what it means, or how to set about it, is the wildest imagination, and utterly without foundation: and I am positive that the Tongan Government not only has never heard of the S.S.S.S., but would not let the knowledge, if they had, interfere in the least with the even tenor of their somewhat lethargic way; and had it not been for the eagerness of dealers to obtain these very stamps, the various supplies would not have run out so fast, and in consequence the surcharges would not have been nearly so numerous.

When I left on leave a few days ago, the supply of the ½d., 1d., and 2d. had entirely run out, and the 2½d. nearly so.

The Postmaster was at his wits end to know what to do, therefore more surcharges will, in all probability, be resorted to, and the object of the Post-office being primarily to meet the convenience of the letter-writing public and not the dealers, I cannot see the enormity of using up the old stamps in stock with the denominations necessary to meet the convenience of that same public, pending the arrival of the permanent issue, which I will now refer to.

His Majesty, not being flattered with his portrait as delineated on the new stamps, has, for the last month, had the services of a first-rate photographer from Auckland; that gentleman returned with me from Tonga, and is now arranging and designing the stamps for a new issue, ranging from ½d. to 4s., which are to be printed in England (if, meanwhile, the Tongan Government does not forget all about it).

I am not at liberty to say what the designs are, but I believe that before the end of this year Tonga will possess, as works of art, one of, if not, the most beautiful

sets of stamps in the world; but meanwhile the unfortunate Postmaster has a very hard row to hoe.

Let the S.S.S.S. in mercy bear this in mind, and not be in too great a hurry to condemn. "Audi alteram partem" is very applicable.

(Signed) R. B. LEEFE, *Vice-Consul.*

Our correspondent adds:—

"The Postmaster of Tonga has long ago refused to execute orders for stamps from stamp dealers, and the only way to get them is to employ an agent on the spot; even then it is extremely difficult to get any quantity, owing to the small stock kept. Mr. Leefe's letter sufficiently explains the cause for the recent surcharges; and as for cutting the 2½d. stamps in half, how can this be speculative? It does not create a demand for unused halves of 2½d. stamps."

While, however, fully accepting the statements made by Mr. Leefe, it is idle to disguise the fact that Tongan stamps are looked upon with little favour by collectors; and considering that, within the space of a very few years, more varieties have been issued than there are probably Europeans upon the Islands, this result can hardly be wondered at.

PROTEST OF POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTORS AGAINST SPECULATIVE ISSUES.

The following spirited and well drawn letter of protest has also been sent to us for publication by The Philatelic Society of New York:

"As spokesmen for millions of earnest men who devote their leisure time and surplus energy and resources to the scientific study and collection of postage stamps, we, the undersigned representatives of philatelic societies, respectfully memorialize all enlightened governments to discountenance certain evil practices which tend to demoralize and degrade the postal service.

"The evil practices which we condemn may be classed under three separate heads, differing more in form, however, than in substance, viz:

"(1) Farming out to printers or private speculators, the monopoly of balances remaining after a stamp issue has been withdrawn; the temptation and tendency being to withdraw the issues prematurely and frequently, so as to make the monopoly more profitable to the speculator and his official confederates.

"(2) Issuing stamps for purely occasional or provisional use, as a commemorative emblem rather than for the legitimate purpose of acknowledging prepaid postage; the tendency being to degrade the historic value and thereby destroy the commercial value of the token as a postage stamp, and

"(3) The reckless or deliberately superfluous multiplication of unusual varieties of the same stamp by means of surcharging oftener than the legitimate needs of the Post-office require, the tendency and temptation being that officials whose surcharging cannot be controlled will create new varieties for purely speculative purposes, accounting to the Government only for the original values booked against them, and pocketing the commercial profit.

"The stamp that is sold by a private speculator after the Government has

ceased to control it, cheapens the product to which it is intended to give value; it shakes the confidence of stamp collectors in all the postal issues of the offending Government, and it even affects national credit by creating the impression that the nation is too poor to raise revenue by legitimate methods.

"But not less offensive, though less deliberately fraudulent, is the evil practice of issuing commemorative paper emblems which masquerade as postage stamps. It is debasing, depreciating, and discrediting the postal currency of any Government, and subjects its financial methods to the suspicion of bad faith. Besides, the ease and frequence with which this commemorative business can be repeated, holds out a bait to official speculation.

"The same danger attaches to the practice of arbitrary and discretionary surcharging, which enables every petty Postmaster to create at will new varieties of an established issue. The temptation to exploit this power for private gain is almost irresistible. For there is no way to check the operation of surcharging. The passion for private speculation tends to grow, and it grows at the expense of official honesty and industry.

"We solemnly protest against all these vicious methods. We do not ask that our interest as collectors should be considered as even of incidental importance. We ask that the postal service be administered without the slightest regard to our market. The Post-office is a civilizing agency: we protest against its degradation to the level of a bargain counter. From the moment that the postage stamp is consciously made to serve a purpose foreign to its true character—to prove the prepayment of postage—be that purpose pious or mercenary, laudable or disreputable, commemorative or speculative, it loses its integrity, its value, and its dignity. And then, even though its sale be legally authorized, it is nevertheless a masked fraud, a bastard disguised under an honorable name.

"In the interest therefore, not only of our guild, but of all who honour a nation's highest aims, we plead for a restriction upon the legalising of these frauds. We ask for a return to honest methods. It is proper in this connection to say that the Republic of Ecuador, on receipt of our respectful memorial, immediately issued a decree—dated November 8th, 1895—cancelling its contract and stopping all sales of unnecessary stamps.

"We appeal for the historical integrity of the postage stamp, and for national dignity in the administration of the postal service, as a factor in the intellectual, social, and moral progress of all enlightened nations.

"Rooms of The Philatelic Society, 25, Ann Street,
New York, *February 15th*, 1896.

"*The Committee for the Suppression of Speculative and Unnecessary Postage Stamps.*

"William Herrick, *President.* J. S. Rich, *Secretary.* J. M. Andreini.
R. R. Bogert. G. B. Calman. Alvah Davison.
H. E. Deats. F. W. Hunter. J. W. Scott."

Philatelic Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

IMPERFORATE WEST INDIANS.

WE are indebted to a member of the London Philatelic Society for the information that he possesses in his collection the following varieties, imperforate, in addition to those that we have previously chronicled. The stamps in question are all unused, and, in our opinion, rank with those of the English stamps that are met with in like condition.

JAMAICA. 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1s.; watermark, pine apple.
BERMUDA. 6d., 1s.; watermark, C C and Cr.
BRITISH HONDURAS. 3d., 6d., 1s.; watermark, C C and Cr.
ST. LUCIA (original type). 1d., 4d. 6d. (lilac); watermark, C C and Cr.
„ (second type). 6d. (lilac); watermark, C A and Cr.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA. 1d., 2d. (blue), 4d. (red), 6d. (purple-violet).

CHILI.

MR. J. N. MARSDEN sends a cover bearing the left half of a bisected 10 c. Chilian stamp of the first issue on white paper, imperforate. The cover in question was despatched from Valparaiso to Chili, and bears a date stamp in red emanating from the former town, with the date "18 Dbre, 1858." The bisected stamp is postmarked with black concentric circles, *l'obliteration portante*. A specimen of the 5 c. 1867 issue was also sent, apparently imperforate; it certainly has "enormous margins on two sides," but in these days of corner stamps the Philatelic St. Thomas wants all four sides before he preserves his soul in perfect peace.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MR. J. N. MARSDEN kindly sends us a block of four stamps of the 9d. black surcharge on red-brown (10d.), watermark N.S.W. & Crown, and perforated 11, which differentiate from the ordinary specimens in possessing a second surcharge, faintly impressed, in blue letters immediately above and of similar shape to the normal black surcharge. Our correspondent writes:

"I was pleased to see that the N.S.W. I sent you, you deemed of sufficient interest to notice in the Society's Journal.

"I have now to enclose four specimens of the 4d., which I hope you will find equally interesting. You will notice they are doubly surcharged, and to me it appears as though they had been first surcharged in *blue* perhaps as a trial, and as the colour was weak and the impression badly printed, had been again surcharged in the usual colour, *black*. I received these specimens as the ordinary singly surcharged stamp, so that I don't think there is anything speculative in their nature, though recent doings of N.S.W. authorities causes one to be rather sceptical of anything now emanating from that quarter."

Occasional Notes.

THE LONDONER PHILATELIST.

UNDER the foregoing title, a Trade Journal has been published in London, by Mr. E. Weisz. We need hardly inform our readers that it has no connection with the *London Philatelist*, that the title has been selected without our knowledge or consent, and that the matter will not be allowed to rest here.

A NEW FEATURE IN CATALOGUES.

TWO new Catalogues of the German stamps have recently appeared, which contain features likely to be of much use to collectors with regard to ascertaining the real value of stamps. They are issued respectively by Mr. H. Krötzsch and Dr. Rommel, of Leipsic, and give quotations of almost all the leading dealers, or their average of prices, with a variety of other information as to the number of stamps issued, remainders sold, reprints, &c., all of which are invaluable to a collector in endeavouring to arrive at the real value of a stamp. In addition to this, Mr. Krötzsch's book gives, frequently, its own and vastly diverging idea as to value. We prefer this to the other, but both are extremely useful and valuable to the collectors of German stamps.

BRITISH EAST AFRICAN 1st ISSUE, PROVISIONALS, ON ENGLISH STAMPS.

MR. W. T. WILSON writes:

"I have recently met with a Forgery of the 1 anna on 2d., and give the following particulars to put Collectors and others on their guard:—

"The most striking difference is the colour of the surcharge, which is a dull brownish black, spotty and irregular in appearance, whereas the genuine is a bright deep black; the serif of the '1' is more sloping, and comes to a finer point than in the genuine, and the 'O' in 'Company' is much too large. If an accurate millimetre scale is placed vertically from the bottom of the second upstroke of the second 'N' it will give the following measurements to the tops and bottoms of each letter of the surcharge:

	GENUINE.	FORGERY.
BRITISH .	16⅞ ...	16½
,, .	16 ...	15½ full
,, .	15¼ ...	15
EAST AFRICA .	14¾ ...	14⅛
,, .	13⅛ ...	12¾
COMPANY .	12½ ...	12⅛
,, .	11 ...	10½
1 ANNA .	3⅛ ...	3¼

* *

ON THE PHILATELIC TILES!

THE foregoing and, apparently, not choice specimen of the modern vernacular is a literal and truthful description of a small recent innovation of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited. It consists of a highly glazed black tile in different sizes as desired, on which a stamp can be laid for examination as to watermark. It is well known that this frequently "comes out" against a black surface, and that if not, a little benzine will, without damage, help to make it decipherable. The object of the "Philatelic Tile" is thus patent, and when stamps are being thus treated, the above title will be found fully justified, though fortunately with a better after effect than is usually associated with the nocturnal perambulations that are known by the like name.

LIMELIGHT EXHIBITION OF STAMPS.

WE are indebted to the *Kensington News* for the following paragraph, which will be read with interest by the many friends of Mr. H. R. Oldfield. We should add, on other authority, that the slides for the entertainment were specially prepared and exhibited by Mr. Thos. Ridpath, of Liverpool, and that his manipulation of them, and Mr. Oldfield's excellent lecture afforded a most pleasant evening's amusement to a large and intellectual audience:

"ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KENSINGTON.—In connection with the Young Men's Society of this church, Mr. H. R. Oldfield, LL.B., read on Tuesday evening, March 24th, a paper on "The Advantages of Stamp Collecting." The chair was taken by Mr. John A. Swanston. After referring to the great interest taken at the present time in stamp collecting, and the capital involved in the pursuit, Mr. Oldfield advocated it, as encouraging in the young, many of those qualities which tend to success in life. Among these he mentioned carefulness, neatness, cleanliness, patience, perseverance, and attention to detail. In succession the manufacture of the paper, the watermarks, the methods of impression, the gumming, and the perforation of stamps, were dealt with. After this, by means of slides specially prepared and exhibited by Mr. T. Ridpath, of Liverpool, Mr. Oldfield explained many of the points in his paper, and, in particular, the forging of stamps and their detection. At the close of the paper a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by Mr. L. V. Moinet and carried. Mr. J. Richards Kelly, in seconding the vote, remarked of the intelligence required in forming a stamp collection, but pointed out also the all-absorbing nature of the pursuit, and the demands which it now made upon time and purse. Mr. J. A. Voelcker took an opposite view, and, condemning the speculative character of stamp collecting, he strongly advocated, as a far better training for the young, the formation of collections of natural history objects.

PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS.

THE Philatelic Society of Bengal held their second annual exhibition, in the Imperial Museum at Calcutta, on the 1st and 2nd March, and, according to the reports, was most successful. The exhibits were of fine quality, especially those of Messrs. Larmour, Lyall, and Norman, and the attendance most gratifying. Much of the success was due to those amiable and indefatigable philatelists, Messrs. C. F. and F. A. Larmour, and to them,

and the Bengal Society, we offer our felicitations on the nascent state of philately in Her Majesty's Empire of India.

We have received a programme of an exhibition of stamps to be held at the Hague, from the 17th to the 22nd July next, under the auspices of the "Dutch Society of Postage Stamp Collectors," to which, also, we wish all success. The Hon. Sec. is Mr. F. C. Koechlin, Korte Molenstraat, 15, The Hague, Holland.

A NEW PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE minutes of a freshly-enrolled body will be found in this number, entitled the "Hull and District Philatelic Society." The address of the Hon. Sec., Mr. James Brown, is 11, St. Luke's Street, Hull, who invites the donation of philatelic publications towards the library. Our best wishes for the success of the new society are herewith tendered.

THE POST-OFFICE MAURITIUS.

THE following paragraph has appeared in the daily papers, and from private information we are led to believe possesses the somewhat unusual attribute of accuracy. Fifteen hundred and twenty pounds for two used stamps is certainly a record!

"M. Piet de Latauderie, a well-known French stamp collector, has just sold two Mauritius stamps of the 'Post-office' variety for the sum of thirty-eight thousand francs to Mr. Morse, the well-known electrician, who, between his hours of scientific labours, is a stamp collector. The day after the purchase of these two stamps, Mr. Morse was offered forty-four thousand francs for them."

PROGRAMME OF THE EIGHTH PHILATELIC DAY IN GERMANY.

WE have pleasure in inserting the following notice, according to the request of the President, Herr B. Kohler, and Mr. A. W. Drahn, the local President:

"The members of the Committee of the eighth Philatelic Day in Germany, to be held at Cologne on the twenty-second of June and following days, herewith beg to invite the Philatelists of all parts of England to honour them with their visits during these festival days.

"The Programme will be as follows: On Saturday, 20th of June, reception of the visitors. In the evening, great 'Kommers.'

"Sunday, 21st of June, general meetings, followed by a Dinner; in the evening, sale and exchange of stamps.

"Monday, 22nd of June, Excursion by saloon steamer up the Rhine to the Siebengebirge, returning the same day. B. O. A. STRATMANN, *Hon. Sec.*

"COLOGNE, SEVERIN STRASSE, 143–147."

There will be a large gathering of collectors and dealers according to current report, and a pleasant and profitable time will, no doubt, await visitors. There will not be too much of Philately, nor too little of other good things of a more transitory nature. Those who intend to participate in the festival need entertain no fears as to the mystic rites concealed under the word "Kommers."

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen, such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—A very interesting article on the stamps of this colony is given in the February number of the *South African Philatelist*, which, being edited on the spot, should be good authority for the statement that "On the 15th November, 1895, British Bechuanaland was annexed to the Cape Colony, and all British Bechuanaland stamps withdrawn from issue, those of the Cape of Good Hope being used." From the same source we learn that the date of issue of the last surcharged stamp—the 2d. Cape of Good Hope (vol. 4, page 143)—was March 15, 1895.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—Again we are indebted to Mr. D. Montague Jacobs for further news of the new issue, illustrated on page 82, which enables us to complete our chronicle up to, and including, the 1s. value, therefore the stamps issued at present are—

Adhesives. ½d., slate-grey and violet.
1d., vermilion and green.
2d., brown-bistre and red-lilac.
3d., lake-brown and blue.
4d., ultramarine and red-lilac.
6d., mauve and carmine.
8d., light green and violet.
1s., dark green and blue.

To our mind, in some cases the colours form by no means a happy combination. It might be well to say that the first colour represents the body of the stamp, the latter the corner labels and tablet; see illustration (page 82).

Messrs. Ridpath & Co. have shown us a specimen of the reply card of 1892, brown on buff, which presents a variation from the normal. The heading of the card ordinarily reads, in three horizontal lines, Mashonaland —*viâ*—Cape of Good Hope, etc. In the present instance, the middle line, consisting of the word "*viâ*," has been omitted.

Post Card. 1d. + 1d., red-brown on buff variety.

CHAMBA.—The *P. J. of G. B.* chronicles the following India adhesives, which have received the usual surcharge in black for use in this State.

Adhesives. 1 a. 6 p., brown, surch. black.
2 a. 6 p., green, ,, ,,
1 rupee, green and carmine, surch. black.
2 rupees, brown and do. ,, ,,
3 ,, green and brown ,, ,,
5 ,, violet and blue ,, ,,

GIBRALTAR.—*Mekeel's Weekly* has received information direct, to the effect that the 5 pesetas and 75 centimos stamp being little used by the public have been withdrawn, and the news of the sale of remainders is true, but the purchaser or price paid does not transpire.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Writing to *Mekeel's Weekly*, a correspondent forwards a cutting from the British Post Office Circular of March 24th, which informs us that the Postmaster-General has approved of the use of current adhesive stamps overprinted "O W OFFICIAL," for denoting the payment of both postage and registration fees on letters, etc., transmitted by certain officials of the Office of Works.

The *Philatelic Record* and *Stamp News* informs us that the issue, which is limited to the ½d. and 1d. values, took place on March 12th. We presume the surcharge is in black.

Adhesives. ½d., red, surch. "O. W. OFFICIAL."
1d., lilac ,, ,, ,,

INDIA.—The *M. J.* states that the rate for soldiers' letters having been raised to one anna, the 9 pies stamp has been retired from circulation.

JAMAICA.—Commenting on the fact that there has recently been some speculation in the high values of the current issue (which are watermarked Cr. CC), owing to reports that they would soon become obsolete, *Mekeel's Weekly* gives information, received from a correspondent in the island, that at the date of writing, March 6th, the stock of these values was as follows :

1 shilling, 6,680,
2 „ 15,690,
5 „ 1,980,

which, considering that these stamps were issued away back in the early "seventies," should be ample to go round ; the same paper speaks of the obsolete 1½d., 3d., and 10s. *revenues*, resurrected and used for postage, probably to satisfy the Philatelic requirements of some ardent collector who knows a thing or two !



NEW SOUTH WALES.—Annexed is an illustration of the redrawn stamp of the post card described on page 83.

QUEENSLAND. — The *Australian Philatelist* informs us of another provisional issue, the 1d. being printed on the "Secret mark paper" ; by the way, we have never yet seen any satisfactory explanation of how this secret mark is produced, or why. Can anyone help us? Surely such paper has never been used before?

Adhesive. 1d., vermilion ; perf. 13.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA. — From the same source we learn that the £5 postage and revenue adhesive stamp has undergone a change in colour from grey to brown ; no reason is assigned for this sudden change, and we doubt if there is one. A premium of £5 is offered by the Government for a new ½d. adhesive, a newspaper wrapper stamp, and a post card.

Adhesive.
£5, brown. wmk. S A and Crown ; perf. 11½×12½.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Johore.*—We regret to see a note in the *Statesman* of India to the effect that on March 16th the Johore Government issued a "coronation" stamp. No time being available for a special die, the issue of 1892, with portrait of the late Sultan, has been surcharged "*kornabkotaan*," which means coronation ; and the values so surcharged were the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 cents, and $1. We recommend these to decent burial by the S. S. S. S.

ZANZIBAR. — Things are getting a bit mixed here. The *Indian Philatelist* notes an error on the 2½ on 1½ annas surcharge, the name reading "Zanizbar," and the 1 anna, plum, with the surcharge in blue ; the same colour surcharge on the envelopes is spoken of as an error, but we are of opinion that the surcharge on the stationery was entirely in this colour ; further, the *P. J. of G. B.*, without a wince, informs us that the "Zanzidar" error occurs on all the values but the 2, 3, and 5 rupees !

EUROPE.

ITALY.—We illustrate the stamp on a new post card ; the "arms" are now placed in the centre, underneath the inscription, and the date is "95."



Post Card. 10 c., rose on *cream*.

NORWAY.—Another value appears in the re-drawn type.

Adhesive. 50 öre, red-brown.

PORTUGAL.—The *I. B. J.* chronicles the 10 reis post card with stamp of the new design.

Post Card. 10 reis, green.

SPAIN.—*Le T.-P.* states that the long list of the new issue, mentioned on page 55, is not to be issued before July next, and that the exceedingly ugly design which has been on show lately is not to be used ; we therefore withdraw our chronicle on a previous page.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The 5 c. has been issued with the new watermark.

For registration purposes, an 80 c. value is to be issued in the type of the current 10 and 50 c. adhesives.

Adhesive. 5 c., carmine.

ECUADOR.—"The Government of this country is an old offender," so says the S.S.S.S., and it is true. To Mr. E. J. Jackson we are indebted for a copy of the circular setting forth a commemorative issue, to take place on June 6th ; but as this is already under the ban of the above Society, we need scarcely refer further to it.

GUATEMALA. — The 5 c. adhesive with surcharge, "1—CENTAVO—1895," in red.

Adhesive. 1 c. in red on 5 c. puce.



HONDURAS.—We give an illustration of the new issue already chronicled, and the *A. J. of Ph.* has received the post cards with stamp of the same design.

Post Cards. 2 c., black and blue on *pink*.
2 + 2 c. ,, ,, (reply).
3 c., brown on *grey*
3 + 3 c. ,, ,, (reply).

NICARAGUA.—The 1896 Seebeck crop is out, and consists of the usual values, and the same surcharged for official purposes, or otherwise.

PERU.—We now give illustrations and full chronicle of the new issue, for which we are indebted to the *Philatelic Record*.







Adhesives. 1 c., ultramarine.
2 c., blue.
5 c., bronze blue.
10 c., yellow.
20 c., orange.
50 c., pink.
1 sol, vermilion.
2 soles, rose-lake.
Envelopes. 5 c., bronze blue.
10 c., yellow.
20 c., orange.
Wrappers. 1 c., ultramarine.
2 c., blue.
5 c., bronze blue.
20 c., orange.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CONGO.—The rates for letters posted in the interior having been reduced from 25 to 15 centimes, a stamp of the latter value is to be issued.

CUBA.—The post cards have undergone a change of colour, as follows:

Post Cards. 2 c., blue-green on *buff*.
4 c., dark blue ,,

FRANCE.—The *M. J.* has received a set of the current stamps, as given below, surcharged "POSTE — FRANCAISE — MADAGASCAR" in three lines, for use in that island.

Adhesives. 5 c., green; red surcharge.
10 c., black on *lilac*; red surcharge.
15 c., blue ,, ,,
25 c., black on *rose* ,, ,,
40 c., red; black surcharge.
50 c., carmine, ,, ,,
75 c., black on *yellow*; red surcharge.
1 franc., bronze-green; black ,,
5 francs, lilac ,, ,,

It is some little satisfaction to learn from the same source that the French Colonial issues of Diego Suarez, Nossi-Bé, and St. Marie de Madagascar are to be abolished, and one series used for the whole island.



GERMAN EAST AFRICA.—The new adhesives and postcards are announced, with surcharge reading as shown. The overprint is, as usual, in black, and the values are—

Adhesives. 2 pesa on 3 pf., brown.
3 ,, ,, 5 pf., green.
5 ,, ,, 10 pf., carmine.
10 ,, ,, 20 pf., blue.
25 ,, ,, 50 pf., red-brown.
Post Cards. 3 ,, 5 pf., on green.
3 + 3 ,, ,, 5 + 5 pf., green (reply).
5 ,, on 10 pf., carmine.
5 + 5 ,, ,, 10 + 10 pf., carmine (reply).

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. — The list given last month forms but a part of a long list of changes in colour. *Le T.-P.* explains that the varieties of the 2 and 5 c. dep. in brown are for external use (?).

Adhesives. 1 mil., blue.
2 ,, brown.
5 ,, blue-green.
½ c. dep., slate-blue.
1 ,, green.
2 ,, brown.
5 ,, brown-violet.
6 ,, rose.
8 ,, orange.
Post Cards. 2 c. dep., blue on *buff*.
3 ,, grey ,,

PORTO RICO.—We have two high values and two postcards to add to our last month's list.

Adhesives. 20 c. dep., greenish-grey.
40 ,, red.
Post Cards. 2 ,, blue-green on *buff*.
3 ,, red-brown ,,

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—A new value of the current Colonial type.

Adhesive. 9 reis, pale lilac.

THE LEVANT.—Messrs. Whitfield, King, and Co. inform us that the 40 *paras* on 1 kopeck surcharge is bogus.

TRANSVAAL.—Copies of the 1d. value, printed in two colours, have reached us, and we understand that the Cape of Good Hope and Orange Free State issues are to undergo a similar change, the value on the tablet being printed in a different colour to the remainder of the design. The distinctive colour of value throughout the Transvaal series is green, and at present those issued are—

Adhesives. ½ penny, green.
1 ,, rose and green.

In July and August last we had occasion to comment somewhat severely on the recent surfeit of surcharges emanating from Natal and the Transvaal, comment which called forth a prompt retort from some more or less interested writer in the *Pretoria Press*. We insert the following letter sent to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and reproduced in the *Monthly Journal*. Especial attention might be drawn to the signature, which will be seen to be that of the *Assistant Postmaster* of Johannesburg!

"BOX 2232, JOHANNESBURG,
"SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC,
"*14th February*, 1896.

"GENTS,—Please give me cash offer for any of the following Z. A. R. stamps:

"½d. on 1s. (on envelope outside), used, price 2d.
Jubilee 1d. ditto ,, ,, 2d.
1d. on 2½d. ,, ,, 2d.
6d. Revenue, surcharge 'Postzegel' ,, ,, 6d.

"A reduction from these prices would be made on taking over 5000 of any one sort, or of clearing me out.

"As regards the 6d. Postzegel, I practically have all that are obtainable.

"English notes taken at par.

"Yours faithfully,
"W. E. MASTERS,
"*Assistant Postmaster.*

"MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS AND CO., LONDON."

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.
Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—
Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD. | *Hon. Assistant Secretary*—R. PEARCE.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS. | *Librarian*—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON. | E. B. EVANS. | T. WICKHAM JONES.
R. EHRENBACH. | D. GARTH. | H. R. OLDFIELD.

THE twenty-first meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 13th March, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The members present were: Messrs. C. N. Biggs, R. Ehrenbach, T. Wickham Jones, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, J. W. C. Potter, E. L. Cator, A. A. Davis, L. S. Wells, C. Mc. Naughtan, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, J. A. Tilleard, T. Maycock, B. D. Knox, F. H. R. Crowle.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Biggs, and the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary passed round for inspection of the members present, a horizontal unused pair of the perforated 3d. (blue) Stamp of Natal (imperforate between the two Stamps), which had been kindly forwarded to Major Evans by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., for production at the meeting. Mr. Malcolm S. Cooke, proposed by the Hon. Treasurer, and seconded by the Vice-President, was elected a member of the Society.

The business of the evening consisted of a discussion, opened by Mr. R. Ehrenbach, on the most interesting country, the most expensive country, the cheapest country, and the most difficult country for study, and collection by specialists. A large number of those present joined in the discussion, and a considerable diversity of opinion was expressed upon the several questions raised, especially on that comprised in the first head, in the absence of any well-defined standpoint from which the subject should be viewed.

On the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Biggs, the thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Ehrenbach for introducing the discussion.

THE twenty-second meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 20th of March, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, C. F. Dendy Marshall, T. Maycock, W. Silk, G. B. Routledge, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, F. H. R. Crowle, J. A. Tilleard, and B. D. Knox.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The receipt from Messrs. Buhl & Co., Ltd., of copies of *The Stamp News Annual* for 1895 and 1896, for the Society's Library, was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

The Secretary read a letter from the Rev. E. T. Fyffe, R.N., announcing his resignation of membership, which was accepted with regret. A letter from Mr. Jacobs, sending a specimen of one of the values of the new stamps about to be issued in British South Africa, and with information as to the issue, was also read, and was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. Routledge then read a paper on "Processes Employed in the Production of Stamps," in which he explained in detail the various methods usually employed. An interesting discussion ensued, and on the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Tilleard, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Routledge for his most interesting paper, which will be published in the *London Philatelist*.

THE twenty-third meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday the 27th March, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., the members in attendance being: Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, M. S. Cooke, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, E. J. Nankivell, C. McNaughtan, D. Ellis, H. P. Hudleston, F. W. Joseph, G. F. Hynes, J. A. Tilleard, and F. H. R. Crowle.

In the absence of the Vice-President the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The receipt from the editor, of a bound copy of Vol. I. of *The Philatelic World*, for the Society's library, was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

The Secretary read the "Protest of Postage Stamp Collectors against Speculative Issues" received from the Philatelic Society of New York, and on the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Hynes, it was resolved "That this Society heartily endorses the sentiments expressed in the protest received from the New York Philatelic Society concerning the issue of speculative and unnecessary postage stamps."

Sir Edward Sullivan, Bart., proposed by Mr. Joynt, and seconded by Mr. Bacon, was elected a member of the Society.

The business of the evening consisted of a discussion on "Perforations." In opening the discussion, Mr. E. D. Bacon gave a very complete history of the subject as applied to postage stamps, commencing with the first "Archer" Experiments, and described all the systems employed in producing the various perforations and roulettes known to collectors. He also explained the origin of the system of measuring perforations adopted by philatelists, and in dealing with this part of the question, he warned specialists against the collection of the innumerable varieties which, in the case of compound perforations, are often due solely to imperfections in the machines used. Many of the members present took part in the discussion, and much interesting information was given on the various points and questions raised.

On the motion of the Secretary, seconded by the Treasurer, the meeting passed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bacon for introducing the subject for discussion.

THE twenty-fourth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 10th April, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The members in attendance were: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, T. W. Hall, T. Maycock, F. Ransom, M. S. Cooke, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard.

The Vice-President having taken the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The receipt from the Dresden Society, of a Special Catalogue of German Stamps, by Dr. Otto Rommel, was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. A. D. Park, proposed by Mr. Blest, and seconded by the Secretary, and Mr. B. Crowder, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, were elected members of the Society.

The question of the Annual Dinner

was discussed, and on the motion of Mr. Oldfield, seconded by Mr. Hall, it was resolved that the dinner should, if possible, be held in the month of May, and that the arrangements be left in the hands of a Committee consisting of Mr. Garth, Mr. Biggs, and Mr. Wickham Jones.

The Vice-President referred to the recent amalgamation which had been effected between the Société Française de Timbrologie, and the Société Philatelique Française, and moved "That the members of the Philatelic Society, London, tender to the President and members of the Société Française de Timbrologie, their heartiest congratulations on the fusion of the two leading Societies of France, and desire to express their best wishes for the future success and prosperity of the new Society."

The motion, having been seconded by Mr. Bacon, was carried unanimously, and the Secretary was directed to communicate the resolution to the President of the French Society.

Mr. Routledge called attention to the recent alteration in the design of the 1 att stamp of Siam and shewed a specimen of the new stamp.

Mr. Castle then read a paper on "The Retouched Lithograph of the Six Rappen Zurich Stamp." After referring to the remarks in recent numbers of Continental Journals, in which a retouch of this stamp was mentioned as a new discovery, Mr. Castle explained that this had been well-known to several members of the Society for some time past, and that he had found three distinct cases of attempts to remedy defective transfers in three of the types. These were illustrated by strips of stamps out of Mr. Castle's collection, and he also called attention to other smaller varieties to be found in others of the stamps under consideration. On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Oldfield, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vice-President for his interesting paper, and in proposing the resolution, Mr. Bacon confirmed the statement as to the fact that the retouched stamps were not a new discovery, but were previously known to several Philatelists.

Mr. Nankivell having referred to the question of the acquisition of interesting Philatelic works for the Society's library, it was decided to obtain the Krötszch Handbooks of German Stamps and Kenyon's work on the *Stamps of Hawaii*, and directions were given to the Librarian accordingly.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: W. T. Wilson, Esq.
Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Mr. G. Johnson, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

March 19th. Major W. F. Anstey (Devonport), Messrs. A. Scheindling (Russia), and W. A. Riley (Belgium), were unanimously elected members.

The Hon. Sec. then read a paper on the Stamps of Argentine, including those of Buenos Ayres, Cordoba, and Corrientes.

Exchange Packets for April again show a considerable increase on any previous month, and for the first time in the records of Philately exceed £3000.

Packet.	£	s.	d.
"A" ... Colonials and Foreign ...	950	7	11½
"B" ... Brit. Colonials only ...	1768	5	1
"C" ... Foreign only	307	8	1½
	£3026	1	2

April 16th. Messrs. W. Leigh (Birmingham), W. A. Walker (Devonport), J. P. Way (Bristol), H. A. Young (Queensland), A. Pulin (Spain), L. S. Charlick (South Australia), J. de Le Retord (Portugal), T. Torrabadella (Spain), were unanimously elected members.

An Extraordinary General Meeting unanimously decided that all accounts should be settled on the return of each packet, instead of quarterly, as heretofore. This will allow those members who have accounts due to them to receive the same much quicker, and will also be more convenient to those who purchase more than they sell. The new arrangement commences with the April packets.

The Hon. Treasurer was instructed to open a banking account for the use of the Exchange.

ORDINARY MEETING. Mr. Hollick then displayed a very fine selection from his private collection, and gave notes and particulars of the same, which were extremely interesting and instructive, and were highly appreciated by the large attendance. The most valuable part of the display was the collection of Mauritius, in which some very fine singles and pairs of the early issues were especially noticeable: Early Canadians, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, in rows of shades, and including some very fine "shillings"; British Columbia and Vancouver's Island complete; a large number of complete sheets of Gambia; reconstructed sheets of Victoria, etc.

THE BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE monthly meeting of this society for March was held on the 3rd of that month, when the President of the Society, Mr. Oliver Firth, occupied the chair.

After the formal business of the Society had been transacted, the evening was devoted to the exchange of duplicates. Not many, however, changed hands.

THE monthly meeting for this month (April) was held on the 14th instant. Mr. W. M. Gray, one of the Vice-Presidents, occupied the chair.

The business of the evening was the reading of a paper prepared by Mr. H. W. Atkinson, on "English Stamps used abroad." Mr. Atkinson, who had very carefully prepared an interesting paper, illustrated the same with a map of the world, showing the various places where English stamps had been used abroad, for franking letters to this country, and a discussion upon the matter wound up a very pleasant evening.

The next meeting, which will be the annual meeting, will be held on Tuesday, May 5. W. H. SCOTT, *Hon. Sec.*

1, PICCADILLY, BRADFORD.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—BARON DE WORMS.
President—M. P. CASTLE.
Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. WILLETT, West House, Brighton.

THE eleventh meeting of the session 1895–96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 2nd, at 8.15 p.m. Seven members and one visitor attended. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Gillespie took the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. H. Stafford Smith exhibited a very fine and interesting series of rare stamps. Among the principal points of interest were several Swiss Cantonals, including the rare Zurich 4 rappen, vertical lines; a quantity of fine St. Vincents, early Trinidads, and Victoria; an entire sheet of Heligoland 5 pfenning, and the rare Lagos 5s. blue. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Stafford Smith for his interesting display.

THE twelfth meeting of the session 1895–96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 16th, at 8.15 p.m. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. H. Stafford Smith occupied the chair.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, letters from Col. Alexander and Mr. C. R. Morse, resigning their membership, were read, and accepted with regret. A paper to have been read was unavoidably postponed.

HULL AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A MEETING was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Hull, on Tuesday, March 31st, to consider the advisability of forming a Philatelic Society for Hull, when it was unanimously resolved that a Society under the above title be formed.

The following were elected officers :

President: E. W. DRURY, Esq.
Hon. Treasurer: A. P. STEPHENSON, Esq.
Committee :
Mr. E. KIRKBY,
Mr. G. E. PICKERING,
Mr. W. T. TAYLOR,
Mr. G. F. WYLDE.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. JAMES BURN.

The meeting being of opinion that a good library of Philatelic literature was much needed, it was resolved to form one at once, and that every endeavour should be made to make the same as complete as possible. Several members promised gifts towards its formation.

Meetings during the summer will be held every four weeks, the next meeting being on Tuesday, April 28th.

The Society will be glad to receive copies of Philatelic publications. Anyone desirous of becoming a member should please communicate with James Burn, Hon. Sec., 11, St. Luke's Street, Hull.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S.

THE tenth meeting of the session 1895-6 was held at the Municipal Buildings, Leeds, on Saturday, the 15th February, 1896.

The President, who was in the chair, gave an account of the Carlist Stamps of Spain, illustrated by his collection, and at the close he received the thanks of the meeting, proposed by Mr. T. K. Skipwith, seconded by Mr. W. Beckwith.

THE eleventh meeting was held on Monday, 2nd March. There were eight members present, with the President in the chair.

There were a number of donations to the library, including the new journal of the Philatelic Society of Argentina.

Mr. W. B. Simpson, Vice-President, then read a paper on the Stamps of Greece, illustrated by his own and other members' collections, and for which he received a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Skipwith, and seconded by Mr. S. E. Nixon.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of* THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—THE LONDON PHILATELIST *will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of* 6s. ($1.50). *Subscribers' remittances should be sent to* Mr. H. M. GOOCH, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

DEAR SIR,—In these days of "West Indian" specialising, it is not often that one can find anything very new in the way of a variety in these Colonies, but I am sending for your inspection a very distinct "error," which I have recently discovered in the Revenue Three Half-Pence stamp of *Grenada*, surcharged for postage use.

d.
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POSTAGE

(West Indian Book, page 85, Issue vii., October, 1886.) The error is not in the second surcharge, but in the *first*, the word PENCE of Three Halfpence reading

PENCE.

With the naked eye you will see this is quite distinct, and I might say that I discovered the error quite casually—purchasing the ordinary stamp, and the error, side by side from a leading dealer's stock book.

Yours truly,
H. MARTYN GOOCH.

16th April, 1896.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes — Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used.

Messrs. Ventom Bull & Cooper.

Sale on March 24th and 25th.

	£	s.	d.
Spain, 1852, 2 reales, red	12	12	6
Tuscany, 60 crazie	7	0	0
Newfoundland, 1s., carmine-verm.	16	10	0
Queensland, first issue, 1d., lake, pair on original	6	10	0

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson.

Sale of March 16th and 17th.

Turks' Islands, 1s., prune (fair)	14	14	0

On March 30th and 31st.

Naples, ½ tornese, "arms"	13	0	0
Ditto, ditto, unused	18	10	0
Geneva, double stamp, severed and joined	12	15	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	12	12	0
Ditto, C A, 16 cents, lilac, unused	10	10	0
United States, State Dept., 5 dols.	6	0	0
Trinidad, Lady Mc Leod	12	0	0

Messrs. Cheveley & Co.

March 18th and 19th.

Oldenburg, second issue, ⅓ sgros., unused	5	0	0
Saxony, 3 pf., red., the variety with dot in "o" of "Franco"	4	10	0
Ceylon, 2s., imperf., unused	10	0	0
Nevis, lithograph, 6d., unused	12	10	0

On April 8th and 9th.

Basle, 2½ rap., unused	5	12	6
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf.	9	10	0
Victoria, 6d., orange, beaded oval	6	5	0
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., black on crimson	11	5	0
New Brunswick, 1s., purple	21	10	0
Peru, medio peso, rose	12	5	0

Messrs. R. F. Albrecht & Co.

(New York City.)

There were sold at the 37th sale—

Great Britain, 4d., rose, medium garter, bluish paper, unused	20	8	0
United States, Justice, 90 c., unused	7	0	0
Canada, 7½d., green, unused	12	8	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, two copies, each	5	0	0
St. Vincent, 5s, rose (star)	17	4	0

Messrs. Buhl & Co., Ltd.

March 26th and 27th.

Heligoland, 5 marks, red and green, entire sheet of 25, unused	8	0	0
Cape of Good Hope, strip of 4 of the 1d., red, wood block	34	0	0
St. Lucia, 1885, 1s., red-brown, pair unused	12	15	0
Tobago, C A, 6d., ochre	10	0	0

The Elliot Woodward Sale.

Below we have quoted a few of the "plums" from the some 600 odd lots which comprised this much advertised and successful sale. The statement contained in the preface is true that, "with few exceptions, the stamps are in unusually fine condition"; and we can only echo that, in our opinion, the catalogue, lots, sale, and results were indeed *unusually* fine; in fact, it is the finest lot of specimens ever accumulated and brought under the hammer at one sale.

St. Louis, 1845–46, 5 c. (No. 2 in plate I., see page 45)	50	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 10 c. (No. 1, plate 1, see page 45)	21	0	0
United States, 1851–56, 30 c., imperf., unused	18	0	0
Ditto, 1868, 90 c., unused	8	0	0
Ditto, 1869, 90 c. unused	8	16	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, no grille	14	0	0
Canada, 12d., *laid* paper	89	0	0
Ditto, ditto, horizontal pair, unused	264	0	0
Ditto, 6d., wove paper, block of 4, unused	32	0	0
Ditto, 10d., thin paper, unused	8	8	0
Ditto, 10d. (wide oval), thick paper, horizontal strip of 3	36	8	0
Ditto, 7½d., horizontal pair	30	0	0
Ditto, 1858, 6d., perforated, unused	10	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ½d., ditto, horizontally ribbed, *bluish* paper	15	0	0
New Brunswick, 6d., unused	10	11	0
Ditto, 1s.	24	10	0
Ditto, 1s., *rose-lilac*, on cover with a 3d.	28	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-vermilion	16	8	0
Ditto, 1s., scarlet	30	12	0
Ditto, 1s., orange	36	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet	22	8	0
Ditto, 1s., deep violet	22	12	0
Ditto, 1s., on original cover	28	12	0
Ditto, 1s., two specimens used with a 3d., on cover	54	8	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve	24	4	0
Antigua, 1862, 6d., imperf., vertical pair, unused	11	6	6
Antioquia, 1868, 2½ c., blue	6	10	0
Ceylon, 8d., imperf.	11	10	0
St. Lucia, 1860, 4d., deep blue, unused, horizontal pair	13	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., deep green, unused, horizontal pair	13	10	0

In all, this sale realised a total of £2,736 ($5=£1).

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. V. MAY, 1896. No. 53.

Ephemeral and Speculative Issues.

THE exceedingly difficult task of sifting the Philatelic tares from the wheat, has hitherto presented no greater point of delicacy to decide than that raised by the issue of the Greek Olympian stamps. Some months since, the S.S.S.S. included in their circular a notice "warning" collectors that these, with other Jubilee issues, were in contemplation. It has now, however, transpired that the conditions of the existence of this celebration issue are somewhat different from others, whose issue has been so limited, either in number or duration, as to play into the hands of Philatelic speculators. As elsewhere stated, we are credibly informed that the Olympian series will be in use for many months, and hence be procurable by every collector, without any difficulty or enhancement of price It is also stated that they will always be available for postage, and may even possibly supersede the head of Mercury stamps as a permanent issue. It is hence obvious that these, or any one of these statements, will weigh with the Committee of the S.S.S.S. in any future consideration of the real Philatelic status of this Olympian series.

We must, however, take exception to the concluding portion of our correspondent's remarks. (Under Occasional Notes.) Nothing is further from the minds of the members of any of the Committees, here and abroad, engaged in the Herculean task of combating the speculative issues, than a desire "to howl down new issues." It is universally recognised that the recurrence of new issues, legitimately required for postal purposes, and especially if of an attractive design, acts as a strong stimulant to the pursuit

of stamp-collecting. There is no wish in any way to "discredit" them, nor do we believe that the action hitherto taken can have had any deterrent effect upon would-be collectors. If there has been any falling-off in the number of recruits, we should preferably ascribe it to the fact that they are frightened to begin a general collection, in view of the appalling number of varieties quoted in the catalogues. Our correspondent also shares this view to some extent; and we are as anxious as he is to use every exertion in the enlistment of new recruits, without whom, in due course, the pursuit of Philately must inevitably fade away. It is highly desirable, in the interests of everyone, that the way of the new-comer should be made easy, in the shape of suitable albums, not over-burdened with minute varieties, and guide books, rather than catalogues, which should really shew the neophyte how little he can do with, and not how much he can possibly acquire. We are firmly convinced that, except in the case of specialists, over-elaboration is a deadly foe to the Philatelic beginner. Even in the instance of those who make specialised collections, the greatest care should be taken to avoid *minutiæ*, and to marshal the stamps in groups that are comprehensive without being involved; as, if otherwise, collectors are apt to become discouraged, and forsake their hobby.

We would earnestly counsel all those who have the real future interests of Philately at heart, to exercise all precaution, before they traverse any of the decisions given by the Committee of the S.S.S.S., which has so far performed such signal service. In all quarters of the globe, it has been acknowledged that real good work has been, and is being done, in the cause of Philatelic purity; and without some such preventive Association, it is not difficult to foresee that the pursuit of Philately would, in the long run, be stifled by the pernicious and speculative issues. As in the case of Customs examination on the frontiers of a country, it may often seem perfunctory, occasionally appear unpleasant, or even unjust; but without some such *preventive* protection, all tariff barriers would be broken down. The duties of the S.S.S.S. to Philately present an exact parallel case.

In the present instance, it seems possible that this Olympian issue is ephemeral rather than speculative; but it is certainly a moot question, whether the action of the S.S.S.S. may not have been a potent factor in the substitution of the former adjective for the latter. In any case, judiciously exercised, the action of this and kindred Societies must be for the general good; and we cannot too strongly impress upon anyone who is financially interested, that *c'est la ridicule qui tue*, and that with a comparatively new pursuit, like stamp-collecting, a "reduction to the absurd" might relegate Philately to the dusty limbo of forgotten hobbies.

The Stamps of the Transvaal.

By FRED JEPPE.

UNDER date of Pretoria, South African Republic, April 13th, 1896, we have received the following interesting comments upon the papers that have recently appeared in our columns :

"When Mr. Tamsen took the trouble of collecting all the information regarding the stamps of this Republic, and succeeded in obtaining and publishing, with great patience and intelligence, all the knowledge about the old stamps of the Transvaal that could be of value to the Philatelic world, I was under the impression that the subject was pretty well exhausted, that all doubts were set at rest, and that the mystery which involved some of the early issues was cleared up for good. But it seems, from a paper published in your periodical for February last, by Mr. R. Pearce, which was sent to Mr. van Alphen, the present Postmaster-General, and kindly given me for perusal, that I was very much mistaken ; that, instead of the subject being thrashed out, there is still corn in Egypt, which has to go through the mill of public discussion, to be sifted into different sorts like flour.

"I am not a 'Philatelist.' and therefore fail to see the use of raising a controversy about the quality of the paper on which the old issues were printed, or the shade of their colours, for the simple reason that, perhaps, only one in a thousand would be able to obtain a complete set of all the qualities and shades referred to. This ignorance on my part will very likely be much deplored by all real Philatelists, but as I take a great interest in Philately, owing to my former connection with the Post-office of this country, having been, as Mr. Tamsen observes, the originator of the postal service of this country, and its postage stamps, I crave permission to say a few words in reply to Mr. Pearce's interesting paper, especially as he has used my name rather freely, and has both expressed and implied a great deal of blame on some of my actions as former Postmaster-General of this Republic.

"Mr. Pearce attributes the want of popularity of the Transvaal stamps among collectors to the sale of the notorious Mecklenburg bogus stamps and forgeries, and later on, in his paper, he says that I committed a most unfortunate blunder in allowing the engraver in Germany to sell stamps to dealers in Europe who had applied to me for supplies. I admit candidly that this *was* a great blunder, committed in the hurry of the moment ; but it must be borne in mind that my permission given to Otto was limited to orders received for the 3d. value only, and not for the first three values, and that as soon as I was informed that Otto had sold beyond the authorised amount, and also stamps of other values, my authority was withdrawn at once on penalty of proceedings being taken against him in a court of law.

When he, nevertheless, continued in his illegal sales, I published advertisements in English and German papers, warning the public against the purchase of unauthorised stamps, and engaged an advocate at Gustrow to proceed against Otto. The lawyer reported that, according to German law, I had no case against him for reasons too numerous to be stated here.

"I must mention here in parenthesis that I knew Otto personally, having made his acquaintance in Paris in 1856, and that I had no reason to doubt his honesty and integrity when my brother, who then lived close to Gustrow, engaged his services as an engraver to furnish the plates according to the design supplied by me. Unfortunately my brother left Germany and came out here in July, 1870; and after his departure there was no proper supervision over Otto with regard to the illicit sale of stamps.

"There is no question in my mind that when Otto delivered the first plates for the 1d., 6d., and 1s. values he kept duplicates, from which he printed and sold the quantities that flooded Europe. Was it my fault when—in spite of my warning, and the fact that the Mecklenburg bogus stamps were bought by the public in all colours, rouletted and unrouletted, defaced and undefaced, according to orders, *at 50 per cent. and more below face value* from the principal dealers on the continent?—even as late as 1886 these bastard issues were offered to the public at the above-mentioned reduction. If I had remained in office I would have taken further steps to prevent this swindle being carried on, but my successors in office after April, 1875, did not consider it worth while to trouble about the matter, although I brought it repeatedly to their notice. When the country was annexed by the British Government in April, 1877, the postal authorities considered that the surcharge of the letters 'V.R. Transvaal' and the subsequent new issue with the Queen's head was sufficient protection, but they forgot that it was very easy for Mr. Otto, or anybody else, to imitate the surcharge. There is no doubt that it was done, for a well-known firm in Leipsic advertised these values so far below face value that everybody must have seen at once that they were *forgeries?* Even new values, which did not exist here at all, such as a 6d. brown 'On Service' ('*Dienst Marke*,' as a German collector called it), were made and palmed off on the public. Was I to blame when people allowed themselves to be defrauded with open eyes by Otto and a set of unscrupulous swindlers?

"The adoption of postage stamps by the S. A. Republic was proposed by me to the Government and resolved upon, long before the individual referred to by Mr. Pearce had written to me on the subject. The original colours had reference to the colours of the national flag, but white could not be used; the colours of the first three values were fixed as red, blue, and green, and the colour of the 3d. was chosen afterwards and approved by Law No. 7, 1873, Act 81. All the later colours of ½d., 4d., 2s., etc., issued by the British Government and the second Republic, were never stipulated by any later law.

"I naturally copied the design of the coat of arms, which was furnished by me and approved by the Volksraad 30th Sept., 1867, according to the rather vague stipulations of the '*grondeact*' of 1858. With regard to the manufacture of the stamps and the payments, everything was left to me, and

whatever I did was approved by Government. The first issue was contemplated for the 1st January, 1870, but as the press and paper did not arrive before February, the issue was postponed to 1st May by a Government notice, dated *14th April*, 1870. The date published by Mr. Tamsen (14th May) was an error copied by Mr. Pearce, and therefore the latter's remarks, based on an error perpetrated by the printer of Mr. Tamsen's paper, are out of place.

"With regard to the 3d. stamp, I do not know that Otto kept a duplicate of the original matrix, as stated by Mr. Pearce, but it may be that he did, or kept a duplicate of the plates from which he sold afterwards, not *presumably* as insinuated by Mr. Pearce, but most undoubtedly, and quite positively, without any authority; *i.e.*, beyond certain small quantities authorised by me. It may be also that he did not keep a duplicate of the plates, but printed off a large quantity for his own use before the plates were delivered to my agent and forwarded. At all events, no plate for the 3d. value, or stamps of this value, were found in his possession when the 6d. plates were taken from him. In such a case the stamps sold by him may be called by any other name but *forgeries*, as they were printed from the original plates.

"Being informed that the illicit sale of stamps was still carried on in Germany, I instructed my agent to enter his office, and demand delivery of the plates for the 6d. value (improved eagle), in June, 1882. Besides the plates, he found still about 800 sheets of 6d. stamps, of which about the half were ungummed and unperforated, and the other half gummed and rouletted. These plates and stamps were not destroyed, but placed in the Rostock Bank under safe custody, where they remained until the beginning of 1894, when they were forwarded to here, and delivered to Government. The plates were, on their arrival, in March, '94, placed in the Treasury vaults, and the stamps destroyed. It is strange that all these 6d. stamps were not of the last improved eagle, but of the old owl type. At the first glance, they appear the same as the first lot printed in Germany; but on closer inspection, the difference in the eagle's eye and the flagstaff, mentioned by Mr. Tamsen and Mr. Pearce, becomes apparent. (Specimen encl.) I found that the rouletted and gummed were rouletted 20 on the sides, and 17½ on top and bottom.

"Regarding the question put by Mr. Pearce, whether the first stamps printed in Germany should be recognised as an official issue, I do not see why they should not. I was authorised by Government to sell these stamps to dealers, who had applied for them, in order to pay for the plates, and on this account they must be considered of the same value as stamps supplied from here later on. The only objection that may be raised against them is, that they were supplied before the first issue of May, 1870; but I know from experience, and could quote, several cases in which stamps were supplied to dealers before they were issued by the Post-office.

"As far as I can remember, the 1d. stamps printed by Bonius were *all* printed in black. The scarcity of the black stamps, advanced by Mr. Tamsen, may be accounted for by the fact that, from the very first lot printed in September, '70, 6600, to the value of £27 10s., were sent to a well-known dealer in Plymouth, which never came into circulation, as they

were destroyed in a fire that took place in the dealer's house.* With regard to the law stipulating that the penny stamps should be printed in red, this had to be set aside very often, as the stocks of colour ran out. The 3d. value was printed in a variety of colours but the legal one, and the 1d. was printed again in black from 1883 to 1885, as Mr. Tamsen has shown in his paper.

"In conclusion, I would like to say a few words with regard to the new issue now being given out, as a great deal of misunderstanding exists about it. A writer of articles on Philately in the *Durban Advertiser* told his readers that the Transvaal Government contemplated the issue of a new series *in design and colour*, which he considered wholly unnecessary. There was no intention of altering the design, the colours only being altered in accordance with an agreement entered into with the Cape Colony to adopt henceforth the same colours for the same values. This alteration was proposed by the local postal authorities to all the South African states for the benefit of the service and the public. Natal has declined to join the movement for the present, for reasons of its own; and the Orange Free State is debarred from adopting the new colours proposed, on account of a resolution of the Volksraad of the 7th July, 1894, in which the colours of the different values were defined for good. At present the colours of the values in the South African States are as follows:

Value.	S. African Republic.	Cape Colony.	Orange Free State.	Natal.	New Colours adopted by Cape Colony and Transvaal.
½d.	grey	grey-black	yellow	pale green	green.
1d.	carmine	rose	lilac	rose	rose.
2d.	yellow-olive	light brown	rose	olive	sepia (bistre)
2½d.	purple	olive	green	blue	blue
3d.	lilac	brown-rose	yellow-brown	slate	dark purple.
4d.	greenish-black	blue	dark grey	brown	greyish-green.
5d.	——	——	——	——	slate.
6d.	blue	violet	blue	violet	medium purple.
9d.	——	——	——	——	brown.
1s.	green	green	red-brown	orange	light yellow.
1s. 6d.	——	——	——	——	greyish-brown.
2s. 6d.	yellow	——	orange	——	light purple.
5s.	dark green	orange	carmine	brown and violet	orange.
10s.	brown	——	——	——	light grey.
£5	medium green	——	——	——	puce.

"For the ½d. and 1d. post cards the same colours are adopted as for the adhesives; *i.e.* green and rose. With regard to the Transvaal, the words indicating the values ½ Penny, 1 Penny, &c., are printed in green, independent of the new colours adopted. Up to date only the ½d., 1d., and 1s. were issued (specimen attached); the other values will follow as soon as the old stocks are exhausted.

"With regard to the Jubilee 1d., issued to commemorate the first penny postage in the Transvaal, I should like to know the reason why this stamp should be rejected by the S.S.S.S. It was issued for a legitimate purpose, was never a speculative stamp, and is still in use like the penny of the regular series. I enclose a specimen with the date stamp —Johannesburg, 10th April, 1896.

"I shall be glad to see the second part of Mr. Pearce's paper on the Transvaal stamps, after the perusal of which I shall, perhaps, have something more to say."

* The firm referred to is doubtless that of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., but the "fire" did not consume all these black stamps, as we remember to have purchased some of these (imperforate), which were selected from a large quantity.

Notes on the De La Rue Series of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, the 15th of February, 1895.

By J. A. TILLEARD.

(*Continued from page 119.*)

IN 1871, a descriptive list of the East India Postage Stamps was prepared by the late Lieut.-Col. Mainwaring. I have been fortunate enough to obtain a copy of this list as revised by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., so far as concerns the stamps manufactured by them, and completed by them down to the date of revision. I have thought it worth while to append this list in its entirety, although, as it also describes the stamps prepared in India, it is to this extent outside the scope of my paper. The whole of the portion which deals with the stamps issued before 1855 is the work of Colonel Mainwaring, as is also such part as relates to the provisional issues, and the service stamps printed in India.

The rest has been revised by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., who have substituted their own descriptions of the stamps of their manufacture, in place of the descriptions of the compiler of the list, and they have also added the whole of the matter of a later date than 1871.

There is nothing new to be learnt from the list in regard to the native printed stamps, except the statement that the plate of the 8 anna stamp, which should, of course, be classed as an essay, was mislaid after a few copies only had been printed, and was never recovered.

It is curious to observe that Colonel Mainwaring keeps up, or perhaps is the originator of, the old tradition that the half anna stamp, with the eight arches, was first printed in black and sent out for distribution. He adds that it was never issued in this colour to the public, as a large packet of the stamps was stolen, and the remainder were withdrawn, to prevent the stolen stamps from being used. He then proceeds to state that it was re-issued in red, and that on the vermilion ink running short, it was printed in blue. It would be interesting to know the origin of this tradition. Personally, I have never seen this value in black printed on the watermarked paper, and if the circumstantial story above referred to were correct, I think we should have seen some watermarked copies, and not merely the proofs. Possibly the story had its origin in the fact that for a short time the printers despaired of being able to obtain satisfactory results in blue, and strongly recommended the black impressions, which had been successfully obtained, In the list of proofs in *India and Ceylon*, the stamp is chronicled with reserve, and the above-mentioned story is given, on the authority of Mr. G. J. Hynes' official catalogue of 1884. This catalogue was founded on Colonel Mainwaring's list, and it is only fair to Mr. Hynes to state that in the copy of his descriptive list, published by the Indian Postal Authorities

in 1885, which Mr. Hynes has been kind enough to lend to me, there is a note by the author against this stamp, "taken from Mainwaring's book, but I have only evidence of proofs having been printed."

I think it is conclusively proved by our late Vice-President's paper, printed in the introduction to *India and Ceylon*, that the red half-anna stamps which were sent to Bombay were not of this type, but were those with the nine arches. Athough the stamp is found printed in red on the watermarked paper, there is no official record of its issue, and such specimens are, in my opinion, correctly classed by the Society as proofs, or colour trials.

It was, however, the detailed description of the stamps which form the subject of this paper, which induced me to consider the list of sufficient importance to be appended to my remarks. It is not that I have any fault to find with the descriptions as given in the lists compiled by the Society. On the contrary, I think that these are, in the main, most admirably and carefully done, and that, in some respects, they are more complete than the official descriptions of the manufacturers. It is, however, well known to all of us who are in the habit of attending the meetings for settling the Society's lists of stamps, how difficult it is to describe accurately and concisely the stamps for the time being under consideration, especially in reference to the varied and complicated designs which are often employed. It is also no easy task to ensure uniformity in the terms used, and we have laboured under some disadvantage in not being sure of the technical terms applicable to the different designs. Seeing that Messrs. De La Rue & Co. produce a very large majority of the stamps with which we are mostly occupied—viz., those of our numerous colonies—it has occurred to me that it cannot fail to be of value, to have a record of Messrs. De La Rue & Co.'s own descriptions of the stamps of India emanating from their factories. With these before us we shall be able, by combining the manufacturers' system with our own, to obtain, I hope, perfection in description, and greater uniformity in this branch of our work. On comparing the terms used in these descriptions with those in the Society's book, I find that "tablets" is the technical word for what we somewhat indiscriminately call "labels," or "bands," the latter word being only applied where it is actually a band which is being described. Again, in describing ornamentation as "reticulated," it would, in general, appear that "engine-turned" is the more technical expression. Our "conventional" ornaments are sometimes "rope pattern," and sometimes "scroll" or "foliated" ornament, "ornamental *fleur-de-lis*," &c. When we say "floreate," Messrs. De La Rue & Co. use the word "trefoil," or "ornamental leaves," as the case may require. "Zigzag" is described as "triangular," and our "Greek" border becomes a "fret" border. These are a few instances out of many, and will serve to show how, with the aid of the list of which we can now avail ourselves, we shall be able to enlarge our knowledge of the technical terms employed by the printers, if we see fit to follow their language and methods of description.

In conclusion, I would desire to express my indebtedness to the Inland Revenue authorities, through whose good services I have been able to obtain dates and facts from Messrs. De La Rue and Co.; to the last-named firm for the great labour and care bestowed on the searches necessary to answer the questions on which I sought their assistance; and last, but not least, to our Honorary Vice-President, for placing at my disposal the collection which we

inspected with so much pleasure in May last. Mine has been the comparatively simple task of recording the observations which the inspection of this collection afforded, and the facts imparted to me by the authorities. Whatever of merit there may be in these lines, is due to the co-operation of those who have so kindly enabled me to obtain the information, which has, I trust, somewhat extended our knowledge of the history of the De La Rue series of the postage and telegraph stamps of our Indian Empire.

Appendix A.

List of the Registered Plates of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps Printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co.

POSTAGE.

Value.	Colour.	No. of Plate.	Date of Registration.	Watermark.
½ anna	blue	1	8th June, 1855	None.
„	„	2	7th July, 1855	„
„	„	3	2nd Aug., 1855	„
„	„	4	8th July, 1857	„
„	„	5	2nd Sept., 1858	„
„	„	6		
„	„	7	6th May, 1862	„
„	„	8	20th March, 1863	„
„	„	9	20th Jan., 1865	Elephant's Head
„	„	10	17th Jan., 1866	„
„	„	11	2nd Feb., 1866	„
„	„	12	not registered.	
„	„	13	27th Sept., 1867	„
„	„	14		
„	„	15	10th Oct., 1867	„
„	„	16	15th Oct., 1867	„
„	„	17	29th Jan., 1868	„
„	„	18	11th Jan., 1869	„
„	„	19	19th Feb., 1869	„
„	„	20	11th Jan., 1869	„
„	„	21	19th Feb., 1869	„
„	„	22	13th April, 1870	„
„	„	23	15th June, 1870	„
„	„	24	8th Aug., 1872	„
„	„	25		
„	„	26	13th Aug., 1872	„
„	„	27	30th April, 1873	„
„ (from altered die)	„	28	21st May, 1873	„
„	„	29	9th July, 1873	„
„	„	30		
„	„	31	11th Sept., 1873	„
„	„	32	7th Jan., 1874	„
„	„	33	10th June, 1874	„
„	„	34	22nd July, 1874	„
„	„	35	15th Oct., 1874	„
„	„	36	29th Oct., 1874	„
„	„	37		

Value.	Colour.	No. of Plate.	Date of Registration.	Watermark.
½ anna (*continued*) .	blue	38 } 39 }	24th Nov., 1875	Elephant's Head.
„	„			
„	„	40	8th Nov., 1876	„
„	„	41	30th Nov., 1877	„
„	„	42	11th Dec., 1877	„
„	„	43	14th Aug., 1878	„
„	„	44	21st Aug., 1878	„
„	„	45	29th Jan., 1879	„
„	„	46	29th Oct., 1879	„
„	„	47	12th May, 1880	„
„	„	48	2nd June, 1880	„
„	„	49	21st Oct., 1880	„
„	„	50	1st Dec., 1880	„
„ (new design) .	green . . .	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
8 pies . . .	lilac	1	21st May, 1859	None.
„	„	3	29th Jan., 1868	Elephant's Head.
9 pies . . .	„	1	1st April, 1874	„
„ (new design) .	carmine . . .	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
1 anna . . .	brown . . .	1	8th June, 1855	None.
„	„	2	8th July, 1857	„
„	„	3	2nd Sept., 1858	„
„	„	4	28th Dec., 1865	Elephant's Head.
„	„	5	2nd May, 1866	„
„	„	6 } 7 }	not registered.	
„	„			
„	„	8	26th Feb., 1868	„
„	„	9	25th March, 1868	„
„	brown . . .	10	11th Jan., 1869	„
„	„	11	not registered.	
„	reddish-brown . .	12	8th Aug., 1872	„
„	„ . .	13	13th Aug., 1872	„
„	dark red-brown . .	14	8th July, 1874	„
„ .	„ . .	15	15th Oct., 1874	„
„ . .	„ . .	16	31st July, 1878	„
„	„ . .	17	2nd April, 1879	„
„	„ . .	18	23rd Sept., 1879	„
„	„ . .	19	4th Aug., 1880	„
„ (new design) .	chocolate . . .	1	5th Jan., 1882	Star.
1 anna 6 pies . .	olive-brown . .	1	10th Aug., 1881	„
2 annas . . .	green . . .	1	8th June, 1855	None.
„	pink	2	2nd Sept., 1858	„
„	yellow . . .	3	6th May, 1862	„
„	bright orange-yellow .	4	2nd May, 1866	Elephant's Head.
„	dull „ .	5	29th April, 1868	„
„	bright „ .	6	15th June, 1870	„
„	red orange . .	7	10th Aug., 1881	„
„ (new design) .	ultramarine . .	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
2 annas 6 pies . .	bright yellow-green .	1	15th Sept , 1891	„
3 annas . . .	orange . . .	1	10th Aug., 1881	„
4 annas . . .	grey-black . . .	1	7th July, 1855	None.
„	„	2 } 3 }	19th May, 1862	„
„	„			
„ (second design)	yellow-green . .	1	28th March, 1866	Elephant's Head.

Value.	Colour.	No. of Plate.	Date of Registration.	Watermark.
4 annas (*continued*) .	yellow-green . .	2	not registered.	
„ . . .	„ . .	3	29th April, 1868	Elephant's Head.
„ . . .	dark green . .	4	15th June, 1870	„
„ . . .	„ . .	5	21st Aug., 1872	„
„ (retouched die)	„ . .	6	11th Dec., 1877	„
„ „	„ . .	7	14th May, 1879	„
„ „	„ . .	8	12th May, 1880	„
„ (new design) .	olive-green . .	1	5th Jan., 1882	Star.
4 annas 6 pies . .	yellow-green . .	1	18th Dec., 1885	„
6 annas . . .	brown . . .	1	26th April, 1876	Elephant's Head.
„ . . .	„ . . .	2	2nd April, 1879	„
„ . . .	pale brown . .	3	29th Oct., 1879	„
„ (new design not yet issued) .	ochre . . .	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
6 annas 8 pies . .	. . . . .	1	not registered.	
„ „ . .	pale slate . . .	2	21st Aug., 1866	Elephant's Head.
„ „ . .	dark slate . . .	3	1st Dec., 1869	„
8 annas . . .	carmine (blue paper).	1	30th Aug., 1855	None.
„ . . .	„ „ .	2	not registered.	
„ . . .	„ „ .	3		
„ (altered die) .	carmine (white paper)	4	13th April, 1870	Elephant's Head.
„ „ .	„ „ .	5	29th Oct., 1879	„
„ (new design) .	violet . . .	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
12 annas . . .	red-brown . . .	1	4th May, 1876	Elephant's Head.
„ . . .	„ . . .	2	19th Nov., 1879	„
„ (new design).	„ . . .	...	not registered.	
1 rupee . . .	slate	1	1st April, 1874	„
„ . . .	„	2	19th Nov., 1879	„
„ (altered type) .	„	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
„ (new design) .	green and carmine .	1	30th Sept., 1891	„

Note.—In the case of the half anna (blue) the colours down to the date of the last registration in 1870 are mostly pale shades. Afterwards the colour is brighter, and varies considerably in shade, the darkest occurring in 1875, and early in 1880. In the "one anna" the colours from 1874 are all dark shades, the deepest occurring in 1878.

TELEGRAPH.

Value	Colour.	No. of Plate.	Date of Registration.
1 anna	yellow-green	1	21st August, 1878
„	„	2	2nd April, 1879
„	dark yellow-green	3	30th March, 1882
„ (new design) .	„ „	1	6th March, 1890
2 annas	maroon (bluish paper) . . .	1	23rd July, 1869
„	dark maroon (white paper) . .	2	3rd May, 1883
„ (new design) .	„ „ . .	1	16th June, 1890
4 annas (oblong) . .	reddish-mauve	1	17th September, 1857
„ (upright) . .	pale blue (bluish paper) . .	1	10th December, 1866
„ „ . .	„ „ . . .	2	23rd July, 1869
„ „ . .	„ „ . . .	3	not registered
„ „ . .	deep bright blue (white paper) .	4	30th March, 1882
, (new design) .	pale blue	1	10th April, 1890

Value.	Colour.	No. of Plate	Date of Registration.
8 annas	brown (bluish paper) . . .	1	14th December, 1866
,, ...	,, ,, . . .	2	10th December, 1866
,, ...	dark reddish-brown (bluish paper)	3	2nd June, 1869
,, ...	,, ,, ,, .	4	16th June, 1869
,, ...	,, ,, ,, .	5	not registered
,, ...	dark reddish-brown (white paper).	6	30th March, 1882
,, (new design) .	brown	1	6th March, 1890
1 rupee (oblong) . .	reddish-mauve	1	17th September, 1857
,, (upright) . .	slate (bluish paper) . . .	1	14th December, 1866*
,, (retouched die) .	pale slate do.	2	16th June, 1869
,, ,, .	dark slate (white paper) . .	3	9th August, 1876
,, ,, .	,, ,, . . .	4	23rd October, 1878
,, ,, .	,, ,, . . .	5	not registered
,, (die again retouched)	slate	6	30th March, 1882
,, (new design) .	,, ...	1	6th March, 1890
2 rupees 8 annas . .	orange-yellow (bluish paper) .	1	14th December, 1866
,, (retouched die) .	bright red-orange (white paper)	2	23rd October, 1878
,, ,, .	,, ,, .	3	21st December, 1882
,, (new design) .	,, ,, .	1	10th April, 1890
4 rupees (oblong) . .	reddish-mauve	1	17th September, 1877
5 rupees . . .	dull orange-brown (bluish paper) .	1	18th December, 1866
,, ...	deep bright do. (white paper) .	2	30th March, 1882
,, ...	,, ,, .	3	
,, (new design) .	,, ,, .	1	10th April, 1890
10 rupees do. .	dull bluish-green (blue paper) .	1	10th December, 1866
,, (retouched die)	bright do. (white paper) .	2	15th April, 1878
,, ,, .	,, ,, .	3	21st December, 1882
,, (new design) .	yellow-green	1	24th July, 1890
14 rupees 4 annas . .	bright lilac	1	22nd October, 1869
25 rupees . . .	dull lilac (bluish paper) . .	1	14th December, 1866
,, (retouched die)	mauve (white paper) . . .	2	4th July, 1877
,, ,, .	,, ,, . . .	3	21st December, 1882
,, (new design) .	bright mauve	1	7th May, 1890
28 rupees 8 annas . .	bright yellow-green (bluish paper)	1	22nd October, 1869
50 rupees . . .	rose (white paper) . . .	1	18th December, 1866
,, (retouched die)	carmine-rose	2	9th September, 1874
,, ,, .	,, ...	3	30th March, 1882
,, (new design) .	carmine	1	7th May, 1890

* This is the date given in the records.

(*To be continued.*)

Philatelic Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

DISCOVERIES—GRENADA.

MR. O. FIRTH writes: "I enclose for your inspection a pair of Grenada 2½d. stamps of Issue IV. (illustration 151 in 'West Indies'), the left-hand stamp bearing a hitherto unrecorded error of surcharge, the 'T' of 'Two' being an inverted and reversed 'L.' This error, curiously enough, was obtained in the same way as Mr. Gooch's, mentioned in the last number of the *London Philatelist*." The "L" is quite clear.

THE BRITISH GUIANA 2c. ROSE OF 1851.

ANOTHER and important find of what is practically the rarest stamp in the world has taken place, as detailed in the following interesting letter from Capt. E. C. Luard:

DEMERARA, 11*th April*, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I think it may possibly interest you to know that an unsevered pair of the 1851 2c. rose circular stamps of British Guiana have just turned up. The last discovered were in 1889, and, since then, up to last week, I have hunted in every likely and unlikely place, in the hope of finding more. The pair in question belonged to an old lady, who handed them over to the Rector of Christ Church, Georgetown, as an "Easter offering," and refused to take any money for them. The Reverend Rector, however, promptly turned them into cash, and they are now my property. They are in excellent preservation, and the colour very well preserved. There is a little gum disfiguring one of them, however, which I suppose could easily be removed. Since this find the old lady has been besieged, but alas! has no more.

I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

EDWARD C. LUARD.

M. P. CASTLE, Esq.

As shewn by the photograph kindly sent by our correspondent, the "august" pair is in good preservation, and, placed horizontally upon the letter, present the whole of the design, although, as is almost, if not absolutely, universally the case with this stamp, they have the outer edges of the paper cut away close to the design. The obliteration "carries" on to the letter, which is postmarked 3 (?) 5, 1851, within parallel circles containing the name of the town (illegible, though probably Demerara), and the envelope is addressed "Miss Rose, Blankenberg." We congratulate Miss Rose, if happily alive, on the receipt of her letter, the reverend gentleman who has secured a bonus for his church, and the present fortunate possessor, who has already done so much towards the unearthing of these *rarissimae aves*.

Occasional Notes.

THE PROPOSED LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

THE suggestion of holding an Exhibition, mentioned by this Journal in its last issue, seems to have met with a most favourable reception, and there is every indication that it would be welcomed on all hands. It will be seen that outside London the feeling is equally strong, as evidenced by the practical letter of Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, in this number of the *London Philatelist*. The most important question is that of site, which must be practically settled before the hand is put to the plough. We are informed that a communication has been received from the Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company, offering a portion of their splendid building for the purposes of the Exhibition. This is an offer as important as it is novel, and at least merits very careful consideration before being passed over.

THE GREEK OLYMPIAN ISSUE.

WE have been the recipients of several communications regarding this unquestionably handsome issue of stamps, several of whom consider them as being of quite a legitimate character. We are also variously informed that the issue will never be demonetised, that the stamps are not only to remain in use until the latter end of this year, but that it is quite possible that they may be permanently adopted, instead of having, as was contemplated, a new issue. Needless to say, that in the last case they would be at once rehabilitated in the eyes of all collectors; while, if any of the other statements are founded on fact, they would present a strong case for Philatelic acceptance, and would, in our view, be on practically the same footing as the United States Columbian series. A correspondent who, although interested, is of great experience, and whose opinions are well worthy of consideration, has written us as follows. We refrain from comment, as to a certain extent the ground is traversed in the first article of this number of the *London Philatelist*.

"The Greek Olympian Games are to remain in use until next October, when the permanent new series will be ready. As they are used on all correspondence now coming from Greece, how can they be ignored? and I believe they will be much sought after in a few years' time. Notwithstanding the S.S.S.S., I have been asked for these stamps so many times, that I have now resolved to stock them, and quote them in my lists, as I wish to oblige those customers who want these stamps, and who do not agree with the S.S.S.S. condemnation in this instance.

"I am most strongly of opinion that the constant howling down of new issues has done an enormous amount of harm, by frightening off beginners, and this can be confirmed by any of the large dealers who do this class of trade. Business is, of course, good in the better class stamps, but I am sure that the number of the humbler class of collectors has immensely decreased. The elaboration of catalogues has also

had something to do with this. Whatever may be said or written, new issues must go on, and naturally, in course of time, will become old ones. Why then should they be discredited now?"

THE PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AT THE HAGUE.

WITH regard to this function, which will, as announced in our last issue, be held from the 17th to the 22nd July, we are desired to state that Mr. Theodor Buhl, of 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, is a member of the jury, that he will attend the Exhibition, and will be pleased to afford all information to any intending exhibitors, or to make arrangements for the expedition of the exhibits.

THE HENDERSON COLLECTION.

MR. J. DALGETTY HENDERSON, who has been for many years an enthusiastic collector and a long-standing member of the London Philatelic Society, has disposed of his stamps to Mr. Frederick R. Ginn, the well-known dealer, of 143, Strand. The collection is one of considerable magnitude, although not including the great rarities, and embraces many volumes, for which, we understand, a sum approaching £3000 has been paid by Mr. Ginn. Many of the English Colonies are strongly represented, notably those of the now fashionable West Indies and Ceylon, while the average condition of the specimens, notably of the used copies, leaves nothing to be desired. There is also a strong lot of Australians and of the United States, while the European issues are by no means neglected. The collection, is in fact a comprehensive one, including a representative selection from all countries, containing some 40,000 specimens in 40 volumes, and should form a valuable recruiting field to Mr. Ginn's *clientèle* for a long period.

CLEANED STAMPS.

AS will have been noted in the minutes of the London Philatelic Society, the sub-committee appointed to consider the above important subject have made their report. For obvious reasons it has not been considered advisable, at present, to publish the report *in extenso*, but we are desired to inform members that the list is available for reference, in the Society's Library, and that any information on this question, or opinions on cleaned stamps that may be required, will be cheerfully furnished, on application to the Expert Committee. We may add that although the list is of some considerable extent, it is probably not yet complete, and that any additional information hereon from Philatelists will be welcomed.

SWISS CANTONAL FORGERIES.

WE are informed in the columns of *La Philatélie Helvétique* that a large quantity of these much favoured stamps has recently been prepared. We hear that no less than 5000 series of 60 varieties each have been made, that they are well imitated, duly postmarked, and bear no indication on their face that they are not intended to deceive the unwary collector. We

have not hitherto seen any of these latest counterfeits, and should hardly think them more dangerous than some of the older ones, so well described in Mr. H. R. Oldfield's paper (read before the London Philatelic Society, and to be shortly reproduced by their journal), but it is at least advisable to sound a note of warning to those interested in Cantonals.

"THE DAILY STAMP ITEM."

OUR Philatelic "forbears" would indeed have rubbed their eyes with amazement at the bare suggestion of a Daily Philatelic Journal. The ever-progressive spirit of our American cousins has, however, actually accomplished this feat, and we have before us the first volume of a Daily Journal, under the above heading, from January 1st to March 31st, issued by that enterprising firm, The C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company, St. Louis, U.S. It can hardly be expected that each day will furnish items of absorbing interest, but there are always present those "gossipy" paragraphs and piquant personalities that find favour with a numerous class of readers on both sides of the Atlantic. An excellent feature is a running series of reviews of contemporaneous Philatelic literature, which is at once readable and eminently fair in its tone. The typography and general appearance of this little Journal reflect all credit upon its enterprising publishers.

CANCELLATIONS.

"HEAVILY cancelled" is by no means an infrequent description of the specimens described for sale in our auction catalogues. To the "Class I." collector such a description condemns the specimen; on the other hand, "lightly cancelled," "barely touched by postmark," specimens are ever on the increase in value *and* scarcity. A neatly prepared circular has been sent to us from the Imperial Mail Marking Machine Company, Limited, of Canada, setting forth, by admirable illustrations, the superiority of machine marking over the more general, clumsy, and ink-bedaubed hand cancellations.

To those in the habit of receiving regular mails from the Dominion and States, the handsome and varied designs of cancellations which now come over will not be unfamiliar. These take the form of a clean postmark, followed, in some cases, by a flag, or, in others, a bar of parallel lines, broken in the centre to take the reference number, the clean impression of which reveals them as machine work, executed by the Imperial Mail Marking Machines. There were thirty-seven of these machines in use in the Boston Post-office, U.S.A., in 1895, and the same system is in use throughout the chief cities of the U.S.A. The question lately raised in Parliament as to measures being taken to prevent fraud on the Post-office by cancelled specimens being bisected, and the clean halves of two stamps joined together, is important, but one which might be obviated by the use of the above machines. It would considerably benefit the Post-office, and it would certainly gratify the adherents of Philately. We heard lately of a letter with almost a round hole pierced out, where the postmark had been applied by some extra strong-fisted clerk, a process slightly inimical to any Philatelic gems that might repose inside!

THE YOUTHFUL EUROPEAN PHILATELIC PORTRAITURE.

By a curious coincidence, the two following paragraphs appeared on the same day, and are of interest to collectors of European stamps, as foreshadowing an early change of issue. In the case of Spain, this has been "in the air" for some months, and as his youthful Majesty has now attained the respectable age of ten, it is manifestly unfair to present him as a baby to the eyes of his subjects "in particular, and the world in general."

In the case of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, it also seems undesirable that a young lady who is to be betrothed should be figured with her locks over her shoulders, and we may, therefore, not unreasonably, expect a fresh and up-to-date portrait, marking that important period in a young lady's life when she first "has her hair up."

"To celebrate the tenth birthday of her son, the Queen Regent of Spain yesterday held a reception, which was attended by about two thousand five hundred persons, including all the principal residents of Madrid. The Queen and the young King, surrounded by a brilliant Court, received a number of loyal addresses, which contained touching allusions to the devoted efforts which the Queen has made during the past ten years to prepare her son for the duties which will devolve upon him six years hence."

"It is reported that Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, who will enter her seventeenth year on the 31st of August, is to be betrothed to Prince Bernhard Henry, the second grandson of the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar. The Prince is in his nineteenth year, having been born on the 18th of April, 1878, and is now studying at Jena."

THE RIGHT OF ILLUSTRATING STAMPS.

It is with much regret that we have to report the reversal of the decision given by Sir John Bridge, and noted in the *London Philatelist* for November last (p. 292). The action of the Government seems to us needlessly strict, and calculated to be a serious drawback to Philately.

"Dickens *v.* Gill.—This was an appeal before Justices Grantham and Collins by way of special case, from the decision of Sir J. Bridge at Bow Street, who had refused to convict the Respondent of an offence under Section 7 of the Post Office Protection Act. The Solicitor General and Mr. Danckwerts appeared on behalf of the Crown in support of the appeal, while Mr. C. Mathews opposed it.

"It appeared that the proprietor of the *Bazaar, Exchange and Mart* had in his possession a die for printing a representation of a Cape of Good Hope stamp, and he was summoned before Sir J. Bridge for having in his possession a certain die or instrument for making fictitious stamps, contrary to Section 7 of the Post Office Protection Act, which provided that any person having in his possession such an instrument, unless he could show lawful excuse, should be liable to a penalty not exceeding £20. The Respondent had ordered the die to be manufactured for the purpose of illustrating in black and white a Cape of Good Hope 2½d. stamp, and when the case came before Sir J. Bridge, he held that as it had been proved to his satisfaction that the only purpose for which the Respondent had the die was that of illustrating in black and white a Cape of Good Hope stamp, there was evidence of a lawful excuse, and dismissed the case.

"The Solicitor General, in supporting the appeal, said a die of this kind, which was capable of making imitations of a stamp, was a most dangerous thing, and the object of the Legislature was to prohibit the making of it in this country, and also

the possession without lawful excuse. The possession of the die or instrument without the license of the Crown was a contravention of the Statute, and the purpose for which the Respondent had procured it did not constitute a lawful excuse. The words, 'unless he shows a lawful excuse,' were intended to cover a revenue officer or police constable who might seize such instruments, and not a person who brought to this country an instrument which he could not get made here, and which was capable of being used, if it got out of his control, for an unlawful purpose.

"Mr. Mathews, on behalf of the Respondent, submitted that the decision of the Magistrate was given upon a question of fact, and that no point of law was involved. He further argued that the evidence given on behalf of his client disclosed a lawful excuse, and that the appeal should be dismissed.

"The Court held that the Magistrate was mistaken in his interpretation of the meaning of the words 'lawful excuse.' *They, therefore, allowed the appeal with costs, and remitted the case back with directions to convict.*"

ANTIOQUIA "ERRORS" AND "GARZON" PROVISIONALS.

MESSRS. A. Cameron & Co., of Jersey, informs us that they have just received a letter from Dr. G. Michelsen, the great authority on Columbian stamps. He writes: "The Antioquia errors (1886–87) and the Garzon provisionals (1894) are bogus, and have no value. The former are mere proofs that never were in use. The latter are speculative products, and have *never been used* in *the Postal Service*."

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

BARBADOS.—Writing to *Mekeel's Weekly*, "Iberius" reports the receipt of a letter from the Colonial Postmaster at Barbados, in which he states that the 5*s.* Queen's head type is now entirely obsolete, none being on hand at the Post Office, and no more are to be printed.

The following notice, relative to the farthing postage stamp recently spoken of, appeared in the Official Gazette of Barbados.

"POST OFFICE NOTICE.

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,
"*23rd January*, 1896.

"On and after this date all printed newspapers posted at the General Post Office for delivery in this Island will be liable to a postage rate of one farthing for a weight not exceeding 2 ounces, and an additional farthing for every additional 2 ounces.

"No word or communication must be written or printed on the newspaper, or on the cover thereof, after publication, except the name and address of the person for whom intended.

"No paper or thing shall be enclosed in such paper except the printed supplement, if any belonging to it.

"Pending the issue of adhesive one farthing stamps, the postage will be received at the General Post Office in coin, and the words 'Paid at Barbados' will be impressed on the newspaper by a hand-stamp in the presence of the person posting same, who will be required to sign a paper stating the number of newspapers posted, and the amount paid thereon.

"In the case of newspapers weighing over 2 ounces the postage will be required to be paid with adhesive postage stamps.

"It will not be practicable at present to post newspapers at any of the Country Post Offices for delivery in this Island without a minimum postage of ½d. being paid.

"W. P. TRIMINGHAM,
"*Colonial Postmaster.*"

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—We omitted to mention last month that the 8d. value of the new issue is on salmon tinted paper.

Several of our contemporaries query the 6d. adhesive on thicker paper, which we chronicled in our February issue. We in no way attributed this stamp to the recent temporary printings of the 2d. and 4d. by Perkins, Bacon, & Co., Ltd. The copy was sent us by a correspondent on the spot, and if our memory serves us, was stated to have been just issued (January last); and we believe he further added that it formed the fourth variety of 6d. values which had appeared, the varieties being in the thickness of the paper.

CANADA.—The current 1 c. card has been issued on straw-coloured card, replacing buff.

Post Card. 1c., slate on *straw*.

CEYLON.—The *I. B. J.* reports the 1 rupee 12 cents adhesive, with the surcharge "On Service."

Adhesive. 1 r. 12 c., red-brown, surch. black.

CHAMBA.—The following may be added to last month's list of surcharges on current Indian.

Adhesives. 1½ a., brown, surch. black.
2½ a., green ,, ,,

INDIA.—A new variety of the official card has been issued with the instructions reading—"The address only to be written on this side; the address includes the signature and official designation of the sender."

Official Post Card. ½ a., ultramarine on *white*.

MAURITIUS.—From a correspondent in the town of Curepipe we learn that the 3 c., mauve, 15 c., brown, 15 c., blue, 50 c., green, and the 2 r. 50 c., surch. on the old 5 shillings stamp, were, at the time of writing, on sale at the Post-office, but were to be discontinued as soon as exhausted. Further news enlightens us as to the values yet to be issued, but we prefer to await their appearance. They include a 5 c., 20 c., 60 c., and $ 1, $ 5, and $ 10. We presume the change will not effect the watermark of the permanent 2 r. 50 c. stamp, which, it will be remembered, is Crown C C.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The following notice speaks for itself—

"POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
"GENERAL POST-OFFICE,
"SYDNEY, 27*th February*, 1896.

"HIS EXCELLENCY, the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, under the provisions of the 7th section of the Postage Acts Amendment Act, 56 Vic. No. 31, approved of certain alterations being made in the design of the 1½d. post-card, which consists in the removal of the waratah from the left-hand side of the card, and the substitution of an emblematic waratah and leaves for the words 'One Hundred Years' in the stamp denoting the value.

"JOSEPH COOK."

Post Card. 1½d., blue on lemon, new type.

NEW ZEALAND.—The current 2d., perf. 10 × 11½, and the 8d., perf. 10, are chronicled by the *Australian Philatelist*. The list of accepted designs for the forthcoming new issue, now going the round of the various Philatelic papers, is interesting, but we prefer to await the actual stamps; this is a world of many changes.

Adhesives. 2d., lilac, perf. 10 × 11½.
8d., blue, perf. 10.

QUEENSLAND.—This colony is acquiring a decidedly disreputable Philatelic character; the *Australian Philatelist* says more changes are at hand in the current series, it having been thought advisable to insert numerals of value in the lower angles. We do not so much object to the score or so of varieties issued in a year, as to the fictitious values promptly clapped upon *these varieties* as soon as they become obsolete, the outcome (and perhaps initiative) of which is speculation.

Anent our remarks last month on "secret mark" paper, we believe few have seen the Crown & Q. embossed on the surface; we were once shown a copy and told to look sideways, after which operation we gave it up. Official information on this point would be interesting.

Mr. O. Firth writes: "I enclose what appears to be an unrecorded Queensland

variety—the 6d., green, of Issue XIV., with 'long P,' like the 2d. of the same issue, which is well known. I also send the 2d., 'long P,' that you may observe that the error is of precisely the same description in both cases."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 1d. and 2d. O.S. adhesives are in use with perforation 13.

Official Adhesives. 1d., green, surch. O.S.; perf. 13.
2d., red ,, ,, ,,

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The *Bazaar* takes us to task for chronicling the complete series of adhesives for all the native States. This we did on good authority, and, from further information just to hand, have every reason to believe we were correct.

The much talked-of amalgamation of the several Malay Peninsular States, if it takes the form of one common series of adhesives for all the States, will be welcomed by all, but, from past experience, we doubt whether Philately will obtain such a boon.

EUROPE.

BULGARIA.—We have, from Messrs. Whitfield, King, & Co., two new unpaid stamps. The design is similar to that now in use, with perforation 13.

Unpaid Letter Stamps. 10 stot., violet.
30 ,, green.

DENMARK.—The perforation of the current adhesives is being changed from $13\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$. There have appeared at present

Adhesives. 4 ore, blue and grey, perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.
8 ,, red and grey, ,,

HOLLAND.—Two new envelopes issued on April 13th, with stamps of the current type impressed in the upper left hand corner.

Envelopes.
5c. blue on *white wove*, inside *blue*, 146×112mm.
$12\frac{1}{2}$c. grey ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

ICELAND.—We deeply regret to read the recent Postal Notice, from which we gather that, at the end of the current year, the stamps now in use will be withdrawn, and during the year 1897 only, a special issue to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Iceland Postal Service, will be in use, and in January, 1898, a further new permanent series will be put into circulation. The change will effect both ordinary and service adhesives and cards. The remainder of the current series will be sold at the end of the year, but we are glad to see that the notice states "for a sum equal to, or above, their face value." The money to be realised is not specially required, but, after defraying the cost of production of the new issues, is to be at the disposal of the Minister of Finance.

ITALY.—The $7\frac{1}{2}$c. reply card is dated '96.

Post Card. $7\frac{1}{2}+7\frac{1}{2}$c. carmine (reply) new date.

ROUMANIA.—A new value of unpaid stamps is in use.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 60 bani, green

Levant.—A Roumanian postal service has been established in the Levant, and a start has been made by three of the current adhesives of Roumania, and one post card, overprinted with a new value in "paras." It is said that the Turkish Government will oppose this new service, and hence a short life is probable to the new surcharges; and as the list includes many errors and varieties of colour in the surcharge, the suppression will not be regretted. The normal stamps are—

Adhesives.
10 paras on 5 bani, blue; surch. both in violet and black.
20 ,, 10 ,, green ,, ,, ,,
1 piastre on 25 ,, violet ,, ,, ,,

Post Card.
20 paras on 10 bani, red; surch. both in violet and black.

SERVIA.—A new colour 1 para stamp is said to be in use.

Adhesive. 1 para, pale red.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The 80 c. value, mentioned last month, was issued on the 1st April; it bears a portrait of Belgrano.

Adhesive. 80 c., slate-violet (?).

COLOMBIA.—A fresh surcharge, of a very doubtful character, has been created by surcharging the two centavos adhesive,

HABILITADA
VALE $0.01
HONDA

it is stated that 500 of these only were issued to supply a temporary dearth of the 1 c. adhesives. A circular setting forth these provisionals, and offering them at $1 apiece, is published by our American friends, and speaks volumes.

Adhesive. 1 c. on 2 c., green; surch. black.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—*Le T.-P.* states that the 1 c has changed its colour to red-brown and yellow-green, and also that the 7 c has been suppressed.

Adhesive. 1 c., red-brown and yellow-green.

ECUADOR.—The 1896 series of adhesives, etc., has made its appearance; the issue consists of the usual adhesives, both ordinary and official, unpaid stamps, envelopes, and postcards.

GUATEMALA.—There are three distinct types of the surcharge mentioned last month,

the first is that already chronicled, the second is the same with the '1895' placed at top, and the third is a slight variation in type to the first.

URUGUAY.—As might be expected, the entire new issue has received the surcharge "OFICIAL" in black.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—At last there is what appears to be a light in the dark valley of the shadow of Local Posts and similar monstrosities.

It is stated that Sir Robert Hart has been commissioned by the Emperor of China to establish a national postal system, which, if true, will assuredly meet with approbation from all true adherents of the Philatelic world. The extermination of these and other such local posts will be truly a step in the right direction to a reign of Philatelic peace and quiet.

SAMOA.—Two fresh surcharges and a postcard.

Adhesives. 1½ p. on 2 p., orange, surch. blue.
3 p. on 2 p. ,, ,, black.
Post Card. 1 p., green on *greenish.*

SHANGHAI.—We hear of two provisionals recently issued. The fact that there are said to be no varieties is much in their favour.

Adhesives. 4 cents on 15 cents, yellow and black, surch. black.
6 cents on 20 cents, violet and black, surch. black.

SIAM.—Another new provisional! This time the 12 atts has been brought into requisition.

Adhesive. 4 atts on 12 atts, lilac and carmine, surch. black.

JOHORE.—The surcharge mentioned last month should read "KEMAHKOTAAN." We copied our information direct from the Indian paper referred to.

TRANSVAAL.—The one shilling bicolour adhesive has come to hand from Messrs. Whitfield, King and Co. (and from Mr. F. Jeppe).

The *M. J.* chronicles the following postcards.

Adhesive. 1s., bistre and green.
Post Cards. ½d., green on *buff.*
½d. + ½d., ,, ,, (reply).
1d. + 1d., carmine ,, value in green.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.
Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—
Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD. | *Hon. Assistant Secretary*—R. PEARCE.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS. | *Librarian*—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON. | E. B. EVANS. | T. WICKHAM JONES.
R. EHRENBACH. | D. GARTH. | H. R. OLDFIELD.

THE twenty-fifth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 17th April, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The following members were present, viz., Messrs. C. N. Biggs, M. S. Cooke, T. Wickham-Jones, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, W. Silk, T. Maycock, C. McNaughton, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Biggs, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter from Mr. D. M. Jacobs, sending specimens of four further values of stamps of the British South Africa Company, was read, and directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. J. E. Joselin and Dr. W. H. Allchin, both proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary, were elected members of the Society. The ballot in the case of another candidate was postponed.

Mr. Nankivell then read a report by the Committee appointed to consider the question of perforations, containing recommendations on the subject of the measurement of compound perforations, and as to

the preparation of a standard gauge by the Society, and inviting suggestions from the members on the points raised. After some discussion, the matter was referred back to the Committee, who were requested to continue the work entrusted to them, and to report further to the Society as to the best mode of carrying out their suggestions, the thanks of the meeting being voted to them for their report.

THE twenty-sixth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 24th April, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, H. R. Oldfield, C. N. Biggs, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, T. Maycock, D. Ellis, C. Mc Naughton, E. D. Bacon, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, T. W. Hall, A. R. Barrett, and B. D. Knox. Three visitors were also present.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a further letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reference to the New South Wales official stamps, in which it was stated that a further despatch had been received from the Governor of the Colony, to the effect that the sale of the obsolete postage stamps had now been stopped.

The Treasurer presented his balance sheet for the financial year; and on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, Mr. R. Pearce and Mr. A. W. Chambers were appointed Auditors to audit the accounts, and report to the annual general meeting.

Mr. Biggs, on behalf of the Dinner Committee, reported on the steps which had been taken, and the dates available, and asked for instructions as to the arrangements to be made.

Mr. H. R. Oldfield then read a paper on the "Green 5 Centavo Stamp of Bolivia." After referring to the information on the subject contained in the principal catalogues and works of reference, Mr. Oldfield stated that he had come to the conclusion, that there was evidence of the existence of five distinct plates for the stamp in question, consisting of one or more original plates, and "retouches." In explaining the salient points for distinguishing the several plates, Mr. Oldfield handed round for comparison a large number of entire sheets of the stamps from his collection.

An interesting discussion ensued, in the course of which it appeared that Mr. Oldfield's researches had resulted in the discovery of one plate which had not previously been noticed. The general opinion was expressed that one original plate had been continuously employed, being retouched from time to time, on four different occasions. The date of the first issue of the stamp would also appear to have been in July, 1866, or considerably earlier than the date usually assigned to its first appearance.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Hall, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Oldfield for his most interesting paper, which will be published in the *London Philatelist*.

The Honorary Vice-President kindly sent for inspection by members present, a complete unused set of the army telegraph stamps, issued for use in the recent operations of the Ashanti Expedition.

THE twenty-seventh meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 1st May, 1896, at 7.30 p.m.

The members present were: Messrs. M. P. Castle, H. R. Oldfield, E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, W. Silk, T. Maycock, J. E. Joselin, C. McNaughton, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, J. C. Potter, J. A. Tilleard, and A. R. Barrett.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a letter from the Postmaster General of the Cape of Good Hope, in reference to the recently published work on the Stamps of the South African Colonies, and it was determined to present Mr. French with a copy of the work.

In reference to the paper read at the last meeting, Mr. Oldfield explained the reasons which induced him, notwithstanding the opinion expressed by other members, to adhere to his views, that there had been at least two original plates independent of the "retouches," for the 5c. Bolivia Stamp.

Mr. Castle then read the report of the Committee appointed to consider the subject of cleaned stamps, containing a list of the principal countries, the stamps of which are known to have been operated upon, in the past, or which are likely to be found with obliterations and cancellations removed.

After some discussion, in which many of the members present took part, it was arranged that the Committee should prepare and insert in the *London Philatelist* a note of warning to collectors in regard to cleaned stamps, and that the list should be kept by the Librarian, so as to be available for reference by the members of the Society.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Committe for their report, on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith.

THE twenty-eighth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 8th May, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The following members were in attendance, in addition to one visitor, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. B. Evans, C. N. Biggs, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, W. Silk, W. L. Chew, T. Maycock, D. Ellis, F. Ransom, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, C. McNaughton, J. A. Tilleard, T. H. R. Crowle, B. D. Knox, E. D. Bacon, and A. R. Barrett.

The Vice-President having taken the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Edmund T. Sandars, proposed by Mr. Hastings Wright, and seconded by the Rev. G. H. Raynor, was elected a member of the Society.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. D. Garth, stating that he had been suddenly called out of town on business, and was unable to read his paper on the Stamps of the Straits Settlements, which was on the agenda for this meeting. In his absence the Vice-President opened a discussion on the proposals for holding an International Stamp Exhibition in London in the coming year. A large number of the members present joined in the discussion, and many matters of detail in connection with the project were considered. On the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, it was resolved, "That this meeting is of opinion that the time has arrived when another International Philatelic Exhibition in the Metropolis might advantageously be held." The opinion was generally expressed that although the Society could not undertake the entire management, as on the last occasion, it should co-operate in any scheme which might be initiated by those interested in the movement.

(*We are compelled to postpone publication of other Societies' minutes until our next issue.*)

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of* THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—THE LONDON PHILATELIST *will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of* 6s. ($1.50). *Subscribers' remittances should be sent to* Mr. H. M. GOOCH, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

"THE EXHIBITION OF '97."

To the Editor of "The London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—Your editorial last month has aroused considerable interest, and taken in conjunction with editorials in the same strain appearing in two other Philatelic journals published almost simultaneously with the *London Philatelist*, it really seems as if there were a strong feeling in favour of holding another Exhibition.

Since 1890, such changes have taken place, that one may reasonably look forward to the Exhibition of 1897 paying its way, even if a profit be not actually made.

I write to advocate the suggestions made in this month's *Philatelic Record*, that the expenses should be raised by means of cash subscriptions, each subscriber having allotted to him a bond for the amount of such subscription, the bonds to be for the repayment of the sum subscribed, together with the proportionate share of the profits, less the expenses.

I don't suppose for a moment that many would be induced to subscribe as a money speculation; but it does seem to me that the suggestion is a sound commercial one, and that the Committee will obtain more assistance in this way than by adopting the guarantee system, which is most objectionable, especially when the time comes for calling upon the guarantors, some of whom refuse to pay, and therefore increase the burden on the others.

At the last Exhibition, I remember, there was some misunderstanding, or something of the sort, in regard to the auctions; they were then in their infancy. At the forthcoming Exhibition, a considerable sum might, it seems to me, be realised by a little judicious handling of this matter. I don't advocate the Committee holding any auctions, but I do suggest that privileges might be extended by the Committee to the firm of auctioneers offering the best terms to the Committee for such privileges.

In view of the large number of Provincial Societies, surely the funds might more easily be raised now than in 1890, when there were practically no Provincial Societies.

I shall be most happy, as soon as anything is definitely decided upon, to bring the matter before the Manchester Philatelic Society, and although not writing in any way officially, I am sure the Society will be instrumental in contributing its fair share towards the expenses and labour connected with the Exhibition. Yours faithfully,

W. DORNING BECKTON.

DAISY BANK, SWINTON.
May 9, 1896.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.
Sale on Thursday, April 16th and 17th.

	£	s.	d.
Mecklenburg Schwerin 4/4 sch. red, rouletted	5	10	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2½ rappen	5	0	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	14	0	0

Sale on April 28th and 29th.

Lagos, 5s., blue, unused	17	7	0
Barbados, 1d. on half 5s., pair	17	10	0
Nevis, 6d., grey, litho.	10	0	0
St. Lucia, 6d., lilac, unused	2	10	0
St. Vincent, 1d., rose-red., imperf., unused horizontal pair	5	0	0
Trinidad, litho., fine background, 1d., bright blue	7	7	0
Ditto, ditto., coarse background, 1d., blue	6	0	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.
Sale on April 20th and 21st.

Bolivar, First Issue, 10 c., green, unused	5	15	0
Buenos Ayres, First Issue, 4 pesos, vermilion, unused	19	0	0
Colombian Republic, 1862, 20 c, red	7	15	0
New Caledonia, entire sheet of 50 originals	18	0	0

Sale on May 4th and 5th.

Switzerland, Vaud, 4 c. (on letter)	24	0	0
Labuan, 6 in red on 16 c. blue	5	5	0
British East Africa, 1895, surcharged in 3 lines of capitals on late Company's stamps, ½ a–5 rupees, set of 15	5	0	0
Cape, Woodblock error, 1d., blue, damaged	25	0	0
Ditto, 4d., red, damaged	21	0	0
Zululand, 5s., rose, unused	2	17	6
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-vermilion	13	15	0
Dominica, Cr. C A, 1s., mauve, pair, unused	9	15	0
Nevis, 6d., grey, lithographed	12	5	0
Ditto, Cr. C A, 6d., lilac	8	5	0
St. Lucia, Cr. C A, 6d., green	4	12	6
Ditto, 1s., orange	4	5	0
St. Vincent, 1d. in red, on half of 6d. blue-green, pair, unused	14	5	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s.	10	10	0
Ditto, unused	16	5	0
Turks Islands 1/-, prune	21	0	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 6d., rose, unused	7	0	0
N.S.W., 1855, 5d., green, imperf., *pair*	11	10	0
W. Australia, C C, perf. 12½, error, 2d., *mauve* (perfs. clipped)	10	10	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.
Sale on April 15th.

Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	15	5	0
Ditto, 8d., brown, ditto	20	0	0
Canada, 6d., perf., unused	10	15	0
New Brunswick, 1s., violet	18	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet	18	15	0
St. Vincent, wmk. star., 5s. rose	14	5	0

Sale on April 30th and May 1st.

Great Britain, 1d. black, unused strip of twelve, with entire lower margin of sheet, showing inscription and control No., 5	5	5	0
Ditto, 5s., rose, plate 4, on bluish, unused	8	10	0
Tuscany, 1 soldo yellow, on bluish paper, block of 4 on piece of original	8	0	0
Bahamas, "Fourpence" on 6d., inverted surch., used on orig.	9	0	0

MR. W. HADLOW.
April 27th.

Tuscany, 3 lire	50	0	0

May 13th.

Hanover, 10 gros, unused	3	12	6
Nevis, litho., 4d., orange, imperf.	5	5	0
Zululand, 5/–, carmine, unused	2	10	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. V. JUNE, 1896. No. 54.

The Royal President of the Philatelic Society, London.

THE announcement made by the Hon. Secretary, at the recent banquet of the Society, that His Royal Highness the Duke of York had graciously consented to be nominated as President of the London Society, is calculated to evoke the greatest enthusiasm amongst Philatelists, not only in this country, but all over the world. At the subsequent Annual General Meeting, needless to say, His Royal Highness was elected by acclamation. No more gratifying event has yet been signalised in the annals of the Society, and to all concerned in the upholding of the truest and best interests of Philately, this auspicious election is fraught with the deepest importance.

The records of the past Presidents of the Society are of an unexceptionable nature, all the past holders of the chair having been men of high position, possessed of Philatelic attainments to a marked degree, and endowed with the possession of celebrated collections. It will therefore be obvious that the Council were confronted with a position of no little delicacy in securing a successor who could, in all these attributes, worthily maintain the past standard of excellence. All these difficulties have, however, been instantaneously dispersed by the election to the Presidency of His Royal Highness.

The loyal—we might almost add personal—affection in which the members of the Royal Family are held in this country, would alone afford an enthusiastic reception to the election of the Duke of York as President of the London Society. The qualifications of His Royal Highness for the post

do not however happily stop here, as it is well known that the Duke has a magnificent collection, embracing stamps that might make the most advanced collector envious, and beyond all this, it is common knowledge that our honoured President has a consummate knowledge of Philately, and takes an unbounded interest in his fine collection. Nothing can therefore, on all possible grounds, be more gratifying to the members of our Society than the announcement that we have now a Royal President. We can but tender to His Royal Highness, on behalf of all British Philatelists, whether members of the Society or not, our grateful and loyal appreciation of his gracious acceptance of office, coupled with the most sincere wishes that he may be spared for very many years to adorn the position, and with the assurance that whenever the manifold duties of his exalted position may permit of his attendance, he will find no more loyal or enthusiastic adherents than the members of the London Philatelic Society.

Notes on the De La Rue Series of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, the 15th of February, 1895.

By J. A. TILLEARD.

(*Continued from page 118.*)

Appendix B.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF EAST INDIA POSTAGE STAMPS.

By Lieut.-Colonel G. B. MAINWARING, B.S.C.

Dated Darjeeling, 14th August, 1871.

Corrected in 1883 by Messrs De La Rue & Co., and continued by them down to the date of Correction.

No. 1. Half Anna.

Lion trippant, under palm-tree, on plain-coloured oblong disc, open lace border, oblong, value below in words.

It was not until about thirteen years after the first introduction in England of stamps, for the payment of postage on letters, that Government decided on their employment in India. In 1853 postage stamps were ordered to be prepared in the Calcutta Mint, and there the afore described handsome stamp was designed and made. It was doomed, however, never to come into use, delay occurring in cutting the steel die.* The Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, became impatient, and sent to the Surveyor-General's Office to know if stamps could not be prepared there more speedily. Accordingly rough and hurried engravings were made on copper-plate, from which stamps of the following designs were struck off and issued to the Post-office, thus:

* This expensive and highly artistic hand-cut die was broken up and destroyed with other dies and plates at the Mint in 1867.

1854.

No. 2. Half Anna, Black, Red, Blue.

Queen Victoria—profile, diadem crowned, head to left, on plain coloured disc; lined border, with seven arches on each side, Maltese Cross in upper corners; above, "India"; below, value.

Black.

The above stamp was first printed in black, and sent to the Post-office for distribution; but before it was issued to the public, it was discovered that a large packet of the stamps had been purloined. To prevent these stamps being used, the remainder were withdrawn, and the stamp was re-issued in

Red.

The supply of vermilion running short these red stamps (after only a few had been issued to the public) were also called in, and the stamp was printed in

Blue.

And this has remained the distinguishing colour of the half anna stamp to the present day. This stamp was followed by—

No. 3. One Anna, Red.

Same design as No. 2 (a supply of colour having been obtained).

No. 4. Two Annas.

Head of Queen to left, in octangular disc, plain ground, marginal border, with columned sides; above "India," below value.

No. 5. Two Annas.

Same design, in plain circular disc, rectangular border. Greek marginal sides; cross in upper corners; above, "India"; below, value.

Neither of these two latter stamps was issued to the public; they were superseded by the following:

No. 6. Two Annas, Green.

Head of Queen to left, with diadem, plain-coloured disk, interlaced bordered sides; above, "India"; below, value.

The above stamp was printed in, and issued from, the Mint, where the steel die was engraved. This die was destroyed, along with that of No. 1, in 1867.

No. 7. Four Annas, Red and Blue.

Profile of Queen, as in No. 2, printed in blue, on plain white circular disc, in red octangular border; above, "India"; below, value.

No. 8. Eight Annas.

Design same as above, only the colours reversed; *i.e.* head red, border blue.

This stamp was never officially issued, only a few copies having been printed; the plate from which the impressions were taken was mislaid, and never recovered.

(Note by Messrs. De La Rue and Co.—*Nothing is known here of any of the stamps above detailed.*)

1855.

In 1855 new stamps were issued from England, engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. in London, and printed under the supervision of an officer of the Revenue Department.

These stamps are executed with perfect finish, and in the highest style of steel surface engravings.

ADHESIVE STAMPS. SECOND SERIES.

No. 9.

a.	Half Anna . . .	Blue.
b.	One Anna . . .	Dark Brown.
c.	Two Annas . . .	Green.
d.	Four Annas . . .	Dark Grey.
e.	Eight Annas . .	Carmine.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of oval form, confined by oval band, bearing the inscription "East India Postage" and the duty. The stamp bound by a rectangular engine-turned band, with engine-turning on the spandrels formed between the rectangular border and the oval band. Paper not watermarked; perforated edges.

No. 10. Adhesive Stamp. Two Annas, Pink.

Same stamp as No. 9c, of which very few were issued. The similarity of the original colour (green) to the half anna, blue, occasioned it to be changed to pink. The selection of pink for this stamp was a mistake, as the colour bore a resemblance to the 8 annas, rose. Like its predecessor, therefore, it had but a very short reign. One set only was issued; it was succeeded by—

No. 11. Adhesive Stamp. Two Annas, Yellow.

Same design and stamp as No. 9c and No. 10.

1857.

No. 12. Envelope Stamps.

a. Circular. Half Anna, Blue.

Embossed cameo stamp, with the parts in relief in white, the background being in blue. Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid circular blue background. A circular engine-turned band surrounding the stamp with two tablets therein; the upper one bearing the words "India Postage," the lower one the words "Half Anna," the background of the upper tablet being engine-turned, and the background of the lower tablet solid blue. The envelopes on which the stamp is embossed are made of cream-laid paper, so that oblique lines of watermark run through the stamp.

b. Circular. One Anna, Brown.

Same design, but with the duty "One Anna" on blue wove paper, so that there is no watermark in the stamp.

The above two envelopes bear on the seal flaps an embossed circular cameo stamp, with the parts in relief in white, the background being blue in both envelopes. Lion trippant, facing left, under a palm-tree, the stamp being enclosed by a dotted border.

1857.

No. 13. Note Paper with Envelope Flaps. Circular. Half Anna, Blue.

Stamped as No. 12*a*. The note paper is made of cream laid paper, the watermark lines running vertically through the stamp.

This note paper, like the envelopes above described, bears, on the seal flaps, an embossed circular cameo stamp, with a lion trippant under palm tree. The weight of each sheet was one quarter of a tola (little more than one-tenth of an ounce), that being the former unit of weight for letters. It was found to be saleable with difficulty, and now that the unit of weight for letters has been raised to half a

tola, there is no demand for it. The first supply, *now* almost exhausted, will not, it is believed, be renewed.*

1860.

No. 14. Adhesive Stamp. Eight Pies, Lilac.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of oval form. Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners taken off at an angle of 45°. A white tablet at the top and bottom of the stamp, bearing the words "Eight," "Pies" respectively. A coloured tablet on each side of the stamp, bearing the inscription "East India," "Postage" respectively. The spaces between the oval background of the head, the tablets, and the outline of the stamp filled in with engine-turning. Paper not watermarked, perforated edges.

This stamp was specially required for the prepayment of soldiers' half-ounce letters to the United Kingdom and British Colonies, the postage chargeable on which is fixed, by Act of Parliament, at one penny each, equivalent to eight pies in Indian currency. It is now used also in combination with other stamps for various foreign post rates.

1864.

No. 15. Adhesive Stamp, Rectangular. Four Annas, Green.

Same stamp as No. 9*d.* For the same reason that the English penny black stamp was changed to red, viz., on account of the indistinctness of the marks when the stamp was obliterated with black ink, was No. 9*d.*, black, altered into green, and also, in the latter case, for the further reason that an imitation of the stamp had been attempted by photography. Likewise, on this account, the blank marginal space on all the sheets of stamps was subsequently printed with an ornamental border, as the blank paper had been made use of to photograph upon.

1865.

The paper of this series of stamps was modified, each stamp having a watermark impression of an elephant's head. They may, therefore, be recorded as

ADHESIVE STAMPS. THIRD SERIES.

No. 16.

Same design as No. 9.

a.	Half Anna . . .	Blue	Watermarked with Elephant's Head.
b.	One Anna . . .	Dark Brown	
c.	Two Annas . . .	Orange	
d.	Four Annas . .	Green	
e.	Eight Annas . .	Carmine	

(Note by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.—*It is not understood why the 8 Pie duty is omitted from this list.*)

1866.

No. 17. Adhesive Service Stamps.

The above series were utilized for service letters, to be used by all public officers (except such as were authorized to frank).

a.	Half Anna . . .	Blue
b.	One Anna . . .	Dark Brown
c.	Two Annas . . .	Orange
d.	Four Annas . . .	Green
e.	Eight Annas . . .	Carmine

The word "Service" printed across in black ink.

* *i.e.* 1871.

1st, in small letters, "Service"; subsequently,
2nd, in large letters, "Service".

(NOTES BY MESSRS. DE LA RUE & CO.—*The 8 Pie stamp was never overprinted for service here.*

The 4 Anna and 8 Anna service stamps made here were not of the above series, but were of the pattern Nos. 20 and 23 respectively.

The word "Service" was only overprinted in one size in England.)

No. 18. Provisional.

Profile of Queen to left in coloured circle.

a. Two Annas, Lilac.

Externally reticulated with pearl borders, printed across in *black* ink; above, "Service," below, value.

b. Two Annas, Lilac.

The same stamp as No. 18*a*, with words printed across in *green* ink; above, "Service," below, value.

The above stamps are revenue stamps cut down for postage use.

No. 19. Provisional.

a. Six Annas, Lilac.

Profile of Queen to left in ornamental circle, coloured ground, externally embellished above with lacework and star, &c., on a band within the circle, above "six," below "annas." On the upper part of stamp, surcharged in green ink, "Postage."

b. Six Annas, Lilac.

Same stamp as 19*a*, but cut smaller, postage in green, printed larger.

The above stamps are revenue stamps, cut down for postage use.

(NOTE BY MESSRS. DE LA RUE & CO.—*These Provisional Stamps must have been made in India. Nothing is known of them here.*)

No. 20. Adhesive Stamp.
Four Annas, Green.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of circular form, surrounded by pearl border. Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners scolloped out. Coloured tablets following the pearl border at top and bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscriptions, "East India Postage," and "Four Annas." Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

This was a stamp of entirely new and distinctive form, superseding No. 15, the colour of the latter (green) having been found insufficient to ensure its distinction from the half anna blue stamp.

This stamp was also used as a Service Stamp, the word "Service" being overprinted across in black ink.

1867.

No. 21. Adhesive Stamp. Six Annas and Eight Pies, Slate.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of elongated octagonal form, surrounded by coloured band, bearing the inscriptions, "East India Postage," "Six Annas and Eight Pies." The outline of the stamp rectangular, with the corners between the outline and the octagonal band filled in with a rope pattern border. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

This stamp was obtained at a time when the postage chargeable on letters for the United Kingdom, *viâ* Marseilles, was six annas, eight pies. It is now of comparatively little use, and will probably be replaced by a stamp of the value of six annas.

1868.

No. 22. Adhesive Service Stamps. Six Annas and Eight Pies, Slate.

The preceding stamp was added to the list of service stamps (No. 17), the word "Service" being printed across in black ink.

No. 23. Adhesive Stamp. Eight Annas, Carmine.

An alteration in the eight anna, carmine, No. 16*e*. The diadem is of a different form, and the Queen's head modified in other respects, the inscription being in bolder lettering.

This stamp was also used as a Service Stamp, the word "Service" being overprinted across in black ink.

(NOTE BY MESSRS. DE LA RUE & CO.—*It is believed that this stamp was introduced in 1866.*)

No. 24. Provisional. Half Anna, Lilac.

Diademed head of Queen, to left, in lined circular disk, with double circular bands; outer band inscribed, above and below, "Government of India," on inner band "Receipt, Bill, or Draft," inscription, surcharged in green ink on the inscribed circle, "Service Postage," watermark crown, large rectangular.

No. 25. Provisional. Two Annas, Lilac.

Head of Queen, with diadem, to left, in lined coloured disk, beaded circle, external saw-shaped tesselated ground, over which, printed in green ink, is "Service Postage," inscribed in two plain white curved bands; above "two," below "annas."

No. 26. Provisional. Four Annas, Lilac.

Head of Queen, with diadem, to left, on lined ground, in serrated circle, above and below square diaper disks containing value, with large interlaced loops at sides. Surcharged inscription in green ink; above "Service," below "Postage."

No. 27. Provisional. Eight Annas, Lilac.

Head of Queen, with diadem, to left, in lined circular disk, beaded, within a lined octagon frame; above and below, solid square disks containing value; sides tesselated and serrated; in words, on reticulated band, at upper end the word "Foreign"; over upper disk, surcharged inscription in green ink "Service," below lower disk "Postage."

Nos. 24, 25, 26, and 27 are, like Nos. 18 and 19, improvised from Revenue Stamps, to perform temporary postal duty.

(NOTE BY MESSRS. DE LA RUE & CO.—*These provisional stamps must have been made in India. Nothing is known of them here.*)

1871.

No. 28. Envelope Stamps.

***a.* Half Anna, Blue.**

Same design, &c., as No. 12*a*, but embossed cameo stamp on seal flap coloured brown instead of blue. Paper thicker.

***b.* One Anna, Brown.**

Same design, &c., as No. 12*b*, but paper thicker, and laid instead of wove, so that watermarked lines run through the stamp diagonally.

The thicker paper of these two envelopes was rendered desirable by the doubling, in April, 1869, of the limits of weight for the several rates of letter postage.

(*To be continued.*)

Report of the Philatelic Society, London,

ON THE WORK OF THE SEASON 1895-96.

By J. A. TILLEARD, Honorary Secretary.

Read at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, on Friday, 29th May, 1896.



IN presenting my Report on the work of the Society in the past year, I am pleased to be able to record the fact that the season which comes to a close with this evening's meeting has been one of continued prosperity and success, overshadowed only in the early part of this year by one sad event of great moment to the Society.

I refer, of course, to the irreparable loss sustained in the death of our late esteemed President, the Earl of Kingston. No words of mine are needed to remind the members of the great services rendered to Philately, and to the Society, by Lord Kingston, who by his position, character, and capabilities was pre-eminently fitted for the position he so ably filled. The esteem and affection with which he was regarded by all who were privileged to claim his personal friendship are such that his memory will not easily be effaced; and as long as the Society exists, so long will his name be respected as that of an ideal President of the Council.

With this one exception, I am thankful to report that we have not occasion to deplore the loss of any member through death. Through other causes we have lost during the year eighteen members, those who have left us on their own resignation being Messrs. E. Chambers, C. Colman, S. H. Cotton, E. T. Fyffe, R. Greening, J. D. Henderson, F. W. Hunter, F. H. Kay, A. Ludwig, T. G. Nicholson, J. Salter-Whiter, and W. T. Spink.

On the other hand, the losses have been more than counterbalanced by the election of thirty-three new members, viz., Dr. W. H. Allchin, Mr. W. Block, Mr. C. E. Baker, Dr. T. J. W. Burgess, Mr. F. F. Burghard, the Rev. R. T. de Carteret, Mr. W. L. Chew, Sir James R. Andrew Clark, Bart., Mr. M. S. Cooke, Mr. B. Crowder, Mr. H. L. Duveen, Mr. D. Ellis, Mr. A. G. Griffith, Mr. T. W. Hall, Surgeon-Major G. F. A. Harris, Mr. J. J. Haupt, Mr. A. Haviland, Mr. A. Holland, Lieut.-Col. F. W. Joseph, Mr. J. E. Joselin, Mr. J. L. Kilbon, Mr. H. H. Lyman, Mrs. Marshall, Mr. C. E. McNaughtan, Surgeon-Major A. G. E. Newland, Mr. A. A. Osborn, Mr. A. D. Park, Mr. W. E. Peebles, Mr. H. Quare, Mr. E. T. Sandars, Mr. E. T. Sturgis, Sir E. Sullivan, Bart., and Mr. C. Stewart Wilson.

An interesting feature of the new elections, showing the attractions afforded by Philately to men of literary and scientific pursuits, is the fact

that a large proportion of our recruits belong to one or other of the learned professions.

The total number of members borne on the books of the Society at the present time is 296, a net increase of fourteen in the course of the year.

The rule under which the entrance fee has been increased came into force on the 31st March last; and for the future, all new members will have to pay an entrance fee of two guineas, instead of one guinea, as heretofore.

In the course of the season the Society has issued Part I. of the work on the Stamps of the British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates in Africa. The book has been well received; and the fact that, within a very few weeks of its appearance, every copy of the edition available, after providing for the requirements of the members, had been disposed of, bears testimony to the success of the publication.

It is hoped that the remaining portion of the work may be completed in the present year; and I am pleased to be able to report that the book on the Stamps of Great Britain, by Mr. Hastings Wright and Mr. Creeke, is also fast approaching completion.

A paper read by the Honorary Secretary early in the last season, on the De La Rue Series of the Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India, has also been published by the Society, as a supplement to the work on the Stamps of India and Ceylon.

Weekly meetings have been held throughout the season as usual; but in view of the fact that the reference lists of the Society were well in hand, a new departure has been made in generally devoting one evening in each fortnight to the discussion of matters of Philatelic interest. Notice has been given beforehand of the subject chosen for each meeting, and of the name of the member who has undertaken to open the discussion. The innovation has proved an unqualified success. Many very interesting discussions have taken place, the subjects considered during the season being "Forgeries," "The Prices of Stamps," "The Work of the Suppression Society," "The Collection of New Issues," "Cleaned Stamps," "The Collection of Envelopes and Post Cards," "Perforations of Stamps"; "The Cheapest, the most Expensive, the most Interesting, and the most Difficult Countries for Specializing," and "Philatelic Exhibitions."

At other meetings, reports of several of your Committees have been presented and discussed.

Thirty-one meetings in all have been held, and papers have been read at fifteen of them, viz., by the Vice-President, on "Philately in the Expiring Century," and on the "Retouched Lithograph of the 6 Rappen Zurich Stamp"; by Major Evans, on "The Stamped Telegraph Forms of the United Kingdom," and on "The Stamps of Mauritius"; by Mr. D. Garth, on "Straits Settlements Stamps"; by Mr. R. Ehrenbach, on "The Skilling Issues of Norway"; by Mr. R. Meyer, on "The Disadvantages of Specializing"; by Mr. E. J. Nankivell, on "The Hingeing of Stamps"; by Mr. A. W. Chambers, "Notes on the use of Stamps of the United Kingdom in the West Indies"; by Mr. Gordon Smith, on "The Retouch of the General Colonial Plate"; by Mr. R. Pearce, on "The Stamps of the Transvaal" (two papers); by Mr. Routledge, on "Processes employed in

the production of Stamps"; by Mr. Bacon, on "The first locally-printed Stamps of New Zealand" (a paper communicated by Mr. C. H. Mottram); by Mr. H. R. Oldfield, on "The Cantonal Stamps of Switzerland," and on "The Green 5 Centavos Stamp of Bolivia"; and by the Vice-President, in collaboration with Mr. R. Ehrenbach, on "The Lithographic Errors of Oldenburg."

A high standard of excellence has been maintained throughout, and the papers of the season will be found to form a valuable addition to the literature of Philately.

The hope expressed in my last report, that members who had not hitherto contributed papers might be induced to assist in the current season, has been fulfilled, and several papers of great merit have been read by members who have not before given us the benefit of their work. I sincerely trust that others may be encouraged by the example thus set, and that, in the ensuing season, the number of those who write on Philatelic subjects for our benefit may be still further increased.

The average weekly attendance of members has been fifteen, a result which compares very favourably with that of previous years, as, for the first time, an average has been taken of *all* the meetings of the season, instead of confining it to the evenings when general business has been transacted and papers have been read.

In the course of the year a vacancy occurred in the Council, through the retirement of Mr. A. W. Chambers, and his place was filled for the remainder of the season by the election of Mr. H. R. Oldfield.

The work of the Council has not been so heavy as in the preceding year, but it has been necessary to hold nine meetings of the Council, at which a large majority of the members have always been present, to deal with various matters of importance requiring attention.

At the meeting this evening, it will be your duty to elect a President, in the place of our late President, the Earl of Kingston, and the members will, I am sure, be gratified to know that H.R.H. the Duke of York will be graciously pleased to accept the position, and to act in the capacity of President of the Council, thus becoming our actual President in the place of an Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

The other members of the Council are all willing to serve again should it be your pleasure to elect them.

The only temporary Committee whose labours are not completed is that appointed to deal with the subject of "Perforation." The matter is still under consideration, and a further report will be presented to the Society in the ensuing season.

The permanent Committees are "The Publication Committee," who are occupied with the preparation of the new works to be published by the Society; "The Expert Committee"; and "The Committee for dealing with the question of Speculative Issues." As mentioned in my last report, a Society was formed, having for its object the suppression of speculative and unnecessary stamps. Much important work has already been done by the Suppression Society, and it has certainly been the means of purging Philately of much of the rubbish which speculators have, in the past year,

attempted to foist upon collectors. The chief work of your special Committee is to confer with the Suppression Society, and, by joining in the circulars which are from time to time issued to Philatelists, to lend the weight of the name of the Philatelic Society, London, to the warnings which are issued to collectors on or before the appearance of stamps of a speculative or unnecessary character.

The Expert Committee has had a year of continuous and arduous work, and has earned universal esteem by the admirable and conscientious manner in which the duties entrusted to the Committee has been performed. That this is so is evidenced by the fact that, in spite of the expenses attached to the system adopted, the receipts have more than counterbalanced the expenses, and the funds of the Society have benefitted accordingly.

The most hearty thanks of the Society are undoubtedly due to the members of this Committee for their services in the most responsible and difficult labours which they have undertaken.

In regard to finances, the Treasurer's accounts and balance sheet for the year, with the report of the auditors, will presently be laid before us. It will be found that there has been a considerable improvement as compared with the past few years, and any anxiety which may at one time have been felt as to the financial position, may, I think, now be considered as a matter of the past.

The annual dinner of the Society was held at so recent a date that I need hardly do more than record the fact that it took place on the 28th inst., and was presided over by our Vice-President, and proved in every way a success. The arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Biggs, Mr. Garth, and Mr. Wickham Jones, to whom our thanks are due for the admirable manner in which they performed the duties entrusted to them.

You are probably aware that there has been, for some time past, an agitation for the holding of an International Philatelic Exhibition in the neighbourhood of London, in the early part of next year. The matter has been brought to a head by an offer on the part of the Crystal Palace Company to organize such an exhibition, and this Society has been asked to undertake the necessary management.

The many advantages of such an offer are obvious to all, and the Council of the Society, having taken the opinion of the leading members of the stamp trade, a Committee has been formed to confer with the management of the Crystal Palace as to the arrangements which can be made. It is hoped that the result will be the accomplishment of the general desire, for the holding of an exhibition on a scale not hitherto attempted in this country.

An important decision which has recently been given in the courts of law on the subject of what constitutes "lawful excuse" in the possession of dies used for the purposes of illustration, raises a question which affects this Society in the publication of the works from time to time produced under our auspices. The true effect of the decision can hardly at present be realized from the somewhat meagre details contained in the newspaper reports of the case, but the matter is one which should engage the serious attention of the Council during the ensuing season.

A suggestion has been made by the Vice-President as to the desirability of the appointment of Trustees, in whom may be vested the funds and property of the Society. The suggestion is one which would appear to be well worthy of consideration, and it should be dealt with by the new Council at an early date.

I think I may fairly say that the prospects of Philately have never been so fair as at the present time. On all sides, both at home and abroad, we hear of a large and steady addition to the numbers of earnest Philatelists, attracted by the scientific aspects of our pursuit. The increase in, and the improved quality of, the literature devoted to the science; the growth of Societies and the good work done by many of them; the frequency of auction sales and the high prices realized for stamps; the exhibitions which are being organised throughout the world; and the general prosperity of the stamp trade—all attest that Philately has come to stay, and can hold its own among other kindred pursuits.

It is incumbent on us, therefore, to see that our Society retains the prestige which it has acquired in the past, and that it shall continue worthy to be regarded as the premier Society in the Philatelic world. The work of the Society itself, and of individual members in the outside field of Philately during the past year, has been of a character to maintain the reputation already achieved, and I make no doubt that the work of the coming year, in what bids fair to be an exceptionally busy season, will be such that the Society will continue to hold the proud position to which it has attained.

In the interval which will elapse before we commence our meetings for the ensuing season, I should wish, if possible, to prepare a programme of the special work to be transacted at each meeting of the season 1896-97. I shall, accordingly, be glad if members will be good enough to send me early notice of papers which they will be prepared to read, and of discussions which they will undertake to open, so that I may be in a position to publish beforehand particulars of the business to be transacted at each meeting of the season.

It only remains for me to add my appreciation of the invariable kindness and the great assistance I have received from members of the Society, rendering my work, as your Honorary Secretary during the past year, a pleasant and comparatively easy task.

29th May, 1896.

The Annual Dinner of the Philatelic Society, London.

THIS pleasing function has been once more happily fulfilled, and certainly afforded a most enjoyable evening to the fifty members and visitors present, on the 28th May, at the Café Monico. It is perhaps to be desired that there should be an even larger attendance, when the greatly increased membership of the Society is considered, and we incline to the belief that if the dinner were made a positive fixture somewhat earlier in the year, and the Dinner Committee appointed at the commencement of the season, this result would be attained. Amongst those present were most of the members of the committee, the Vice-President occupying the chair, while the visitors included many well-known faces, and two others who, if perhaps not so familiar, were most welcome—Messrs. H. L. Calman and R. F. Albrecht, of New York. The dinner, which left nothing to be desired, either from a decorative or culinary aspect, was served in the Egyptian Room, and the musical interludes arranged by Mr. Arthur Hilton were of uncommon excellence.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the Chairman proposed "Success to the Society," and prefaced his remarks by the expression of the great loss the Society had experienced during the preceding year in the death of its esteemed President, the late Earl of Kingston. A brief *resumé* of the work undertaken in the past season, special mention being made of the publication of the first portion of *British Africa*, and an earnest appeal for the sympathies of all on behalf of the good work undertaken by the S.S.S.S., formed the prelude to a review of the present situation and aims of Philately in general. In endeavouring to define the line that separates the collector from the dealer, the Chairman made an incursion into the realms of Zoology, which was received with an hilarious approbation that the speaker had scarcely anticipated. Mr. Castle further suggested the election of trustees with regard to the property of the Society, and advocated the early holding of a Philatelic Exhibition, coupling with the toast the name of the popular Hon. Secretary.

Mr. J. A. Tilleard, in responding, which, needless to say, he did in his usual felicitous manner, made the gratifying and important announcement that H.R.H. the Duke of York had graciously consented to be nominated to the vacant position of President of the London Philatelic Society, a statement which was received with the greatest enthusiasm by all present. Mr. Tilleard further commented upon the work and present and future prospects of the Society, and concluded a most effective speech amid general applause.

"The Philatelic Press," proposed by Mr. H. R. Oldfield, and responded to by Mr. E. J. Nankivell, afforded another proof, were it needed, that both

gentlemen are capable and eloquent post-prandial speakers. "The Visitors," neatly rendered by Mr. Gordon Smith, elicited a telling speech from Mr. Calman, and was also responded to by Mr. Albrecht.

In the general opinion of all present, a most enjoyable reunion had been held, for which successful result the thanks of all members were justly due to the Dinner Committee—Messrs. C. Neville Biggs, Douglas Garth, and T. Wickham Jones.

Philatelic Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

DISCOVERIES.

INDIA.—We have note, through the kindness of Mr. F. R. Fraser, of Lahore, of a fresh sub-variety that seems to have escaped the comprehensive view of the chroniclers, and is not mentioned in the London Society's *India and Ceylon*. The specimen in question is a variety of the ½-anna blue envelope on white (or yellowish) diagonally laid paper with the blue seal on the flap (Issue I., 1856-7). Mr. Fraser's specimen, which is used, apparently differentiates from the foregoing in the fact that the paper is wove with a very fine close ribbing; this somewhat unexpected variety will, however, require careful examination before it is finally accepted.

THE 10c. *BALTIMORE.*

THE recent discovery of a specimen of this stamp on white paper has resulted in the record of prices being again broken. It was only announced in our last issue that the lately sold Post Office Mauritius had attained the largest figure hitherto received for single stamps; but it appears that even they are distanced by the new comer, which has been sold by the Mekeel Stamp Co. to Mr. "W. A. Castle" for $4,400, or about £866. This will be a sad shock to some of our more timorous confrères in Germany!

OBSOLETE LEEWARD ISLANDS STAMPS.

IN various quarters of the globe there has been a discussion as to the franking power of the "Leeward remainders," and we therefore welcome the following explicit correspondence kindly sent us by Mr. J. M. Andreini, of New York. To our mind, the fact that these stamps can, subject to their uses in their original island of issue, still frank letters, does not touch the real question—which is the relative scarcity of *bonâ-fide* used specimens *while in use*. In many cases, the then post-marked stamps are undeniably scarce, but the substitution of a modern post-mark only presents

a feature of anachronism which disfigures the unused specimen and detracts from its appearance and value. The 1849 French Republic, or the V.R. English would not gain in value by a *fin de-siecle* obliteration!

"NEW YORK, *May* 19, 1896.

"*To the Editor of the London Philatelist.*

"DEAR SIR,—I am sure that English collectors will be interested in the following correspondence relating to used Leeward Islands stamps:

"On the 13th March I wrote a letter to the Honorable Fredk. Evans, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, Leeward Islands, stating that 'for the benefit of collectors at large I desire to know whether it was true, as reported here by dealers, that postage stamps of the independent islands, now under the Consolidated Leeward Government, issued previous to 1890, were not receivable for postage at the different Post-offices in the group.'

"The Colonial Secretary's reply, dated April 15th, of which I enclose a copy, states that the 'question of using postage stamps of a particular Presidency to frank letters passing through the Post-office of such Presidency, was referred to the Crown Law Officer, who has advised that the stamps above referred to may be so used in the Presidency to which they relate.' Yours truly,

"J. M. ANDREINI."

"LEEWARD ISLANDS, COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

No. 703/354. "ANTIGUA, 15*th April*, 1896.

"I am directed by the Governor to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 13th ultimo, that the question of using postage stamps of a particular Presidency to frank letters passing through the Post-office of such Presidency, was referred to the Crown Law Officer, who has advised that the stamps above referred to may be so used in the Presidency to which they relate. I have the honour to be,

"Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) "W. D. MICHINHIT,

(Copy). "Acting Colonial Secretary."

Occasional Notes.

IMPORTANT TO MEMBERS OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE Society's Room at Effingham House will, by the order of the House Committee, be CLOSED from Monday, July 20th, to Saturday, August 8th, inclusive. Communications by letter may, however, be addressed there as usual.

THE PROPOSED LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION OF 1897.

SEVERAL meetings of the joint Committee have taken place, but we are not in a position to make any positive announcement as yet as to the site of the proposed Exhibition, a number of places having been personally inspected by the Committee. Two matters have, however, been definitely decided. The offer of the Crystal Palace Company has been declined with many thanks, for cogent reasons, and a guarantee fund to a considerable amount has been initiated.

"QUOUSQUE TANDEM."

UNDER this well-known quotation our esteemed contemporary, Dr. Karl Lindenberg, has a somewhat alarmist article anent the recent abnormal development of prices. There is naturally, coming from so able a writer, much to deserve and attract careful attention at the hands of all earnest collectors, but we are of opinion that his premises are too narrow, and that in his purview of the situation apparently he is led unconsciously to regard Berlin as the dominant arbiter of philatelic *prices*. The exact converse is the case. Philately is moreover world-wide, and its markets are universal; and it is, therefore, unsafe to enunciate financial *dicta* without regard to *general* market conditions. In market overt, the law of supply and demand inevitably governs the prices, and the same truism applies to stamps. Rapid rises are often the precursors of equally speedy falls: a steady and gradual rise generally means permanency. The best advice that Herr Lindenberg or we ourselves can tender to collectors and investors is "to put not your trust in Prints," but to study the philatelic aspect of their purchases, to ascertain the real relative *rarity* (not the mythical "catalogue value") of their requirements, and, having made up their minds as to the sum, to wait, and be *prepared to purchase* when the *opportunity* arrives. The failure to observe these conditions frequently results in the non-acquisition of desired rarities and subsequent piteous wails as to raised prices—and missed opportunities. Outside two or three dealers, how many German collectors could truly price and discriminate as to the relative rarity of their own stamps unused?

THE RIGHT OF ILLUSTRATING STAMPS.

CONSEQUENT upon the decision of Justices Grantham and Collins, announced in our last issue, Mr. L. Upcott Gill, the proprietor of the *Exchange and Mart*, has been again summoned before Sir John Bridge, who of course had no option but to convict, which he did in the most mitigated form possible. Mr. Alpe appeared for the Inland Revenue authorities, and Mr. Charles Matthews was for the defendant. He explained the appeal case at length, and said the judges held that it was necessary for a person who was found in the possession of a die like the one in question, to prove either that he did not know that he had it in his possession, or that he did not know that it could be used for such a purpose as the production of stamps. He hoped that, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, the learned magistrate would impose only a nominal penalty, and express some opinion as to whether the whole of the costs of the appeal should be paid by his client.—Mr. Alpe said that the decision of the judges showed that no person could in this country have in his possession a die for making any stamp without incurring a penalty. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue were determined to put a stop to the practice. He had no instructions with regard to the costs in the High Court, but he had no doubt that anything his worship might say would be taken into consideration. They had gained their point by obtaining the decision given by the judges.—Sir John Bridge: No doubt that decision will be beneficial to the public. It seems to me,

therefore, a strong reason why the commissioners should not ask for the whole of the costs of the appeal. The judges only went into the question of law. They did not know, probably, what all the facts of the case were. I therefore repeat—without being supposed to differ from the judges—that there was nothing in the conduct of Mr. Gill which showed any desire to do wrong to the public, or to do wrong in any way.—A penalty of 10s. was then imposed.

TRANSVAAL AND SPECULATIVE ISSUES.

WE have been desired by Mr. Masters to insert a copy of the following communication in the *London Philatelist*. The original of the letter was addressed to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and if it does not attain all that Mr. Masters desires, certainly affords interesting and *instructive* reading to the "New Collector."

"GENTS,—A friend in South Africa has sent me the March issue of your *Monthly Journal*, in which, under the head of 'Transvaal' (page 157), you state that a letter, signed by the Asst.-Postmaster of Johannesburg, had been received by your publishers, which 'seems to be worthy of all possible publicity, as it throws a light upon the why and the wherefore (as well as the present whereabouts) of some of the varieties lately issued by the Republic'; the general impression thus conveyed to any reader being that the Transvaal Government had issued speculative stamps, and that I, in my official capacity, was instrumental in, and party to, the disposal of the same, both of which statements are clearly libellous. The same article would infer you were exceedingly careful in watching Philatelic interests, and, apparently, their specially-appointed and constituted guardian 'stamp-angel,' free gratis for nothing, etc. etc.

"The libel on the Government of the S. A. Republic is no concern of mine *yet*, but the consequences likely to arise between the Government of the S. A. Republic and myself, from the publication of libel No. 2, is a matter which I shall hold the firm of Stanley Gibbons and Co.—to whom my letter was addressed—personally accountable and responsible for.

"A firm having such business capacity and knowledge as yourselves, and having 'publishers' also connected with the flourishing house, should naturally be competent to distinguish the difference between the Asst.-Postmaster writing officially (even if the publishers thought it likely this official would remain 6000 miles away) and W. E. Masters, writing under the distinguishing title of Asst.-Postmr. parenthetically! Yet the latter, by a 'printer's error,' seems accidentally or purposely *omitted*, and the publication of the letter accidentally or purposely *inserted*.

"Now, as the management of the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* attached such importance to my (unofficial) letter to the firm, and so far forgot, or were ignorant of, the elementary ethics of journalism, it occurred to me that it might dawn upon the publishers (in the interests of the British stamp-collecting public, whom they have so unwittingly misled, or rather misled those who look to this journal for guidance on matters Philatelical) that it would be only fair and instructive to publish in the same journal a refutation of the libels contained in their March issue, and place the public in a position to form their own opinion, by hearing the other side of the case, free from any vulgar 'commercial adulterations' possibly indicative of 'sour grapes.'

"Firstly, as regards your inference of 'speculative' stamps being issued by the S. A. R., allow me to state that the control of postage stamps in the S. A. R. is

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vested in the Treasurer-General, and *not* the Postmr.-General. The latter would never have issued a provisional, as he detests all temporary measures, and is far too good a superintendent to let his stock get low; but the Treasurer-General, whose duties are very manifold, has, I believe, through overwork and staff-illnesses (substitutes being an unknown quantity) occasionally overlooked this least important branch of his department, hence the *necessity* of issuing provisionals; but where the element of speculation exists in such issue, or in what way *I* am concerned, I must really leave to the 'commercial adulterations' of your imaginative publisher, as it is beyond me.

"The issue of the Penny Oblong Red Commemorative Stamp was not a necessity, but nevertheless is entirely free from the stigma of being called speculative.

"Any thoughtful person will, I judge, readily concede there *is* such a thing as patriotism—pure and unalloyed—even in such a country as the South African Republic. If not, he should go there to experience it. The Volksraad (Parliament) of that country are nothing if not patriots, hence, when deciding that a uniform penny postage should be introduced for the first time, determined to celebrate the same by the issue of a special jubilee stamp, and that the first penny post should come into active operation on the Postmaster-General's birthday, as a token of honour to him for bringing the Postal Department to be the finest worked branch in the Government Service of that country.

"Circulars were issued throughout the country that no other penny stamp would be sold, or could be bought at any Post-office in the land during the month commencing on the 7th day of September, and it was so well known that every person determined to have one if he paid a big price for it. No one believed in its being issued for speculative purposes then! Three days previously we anticipated a rush, and ordered very largely, but could only get a small supply of £1,000, which was sold over the counter inside of four hours. Whatever postal clerk or other official bought these stamps had to take his chance with the public in buying. The result was that they were sold within the next twenty-four hours at 5s. to 1s. 6d. each. Broker's notes were passed by the Johannesburg Stock Exchange members for thousands of them for several days afterwards, the price gradually receding to 6d. Where the element of speculation exists in so far as concerns the Government or the Postmaster-General, I fail to see, and I know more of the matter than you do, but it will, I presume, satisfy everyone as long as you *can* see it. Of course you know the stamp merchants boycotted them? and the why and the wherefore also? I can only conjecture!

"And now as regards the 6d. 'Postzegel.' (This seems to be, after all, the sore point.) How it was that *I* managed to get quite a large supply when you could get none.

"Allow me to explain why and how they were issued, and how I obtained my supply.

"When the stock of 6d. stamps became too low for safety, a cable was sent to Holland to despatch (per quickest means) a supply at once. This supply would have been received in ample time, but for an accident. Instead of being sent from the coast by passenger train, it was by a railway blunder sent per goods train, thereby incurring a delay of ten days. Doubtless your publishers will say this was only an excuse for another speculative issue, but like your other statements, would be false, because at that time, owing to the block of goods on the line, they might just as likely have been ten weeks in transit as ten days.

"Why they were surcharged on Revenue stamps was because the whole supply of postage stamps was so very low that none could be spared. This will also account for the 1d. on 2½d., the ½d. on 1s., which used up both the 2½d. and 1s. stamps entirely, and none were obtainable till three months afterwards.

"The Johannesburg office ordered, as usual, a supply of 6d. stamps (of which a great quantity were sold, but now that the registration fee is reduced to 4d. is considerably lessened), and received a small quantity of 6d. Revenue, surcharged 'Postzegel,' which, being insufficient for our supply, had to be repeated. Almost immediately after we had received the second supply the stamps turned up that had been cabled for from Holland, leaving us with nearly the whole of the last supply in the safe. These were bought by me at 6d. each (I mention the price for your publishers' information), a portion of which I obliterated, and a portion I used on Parcel Post forms in place of the ordinary stamps, which, instead of being destroyed as usual, were obliterated and obtained by me again. I could thus sell them at 6d. each with a little profit, but your firm will be boycotted at that price!

"Just one word more on 'Speculative Stamps of the S.A.R.' Johannesburg (the business centre of the Transvaal) sells in postage stamps during the year about £125,000, or £10,500 a month.

"The sales of surcharge stamps did not appreciably increase this, certainly not more than £30, therefore, where the necessity exists for a country with such a huge surplus as the Transvaal, and with no national debt, to issue speculative stamps, neither I, nor any sensible person, can understand.

"For a firm of your standing to confound a great Republic like the Transvaal—where one town can subscribe in four hours £65,000 to relieve distress—with some trumpery state who augments its revenues by issuing speculative stamps, appears to me to be a wonderful example of the way in which some round men get pitch-forked into square holes in this otherwise grand country.

"I am sending press copies of this to other parties interested in the truth of matters Philatelical. I am, gentlemen, yours faithfully,

"W. E. MASTERS,

"*Late Asst. Postmaster*, Johannesburg."

THE "PHILATELIC MURDER" IN PARIS.

IT is not our intention to obtrude upon the readers of the *London Philatelist* the gruesome details which have been elaborated upon in the columns of the daily and philatelic press, but as it is fortunately the first instance of the association of deadly crime with Philately, we place briefly on record the facts. According to the Paris Press, it appears that the perpetrator of the crime is a young man hailing from the Gironde, some thirty years of age, of vicarious proclivities and questionable associations, bearing the name of Aubert, which, however, he dropped for that of "Darcris," in the case of his victim, M. Emile Delahaeff. It seems that the latter, apparently on the 12th May last, purchased of M. Binard a fine collection of stamps for the sum of two thousand francs, and on the same day in the afternoon received a first letter signed "Darcris," making an appointment for a meeting. M. Delahaeff, senior, declares that his son had been urged by Darcris to bring to him not only the collection he had purchased from M. Binard, but also all his rarest stamps. Darcris had pretended that he wished to introduce Emile Delahaeff to a very rich lady living at Varenne, who was a great connoisseur of stamps. When he went to the fatal meeting, on the 14th May, Delahaeff took with him stamps worth about twelve thousand francs, and it is announced that all of them have been found by the police.

A feature of considerable interest to stamp collectors is that Aubert addressed similar letters of invitation to that sent to the unfortunate Delahaeff, on the same day, to the well-known Parisian dealers, M. Arthur Maury and M. Dorsan Astruc, which, fortunately, these gentlemen were too astute to respond to, in the desired sense. It is satisfactory to note that the alleged murderer, with his female accomplice, after disposing of his ill-gotten gains, was safely lodged in the domicile of the Paris police.

THE PROPOSED NEW FRENCH ISSUE.

THE question of a new series of the French stamps still hangs, despite the various announcements that have been made of the acceptance of the design of M. Grasset and others. A correspondent has kindly forwarded a French newspaper which gives enlarged illustrations of the designs mentioned by the jury at the recent *concours*. Some of the designs are grotesque, and others are hideous; but there are at least two of conspicuous merit, each representative of the female figure of the Republic, graceful and dignified, yet plainly indicative of their respective values and *raison d'etre*. Everything comes to those who know how to wait, and collectors, meantime, are well satisfied with the current French adhesives.

A WARNING AS TO FORGERIES.

SPAIN.—There appear to be on the market a large number of the 1860 issue 2-cuartos orange, on greenish paper, as many as 1,200 of which have been offered to us at one time. The 4-cuartos blue of 1867 also seems to have been freely disseminated, of an equally fraudulent nature. Both forgeries, which are "unused," are excellently counterfeited, the general appearance, notably of the 4-cuartos, being such as to disarm suspicion. An instant's comparison, however, with the genuine article should enable anyone to discern the real from the spurious presentment.

MEXICO.—A communication has also been sent to the London Philatelic Society, giving a word of warning to the effect that "there is a man *en route* for England, who in the meantime will probably have arrived there, who takes along a big lot of forged Mexican stamps which he pretends to sell, such as 4 and 8R, 1856, 1861, 1862, new, and with forged surcharges, and forged cancellations, also a large number of stamps out of the remainders in P.O. of the last issues, 1885, 1886." Our informant gives the name of the interesting individual, but, unfortunately, it is quite illegible, and the note concludes by stating that our Mexican visitor has a "glass eye." It is just possible that our correspondent means "eye-glass," but it is safer to warn collectors against any Mexican body guilty of either form of optical repair!

THE SEEBECK ISSUES.

WE have much pleasure in giving extended publicity to the following item of news which has appeared in the *American Journal of Philately*, and, while congratulating our American *confrères* upon the success that has attended their efforts, to express our hope that members of the

trade, throughout the world, will cheerfully give their adhesion to the modest request of the American S. S. S. In the event of the Central and South American Republics' agreement to Mr. Seebeck's new condition, there would be three years' breathing time, and it is not unreasonable to expect that a permanent truce might be arrived at after this temporary cessation of hostilities.

"After three months of negotiations, the Committee of the S. S. S. have succeeded in effecting an agreement with Mr. Seebeck, as given below, and which explains itself. This agreement is being largely signed by dealers.

"JOS. S. RICH, *Sec. Comm. on S. S. S.*

"'In consideration of the fact that Mr. Seebeck agrees to use his influence with certain Central and South American Governments (with which he has contracts for the furnishing of postage stamps for the years 1897, 1898, and 1899), to induce them to accept, in lieu of a special issue for each year, a three years' supply of the stamps for 1897, also to place this issue in circulation on January 1st, 1897, and use it exclusively for the prepayment of postal matter for the term of at least three years.

"'We, the undersigned, dealers in foreign postage stamps, hereby agree that, in case any of the governments above referred to should enter into any contract similar to those entered into with Mr. Seebeck, we will not purchase or sell the stamps issued under such contracts, either directly or indirectly, after they have become obsolete and are rendered useless for the prepayment of postage in the countries in which they may have been issued.'"

THE PHILATELIC CLUB AND EXCHANGE, LIMITED.

FROM a prospectus forwarded to us by Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, the Secretary, we quote following particulars *re* this new institution: The Directors are John Macfarlane, Esq., 2, Lexham Gardens, Kensington, W. (*Chairman*); Francis A. Dod, Esq., 64, Darville Road, N.; J. Keppel-Hopkins, Esq., 169, Piccadilly, W.; Herbert N. Hemans, Esq., 35, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. The Committee of Management consists of the following: Samuel Rawson, Esq., 30, Linden Gardens, Chiswick (*Chairman*); H. Houston Ball, Esq., The Elms, Rustington; R. Raikes Bromage, Esq., M.A., F.R.G.S., 32, Gledstanes Road, W.; The Rev. Bruce Cornford, M.A., 12, Denzil Avenue, Southampton.; W. R. Umfreville Ridout, Esq., 99, Strand, W.C.; Walter T. Willett, Esq., West House, Brighton; and Francis A. Dod, Esq., 64, Darville Road, N. (*Nominated by the Directors.*)

"40, JERMYN STREET, LONDON, S.W.

"SIR,—A Club and Exchange has been established in London, at the above address, to provide a rendezvous for Philatelists and their friends from all parts of the world. It is the only Club in England which supplies both the *business* and *social* needs of all who take an interest in Philately in any of its branches. The Club affords the usual accommodation of Reading, Writing, Smoking, and Dining-rooms, in addition to a spacious Hall, in which 'High Change' is held every Wednesday evening, from 6 to 10. The special social feature of the Club is the holding of Musical Evenings from time to time."

Auctions and other features of interest to Philatelists will be also included, and on July 2nd a Conversazione will be held. The Rooms are exceedingly well adapted for the founders' purposes as to size, comfort, and position, and the scheme should have many features of recommendation.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND LONDON, W.C.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

BARBADOS.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. and also Mr. R. Hollick, the new one farthing adhesive, which corresponds with the other values forming the current series. In sending the ¼d. adhesive, Mr. Hollick informs us that the 8d value is now obsolete.

Adhesive. One farthing, slate, value in carmine.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.—We do not as a rule illustrate Postcards, but the handsome design of the following postcard will be some excuse for the insertion of this illustration.



BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.—The forerunner of the new permanent set is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. in the shape of an envelope with stamp of the new design, consisting of Queen's head in centre in small oval (*à la* Niger Coast), with two lions rampant at side. Two assegais run diagonally with points upward, broken in centre to allow for the central design, "BRITISH EAST AFRICA" at top, "2½ ANNAS" "PROTECTORATE" at base. The size is that of the usual commercial envelope.

Envelope. 2½ annas, blue, on *white laid.*

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—Again we are indebted to Mr. D. Montague Jacobs for some interesting information regarding what, to all appearances, is a very legitimate and necessary resort to surcharging. He writes:

"When seeing the Secretary and Accountant of the Rhodesia P.O. the other day, he informed me that, owing to direct postal communication being interrupted between *Bulawayo* and Salisbury, he was unable to supply the former place with stamps from here, and as Bulawayo was running short of stamps, he had requested the B. S. A. Head Office in Cape Town to supply from there, and failing any supply there, the P. M. G. of the Cape Colony was asked to have some of the Cape stamps surcharged for use in B. S. A. Company's territory, and forwarded immediately to Bulawayo. This was done, and the stamps (in the following quantities) were despatched on the evening of the 7th inst., and should arrive in Bulawayo on or about the 16th inst.:—£50—½d., £150—1d., £150—2d., £33—3d., £150—4d., and £99—6d.

"This is not a speculative issue, but has been an absolute necessity through the Matabele rising, and consequent stoppage of the mail between here and Bulawayo."

CANADA.—The reply card is now printed in black on buff.

Post Card. 1 + 1 c., black on *buff* (reply).

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The *P. J. of G.B.* has received the 2½d. adhesive in the new

colour—blue—and the *A.J. of Ph.* on its own authority, mentions the 5/- as being printed in brown-orange: (we thought this was the present colour?).

Adhesives. 2½d., blue.
5/-, brown-orange.

CYPRUS.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a specimen of the 4 piastres bicolour series; these we chronicled on page 52, but it appears that the ½ and 2 piastres have not yet been issued.

GIBRALTAR.—The *M.J.* mentions the appearance of the Registration Envelopes with the address on the "flap" side, and the instructions on the back.

Regd. Envs. 20 c., red, 5 sizes.

GRENADA.—A somewhat interesting story, the outcome of which is the issue of the ½d. and 1d. adhesives of the De La Rue type, transpires concerning the old 1d. adhesive (1887). Two or three speculators bought up the entire stock of this value with the intent of selling at 3d. each as a minimum, (the amount of the purchase being some hundreds of pounds!), but the plenteous supply of these stamps became only too evident to the would-be speculators, or one of them at least, who is still waiting the appearance of some buyer for £25 worth at *double* face!

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have just sent for inspection a copy of the 1d. adhesive which corresponds with the remaining values of the current set.

Adhesives. ½d., lilac and green.
1d., lilac and carmine.

INDIA.—Mr. F. R. Fraser writes that the withdrawal of the 9 pies adhesive has resulted in the disappearance of the same value with overprint, from the various native states, further that the surcharge of "Chamba" on the 2, 3 and 5 rupees Indian stamps (page 128), is of a very questionable character, as to its necessity, and as the various states have entered into relation with the Indian Government, more surcharges may be expected.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The following have received the surcharge "O.S."

Adhesives. 2½ p., blue-lilac, surch. "O.S."
5d., brown-purple ,,

ST. VINCENT.—*Le T.-P.* has the current 5/- stamp *perf.* 12. We are at a loss to know the origin of this: quite recently some were received direct from the Colony all perf. 14, and surely this stamp has not been previously known perf. 12?

Adhesive. 5/-, rose, *perf.* 12.

EUROPE.

BULGARIA.—The annexed illustration is that of the new Unpaid Letter Stamps recently chronicled.

The *Monthly Journal* has received two new values, 2 and 3 leva, in the 1889 type. The design of the lower value is in *rose-red*, with a ground of a very pale salmon (?) tint, while the higher is in black, with a ground of pale buff.

Adhesives.
2 leva,, rose-red and salmon, perf. 13.
3 ,, black and buff.



ROUMANIA.—One Bani stamps and wrappers have been issued, in current design.

Adhesive. 1 bani, chestnut.
Wrapper. 1 ,, ,, on?

SPAIN.—The members of the Chamber of Deputies have grumbled at the special 15 c. yellow stamp provided for their use some 12 or 15 months ago. This has been withdrawn and a special design provided, consisting of the arms of Spain surmounted by a large crown, with a horseshoe tablet bearing the words, CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS; the stamp is perf. 14.

Adhesive.
No value, rose on *white*.

SWEDEN.—*Le T.-P.* states that the stamps of 6, 12 and 24 öre have been obsolete since the 1st April. What about the remainders?

AMERICA.

PARAGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write, "The 5 c. stamps of Paraguay having run out, 60,000 provisionals have been made, by surcharging the 2 c. and 4 c. telegraph stamps."

Just as we go to press, our correspondents have sent us copies of this new surcharge, consisting of a numeral in a small circle, surrounded by a larger outer circle, with the intervening space filled in with "CORREOS" at top, "CENTAVOS" underneath. The stamps are of a very large size.

Adhesives.
5 c. on 2 c., brown, grey, and black; black surch.
5 c. on 4 c., orange, grey, and black ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

BENIN. — Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent for our inspection a specimen of the 75 c., black and red on *yellow* with the paper coloured both sides. Envelopes of the current Colonial design have been issued with the inscription "BENIN" only, in the tablet in place of "GOLFE DE BENIN."

Adhesive. 75 c., black and red on *yellow*, error?
Envelopes. 5 c., green.
15 c , blue on *bluish*, (? 3 sizes).
25 c., black on *rose*, (? 3 sizes).

FRENCH MOROCCO.—From the same source we have a set of 5 Unpaid stamps for this colony, formed by surcharging the current Unpaid (Chiffre Taxe) stamps of France in figures and words.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.
5 centimos, blue, red surcharge.
10 ,, pale-brown, ,, ,,
30 ,, brick-red (?) black ,,
50 ,, lilac ,,
1 peseta, red-brown, ,, ,,

HAYTI.—From various sources we learn that the current series is to be, or has been, changed in colour. We have received the 3 cents from Messrs Whitfield King and Co. in a washy state of dull lilac, and we hear of the 2 c. also in maroon.

Adhesive. 2 c., maroon
3 cents, dull lilac.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. — The *Monthly Journal* corrects the colour of the new 3 c. de p. postcard, which should be *brown* on *buff* and not grey as stated on page 130.

SAMOA. — Two new post cards from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., with stamp of the palm type, and "POST CARD" in a type-set oblong rectangular tablet, with ornamental projections, "SAMOA" in curved capitals above, "The address only to be written on this side" underneath, the reply card bears the additional "reply" inscriptions.

Post Cards. 1d., blue on *pale green*.
1 + 1d., carmine on *pale green* (reply).

SIAM. — The *Philatelic Record* has the following new surcharges, the overprint in both English and Siamese characters.

Adhesives. 2 atts on 64 atts, brown and purple, surch. black.
10 atts on 24 atts, blue and purple, do. do.

SIRMOOR.—The *Indian Philatelist* informs us that the Elephantine stamps with the surcharge "On S.S.S." are unknown in India.

TONGA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write :—

"There are no stamps in Tonga except 2½d. ones. Some of these were locally surcharged ½d., but the Postmaster refused to issue them, lest they should be bought up by speculators, which would leave them worse off for stamps than before. Pending the arrival of the new stamps from England, newspapers and printed matter have to be prepaid in cash, and are handstamped with the Tonga Government frank, such as is used for official correspondence."

This mode of procedure was very thoughtful on the part of the good Postmaster!

TRANSVAAL.—The 2½d. bicolour stamp is in use, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new 2sh. 6d.

Adhesives. 2½d. blue, value in green.
2sh. 6d., lilac ,,

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, K.G., &c.
Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. The Duke of York, K.G.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—
Vice-President—M. P. Castle.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. Tilleard.	*Hon. Assistant Secretary*—R. Pearce.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. Biggs.	*Librarian*—T. Maycock.

E. D. Bacon.	E. B. Evans.	T. Wickham Jones.
R. Ehrenbach.	D. Garth.	H. R. Oldfield.

The twenty-ninth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 15th May, 1896, at 7-30 p.m.

The following members were present, in addition to one visitor, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, E. B. Evans, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, W. Silk, T. H. R. Crowle, T. Maycock, C. N. Biggs, A. R. Barrett, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The receipt, from Messrs. Alfred Smith and Sons, of a bound copy of their *Monthly Circular*, and from The C. H. Mekeel Stamp Publishing Company of Vol. 1 of the *Daily Stamp Item*, both for the Society's Library, was in each case directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

The Secretary read a letter from the General Manager of the Crystal Palace Company in reference to an exhibition of stamps proposed to be held at Sydenham early in next year, and inviting the co-operation and assistance of the Society. After some discussion the letter was referred to the Council for consideration, with directions to consult with the leading members of the Stamp Trade on the subject.

In the absence of the author, who was unable to attend the meeting, the Secretary read a paper by Mr. D. Garth, on "Straits Settlements Stamps," containing much valuable information in reference to the Stamps surcharged for the several states, and the varieties of type employed. The paper was illustrated by a number of specimens from Mr. Garth's collection, showing the principal varieties referred to, and extracts were given from press notices and correspondence, showing the speculative nature of the recent issue of the two-cents orange stamp of the "tiger" type, and of the three-cents stamp of 1895.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Garth for his interesting paper, on the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Castle.

The thirtieth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, 22nd May, 1896, at 7-30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance, viz., Messrs. E. B. Evans, E. D. Bacon, W. B. Avery, T. Wickham Jones, R. Meyer, W. Silk, T. Maycock, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, G. Smith, M. P. Castle, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by Major Evans, at the request of the Vice-President, who was unable to attend during the whole of the meeting, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Bacon read a note from Mr. J. T. Köster, warning collectors of the fact that a person was on his way from Mexico to this country with many remainders of the 1883 and 1886 issues of Mexico, and forgeries of the 4 and 8 reales of the 1856, 1861, and 1862 issues, both with and without forged surcharges and cancellations.

The Chairman showed a curiosity, consisting of two half stamps of the first 4d. Cape of Good Hope "se tenant," and cut to shape, forming one triangular stamp, and used as such; and also a 5s. Natal stamp with the

crown and C.C. watermark, the paper being of a distinctly bluish tinge, probably due to discolouration by the ink. Both of these were sent by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., for inspection by the members attending the meeting.

Major Evans then read the first part of his paper on the stamps of Mauritius, dealing with the native printed, and the first English printed stamps. The paper contained a large amount of valuable information, obtained from official sources, on the history of the stamps dealt with, and in reference to the dates of the several issues described, and it is intended to be published as an introduction to the lists of the Mauritius stamps in the next volume of the Society's work on the stamps of the African Colonies.

On the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Tilleard, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Major Evans for his most interesting and valuable paper.

THE thirty-first meeting of the season, being the Annual General Meeting of the Society, was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 29th May, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. B. Evans, E. D. Bacon, J. Wickham Jones, R. Meyer, W. Silk, J. Potter, A. B. Creeke, T. Maycock, J. W. Hall, D. Ellis, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, A. W. Chambers, G. Smith, C. N. Biggs, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair having been taken by the Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary then read his report on the work of the Society during the past year, and, after some discussion on the matters referred to, it was resolved, on the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, that the report be received and adopted, and published in the *London Philatelist*.

Mr. A. W. Chambers, as one of the auditors, read and explained the Treasurer's Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1896. He congratulated the Society on the continued improvement in its financial position, and, in dealing with the balance sheet of assets and liabilities, made various suggestions on matters of detail which occurred to himself and his co-auditor Mr. Pearce, which were deserving of consideration at the hands of the Council. In concluding his remarks, Mr. Chambers complimented Mr. Biggs on the admirable manner in which he had performed his duties as Honorary Treasurer. Many of the members present took part in the discussion which ensued, and, on the motion of Mr. Wickham Jones, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, it was resolved that the accounts be adopted, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Auditors for their services.

The meeting then proceeded to consider the appointment of a President to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Earl of Kingston. His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who had graciously signified his willingness to accept the position, was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. M. P. Castle, proposed by Mr. Gordon Smith, and seconded by Mr. Meyer, was then re-elected Vice-President, Mr. J. A. Tilleard being elected Honorary Secretary, Mr. R. Pearce, Assistant Honorary Secretary, Mr. C. N. Biggs, Treasurer, and Mr. T. Maycock, Librarian; the Council for the ensuing season being completed by the election of Mr. E. D. Bacon, Mr. R. Ehrenbach, Major E. B. Evans, Mr. D. Garth, Mr. T. Wickham Jones, and Mr. H. R. Oldfield.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: W. T. WILSON, ESQ.
Hon. Sec. and Treas.: MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

May 7th.—Paper, "The Stamps of Greece." Mr. Deakin's elaborately and scientifically arranged collection, together with autotype enlargements of the chief varieties, formed capital illustrations to one of the most carefully prepared papers ever given to the Society. There is no doubt that it is one of the most difficult countries to properly arrange, although at the same time one of the most interesting; and Mr. Deakin admirably succeeded in his work of distinguishing the numerous printings and varieties of the

various issues. He afterwards presented the series of mounted autotypes to the Society.

Messrs. W. B. Avery (Birmingham), E. Shorthouse (Birmingham), R. H. Ridout (London), C. Forbes (London), H. N. Flewker (Wolverhampton), Y. Samarakoon (Ceylon), were unanimously elected members.

A vote of thanks was accorded Messrs, Tchakidji and Co. for a copy of their catalogue.

An Extraordinary General Meeting decided that from October 1st next, all subscriptions to the Society shall be 5s. per annum, thus placing all members on an equal footing. In the case of those who formerly paid 2s. 6d., less than a fair share of the expenses was left after paying for the official journal, but this slight alteration will enable the committee to make such arrangements as will cope with the steadily increasing roll of membership and the consequent increase in the Exchange packets. The rules as altered were ordered to be printed in the Annual Report, published on October 1st, and which will also contain lists of members, balance sheets, résumé, and programme with advertisements of members and the trade.

May 1st.—A Philatelic Display by W. B. Avery, Esq. M. P. Castle, Esq. (Brighton), was unanimously elected a member.

Mr. Avery commenced the display by first showing his collection of New South Wales, —a paper of picked specimens of each variety of early issue used and unused—pairs and blocks in various states of the plates—then the more recent issues, including all catalogued and many uncatalogued varieties in splendid condition, and finally his complete reconstructed sheets of every variety of Sydney view and laureated, the sheets of the various retouches being all shown, together with occasional duplicate sheets, for shades in paper and printing. The sheets are for the most part made up of overlapping blocks, strips, and pairs, these in turn frequently covering up singles.

Passing on to Switzerland, he shewed a great collection of the Cantonals—all types—used and unused, including many fine blocks, besides a very large number of reconstructed sheets of the Federal stamps, with a complete collection of post-marks used on the Cantonal and Federal issues. All the later issues were of course shown complete in all shades, threads, papers, perforations, etc.

Italy and Italian States followed next, with all the rarities used and unused, many on originals. A grand block of eight half-Tornese, blue on original, being perhaps the most unusual. All the values of the 1858 issue of Sicily were shown in complete sheets.

These were succeeded by West Indies, which were perhaps admired more than some of the preceding, as almost every member present collected them, and more fully appreciated the difficulty of getting together such a fine lot in such grand condition. Every island was shown complete, but unlike most collections, the rarer the stamp in many cases the more were shown. Every variety of Nevis, except 1s. on laid, was shown in uncut sheets, and in the case of those printed from plates, in reconstructed sheets also. No less than three complete sheets of the rare 6d. litho. were shown, used and unused.

Although the evening was now getting late, all were anxious for even a hasty look at West Australia, with its grand pages of early issues in superb condition, inverted swans and other such varieties.

Throughout the evening Mr. Avery interspersed the display with amusing anecdotes, and a running commentary of prices given in good old days for some of his choicest specimens. At the close, a very hearty vote of thanks was given to him for the great amount of trouble he had taken and the pleasure he had given all the members present. It was not known till afterwards that he had made a special journey from the Continent to fulfil his part on the programme.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Business Meeting for election of officers, etc., on Thursday, October 1st—not October 2nd, as stated on the programme.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—Baron de Worms.
President—M. P. Castle.
Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. Willett, West House, Brighton.

The thirteenth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Monkwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 30th, at 8.15 p.m. Six members and one visitor were present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Gillespie took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a very interesting paper by Mr. Pfenninger on the stamps of Switzerland, was read by Mr. Willett. A cordial vote of thanks was passed Mr. Pfenninger for his interesting paper.

The fourteenth meeting was held on Monday, April 13th. Seven members were present, with Mr. J. W. Gillespie in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. A. de Worms read a paper on the stamps of the British West African Colonies, illustrated by his extremely fine collection. This was complete, all the specimens being unused, and many shades of each variety, including Gold Coast ½d. and 1d. C.A. Lagos C.C. Perf. 14 a fine series, all the high values, and Sierra Leone 4d. C.A. A cordial vote of thanks was passed Mr. de Worms for his interesting display.

The fifteenth meeting was held on Monday, April 27th. Seven members were present, the President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. J. W. Gillespie exhibited his collection of the stamps of Norway, and read a paper thereon, drawing attention to the numerous varieties existing in the third, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth issues. A cordial vote of thanks was passed Mr. Gillespie for his interesting paper and display.

The sixteenth and last meeting was held on Monday, May 11th. Seven members attended, the President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President exhibited his series of Parma, which were especially strong. The first issue included uncut sheets, showing the four panes and many marked variations of printing, notably in the 5c. yellow. In the second or provisional issue, on white paper also, numerous varieties of shade and printing, were shown used and unused. The remaining issues were strongly represented, and embraced several used specimens. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Castle for his interesting display.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—Vernon Roberts.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday, May 8, 1896. The President in the chair, supported by 21 members.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The President then called for the Secretary's report of the session, which was briefly in the following terms :

The meeting to-night brings to a close the fifth session of the Society. During that session fifteen ordinary meetings have been held, with an average attendance of seventeen members. Papers, highly interesting and instructive, have been read upon the following countries: Queensland, Greece, Alsace and Lorraine, Modena, Egypt, Spain, Cyprus, as well as articles upon the "Aerial Post" and "History of the Penny Postage."

The papers on Greece, by W. Dorning Beckton ; on Alsace and Lorraine, by G. B. Duerst, have been printed in *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* and in the *Philatelic Record* respectively.

At the intervening meetings exhibitions have been held and discussions upon subjects of general Philatelic interest. The most

important of these was upon the "measurement of perforations." The resolution that "a uniform standard for the measurement of perforations be adopted by philatelists" was forwarded to the London Philatelic Society.

The Committee beg to express their thanks to the editor of the *Manchester City News* for the very precise reports he has allowed to be inserted in that paper. The thanks of the members are also tendered to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, R. F. Albrecht and Co., H. L'Estrange Ewen, Bright and Son, William Brown, and Buhl and Co., Limited, for gifts of books and other assistance for the good of the society.

Upon the motion of the President, the above report was adopted, and directed to be entered in the minutes.

The Hon. Treasurer then submitted the balance sheet, duly audited, which showed a satisfactory surplus. It was resolved that the balance sheet be passed.

The Hon. Secretary of the Exchange Packet submitted his report, which was passed.

Mr. Vernon Roberts, having expressed his great regret at being compelled to resign the office of President, in a short speech reviewed the past history of the Society, laying great stress upon the debt the members owe to Mr. W. Dorning Beckton for his untiring energy and great interest in their well-being, and also assured the members of his (Mr. Roberts) continued interest in the Society in the future as in the past.

A special vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Gibson, and seconded by Mr. W. D. Beckton, to the President, and carried with acclamation.

The election of officers and the committee for the ensuing session was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows :—

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Vice-Presidents—J. H. Abbot ; F. Barratt.
Hon. Treasurer—G. B. Duerst.
Librarian—W. W. Munn.
Hon. Secretary—A. H. Harrison.
Assistant Hon. Secretary—C. H. Coote.
Committee — W. Grunewald ; E. Petri ; R. H. W. Whapham.

After the usual votes of thanks had been passed and the business of meeting ended, Mr. J. H. Abbot gave a highly instructive and enjoyable lantern exhibition.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Honorary Members :

M. P. Castle. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C.
T. Ridpath.

Ordinary Members :

J. H. Abbott.	H. J. Hill.
F. Barratt.	M. W. Jones.
F. J. Beazley.	F. W. Lake.
W. D. Beckton.	M. Litchfield.
E. P. Collett.	T. Ll. Marsden.
C. H. Coote.	W. W. Munn.
J. J. Darlow.	J. C. North.
G. B. Duerst.	D. Ostara.
J. W. Etherington.	R. Pellew.
W. E. Farrar.	P. L. Pemberton.
A. S. Fletcher.	E. Petri.
E. Fildes.	F. A. Prout.
J. Flohr.	H. Ranck.
D. S. Garson.	F. A. Roberts.
G. F. H. Gibson.	Vernon Roberts.
W. Grunewald.	H. C. M. Rolsted.
W. Hanmer.	J. W. Simpson.
A. H. Harrison.	A. Wallace.
R. F. V. Harrisson.	R. H. Whapham.
J. E. Heginbottom.	S. Wrigley.
J. R. Hesketh.	

ARTHUR H. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

GRASMERE, WHITEFIELD, NEAR MANCHESTER.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S.

THE twelfth meeting was held on Saturday, the 14th March. There were nine members and two visitors present, and the chair was occupied by the senior Vice-President, Mr. W. B. Simpson.

The evening was devoted to a general display of stamps. Mr. S. E. Nixon and the Rev. T. S. Fleming showed their whole collections, Mr. John H. Thackrah his British and British Colonials, and Mr. T. K. Skipwith his New Zealand and British Bechuanaland issues. Novelties were shown by the last-named and by the Chairman.

A candidate was proposed for membership, and several donations announced and thanks voted.

T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH, 13, *Victoria Road, Headingley, Leeds ;*
JOHN H. THACKRAH, 54, *St. Michael's Road, Headingley, Leeds.* } *Hon. Secs.*

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT. *Vice-President*—R. TYETH STEVENS.
Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—W. J. W. MILLER.

THE eleventh ordinary meeting of the session was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, March 18th, at 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to convey the best thanks of the Society to Mr. Brown, of Salisbury, for Vol. V., and the January, February, and March numbers of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. A paper which was to have been read on this evening was at the last moment unavoidably postponed, and consequently the remainder of the evening was passed in the examination of collections and exchange of stamps.

The twelfth ordinary meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, April 1st, at 7.30 p.m., six members being present, the President (Mr. A. R. Barrett) in the chair. Mr. A. E. L. Westaway, who had compiled a large amount of information relative to the stamps of Tasmania, then gave the members the results of his investigations, dealing with the different issues up to 1870. He said that of the 1st issue both the 1d. and 4d. were printed in plates of 24 stamps each, and that each stamp was separately engraved, so that it was possible to obtain 24 varieties of the 1d. value, and of the 4d., there having been 2 plates—48 varieties. It was an important point to remember that stamps obliterated with penmarks before October 1863 were postally and not fiscally used, as there was no Stamp Duty Act before that date. Of the 1856 issue, Mr. Westaway said that owing to the absence of size in the paper, the gum penetrated through the stamp, giving it a semi-transparent greasy appearance. This, however, disappeared if the stamp were soaked in hot water. In August, 1857, the first stamps with watermark double-lined numeral were issued. These, which consisted of the 1d., 2d., and 4d. values, were printed locally, and can be distinguished from the later printings by the wmk., which is invariably inverted, and also often reversed. In January, 1858, the 6d. and 1s. values were introduced. A consignment of these was sent out with the plates from England, and they can generally be distinguished from the local prints by their clear outlines and altogether superior appearance. The St. George and Dragon series of 1863, 1864, and 1865 was not available for postage until after the passing of the Stamp Act of 1881. At this time collectors unearthed all unused copies in order to get them postmarked. Of the remaining issues up to 1870, Mr. Westaway gave an exhaustive description dealing in detail with the different perfs.

W. J. W. MILLER, *Hon. Sec.*
5, ATHENAEUM TERRACE, PLYMOUTH.

Correspondence.

CHILIAN BISECTED STAMPS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—In the April *London Philatelist* just arrived, I see a note relative to a bisected 10 cts., impf., Chili stamp used as a 5 cts., sent by Mr. Marsden.* This specimen is dated December 18th, 1858.

Since writing my query as to above stamp, which was inserted a month or two back, I have become possessed of several copies, only two of which bear dates, namely:

Talca, September 21, 1861.
Valparaiso, February 4, 1859.

These dates are somewhat different to Mr. Marsden's. Again, you said that his copy is a "left-hand half." It is not generally known, but there are at least four distinct varieties of this Provisional, namely: two right-hand and two left-hand types. All are formed by the transverse bisection of this stamp from the N.E. to S.W., or N.W. to S.E. corner. Moreover, these four varieties give rise to four more, as they are all found in pairs with an unsevered specimen forming a 15 ctvos. fee. It is possible that these stamps have also been simply divided horizontally or vertically, but of this I have no knowledge. Again it is curious, that of 18 copies I have seen, only

* This letter was sent from Valparaiso to Santiago.

1 was N.E. corner
2 „ N.W. „
5 „ S.W. „
10 „ S.E. „

It is obvious that the S.E. corner was easiest to sever, but why is the corresponding N. Western not equally abundant?

Is it because the postmasters who made the provisionals had to keep a "half" as a voucher, so to speak? I believe the provisional was resorted to whenever wanted, during the whole life of this stamp, some twelve to fifteen years, so it should not be uncommon. As, however, it was almost invariably used on inland letters, it was, as often as not, destroyed with the covers. Trusting that you will find this of sufficient interest to insert; Believe me,

Faithfully yours,
P. H. LEE-WARNER.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes — Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL AND COOPER.

At the sale on May 14th and 15th, the collection of Sir Henry Bunbury, Bart., was disposed of, which included some very fine specimens of the rarities from all countries. A total of over £1,550 was realised on 463 lots, inclusive of the following:

	£	s.	d.
Oldenburg, second issue, ⅓ gros., black on green, unused	5	5	0
Wurtemburg, first issue, 6 kr., green unused	6	0	0
Spain, 1852, 2 reales, red, horizontal pair	16	5	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2½ rap.	5	0	0
Ditto, Zurich, 4 rap., black, horizontal lines, unused	25	0	0
Great Britain, 2d, blue, no lines, unused	5	15	0
Ditto, 1d., red, on Dickinson paper, an unused block of 6	6	0	0
Ditto, 4d., medium garter on white paper, unused horizontal strip of 3	37	0	0
Ditto, 2s., brown, unused	5	0	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	12	0	0
India, 1 anna, red, *pin perf.*	8	0	0
Ditto, ½ anna, red, unused horizontal pair, showing margin	12	10	0
Ditto, Service Stamps, 1867, 2, 4, and 8 annas, green and lilac, unused	14	0	0
Cape, wood block, 4d., dark blue	8	0	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., vermilion, first state of plate, vertical pair	23	15	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d., blue, earliest plate, unused	22	10	0
Ditto, large fillet, 2d., blue	10	0	0
United States, 5 c., mustard, unused	6	12	6
Ditto, 1869, set complete, unused (the 15 c. without frame)	13	15	0
Ditto, ditto, 1869, reprints, set complete, unused	20	10	0
United States, periodicals, set up to $60, unused	15	15	0
Ditto, set, brighter colours	17	0	0
Ditto, Executive, set complete, unused	7	15	0
Ditto, Justice, ditto, ditto, ditto	13	5	0
Ditto, State, $5, unused	18	15	0
Ditto, ditto, $10, ditto	10	15	0
Ditto, ditto, $20, ditto	9	15	0
Canada, 7½d., green, unused	12	5	0
Ditto, perf. 12, 6d., purple-black, unused	16	10	0
New Brunswick, 1s., violet	17	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet	20	0	0
Antigua, no watermark, 6d., green, imperf., unused, block of 4	14	0	0
Bahamas, no wmk., perf. 15, 4d., rose, unused	8	5	0
Ditto, ditto, perf. 13, 6d., violet, unused	9	5	0
Ditto, ditto, perf. 15, 6d., grey, ditto	8	2	6
Dominica, Cr. C A, 1s., carmine, unused pair	9	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, *used*	6	10	0
Nevis, litho, 6d., grey, unused	12	0	0
Ditto, Cr. C A, 6d., green, horizontal pair, unused	17	0	0
Ditto, ditto, a used copy	6	0	0
St. Christopher, 1s., orange-brown, unused	5	0	0
St. Vincent, 5s., rose-red, star wmk., unused	15	15	0
Ditto, 1d., in red, on half 6d., blue-green, unused pair	15	0	0
Ditto, 4d., on 1s.	10	0	0
Tobago, C A, 6d., ochre, unused	12	0	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 6d., pink, unused	7	10	0
Bolivar, first issue, 10 c., green, unused	7	0	0
Dominican Republic, 1865, un real, black on yellow laid paper, unused	5	10	0
N. S. W., laureated, 8d., orange, unused	18	18	0

	£	s.	d.
Queensland, first issue, 2d., blue	5	10	0
Ditto, 6d., green, unused	11	15	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow, horizontal strip of 3	12	0	0
Western Australia, 6d., bronze	6	0	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON.

Sale on May 28 & 29.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, £5 orange, (partially used)	3	3	0
Spain, 1850, 2 reales, orange-red	20	10	0
Ditto, 1852, 2 reales, red, pair, on piece of original	24	0	0
Ditto, 1853, 2 reales, scarlet, used on piece of original with a 6 reales, blue	7	0	0
Ditto, 1854, 1 real, pale blue	9	0	0
Ditto, 1865, 12 cuartos, rose and blue, inverted centre	8	0	0
British East Africa, protectorate, 1895, ½ anna to 5 rupees, complete (15)	3	15	0
Barbados, 4d., red, imperf. (on white p) pair unused with gum	5	5	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 12, 6d. rose, entire sheet of 25, mint condition	24	0	0

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL AND COOPER.

Sale on May 21 and 22.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 1847-54, 10d., brown, die 3, unused block of 4	21	10	0
France, first issue, 1 franc, deep orange	8	5	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	11	0	0
Ditto, 8d., brown, imperf.	8	10	0
Ditto, no wmk., 5d., brown, unused	4	0	0
Cape of Good Hope, triangular 1/- emerald green, a pair	3	15	0
British Central Africa, B.C.A., surcharged on B.S.A. Co. stamp, £10, brown	8	10	0
United States, 1861, 5 c., mustard, unused	7	2	6
Nevis, lithographed, 6d., grey, unused	12	0	0
St. Vincent, ½d. in red on half 6d. yellow green, unused strip of 4	12	12	0
New South Wales, 1854-56, wmk. 8, 1/-, rose-carmine, unused	6	10	0
Western Australia, 2d., brown on red	5	5	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

The catalogue of the "West Indian" sale, held on May 20th, was received too late for inclusion in our May number. In addition to a decidedly record price of £42, obtained for a 6d. yellow-green St. Vincent, perf. 15-15½, unused, the sale was noted by an innovation in the catalogue, which, besides being brought down to a convenient small square size, contained illustrations of the rarities inserted alongside each lot. The idea was a good one, and worthy of much praise, but we fear that the continuance of the illustrating would be too expensive to be practical. We are glad, however, to find Mr. Hadlow's later catalogues conforming to the "handy" size, and would pass the suggestion on for others to do likewise.

The best prices realised were:—

	£	s.	d.
Bahamas, perf. 12, 4d., rose, unused	3	0	0
Barbados, wmk. lge. star, 1d., blue, unused, a pair	6	6	0
Ditto, 5/-, rose, unused	4	0	0
Ditto, *pair* of the 1d., on half 5/-, showing both types of the 1 and D	21	0	0
Dominica, CA, 1/-, light mauve, unused	3	12	6
Montserrat, CA, 4d., blue, unused	10	15	0
Nevis, lithograph, 6d., grey, unused	13	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	11	11	0
Ditto, CA, 6d., green, unused	8	8	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	7	10	0
St. Christopher, CA, 1d., lilac-rose, unused	6	10	0
Ditto, 6d., olive, unused	6	10	0
St. Lucia, wmk. star, 4d., bright blue, unused	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., green, unused	5	5	0
Ditto, 1/-, black and orange, unused	5	0	0
Ditto, CA, 1/- orange, unused	5	10	0
St. Vincent, perf. 11½-12½, 1/-, Indigo Blue, unused	4	12	6
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, brown, unused	4	8	0
Ditto, perf. 11½-12½ × 14-15, 1d., rose-red	11	11	0
Ditto, perf. 11½-12½, 1/-, rose-red, unused	4	10	0
Ditto, perf. 11½-12½ × 14-15, 1/-, vermilion	4	0	0
Ditto, perf. 11½-12½, 4d., dark blue, unused	7	0	0
Ditto, 1880, 1d., in red on half 6d., blue-green, unused pair	16	0	0
Ditto, wmk. star, 5/-, rose-red, unused	16	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	17	10	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1/-, unused	14	10	0
Ditto, 1883-84, CA, perf. 14, 4d., bright blue	6	6	0
Ditto, perf. 12, 4d., bright blue, unused	4	15	0
Ditto, ditto, deep shade	6	10	0
Ditto, perf. 14, 4d., red-brown, unused	5	5	0
Tobago, 1d., on half 6d., left-half, used on piece of original	5	10	0
Turk's Islands, 1/-, prune	19	10	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1/-, prune (type 9), unused	5	0	0
Ditto, 2½ on 1/-, prune (type 6), unused	7	0	0
Virgin Islands, wmk. CC, ½d., yellow	4	10	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. V. JULY, 1896. No. 55.

The Forthcoming London Philatelic Exhibition.

AS will be gathered from the report contained in this issue, the scheme for holding a Philatelic Exhibition in the Metropolis next year has been approved of, and the project consolidated by the selection of a site and the appointment of an Exhibition Committee. It need hardly be stated that this result meets with our hearty approval, the advisability of holding Exhibitions—*nota bene*, at the right time, and under proper auspices—having always been an article of faith with those responsible for the utterances of the *London Philatelist*.

The work undertaken by the gentlemen who acted as a Site Sub-Committee was most assuredly not perfunctory; and it is an open secret that the normal wear-and-tear of the London pavements has been materially increased by the peregrinations of this devoted band! The questions involved in the selection of a site for a Philatelic Exhibition are so varied and momentous that it is practically impossible to obtain all the essentials. The Committee may, however, be heartily congratulated upon having made the best possible selection—in favour of the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours. The situation in Piccadily, a few doors from Regent Circus, is absolutely the choicest that London can yield: the Galleries are so spacious and handsome as to really merit the term palatial. The light—all-important—only proceeds from above, and the delicate tints of our Philatelic treasures will be as equally unaffected as the water-colour drawings that have preceded them. The ideal conditions of a Philatelic "show-place" seem really fulfilled in this case, with one exception—that of the date. The great whirl of London society absorbs every available place during the height of the season; and unless money is practically of no object, a large suite of rooms cannot be engaged for a lengthened period until the season has begun to show signs of

exhaustion. The engagement of the Piccadilly Gallery for the middle of July practically obviates the preceding objections, and does not, in our view, entail any objections of corresponding importance. The month of May has usually been regarded in this country as the choice; but it seems the general practice, *pace* The Hague and Geneva Exhibitions of this summer, to hold them later on. It is probable that there will be a larger access of country visitors in July than in May; and as Philately has already become cosmopolitan, so it is now rapidly losing its "close season," being as much supported in Europe by its summer visitors as its winter residents. This all-important question of site has, therefore, been finally, and in our humble judgment most satisfactorily, settled; and we can but trust that the loyal manner in which all the members have united, irrespective of their own predilections, may form a happy augury for future labour and future success.

There will necessarily be a vast amount of work, and it is highly essential that this should be thoroughly well sub-divided, in the guise of Sub-Committees, whose component parts must be all workers, and not talkers. We are strongly of opinion that, in view of the vastly and favourably altered condition of matters, as compared with the last London Exhibition of 1890, there is no valid reason why that of 1897 should not be entirely self-supporting. In any case, the effect of this Exhibition will be to greatly enhance the prestige, and increase the adherents, of Philately in this country; and as such it undoubtedly merits the ungrudging support of everyone connected with stamp-collecting.

Notes on the De La Rue Series of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, the 15th of February, 1895.

By J. A. TILLEARD.

(*Continued from page 167.*)

The following are the additions made by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. to Colonel Mainwaring's list.

1874.

(This is the date of first supply to India.)

No. 29. Envelope Stamp. ½ Anna, Circular, Blue.

Same as No. 28*a*, but envelope smaller.

Note.—*The dates which follow are those by which the first order was in each case completed.*

1874.

Nos. 30*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*. Adhesive Service Stamps.

Same series as No. 17, except that the overprint is "On H.M.S." instead of the word "Service."

No. 31. Adhesive Stamp. 9 Pies, Lilac.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of oval form. Outline of stamp rectangular. A coloured tablet following the upper portion of the ellipse, bearing the inscription "East India Postage." A white tablet of irregular form at the bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscription "Nine Pies." The upper corners of the stamp filled in with scroll ornament, as well as the space between the two tablets. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

No. 32. Adhesive Stamp. 1 Rupee, Slate.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of elongated octagonal form, surrounded by coloured band bearing the inscription "East India Post" at top, and "One Rupee" at bottom, the side of band being filled in with a "key" pattern. The outline of stamp rectangular, with the corners between the outline and the octagonal band filled in with trefoil ornaments. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

No. 33. Envelope Stamp. 1 Anna, Circular, Brown.

Same as No. 28*b*, but the paper cream laid instead of blue laid.

1875.

No. 34. Envelope Stamp, Circular. ½ Anna, Blue.

Same as No. 29, but the embossed stamp on seal flap without colour.

1876.

No. 35. Adhesive Stamp. 6 Annas, Yellow-brown.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background, with straight base and sides and arched top. White band following the form of this background bearing the inscriptions "East India Postage," "Six Annas." The outline of stamp rectangular, with the spandrels formed between outline and arched top of band filled with foliated ornament. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

No. 36. Adhesive Stamp. 12 Annas, Red-brown.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background, with straight sides, and arched top and bottom. A white band following the form of the background to head, bearing the inscription "East India Postage" at top, and "Twelve Annas" at bottom, the side of band being filled in with triangular border. The outline of stamp rectangular, with two "niches" out of each corner. The corners of the stamp filled in with ornamental leaves. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

1877.

No. 37. Envelope Stamp, Circular. ½ Anna, Blue.

Same as No. 34, but without an embossed stamp on seal flap, and with the side flaps of envelope cut down.

1879.

No. 38. — Soldiers' and Seamen's Envelope Stamp, vesica-shaped. 9 Pies, Vermilion.

Embossed cameo stamp, with the parts in relief in white, the background being in vermilion. Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid vermilion vesica-shaped (*i.e.* a form made by two intersecting segments of circles) background.

An engine-turned band, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Nine Pies," completes a vesica-shaped stamp. The envelopes on which the stamp is embossed are made of cream wove paper, so that there is no watermark. They are printed with the words—

"Soldiers' and Seamen's Envelope.
Address.
Sender's name and rank.
Regiment, Ship, or Office.
Commanding Officer, or Head of Department.
Sig. and rank.
Regt., Ship, or Official design"

No. 39. Inland Single Post Card Stamp. ¼ Anna, Brown.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid circular background. A white tablet at bottom of stamp, bearing the words "Quarter Anna." Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners cut off, with two V-shaped niches in the top and each side. The space between the circular background of head, bottom tablet, and outline of stamp, filled in with ornament.

In addition to the stamp, the card bears the Royal Arms and the words "East India Post Card," "The address only to be written on this side." The card is made of thick, buff, unwatermarked paper.

No. 40. International Single Post Card Stamp. One and a Half Anna, Blue.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid circular background. A white arched tablet in upper portion of stamp, bearing the inscription "One and a half Anna." Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners scolloped out, and with the centre of each side broken into segments of circles; acanthus-leaf ornament filling the spaces between the background of head tablet and outline of stamp. In addition to the stamp, the card bears the Royal Arms and the words—

"Universal Postal Union, British India, Post Card. — Union Postale Universelle, Inde Britannique, Carte Postale."
"The address only to be written on this side."

The card is made of thick, buff, unwatermarked paper.

1881.

No. 41. Envelope Stamp, oval. 4 Annas and 6 Pies, Orange-yellow.

Embossed oval cameo stamp, with the parts in relief in white, the background being in orange-yellow. Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid orange-yellow oval background. An oval engine-turned band, embraced on each side by a pearl border, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Four Annas and Six Pies." The envelopes on which the stamp is embossed are made of cream wove paper, so that there is no watermark.

1881 and 1882.

ADHESIVE STAMPS. FOURTH SERIES.

In this series of Postage Stamps the Queen's head is engraved with lines somewhat further apart than in the former series. This alteration was required in order to carry out an improved economical method of manufacturing the stamps. They are of a larger size than formerly, being the same size as the English Postage Stamps, and they are supplied in sheets of 240 multiples, instead of in sheets of 320.

No. 42. Adhesive Stamp. ½ Anna, Dark Green.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of oval form, surrounded by a coloured oval band, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Half Anna." Stamp rectangular in form, the spandrels formed between the elliptical band and outline being filled in with a vandyke border. Paper watermarked with a five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 43. Adhesive Stamp. 9 Pies, Carmine.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of oval form. Outline of stamp rectangular. A coloured tablet following the upper portion of the ellipse, bearing the inscription "India Postage," a coloured tablet of irregular form at the bottom of the stamp bearing the inscription "Nine Pies." The upper corners of the stamp filled in with scroll ornament, as well as the space between the two tablets. Paper watermarked with a five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 44. Adhesive Stamp. 1 Anna, Chocolate.

Profile head of Queen, looking to left, on fine-lined background of circular form. Outline of stamp rectangular. An arched coloured tablet at the top and bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "One Anna." The spandrels formed between the arched tablets and the outline of stamp filled in with ornamental *fleurs-de-lis*. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 45. Adhesive Stamp. One Anna, Six Pies, Cool Brown.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of oval form. Outline of stamp rectangular. A straight coloured tablet at the top and bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage" and "One Anna, Six Pies." The spandrels formed by the elliptical background of head, the tablets, and the outline of stamp filled in with scollop and vandyke ornament. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 46. Adhesive Stamp. Two Annas, Bright Blue.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of a broken ornamental form. Outline of stamp rectangular. A straight coloured tablet at the top and bottom of the stamp bearing the inscriptions "India Postage" and "Two Annas." The irregular spaces formed between the background of head, the tablets, and the outline of stamp filled in with scolloped ornament. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 47. Adhesive Stamp. Three Annas, Orange.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of ornamental form. Outline of stamp rectangular. Straight coloured tablets at top and bottom of stamp bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Three Annas." A band on each side bearing ornamental rosettes, and ornamental leaves in the corners taken out of the head background. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 48. Adhesive Stamp. 4 Annas, Olive-green.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of circular form, surrounded by a pearl border. Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners scolloped out. An arched coloured tablet at the top and bottom of the

stamp, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Four Annas." The spaces between arched tablets and the outline of the stamp filled in with ornamental dots. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

N.B.—No stamps of this value have as yet been shipped to India.

No. 49. Adhesive Stamp. 6 Annas, Cool Yellow.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background, with straight sides and base, and arched top. A coloured arched tablet at the top, and a straight coloured tablet at the bottom, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Six Annas." Stamp rectangular in form. A fret border running up each side, and continued through the spandrels formed between the top arched tablet and the outline of stamp. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

N.B.—No stamps of this value have as yet been shipped to India.

No. 50. Adhesive Stamp. 8 Annas, Purple.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of rectangular form, with corners notched out. Stamp of rectangular form, with scolloped edges. A straight coloured tablet at top and bottom bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Eight Annas." A border runs up each side of the stamp, with coloured dots and lines, and there is a little ornamental leaf in each of the corners notched out of the background of head. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 51. Adhesive Stamp. One Rupee, Slate.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of elongated octagonal form, surrounded by coloured band, bearing the inscription "India Postage" at top, and "One Rupee" at bottom, the sides of band being filled in with a triangular pattern. Outline of stamp rectangular. The corners between the outline and the octagonal band filled in with trefoil ornaments. Paper watermarked with a five-pointed star; perforated edges.

ADHESIVE SERVICE STAMPS.

No. 52. Half Anna, Dark Green.

Same as No. 42, but overprinted, in black, "On H.M.S."

No. 53. One Anna, Chocolate.

Same as No. 44, but overprinted, in black, "On H.M.S."

N.B.—These are the only two duties of the fourth series of stamps which have as yet been thus overprinted.

1883.

No. 54. Envelope Stamp, Circular. Half Anna, Dark Green.

Same as No. 37, but with the stamp in dark green instead of in blue, so as to accord with the regulations of the International Postal Convention, wherein it is provided that stamps of the value of a halfpenny should be printed in green.

No. 55. Inland Reply Post Card Stamp. ½ Anna, Brown.

Same as No. 39, the card, however, being double, with a perforated hinge, the front card, in addition to the lettering described under No. 39, bearing the words "The annexed card is intended for the answer," the back card the word "Reply." These cards are of the size of the international cards.

No. 56. International Reply Post Card Stamp. 1½ Anna, Blue.

Same as No. 40, the card, however, being double, with a perforated hinge. The front card bears the following lettering at the head—

"Universal Postal Union	Union Postale Universelle
British India	Inde Britannique
Post Card	Carte Postale
The address only to be written	Ce côté est réservé
on this side.	exclusivement à l'adresse."

And at the foot:

"The annexed card is intended for the answer.
(La Carte ci-jointe est destinée à la réponse.)"

The back card bears the same heading, with the addition of the words "Reply," "Réponse," and does not bear the foot-note.

These two values of reply cards are in course of manufacture, and a supply of each kind will be ready shortly.

Correct up to date.

(Signed) THOS. DE LA RUE & CO.

July 11th, 1883.

110, BUNHILL ROW, LONDON, E.C.

The Eighth Philatelic Congress, Cologne.

BY M. P. CASTLE.

ALTHOUGH I can lay claim to have meandered philatelically throughout all Central Europe during the last twenty years, it has not hitherto fallen to my luck to be enabled to visit the now celebrated German Congress, known as the "Philatelisten Tag." This year, however, "the hour and the man" arrived simultaneously, and after a very pleasant journey in the best of company, I "descended" on the 18th of June at that very excellent hotel which faces the Cologne Cathedral and bears its name.

The Congress really opened on Saturday evening, the 19th, but the preceding day is devoted to a general meeting of dealers and collectors for trade purposes. A large number of gentlemen participated in this interesting operation, a fair proportion of the transactions being effected under the pleasant shade of the trees in the garden of the vast and comprehensive building allocated to the purposes of the Congress, known as "Die Lese." So great was the attendance at this and subsequent meetings, that it is fairly beyond my scope to say who *was* present; the list of absentees as regards German dealers would be a short one. Almost every other European nation was represented—in some cases perhaps not by "picked specimens" as although their *designs* might have been deemed well-marked, their condition left much to be desired! It need hardly be said that the United States, with Messrs. H. L. Calman and R. F. Albrecht, and our own country, with Messrs. C. J. Phillips (of Stanley Gibbons, Limited), Gordon Smith, Theodor Buhl, D. Brosnan, H. Kennedy, H. Hilckes, and others, were distinctly removed from any reproach of not being well represented; Mr. R. Friedl,

from Vienna; Consul Steudel, from Moscow; M. Gelli, from Brussels; and Dr. Vedel, from Copenhagen, obviously coming under the same category. From the Vaterland itself—I cite at random, among the several hundreds of dealers who attended—Dr. Franz, Messrs. R. Senf, E. Stock, R. Kosack, K. W. F. Schäfer, W. Stötzer, E. Sohn, H. Krötzsch, J. Schlesinger, E. Willadt, Risigari, E. Petritz, H. Decker, etc. Mrs. Larisch, of Munich, and Miss Lehmann, of Hamburg, with numerous other ladies, also pleasantly relieved the masculine monotony. The collector was only represented to a limited extent, Mr. A. Rosenberg, Consul Steudel, Mr. Kuttner, of London, and Mr. Gordon Smith being notable exceptions. I can only say that—to pursue the metaphor of a recent speech—Philatelic Zoology was represented mainly by its two most powerful divisions, which, in default of their normal prey, had no option except to indulge in their cannibalistic propensities.

The Philatelic Congress has three *points de vue*, according to my initial personal experience, all equally commendable perhaps, but not attaining an equal degree of success. The first is the opportunity afforded of a most pleasurable excursion, in the company of old friends and with the opportunity of making new ones. It is difficult to sufficiently express my congratulations to the gentlemen responsible for the social arrangements of the meeting. The greatest courtesy and attention were shown to all the visitors, notably those from afar, and I can only tender to the management, on behalf of myself and other English visitors, our gratitude for their kind solicitude. I may briefly say that the social portion of the programme embraced, on the Saturday evening, a "Commers"—*i.e.* a smoking, free beer, and musical evening; a dinner at the Lese on the Sunday evening; and a most charming excursion by steamer and Mountain Railway on the Monday to Königswinter, on the Rhine, and the Petersberg. This latter function, favoured by brilliant weather, undoubtedly formed *the* attraction of the gathering, and assuredly afforded a great treat to all who are lovers of Nature.

The second aspect of the "Philatelisten Tag" is the Philatelic, and it is here obvious that this cannot be regarded in a very serious light. The numbers attending this *réunion* are now so great, that anything except cut-and-dried resolutions is necessarily smothered in debate, and closured by the President, to allow time for the next item on the programme. Among the subjects discussed at the various meetings at the Lese, and in the Hotel on the Petersberg, were the German-Austrian Philatelic Union, the *Vertrauliches Correspondence Blatt*, whose management was by mutual consent transferred from the Baden Philatelic Society to that of Mannheim, the establishment of a Central Expert Committee, Fire Insurance, Speculative Issues, etc. The real work must necessarily be done previously by smaller Philatelic bodies, the functions of the Congress being practically to lend the weight of its name to proposals that have met with general acceptance.

The third aspect of the "Tag" is the financial. Whatever may have been the intentions of the founders of the movement, there can be no doubt but that this element far overshadows all the rest, and that the success that has attended these Congresses is due to the fact that, under very pleasant conditions, they practically constitute an International Bourse, where all are

free to buy, sell, and exchange to their hearts' content. A large amount of business was transacted, and many fine stamps changed ownership, the contingent from this country well holding their own in this respect. Despite the vast quantities of stamps on sale, there was, in my opinion, but a very limited amount of really fine unused stamps of the better countries, nor, despite the fulminations of Herr Lindenberg, was there any evidence of any depreciation in price—of any really scarce variety. Among the most interesting things that changed ownership were a pair of Saxony Errors, another piece of Switzerland Porte Locale, without frame, *unpostmarked*, and an unused complete sheet of the 3 pfenning red Saxony.

The *venue* for the next Congress, at the invitation of the Hamburg and Altona Societies, was unanimously accepted for the former city, and it is safe to predict for the ninth Philatelic Congress as successful and pleasurable a result as must be accorded in the present instance.

Occasional Notes.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION OF 1897.

SELECTION OF THE SITE.

A FURTHER meeting of the General Committee, consisting of the leading members of the trade and of the Council of the London Philatelic Society, was held at Effingham House, on the 15th July. The attendance was of a thoroughly representative character as regards the Philatelic Press and trade, and the Vice-President of the Society took the chair. The principal object of the meeting was to receive the Report of the Provisional Committee, which had been appointed to consider the question of the best site for the proposed Exhibition.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. A. Tilleard, who had kindly acted as Hon. Secretary, Mr. Castle made the report to the Committee. In so doing, he stated that the Sub-Committee had given a great amount of time and energy to the question, having personally visited almost every hall in the metropolis that could have been regarded as available. The final and unanimous selection of the Sub-Committee was that of the Gallery of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, in Piccadilly. These rooms could, however, not be obtained before Thursday, 15th of July, so that in all probability the Exhibition could be opened on Monday, the 19th July. The Sub-Committee would, on some grounds, have preferred an earlier date, but considering that in all other respects this magnificent suite of rooms left nothing to be desired for the especial purposes of a Philatelic Exhibition, the Report recommending its acceptance was unanimous.

After a discussion, in which other gentlemen expressed their approval, a resolution was unanimously passed that the Report of the Sub-Committee be accepted, and the Gallery engaged.

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL EXHIBITION COMMITTEE.

The next step taken was to lay the foundation of a Permanent Committee to ensure the success of the Exhibition, and it was ultimately resolved that the members of the Provisional Committee who attended the preliminary meetings now form themselves into a General Exhibition Committee, with power to add to their number.

It was further resolved that Mr. M. P. Castle be appointed Chairman, and Mr. J. A. Tilleard Honorary Secretary *pro tem.*, of this Committee.

A resolution embodying a vote of thanks to the Sites Sub-Committee for their labours was also passed. It was also understood that a further meeting of the Committee will be held shortly, and that no time will be lost in making the arrangements upon which the success of the Exhibition will depend.

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE'S VACATION.

WE are desired to state that the members of the Expert Committee of the London Philatelic Society will be taking their several (and may we add, well earned?) vacations at the end of this month. It is therefore requested that no stamps for expertising should be sent between August 1st and September 15th.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

MR. E. D. BACON has sent us notice that the stamps on view at the Museum have again been changed. Those on exhibition at present are the stamps of the United States, of which handsome engravings the National Collection possesses a fine array.

THE GENEVA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

A MOST delightful opportunity to visit the "Playground of Europe," and at the same time to inspect the Philatelic treasures of an Exhibition, is rendered available to all and sundry who can be in Geneva between the 8th and 15th of next month. We have every reason to believe that there will be a magnificent show of stamps at this Exhibition, and that the Swiss Cantonals alone will be worth the journey to see. There are numerous intending visitors from this country, and the charming city on Lake Leman will be a veritable Philatelic Mecca during the month of August for the Philatelic pilgrims of Europe.

THE LATE M. CAPT. GEOFFROY.

WE regret sincerely to have to record the premature death, on June 22nd, of M. E. Capt. de la Falconnière-Geoffroy, the well-known Swiss dealer, whose address, the "Phare de Leman," at Geneva, is so well known to

Continental collectors. M. Capt. Geoffroy was one of the foundation members of the Philatelic Society of Geneva, and thoroughly associated in the work connected with the forthcoming Exhibition in that city. We deplore, personally, the loss of an excellent correspondent; and tender, on behalf of those English collectors who had the advantage of the deceased dealer's acquaintance, our sympathy with his relatives in their bereavement.

A PHILATELIC RIP VAN WINKLE.

"GUM is, then, not only useless but detrimental for stamps for collections, and they have been right who counselled washing off the gum before putting them in place. They have probably argued from the fact that by reason of the substances which enter into the composition of the gum, it naturally altered the paper.

"I also counsel you to give your unused stamps a stroke with a wet brush. It is the labour of a minute, and does not damage the stamps if precaution is taken; only for some, you must possess yourself with patience, for the gum is tenacious. I point you notably to those of Austria.

"As for amateurs of original gum, scorn them for it. You will see that when they shall have been laughed at, when they shall have been humbugged, they will comprehend that their taste is unpardonable."

The dreamer of the Katskill Mountains would have been more up-to-date than the hero of the foregoing philippic, which actually hails from the year of grace 1896, and has the proud privilege of claiming as its author M. Victor Flandrin. The lucubrations that include this sage counsel form part of an article subscribed by that eminent French Philatelist (?) to the *Timbrophile Poitevin*, wherein the learned author gives the following cogent reasons that have decided the question of the worthlessness of original gum in his opinion:

"In the first place it is a matter of absolute insignificance, since the gum is not seen when the stamp is placed in the album; next, it necessitates leaving on the back of the stamp a greater or less number of pieces of paper if this stamp has "circulated" howsoever little; finally, the gum has the effect of curling up the stamp with the least warmth."

The first reason is delightful! There will henceforth be no occasion to bother about watermarks, and a collection of Ceylon, firmly gummed down, will be easily procurable, as there is no difference to be seen (by the non-Philatelist) between a "Star" or a "C C and Crown." The stamp collector *à la* Flandrin is evidently to be likened to the youthful but ardent entomologist who has captured his butterfly, and proudly pins its mangled remains as a specimen of Nature's complete handiwork.

The ideal of a thorough Philatelist is to have every stamp in its pristine condition as issued—an ideal that we admit is very difficult of realization, but one that in the formation of a *fine* collection should always be steadily borne in mind. A merely blind adoration of *any* mucilage that may be found adhering to the reverse side of a stamp, and a disregard of any specimen not possessing it, may, and will probably, mislead collectors; the possession of original gum is merely an attribute in the general condition of a specimen, and a component factor in constituting its perfection. A

thorough Philatelist, or indeed, any collector who has really studied the subject that he specialises, is, however, little likely to be fooled by false gum to any considerable extent, although we are aware that the reprehensible system of regumming stamps already exists. In the great art world, the renown of a great name does not necessarily insure the relative value of the picture, it is a question of the "manner" and "finish" of the artist: so in Philately, *some day*, will it be found that the nearer a stamp approaches to its original and perfect condition, the higher will be the estimation in which it will be held—despite the false prophets.

Reviews.

MESSRS. SENF BROTHERS' CATALOGUE FOR 1896.*

THE "new Senf," clad this time in sober grey, has duly appeared to gladden the heart of the collector—and the speculator. The Catalogue, as heretofore, has many claims upon the consideration of all Philatelists, and not content with this, has certainly this time improved upon its previous record. The most important innovation in the new volume is—following the lead of other well-known catalogues—the separation of the adhesives from the envelopes and post cards, which latter now form the second division of the work. This necessarily lightens the labour of reference, and is therefore an alteration to be highly commended.

Another new feature is the now generally adopted synopsis of Philatelic terms. "Formulary" and "fulstop" are not, however, "English as she is spoke," nor should we consider "thin paper" as a good rendering of *pelûre*. Solferino is, moreover, given in one place as "blood-red," and in another as "lilac-red," both of which cannot be—and probably neither is—right.

A quarterly supplement is also announced, giving the intermediary new issues and alterations of prices. There is certainly already scope for some alteration of these latter, as several of the countries are still found perpetrating the old absurdities as to their real value. Among those whose prices are to a large extent erroneous, we may cite Belgium, Bavaria, Bremen, France (unofficial perforations), Parma, Portugal, Switzerland, Trinidad, and South Australia. An addendum for local stamps has been started, to which, with perhaps scant justice, Shanghai has been relegated with the other Chinese "locals," *Noscitur a sociis*; but collectors of Shanghai will not appreciate being dragged down to the Wuhu *Inferno*, while genuine old stamps like "Wenden" (Livonia) are hardly more local than the issues of Finland or Hungary.

As far as the Philatelic value of the Catalogue is concerned, we have always acknowledged its great merit—a merit none the less to be esteemed, from the knowledge that (beyond Moens) Messrs. Senf were the first to publish an every-day and up-to-date Catalogue. They may

* *Illustrated Postage Stamp Catalogue.* Gebrüder Senf, Leipsic.

indeed be credited with the invention of the modern handy consultant, as the magnificent Catalogue of Mr. Moens is obviously a library companion. Its excellent features have been further strengthened in this edition, by the rewriting of many of the lists. Prominent among those that have been thus advantageously remodelled we note Afghan, Greece, and Japan; others have in part been revised, such as Austria, Lombardy, Roumania, United States, and Canada (good!). The list of Great Britain's stamps is well written, but, by its strict adhesion to chronological sequence, it appears very confusing. We note that the 10s. and £1 unused seem at last to have arrived at a nearer appreciation of their rarity, and are no longer priced at about double face! The list of Heligoland, both as to value and information, seems well brought up to current knowledge, but the Catalogue of the Hanoverian stamps is very deficient. The list of British Guiana is also an improvement, but what can be the use of pricing the *unique* 1856 one cent, red, at 6000 marks? At 60 or 60,000, the information would be equally valuable. Why also make the 2d. Post-office Mauritius 2000 marks lower than the 1d.? In the case of Grenada and New Zealand, a long list of fiscals, used postally (?), fiscally, and unused (?), are also quite unnecessarily given, while in the case of the latter country it is not thought worth while to mention the interesting rouletted stamps! This New Zealand list, which ignores all recent information, requires to be almost entirely rewritten. In Newfoundland, the 2d. *vermilion* unused is priced at about half the figure of the 6½d., and one-seventh of that of the 1s.! However, as Messrs. Senf state that these prices are really what they will sell fair copies for—extra fine being more—some one will get a bargain! The St. Vincent list wants a strong dose of "Napier and Bacon's tonic." In Oldenburg we find—with a persistence emulating that of the old lady of "scissors fame"—that the lithographic errors of the third issue are still not properly catalogued, or properly foot-noted; while the same hoary old fallacy is trotted out, that "as a rule these errors (*Drittd*, etc.) are merely scratched out of ordinary stamps" by meanly-disposed vendors! The writer had a good collection of Germans when in the Fatherland in 1866, and in these subsequent thirty years has never seen one scratched-out specimen of these "errors"! The defective print is not confined to the letters, but runs all across the stamp; scratching out is therefore impossible, nor would any one try to spoil an already valuable stamp, as the ⅓ or 3 groschen. The fact is that these varieties are among the very few German stamps that are rare, either used or unused, and are therefore not worth the trouble to list properly, as they are hardly likely to come up for sale!

Austria, Lombardy, and Hungary have evidently been rewritten, and either by, or in conjunction with, a practised hand—there being many (previously generally well-known) varieties now introduced for the first time—and the list certainly presents a marked improvement, showing that the stamps of the Austrian Empire will as well repay study as those of their Teutonic ally. As regards the prices, there is, however, one egregious blunder, which we are sure Messrs. Senf will rectify if, as stated, they really mean their Catalogue to give fair prices. We refer to the Issues for both Austria and Lombardy of 1858 (small rectangle with head to left). The

former series has always (through ignorance, let us hope), excepting the 2 kr. orange, been catalogued unused at about the same total value as the latter. For example, in Senf '95, the totals of the six stamps were: Austria, 26 marks; Lombardy, 22. In the 1896 Senf they stand—Austria, 93 marks; Lombardy, 79.50. It has been generally known for many years, among all those who cared to take the trouble to know, that the Lombardy stamps of this issue, unused, were plentifully held in stock in various European quarters, while of the Austrian, except perhaps a few 3 kreuzer green, there was absolutely no stock, and that they are really rare. *These conditions obtain to-day, only more so, hence the Austrians are under-priced,* and the *Lombardy stamps are far over-priced.* The former are worth six or eight times as much as the latter, and we thus markedly call attention to these palpably misleading prices, as we feel sure that, giving Messrs. Senf the benefit of the doubt as to ignorance, they have been made to delude collectors, to *unload* on them these Lombardy at fancy and fictitious prices, and to purchase where possible their Austrian prototypes beneath their value.

As regards the Catalogue philatelically as a whole—the few items we have mentioned being readily capable of amendment—we hold it, as we have already mentioned, most excellent: it contains a vast amount of useful, succinct, and reliable information, is well printed, well bound, and marvellously cheap, hence deserving of a still further share of the great success that has been accorded to its past career.

MR. F. R. GINN'S PRICE CATALOGUE.*

It might have been thought that the minimum price for which a "pocket" catalogue could be produced had been already attained; but in these days novelty spells success, hence Mr. F. R. Ginn is doubtless justified in the issue of an exceedingly neat, handy, and well-printed Catalogue, containing upwards of 300 pages, for the nominal sum of One Shilling post free. The Catalogue is, of course, without illustrations, but in alphabetical order, the countries being listed with date of issue and description of design (a great boon). The prices attached are "absolute market value" for single specimens, used and unused, with frequent additional quotations for ten copies of the same stamp. We are glad to see that Mr. Ginn has wisely refrained from giving quotations for all stamps, many of which, as pointed out in this journal, can only be valued by the specimen itself.

Printed on excellent toned paper, with an imitation leather cover of a pleasing grey colour, the catalogue is a very creditable production, especially for an initial venture on the troubled sea of "printers' ink."

* FREDERICK R. GINN'S *Wholesale and Retail Price Catalogue of Foreign Stamps, Sets, Packets, and Philatelic Publications.* Second Edition. Price One Shilling. Frederick R. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

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New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND LONDON, W.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—The *M. J.* has received a set of the new issue described last month as follows; we have also omitted to chronicle the 2½ on 4½ as. Indian envelope, with the surcharge in three lines, "British —East—Africa."

Adhesives. ½ a., yellow-green; perf. 14.
1 a., carmine-rose ,,
2 as., chocolate ,,
2½ as., deep blue ,,
3 as., grey ,,
4 as., deep green ,,
4½ as., orange-yellow ,,
5 as., bistre ,,
7½ as., lilac-mauve ,,
8 as., stone-grey ,,
1 rupee, ultramarine ,,
2 rupees, vermilion ,,
3 rupees, violet mauve ,,
4 rupees, carmine-lake ,,
5 rupees, deep brown ,,

Envelope. 2½ on 4½ as., orange and black, *blue* surch.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—We are indebted to Messrs. G. Johnson, G. J. Jackson, and J. N. Marsden, for a sight of the surcharges heralded on page 182. They consist of the 3d. and 4/- stamps of the first issue of this country surcharged "One Penny," and the 5/- of same issue surcharged "Three Pence," also ½, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 penny stamps of Cape of Good Hope surcharged in black, thin sans-serif capitals of three lines, "British" (8 mm.) "South Africa" (14½ mm.) "Company" (10 mm.) Mr. Marsden writes that "18 sheets of the 4/-, 7 sheets of the 3d., and 50 sheets of the 5/- value of the B.S.A. type were surcharged; these stamps, I am informed, were not sold to the public, but when the letters were handed in at the P.O. with the necessary amount for postage, the stamps were affixed and defaced by the officials. My information slightly differs from that of Mr. Jacobs as to the quantity of the Cape stamps issued, which I am given to understand were—100 sheets of the ½d., 150 of the 1d., 75 of the 2d., 11 of the 3d., 37½ of the 4d., and 16½ of the 6d."

Adhesives.
One Penny on 3d., green and grey; black surcharge.
,, 4/-, red and slate ,,
Three Pence on 5/-, orange-brown ,,
½d., grey; black surcharge on Cape issue.
1d., carmine ,, ,,
2d., ochre ,, ,,
3d., claret ,, ,,
4d., blue ,, ,,
6d., violet ,, ,,

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The 5/- mentioned last month is actually a change of colour, which has evidently been found necessary, to distinguish this value from the 1/-, whose colour has been changed to yellow-bistre.

Adhesive. One Shilling, yellow-bistre.

CEYLON.—A new 2 c. card from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., stamp of the usual Queen's head type, and inscriptions in English and native characters, no framework.

Post Card. 2 c., mustard on *white*.

GREAT BRITAIN.—It appears from the following paragraph, which seems to have official authority, that a new set of official stamps is to be created for our gallant defenders.

"It is announced from the War Office that from September 1st, the cost of postage of letters at home military stations, now borne by the public under a special arrangement, will be defrayed by means of postage stamps marked with the words 'Army—Official.' These stamps will be supplied by the General Post Office to district and station paymasters only, who will distribute them to their sub-accountants. The stamps are not to be used for telegrams, or parcels sent by post."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The *Australian Philatelist* announces the 2/- surcharged "OS" in thin capitals.

Adhesive. 2/-, crimson, surcharged "OS."

VICTORIA.—The *M. J.* has received the 5/- adhesive, large rectangular, "Stamp Duty" printed in a new colour, carmine-red, and perf. 12½, wmk. Crown and V. sideways.

Adhesive. 5/-, carmine-red.

ZANZIBAR.—We have been shown the 1 anna stamp surcharged "2½," and are informed that there are two varieties of the "2," one with straight, and the other with a curly tail; further, we have seen even the ½ and 1 anna adhesives of the new type British East Africa, bearing the surcharge "ZANZIBAR."

Adhesives. 2½ in black on 1 a., plum and black.
½ a., green; black surcharge.
1 a., carmine ,,

EUROPE.

HOLLAND.—The *A. J. of Ph.* has information that the 50 c. and 1 gulden adhesives will shortly be issued in two colours, and *Le T.-P.* chronicles the issue of 2 and 3 c. single and reply post cards, with stamp bearing portrait of the Queen.

Post Cards. 2 c., rose on *blue.*
2+2 c. ,, ,,
3 c., grey on brown.
3+3 c. ,, ,,

ITALY.—We are indebted to Mr. Jos. Cortese for information that 1 c. and 2 c. adhesives are to be issued in similar type to the current 5 c., and the expected colours are dark brown and red-brown respectively; also that a new value of the unpaid stamps is in use—20 c.

ROUMANIAN LEVANT.—We have had a sight of the recent surcharges from specimens sent by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The list on page 156 is correct, with additional information that the surcharge is applied evidently with an ordinary rubber stamp. The *Ph. J. of G. B.* says that these stamps were issued on March 16th, and withdrawn on May 25th, and the numbers printed were—

10 pa on 5 b., surch	in black,	750;	in violet,	3300
20 ,, 10 b.	,,	,, 6300	,,	7200
1 pia on 25 b.	,,	,, 3900	,,	3900

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Republic, a set of envelopes, wrappers, and post cards has been issued, with a stamp of the accompanying type. As these are intended to replace the current issue we chronicle them.



Envelopes.
5 c., pink on *cream laid;* 150×87 mm.
5 c. ,, ,, 148×125 mm.
Wrappers.
½ c., pale blue, on *straw wove;* 116×280 mm.
1 c., brown ,, ,,
2 c., green ,, ,,
4 c., grey ,, ,,

Post Cards.
3 c., orange on *pale buff;* 132×80 mm.
4 c., grey ,, ,,
6 c., mauve ,, ,,
6+6 c. ,, ,, ,, (reply).
Letter Cards.
3 c., orange on *pale buff;* 140×85 mm.
4 c., grey ,, ,,

PARAGUAY.—With reference to the two provisionals chronicled last month, a correspondent writing to the *M. J.* says, "At the G.P.O. I was told that the provisionals had been all (60,000) issued in one day. . . . He then explained that the clerks had taken them all up themselves, and that not *one* had gone through the hands of the public, adding that he could let me have some at 50 cents each!!" This information speaks for itself.

PERU.—*Der Philatelist* chronicles a 3 c. letter card with a stamp of the 1874 type. A circular issued by the General Administrator of Posts, and dated 12th December, 1895, announces that, owing to their having been forged, the stamps surcharged "Gobierno" for official correspondence are discontinued, and ordinary adhesives will be used in the future.

Letter Card. 3 cents, brick-red on *white.*

OTHER COUNTRIES.

FERNANDO PO.—We have a 10 c. adhesive from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. in "Baby" type.

Adhesive. 10 c., lake-brown.

HAYTI.—*Le T.-P.* gives the following as the new colours spoken of on page 184.

Adhesives. ½ c., red-brown.
1 c., pale blue.
5 c., olive.
7 c., grey-black.
20 c., orange.

MADAGASCAR.—The late brilliant victory in Madagascar turns out to be Philatelic as well as belligerent. We have, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., a set of stamps in the usual Colonial (French) type, the inscription in label reading "Madagascar" "et Dépendances."

Adhesives. 5 c., green; name in carmine.
10 c., black on *lilac;* name in blue.
15 c., blue; name in carmine.
25 c., black on *rose;* name in carmine.
40 c., red on *yellow;* name in blue.
50 c., carmine; name in blue.
75 c., black on *yellow;* name in carmine.
1 fr., bronze; name in blue.

TONGA.—We have a specimen of the surcharge mentioned last month from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and it appears that despite the postmaster's good intentions, the stamps were sold over the counter after all! The copy before us is the 2½d., with first surcharge of "7½d." and final surcharge of "Half-Penny" in two lines, the work evidently done with a rubber stamp.

Adhesive.
Halfpenny (on 7½d.) on 2½d., violet and red on pale blue.

*

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—Baron de Worms.
President—M. P. Castle.
Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. Willett, West House, Brighton.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

E. D. Bacon.
W. Balchin.
C. N. Biggs.
Colonel A. M. Brown.
Sir H. Bunbury, Bart.
S. Burrows.
M. P. Castle.
H. Clark.
W. H. G. Cruttwell.
H. Davis.
H. J. Gillespie.
J. W. Gillespie.
H. Griffith.
W. Harrison.
G. G. Hodgson.
W. E. Hughes.
H. Langton.
E. E. Manwaring.
C. F. D. Marshall.
B. C. Murray.
O. Pfenninger.
J. H. Redman.
E. J. W. Sang.
H. Stafford-Smith.
A. H. Thomas.
R. J. Thrupp.
A. Upton.
W. T. Willett.
R. J. Woodman.
Baron de Worms. (*Hon. President.*)
Baron A. de Worms.
Baron P. de Worms.
H. E. Wright.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. Denison Roebuck, F.L.S.

The thirteenth meeting of the current session was held on Monday evening, 30th March, the President in the chair. Thanks were voted for donations of the current numbers of Philatelic periodicals, and a new member was proposed.

Varieties of perforation of New Zealand stamps were shown. Mr. J. H. Thackrah showed the 2d., watermarked Star, perf. 10 at top, 12½ bottom and sides; and Mr. T. K. Skipwith the current 3d., yellow, perf. 12½ × 10, and the current 2½d., blue, perf. 10.

Mr. T. K. Skipwith then offered a few remarks on some of the early issues of South Australia, illustrated by his collection and a set of photographs of various watermarks.

He exhibited two varieties of perforation not mentioned in *Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue*, viz. 2s., crimson, broad-pointed star, perf. 10 at top, 11½ bottom and sides; and 2d., orange-red, crown and S A close, perf. 10 at top and sides, 11½ bottom.

Messrs. Thackrah and Egly also showed their collections of South Australia, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Skipwith was passed.

The fourteenth meeting was held on Saturday, 18th April, the chair being occupied by Mr. Eugene Egly, Vice-President.

Various additions to the library by donation and purchase were announced, and thanks voted for the gifts.

Novelties were exhibited by the Chairman (Greece) and Mr. Wm. Beckwith (Great Britain).

No paper was provided, and the evening was devoted to an interesting general display of stamps.

T. Kershaw Skipwith, 13, *Victoria Road, Headingley, Leeds*;
John H. Thackrah, 54, *St. Michael's Road, Headingley, Leeds.*
} *Hon. Secs.*

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

THE annual picnic of the above Society took place on Saturday, June 20th. The places selected were Chatsworth and Haddon.

The drive from Bakewell to Chatsworth, through beautiful Derbyshire country; the inspection, by special permit, of the kitchen gardens at Chatsworth; and the visit to Haddon, were greatly enjoyed.

After tea the subject of the proposed Exhibition in 1897 was discussed, and upon the motion of the President the following resolution was passed unanimously: "That this meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society considers the offer of the Crystal Palace authorities to be so advantageous in every respect that it strongly recommends the offer be accepted."

A pleasant evening was spent. The stamps to be offered at the coming auction (the first in Manchester) were discussed.

The trip was marred only by one or two heavy showers of rain.

ARTHUR H. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

GRASMERE, WHITEFIELD, NEAR MANCHESTER.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

25, ANN STREET, ROOM 1.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Society was held at its rooms, 25, Ann Street, on Monday evening, March 16th, 1896. The President in the chair. Visitors, Mr. Kunkel, formerly Vice-President of the Dresden Society, introduced by Mr. Clotz, and Mr. Welsh, introduced by Mr. Andreini.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected as regular members: W. J. Murray, 147 East 125th St., N.Y. City; Alberto Falcon, care of W. R. Grace & Co., 1 Hanover Square, N.Y. City.

The following gentlemen were elected as auxiliary members: M. N. Newmark, Los Angeles, Cal.; J. W. Leslie, Keyport, N.J.

Mr. L'Estrange Ewen presented the Society with the first, second, third, and fourth editions of the Specialist's Catalogues of the stamps of Great Britain. Accepted with thanks.

The Bogert and Durbin Co. presented priced Catalogues of their late auction sale Accepted with thanks.

Mr. J. W. Scott presented the report of the Committee on the annual dinner, recommending its discontinuance. On motion of Mr. Quigley, the Committee was discharged with thanks.

Mr. Andreini reported the last transactions of the Committee for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. H. C. Beardsley requesting a list of the members of the Society with addresses for a proposed "Address Book." On motion, the sending of the names and addresses was left for the action of the individual members.

Mr. Kunkel made a short and pleasant address to the Society, which was responded to by the President with fraternal greetings to the Dresden Society.

The main business of the meeting was the inspection of the large collection of stamps brought by Mr. Herrick, who exhibited his albums of the stamps of France, Spain, Portugal, and the Portuguese and Spanish Colonies, and by Mr. Andreini, who exhibited his Nevis collection in two volumes, his unused Great Britain in several volumes, and his stamps of Great Britain used in the English Colonies and in foreign ports.

The members present enjoyed a rare treat by the inspection of these different albums, which demonstrated the possibilities of true Philatelists in every way. Mr. Kunkel showed some very curious stamps on the original letters. Meeting adjourned at 10.30.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Society was held on the evening of April 20th, 1896.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The following gentlemen were elected as members of the Society by a unanimous vote: John F. Douglas, 18, New St., N.Y.; A. P. Cumming, 55, Broadway, N.Y.; and C. A. Macy, 2nd, 11, Pine St., N.Y. Mr. R. M. Gottesleber, Box 2456, Denver, Colo., was elected as an auxiliary member by a unanimous vote.

The bill of expenses incurred by the S.S.S.S, of which the share of the Philatelic Society was $17.68, was read and approved. The Treasurer was directed to pay the same.

Mr. Scott reported that, owing to a change in the ownership of the building in which our rooms are situated, it will probably be necessary for the Society to obtain new rooms. Mr. Scott reported that the owner of the building desires to enter into possession of the rooms before the lease expires, but was not willing to make any arrangement with the Society for the use of the rooms during the next two or three months. The Society, therefore, by a unanimous vote, empowered Mr. Scott to represent it, and to prevent any entrance until the expiring of our lease.

The amendment to the Constitution, of which due notice was given, came up for discussion. On the motion of Mr. J. W. Scott, seconded by Mr. C. W. Gregory, Article ix. was made to read as follows:

"The affairs and business of the Society are conducted by a Governing Committee of nine members, five of whom shall be selected as Trustees, viz. the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian, and four other members. For the purpose of a meeting of the Governing Committee three shall form a quorum. The Governing Committee shall have power to fill vacancies occurring in their own number for the unexpired term."

The change in Constitution will go into effect at the next annual meeting of the Society, in December, 1896. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote.

The publication of a list of names of members in an early number of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* was ordered.

The Society then listened to a paper by Mr. Leavy on the "Shifted Dies, Mis-writes, and Double Impressions of U. S. Stamps, from 1847 to date." Mr. Leavy illustrated his article by a remarkable display of stamps representing the above characteristics. The Society adopted Mr. Leavy's list as their reference list, and ordered the paper to be printed in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

Owing to the position of the U. S. Government in the matter of illustrations of stamps, or parts of stamps, it will be impossible to get fac-similes, but even without the cuts the paper will undoubtedly be of great interest to all specialists of U. S. stamps.

Mr. Luff, of the National Philatelic Society, kindly read a paper on reprints of U.S. Stamps, illustrating the same by a large number of stamps, some of which are unique, and many of which are of such a character as to prompt still further inquiry and discussion.

After an exhibition of rare stamps by various members, adjournment was made at 11 p.m.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Society was held on Monday evening, May 18th, 1896, in its temporary rooms No. 25, Ann Street. The Vice-President in the chair.

Mr. John N. Luff, 18, East Twenty-third Street, New York, proposed by Mr. J. B. Leavy, seconded by Mr. J. M. Andreini, was unanimously elected a member of the Society.

Mr. J. W. Scott, Superintendent of the Exchange Department, reported that the first circuit of stamps had been completed. This circuit was valued at $2,000.00, and over sixty of the stamps have been taken. Three other circuits are now in the field, one of which was first sent to San Francisco, and is now making Eastward; another first sent to Boston, now going West; the third started from New York City. A fourth circuit is now in preparation, and all members desiring to contribute stamps to the same, or desiring to be placed upon the exchange list, are requested to communicate with Mr. J. W. Scott.

Mr. Gremmel, the publisher of *Post Office*, has kindly given the Society a complete set of this periodical bound. Mr. G. H. Mekeel, of St. Louis, Mo., donated the first volume of *The Daily Stamp* bound. Mr. J. W. Scott contributes the last volume of *The Metropolitan Philatelist* bound. The Secretary was instructed to thank each of the firms for their donation.

Mr. J. M. Scott, appointed Committee on Rooms, reported that it had been impossible for him to come to any understanding with the owner of the building in which our rooms were located up to May 1st, and he had therefore taken temporarily a room in the same building. A proposition was made to the Society to lease an entire building in a suitable location in New York City, having a large room for meetings, auctions, etc. Such a building would naturally be the headquarters of Philatelists, not only in New York City, but throughout the Union.

Upon motion a committee of three was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Scott, Andreini, and Herrick, to inquire and recommend at the next meeting of the Society suitable action.

Mr. Gregory exhibited to the Society a section of his fine album of proofs and essays of the United States stamps, including adhesives, envelopes, post cards, and revenues. This remarkable collection is the result of thirty years' study, and buying both at private sale and at auction. Those members of the Society not present at the meeting missed a great treat.

Meeting adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

THE last regular meeting of the Society for the season was held at its rooms, 25, Ann Street, on Monday evening, June 15th. Mr. Gregory in the chair.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. Mr. F. J. Kuhne, 60, Water Street, N.Y., proposed by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Stebbins, and Mr. R. A. McKim, 280, Broadway, N.Y., proposed by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Nast, were both unanimously elected members of the Society.

The Superintendent of the Exchange Department reports that the circuits were progressing regularly, but owing to the nearness of the vacation season, a number of delays had taken place; and therefore he requests of the Society that all members changing their address should notify him at once, and also state whether they wish the circuits sent to them during the succeeding three months.

The Committee on the proposed club-house made the following report :—

"Your Committee beg to report that they have had several meetings, and canvassed the city between Twentieth and Fortieth Streets, and Third and Tenth Avenues, without so far finding a suitable home for this Society. In the course of their investigations, they have learned that other Societies in the city are also looking for new quarters, and it has been suggested that it would be advisable to combine all the Philatelic interests in the city under one roof.

"Your Committee have therefore drafted the following plan, which they herewith submit for your approval :—

"A stock company shall be formed of one hundred members, each subscribing $25.00 for one share of stock. The purpose of this stock is to secure funds to hire a house and furnish it, suitable for Society meetings, auction-hall, and club-rooms, which will be supplied with suitable appliances for general amusement, as well as Philatelic studies. The Club will be entirely distinct from any existing Society, and must charge annual dues of its own; but no gentleman would be eligible to membership without becoming a member of one of the other city Philatelic Societies. The Club would be entirely independent of this Society, and it would be optional with our members to join the Club; but before starting this undertaking, the promoters, who it is presumed will be nearly all members of this Society, would like to get the views of the meeting on the project, and the assurance that the Society will hire one of its rooms for a meeting place, at the same rent that it is paying at the present time. Your Committee have given this much attention to the Club project, as it appears to be the only means of securing a desirable room up-town, which the post card vote of the members so strongly advocated."

It was moved by Mr. Luff, seconded by Mr. Rich, and adopted unanimously, that the Philatelic Society, New York, agrees to rent a room in the proposed club-house, at a rental not to exceed that paid by the Society previous to May 1st, 1896. Mr. Luff further moved that the Committee be continued, with power to add to their number. Agreed to unanimously.

As the Society would not hold any meeting during the succeeding two months, the resolution was adopted to give up its present quarters, and store the effects of the Society until September, when it is to be hoped the Society will meet in the club-house.

Mr. Andreini read an article on the "British Stamps with American Cancellation," illustrating the same by his unparalleled collection. Mr. Andreini also exhibited a map showing the steamship routes by which the letters were sent to and from Europe, the West Indies, and Spanish-American countries; also a scrap book, containing a number of Philatelic curiosities, some of which were directly connected with the subject of his paper.

The thanks of the Society were given to Mr. Andreini for his paper, and the same was ordered to be published in the *Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Mr. Rogers exhibited two blank books, containing proofs of all the current postage, postage due, special delivery, and periodical stamps, in a number of different forms. These proofs were the original proofs used by the Bureau of Engraving in the preparation of the original dies and rolls of the present issues. Nothing of this kind had ever been seen before by any of the members present. It is a unique collection, and will furnish such an opportunity for the study of U.S. stamps, and the process of their manufacture, as has never before been known.

Mr. Gregory brought with him his fine collection of Mexican Revenues.

The meeting adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

F. A. NAST, *Secretary.*

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT. *Vice-President*—R. TYETH STEVENS.
Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—W. J. W. MILLER.

THE thirteenth ordinary meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, April 15th, at 7.30 p.m. There were six members present, the Vice-President taking the chair. Mr. Westaway continued and finished his paper on the stamps of Tasmania. He dealt with the stamps of the new and smaller design—from 1870 up to the present date—and gave an exhaustive description of the distinguishing characteristics of each issue, as well as particulars as to the numbers issued. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Westaway for his interesting paper.

THE fourteenth ordinary meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, April 29th, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Mayne, Mr. Honeysett, and the Hon. Sec. exhibited numerous Philatelic curiosities and unchronicled stamps. Mr. Honeysett exhibited five British ½d. wrappers on different coloured papers, viz. on white, pale pink, rose-pink, grey-blue, and bright green. They were inscribed, "On Her Majesty's Service," "Enrolment Form." The Hon. Sec. then exhibited his collection of British post cards, and gave some explanatory remarks respecting the ½d. post card from 1878 to the present day, of which he had found fifteen distinct varieties, exclusive of reply cards.

THE sixth annual meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, May 13th, at 7.30 p.m. There were 10 members present, the Vice-President (Mr. R. T. Stevens) being in the chair. Several alterations were made in the rules of the Exchange branch.

In the absence of the Exchange Secretary, his Assistant (Mr. Millman) then read his report of the transactions of the Exchange branch during the past year, which were very satisfactory.

The Hon. Secretary then read his report, which showed that, during the past session, there had been, inclusive of the present meeting, 15 ordinary, 4 special, and 3 committee meetings. With one exception, to avoid New Year's day, the meetings had been held regularly once a fortnight—a thing which had never before been accomplished by the Society—and, with two exceptions, an instructive paper had been read at each of the ordinary meetings. The average attendance at the meetings during the year was 8·6, thus showing an improvement on the two previous years. The increased Philatelic interest of the members was also

exhibited by the fact that the number of books and papers borrowed from the library, was double that of any previous year. Although there had been many extra expenses during the year, including the buying and fitting up of incandescent lights in the Society's rooms, the deficit of last year had been considerably reduced, and it was resolved to wipe it out entirely by means of a small whip round.

The election of officers and committee for the ensuing year was then proceeded with. A letter was read from the President (Mr. A. R. Barrett) regretting that his removal from the district would not allow of his again becoming President, but expressing his desire to remain an ordinary member. The meeting then passed a resolution expressing its feeling of appreciation for the valuable services he had rendered the Society, and much regretting he could no longer retain his office.

The Vice-President having declined to accept the post of President, it was, on his motion, resolved that Capt. Stockdale, R.E. be elected the President of the Society. The Vice-President was re-elected, as also were the Exchange Secretary and the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and hearty votes of thanks were accorded to these officers for the services they had rendered. Mr. E. Millman, Mr. W. E. Harvey and Mr. F. A. Cocks, R.N., were elected members of the committee, the latter taking the place of Mr. Milton, who retired.

W. J. W. MILLER, *Hon. Sec.*

5, ATHENÆUM TERRACE, PLYMOUTH.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes — Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON.

Sale on June 15th and 16th.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 3d., imperf., secret dot, unused	3	16	0
Ditto, 1/-, plate 3, hair lines, imperf., unused, a pair	9	9	0
Switzerland, Zurich, 4 rappen, perpendicular lines	17	5	0
India, first issue, 4 annas, blue, showing dividing line, unused	5	5	0
Azores, 1882, 150 reis, blue	4	5	0
Cape, wood block, 1d., blue, error	25	0	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., orange-red, medium-early state of plate, used together with a 2d. blue	22	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d., blue, medium state of plate	19	0	0
Sierra Leone, CC, "Half-penny" on 1½d., lilac, pair, unused	10	0	0
United States, periodicals, complete set from 1 ct. to $60, unused	16	0	0
Nevis, lithographed, 6d., grey, unused	7	16	0
Turks' Islands, 1/-, prune	22	0	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 12, 6d., rose, unused sheet of 25	26	0	0

Sale on July 2nd.

	£	s.	d.
Natal, first issue, 9d., blue	10	5	0
Bahamas, no wmk., rough perf., 4d., rose, unused	7	0	0
Trinidad, 4d., grey, unused pair	10	10	0

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL AND COOPER.

Sale on June 17th.

	£	s.	d.
Cape, wood block, 4d., dark blue	5	10	0
Natal, first issue, 9d., blue	24	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto	20	0	0
Oil Rivers, 10/- in red on 5d., unused	7	5	0
Canada, 7½d., green (unused?)	6	0	0
Ditto, 6d., purple-black, perf., (unused?)	9	15	0
United States, 1869, 24 c., purple and green, inverted centre	23	10	0
Barbados, 1d. on half 5/-, unsevered pair	25	0	0
Trinidad, litho., fine impression, 1d., blue, on original	8	5	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

Sale on June 13th.

	£	s.	d.
Basle, 2½ rappen, unused	5	5	0
Ceylon, Star wmk., perf., 1s. 9d., green, unused	3	5	0
Confederate States, *Mobile*, 2 c., black, on original	5	15	0
Nevis, 4d., rose, unused	5	5	0
United States, Columbus, set complete 1 c. to $5	4	2	6

The sale on June 24th was notable as the first sale held in a provincial town, the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, being the Mart. The results would seem to have fully justified the experiment.

	£	s.	d.
France, 1 franc, orange	5	15	0
Ceylon, imperf., 8d., brown	19	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 9d.	4	0	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow	5	5	0
Dominica, C A, 1s., carmine, unused	5	5	0
Nevis, 4d., rose, unused	4	0	0
Ditto, lithographed, 4d., orange, unused	7	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., grey, unused	13	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet	20	0	0
Newfoundland, 6d., orange, unused	7	0	0
St. Vincent, Star wmk., 5s., rose	15	0	0
Tobago, C C, 6d., brown	3	12	6
Virgin Islands, single outer line, 1s., unused	4	15	0

MESSRS. THEO. BUHL & CO., LTD.

Sale on June 12th.

	£	s.	d.
Mauritius, 2d., blue, Post Paid, error PENOE, early state of plate, unused	51	0	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

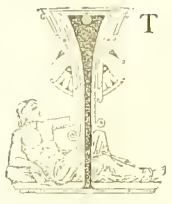
VOL. V. AUGUST, 1896. No. 56.

Common Rarities and Common Sense.

THOSE who take the trouble to read the voluminous account of the Geneva Exhibition in this number, will at once see the *raison d'être* for the apparently contradictory term involved in the first half of our heading. It will be noted that stamps such as the prominent Cantonals of Switzerland, which change hands at £20 to £40 apiece, were literally present in hundreds. The same fearful result will doubtless arise at the London Exhibition of July next year, when shilling New Brunswicks and Nova Scotias will abound, while Tuscany and Nevis will be quite common—among their possessors! In due course of time, more of all these and other rare stamps will be found, and the concourse thereof at Exhibitions be even greater—but will they be of less value? Quite the contrary, in our humble judgment; and this leads us to the second half of our title, which seems thus diametrically opposed to the wailings and dismal jeremiads of a certain Continental section. In the case in question, our friends (no figure of speech) have not even the ground to go on, as in this case, that the stamps whose high prices they depreciate are common. The stamps that Herr Lindenberg especially thinks overpriced now, and of reactionary value, are unused Germans. These are indubitably, in many cases, of considerable rarity; the vulgar rarities already cited could be collected and collated in one-tenth of the time, and are indeed, only kept up by popular estimation. This is but another term for demand. There is demand and supply for well-known and attainable stamps; the supply of the really scarce stamps is limited, and will be less, and if the demand should grow as seems inevitable, those collectors who possess "common sense" will come out quite as well as those who are too timorous to buy aught but "common rarities."

The Geneva Philatelic Exhibition.

By M. P. CASTLE.



IT is with a feeling akin to shame that I plead guilty to having journeyed to Switzerland for any other purpose than to renew my thirty years' acquaintance with its natural glories. Truth, however, even in Philatelic circles, is more important than fiction, and I must therefore fain confess that, beyond a superb view of Mont Blanc from the windows of that charming hostelry, the Hotel Beau-Rivage at Geneva, and a day's excursion on the lake, my Swiss experiences have, for the first time, been entirely confined to matters Philatelic.

Doubtless I am hardened in my sin of ignoring Nature, as I must perforce confess that, in such good company, I found the operation a pleasant one. The assemblage of so many collectors and dealers of all nations, most of whom were on the friendliest footing, certainly constituted the great charm of the meeting; and I feel convinced that each and all who attended the Geneva Exhibition, will carry away with them pleasant memories of happy hours and merry intercourse.

In my view, the Philatelic Exhibition at Geneva must be pronounced a great success; and I take the greatest pleasure in expressing, as a visitor, my sense of the unbounded courtesy extended to all, and my hearty congratulations to the Exhibition Committee on the result of their arduous labours. The work involved was necessarily very great, and all loyally bore a share therein; but, without a doubt, Mr. A. Gernandt-Roux, the Vice-President, by his indefatigable efforts stands out pre-eminent; and it is indeed to his energy that much of the success achieved is due. The shares of M. Muriset-Gicot, the President, and M. A. D'Estienne, the Secretary, also deserve the highest encomiums.

The Geneva Society is to be congratulated also upon the number and quality of Philatelic visitors attracted; as exemplifying which, I select a few of those who occur to me: Messieurs V. Capanna, E. Ragozino, Fiechhi, P. Loli, C. J. Phillips, W. T. Willett, Theodor Buhl, M. Giwelb, E. Stock, H. Willadt, Risigari, Lehmann (Miss), Th. Lemaire, P. Mahé, Schmidt de Wilde, Merzanoff, E. Weinmann, Büser; Doctors Stanley Taylor and Vedel; Baron V. Grisewald; in addition to many others, and the following gentlemen, constituting the Jury: M. de Reuterskiöld (President), Messieurs J. Bernichon, M. P. Castle, E. Diena, (Dr.) Edler-Blaul, J. Joerin-Suter, and E. Stock. The general attendance of visitors at the Exhibition was, I believe, held to be quite satisfactory; while the result of the *tombola*, or lottery, for a number of rare stamps, must have been most gratifying to the Committee.

I should be wanting in gratitude if I did not express my sense of the great courtesy shown to the Jury, whether in the buildings of the Exhibition or at the charming *déjeuner* that so agreeably rounded off the duties of the

Judges, and at which guests and hosts pledged each other's healths in the most approved and cordial fashion.

I regret that I was unable to attend the grand dinner on Sunday, the 16th, but I hear that it was a decided success, about 120 gentlemen being present.

The Exhibition, which was open from the 8th to the 23rd of this month, was held in the Upper Room of the Galerie d'Horlogerie, in the Museum of Decorative Arts, which, though not of extensive area, was well adapted, both by freedom from sun and damp, for the required purpose. Every precaution was taken to ensure the safety of the Exhibition, watchmen being present day and night; while, to their everlasting credit, two members of the Jury always slept on the premises. The show-cases were partly flat—made for the purpose, and partly in horizontal form—a foot deep; while in some instances they were of such dimensions that some of the stamps, really and literally, had back seats. It is safe to say, however, that speaking generally, the stamps were well displayed; but to my mind, without doubt nothing can equal the flat show-cases, as used at the last Exhibition of the London Society.

I have purposely left to the last the *pièce de résistance*—the stamps themselves; and I propose to give a short account of each of the leading exhibits. In general I must confess to a slight sense of disappointment as to the stamps not shown by foreign exhibitors. It is not that rarities were unrepresented—as regards Swiss stamps—as shown by the following table, which, I believe, is substantially accurate:—

SPECIMENS SHOWN AT THE EXHIBITION.

	UNUSED.	USED.	TOTAL.
Zurich, 4 rappen	4 ...	78 ...	82
Geneva, 10 c.	4 ...	78 ...	82
„ 5 c., envelope (used as adhesive on letter) . . .	— ...	14 ...	14
Vaud, 4 c.	4 ...	28 ...	32
			210

The disparity of the unused is at once visible; and it is more marked when I state that only one of the Zurich, one of the 4 c. Vaud, and three of the Genevas were fine, the rest being mainly damaged, dirty, or clipped copies. The same proportion was apparent throughout all the exhibits of the Swiss stamps, whether applied to Cantonal or Federal Issues; while among the later series, including the Silk-threads, no collector seems to have thought it worth while to make a really decent collection of them.

Appreciating as I do the great and patriotic interest taken by the Swiss in their own charming stamps, I cannot but hold it as a blot on their escutcheon, that the choicest and finest collections of their own stamps, in Mint condition, should repose in foreign climes. *Per contra*, the postmarked varieties were well to the fore, notably in the case of M. Lienhard, who richly deserved his recompense. The non-Swiss stamps, exhibited by local competitors, except in the instances of M. de Reuterskiold, of Ouchy, and Mr. F. Bang, of Geneva, were few in number, and of but patchy virtues. As

regards the foreigners' exhibits, the remarks that I have made under each head will tend to show that they were redeemed from the foregoing defects, and hence materially contributed to the general success of the show. It is, of course, but fair to remember that, in the prospectus, the most important *rôle* was assigned to the Swiss stamps, and that they would therefore be expected to preponderate; and, indeed, it is upon this score that I have ventured to point out how they fall short of the ideal that foreign visitors had entertained.

Class I.

The most Meritorious Collection of Swiss.

H. Lienhard, Zurich. *Gold Medal.*—Pastor Lienhard's collection, in my judgment, well merited the first prize, in view of the fact that he had endeavoured to represent all the Swiss stamps, unused, used, and on letters, as also the varieties of postmark, by the aid of the latter endeavouring to show the postal history of his country. In this heroic attempt he had succeeded to a great degree, most of the known varieties of obliteration being represented, while the stamps themselves, if not the highest quality, were mainly fine, well chosen, and certainly more numerous than any other exhibit in the same class. They included the ten varieties of the 4 Zurich besides, three on letters; Geneva 10 c., three, inclusive of one *intervertis* (*i.e.* cut wrongly, so as to really constitute two halves of each 10 c. stamp); 5 c. envelope, used adhesively, four on letters, and two others; Basle, six, one with a postmark of L.B. p.H. in square, black frame, and considered unique; Vaud, 4 c., six; Winterthur, a dozen or more, with pairs; Neuchatel, half this number; P. Locale and Orts Post, with and without frame; and complete plates made up of all except former; the Rayons, Silk-threads, and later issues were all largely represented by used copies, and indeed throughout a consistent effort had been made—doubtless the work of years—to produce a collection that should be thoroughly inclusive in its character. Among the unused stamps, Pastor Lienhard makes, perhaps, a better show than any competitor. In Zurich he exhibited the 6, vertical lines, and a fine unsevered strip of the five types with horizontal lines—one of the gems of the Exhibition. Excepting the 4 c. Vaud, the 10 c. Geneva, and the 4 c. Zurich (rather important links), single specimens of all the other Cantonals were shown. The 15 c. and 15 r. (small) seemed to me cleaned—nor do I recollect having seen one undoubtedly unused specimen of either in the Exhibition. Mr. Lienhard was the only exhibitor to show the Silk-threads unused, his lot including a dozen or two fine copies, of which the 5 c. *red-brown* and *lilac-brown* were the gems, both being "R R R"! This exhibit was not well placed for viewing, and each sheet was marred by a trashy lithographic frame of Swiss scenery; but, despite these drawbacks, it was a really interesting collection, and richly merited its *médaille de vermeil.*

J. Dreyfus, Lausanne. *Silver Medal.*—This exhibitor undoubtedly secured second place owing to the beauty of his specimens, which were almost invariably well chosen, and many of which were among the most beautiful used Cantonals I have ever seen. His exhibit (all used) included

10 c. Geneva, three, and two halves, all on letters, one *intervertis;* 5 c. adhesive envelope, one; 4 r. Zurich, eleven (the types very fine), and mostly on letters; 4 c. Vaud, four, all on letters, two being used side by side, all brilliant; Winterthur, five pairs; Neuchatel, six; and Basle, eight, the latter of exceptional quality, including a pair; Geneva 5 c., pairs of each of the three varieties; and many others, all on letters, constituting a really fine show. The three plates of Orts Post and Poste Locale, and a plate of 5 Rayon, light blue, made up of unused blocks, rounded off an exceptionally choice lot, and that for condition were the cream of the Swiss section.

A. STRAESSLE-COTTER, Berne. *Silver Medal.*—Another excellent show, bracketed by the Jury level with M. Dreyfus; hardly so fine in condition, but exhibiting more Philatelic research. Prominent were the ten types of the 4 Zurich; 6 r., both varieties (unused); 10 c. Geneva, two (one *intervertis*); 5 c., dark green, pair (used); 5 c. envelope adhesive, on letter; Basle, four fine copies; Winterthur, fifteen, inclusive of three pairs and an unused one—a fine lot; 4 c. Vaud, three, on letters; Neuchatel, five used, one unused; 5 c. Vaud, a choice lot of copies; Orts Post and Poste Locale, three fine plates; the 5 r., dark blue, five fine plates; and of later issues an interesting collection that bespeaks the eye of a careful and intelligent collector.

F. SCHOELLHORN, Winterthur. *Bronze Medal.*—Although this gentleman failed to secure more than a bronze medal, his exhibit was hardly, if at all, inferior to those who received the silver ones; the principal defect was the exhibition of a large number of worthless "essays" or colour-printings of designs which had been submitted—or, perhaps, even not—for acceptance by the postal authorities. They occupied much space and no attention. Mr. Schoellhorn's exhibits included 4 r. Zurich, one unused and fifteen used, including all types—a very strong lot, though not so fine as the silver medallists'; 10 c. Geneva, one unused, four used; 5 c. envelope adhesive, two on letters; Basle, one unused, six used, including pair; Vaud 4 c., one unused—a fine dark impression, and certainly the finest Swiss stamp shown at the Exhibition, with three used copies; Winterthur included pairs, and all the other Cantonals were represented by singles unused, and in repeated form used. The three Orts Post and Poste Locale plates were well set up, and of the latter, without frame, there were no less than fourteen varieties, also a pair of the latter (framed cross), both the same type; the later issues were less strong, but included some rare obliterations, including an apocryphal bird. Mr. Schoellhorn's exhibit was much admired, and his Cantonals were really first-class; hence his failure to secure a higher award is in no way due to them.

Dr. YERSIN, Sentier. *Bronze Medal*—Included here were, of the double Geneva, a fine copy on letter, and several curious combinations, which were so far away from the glass that I was unable to examine them *a mensa et thoro.* There were two left halves, a right and left half, and two right halves, each pair *apparently* used together on letters; 5 c., small eagle, a pair used—rare thus; and an envelope adhesive on letter; Vaud 4 c.;

Zurich 4 c.; and the other Cantonals were all represented; but the exhibit was certainly far below any of the preceding.

C. IM-OBERSTEG, Basle. *Diploma.*—This collection was in a revolving frame, which may be ingenious, but in my view is about the maddest method of mounting ever yet devised; it included single specimens of the Cantonals and made-up plates of the Orts Post, Poste Locale, and Rayons, and perhaps deserved a better fate.

W. HAUSER, Lucerne.—I must confess to surprise that Mr. Hauser should have fallen so mightily! Where are his well-known treasures? and why did he not show something worthy of his reputation as the greatest holder of Swiss stamps? Looking to his reputation, it would have been better to have shown nothing than the sorry lot exhibited, of which the only item of interest was the sheet of the Basle proofs, both beautiful and interesting. Mr. Hauser's exhibit was supposed to be unused only, but most of them were either cleaned specimens, or poor copies. The Cantonals, though all represented, contained only medium to poor copies, and the made-up plates of Rayon were decidedly chameleonic. In the framed Orts Post plate twenty-seven, and the Poste Locale thirty-five varieties had been got together; and though many were cleaned, yet this stamp, being mainly black and white, suffers little from the process, and these plates certainly were handsome. Fifteen specimens of the Poste Locale, without frame, were also *apparently* shown, but the unused one had a liberal allowance of frame beneath the red! A number of varieties of the 10, yellow, with frame, were also shown, some of which were, to my mind, more than doubtful. I have never yet seen a 10 r. with *entire* frame which inspired me with any confidence, and I am strongly inclined to believe that the only genuine ones are those that show fragments only.

CLASS II.

The most Meritorious Collection of the Federal Issues of Switzerland.

A. GERNANDT-ROUX, Geneva. *Bronze Medal.*—The amiable and indefatigable Vice-President's exhibit embraced a number of plates of the Rayon issues, showing the different obliterations. The one that probably entailed the greatest labour and patience was composed of the forty types of the 10 r. yellow, all bearing the well-known Zurich obliteration, the completion of which, considering the rarity of specimens thus cancelled, must have been a veritable *tour de force.* Beautiful plates of the 5 r. dark blue, with and without cross, were also shown, all bearing the same obliteration (P.P.), or each having a different cancellation. This exhibit was, indeed, of great interest, and denoted a patient Philatelic research hardly inferior to any other in the Exhibition.

A. DE REUTERSKIÖLD, Ouchy.—The President of the Jury—as highly esteemed in this country as in that of his adoption—did not compete, but his exhibit was unanimously pronounced by the Jury as worthy of the highest recompense in its class. The stamps shown by the Baron de Reuterskiöld were the 5 c. of Vaud, in a plate containing all the types

(failing two) caused by the conversion of the figure 4 into a 5. The left half of the sheet consists of an unsevered block of forty-eight varieties, with the inscription above, and only wants the two lower right-hand stamps. Needless to say, this beautiful sheet is absolutely unique, and not only constituted one of *the* attractions of the Exhibition, but is, undoubtedly, one of the finest things extant in the Philatelic world. With infinite labour, M. de Reuterskiöld has practically completed the *réunion* of all the types by fine used specimens, and the whole sheet stands revealed as a monument of the highest class of Philatelic research. It is rarer and finer than many "double Genevas" or "*quatres de Vaud*"!

Class III.

The most Meritorious Collection of Swiss Obliterations.

J. Bieler, Geneva. *Bronze Medal.*—There was no competition here, but M. Bieler's exhibit was well worthy of recompense, as, although somewhat crowded up, it contained many scarce and interesting varieties of postmarks on the Federal Issues.

Class V.

The most Complete Collection of Any One Country.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. *Gold Medal.*—No two possible opinions could be entertained but that my enterprising compatriots fully deserved the only other gold medal awarded. It is well known that Mr. C. J. Phillips—the Alpha and Omega of 391, Strand—has been for a long while devoting a portion of his exuberant energies to the formation of a West Indian collection. He has, indeed, succeeded *à merveille*, and I believe I am correct in saying that, in the aggregate, his collection of West Indians (not including British Guiana) is *the* finest in the world. Trinidad and St. Vincent were the two countries exhibited by Mr. Phillips, and they certainly were a magnificent array. Unused and used were shown almost without exception, in rows of shades (some slight), and it is impossible to do more than emphasize a few points—it were easier to indicate the wants. Among the many scarce varieties of the more difficult country—Trinidad—I noted two unused and three used Lady McLeods. The lithograph series are superb, there being nearly one hundred copies of the "blue," ranging from the earliest and sharpest impression down to the veriest smudge of colour, and also including a number of unused copies. No less than twelve specimens of the red were shown postmarked, some being *se tenant* and on letter. The gems of the collection were undoubtedly, however, to be found in the issue pin-perf. 14, which included immaculate unused horizontal strips of three each of the 1d., 4d., and 6d., these being unique in this condition, and of the highest degree of rarity. The series of rough perforations 14½ and 15½ was also extremely fine, embracing no less than twenty-eight specimens; while of the thick paper series without watermark, perf. 11½, there were four of the rare 6d., and two of the 1s. values. The entire collection of this island is simply magnificent. Very much the same can be said of St. Vincent, whose beautiful stamps are a joy for ever. In

the 1862 issue, without watermark, and with clean-cut perforations 15½, I noted two of the 6d. unused "R R R." In the 1872, the shilling values, which are known to embrace some very rare shades unused, I noted in the rose-red colour six copies, in the lake-red sixteen, and in the rose-pink three —the latter being exceptionally scarce. In the surcharged stamps—1d. on half of 6d dark green, 4d. on 1s. vermilion, and the others—there is a fine range, while there was a select page full of the "vulgar rarity," the first five shillings. The 4d. of 1877, star, perf. B, was represented by fourteen specimens, and all the subsequent scarce varieties of this value were exceptionally strong. Throughout, I did not see a weak place. I understand Mr. Phillips' exhibit is valued at £5,000, at which I express no surprise.

C. FINO, Milan. *Silver Medal.*—A highly interesting collection of stamps of the Italian States and Lombardy, all on original covers or letters, including many splendid "pieces"—yellow and red Tuscany, &c. &c. This collection, although wanting the great rarities, is a large one, and the award of a silver medal evidently afforded its courteous owner (who was throughout in attendance) unmixed satisfaction.

TH. LEMAIRE, Paris. *Silver Medal.*—An important collection of France and Colonies, containing a very large number of specimens, almost entirely unused. The 1 franc, orange, was represented by four copies; and the *tête-bêche* stamps included the 1 franc, carmine, and the 4 c. Empire. Altogether an excellent exhibit of a country whose stamps are too little known.

EM. J. MERTZANOFF, Constantinople. *Silver Medal.*—Specialised collection of the stamps of Greece, Ionian Islands, and Roumania. M. Mertzanoff must be congratulated upon his arrangement of the complicated Greek stamps, to which he has devoted a great amount of time and labour, with the result that a highly interesting result has been achieved. I gathered that, as regards his used collection (which is naturally stronger than the unused, and is quite apart), his order of precedence is based entirely upon dated specimens. The stamps were beautifully mounted, each in a black-lined frame, and on this account alone deserved their medal. The Ionians, of all values on letters, were a beautiful lot, and quite a source of attraction to visitors.

A. E. GLASEWALD, Gössnitz. *Bronze Medal.*—Another large and comprehensive collection of Grecian stamps, principally used, whose study has been Mr. Glasewald's delight. The system of arrangement was, perhaps, hardly made sufficiently clear to the uninitiated; but the stamps themselves are scarcely inferior to M. Merzanoff's.

The Thurn and Taxis was a practically complete (and, I think, senseless) accumulation of all the circular numbered postmarks.

C. WILLADT, Pforzheim. *Bronze Medal.*—An interesting collection of French stamps, containing many choice things; such as several 1 franc, orange; 1 franc, 1849, and 4 c., Napoleon, in block of nine, *tête-bêche*.

Diplomas.

J. LOSSAU, Hamburg, for a good collection of Hamburg; J. SCHIEB, Montreux, for used English, put together with care; and M. CAMPBELL, London, for Spain and Colonies, including early issues, nearly complete, unused, with all the 2 reales and good 1854 Luzons, were all awarded Diplomas.

The other exhibitors in this class included M. Beddig, of Hanover (German stamps); M. Blanchard, of Lausanne (France); M. C. George, of Lisbon (Portugal and Colonies, &c.). I must not, however, omit to mention M. de Reuterskiöld's fine Leeward Islands, which were not for competition, but were unanimously voted as having deserved a high reward by the Jury. The principal elements of strength were in Turks Island and Nevis, my friend's fine collection of these being well known. In the former I noted eight types of the 2½d. on 1s., blue; the same on the 1d., red, a block of thirteen—one of the scarcest things known in West Indians; and of the like on the 1s., prune, eleven types; besides, of course, many other varieties of the "½" and the "4," not to mention "shilling prunes," and such-like rarities! The Nevis plates only want five stamps in all to be complete, unused, four of which are those of the 1s., *yellow-green*, a plate which, when complete, should hold its own for rarity against most comers. The plates of the 1s., blue-green, of 1861, and the lithographed 4d. and 6d., are also very fine. M. de Reuterskiöld also makes up the types used, and these are largely complete, including eight varieties of the 6d., lithographed, six of the blue-green, and eight of the pale green 1s. of the same issue. Taken as a whole, an extremely choice and fine exhibit.

CLASS V.

The most Complete Collection of any one Continent.

F. BANG, Geneva. — European Stamps. These really only included Germans in used condition, selected with the greatest care and taste, and as fine as used stamps can possibly be. This collection stood far away the best in its class, and was certainly the most meritorious exhibit of any Swiss, of stamps other than those of their own country.

E. J. MERTZANOFF. *Bronze Medal.* — The best stamps here, in a collection of European, were the 27, 54, and 108 of Roumania; but, though patchy, there were other nice stamps.

E. CRÉMIEUX, Geneva. *Diploma.* — European Stamps. A medium collection.

CLASS VI.

The most Complete General Collection.

J. DREYFUS, Lausanne. *Diploma.*—There were six exhibits, all weak.

CLASS VII.

The most Meritorious Collection of Fifty Great Rarities on Letter.

V. SAUER, Geneva.—Swiss Rarities. Certainly a choice lot, and the lucky owners are to be congratulated. Geneva 10 c., six specimens, three being *intervertis* (two vertically); 5 c., envelope-adhesive, two; Vaud 4 c., two,

and a beautiful pair, the only one in the Exhibition; Neuchatel, pair and three singles on one letter; Basle, pair; Zurich 4 r., three; Winterthur, two pairs, &c. &c.

L. DE RAMERU, Aigle. *Diploma.*—This included Geneva 10 c., two (one *intervertis*); 5 c, envelope-adhesive; pairs of the three varieties of the 5 c.; 4 c. Vaud; 4 r. Zurich; Winterthur, pair; and three especially fine plates of the Orts Post and Poste Locale, the finest in the Exhibition, to my thinking.

O. FRIESE, Magdeburg. *Diploma.*

CLASS VIII.

The Best 100 Rare Stamps.

R. EHRENBACH, London.—I need hardly say my good friend—to use a sporting term—romped in here. His exhibit, well placed, undoubtedly constituted one of the prominent features, and was a perennial source of attraction. This beautiful "display" included, among many others, almost *all being unused*, Antioquia, first issue, shades of all, including two of the 10 c., used; Colombia, 1862, pair of 20 c.; 1863, 50 c., red (error); Brazil, strip of four of the 600 reis; S. Domingo; Wurtemburg, first issue, 3 kr., orange, and 9 kr.; third issue, 6 kr. (no thread); Prussia, 2 s.g., solid ground; Portugal, 50 and 100 Dom Maria; Switzerland, 10 c. Geneva, and 4 c. Vaud.; Roumania, 54, 81, and 108 p.; Tuscany, 3 lire; Naples, arms; Spain, 2 reales; all Levant, Belgium, Sweden, &c. &c. A fine fleet of thirty-two Buenos ships formed a fitting convoy.

TH. LEMAIRE, Paris. *Bronze Medal.*

L. DE RAMERU, Geneva. „

G. PORTAL, Nîmes. *Diploma.*

These all included good stamps; but were, of course, distanced by their London competitor.

CLASS IX.

Best Collection of Entires of one Country.

H. LIENHARD, Zurich. *Silver Medal.*

L. DE RAMERU, Aigle. *Bronze* „

Only two exhibitors—the former a good one—showing the regrettably general decline in collecting Entires.

CLASS X.

General Collection of Entires.

M. PICARD, La Chaux de Fonds. *Diploma.* One other entry only.

CLASS XI.

Collection of 500 Good Stamps remarkable for Rarity or Condition.

Mdlle. DUPERREX, Lausanne. *Diploma.*

G. D'ESTIENNE FILS, Geneva. „

CLASS XII.

Collection of Fiscals of the Country.

C. E. HOFFMANN, St. Imier. *Bronze Medal.*

CLASS XIII.

"The Most Useful Books on Stamps."

H. KRÖTZSCH, Leipsic. *Silver Medal.*
J. B. MOENS, Brussels. „
SCOTT STAMP AND COIN CO., LTD., New York. *Silver Medal.*
STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., London. *Silver Medal.*
E. HEITMAN, Leipsic. *Diploma.*
W. BROWN, Salisbury. „
M. DÄNIKER, Zurich. „

CLASS XIV.

The Best Stamp Album.

Division A. Printed Albums.

BAUMBACH AND CO., Leipsic. *Silver Medal.*
W. BROWN, Salisbury. „
C. F. LÜCKE, Leipsic. „
STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., London. „
E. HEITMAN, Leipsic. *Bronze Medal.*
G. DAPINO, Milan. *Diploma.*

Division B. Plain Albums.

STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., London. *Silver Medal.*
H. KRÖTZSCH, Leipsic. *Bronze Medal.*
J. JAQUIER, Morges. *Diploma.*

CLASS XV.

Philatelic Sundries and Necessaries.

H. KRÖTZSCH, Leipsic. *Diploma.*

CLASS XVI.

Philatelic Journals.

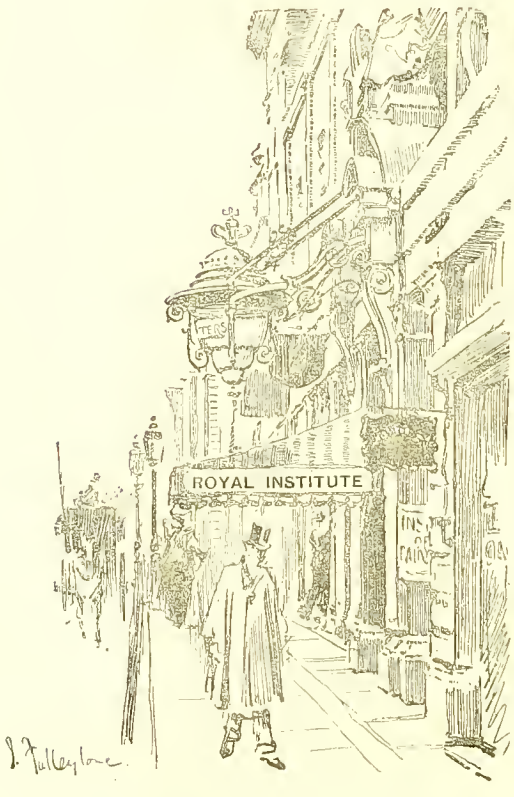
Le Timbre-Poste, J. B. Moens. *Silver Medal.*
The Monthly Journal, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. *Silver Medal.*
Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung, Philatelic Society of Geneva. *Bronze Medal.*
Gazette Timbrologique, Paris. *Diploma.*
Il Franco Bollo, V. Gussoni, Milan. „
Die Post, Leipsic. „

This exhausts the lists of prizes, and I am inclined, on the whole, to consider there were too many classes, and too few "foreign" stamps. I ought, however, to mention one or two exhibits kindly sent in not for

competition. The principal of these was that of M. Joerin-Suter, the President of the Basle Society, and a member of the Jury, who sent a beautifully-designed and hand-painted frame enclosing many fine stamps, including: Basle, two unused (the finest in the Exhibition), and seven used; Zurich, both varieties of 4; Vaud 4 c.; with other Cantonals; and plates of Orts Post, Poste Locale, and Rayons. Mr. F. Menke, of Zurich, also showed a good case, including 4 c. Vaud, 10 c. Geneva, and fifteen of the 4 r. Zurich, both plates complete. There were also other like varieties from Dr. Schumacher, W. Hauser, &c.

In conclusion, I can but reiterate my impressions that the Geneva Philatelic Exhibition has been, on the whole, a great success; that it has evoked, on the part of the Geneva Philatelic Society, a great work, carefully thought out and energetically wrought out; and that it has been the means of giving to me and many others a most delightful summer holiday.

The London Philatelic Exhibition.



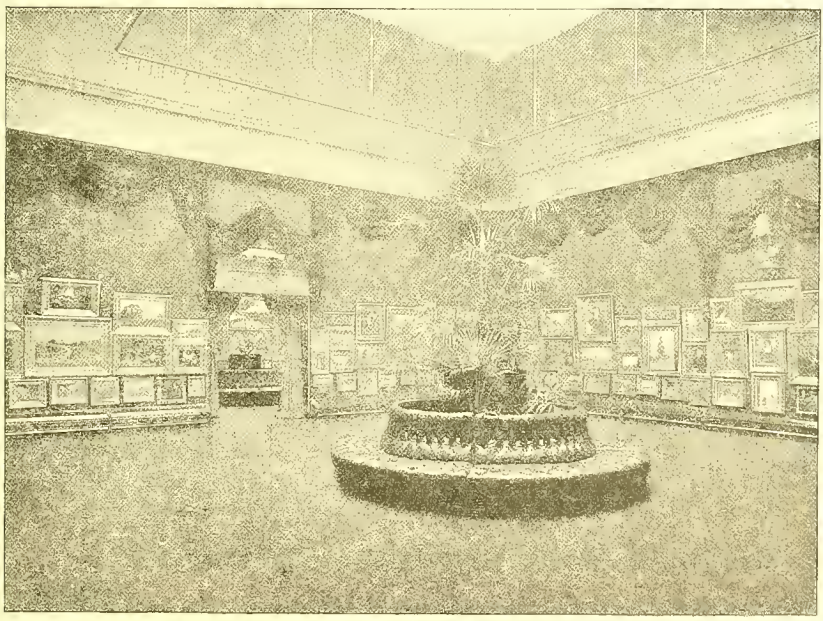
SINCE the mid-July meeting of the Joint Committee, noted in our last issue, only one sitting has been held in furtherance of the London Philatelic Exhibition. It was then decided, in accordance with the intention always held by the original promoters of the scheme, to enlarge as far as possible the scope and character of the General Committee. With this view, it was decided to ask the adhesion of a large number of the most prominent Philatelists and dealers in this country, as well as the Chairmen and Hon. Secretaries of the leading provincial Philatelic Societies. We have reason to believe that many favourable replies have been received, and that the General Committee will be, as always fully intended, so representative in its character as to be unassailable by the most captious critic.

It appears that a slight misconception had arisen in certain quarters as to the real scope of the promoters of the Exhibition in the first instance, and we have been favoured by Mr. Tilleard, the Acting Hon. Secretary, with the

The Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours.

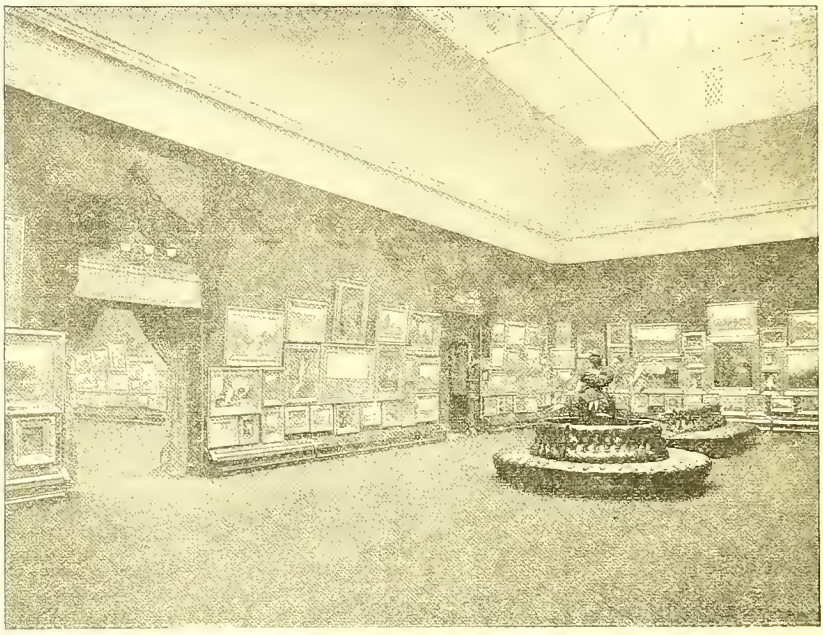


A CORNER IN THE WEST GALLERY.



CENTRAL GALLERY.

The Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours.



EAST GALLERY



EAST AND CENTRAL GALLERIES.

following succinct and interesting communication, which should suffice to prove, to all concerned, the groundlessness of the fears raised in the columns of our contemporary:

"4, Lombard Court, London, E.C.,
"*27th July*, 1896.

"Dear Sir,—The letter from "G," published in the issue of *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* of Saturday last, is so calculated to convey a wrong impression as to the action of the Philatelic Society, London, and the views and intentions of the promoters of the proposed Exhibition, that I think it desirable to explain what has actually been done.

"Some time before any communication from the Crystal Palace Company, the idea of holding an Exhibition in London in the coming year had been discussed between some of the leading collectors and dealers, and steps had been taken with the object of initiating the movement.

"While the matter was thus under consideration, the *London Society* was invited by the authorities to arrange and organize, for the Crystal Palace Company, an Exhibition at Sydenham. The suggestion was brought before a General Meeting of the Society, and was referred to the Council to be dealt with.

"Feeling the necessity of securing the co-operation of the dealers, a large number of the principal members of the trade and of the Philatelic Press were invited to meet the Council. After a full discussion, representatives of both bodies interviewed the manager of the Crystal Palace, and ascertained in detail what arrangements could be made, and only after full enquiries had been instituted as to the cost of insurance (an expense which had to be provided for), and of other matters of vital importance for ensuring success, it was decided that the Crystal Palace would not be a suitable place for the Exhibition

"None of the very great advantages of the offer of the Crystal Palace Company were by any means overlooked, and it was only with very great reluctance and regret that an adverse decision was arrived at.

"The principal reasons for the decision—there were many minor ones—were, the heavy cost of insurance; a doubt as to the possibility of sufficiently guaranteeing the safety of exhibits; and the fact that several of the largest collectors, whose co-operation is absolutely necessary to the success of any Philatelic Exhibition, were so strongly opposed to the idea that their stamps would not have been available.

"Under these circumstances, the Council had no alternative but to decline the offer, as the Society could not be expected to organize an Exhibition without the certainty of being able to make it a success.

"At the same time, as there was a generally expressed opinion that an Exhibition should be held in London, it was felt that the meetings afforded an opportunity of taking the preliminary steps for securing this object. Enquiries were accordingly made as to the most suitable places, and almost every available place in London was visited and inspected, with the result that the Galleries of the Royal Institution of Painters in Water Colours were found to be the most suitable under all the circumstances which had to be considered.

"In order to make a beginning, a provisional General Committee was formed, consisting of persons who had attended any of the meetings, with power to add to

their number; and, although possibly this Committee is not yet thoroughly representative so far as collectors are concerned, the trade is already strongly represented.

"A start having been made, it is intended, at the first meeting to be held this week, to propose that the President and Secretary of each of the principal provincial Societies, together with the other prominent collectors and dealers who have not yet promised their support, should be invited to join the Committee; and the members will, I feel sure, gladly welcome suggestions as to any other well-known Philatelists willing and able to help them in the exceptionally heavy work which the Exhibition will entail.

"I think I have said enough to show that there is no intention that the Exhibition should be 'confined to a few members of the London Society,' and that there is no foundation for the suggestion of 'autocratic measures.'

"In conclusion, I trust that there will be an end to recriminations, and that all lovers of our hobby will heartily co-operate to make the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1897 the great success which I feel sure it will be.

"Yours truly,

"J. A. TILLEARD.

"The Editor *The London Philatelist*."

We are indebted to Mr. W. T. Blackmore, the Secretary of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, for the illustrations accompanying this article, which speak for themselves, and clearly show how admirably the Galleries are adapted for the purposes of a Philatelic Exhibition.

Philatelic Note.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

FORGERIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

OUR special correspondent writes that he has seen a dozen copies of the 2d., blue, 1880, with forged surcharge "O S" in red, the surcharge being, in every case, over the postmark.

Occasional Notes.

NOVA SCOTIA CENTS ISSUE.

WE hear that a large remainder, consisting of some thousands of each value, has been found of the above issue, and that the stamps have been sold to a syndicate in Canada at their respective face values. The proceeds of the sale are, no doubt, a nice little windfall for the Government Department concerned; but collectors of British North American stamps can hardly be expected to be jubilant over the transaction.

AN INGENIOUS FORGERY.

WHILE at the Geneva Exhibition, we were shown, by one of the leading Italian dealers, specimens of a novel and highly ingenious forgery. The initial stage in the development of the plot is simply the procuring specimens of the ½, 1, or 2 grano, pink, Naples, in used condition, the paler in tone the better. The next step is to discharge the colour, either by chemicals or exposure, leaving, of course, the postmark and watermark intact. The third, and most important proceeding, is to print upon the impressed paper an imitation of the ½-tornese blue cross! In general appearance the genuine stamp has been very closely imitated; and, showing as it does irreproachable postmark and paper, the first impression created in the beholder's mind is a remarkably good one. A closer inspection, however, reveals several fatal inaccuracies, which we suppress for the benefit of all concerned. It will, moreover, be seen that traces of the defunct pink stamp are to be noted; hence, with a moderate amount of care, collectors will not fall into this trap, which, though assuredly as novel as ingenious, hardly deserves a better fate!

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

WE are glad to note, from the Annual Report of this flourishing Society, that they have been enabled to follow the lead of the Philatelic Societies of London, New York, Vienna, and elsewhere, in having a *locale*, or home of their own. The following paragraphs occur in the Report, and we can but heartily wish our Australian friends continued success.

"Your Committee decided, after due consideration, to rent a room solely for the use of members, to which the now extensive library has been conveyed; and members can have access to any of the books and periodicals, at any time during business hours.

"The expense incurred in furnishing this room was necessarily heavy; but by a very generous response of the members, to an invitation of your Committee to voluntarily subscribe, these expenses were recouped.

*

"Your Committee desires to express its sincere thanks to all those who contributed to this fund, and hopes that each and every member will patronise the room whenever possible."

THE DIFFICULTIES OF PHILATELIC DESCRIPTION.

THERE is far more art than seems apparent to the uninitiated in correctly pricing and noting a collection of stamps for sale; and although to our leading dealers it may be a matter of almost daily routine, they are still bound to use their best endeavours in order to "naught extenuate, or aught set down in malice." An amusing instance of the conscientious way in which some members of the trade carry out this function occurred recently. Among the early issues of a certain country, whose stamps are scarce in Mint condition, were a number of "unused specimens." Some of these were, as usual, more unused than the others, in possessing adhesive matter on the reverse; these were promptly marked "o.g.," and priced accordingly. Further down the same page were a few whose gum was mellowed, perhaps by age, and these were naturally dubbed "old gum." But the definition was discountenanced by the fact, that in the last row was a stamp of brownish hue, which justified the title of "older gum"; and the dealer proudly turned the page, conscious of having done his level best in the interests of the stamps—and his prices. The sequel is, however, sad: in the following page, three specimens of the self-same stamps displayed themselves, browned through and through by the gum; and in utter despair as to what higher title to give as to age, they were dubbed "prehistoric gum"! It is reported that this effort was too much for the Philatelic energies of the gentleman in question, and that he now bears signs of mental aberration, and madly murmurs about mediæval mucilage!

REPRINTS OF VICTORIA.

DOUBTLESS most of our readers, who are interested in the stamps of Victoria, will remember that some twelve months ago reprints of certain of the obsolete Victorian issues appeared; a letter dealing with these was published in the *Australian Philatelist* for October, 1895. The matter was at the time taken up by the Victoria Philatelic Society, and brought under the notice of the Postmaster-General of the Colony, who, as a result, gave promise that no further supplies should be printed without some distinguishing mark of difference.

We are in receipt of several communications both from the Colony and abroad—sources, we may say, which are beyond question—to the effect that it is strongly to be suspected that supplies of the remainders of these reprints in stock are still being obtained by the connivance of someone in the Post-office; and for the following information we are greatly indebted to our correspondents, who are anxious that those interested in Victoria should be warned from purchasing stamps represented as originals, which are merely reprints.

In June last a Government Stamp Agent in Adelaide had for sale a quantity of these reprints, in blocks of four, taken from the right-hand top corner, with margin attached. The following is a list:

1. 9d., brown on rose, Crown and V.
2. 4d., blue and carmine „ surch. Stamp Duty.
3. 1s., black and blue „ „
4. 2s. „ „ „
5. 1886. 1s. 6d., blue „
6. 1888. ½d., grey „
7. Envelope, 1892. 1d., carmine.

On showing these to a member of the Philatelic Society of South Australia, these stamps were promptly condemned, and the Agent warned; but nevertheless they were palmed off the same day to a collector in Adelaide, who never suspected their nature.

The chief points of difference are:

1. 9d., brown on rose.

Evidently none of the original brown-rose paper was available, and the reprint has been made on the rose-coloured paper used for the 1d. stamp of 1887; the colour also of impression is far too light.

2, 3, 4. 4d., 1s., and 2s., Stamp Duty.

No means of telling these from the originals, unless it is that the colours are too bright.

5. 1886–88. 1s. 6d., blue.

Colour lighter than original.

6. ½d., grey.

Exactly like original.

It appears that a man, who has obtained a quantity of these reprints, sailed for England in the beginning of July, with the object of disposing of them in London as originals at high prices.

The stamps, if offered, will, no doubt, be described as remainders; but are actually reprints, as any remainders were destroyed.

We have suppressed all names for obvious reasons; but the above will, we hope, be sufficient to put collectors and dealers on their guard; and for prompt and full details, we have again to thank our correspondents.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND LONDON, W.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.—We have some items of interest from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. In a letter received by Mr. Whitfield King from the Postmaster-General, information is given that the £25 stamps have now been issued, but up to a recent date only seven had been sold; further, that "when the penny stamps (first issue) became exhausted, the one penny on 2d. (see vol. iv. p. 328) could not be issued soon enough, and permission was given by H.M. Commissioner to the Postmasters of Blantyre, Chiromo, and Zomba to cut the 2d. stamps in half, and use as 1d. This was only for a day or two, and only 50 of these provisionals were used." The specimen forwarded for inspection is postmarked "Zomba JY 8. B.C.A." Our correspondents also send us a copy of the one penny on 2d. with a double surcharge, one *above* the letters "B.C.A." and the other normal. This came off the first sheet printed; the printer finding that the surcharge was too high, put the same sheet in a second time, after altering as required.

Adhesives.

1d., brown, red, and black (2d., vertically bisected).
One penny on 2d., green, red, and black; double surcharge.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—The *Philatelic Record* gives some interesting information, anent the recent surcharges, received from the Postmaster at Zanzibar. He says:

"Roughly speaking about 3000 each of the values up to rs. 1, and 1000 each of 2, 3, 4, 5 rupees of I. B. E. A. Company's stamps were overprinted 'British East Africa,' excepting the 2 annas stamp, and there were very few of these in stock.

"Over 10,000 of each value of the Indian stamps were overprinted 'British East Africa,' and over 15,000 of each were overprinted 'Zanzibar.' The overprinting was done at *Zanzibar Gazette* office, not in London.

"New stamps are ordered for Zanzibar, showing a photograph of H.H. the Sultan of Zanzibar, with palm trees, red flags, and Arabic writing.

"The various values will be ½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 5, 7½, and 8 annas; Rupees 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

"The surcharging of the late I.B.E.A. Company's stamps was done at Mombasa by a hand-stamp, under my supervision. This hand-stamp was made by fixing printer's type into a wooden handle with a hollow at one end, and the type secured by pouring in molten lead."

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—We have received the higher values of the new issue from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., which, although somewhat gaudy in colours, present a very handsome appearance.

Adhesives.

2 shillings, dark blue and green on *flesh* (?).
2s. 6d., brown and purple on *yellow*.
3s., green and lilac on *blue*.
4s., red and dark blue on *green*.
5s., red and green on *white*.
10s., slate and carmine on *pink*.

CANADA.—From various sources we learn that the ½ c. adhesive has been retouched, and the whole stamp lightened up.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The 1½d. card has received in addition to the usual inscription, the words "Union Postale Universelle" above the words "Cape of Good Hope."

GWALIOR.—The following stamps have been surcharged "Gwalior," with the additional native characters underneath.

Adhesives.

2 as 6 pies, green, black surcharge.
1 rupee, green and carmine ; black surcharge.
2 ,, brown and carmine ,,
3 ,, green and brown ,,
5 ,, violet and blue ,,

JHIND.—Mr. F. R. Fraser sends for our inspection a hitherto unchronicled variety in the current ½ anna envelope. The variety appears chiefly in the words "JHIND STATE," which appear above the arms, the letters being of larger type ; minor differences are also noted in the size and shape of various portions of the arms, more noticeably the scroll at base, the length of which is 12 mm. as against 10 mm. in the ordinary specimen, the latter being more arched.

Envelope. ½ anna, green ; black surcharge ; *vi ty.*

NIGER COAST.—We have the ½d. stamp from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. in a new shade—yellow-green.

Adhesive. ½d., yellow-green.

QUEENSLAND.—We are indebted to Mr. W. Hadlow for a specimen of the 2½d. adhesive with the background erased, showing the profile of Queen on white ground.

Adhesive. 2½d., carmine.

ST. VINCENT.—Respecting the 5s. stamp, perf. 12, recently chronicled, the *A. J. of Ph.* remarks : "We have grave doubts about this stamp, as we have seen some, the perforation of which was undoubtedly 'faked.'"

SEYCHELLES.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* publishes an interesting letter from a correspondent at Mahe.

"Some time ago I announced that there would probably be certain changes in our present postal rates. I have now to inform you that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has sanctioned these changes. The new rates, with the equivalents in English money, are as follows :

" For printed matter, 4 cents of a rupee, ½d.
For postal cards, 8 ,, ,, 1d.
For single letters, 18 ,, ,, 2½d.

"As we already have 4 and 8 cents stamps, am of opinion that only two new values will be issued, viz. 18 and 36 cents. There is some talk of a 1 rupee value, but the question is not yet decided.

"As the above changes are about to be made in our local values, the following information with reference to previous issues of all values may be of interest.

"*Postage Stamps, Postal Cards, and Stamped Envelopes, issued in the Colony of Seychelles to 1st June,* 1896.

"VALUE.	NO. ISSUED.	STOCK ON HAND.
2 c. ..	163,440 ..	81,000
3 c. ..	131,880 ..	72,000
4 c. ..	156,720 ..	79,440
8 c. ..	145,680* ..	69,000
10 c. ..	99,960 ..	96,560†
12 c. ..	107,880 ..	90,000
13 c. ..	28,800 ..	15,000†
15 c. ..	100,860 ..	60,000
16 c. ..	161,200 ..	12,000†
45 c. ..	47,160 ..	37,200†
48 c. ..	28,200 ..	3,000†
96 c. ..	16,800 ..	none‡

* "Those not sold for postage are surcharged 4 cents, and used for Inland Revenue purposes.

† "When present stock is disposed of no more will be issued.

‡ "Now obsolete.

"*Surcharges.*

"VALUE.	NO. ISSUED.	STOCK ON HAND.
3 c. on 4 c. ..	90,480 ..	obsolete
12 c. on 16 c. ..	23,760 ..	5880
15 c. on 16 c. ..	24,000 ..	5160
45 c. on 48 c. ..	13,200 ..	obsolete
90 c. on 96 c. ..	8,160 ..	,,

"*Stamped Envelopes.*

"VALUE.	NO. ISSUED.	STOCK ON HAND.
8 c. ..	30,700 ..	23,200
15 c. ..	31,175 ..	22,100
30 c. ..	31,300 ..	26,770

"These were issued in March, 1895, and are being disposed of very slowly. The 30 c. will probably be overprinted 18 c.

"*Post Cards.*

"VALUE.	NO. ISSUED.
4 c. ..	15,275
6 c. ..	12,175
8 c. ..	15,275

"All on sale.

"*Errors, etc.*

"Inverted surcharges appeared on two denominations, only 120 being so issued in each case. These values were 3 c. on 4 c., and 15 c. on 16 c. Of the 12 c. on 15 c. surcharge, 4 copies were issued with double surcharge."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—We are indebted to Mr. G. Blockey for the following interesting comments on the series of stamps at present in use :

"There seems to be a great deal of uncertainty among European collectors and cataloguers concerning what stamps are being used in South Australia at the present time, and there are two or three stamps generally catalogued which we out here are in total ignorance of. For instance, Stanley Gibbons have the following in their list :

187 3d., olive-green ; perf 15.
190 1s., brown ; perf 15.
566 O.S., 3d., olive-green ; perf. 10.

"Also the following have been chronicled in error :

O.S., 2½d. on 4d. ; perf, 15.
O.S., 3d., green ; perf. 15.

"So I thought perhaps if a full list of present issues was published it might clear up one or two points of uncertainty.

DATE OF ISSUE.		PERF.	FORMER ISSUE.
Jan. 1893	½d., red-brown	15	ditto ; perf. 10×10×10×11½.
July 1895	1d., green	13	ditto ; perf. 15.
,,	2d., orange	13	ditto ,, 15.
1895	2½d., blue-lilac	13	ditto ,, 15.
1892	3d., olive-green	10	sage-green ; 10.

DATE OF ISSUE.		PERF.	FORMER ISSUE.
Jan. 1896	4d., bright violet	13	dull violet 15.
1895	5d , brown-purple	13	ditto; but deeper shade; perf. 15.
Mar. 1896	6d., bright blue	13	ditto; perf. 15.
1892	9d., lilac-rose	11½	ditto; but deeper shade; perf. 11½.
June 1895	1s. light sepia	11½	brown; perf. 11½ and 11½×12½.
1876-96	2s., crimson	11½	ditto; perf. 10 and 11½ and 12½.
1894-95	2s. 6d., lilac	11½	ditto; perf. 10.
	5s., rose	,,	,, ,,
	10s., green	,,	,, ,,
	15s., yellow-brown	,,	,, ,,
	£1, blue	,,	,, ,,
	£2, red-brown	,,	,, ,,
	50s., venetian-red	,,	,, ,,
	£3, sage-green	,,	,, ,,
	£4, lemon	,,	,, ,,
	£5, olive-brown	,,	grey ,,
	£10, bronze	,,	,, ,,
	£15, silver	,,	,, ,,
	£20, mauve	,,	,, ,,

"The £10, £15, £20 postage and revenue stamps are not kept in stock at the Post-office, but are obtained from the printer as ordered.

Service stamps surcharged O.S. (in thin type).

DATE OF ISSUE.		PERF.	FORMER ISSUE.
May 1896	½d., red-brown	15	same perf. 10×10×10×11½.
Jan. 1896	1d., green	13	same; perf. 15.
,,	2d., orange	13	,, ,, 15
1892-93	2½d on 4d., red and green	10	,, but Block O.S.
1894	4d., dull violet	15	violet; perf. 10
1891	5d., on 6d., carmine and brown	10	none.
1893	6d , bright blue	15	same; perf. 10.
1894	1s., brown	11½	,, but Block O.S.
May 1896	2s., crimson	10×11½	same; but Block O.S.

"The 1s., brown, and 2s., crimson, with O.S. in block type are still in use, but are gradually being used up, and superseded with the new stamps with surcharge in narrow letters.

"In April, I think it was, of this year, the £5 stamp was changed in colour from grey to a delicate shade of olive-brown; the reason for the change being that the old grey stamp was too faint in colour, and apt to fade.

"I have heard from an official source that the 3d., olive-green, perf. 10, will not be reprinted after the present supply is exhausted, and also that the 1s. plate which has been in constant use since 1856, is now very much worn, and will probably have to be replaced shortly by a fresh design.

"A supply of the new type of 5d. has been surcharged "O.S.," but will not be issued to the several Government Departments until the surcharged 5d. on 6d. are exhausted.

ZANZIBAR—The *P. J. of G. B.* chronicles the current 1 rupee Indian as having received the surcharge "Zanzibar."

Adhesive. 1 rupee, green and carmine; black surcharge.

EUROPE.

BULGARIA.—From copies received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we find the colour of the 2 leva stamp on page 183 incorrect: it should be rose-red.

The *M.J.* has received the 5 stot. Unpaid Letter Stamp in the type given on page 183.

Adhesive. 2 leva, rose-red.
Unpaid Letter Stamp. 5 stot., orange.

FINLAND.—*Le T.-P.* chronicles two more values of the current set, perf. 14.

Adhesives. 5 penni, green.
20 ,, orange.

HOLLAND.—The *Philatelic Record* chronicles the new 5 gulden stamp, which was issued on July 15th last; it is of same type as the 2 g., 50 c., and perf. 11.

Adhesive. 5 gulden, red-brown and bronze-green.

PORTUGAL.—*Le T.-P.* informs us that the 500 reis of the current type was issued on July 1st, perf. 11½.

Adhesive. 500 reis, black and red on *blue*.

SERVIA.—On page 184 we listed the new colour of the 1 dinar stamp as *red;* but, from a copy just to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the colour is decided *brown*.

Adhesive. 1 dinar, brown on *blue*.

AMERICA.

ANTIOQUIA.—*Le T.-P.* illustrates the design of a new set which came into use on June 15th last. The arms of Colombia occupy the centre, surrounded by a circular band (broken at the base to contain a tablet bearing the figure "2"), containing the words "DEPARTMENTO DE ANTIOQUIA,"—"REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" at top, "CENTAVOS" at base; the perforation is 14.

Adhesives. 2 centavos, grey.
2½ ,, brown.
3 ,, red.
5 ,, green.
10 ,, violet.
20 ,, yellow-green.
50 ,, bistre.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The 10 c. has now the new watermark. (Page 55.)

Under the "Article for the Month" the *P. J. of G. B.* reproduces with comment a somewhat remarkable story, which attaches to the decidedly crude design of the stamp on the new stationery—illustrated last month—and which, if true, would seem to necessitate an early change.

Postmasters in many cases are of autocratic tendency; but the fact that a Postmaster should deliberately set aside the design chosen by a Postal Commission,

and, to please his intended bride, adopt her head (or its profile !) as a substitute for the design, seems incredible : but so the story runs !

Adhesive. 10 c., carmine.

PARAGUAY. — We have received the current 1 c. adhesive from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. printed in grey.

Adhesive. 1 c., grey.

SANTANDER. — *Le T.-P.* chronicles a change of colour for the 5 c. adhesive—yellow-green in place of brown.

Adhesive. 5 c., yellow-green.

URUGUAY.—We hear of a copy of the 25 c. with centre inverted.

The entire series of current adhesives has been surcharged "Oficial."

OTHER COUNTRIES.

FRENCH COLONIES. — Further changes. The amalgamation of two more of the Colonies is announced by *Mekeel's Weekly*. The Colonies of Obock and Djibouti, having been united under one government, will hereafter have one set of stamps only, under the probable official title of Côte Française des Somalis. This will, we presume, necessitate a fresh series in the usual colonial type, but owing to the decidedly objectionable labels which become obsolete, no one can grumble.

TONGA.—We are anxiously awaiting that new series of stamps "preparing in London," which is to bring in the philatelic reign of peace and quiet to the Tongan Post-office. In the meantime *Mekeel's Weekly* publishes an interesting letter from a speculator in New Zealand, which plainly shows where a good proportion of the late rubbish is located. This gentleman offers no less than 101 complete sheets of various issues from 1887-1894 (sheets of 120, we presume), purchased as *remainders* from the Government.

This speaks volumes for the issue chronicled on pages 184 and 209, and needs no further explanation as to the dearth of stamps in Tonga.

TRANSVAAL.—The 5 shillings is now in use in two colours.

We have discovered what appears to be a genuine error in the current 2½ pence stamp, which is contained in the word "PENNY" being spelt "PFNNY." The specimen before us was recently received on a letter in the ordinary course by a non-philatelic friend.

Adhesives. 5 shillings, yellow and green.
2½ pence, blue and green, *error* PFNNY.

UGANDA.—It appears that there is a service from Uganda to Mombasa for which stamps of a very primitive nature are in use, the value being expressed in *cowries*. The *M. J.* gives the following list :

Adhesives. 5 cowries, mauve.
10 ,, ,,
20 ,, ,,
50 ,, black.
60 ,, ,,

The Market.

To prevent mistakes — Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used.

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON.

Sale on June 20th and 21st.

	£	s.	d.
Naples, ½d., Tornese Arms	14	5	0
Oldenburg, second issue, ⅓ gros., black on green	4	10	0
Moldavia, 1858, 81 paras, blue on bluish, cut square (poor)	82	10	0
Ceylon, 2s., blue, imperf.	10	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-vermilion, fair	16	0	0
Dominica, wmk. Cr. CA, 1s., mauve, pair unused	7	0	0
Montserrat, CA, 4d., blue	3	3	0
Nevis, lithographed, 6d., grey, unused pair	20	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s., unused	15	12	6
Tobago, 6d., ochre	10	0	0
Turks Islands, 2½d. on 1s., prune (Gibbons, No. 25), unused	7	15	0
Turks Islands, 4d. on 1s., prune (Gibbons, No. 28), unused	4	10	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., carmine, single-line border, unused	4	18	0

MESSRS. BUHL & CO., LTD.

Sale on July 7th and 8th.

	£	s.	d.
Dominican Republic, first issue, 1 real, black on yellow, unused	6	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s., lilac	21	0	0
,, ,, 6d., yellow	4	15	0
,, ,, "Connell," unused	21	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., deep violet (used, on portion of original, with a 3d. blue, and three copies of the 1d. red-brown).	30	0	0
Newfoundland, 1s, scarlet-vermilion	28	0	0
St. Christopher, wmk. Cr. CA, 4d., blue, unused	6	15	0

THE

London Philatelist:

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Australian Stamps.

A PARAGRAPH has recently appeared in the columns of an esteemed contemporary to the effect that Australian stamps were practically a drug in the market in this country. We must venture to differ from this opinion, and take up the cudgel on behalf of this most interesting group. It cannot be denied that there has been a falling off in the very prominent position held by Australian stamps a few years since, or that, in cricket parlance, their average for the last two years has been reduced. There have been valid and obvious reasons for this decadence of interest, which, however, in our opinion is not only limited, but temporary. The main reasons for the less prominent position now held by Oceanian stamps are not far to seek. We should cite the fact of the bad times in Australia, which have caused so many collectors "out there" to part with their treasures; the cessation of their collection, through various causes, by certain leading collectors in Europe, *e.g.* the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, MM. Caillebotte (to one of whom the same sad prefix must be given), and the present Vice-President of the London Society; the fact that many other collectors have completed their plates; and lastly, the extraordinary and volcanic impetus that has raised the West Indian stamps to be the fashion of the day.

It will be seen that all the above causes are likely to be but transient in their operation. Our ranks are specially refilled, the prosperity of a nation almost invariably reasserts itself, and fashions change even more rapidly. There is therefore no reason for those who collect Australians to-day to anticipate a gloomy future. It was the appearance of the general set of

stamps for the Leeward Islands that started the boom in West Indians. A similar issue for Australia is not beyond the bounds of possibility, and such an apparition, extinguishing all the irregular issues—to use the mildest term—that have of late disfigured Queensland, Tasmania, and New South Wales, would have a like effect upon the far more interesting group of Oceanic stamps.

Our admissions as to any depreciation of esteem for the Australian stamps end here; nor in anything previously written do we mean to imply more than a partial and temporary effect upon certain stamps. On general grounds, we deny that there is anything like a "slump" in Oceanians, an opinion fully borne out by leading dealers at home and abroad. There are, both in this country and abroad, very many collectors who especially affect such countries as South and West Australia, and New South Wales, while the estimation in which Queensland is held has markedly increased. New Zealand well holds its own; the countries that have practically remained stationary during the past two or three years being Tasmania, Victoria, and Fiji. As regards Tasmania, there has been no falling off in prices in the early issues—fine specimens of the first issue being hard to find—but there is reason to believe that the multiplicity of the recent varieties, and of the various unofficial or quasi-official perforations, has tended to keep off new recruits. Victoria is a difficult country, and hence may also suffer from a lack of new adherents; but the Victorian stamps are replete with interest, and to those who are possessed of the true Philatelic ardour there is no happier hunting-ground. The "half-length," "full-length," and "emblems" issues are of the highest order of interest and variety, can be obtained at reasonable prices, and well merit an increased following. The standard rarities of this country—the 5s. blue and yellow, the 6d. orange, and the "fine" 2d. of the first issue—steadily increase in price, while medium stamps, as the "Registered," "Too late," the "Ninepennies," and "Tenpennies," have shown an increase of value that will bear comparison with most other stamps. West Australians had their "boom" three years since, but have maintained their rise. South Australia and Queensland (the former mainly owing to Messrs. Napier & Gordon Smith's excellent *brochure*) have greatly advanced, both in the value of the stamps and the number of their collectors. The issues of both countries are among the finest that have emanated from Messrs. Perkins & Bacon, and both abound in those *nuances* of perforation, watermark, and paper that enlist the attention and increase the enjoyment of the true Philatelist. In the case of the South Australian Departmentals they have, perhaps, hardly held their own—the rise, both in number of varieties discovered and prices, having been abnormal. They, however, include many very scarce stamps, and afford a very charming field of collection. The remaining country, New South Wales (excepting Fiji, which is *in statu quo*), is the most important of the Australian section, and it is here, perhaps, that the greatest fluctuations of prices have been seen. We allude more especially to the Sydney Views. The cause of this is almost entirely to be ascribed to want of due Philatelic appreciation; to many collectors, in the past, one Sydney View was as good as another, and it has required the latter-day evolution of a finer appreciation of real condition to open their eyes. The large number of collectors who were, and doubtless

still are, plating, also tended to hold the inferior copies at a false level; but now that many of the larger collectors have completed their plates, they have ceased to purchase anything but fine specimens. The joint operation of these two factors has produced the present situation, which really constitutes the only real depreciation in Australians; *i.e.* that poor to medium Sydneys are worth from 25 to 50 per cent. less than they were three years since. On the contrary, choice or "superb" copies from the early impressions have not only held their own, but have, and deservedly, made a substantial advance. It is a curious fact that, while there has always existed a wide difference of estimation as to the state of the plate in the early Mauritius stamps, it is only, as already referred to, quite recently that the same obvious standard has been applied to the Sydneys. The latter had such a transitory existence before re-engraving, and the plates wore so rapidly, that sharp impressions, having escaped the well-known heavy postmark, may be fairly regarded as almost providential. It is an old dictum of the Australian school, that "one never gets two Sydneys exactly alike." Their true value is, therefore, to be accordingly appreciated. In the Laureated issues, and those succeeding them, there have been fewer especially-false estimates of condition to rectify, hence the fluctuations have not been so great; but, in the former, the "state of the plate" will always be duly weighed by the wise.

Our previous remarks have referred to used stamps, but, as regards unused specimens, there has been a great and general rise in appreciation, and, as a consequence, in value. There can be no doubt that a collection of Australian stamps (without attempting plating), *unused*, presents a field that is worthy of any collector's ambition. Varied in design, beautiful in their execution, and of infinite gradation as to shades, a fine collection of Oceanian stamps, in "mint condition," not only represents to-day the *acme* of difficulty, but, so long as Philately exists, will always be held in the highest estimation. It is safe to say that not one collector in a thousand has absorbed an accurate knowledge of the true rarity of many of the Australian stamps in unused condition, several of which are not known to exist. To the many votaries of Oceanian Philately we say, therefore, that a passing rage for any other particular group will in no wise affect the true and due estimation of Australian stamps, and that they are as charming to collect, and "as safe to hold," as the issue of any other country under the sun.

The General Unappropriated Colonial Plate.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on December 13th, 1895.

By GORDON SMITH.*



THE attention of a great number of collectors at the present day is largely occupied with the postal adhesive stamps of the West Indian possessions of Great Britain. This is not confined to the stamps produced by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.—stamps which rank among the handsomest ever made—but is extended to the later stamps, which were produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and which, whatever their merits in the eyes of the collector—and speculator—can hardly claim to be described as possessing much beauty.

The stamps manufactured by this firm may be divided into three classes, each of which marks a period of economic, rather than artistic, progress. We have: First, stamps printed from plates appropriated to a particular colony and to a particular value, such as the first issues of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, Jamaica, Sierra Leone (6d.), Ceylon ("cents" issues), Straits Settlements, &c., and notably, of course, those of the United Kingdom. Secondly, stamps printed from plates appropriated to a particular colony, but not to a particular value—this being inserted by a second printing—such as the stamps of Lagos, Dominica, Tobago, St. Christopher, Gibraltar, &c. And thirdly, stamps printed from plates unappropriated to any particular colony, or to any particular value. Of this class there are three varieties of plate, (1) where it is unappropriated to any particular service, (2) where it is appropriated to "Postage" only, and (3) where it is appropriated to "Postage and Revenue." These last two are quite modern, and have always appeared in two colours.

It is, however, of the first only of these plates that I wish to speak now. I call it "The General Unappropriated Colonial Plate," as the best description I can give; for, in addition to the fact that the design included neither the name nor the value, it has been extensively used for stamps of fiscal as well as postal nature.

The design of the plate is probably one of the best known, as it has served for a greater number of different stamps than any other, and has received as much (not unmerited) opprobrium for the poverty of design and general appearance as any other postage stamp made under every advantage that science and skill can supply.

* The subject of these two Dies has been previously dealt with by M. Grignard, and, to a certain extent, in this Journal also (see Vol. iv., August, 1896, pp. 211, 212). Mr. Gordon Smith, as will be seen, has made a more extended examination of the question, which result was given in a paper read at the close of last year before the London Society. We regret that, owing to abnormal demands on our space, this interesting paper should not have appeared earlier, but we can recommend it as being the most careful and accurate account of these interesting Die-varieties that has hitherto appeared.—Ed.

It consists of a diademed head of the Queen to the left, on a horizontally-lined background, octagonal in shape, surrounded by an octagonal frame, an uncoloured space lying between the background and the frame. The horizontal and vertical sides of the frame are produced both ways to form a square, and in the triangles thus formed are similar and similarly-situated triangles of colour, in which are trilobed uncoloured ornaments. Extending along each vertical side of the square is a row of sixteen diamond-shaped spaces on a ground of colour; above and below are rectangles for the name and value respectively; and the whole is enclosed in a rectangular frame.

Commonplace though this design may be, it possesses interest due to a cause hitherto, until quite recently, unsuspected by Philatelists. About eight months ago my attention was directed, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, to a difference in the general appearance of two sheets of the 30 paras Cyprus, a difference which seemed hardly to be accounted for by assigning them to distinct printings. A reference to the plate number in the margin of the pane (which, as most collectors are aware, is indicated by an uncoloured numeral, within a circular disc of solid colour), showed that plates 1 and 2 were apparently identical, but that plate 3 certainly differed from both.

I have since then made a careful examination of many stamps of this design, including those of Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Lucia, Turks Islands, Virgin Islands, Cyprus and Natal, with the following results:

I cannot detect any difference between plates 1 and 2. These I call Die I. Plate 3 is so different in many respects from its predecessors, that it has been, in my opinion, made either from Die I. re-engraved, or perhaps from an entirely new die. This I have called Die II.

The chief points of difference are:

	Die I.	Die II.
(1)	The 7th and 8th lines of the background, counting from the top, converge as they meet the top of the head, and the lines in front of the eye are not quite straight and parallel.	These irregularities have disappeared.
(2)	The uncoloured space in the coil of hair, just above the pendent curl, is, roughly speaking,	
	triangular.	oblong, with a line of colour partially dividing it at the left end.
(3)	The line of colour in front of the throat stops at the	
	6th line of shading on the neck.	8th line.
(4)	The number of lines traversing the eyelids	
	are 4.	are 3.
(5)	There are dots in the centres of the bosses of the thistles in the diadem, and the uncoloured facet of the middle jewel.	No dots.
(6)	The solid colour beneath the neck merges into the lower line of the background in front.	The solid colour stops abruptly against the *two* lowest lines in front.

The orifice of the ear, which in both is rather like a capital script *D*, is narrower in Die II. The front ornament on the diadem is differently shaped and differently placed, with respect to the angle of the octagon, in each die.

These differences will enable anyone to distinguish between the two dies, and with a very little practice (1), (2), (3) and (6) can be seen with the unaided eye.

These are the most salient, but every part of the head shows innumerable minor variations. The lines of the background also are thinner in Die II. With regard to the remainder of the design, I think, perhaps, there may be slight differences in the shape of the trilobed ornament in the corners of the square, but otherwise the frame portions of the two dies seem to be identical.

It will now be of further interest to state how these dies are distributed among the numerous stamps which have been formed from them.

All stamps, printed on paper watermarked Crown and CC, are from Die I., but both are found on the Crown and CA paper.

As the Postal Consolidation of the Leeward Islands group took place before Die II. came into use, it follows that all the values of this design of Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, and Virgin Islands are from Die I.

Of the other stamps, I have found the following with

DIE I. only.

Turks Islands. 2½d. brown, 4d. grey.

St. Lucia. 1d. rose, 6d. lilac, 1s. brown, and 6d. lilac and blue.

NOTE.—*The plate from which the Grenada stamps are printed is also from Die I.*

DIES I. AND II.

Turks Islands. ½d. green.

St. Lucia. ½d. green, 1d. lilac, 3d. lilac and green, 4d. brown, 1s. lilac and red.

Cyprus. 30 paras, ½, 1, 2, 4, 6, and 12 piastres.

Natal. 2d. olive-green.

DIE II. only.

Turks Islands. 2½d. blue.

St. Lucia. 5s. lilac and yellow, 10s. lilac and black.

Cyprus. 9, 18 and 45 piastres.

This list is necessarily imperfect, but I have indicated fourteen stamps which may be found of both types; the only addition, as far as I can see, that may possibly be found is the St. Lucia 6d., lilac and blue, which will doubtlessly appear as soon as the edition of the old Die is exhausted. Considering, therefore, the number of stamps which bear this design, collectors need not be frightened at the list of varieties which they should add to their collections.

In conclusion, I think it only fair to say that M. Grignard, who announced *his* discovery of some of these differences in *La Revue Philatelique* last summer, seems to have been a simultaneous discoverer, and must, therefore, be allowed to share in the honour.

Notes on the Cape Stamps.

COMPILED FROM THE OFFICIAL AND OTHER RECORDS AT CAPE TOWN.

By Capt. NORRIS-NEWMAN.

(1894).

Preface.

IN putting together these few notes on the various postal issues of the Cape Colony, the author lays claim to very little originality; as, in the first place, most of the vexed points had been discussed and so far satisfactorily disposed of by Mr. E. D. Bacon previously; and, in the second, no proper records had been kept in or of the Postal Department of the Cape until the commencement of responsible government in 1872, since which time very little of interest to the Philatelist has occurred here: whilst even since that date, and indeed up to very recently, all correspondence, orders, accounts, and other records were kept so mixed up with other matters, and distributed here and there between three different departments—the Colonial Office, the Treasury, and the Post Office—that it is almost impossible to find them at all, or to arrange anything like chronological order out of the existing chaos. For years past it had been a favoured plan of the author's to take the first opportunity of a long holiday out of a busy life, and devote it to the necessary researches at Cape Town for obtaining the materials for a complete history of the Cape postal issues; but, so far, this has been impossible, and the few notes now put before the Society, with the author's apology for their incompleteness and discursiveness, are only the hurried results of a fortnight's chance visit to Cape Town in December, 1893, when ordered up to Matabeleland. During this short time, however, the writer was much aided by the courtesy and assistance of the Colonial Secretary, the Assistant Treasurer-General, the Postmaster-General, and, specially, by the latter's private secretary, Mr. G. H. Andersson, who, being somewhat of a collector himself, took a very great and intelligent interest in the whole subject, and assisted in every way possible with the limited time and means at his command. The author has also to thank Messrs. S. D. Bairstow, Hirst, Knight, Moorby, Meyer, Raphael, and other South African Philatelists, for answers to many questions on points of interest and dispute with regard to the various issues, as well as for valuable information and hints on others.

Postmasters.

From the date of Great Britain finally becoming possessor of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, in 1811, up to the present time, there have been

six Postmasters-General, the holder of the office being a permanent official, neither a member of the Ministry—since responsible government—not removable except for misconduct; and the names, and dates of appointment and relinquishment, are as follow:

M. Gal . .	from 1811 to 1815.	Resigned.
Robert Crozier .	,, 1815 to 1851.	,,
J. A. Le Sueur .	,, 1851 to 1867.	,,
Charles Piers .	,, 1867 to 1873.	,,
G. W. Aitchison .	,, 1873 to 1892.	Died.
Somerset R. Ffrench .	,, 1892.	The present P.M.G.

Number of Offices.

Up to the end of last year, the total number of Cape offices was 728, including Basutoland and British Bechuanaland; but to these must now be added a few new ones, and all the offices throughout Mashonaland and Matabeleland (the provinces of Rhodesia), numbering about 20 in all; as, although "The Chartered Company"—or, as it should be termed, "The British South Africa Company"—have their own stamps (used for postal and revenue purposes alike), yet the management of their postal and telegraphic services is entirely under the control of the Cape Colony Postmaster-General; the rates, however, being fixed by the B.S.A. Company's authorities on an independent basis, as they are not yet under the U.P.U.

Defacing Stamps.

Since the first establishment of a postal service, in 1853, there have been a large number of different kinds of defacing or obliterating stamps in use throughout the Cape. The earliest was a triangle containing from eighteen to twenty lines of varying breadth across it, leaving a square space in the centre. This was followed by a similar one, but with the letters C G H in the three corners (Cape Town and Port Elizabeth using these until very recently), and nearly all the triangular stamps—steel engraved, wood blocks, and those reprints postally used—will be found to be defaced with either one or the other, few having a date stamp on them except those which are found penmarked—the only one I have in my whole collection being a 1d. red of the first issue, Perkins-Bacon type, dated Aug. 2, 1861, Port Elizabeth. Most of the stamps of the first issue, triangular and rectangular, double frame-lines, found penmarked, have been generally used for revenue, bank cheques, drafts, papers, and similar purposes, but few being found penmarked for postal use, on original envelopes, having passed through the post. Late in the fifties, or early in the sixties, a large upright oval was introduced, with from twelve to eighteen bars (thin) across it horizontally, with a centre square, in which the numbers of the different offices began to appear—from 1 up to how many, is not now known. And this, again, was followed by a similarly-shaped one, but with nine to twelve much thicker bars and numbers; and both of these are found in use simultaneously. From that date until Mr. Aitchison's time, several other kinds of defacing stamps were

used indiscriminately, always with blackish ink, turning to brown with age and exposure.

Since that time, the common pattern of date stamp, with name of office and changeable dates, with the later obliterating oval of bars, with number of office in centre, has been in use. One thousand of each of these were ordered, and nearly nine hundred issued up to date. Both of these may be found on recent and current stamps, being used for obliterating purposes equally.

A special long oval is also in use for registration letters.

First Issue.

Adhesives.

1st Sept., 1853, as per Government Notice, Aug. 18th, 1853.

Engraved on steel by Humphreys, for, and printed by, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., on thickish white wove paper, strongly gummed, and paper much blued on many issues, presumably by action of gum. Watermark a small anchor, found in various positions—sometimes double on the same stamp, but more often very indistinct. Imperforate, but several found rouletted unofficially; many having, however, passed through the post.

1d., brick-red; several shades. For newspapers until 15th Sept., 1860, when they were used for Cape Town local delivery; and on the 23rd April, 1861, for Port Elizabeth also.

4d., blue; light to dark, some quite black from oxidation. For ½ oz. letters within the Colony. 240 specimens on each sheet, in fifteen rows, horizontal, of sixteen stamps, arranged in eight pairs. Proofs in black on cardboard, and unwatermarked paper, both from individual dies, and whole plates are known of both values.

Second Issue.

19th Feb., 1858, as per Government Notice dated 18th Feb., 1858. Same as above.

Values.

6d., lilac; light and dark shades. For ½ oz. letter to Great Britain.

1s., green; light to dark, and yellow to deep. ½ oz. letter to foreign countries.

Unsevered pairs, strips, and blocks of all are known, but are not common.

The size of the sheets of all the above was about $10\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, the space between each stamp being about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch, with $\frac{3}{2}$ inch between each pair, and ¼ inch between each row, with a half-inch margin all round.

Total number of each kind supplied by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., as follows:

Numbers of above.

1d., from May 9th, 1853, to May 8th, 1861 .	23,625 sheets	= 5,670,000	stamps.
4d. „ „ .	29,850 „	= 7,164,000	„
6d., from Dec. 16th, 1857, to April 1st, 1862 .	3,833 „	= 919,920	„
1s. „ „ .	1,584 „	= 380,160	„

The plates were then handed over by Perkins, Bacon & Co. to the Crown Agents, and by them to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., on January 18th, 1862.

De La Rue Issues.

The following are the numbers and details of the stamps printed and supplied from the same plates by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

From England.		Distributed in Cape.					
Jan. 31st, 1863	...	June, 1863	...	398 sheets	= 95,520 stamps		6d., bt. mauve.
,,	...	,,	...	158 ,,	= 38,120	,,	1s., emerald-green.
Apr. 17th, 1863	...	Sept., 1863	...	195 ,,	= 46,800	,,	4d., bt. violet-blue.
Dec. 2nd, 1863	...	April, 1864	...	2056 ,,	= 493,440	,,	1d., deep red.
,,	...	,,	...	2004 ,,	= 480,960	,,	4d., violet-blue.
Apr. 13th, 1864	...	Sept., 1864	...	3040 ,,	= 729,600	,,	1d., brownish red.
,,	...	,,	...	3067 ,,	= 736,080	,,	4d., violet-blue.

All these issues were printed on thinner wove paper, glazed surface, with different kind and quality of gum, and in clearer colours and more distinct impressions; although there is nothing to show either that new plates were used at any time, or even the old plates retouched, as there is no mention of any change being made by De La Rue, or such an item in any accounts. Proofs are known of all the above in black.

The plates were destroyed in England, in the presence of the Crown Agents, on the 7th, 8th, and 10th July, 1865.

During 1863 Messrs. De La Rue received orders to prepare designs for a rectangular stamp, of the more ordinary size and shape; and, after much correspondence, the now well-known design of a female figure—Hope—sitting on an anchor, with a ram at one side, and a grape-vine at the other—significant of the Cape industries—was adopted, and has remained in use up to last year (1894)—nearly thirty years.

In 1863 the ½ oz. rate to Great Britain by mail packet was raised to 1s., and by private ship to 4d.; and in 1864 the 1d. rate came in force in other colonial towns; and was gradually extended, until in 1889 it became the universal inland rate for ½ oz. in the Colony and its dependencies.

Fourth Issue.

Provisional.

The supplies of 1d. and 4d. triangular stamps beginning to run short in January, 1861, arrangements were made with Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., the then Government printers, to issue a temporary supply, which was done during April, 1861, after a long correspondence and some difficulty. The original design was copied and engraved on wood—two separate engravings of the 1d. and 4d.—by the late Mr. Charles Bell, the Surveyor-General of the Cape Colony; and these were reproduced by some electrotype or stereotype process separately, until sixty-four blocks of each were done. These were then cemented on wood, in four horizontal rows, of eight pairs in each row; but the dies were so unevenly arranged and put together on the wood, that the spaces between the stamp-pairs and rows vary from one-sixteenth to three-sixteenths of an inch, irregularly throughout; the total length and breadth of the sheets being $10\frac{1}{4} \times 4$, with a margin

all round of nearly three-quarters of an inch. Owing, doubtless, to carelessness in cementing the reproduced dies together, one error crept into each block, viz., a 1d. red die with the 4d. blue plate and *vice versa;* the exact position of each being as follows, as shown by the sheet of reprints now in the possession of the Cape Treasury, Department of Distributor of Stamps. (There are two puzzles here, however; the first being why two blank spaces should appear in the 1d. sheets, and only one in the 4d.; as, on looking over carefully each sheet of all that are left of the latter, I could find no trace of the die with a broken or repaired corner, such as undoubtedly existed in the original, as per specimens met with in different collections.)

Of this first provisional issue the records show that 385 sheets—twenty over = 24,660—of the 1d. were issued by the Government to the public; and of the 4d., 200 sheets—forty over = 12,840; but there is nothing to show what quantity was printed by Saul Solomon & Co., or actually delivered by them to the authorities.

It is hardly probable that they would have delivered anything but complete sheets; so that the likelihood is that a complete sheet or more, and the missing portions of the others, were acquired as specimens by officials previous to their issue to the public.

The paper used was a very ordinary white laid of average quality; well gummed, with no wmk. or perforations. There is no record in the office of any more than one printing, as they were all delivered on the same day; but the difference in colour and shade shows distinctly that the printers must have used separate lots of ink, and may have made two or more printings of the issue. Neither is there anything to show whether the error of change of dies was found out during the printings or afterwards, as it was only after their reproduction for reprinting purposes in 1884 that the dies were removed—two from the 1d. and one from the 4d.—and the blocks afterwards put away; they are still kept locked up in the vaults under three keys, in the possession of the Under Colonial Secretary, the Auditor-General, and the Treasurer-General, all of whom must be present to get them out. There is nothing to show absolutely when these dies were removed from the block, or what has become of them; but the Assistant-Treasurer assured me that to the best of his knowledge they were only removed previous to the reprinting, and subsequently destroyed.

This provisional issue was entirely sold out about Sept., 1861; and no sheets, or even single specimens, were left in the possession of the Post Office officials or Department, the Postmaster-General having none for insertion in the official collection! From information I obtained from a late foreman in the litho. printing department of the late firm of Saul Solomon and Co., it is certain that no strict official check was particularly kept upon the printing of this first provisional, as the firm priced all the paper and materials themselves; and he remembers several sheets being destroyed, as being defective, during the printings, for he says they were not all printed off on the one day.*

* The last sheets of the wood blocks that were known to be in circulation were found by a friend of mine, a Mr. H——, who took over the Graaff Rienet Office Stamps in 1878; and who, not

Before proceeding in proper order with the next issues, *i.e.* the first rectangular series, it may be as well for me here to give what information I obtained with reference to the official reprints of the above "wood block" provincial issue.

Reprint of Provincial Issues.

Owing to the requests of many other Postal Departments throughout the world for specimens of all the Cape stamps for reference, and for their official collections, the authorities decided in 1883 to have the wood block plates reprinted from—the steel plates being destroyed—and therefore sent them, in charge of a clerk from the Treasury, to the same printers, Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co. No special check was, however, placed upon the issue, and only 195 sheets of each were said to have been given to the clerk by S. S. & Co., and by him handed over to the Postal authorities; but it does seem somewhat extraordinary that such an uneven number of sheets should have been struck off. The paper would have been cut most probably in reams, and one would imagine that either the Government ordered, say, 200 of each, or that half a ream—240 sheets—of each would have been struck off from each plate. The paper used was a common white wove paper, generally used for newspaper work; as was also the gum, which is much affected by climatic changes. Of the 195 sheets of each value in the possession of the Government originally, the 1d. stamps would equal 12,090, being 62 to a sheet, less two removed dies; and the 4d., 12,285, 63 to a sheet, with only one die removed. The stamps were then issued cut—three of each value—to all the other exchanging stamp-issuing countries in the U.P.U., number not exactly known, but said to be 175, with the addition of the following specimens, issued extra either by order of the Government or of the Post Office officials, viz.:

	1d.		4d.
British South Africa Company . . .	3	...	3
British East Africa Company . . .	2	...	2
British Central Africa	1	...	1
Official Cape Collection	1	...	1
Book on History Cape Stamps . . .	1	...	1
By Mr. Aitchison to a Friend in England in 1888 .	2	...	2
By Mr. Aitchison to Dr. Todd, Librarian of Canadian Parliament in 1884 . . .	2	...	2
To the young Queen of the Netherlands . .	1	...	1
To the Chicago Exhibition, 1893 . . .	1	...	1
To the Imperial Institute, 1893 . . .	1	...	1
Sold to Mr. W. M. Farmer . . .	1	...	1
Found in the possession of a Mr. W——, given to him by Mr. H——	7	...	9
Making a total of . . .	23 1d. so issued.		25 4d.

knowing their value, issued some of them—from one sheet of each—to the public, along with other current issues, keeping only a few for himself as curiosities, until the Postmaster of Port Elizabeth, himself a Philatelist, happened to see a letter, with one on, coming through the office; and enquiry was then made, resulting in the return of what was left to the Head Office at Cape Town, where, however, all trace of them is lost.

And, in the present day, the Treasury holds the balance, in the charge of M. Cloeti, Distributor of Stamps, through whose courtesy I inspected the whole of the two parcels, in which are left of the

1d. . 185 sheets, and part of a sheet (51), less 6 pairs cut out on last row, including vacant error space. = 11,521 stamps.

4d. . 186 sheets, and 6 stamps of last row of another sheet . . . . = 11,724

Making a total of 569 1d., used as follows { 195 sheets, 12,090 / in hand, 11,521 } = 569

Making a total of 561 4d., used as follows { 195 sheets, 12,285 / in hand, 11,724 } = 561

When, if we take the 175 countries at 3 each = 525 of 1d., and 525 of 4d.

And add thereto the number of each subsequently given out, viz. . .	23	25
Making a total of only .	548 and	550,

we still leave from 10 to 20 of each unaccounted for.

But, as I have nearly a whole sheet of each in my possession, which Mr. G. H. Andersson gave me, and I know of others who have also small portions of sheets, and dozens of the stamps were sent through the post during the time of issue by some Post Office men and Cape Town collectors, singly or in unsevered pairs—of which I have several on portions of the original envelopes, and they are good to-day to frank letters, there never having been any proclamation against them on withdrawing the old wood blocks from circulation—there must have been a leakage somewhere; and I am fully persuaded that 200 of these 240 sheets of each were printed, and that the five or more sheets of each were taken during or after the printing, or else were abstracted before being handed over to the Treasury authorities. In Cape Town to-day, both in official and Philatelic circles, these facts are well known; and, therefore, great care is now taken by the authorities not to allow any more of the balance of 185–6 sheets of each to get into the hands of anyone. It is a singular fact, in connection with all these stamps, that none of the specimens issued to foreign Governments were marked "Specimen," "Reprint," or surcharged in any way for protection, as is usually done by other exchanging countries with all their stamps, especially of those of value exceeding 1s.; so that although, through misappropriation of the samples sent to other Governments, a few single, double, or even unsevered strips of three might probably get into the hands of dealers or collectors, yet this alone would not account for the number of undoubtedly genuine reprint stamps, in large strips or blocks, which I have met in collections.

I applied for a sheet of each variety for your Society, and suggested that they should be surcharged individually, at my expense, "Specimen" or "Reprint," and framed; but, no! the authorities now are rather irritated about the previous leakages, and will part with no more. *Eheu fugaces!*

Fifth Issue

Rectangular.

In January, 1864, appeared the first rectangular stamps, made by De La Rue, on thinnish white wove paper, thickly gummed, perforated 14, and watermarked Crown and C C, with double-line outer frame, in three shades of colour, viz.:—1s. light green, 1s green, and 1s. dark green. The stamps were engraved on steel, in four panes of six vertical rows of ten stamps each = 240 on a sheet; and the same plates of 1s. are in use to-day. The watermark was changed in 1885 to the Foul Anchor, but there never were any printed on the Cr. and C A wmk. paper, as the stock in hand of the Cr. and C C at the date of the latter change was sufficient to last up to the date when all the stamps were changed to wmk. of Foul Anchor.

There are no details in the office to show what number of sheets and stamps of this value have been supplied by De La Rue from 1864 to now.

In July, 1865, the 1d., rose, with shades same as above, came out, and was used until 1871, when the double outer line was done away with, and new plates engraved with single-line frame. In use until 1894.

In August, 1865, the 4d., blue, with shades same as above, was issued, and in use until 1877, when the double-frame outer line was done away with, and new plate with single line substituted.

In July, 1865, the 6d., lilac, with shades as above, was also issued; and in 1877 was followed by the 6d., mauve, with shades, with Cr. and C C, perf. 14, with double-frame outer line. Still in use to this day, the wmk. alone being changed to Cr. and C A in August, 1882, and to the Foul Anchor in 1885. The paper of all these issues became thicker, less highly glazed, and with less and better gum, during the later issues.

Surcharged Issue.

Nov., 1868; the supply of 4d. stamps having run short, the Governor, by notice in the *Gazette* on 16th Nov., 1868, stated that he had authorized the conversion of a redundant lot of 6d., lilac, to 4d., by obliterating the words "Postage Sixpence" by a double line, and printing across the body of the band the words "Fourpence" in red ink. (This redundancy of 6d. was owing to the fact that, from the end of 1863, the ½ oz. rate to England by mail packet had been raised to 1s., and so fewer of the 6d. were used.)

The surcharging work was done hurriedly, and with poor type, by S. Solomon & Co., locally; but there is no record in the Post Office to show how many sheets were surcharged; but, from the plentifulness of the stamp, several hundred sheets must have been so treated.

There are no known errors in the issue, but only defective lettering from the poor type. Two distinct printings, however, took place, as the distance between the lettering, surcharge, and the obliterating bars is quite different, and the colour distinct in two varieties

Sixth Issue.

Single-line Frame. 1*d.*, 5*s.*

In March, 1872, the 1d., rose-red, with shades, on white wove paper, wmk. Cr. and C C., perf. 14, came out, with single outer line and frame, wmk. being altered to Cr. and C A in August, 1882, and to the Foul Anchor in 1886. These plates have been in use up to 1894.

In August, 1871, the 5s., orange to orange-yellow, was introduced by Government Notice, 21st August, 1871; with paper, perf., and wmk. as above. Wmk. changed to Cr. and C A in August, 1883, and to Foul Anchor in 1887; and the same plates are all in use up to now.

No record kept of how many printings, or sheets, or stamps of either, supplied to date.

Surcharged Issue.

In June, 1874, the supply of 1d. running short, a lot of 6d. were surcharged in red capitals and bar, locally, by Saul Solomon & Co. One hundred sheets were done, equalling 24,000 stamps. There were no errors in printing, but portions of surcharge differ on various sheets.

Seventh Issue.

$\frac{1}{2}d.$

In June, 1876, a lot of ½d., black, as above, were received at the Cape, wmk Cr. and C C, although no colonial ½d. rate had as yet been established. Most of these were, however, sent to Kimberley, for use in the Province of Griqualand West, surcharged with large and small G's—different varieties of type—in red and black, for district newspapers, but the number is not known; so that the stock was nearly all used up when the Cape Inland Newspaper Rate of ½d. came in operation, 1st July, 1882, and a provisional issue had therefore to be provided.

Surcharged Issue.

In April, 1877, the stock of 1d. again running short, a lot of 1s., Cr. and C C, were surcharged in black, with capitals and a bar, by Saul Solomon & Co. One hundred sheets were so overprinted, and there are no errors or differences in printing known.

Eighth Issue.

4*d.*, *dark blue. Single-line.*

May, 1877. The new plate with single outer line was made for the 4d. value, dark blue, wmk. Cr. and C C, paper perf. as above. It arrived in the Colony about May, and was distributed from 1st June, 1877. There is no record of numbers of sheets of stamps.

Surcharged Issue.

Nov. 1st, 1879, the new 3d. rate for the Colony came in force; and as the stamps ordered from England for the purpose had not arrived, 250 sheets of

the 4d., single frame, Cr. and C C, were surcharged in red by Saul Solomon & Co., in capitals, with broad obliterating bar below.

There are two errors known, which occurred on each sheet—THE.EE. and PENCB quite distinct—and two slight varieties of type and spacing.

Surcharged Issue.

In March, 1880, arrived a lot of 3d. provisional stamps from England, when De La Rue had not furnished the proper plate. There were impressions in violet-rose (two shades) taken from the 4d. plate, single-line frame, with Cr. and C C wmk., perf. 14; surcharge in black (stereotyped) capitals across the bottom of the stamp; and some of these sheets were again surcharged in the Colony, by S. Solomon & Co., with the figure 3, to make them more distinct. But the number that arrived from England, or were so surcharged by S. Solomon & Co., is unknown.

Several specimens of the 4d., violet-rose, unsurcharged, are also known, but not postally used; they are probably proofs, or colour specimens.

There are no errors or overprints known of this provisional issue.

Ninth Issue.

Its Surcharge.

On 1st July, 1880, the supply of the new sheets of 3d., violet-rose, on white paper, perf. 14, wmk. Cr. and C C, arrived from De La Rue; but as the colour somewhat resembled the then shade of 1d., the authorities, before issuing any to the public, had them all surcharged locally by Saul Solomon & Co. with the figure 3, ten varieties of which occur on the same sheet; but as no one here in South Africa—so far as is known—has a complete sheet of the four panes, it is impossible to tell how many occur of each in the whole sheet. The three-line figure is, however, much the scarcest; and the short figure, though catalogued inverted, is not known officially so.

In 1881 the shade was changed to a deep red-brown, and wmk. changed in August, 1882, to Cr. and C A, which supply has lasted beyond the time when all the other values were altered to the Foul Anchor; and a stock is still on hand, there having been no 3d. rate since Oct. 1882, when the inland charge was reduced to 2d.

Tenth Issue.

In October, 1882, the colonial inland $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. rate was lowered to 2d.; and a large number of sheets of the new stamps, 2d., bistre, with shades, single frame, on white wove paper, perf. 14, and wmk. Cr. and C A, were received from England (De La Rue) and issued at once. The wmk. was altered in 1885 to Foul Anchor; and no more were printed after 1889, when the colonial rate became 1d., over fifteen years' supply—1,000,000 sheets—being in hand; a large portion of these being later on utilized, and surcharged ONE PENNY.

In 1891 another large supply of the 3d., red-brown, wmk. Foul Anchor, was received from De La Rue.

Surcharged Issue.

In August, 1882, when the ½d. rate for certain newspapers came into vogue, there were very few of the old halfpenny Cr. and C C issue of 1876 in stock; and as the impressions from the new plates had not yet arrived from England, recourse was again had to surcharging locally; and 500 sheets of 3d., red-brown, different shades, wmk. Cr. and C A, were overprinted "One Halfpenny," in two lines in black, by Saul Solomon & Co.; a few sheets of the old 3d., Cr. and C C, being also surcharged at the same time, but how many is not known.

There were no errors, and any varieties were simply caused by want of ink, or careless placing of the sheets for surcharging, whereby the overprint did not occur in the same place on all the sheets.

Surcharged Issue.

On the 23rd April, 1891, the reduced rate of 2½d. to Great Britain came into force; and as again the English plates were not ready, the Government printer in London, De La Rue, sent out 12,660 sheets of the 3d., red-brown, of 1891, in two batches, about one month's interval between each, which had been surcharged, in large black figures at the bottom, with 2½d. There are no errors known; but a slight difference in a few stamps in the 1 and d. may be found, so that this surcharge may have been done by type and not stereotyped.

Eleventh Issue.

The new stamp of 2½d. supply was received in January, 1892, and issued to the public on the 1st February. The colour, greyish green, was not considered an improvement; but the issue marked a new De La Ruean departure, inasmuch as these were the first specimens of the new process of surface-printing, in single fugitive ink. The paper, perforation, and wmk. Foul Anchor, were exactly the same in all other issues of this date.

There had been two printings up to 31st December, 1893, equalling 7250 sheets of 1,740,000 stamps.

Surcharged Issue.

The supply of 1d. stamps again running short, and the 1d. plates in England beginning to wear out, steps were taken to utilize the enormous supply in hand of the 2d., bistre; and the Government printers in Cape Town, W. A. Richards & Sons, were called upon to overprint 10,000 sheets = 2,400,000 stamps (hardly two months' supply) with ONE PENNY in black capitals, and an obliterating bar across the lower label. There was only one printing of these, and there are no errors; although in every sheet, in the left-hand top pane, one stamp is found without the stop after "Penny." The surcharge of these late issues was found to dry up and crinkle very much, and has therefore been altered—for the better.

*

Latest Issue.

1d. New Type.

In Nov. 1893, six samples of the new designs of the 1d. were sent out to the Postmaster-General, and approved of, one only of these stamps being given to the Governor; and the new issue was given out to the public during 1894, as the sheets from the old plates were used up. Both 1d. stamps of the old and new design are (1894) still in use throughout the Cape, the old stock not being entirely used up yet.

Before continuing and giving a few details as to the post cards, envelopes, and wrappers, I should like to mention that I made special enquiries with regard to the use of fiscal stamps for postal purposes, and also that of the 1d., cut in halves, for newspapers or circulars, and often found in collections. It appears that, although never officially authorized, before the railways were completed and connected throughout the Colony, from 1885–89, several up-country towns occasionally ran short of certain values, and recourse was then had by local postmasters to such devices to convenience the public. These practices have since been forbidden; and although they might be affixed to letters, obliterated, and passed through the post, the letter would be charged forward as an unpaid one. In fact, I may mention that I have on several occasions received letters with Cape revenues, etc., attached; and been asked to post them to the collector for his collection! Needless to say, I have not done so.

Griqualand West Stamps.

From records in the Post Office, it does not appear what quantities of stamps were surcharged for the use of Griqualand West as a separate province, from 1876 to 1881; but it is recorded that the following numbers were returned from Kimberley to the G.P.O., and afterwards issued as required, *pari passu* with the ordinary Cape stamps, for use in the various offices throughout the Colony—thus accounting for the large number of them postally used during recent years, from 1881 to 1890, postmarked from different colonial towns.

½d., overprinted G in red	127,000	sent back from Kimberley,	19th July, 1881.
1d., „ G in red and black	303,603	„	„
4d., overprinted G W in black and red, and G in black, red, and violet.	196,560	„	„
„ „ G in black	79,200	„	„
1s., „ G in black and red	124,320	„	„
5s., „ G in red	7,590	„	„

I also made special enquiries *re* official knowledge of the penmarked 1d. in red on 4d., for use in Kimberley, but nothing was known of it, and I have never yet met with one with a postmark on it, showing either the town, date, or defacing number of Post Office on it.

British Bechuanaland.

The following Cape stamps have been overprinted for use in British Bechuanaland during 1886–7: ½d., red surch., red and black surch.; 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., black surch., Foul Anchor wmk.; and 4d., red surch., ditto; and again in 1889, the ½d., Foul Anchor, was surcharged in green with varieties. In 1893–4, the current 1d. and 2d. were both again surcharged vertically, the first one reading upwards from the bottom on the left-hand side in two lines, British Bechuanaland And the latter, much the scarcer, downwards from the top of the right-hand side, British Bechuanaland Several errors and omissions in both.

Together with post cards, wrappers, and registered envelopes.
Record of quantities not available.

Military Telegraphs.

There is no record to show the number of 6d. and 1s. Cape surcharged in two lines, in black capitals, for the use of the Warren Expedition into Bechuanaland; but a military friend tells me that 50 sheets of each were so done in Cape Town for the Imperial authorities. At any rate, two distinct shades of the former are to be found, one wmk. Cr. and C C, the other with the Foul Anchor, and the 1s. always Cr. and C C. These stamps are not plentiful, and most of them have certainly been destroyed with the telegraph forms.

First Post Card.

1*d.*, *red.*

On March 1st, 1878, post cards were first introduced.
1d., red, $4\frac{7}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{8}$, on buff thin cardboard.
Printed locally by Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., by lithography.
Several cards were printed in black, as proofs, and some got mixed with the others, and were sold in the packets to the public; and are therefore known postally used.

These cards were for town delivery and suburbs only, or to places between which there were two posts a day; if sent further, they had to have additional stamps affixed. There is no record of how many were issued, but they were in use up to 1884, when the last was sold out.

Second Post Card.

1*d.*

1st July, 1882. 1d., colour red-brown, on thick white card. Oval stamp, $4\frac{13}{16} \times 2\frac{5}{16}$, or 171 × 74 mil.

Printed by De La Rue, singly and in quarter reams of 120 sheets, 42 cards to each sheet.

There have been nine printings up to date = 7,242,720 cards, being several years' supply.

These were for intercolonial use—Orange Free State, British Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Transkie, S.A. Republic, Natal. The card rate was reduced to ½d. in 1889, for the Cape only.

1000 of these cards were overprinted and supplied to the British South Africa Company on 15th Oct., 1892.

396 of these cards were overprinted and supplied to the British South Africa Company in January, 1893.

Third Post Card.

½*d.*

1st January, 1889, a reduction of inland rate was made to ½d., and a card issued.

Light brown, square stamp, on white thick cardboard. Printed by De La Rue, singly and in quarter reams, in four printings = 777,120; but, owing to the colour being too much like that of the 1d. card of 1882, it was changed to green on the 29th Sept., 1891, and these latter are still in use. Of these there have been up to date four printings = 5,811,840 cards.

These cards circulated over all the Colony and its dependencies; and in September, 1892, to the Orange Free State also.

Fourth Post Card.

1½*d.*

1st May, 1890. 1½d. card, grey-green on light buff, thin card, with square stamp, and inscriptions in English and French; was printed by De La Rue, for circulation between the Cape and Great Britain, abroad only with an extra 1d. stamp.

There were four printings = 679,800, and it was withdrawn on 1st January, 1892; and used thereafter only for foreign countries from 1st Sept., 1892, under agreement with U.P.U.

Of these cards,

3000 were overprinted and supplied for use in British Bechuanaland, Nov., 1892.
1000 „ „ „ „ British South Africa Co., 15th Oct., 1892.
396 „ „ „ „ „ „ Jan., 1893.

Note.—The first printing of these cards = 246,840, was sent out from England in June, 1884, in readiness for the Cape coming under the Postal Union; but negotiations falling through, they were kept until 1890, as above.

Fifth Post Card.

1d. × 1d.

1st July, 1892, a reply-paid post card of 1d., in brown on thick buff, 140 × 89, was issued, printed by De La Rue—one printing only = 48,720—for use to Great Britain only. From the 1st Sept., 1892, it was also allowed to be sent to foreign countries, provided an extra stamp of ½d. was attached to each half.

Of these cards,

1200 were overprinted and supplied to British Bechuanaland, 5th Oct., 1892.
1000 ,, ,, British South Africa Company, 15th Oct., 1892.
396 ,, ,, ,, ,, Jan., 1893.

Sixth Post Card.

½d. × ½d.

April, 1893. Reply-paid inland card issued, *½d. × ½d.*, brown on buff, thick card; for use in South Africa only. Printed by De La Rue, in two printings of 48,000 each = 96,000. The *1½d. × 1½d.* were under order when I left Cape Town.

Embossed Envelopes.

1st June, 1892, 1d., oval, on white thick laid paper, in two sizes, made by De La Rue, was issued.

Size A, $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{11}{16}$. Total printed to 1894, 254,720.
,, B, $5\frac{13}{16} \times 3\frac{9}{16}$,, ,, 216,000.

And the *½d.* and *2½d.* have come out this year.

Registered Letter Envelopes.

Up to 1881 the fee for registration had always been 8d., prepayable by ordinary stamps; but on the 15th July, 1881, the fee was reduced to 4d., and Messrs. Mc Corquodale & Co. supplied the first lot of registered envelopes with 4d., blue, embossed stamps on the flap, in five sizes. This envelope was on thick white linen-faced wove, and bore their imprint on the inside, where the flap covered the back part of the envelopes. Supplied as follows:

Size F, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ . . . . = 21,552.
,, G, $6 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ . . . . = 21,120.
,, H, 8×5 . . . . = 5,016.
,, I, 10×7 . . . . = 5,352.
,, K, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ . . . . = 10,632.

Since 1882 the supplies have come from De La Rue as above, in number, to 1894:

Size F, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ . . . . = 60,402.
,, G, $6 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ . . . . = 60,216.
,, H, 8×5 . . . . = 12,196.
,, I, 10×7 . . . . = 3,912.
,, K, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ . . . . = 7,752.

A supply of each of the latter was sent to British Bechuanaland, number not recorded, surcharged in two lines, small letters, BRITISH / BECHUANALAND; and also other similar ones for use in the northern Protectorate, surcharged in two straight lines, in large capitals, BECHUANALAND / PROTECTORATE. These latter are decidedly rare.

WRAPPERS.

Dec. 1st, 1881. ½d., grey-green on buff, 12 × 5, with inscription and gummed flap; made by De La Rue, singly, in cut sheets, and quarter reams of uncut; and ungummed bands of 120 sheets, of 14 wrappers on each.

Nov., 1892. ½d., colour changed to dark green; similar paper and details.

Nov., 1892. 1d., red-brown on buff, 12 × 5; De La Rue; similar paper and details.

11th Aug., 1892. Issue of book wrappers, 15 × 7; parcel of 167 sheets, of 10 wrappers on each.

4th October, 1892. 1½d., grey on thin whitish paper, 15 × 7. De La Rue. Sold in quarter reams of 120 sheets, of 10 wrappers each.

Some of each of the above were surcharged for use in British Bechuanaland, 1886–1893, but no numbers recorded.

In concluding these notes, I should just like to add that, whilst searching the records, I found that a valuable and extensive report on the Cape stamps generally, especially with regard to fixed and fugitive colours, was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue in 1883, and on the 1st May that year presented to both Cape Houses of Parliament.

In 1890, a Mr. A. A. Brodziak, from Queensland, arrived at the Cape, and offered to pay £2000 for the first year, £3000 the second, and £4000 the third year, in advance, for the privilege and sole right of printing on and using advertisements on the backs of all sheets of postage stamps.

Messrs. Booty & Hunter also offered similar terms for the right of advertising anything they liked upon the telegraph forms and envelopes. Neither of these two offers commended itself to the Government, and they were both refused.

In 1891–92 a long correspondence appears to have taken place between the Government and certain parties, with regard to certain stamps, used and unused, bought by a Mr. Wells from a Mr. Henry, and sold by Wells to collectors and others, which were acknowledged to be some of the genuine reprints, but had evidently been stolen; although the Government utterly failed to prove their ownership, or how the stamps had got out of their possession, as, according to the records, only about twenty of each kind were missing!

In 1893 another long correspondence took place between H.E. the Governor of the Cape, H.B.M.'s agent at Pretoria, the Cape P.M.G., and the Transvaal P.M.G., as to the genuineness and legality as a postal issue of certain envelopes, stamped with 6d. stamp of the old Z.A. Republic style;

and from the reports of the P.M.G. of the Transvaal, together with enclosed reports from Mr. Fred Jeppe, the late P.M.G. under the first Boer Government, and Mr. Emil Tamsen, a leading Transvaal collector and dealer, it would appear that the Transvaal Government now entirely repudiates the aforesaid envelopes as being either genuine or current; and states that they are envelopes illegally made, and sold by the printers in Germany of the Transvaal first issue, from the original—or copies of the original—die; sold without authority as originals, but differing, in many details only observable to advanced collectors, from the two only authorised issues made by P. Davis & Sons, of Natal, of 2000 in Feb., 1872, from the 6d. die, and 5000 in Dec., 1873, from the 3d. die altered to 6d.

CHAS. L. NORRIS NEWMAN.

BULUWAYO, *February*, 1895.

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London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

A MEETING of the General Committee was held at the Rooms of the Philatelic Society, London—Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.—on Thursday, the 24th inst., at three p.m., in order to appoint the Executive Committee to carry out the work of the Exhibition, and discuss the general arrangements.

The following gentlemen were present: Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. A. Tilleard, C. J. Phillips, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, H. Hilckes, W. Morley, J. H. Thompson, R. Ehrenbach, Gordon Smith, E. S. Gibbons, W. D. Beckton, A. H. Harrison, S. E. Gwyer, W. T. Willett, M. Giwelb, W. H. Peckitt, E. D. Bacon, W. B. Avery, F. R. Ginn, E. B. Evans, and W. Hadlow.

The following gentlemen were elected as the

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

AVERY, W. B.	EVANS, E. B.	JONES, T. WICKHAM.	PHILLIPS, C. J.
BACON, E. D.	GIWELB, M.	MAYCOCK, E.	PIERCE, J A.
BECKTON, W. D.	GWYER, S. E.	NANKIVELL, E. J.	SMITH, GORDON.
CASTLE, M. P.	HADLOW, W.	OLDFIELD, H. R.	TILLEARD, J. A.
EHRENBACH, R.	HYNES, G. J.	PECKITT, W. H.	WILSON, W. T.

Subjoined we give the full list of the General Committee, from whom the Executive Committee have been elected.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

BACON, E. D.	EHRENBACH, R.	JONES, T. WICKHAM.	PEARCE, R.
BIGGS, C. N.	EVANS, Major E. B.	MAYCOCK, T.	TILLEARD, J. A.
CASTLE, M. P.	GARTH, D.	OLDFIELD, H. R.	

(*Members of the Council of the Philatelic Society, London.*)

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W. T. Wilson, *President.*
G. Johnson, *Hon. Sec.*

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.
O. Firth, *President.*
W. H. Scott, *Hon. Sec.*

BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.
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H. D. Catling, *Hon. Sec.*

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F. A. Bellamy, *Hon. Sec.*

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W. J. W. Miller, *Hon. Sec.*

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Avery, W. B.
Bepler, F. G.
Blest, W. W.
Bright, P. M.
Brosnan, D.
Buhl, T.
Clarke, E.
Duveen, H. J.
Ewen, H. L'Estrange.
Gibbons, E. S.
Ginn, F. R.
Giwelb, M.
Gwyer, S. E.
Hadlow, W.
Hawkins, E.
Hilckes, Harry.
Hill, Pearson.
Hynes, G. F.
Joynt, W. R.
Kennedy, H. A.
King, Whitfield.
Lambert, G. J.
Lincoln, W.
Lloyd, P. J.
Lockyer, G.
Morley, W.
Nankivell, E. J.
Napier, Lieut. F. N.
Nix, J. A.
Peckitt, W. H.
Phillips, C. J.
Ransom, F.
Raynor, Rev. P. E.
Ridpath, T.
Roberts, Vernon.
Scott, Walter.
Smith, B. T. K.
Smith, Gordon.
Stokes, J. Scott.
Thompson, T. H.
Usher, Rev. W. N.
Vansittart, Capt. R. A.
Viner, Dr. C. W.
Willett, W. T.
Wilson, A. H.
Winch, H.
Wright, Hastings E.

Occasional Notes.

THE COMING SEASON.

INDICATIONS are not wanting that this winter will be a very busy one in Philatelic circles. The word "season" is well-nigh out of date in stamp collecting nowadays, as there is apparently no cessation of activity. Messrs. Hilcke's Summary, elsewhere referred to, is dated "Season 1895-6: September 1st, 1895, to July 31st, 1896." This leaves but the month of August for dormant Philately, and even this holiday month has this year been invaded by two or three auctions. Beyond this, as it is travelling-time for a large portion of the world, our visitors from abroad give the leading dealers as much pleasant occupation in the summer as the indigenous collector does in the

winter. The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., in heralding their next catalogue, clearly foreshadow a greater demand than ever for the issues of United States; and from recent Continental experience we are in a position to know the future rush after the better Europeans—including Scandinavians. Our insular pride—in this case fully justified—does not admit the possibility of any decreased Philatelic attention to our Colonial issues; while there is a distinct revival in the interest taken in the better South American countries and the Transvaal. Beyond all this, the London Exhibition of 1897 now looms out distinctly; and it is, therefore, safe to predict that the ensuing season will not only be innocent of the prophesied depression, but will be the most prosperous in the records of Philately.

THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

THE Eleventh Annual Convention of this important body of American Philatelists was held at Minnetonka Beach, on August 11th, and following days. The occasion was rendered memorable through the resignation of the Presidency by Mr. J. K. Tiffany, which, as explained in his feeling and kindly valedictory letter, was attributable to his physician's orders. Mr. Tiffany has been so long and honourably connected with Philately that, on both sides of the Atlantic, the wish will be re-echoed that he may be spared for many years of quiet enjoyment. Mr. C. W. Kissinger having withdrawn his candidature for the post of Secretary, there was, practically, no competition for the various officerships for the ensuing year, which were filled as follows:

President	HON. F. F. OLNEY
Vice-Presidents	Mr. W. C. VANDERLIP
,, ...	,, G. L. TOPPAN
,, ...	,, J. L. KILBON
Treasurer	,, N. W. CHANDLER
Secretary	,, J. F. BEARD
Assistant Secretary ...	,, H. B. PHILLIPS
International Secretary ...	,, E. DOEBLIN
Superintendent of Sales, etc.	,, G. D. MEKEEL

A most excellent range of names, and well calculated to enhance the prestige of the A.P.A. Mr. Olney is a gentleman of the highest position, and a worthy successor to the Presidential chair; and all three Vice-Presidents bear names that are well known and respected in Europe and America, as conscientious students and consistent collectors. The social function of the Convention, in which the Minneapolis Philatelists played a leading *rôle*, resulted to the general satisfaction of the numerous members present.

A FORGED GENEVA ENVELOPE.

THOSE who have read our report of the Geneva Exhibition, in last month's issue, will have noted the rarity of these envelopes in used condition. With the exception of the large size, unused, all three varieties—

"Ladies'," "Medium," and "Square"—are, in fact, of a marked degree of rarity, either unused or postmarked. It was, therefore, with impatience that we anticipated lately the arrival of a specimen noted as in "superb condition." Alas! for the vanity of human aspirations; a momentary glance sufficed to denote a rank forgery. The "envelope" proved to be of the smallest size, as described, but was evidently "hand-made," as the pencil-lines along the flaps clearly denoted! It was, moreover, beautifully postmarked with the Geneva town obliteration, "5 Juni, 48," etc., and the "stamp" bore the well-known red obliteration of a cross surrounded by ornaments, known to Swiss experts as Type I. of the Geneva Cantonal Postmarks. The curious feature, however, of this forgery, which thus revealed its nature in an instant, is that the stamp is *engraved* in a bright yellow-green! Needless to say, the design and lettering vary materially from the real thing; but as the general appearance, coupled with a most imposing red seal, is well calculated to deceive the unwary, we deem it advisable to give this note of warning to the Philatelic world. As the manufacturers have gone to the trouble of making dies for stamp and postmarks, they are hardly likely to rest content without issuing a quantity; and, moreover, as this forgery is apparently of recent origin, there will doubtless be more to follow.

Philatelic Note.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Mr. Geo. Blockey writes us: "I have discovered a copy of the small 2d., orange-red, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, Wmk. Cr. SA close, with dated postmark, Oct. 4th, 1869. The following is a complete list of the varieties rare and otherwise of perforation of the 2d. orange, close SA, all of which I have had in my own collection."

2D., ORANGE, WMK. SA, CLOSE.

Dates when in use or issued.		
1876–93.	perf.	10
Aug. 1877 and Mar. 1880	,,	$11\frac{1}{2}$
,,	,,	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$
Mar. 1880	,,	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$
Oct. 1878	,,	$10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$
,,	,,	$10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$
Oct. 1878	perf.	$10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, or $10 \times 10 \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$
,,	,,	$10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, or $10 \times 10 \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 10$
Mar. 1880	,,	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$
,,	,,	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$, or $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 10$
April 1, 1893	,,	15
July 1, 1893	,,	13

THE

Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

CIRCULAR NO. 6.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C., 29*th August*, 1896.

THE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all collectors and dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

25. URUGUAY.—From the *Monte Video Times*, of July 14th, and also from an official circular received from the Direccion-General of Posts and Telegraphs, we learn that it was proposed to issue a set of stamps to commemorate the inauguration of the statue of Don Joaquin Suarez. The set consists of the following values:

1 centesimo (portrait of Suarez), black and violet.
5 „ (statue of Suarez) „ and sky-blue.
10 „ (the Suarez monument), black and carmine.

This set was to be concurrent with the regular issue, from the 18th July to the 25th August.

The following extract from the newspaper above named expresses very pertinently what business people think of such an issue:

"After August 26th they will no longer be valid for postal purposes, but may be changed for similar values of the current emission until September 30th. This issue will not affect the present emission, which remains valid, and may be used concurrently. This is all very well, but instead of attending to these 'celebration' emissions—which have been so grossly abused by many countries of late years that they have lost all value with genuine stamp collectors, and are shunned by the more respectable dealers—we think it would be far better if the Post-office endeavoured to supply the present painful deficiency of post cards, stamped envelopes and wrappers, the want of which is a serious detriment to commerce. As we said recently, it is a monstrous thing that a note or acknowledgment of two or three lines cannot be sent abroad except in a letter costing 10 cents., instead of on a post card of 2 or 3 cents. It is some two years now that we have been without post cards, and the Post-office is seriously to blame, besides being a loser. for not paying more attention to the ordinary wants of the public."

26. VENEZUELA.—A commemoration set has lately been issued, consisting of the following values: 5 c., 10 c., 25 c., 50 c., and 1 bolivar, but we have at present no further information concerning them.

GORDON SMITH,
Sec. S. S. S. S.

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Secretary to Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—In reference to the double surcharge of the one penny on 2d., chronicled last month, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a further explanation for its existence, as follows:

"100 sheets of 60 2d. stamps were sent to the Government printing office at Blantyre, to be surcharged. After printing this one sheet twice over, it was sent in to the P. M. G., who did not consider the overprinting could be done properly in B. C. A., so he recalled them and sent the remaining 99 sheets to the P. M. G. of the Cape of Good Hope, where they were properly surcharged. This will explain the difference in type. Only one sheet of 60 stamps was, therefore, locally surcharged, and that twice."

CHAMBA.—We have come across a very curious variety in the surcharge on the 1½ as., brown, Indian adhesive, chronicled on page 155. The word "STATE," of "Chamba State," is spelt thus, "STATF'; it must not be supposed that the variety is constituted by broken letters, the second and two last letters of the word being clear abbreviations.

Adhesive. 1½ as., brown, black surcharge, *error.*

CYPRUS.—The two piastres in two colours is now in use, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send a copy for our inspection. (Colours on page 52.)

It may be of interest to place on record the exact numbers of the now obsolete Cyprus stamps which have been issued since they superseded the English overprinted stamps, and up to their being superseded by the new bicoloured series. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following list, furnished from official sources; the numbers include both CC and CA watermarks, no separate official account having been kept:

½	piastre, green	3,039,840
30	paras, mauve	187,920
1	piastre, rose	424,800
2	piastres, blue	983,700
4	,, olive-green	90,000
6	,, slate	54,000
12	,, Venetian red	19,000

FIJI.—The one penny adhesive is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., printed in red-lilac in place of black, perf. 11.

Adhesive. 1d., red-lilac.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We have to thank that indefatigable and patriotic expert in English stamps, Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, for copies of the "Army Official" surcharge, issued on September 1st. There are three values—½d., 1d., and 2½d.

The overprint on the latter is in thicker type, and the words are 9¼ mm. apart, instead of 12 mm.

Adhesives. ½d., vermilion, black surcharge
1d., lilac ,, ,,
2½d., purple on blue ,, ,,

GRENADA.—On the authority of the P. M. G. of Grenada, the *A. J. of Ph.* announces that the ½d. adhesive of the new type has not yet been issued. We must, therefore, withdraw our chronicle.

INDIA.—*The Philatelic World* has seen a new surcharge, evidently created to use up the remaining stock of the 9 pies stamps. This value has been surcharged "Postal

Service" and "One Anna," in block letters, between the two words of the first surcharge.

SERVICE.

Adhesive. One anna on 9 pies, black surch. on carmine.

JHIND.—This State is receiving the full complement of current Indian adhesives surcharged "Jhind State." Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received the 2, 3, and 5 rupees, and the 1 rupee Service stamp.

Adhesives. 2 rupees, brown and carmine; black surch.
3 ,, green and brown ,,
5 ,, violet and blue ,,
Service. 1 rupee, green and carmine ,,

JOHORE.—*Mekeel's Weekly* receives direct communication from Shanghai that a complete new issue, with profile of the new Sultan, is to be issued this month. This news amply confirms the speculative nature of the recent "Kemahkotaan" surcharges.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Australian Philatelist* says: "Owing to Fiji having agreed to accept letter cards at the intercolonial rate of 1½d., an alteration has been made in the inscription on the back of the N.S.W. letter card, which has been effected by obliterating the word 'and' after 'Tasmania,' and all the words after 'Australia' in the third and fourth lines, and adding the words, 'and Fiji.' The alterations are made in red ink."

Letter Card.

1½d., red on drab (pink inside); *altered inscription.*

QUEENSLAND.—*The Australian Philatelist* comes to our help in our trouble with the "Secret Mark" paper (see p. 129): "If the stamps are held to the light, at such an angle that the glazed surface is fully displayed, the 'mark' of a Crown over the letter Q can be easily seen. [? ED.] It has the appearance of a depression in the glazing of the surface, and, we believe, it is produced by impressing a die on the paper when in course of manufacture. When we were in Queensland, in 1892, an inventor was trying to get some new patent paper accepted for use in printing postage stamps. He claimed that forgery was impossible if his patent were adopted. Perhaps the 'Secret Mark' is one of his patents. It is certainly difficult to decipher the mark upon used specimens, especially if they have been immersed in water; but, as no other *unwatermarked* paper was used for the current type without the addition of the *burélé* band, there should be no difficulty in deciding that a stamp without watermark or band is a 'Secret Mark' variety."

SEYCHELLES.—The following Government Gazette comes to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.:

"SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

No. 35. VOL. XX. No. 35.

"EXTRAORDINARY.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY. MONDAY, JULY 13, 1896.

"GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 65, of 1896.

"It is hereby notified for public information that in virtue of Art. 1 of Ord. 5 of 1890, His Honour, the Administrator in Executive Council has been pleased to alter the present rates of postage from Seychelles to the countries of the Postal Union.

"*For Letters*

	Rs. c.
not exceeding 15 grammes . . .	0 18
Exceeding 15 grammes, but not exceeding 30 grammes	0 36
With 18 c. for each additional 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes.	

"*For Post Cards*

	Rs. c.
to countries of the Postal Union (single cards)	0 08
,, ,, (reply cards)	0 16

"*For Commercial Papers, Newspapers, Books, Printed Papers, Patterns, &c.*

	Rs. c.
For 50 grammes	0 04
With a proviso of a minimum for a packet of commercial papers of . . .	0 18
and for patterns or samples . . .	0 08

"The new rate will come into operation on and from the 1st August, 1896.

"The following values now existing will be abolished from that date:

c. c. c. c. c.
13 15 45 48 & 96.

* "Pending the arrival of new stamps, 18 c. and 36 c., overprints will be supplied; and 18 c. overprint envelopes.

"By order,
"GEO. GEMMELL,
"*Government Clerk.*

"GOVERNMENT OFFICE, SEYCHELLES,
13th July, 1896."

* The 45 c. has been utilised to supply these, and this value is said to be now obsolete. (ED. *L. P.*)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Again we have to thank Mr. Geo. Blockey for early news of new emissions: "Since my last letter the following have appeared:

Adhesives. ½d., brown; perf. 13.
Service. 4d., bright violet; surcharge 'O.S."

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Native States.*—There appear to be two new values to chronicle, in the Tiger type, 15 c. and 25 c. *Mekeel's Weekly* mentions the latter as quite new, and at present peculiar to Selangor, but the *Australian Philatelist* has this same value for Negri Sembilan, with the addition of 15 c. and 50 c., all with centre in *green.*

Is this a change of colour in the 50 c.? as this value has already been chronicled with centre *lilac*.

PERAK.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the dollar values which were issued on July 23rd last (we chronicled these, evidently in error, on page 20). The stamps are decidedly handsome, and a peculiarity that we have not noticed before is that they are on C C paper.

Adhesives. $1, pale green and green.
$2 ,, ,, and carmine.
$3 ,, ,, and blue.

Negri Sembilan,

Adhesives. 15 c., green and mauve.
25 c. ,, and carmine.
50 c. ,, and black.

Selangor.

Adhesive. 25 c., green and carmine.

TRINIDAD.—At last we have a set of the long-talked-of new issue, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and, from our standpoint, the design is as appropriate as the whole series is neat, altogether forming a desirable, as well as genuine, addition to a collection. As we hope to illustrate, we will only say that the familiar figure of Britannia occupies an octagonal frame, with "Trinidad" above, and value in words beneath. The higher values are of a larger size, measuring 39 mm. by 22 mm., wmk. Cr. CA, perf. 14.

Adhesives. ½d., lilac and green.
1d. ,, and carmine.
2½d. ,, and blue.
4d. ,, and orange.
5d. ,, and violet.
6d. ,, and black.
1s., green and brown.
5s. ,, and ochre.
10s. ,, and blue.
£1 ,, and carmine.

VICTORIA.—Various papers report a change in the colour of the 2d. Letter Card, *vermilion* in place of rose.

Letter Card. 2d., vermilion, on *grey-blue*.

ZANZIBAR.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received a letter from this Island franked with a 2 annas, blue, Indian, surcharged "Zanzibar," in black, and "2½" in red.

We notice that *Mekeel's Weekly* casts some doubt on the ½ and 1 anna British East African adhesives, borrowed and surcharged. In our July number *we* chronicled these for the first time, our announcement being credited to us by one other contemporary *only*, although all the English papers have freely chronicled these surcharges.

Adhesive. 2½, in red, on 2 annas, blue; black surcharge.

EUROPE.

ITALY.—We have to thank Mr. Jos. Cortese for a specimen of the new 10 c. adhesive.

The 1 c. and 2 c. adhesives have also been seen by the *M. J.*, and are illustrated by the *I. B. J.*; these supersede the familiar large numeral types issued 33 years ago, and which, for period of existence, are verily typical examples of Philatelic longevity!

In our July issue we chronicled a 20 c. Unpaid Letter stamp. Our correspondent, who sent us the news direct, writes to apologise for his mistake in serving up stale news, the stamp having been issued in 1892–94.

Adhesives. 1 c., brown.
2 c., red.
10 c., carmine.

AMERICA.

COLOMBIA.—*Santander.*—For some unaccountable reason the colour of the current 5 centavos has been changed from brown to *yellow-green*.

Adhesive. 5 c., yellow-green.

ECUADOR.—*Mekeel's Weekly* has received a 5 c. provisional made by surcharging the 10 c. revenue stamp of 1887–88 "1896—Correos—5 cts.," and a paraph, the whole being hand-stamped in dull black.

Adhesive. 5 c. on 10 c., orange; black surcharge.

MEXICO.—The current set is now appearing pin-perforated, and in addition to this the *A. J. of Ph.* mentions a new watermark—"R.M." interlaced on each stamp—which is to take the place of the letters "CORREOS E U M," one letter of which is found on each stamp in a row. So far, only the 1 and 2 c. stamps have appeared with the new watermark.

Adhesives. 1 c., green; pin-perforation.
2 c., carmine ,, ,,
3 c., brown ,, ,,
4 c., vermilion ,, ,,
5 c., blue ,, ,,
10 c., rose lilac ,, ,,
12 c., olive ,, ,,
15 c., blue-green ,, ,,
1 peso, brown ,, ,,
1 c., green; wmk. "R.M."
2 c., carmine ,, ,,

PARAGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. point out to us that the 1 c. adhesive, chronicled last month, was peculiar in that the word "CENTAVOS," which existed on the previous stamp, has been rectified to "CENTAVO."

The *Monthly Journal* has received the following stationery, with stamps of the types of the current adhesives of corresponding values.

Envelopes. 5 c., mauve on *cream-laid*, 148×82 mm.
10 c., blue ,, ,, ,,
Post Cards. 2 c., green on *white*, 136×78 mm.
2×2 c., ,, ,, ,, (reply).
4 c., red ,, ,,
4×4 c., ,, ,, ,, (reply).
Letter Card. 2 c., green ,, 148×85 mm.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

FERNANDO PO.—A dearth of 2 and 5 c. adhesives necessitated a 5 c. provisional; and we have copies of this, and also five new values in the current "baby" type, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives. ½ de centavo, slate.
6 c. de peso, dull lilac.
12½ ,, brown.
20 ,, grey-blue.
25 ,, dull lake.
Provisional. 5 c. on 10 c., blue; surch. on lake-brown.

TRANSVAAL.—The *Philatelic Record* contradicts the issue of the 5s. in two colours.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

SESSION 1896-7.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.
Vice-Presidents—J. H. ABBOTT, F. BARRATT.
Hon. Treasurer—G. B. DUERST.
Hon. Librarian—W. W. MUNN.
Hon. Secretary—A. H. HARRISON.
Assist. Hon. Secretary—C. H. COOTE.
Committee—W. GRUNEWALD, E. PETRI, R. H. W. WHAPHAM.

The meetings are held weekly at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Friday evenings at 7.30.

SYLLABUS.

1896.
Sep. 25. OPENING MEETING, 7 p.m. Lantern Exhibition.
Part I. Secret Marks: the Stamps of Hamburg.
Part II. Dangerous Forgeries.
Oct. 2. Exhibition of stamps acquired during the recess.
,, 9. "Philatelic Exhibition," a paper. W. D. BECKTON.
,, 16. Discussion on the proposed London Exhibition.
,, 23. Austria: Lombardy-Venetia G. B. DUERST.
,, 30. Discussion and Revision of above.
Nov. 6. Exhibition of Countries.
,, 13.
,, 20. Greece . . W. D. BECKTON.
,, 27. ,, Discussion thereon to settle Reference List.
Dec. 4. Greece. Part II. W. D. BECKTON.
,, 11. ,, Discussion.
,, 18. ANNUAL DINNER, 7 p.m.
1897.
Jan. 8. Norway . A. H. HARRISON.
,, 15. ,, Discussion thereon.
,, 22. ,, Part II. A. H. HARRISON.
,, 29. ,, Discussion.
Feb. 5. Lantern Exhibition. J. H. ABBOTT.
,, 12.
,, 19. Sweden . R. H. W. WHAPHAM.
,, 26. ,, Discussion thereon.
Mar. 5. Russia, An article on. D. OSTARA.
,, 12. Exhibition of Countries.
,, 19. Hayti . . J. H. ABBOTT.
,, 26. ,, Discussion thereon.
April 2. Two Sicilies . E. PETRI.
,, 9. ,, Discussion thereon.
,, 14. Finland . . G. B. DUERST.
,, 23. ,, Discussion thereon.
,, 30. . . W. W. MUNN.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of* THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—THE LONDON PHILATELIST *will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of* 6s. ($1.50). *Subscribers' remittances should be sent to* Mr. H. M. GOOCH, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

DUTCH INDIAN ENVELOPES.

DEAR SIR,—There has been much written about the 2nd type of surcharge 15 cent. on the 25 cent. Dutch India envelope, King's head, and general opinion seems to be that the unused type of surcharge was never issued. I can most emphatically prove that it was issued, and enclose you a specimen bought by myself at the Dutch Post Office here. I gave the envelope to my friend, Mr. Hassuer, with request to forward it on, registered, to my then address in Lougkat. You will see that the necessary 20 cents. for inland postage and registration are duly represented, and each of the stamps (including the surcharge) has the stamp of the Medan Post Office, 108. I bought some seven or eight other copies, which I have disposed of one way and another.

Sarawak of the 1892, 1 cent. on 3 cents., black and yellow, I have a block of four which I purchased from Stanley Gibbons & Co., originating from your own collection.* I do not see any mention of the variety. The two top stamps are from the top row, and are imperforated horizontally. The two stamps below them are imperforated at the top. Numbers 1 and 2 are imperforated horizontally; Numbers 3 and 4 imperforated at the top.

Hoping these memos. of mine may be of some little use,

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
G. FRASER MELBOURNE.

MEDAN, DELI, SUMATRA,
25th July, 1896.

* Our correspondent's memory is at fault. This variety is described in Vol. III. of the *London Philatelist*, p. 69.—ED.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. V. OCTOBER, 1896. No. 58.

The New Recruits.

IN Philately, as in military life, there are constantly recurring vacancies in the ranks, which must perforce be filled up by fresh blood, in the guise and under the universal appellation of New Recruits. In common with the followers of Mars, the stamp-collecting army is gradually depleted by death, sickness, and desertion; and, in order to secure its future efficiency, it is perforce of vital consequence that the vacancies in the ranks should be filled up by new comers. This question has latterly occupied the attention of many men on both sides of the Atlantic who are capable of looking beyond the immediate necessities of the moment. It has been held, notably in the United States, that sufficient inducements have not been held out to induce the youthful collector to enter the fascinating realms of Philately. To remedy this, some of the leading firms in the States have jointly produced an album of simple classification that shall attract the ingenuous youth by its simplicity; wholesale gratuitous distributions of stamps have also been made by another enterprising dealer, and articles have been written especially for young collectors in boys' magazines. In this country, also, several of our prominent stamp magazines have devoted a considerable space to the enlightenment of juvenile Philatelic aspirations, and in various ways the wisdom of sowing the seed for a future Philatelic harvest has been recognised.

This question is one that merits due consideration by us all. The extraordinary and geometrically-increasing volume of varieties of the world's postal issues may well be calculated to frighten off the New Recruit unless he is encouraged at the outset of his career. It is highly

to be desired that he should be supplied with a simple album and a simple catalogue—*pour encourager les autres*—later Philatelic developments! The schoolboy of twenty years ago rejoiced in the quondam quarto, "Stanley Gibbons," or "Whitfield King," Catalogue and Album, in which the varieties were limited and the pages few. Imagine the modern youth face to face, for the first time, with Scott or Senf or Gibbons—hundreds of pages of issues, prices in pounds, as against former shillings, or even pence, and varieties of type, surcharge, paper, and perforation in bewildering confusion—and the resultant despair and abandonment is but too probable. There should, therefore, be a Philatelic groundwork or alphabet; beginners must learn to spell easy words before they are wanted to digest the Quarterlies. It will be well, therefore, if the leading firms of Philatelic publishers sedulously keep before their eyes the necessity of catering for the future Philatelist, who exists to-day in the chrysalis of the boy collector.

There is, however, one advantage that the youthful Philatelic aspirant of to-day possesses in greater measure than his forbears. It is that there now exists an enormous quantity of stamps so common as to practically require no outlay in their acquisition, with the obvious result that a beginner may have a collection of two or three thousand varieties with greater ease than the same number of hundreds could have been formerly acquired. As the young collector aims necessarily more at variety than completeness, this is an obvious advantage. In furtherance of this idea it might be worth while for dealers to publish a simple album *containing a start*—of stamps mounted in their correct places—embracing from 100 to 1,000 varieties. The excellent suggestion has also been made that a small class, with appropriate rewards, should be set aside for boys in the forthcoming Philatelic Exhibition, and we trust it may be held feasible.

The New Recruit, however, is not confined to youth, as men—and women—of all ages and ranks take readily to the pursuit; nor would they naturally be so easily deterred by the initial difficulties. None the less, however, do we think it inadvisable to send our neophyte a hand-book containing all the smallest varieties and all the largest prices. It is apt to chill his incipient ardour! The catalogue of a leading dealer is necessarily the pocket-companion of an adult Recruit, and it seems therefore to us that the most far-seeing publishers of these works will be those who invite new Philatelists by conciseness. Over-elaboration, whether of varieties or prices, in a general catalogue, is, in our humble judgment, harmful in its effect, both as regards the present and the future Philatelist. The trend of the situation to-day seems to indicate in the near future three grades of Philatelic information. The first is the simple album-catalogue previously referred to; the second is the general catalogue for the masses; and the third is the scientific and exhaustive hand-book of any particular country, for the specialist. The latter, by whomsoever issued, is not, however, food for the million.

Notes on the 5 Centavos Stamp of Bolivia.

AD BEFORE THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY ON 24TH APRIL, 1896,
AND SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED.

BY H. R. OLDFIELD.



THIS Stamp forms part of the Eagle set, consisting of four values, namely 5, 10, 50, and 100 centavos, issued in July, 1866, all of them being printed from engraved plates. The issue had only a short life, the design of the stamps having been entirely changed in 1868 or 1869 (when the next set appeared). The succeeding issues are stated to be typographed, but this appears to be an error.

Personally, I cannot help taking a much greater interest in engraved stamps than in any others; one feels so much safer with them—the same amount of technical knowledge is not required to protect the ordinary collector from forgeries; all that is requisite is a certain amount of common sense, plenty of patience and attention to details. At the same time, for an absolute novice I do not know that I would recommend the 5 centavos stamp of the Eagle issue as suitable to make a start upon. Some previous experience is desirable in stamps which are not printed in quite so many types.

The experience I possess (such as it is) was acquired from the engraved stamps of a European country, many of which are printed only in one type, while the most complicated do not appear in more than 40 types; and an intermediate stage of five types is provided in one issue, which prepares you for the transition from one to forty.

Consequently the jump from 40 to 72, does not so appal one with a sense of the magnitude of the task, as it might if met with without any previous experience.

And after all, many of the difficulties smooth themselves away, as soon as the work is seriously undertaken.

The catalogues show either three distinct plates for this value, or one plate with two retouches, in each case with 72 types; this seems to imply the examination of a doubtful specimen with 216 types (72 × 3) before you can properly identify it.

This, however, is not really so, for the first task to be accomplished is to ascertain the salient points common to all the 72 types on each plate, in order to distinguish them thereby from the stamps printed from any of the other plates. If this can be successfully done, the real work of identifying comes down again to examination with 72 types (and this, as I hope to show you, is not nearly so difficult as it sounds).

The sources of information to which I have had resort are *The Catalogue for Advanced Collectors* published by The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., and

Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue (Senf's and Scott's ordinary Catalogues give no information). The *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors* specifies *one* plate with two retouches; Stanley Gibbons' implies three separate plates. The result of the limited investigations I have hitherto been able to make, shows the existence of one or more plates in five different states. This result coincides with information supplied to me by Mr. E. D. Bacon, as to the contents of the Tapling Collection at the British Museum, where there are, I believe, four complete plates and one partly reconstructed, all of which differ the one from the other. I have had an opportunity of inspecting some twenty complete sheets—ten of which I am able to show you to-night, and also one *so-called* reconstructed sheet (supposed to have been arranged by a gentleman whose name is well known in the Philatelic world, but which, out of respect for his memory, I forbear to mention). This sheet contained 100 stamps arranged in ten rows of 10 stamps each; whereas the original plate, *I believe* (for I do not speak from absolute knowledge), contains 6 rows of 12 stamps each. These 100 stamps belonged, some to what I have tentatively called Plate A, and some to Plate B.

As the result of the few notes I am about to lay before you, I trust to receive further information and such corrections as may be requisite, for, as you will agree, from the materials so far at my disposal it would be wrong to dogmatize. These notes are meant merely to indicate the working hypothesis I have laid down, pending further and fuller information. Any accurate and reliable information as to the actual number of plates and retouches would be most valuable and useful.

Meanwhile I propose to call the sets of distinct sheets I have hitherto met with, Plates A, B, C, D, and E, and to premise any description with the intimation that the order assigned *is purely arbitrary* on my part. I have selected some few stamps from each sheet which illustrate the distinguishing marks now referred to.

Plate A. This plate (two sheets of which are here for inspection) is stated to have been printed in three colours—yellow-green, apple-green, and blue-green. I do not know whether the three colours were all actually printed from the same plate, or whether a separate plate exists for the yellow-green colour. I am inclined to think not, although I have not been fortunate enough to see a complete sheet of the yellow-green, or even so much as a pair of them. I believe, however, that the two sheets here to-night show the types, though not the colour, of the first plate from which these stamps were printed. In order that you may judge for yourselves, I submit one stamp, undoubtedly of the yellow-green colour, which I think you will find to be No. 43 on the plate. It appears to me to be the same type, but an earlier impression than either of those on the two complete sheets.

The design of the stamp is an eagle, with outstretched wings, resting upon a hemisphere of curved lines (usually called the globe); the background at the top is composed of crossed lines, the vertical ones slanting to the left, and the horizontal ones slanting downwards, also to the left. The whole is within an oval band outlined in green, containing, on a white ground, the following words: at the top, "Bolivia," at the bottom, "Centavos," at the left side, "Correos," and at the right side, "Contratos."

This is placed upon a background of vertical and horizontal lines surrounded by a plain rectangular frame, also outlined in green. At the corners of the stamp are white ovals separating the four words before mentioned, and each containing on a white ground a large figure 5, coloured green like the rest of the stamp.

I have ventured to summarise *the characteristics of Plate A* as follows: The lines of the globe are crossed by a series of small vertical lines, and at the extreme right by two or three diagonal lines curving slightly inwards. With the exception of some few stamps, mostly in the two top rows, these vertical lines commence about the centre of the upper part of the globe, extending thence to the right. In the exceptions mentioned, these vertical lines are confined more to the right and lower part of the globe.

The shading on the breast of the eagle is almost entirely composed of diagonal and horizontal lines. There are some few indicating the line of the throat, and one, or perhaps two, running parallel with the vertical lines of the wings, but the comparative absence of vertical lines of shading is one of the features of this plate.

Plate B. This corresponds, I believe, to what is called "Plate I., First Retouch," in the *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors.* It is there stated to be printed in dark green, and in its worn state in dark green and in violet. I have here two sheets of this plate in varying shades of green, neither of which (having regard to some that follow) can, I think, be properly termed dark green. With reference to the lilac shade, it does not seem to have been printed from this plate, as will appear later on.

The main characteristics of Plate B are the following:—

The vertical lines on the globe have almost disappeared. The diagonal lines at the right have been strengthened, deepened, or newly cut, so that they stand out much more clearly or distinctly than in Plate A. Numerous VERTICAL lines of shading have been inserted on the breast of the eagle.

If you compare the stamps of Plate A with those of Plate B, it is easy to detect the differences in the lines of shading, indicating the eye, the mouth, and the lines of the throat, or some one or more of them.

Plate C. This plate appears to correspond with Plate I., second retouch, in the *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, and the two sheets I am able to show you, seem to be printed in the two shades there described as dark and light-blue green.

Its chief characteristics are:—

The disappearance of the diagonal lines from the globe, as well as of the vertical ones, except in the case of some few stamps, notably Nos. 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, 22, 54, 64, and 66. There is, however, in many of the stamps a thickness or dark indistinctness in this part. New short horizontal lines have been added to the right of the globe (as stated in the *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*), or in some cases the existing lines have been merely deepened and broadened.

Speaking generally, the breast of the eagle in this plate has a much more open and white appearance than in Plate B, the lines of shading there being decidedly less numerous. There is an error in this sheet, the stamp No. 66 in the bottom row being lettered "Boiivia" instead of "Bolivia."

Plate D. Of this plate I have only one sheet to show you, and the firm from whom I purchased it sold it as identical with the plate which I have termed E, from which, however, it differs materially, as will appear from the comparison of similar stamps from the various sheets which I append towards the end of these notes. At the same time I have found great difficulty in discovering any general description applying to all the stamps on Plate D, by which they may easily be distinguished from those on Plate E. The plate itself, as a whole, can easily be distinguished; but when some point is discovered, characteristic of most, if not of all, of the stamps, you find some one or more stamps on the other sheet to which the description seems equally applicable. The sheet I have here is printed in a colour which can undoubtedly be properly described as dark green.

Its leading characteristics are :—

That the thickness to the right of the globe, as described in Plate C, is much more strongly marked, approaching almost to a dark shadow in this spot. The lines of the background are much closer together, and in places the background appears to be almost solid (as it does in the stamps of Sicily) unless examined through a magnifying-glass.

Generally speaking, the stamp has a much rougher and coarser appearance than in the earlier plates. The word "Bolivia," in stamp No. 66 in the bottom row, is correctly spelt. It has been suggested that the correct position for this plate is before 'C' and not after it; but I do not feel able to express any opinion on this point at present.

Plate E. Here, for descriptive purposes, I find myself, as indicated above, in somewhat of a difficulty. I have three sheets for your inspection—two of varying shades of green, and one in an undoubtedly dark green shade. The dark one is apparently the latest printing, for the lines cut in the plate on the occasion, possibly, of its retouch, and which run right across many of the stamps at the top and left side, and also across nearly all those of the bottom row, while they show clearly enough in the two lighter shades, are much fainter in the dark green sheet, and have almost entirely disappeared as regards the stamps of the bottom row. *Generally speaking*, I can only say that the workmanship is decidedly rougher and coarser even than in Plate D. The background in most cases is composed, apparently, only of confused lines in blocks, instead of consisting of crossed vertical and horizontal lines running continuously across the stamp from top to bottom, or side to side. The plate has the appearance of being upon its last legs, and quite fit to give place to the new issue, which, I should imagine, was then about to appear. In stamp No. 66 the lettering much *more nearly approaches* "Bouvia" than "Bolivia."

To summarise these notes, and justify my assumption that there were either five plates or retouches of the plates, so as to account for, at least, five distinct varieties of sets, or sheets, of 72 stamps each, it would seem necessary now to take one or more stamps in the same position in each of the five sheets (numbered A to E), and compare them one against the other; and this I will proceed to do, and thus, I trust, incidentally dispose of the point that one of my five sheets may only be an impression from a worn plate, from which, before it became worn, one of the other sheets may

have been printed. I suppose I shall have disposed of this point if I show different and distinct marks or lines of engraving on each of the five stamps selected.

I then propose, in conclusion, to make one or two comments on the 5 centavos yellow-green, and on the lilac shade.

Now if you take the end stamp at the right of the top row (No. 12) on each sheet, and examine the lines of the throat of the eagle, you will at once see that the stamps on Sheets A, B, and C are entirely different.

You will observe that the engraver's tool appears to have slipped just above the "l" of "Bo*l*ivia" in this stamp on Sheets A and B, causing a green diagonal line which extends towards the right of the stamp over the white margin above the outer frame at the top. This seems to indicate that Sheets A and B are printed from one plate, which, however, has evidently been considerably retouched.

You will also notice four lines of shading in the throat, on Sheet C, which also appear in exactly the same position in the stamps on Sheets D and E. This, again, appears to indicate that Sheets C, D, and E were printed from the same plate, and that any differences between the sheets can only be accounted for by the theory of a retouch or retouches.

To discover such differences it will be sufficient to examine the end stamp at the left of the top row (No 1 on each sheet). The stamps on Sheets A, B, and C are again so different as to require no comment. In Sheet D there are several variations from Sheet C. The white space between the outline of the right wing of the eagle and the first of the inner lines of shading upon it, is much narrower in D than in C; there are four short horizontal lines of shading on the breast of the eagle in Sheet D which do not appear in Sheet C; and there are several other variations which can be detected upon a careful examination. In Sheet E are two entirely NEW thick strokes indicating the throat of the eagle, and the shape of the top and back of the eagle's head is indicated by a thick curved line, which extends downwards, running parallel with the lines of the right wing. This is not to be found in either Sheets D or C.

Various and possibly numerous other differences can be found on examination, but I think I have said enough to prove the existence of at least five different sheets.

There is one further point to which attention might be called, which is to be found upon the fourth stamp in the third row, No. 28 on Plates C, D, and E, where the engraver's tool has again slipped just below and between the "V" and the "I" of "Bolivia."

The conclusions I have drawn from an examination, the main points of which I have referred to in the above notes, are:—

1st.—That the yellow-green variety has not been printed from a separate plate, but that the earlier impressions, from what I will now venture to call Plate I., were taken in this shade.

In support of this contention, and in addition to the stamp I have already passed round, I now submit two others, which I think you will find coincide exactly with Nos. 25 and 68 upon the sheet I have hitherto called A.

2nd.—That the stamps on Sheet A were printed from Plate I.

3rd.—That the stamps on Sheet B were printed from Plate I. after it had been retouched, and should properly be called "Plate 1. Retouched," or, "First Retouch."

4th.—That the stamps on Sheet C were printed from an entirely new plate. This is a conclusion which, I admit, is open to discussion, and upon which it should be possible to obtain an authoritative decision upon reference to the postal authorities of the country itself. It was disputed when these notes were read; but upon a further examination, I am inclined, upon the whole, to adhere to this opinion.

My conclusion is based solely upon an examination of the stamps. Upon a general examination, it will be noted that the stamps on Sheet C present a much clearer and finer appearance than those on Sheet B; there is no diagonal line in No. 12 on Sheet C over the "L" of "Bolivia," as there is in No. 12 in B. Nearly all the stamps in the bottom row of Sheet B show traces of the vertical lines on the globe, as well as of diagonal lines. With the exception of Nos. 64, 65, and 66, none of the stamps in the bottom row of Sheet C show any trace of either vertical or diagonal lines.

Again, there is the line under the "V" and "I" of "Bolivia" in No. 28 on Sheet C, which is not apparent in either A or B. It has been pointed out to me that the spacing between the stamps in the two last rows, is identical in all five sheets, and that the vertical space between the fourth and fifth vertical rows of stamps from the right, is also similar in all five sheets. As against this, however, I rely upon the measurements of the stamps, and of the entire sheets. The stamps on Sheets A and B measure practically 20 × 24 mm. each, and the entire sheets 288 × 155 mm. The stamps on Sheets C, D, and E, measure practically 20 × 25 mm. each, and the entire sheets 288 × 160 mm.

For these reasons I venture to designate the stamps on Sheet C as from Plate 2.

5. That the stamps on Sheet D were printed from a retouch of Plate 2, and I call them therefore "Plate 2, First Retouch."

6. That the stamps in Sheet E were printed also from a retouch of Plate 2, and I call them therefore "Plate 2, Second Retouch."

The difficulty of identifying any particular stamp is therefore not quite so great as would appear at first sight, for it is possible to assign it to one or other of the five sheets, after a short examination, and we come back to the initial labour of identifying it with one of the 72 types on the sheet to which it belongs.

Fortunately there are several tests which will enable you rapidly to ascertain the position of most of the specimens coming under your notice.

1. The relative positions of the four white ovals containing the figures of value, as contrasted with the four words of the inscription between them.

2. The lines of shading, indicating the throat of the eagle.

3. The shape of the wings at the top, and the position of the head of the eagle between them.

4. The position occupied by the outer lines of the wings at the bottom of the stamp.

For instance, I have taken at hazard the strip of three stamps from Sheet A, forming part of those I have put together to illustrate the five varieties of sheets, and with very little difficulty I have ascertained that they are Nos. 15, 16, and 17 on the sheet. In the same way it can easily be ascertained that the block of four from Sheet E are Nos. 23, 24, 34, and 35 on the sheet.

It now remains for me to indicate the plate to which these investigations have led me to assign the five centavo stamps in the lilac colour.

The *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors* described them as printed from what is there called "Plate 1, First Retouch, worn state of Plate." This would, I think, correspond with what I have called Sheet B, or "Plate 1 retouched," but I believe this is not correct. The appearance of the new diagonal lines of shading to the right of the globe is first noted in what the *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors* calls "Plate 1, Second Retouch," and what I have called Sheet C, or "Plate 2." These horizontal lines, or traces of them, are noticeable on all the lilac stamps I have seen, and at first I thought they were printed from this plate. Upon an examination of the few which I possess, however, this was evidently not so, but eventually I discovered they appeared to be printed from what I have termed Sheet E, or "Plate 2, Second Retouch."

You can judge for yourselves as to this from the following stamps which, to my thinking, correspond exactly with Nos. 47, 50, 53, 56, and 60 on Sheet E.

Since writing most of the above notes, I have received (through the kindness of Mr. E. D. Bacon) photographs of the five sheets in the Tapling Collection. Upon examination I have been able to identify four of them with Sheets A, B, C, and E, as already described. The fifth sheet appears to be from the same plate from which my Sheet B was printed, but in a much more worn state.

None of them are identical with the sheet I have called D.

V. S.

April 22nd, 1896.

The Second Issue of the Colombian Republic.

By M. P. CASTLE.



HE Philatelic gods seem to grind slowly, but to grind exceeding fine, and it truly appears that no problem is too intricate for solution in the course of time. In proof of which somewhat Grandisonian sentiment, I submit my own experience in connection with the issue above referred to. In my earlier days of general collecting, there were no stamps that afforded me more interest than those of this country, then universally dubbed New Granada, in accordance with their image and superscription on the issues of 1859, 1860, and 1861. It is the second of these issues, hitherto assigned to 1860, that I refer to, although Mr. Curtis, doubtless on good grounds, calls it the "second type of 1859." It is, however, generally known to differentiate from the preceding issue by the smaller size of the shield and design generally, inclusive of the figures above and below the central oval.

The great charm in this issue consisted in the profusion of shades, which, in the case of the 10 c., almost exhausted every combination of orange, red, and brown: in the case of the 2½ c. green, and 1 peso rose, there are less, but still marked shades, while in the two remaining values—the 5 c. violet and the 20 c. blue—the colours actually overlapped. M. Moens most excellently groups the leading shades in his catalogue as follows:—

5 c.	20 c.
bright blue.	bright blue.
violet-blue.	dark blue.
lilac.	blue.
violet.	sky-blue.
dark violet.	
slate.	

The first colour cited is therefore absolutely identical, and the second is also frequently so close as to be practically indistinguishable. In view of subsequent discoveries, these approximations of colour are most interesting, and I should like to see a colour chart composed of all the shades of both values. It is nearly twenty years since, when on a visit to Vienna, I purchased of the late M. Larisch, for a nominal sum, a pair of the "20 c." in a dull deep blue, the right-hand stamp bearing, above and below, the numeral 5 instead of 20. As showing that we were more primitive in those days, I may say that I was enabled to buy it thus cheaply, as the Viennese collectors did not understand it, and would not therefore touch it. A few years later, on the dispersal of my general collection, these two stamps were offered to the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, and it is interesting to note that he declined them because he held (and doubtless correctly—in accordance with the list

previously quoted) to have each shade of both separately. My unsevered specimens were, as far as I knew until lately, the only ones extant; were duly inserted in the books of the chroniclers, and ultimately terminated an honourable existence by passing into the hands of a celebrated collector. This closes what I may call Volume I. of my experiences with this stamp.

Many years elapsed before I renewed my acquaintanceship with the varieties of this 20 c. This was during my visit to New York in the summer of 1893, when I had the pleasure of inspecting the fine collection of Colombian stamps belonging to my friend, Mr. Henry Clotz, of that city. Among his specimens of the 1860 issue, he showed me a blue 20 c., which had apparently previously had the numerals "5" above and below, and which had been crudely and clumsily reconverted into "20." I briefly alluded to this, as being as rare as interesting, in my "Traveller's Notes."* I had always intended to have made some observations on this variety, but fortunately did not do so, as by the latest discovery, my conjectures would, to a certain extent, have proved erroneous. As I have previously stated, I had never come across a second specimen of this error of the 20 and 5 *se tenant*, and had formed a highly respectable notion of its rarity—even to uniqueness. Hence, when I lighted upon Mr. Clotz' stamp, I fancied that the explanation of this scarcity was undoubtedly due to the fact that the error on the lithographic stone had been noted in an early phase of its existence, and had been corrected before any considerable number of impressions had been struck off. This solution would naturally appeal to anyone as at once accounting for the rarity and the disappearance of the original error—with the concomitant inferential drawback, that the altered die should have been occasionally forthcoming in lieu thereof. I still think it, however, likely that this latter exists in several instances, but has escaped the owners' observation; and now that attention has been called thereto, we may probably see other specimens. This corroboration of the existence of my former error "after many years," seemed to me as interesting as conclusive, nor did I anticipate that any further light hereon was either wanted or likely to be forthcoming.

That my conclusions were immature will, however, be gathered from the following information, for which I am indebted to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*:—

"COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.

First Type of 1859.

10 c., orange; sheet of fifty stamps, 5 rows of 10 stamps.

The second stamp on the second row is inverted.

Second Type of 1859.

5 c., violet-blue; sheet of fifty-five, in 5 rows of 11 stamps.

On first row the ninth and eleventh stamps are inverted.

On second row the second stamp is inverted.

On fourth row, the fifth stamp has the value 50 c. above and below. In the sheet before us this stamp has been cancelled by punching out the shield with a large circular punch.

On the fifth row the sixth stamp is inverted.

* See *London Philatelist*, vol. ii. p. 179.

20 c., blue ; sheet of fifty-five, in 5 rows of 11 stamps.

On first row the second stamp is inverted.

On third row, the third stamp has had the values altered ; the lines of background at sides of value are very faint, and the numerals large, ill-shaped, and very heavily printed.

On fourth row the second stamp is of the value of 5 *c.*, both upper and lower numerals being perfectly formed.

It will be recollected that the De Coppet collection contained a 5 c., deep blue. Mr. De Coppet always maintained that this was an error. The present find demonstrates his wonderful acumen in all matters Philatelic."

It appears that Mr. W. T. Curtis, who has long been known as a mighty hunter after Colombians, recently acquired some unused sheets of the first two issues of these, and submitted them to the editor of the aforenamed paper. The italics are my own, calling attention to the most important information. As regards the 10 c. of the first issue (1859), the *tête-bêche* has been long known ; but the exact position on the sheet, or number of such, was, I believe, unascertained. M. Moens chronicles a variety having 20 below instead of 10. That could easily exist, in view of later vagaries, but no mention is made hereof, and it would be interesting if Mr. Curtis could corroborate this.

As regards the 5 c., violet-blue, of the second issue—designated by Mr. Curtis as "Second Type of 1859," the well-known *tête-tôches* are now duly located, there being no less than four stamps on the sheet so placed—an interesting fact as fully bearing out the relative commonness of this variety compared with the 10 c. of Issue I., in olden days.

The variety showing "50" above and below I have never met with, although I am aware it has been long chronicled, which may doubtless be accounted for in the fact that, as in Mr. Curtis's sheet, the erroneous "50 c." may have been, in almost all sheets, rendered unavailable for circulation by defacement.

The discoveries afforded as regards the 20 c. are the most important, and form Volume III. of my Philatelic tale of Colombia. In the first case it appears that the 20 c. blue also exists *tête-bêche*, a fact to which I must plead ignorance, if not everyone else. In the second place, "the Clotz specimen" is located as the third stamp, row the third, and it should be noted that the alterations have been so badly done that if the stamp exists in collections it should be easily detected. In the third, last, *and most important* case, it appears that "the Castle specimen" exists also, almost directly under the altered die, being No. 2 in the fourth row on the same sheet. My naturally preconceived theory as to the alteration of my specimen is thus incontinently dismissed, and the fact remains that for some unaccountable reason one error was altered while the other remained untouched. It is therefore somewhat remarkable that no other specimens than those cited should (as far as I am aware) have been seen. I can only conclude that the sheets, having been almost all cut up, the 5 c. *blue*, as an error, has escaped notice, and the interesting question now is, whether it can be properly distinguished by the colour alone from those printed as *blue* 20 cents. It is clear

that the late Mr. Tapling and Mr. De Coppet, both distinguished Philatelists, truly differentiated the severed error; but it remains to be seen whether there are not other perhaps less gifted collectors in possession of treasures unaware. The clouds are thus finally lifted from a hitherto obscure spot in the history of the Colombian stamps, and with the certain knowledge that these varieties of nearly 40 years since were purely accidental, I cannot but think they merit more than a passing attention at the hands of collectors of South American stamps. I am aware that varieties or "errors" on the lithographic stone are, in certain Philaletic circles, not regarded as of high importance; but as far as my humble judgment is concerned, I must say that I regard this sheet of the 1860 Colombian, with its several errors and varieties, as one of the most interesting and desirable Philatelic treasures that any collector might desire to possess.

Philatelic Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

GREAT BRITAIN—THE ONE PENNY, LARGE CROWN, PERF. 16.

WE are indebted to Mr. Arthur H. Stamford for the inspection of a specimen of this stamp, that antedates somewhat its known existence. The stamp in question is of the well-known rose-red shade, watermarked as usual with the large crown, but perforated 16, and the last of the series of this gauge; it is on an original cover despatched from London on January 8th, 1858, with the Bradford date obliteration of the following day. As our correspondent states, at the beginning of this year the earliest known date was January 29th, 1858, in Messrs. Hilckes & Co.'s Catalogue; but it appears that Mr. H. L. Ewen has since noted a specimen used about the middle of that month.

WEST INDIAN POSTAL (?) FISCALS.

AS will be noted generally in this issue of the *London Philatelist*, there seems no lack of snares against which to warn the unwary collector, and Mr. W. W. Blest kindly sounds a note of warning as to the above. For years past there have been large quantities of West Indian Fiscal stamps, that having done duty, have been subsequently "post-marked," generally in the City, and passed on for the benefit of collectors. Our correspondent especially warns us against the Tobago, 1879, 5/- grey and black, and the St. Lucia, 1885–86, 1/- orange-brown, which have been cleaned and fictitiously obliterated. *Caveat emptor!*

Occasional Notes.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1897.

A MEETING of the Executive Committee, which was very fully attended, was held at Effingham House on Thursday, the 15th October.

Mr. J. A. Tilleard was unanimously elected Secretary.

The following Sub-Committees were appointed from amongst the Members of the Executive.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

W. B. Avery.	E. B. Evans.	W. H. Peckitt.
M. P. Castle.	G. J. Hynes.	

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

E. D. Bacon.	M. Giwelb.	H. R. Oldfield.
W. D. Beckton.	Gordon Smith.	R. Pearce.
M. P. Castle.	W. Hadlow.	W. T. Wilson.
R. Ehrenbach.	T. Wickham Jones.	

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE.

S. E. Gwyer. | T. Maycock. | E. J. Nankivell. | C. J. Phillips.

A number of other important matters were discussed at the meeting, which was of long duration; and it may be confidently asserted that the work of the several Sub-Committees will soon be in evidence.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

WE are informed by Mr. E. D. Bacon that the stamps in the British Museum have again been changed, Victoria being now on view, in place of those of the United States of America.

DR. E. DIENA ON ITALIAN FORGERIES.

WE are indebted to our esteemed correspondent, the *doyen* of Italian Philately, for the following interesting letter anent the increasing number of forged Italian stamps, which are further alluded to in this current number. We most cordially appreciate the Doctor's sentiment as to the interest attaching to old Italian States, and like him, regret that these forgery-mongers should be allowed to pursue their devious way unchecked. In the case of the latest, we have at least done our best to stop the sale of these forgeries, and have good reason to hope that our action may bear fruit.

"I wish to give you an example of the boldness to which the forgers have arrived. There has been submitted to me a complete series of the envelopes of Austria and Lombardy-Venice, 1861 (with head to the left), large size, obliterated. The reprints of 1889 (without watermark) have been provided with forged addresses and false postal obliterations. The addresses are the following:—Conte Attilio Faella, Comacchio, Ottavio Deferrari, Milano; Filippo Migone & Co., Giuseppe Pelissa, Genoa; Gaetano Pietrobono, Venezia.

"The postmarks on the Austrian envelopes are only Rovereto, 11th or 14th of February, in two lines in slanting characters, and Trient $\frac{13}{3}$ and $\frac{18}{3}$ in a circle.

"On the envelopes of Lombardy-Venice there are the following obliterations:—Adria $\frac{29}{12}$, in three concentric circles; Verona $\frac{16}{12}$ $\frac{27}{12}$, in a double circle, with ornament in the lower part; and Venezia $\frac{16}{1}$ and $\frac{23}{2}$ in a circle. In "arrival postmarks," I find also Milano 20 Dice. 62, in a circle (in red); Venezia, already described; Comacchio, in a double circle, with a Savoy cross in the centre, and a small ornament in the lower part; "Genova, Arrivo" 14 Dic. 61, in a rectangle (in red); most of these envelopes are embellished with postmarks, Recom, Raccomandata, P D. The figures are either in oily ink or done with the pen, denoting insufficient payment; and, to complete the work, fictitious seals of business firms, etc. etc. It is really disgusting!

"These swindles emanate from Genoa, from the same source to which we owe the false stamps of Sardinia of the first issue (the 5 cent. black, also a *tête-bêche!*), the false Parma 1857-59 and Provisional Government, States of the Church 50 baj. and 1 scudo, and a crowd of false obliterations on the original stamps of the different Italian States.

"*Apropos* of these Italian forgeries, I see that you have described in a late number of your journal the false Naples stamp of 1860—Savoy Cross printed on the original 2 grana stamp of 1858, with the colour previously removed by the aid of chemical agents. I wish to advise you that the author of this imitation is a forger in Turin, who announces these stamps as 'reprints' on original paper. He has also made, in the same way, the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese 'trinacria.' This scoundrel sells, also, nearly all the other Italian stamps forged, either on letters or separately. He has produced lately some Nevis (which I have not seen) and the 6d. and 1s. triangular Cape of Good Hope, very well imitated—which, however, will not deceive careful collectors. One hears complaints, with good reason, that the collection of Italian stamps, rich as they are in varieties and rarities, and interesting, above all, from an historical point of view, is not appreciated as it really merits; but the cause of this is attributable principally, I believe, to the great difficulty which the amateur finds in collecting these stamps without falling into the many snares that are set for him on every hand—imitations, reprints, forged obliterations, etc. etc.

"Let us hope that a reaction may set in, and that the Italian authorities may decide (it is never too late) to commence a vigorous campaign against these forgers, who have become more audacious than ever by long impunity.

"They would do well to follow the example of your country, or Germany, or the United States. The day these measures are taken, the collection of Italian stamps will be more appreciated."

FORGERY—RAMPANT.

IT will be recollected that we recently described a dangerous forged blue Naples seen by Mr. Castle during the Geneva Exhibition; and it seems from a modest little catalogue that we have received, that this particular work of art is only a sample of the wares that this Italian Chevalier d'Industrie is capable of turning out. For sublime and concentrated impudence the following sentences from the Preface deserve placing on record:—

"Many amateurs, not being able to complete their collection, because they are unable to find the genuine rarities, or on account of the expense, abandon

Philately. This is very dangerous for both collectors and dealers, and in order to remedy this, the imitations here catalogued—which are so like the real stamp as to be almost undistinguishable—have been issued by the editor. Many of these imitations are bought by societies and Philatelic clubs to instruct their members." Very likely; but not in the sense that this miscreant means! The catalogue includes all the Italian States—"used" and unused—with 50 c. *supplément*, if on the entire letter. The Naples Arms, blue or rose, all values, and the Cross, can be supplied either on ordinary paper, or, at a higher figure, on the "paper of the real stamps of 2 grana, faded out, real watermark, and obliteration." It includes the current "Italian stamps, genuine, with imitation surcharge, Colonial Eritrea," and the same as regards all the Estero series. The English Colonies also figure bravely—Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad, Mauritius, Gambia, and others—while the St. Helena are furnished with long and short bars, etc. Payment, needless to state, must always be in advance; but the manufacturer will exchange his wares (made in Italy) against rare postages stamps either per 1000 or per kilo. In fact he would take anything, like any other highway robber. Complete isolation is the only cure for such rascality, and it is to be regretted that there is no Italian Old Bailey. Unless some means can be conceived to stop this wholesale forgery, the market will be flooded with dangerous imitations; and in the case of the blue Naples Cross, with its varying centre, they will be especially likely to deceive many inexperienced collectors. We will attempt something, even if we achieve nothing.

THE NEW YORK PHILATELIC CLUB.

IT is now announced in the American journals that this proposed institution has "a foot upon the ground," and ere long will be standing firmly and self-supporting. The capital stock of the funds required has been divided into 100 shares, all of which have been taken up by the Committee and their friends, and a suitable domicile has been secured. It is anticipated that under this one roof all the Philatelic requirements of New York—societies, clubs, libraries, auctions, etc.—will be comfortably located, and it seems therefore to present a bright, desirable, prospect—a Philatelic Utopia. We shall probably have full details early, but meantime, from this side of the water, can send our hearty congratulations and good wishes to our friends in New York. There is no boundary question dividing Philatelists.

MORE REMOVALS TO THE STRAND.

THE Philatelic Highway of London is rapidly verifying its pseudonym, and we suppose the day will come when it will be a Philatelic Paternoster Row, to the exclusion of all other and more frivolous occupations. Mr. W. Hadlow, the auctioneer, has removed from Exeter Street to No. 331, Strand, where he has secured a spacious and convenient suite

of rooms on the first floor. We understand that, although immediately opposite Somerset House, no undue spirit of competition has induced Mr. Hadlow to move so near his official competitors in the stamp line, and that he is sincerely anxious that both businesses should continue to flourish side by side. It is an undeniable position, and we think that Mr. Hadlow will gain by the move. The auctions held during the remainder of the present season by Mr. Hadlow, will take place at the spacious rooms of the Philatelic Club, 40, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly; also a move that is judicious, and should conduce to the comfort of all concerned.

Another sign of the times is the removal from Bath to 37 Essex Street, Strand, of Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. The name of this firm is of the oldest, their reputation has always been, deservedly, of the best, and their advent to the hub of Philately will be hailed by past, present, and potential friends and customers.

THE PHILATELIC CLUB AND EXCHANGE, JERMYN STREET.

THE first Auction promoted by this enterprising Club was held on the 22nd of this month, and was, we understand, in every way gratifying to its promoters.

At the Concert held on the 1st of the month, a great and varied amount of talent—vocal, instrumental, and histrionic—was displayed by Members of the Club and other artistes, and resulted in a most enjoyable *soirée*.

Amongst the members recently elected, are such well-known Philatelists as the Baron Anthony de Worms, Hy. Calman (of New York), Philip von Ferrary (of Paris), L. Anthony (of London), J. Delzenne (of Paris), David Benjamin (of Shanghai), H. W. Colebrook (of Coquille, U.S.A.), Dalgety Henderson, Lala Kashmiri Mull, J. C. Sidebotham, and G. J. Campbell (of Calcutta).

The subscription for Lady Members has been reduced to 21s., and at present there is no entrance fee.

THE NOVA SCOTIAN REMAINDERS.

THE Aesopian moral of wolf and the lamb has again been amply verified in the case of these stamps. The dealers who buy and sell, and the collectors who purchase, have every reason to be gratified at the unexpected apparition of these remainders. In the former case it creates a legitimate demand, and thereby increases their sales, and in the latter case it affords to an enormously increased circle of collectors a reasonable chance of acquiring (in mint condition) one of the most beautiful and striking sets of stamps. The only persons injured are "the clever ones," those who "rush in where wiser fear to tread," and those who have speculated—*i.e.* bought up and hoarded stocks. For these speculators there is no occasion to sympathise: it is rare that they fail to make a handsome profit, and they can afford to lose—as collectors often do through their operations. We do not blame them—their transactions are purely mercantile—a leaven that tinges many of our operations; but

per contra we fail to see any just cause for lamentations. As to any deleterious influence on Philately—the cry is senseless; while the statements that have been made as to panics caused in English stamp circles are pure moonshine. The cheaper these beautiful sets become, the better for Philately—they are not inexhaustible, and will find so many Philatelic admirers that their *écoulement*, at a moderate price, is likely to form a perennial attraction to Philately. The sale of beautifully-engraved stamps, *pace* North Borneo, Congo, Liberia, British South Africa, etc. etc., does not militate against the dealer's interests—as, we presume, he makes a legitimate profit—and it certainly adds to the charm of collecting in the eyes of the million. The dispersal of these Nova Scotians is on all fours with these—with the additional charm of antiquity from a Philatelic aspect.

Since writing the foregoing remarks we have seen *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* of October 8th, and its remarks are so much to the point that we venture to reproduce them, as corroborating the common-sense view of the incident, mutually held on both sides of the Atlantic:

"Our English correspondent has dwelt at some length upon the subject of Nova Scotia remainders, and the effect that these stamps have had upon the Philatelic market abroad. It seems to us, however, that a discovery of this kind is disastrous, more particularly to the interests of speculators in stamps—those who make a run on special varieties, hoarding them up and causing the price to advance accordingly. In making observations from this standpoint, little sympathy can be expressed for the speculator, as his interests are at variance with those of the stamp collector, not only causing the collector greater inconvenience in securing specimens that he may desire, but forcing him to pay much higher prices. On the other hand, judging of this lot of remainders from the collector's standpoint, there are many who have felt that they could not afford to add the complete set to their collections, and particularly the 8½ cents value, whereas it is within the reach of a large majority, on account of the reduction in price which has been brought about by the remainders being placed upon the market."

A STIMULUS FOR THE "YOUNG COLLECTOR."

A FURTHER evidence of the Trade's awakened desire to cater for the juvenile Philatelist is afforded in the issue (by Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co., 37, Essex Street, London) of a small pamphlet, entitled *Notes on the Contents of the Rowland Hill Packet of Postage Stamps.* These packets are issued in three parts, and in the aggregate contain nearly 800 varieties, having been apparently selected so as to embrace at least a specimen from almost every country. The purport of the pamphlet in question is to give an interesting note relating to each country whose stamps are included in the series. These notes, which range from Alwar to Zululand, in every instance contain at once a kernel of information and a whet to the juvenile Philatelic appetite; they are succinctly and brightly written, and are obviously the work of an old hand and an able Philatelist. The idea is an excellent one, well planned and well carried out, which cannot fail to exercise an attraction to beginners, young or old.

Reviews.

HILCKES' AUCTION SUMMARY.*

THE success that awaited Messrs. Hilckes' initial venture last year in epitomising the year's public sales of stamps, has naturally resulted in a continuation of the enterprise. We took occasion to cordially recommend this very useful compilation, and in its successor we see no reason to hark back from our former favourable verdict. There are, in fact, further improvements, the most important of which are that the different values are set up in heavy type, thus readily catching the eye; and that the unused stamps now precede the used, instead of appearing, as before, in a promiscuous manner. That this work is of great service to the purchasers (and sellers) at auctions there can be no doubt, and taking an average of the prices attained for the very considerable number of the rarer stamps that annually change ownership by auction, an investor has a very fair standard of current values in this handy little volume. It must, however, be borne in mind that condition, time, weather, or competition play important parts in the sums realised at auction. To take one instance only of these vagaries, let anyone study the prices recorded for the One Shilling values of St. Vincent, and he will see fluctuations of 250 to 300 per cent. as regards the same stamp in the same condition (or so indicated). These discrepancies are doubtless due largely to the generally inaccurate description of condition in auction catalogues. The size of the book has been reduced to convenient pocket dimensions, and in all other respects it is to be highly commended.

THE STAMPS OF BERGEDORF.†

This work is practically an integral portion of the magnificent history of the German postage stamps that has been in course of issue during the past two years by Mr. Hugo Krötzsch, of Leipsic, under the now well-known title of *Permanentes Handbuch der Postfreimarken-kunde.* The first portion of this *magnum opus* relates to the German States, and Bergedorf constitutes Division IV. hereof. Mr. Krötzsch has long earned a well-deserved reputation as an able and conscientious Philatelist, and in the present instance he is treating of a subject that he has always especially made his own. His researches on and collection of the stamps of Bergedorf are known to most European collectors, and he has embodied

* Hilckes' Auction Summary, No. 2, for the Season 1895-96. H. Hilckes & Co., Ltd., 64, Cheapside, E.C.

† The Postage Stamps of the German States. Division IV., Bergedorf. Hugo Krotzsch, Leipsic.

his own studies, and those of all the contemporaneous writers hereon, in this handsomely-illustrated work, within whose 170 pages will be found all that is known to date about the quaint Hanse Town stamps.

With regard to the first issue of ½ and 3 schilling, Herr Krötzsch steels his mind against accepting these two stamps as having been really issued, until such time as he can see copies duly postmarked on letters. Judging from the few weeks in which they are presumed to have been in existence, this seems an unlikely occurrence. In our view, after due consideration of all that has been written by Mons. Moens, Paalzow, Rommel, and Fraenkel, we lean to the opinion of the former, that these two stamps, according to the weight of official evidence, were duly prepared for and put in issue. In 1867 official reprints were made, and it is hardly likely a *reprint* of an *unissued stamp* would be executed by any Government.

The sheets of the ordinary issue, with their respective "block" variations, the various reprints, the cancellations—including those of Denmark, Hamburg, Prussia, and Schleswig Holstein, on the Bergedorf stamps—the qualities and varieties of the paper, and gum, are all exhaustively treated. Official documents abound, and the illustrations are superb. As evincing the care given to the subject of the difficult obliterations, the author states that he has examined over 225 specimens on and off letters, of which barely 100 could be certified as genuine. "Bergedorf" is an exceedingly able production, and we heartily congratulate Mr. Krötzsch on the success of his laborious studies.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.—We illustrate the new and permanent design, and two post cards have been issued with stamps of the same type. The following notice appeared in the *London Gazette*, from which we surmise that (1) in course of time a Government series of stamps may be issued with the inscription "Uganda Protectorate," (2) the expected series for Zanzibar and Pemba Islands will be issued in due course, and (3) the present series in the type illustrated will be permanent for East Africa Protectorate.



"Foreign Office, August 31st.—It is hereby notified for public information, that all the territories in East Africa now under the protectorate of Her Majesty, except the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, and the Uganda Protectorate, are, for the purposes of administration, included in one Protectorate, under the name of East Africa Protectorate. This Protectorate includes the territories bounded on the north by the river Juba, on the east by the Indian Ocean, on the south by the German sphere, on the west by the Uganda Protectorate, and also all adjacent islands between the mouths of the rivers Juba and Umba."

Post Cards. ½ a., green on buff, 120×75 mm.
1 a., carmine ,, 140×90 ,,

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.—The *Philatelic Record* announces that the current issue is being re-engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, sundry improvements being introduced, although the general design remains unchanged. A new value of £1 will be added, and we wait further news from the actual stamps.

**

The same journal, in an article by Capt. Norris Newman, gives the exact quantities of the recent provisionals issue, and this we consider interesting enough to put on record.

7 sheets of	60 each,	"One Penny" on	3d. =	420
18 ,,	of 60 ,,	,, ,,	,, 4s. =	1080
50 ,,	of 60 ,,	"Three-pence" ,,	5s. =	3000

Cape Stamps surcharged.

100 sheets of	½d.	in 4 panes of 60 each, 240 stamps	=	24,000
150 ,,	of 1d.	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	=	36,000
75 ,,	of 2d.	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	=	18,000
11 ,,	of 3d.	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	=	2,600
37½ ,,	of 4d.	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	=	9,000
16½ ,,	of 6d.	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	=	3,900

We have also seen a copy of the One Shilling Cape of Good Hope stamp, transformed by the usual surcharge ("British" "South Africa" "Company") to an additional Buluwayo provisional.

Adhesive. One Shilling, ochre, black surcharge.

HONG KONG.—The *A. J. of Ph.* reports the reply half of the 4 c. on 3 c. post card, transformed into a single card by obliterating the word "REPLY" with a red line.

Post Card. 4 c. on 3 c., brown on *buff* (reply half).

JOHORE.—The *P. J. of G. B.* has received copies of the new stamps with head of the present Sultan; with this alteration the design remains as before. The watermark is a flower, and perforation 14.

Adhesives. 1 c., green.
2 c., green and blue.
3 c., green and purple.
4 c., green and rose.
5 c., green and brown.
6 c., green and yellow.
$1 ,, ,,

LABUAN.—To meet the requirements of the Labuan Post-office the 25 c., 50 c., and $1 stamps of the British North Borneo

Company have been printed in fresh colours, and surcharged "LABUAN."

Adhesives. 25 c., green; black surcharge.
50 c., red-brown ,, ,,
$1 blue ,, ,,

BRITISH LEVANT.—The current 10d. stamp has been surcharged in one line of black sans-serif letters, "4 PIASTRES."

Adhesive.
4 piastres on 10 pence, purple and carmine; black surcharge.

MAURITIUS.—The *Monthly Journal* has news that in order to dispose of a certain number of stamps on hand the Post-office Committee has recommended the surcharging business; also from the report of the Postal Department Enquiry Committee we learn that the following recommendations are made :—

1. New stamps to be ordered from England, available for both postage and revenue purposes.

2. Design to be Arms of Mauritius (after the ugly 3 c., we suppose !)

3. Values to be 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., 8 c., 15 c., 18 c., 25 c., 50 c.; rupees 1, 2.50, 5, and envelopes 18 c. and 36 c., and 8 c. single and reply post cards.

The report is dated 28th July, 1896.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—From the *Australian Philatelist* we learn that a sheet of the current 3d. has escaped the vertical perforation.

Adhesive. 3d., green; imperf. vertically.

NEW ZEALAND.—A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* possesses a copy of the current ½d., perf. 11.

Adhesive. ½d., black; perf. 11.

PATIALA.—*Mekeel's Weekly* reports the high value of Indians surcharged for use here.

Adhesives. 2 rupees, brown and carmine; black surcharge.
3 ,, green and brown ,, ,,
5 ,, violet and blue ,, ,,

SEYCHELLES.—Overprinting has commenced, and business is brisk. At present we have seen the 45 c. surcharged "18 CENTS" in thin sans-serif capitals, and the same value was surcharged "36 cents."

Twenty-four thousand 30 cent envelopes have also been surcharged "18 CENTS."

Adhesives. 18c. on 45 c., carmine and brown; black surch.
36 c. on 45 c. ,, ,, ,,
Envelope. 18 c. on 30 c., brown on *white*; black surch.

SIERRA LEONE.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new set of adhesives in the current colonial type. We presume the values will be supplemented by others as the respective stocks of the old issue run out.

Adhesives. 1d., lilac and carmine.
2d. ,, ,, orange.
2½d. ,, ,, blue.
3d. ,, ,, grey.
1s., green and black.

TOBAGO.—An error has evidently occurred in the printing of the last supply of 1s. stamps sent out to this Colony. The colour of the 6d. has been used, orange in place of ochre.

Adhesive. 1 shilling, orange.

TRINIDAD.—Annexed is an illustration of the new issue described in our September number.



ZANZIBAR.—The *P. J. of G. B.* reports two more of the permanent B.E.A. type surcharged for use here.

Adhesives. 2½ as, deep blue; red surch. (?)
5 as, bistre; black surch.

EUROPE.

BULGARIA.—The issue of the 25 stot. Unpaid Stamp in the new type is announced. (p. 183.)

Postage Due. 25 stot., carmine.

FINLAND.—*Le T.-P* notes the 1 mark with the new perforation.

Adhesive. 1 mark, rose and grey; perf. 13½.

FRANCE.—The *Monthly Journal* quotes the following notice from *L'Autorité*.

"Suppression of Postage Stamps.

"Mons. Boucher, Minister of Commerce, has decided upon the suppression of the following classes of postage stamps, the demand for which is very small, and which have the inconvenience of uselessly increasing the numbers of postal values in stock at each post-office.

1. Adhesive stamps, of 75 centimes.
2. Large size envelopes ,, 5 ,,
3. Small size ,, ,, 15 ,,
4. Stamped wrappers ,, 3 ,,
5. Unpaid letter stamps, of 60 centimes and 1 franc."

HOLLAND.—*Le Timbre Poste* chronicles the 50 c. adhesive, which, since October 1st, has moved up from the general small one-colour class to that of the larger and more stately bicolour.

Adhesive. 50 cent, bistre and green; perf. 11.

ITALY.—We give illustrations of the 1 and 2 c. adhesives.





PORTUGAL.—The *P. J. of G. B.* chronicles the following Post and Letter cards, with stamps of the current type.

Post Cards. 20 reis, lilac on *buff.*
20×20 ,, ,, ,, (reply).
30 ,, brown ,,
30×30 ,, ,, ,, (reply).
Letter Cards. 25 ,, green ,,
50 ,, blue on bluish.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The *M.J.* adds the following with the new watermark.

Adhesives. 12c., deep blue.
1 peso, lake.

BRAZIL.—The *P. J. of G. B.* chronicles a postage due stamp of 200 reis in *slate.*

Postage Due. 200 reis, slate, perf. 13½.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—From the *A. J. of Ph.* we learn that the current 10 centavos is now printed in bistre on rose paper.

Adhesive. 10 c., bistre on *rose.*

PANAMA.—A new value of the current "map" design is announced—1 peso.

Adhesive. 1 peso, carmine.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

ABYSSINIA.—We copy the following from the *Monthly Circular*:

The *Courrier des Timbres-poste* gives some curious information regarding Abyssinia, which is stated to have been received from a friend who has just returned from that country. The monetary unit is the *thaler* of Maria Theresa, which is worth about 4s., divided into 100 piastres of silver alloy, the piastre being rather smaller than a half-franc piece. He had never heard of "guerche" as a coin; and, according to him, the values of the stamps were ¼ piastre, ½ piastre, 1, 2, 4, 8 and 16 piastres. The thaler and piastre were the only moneys in metal that were in use in Abyssinia, and for small sums the payment was made in blocks of salt, the value of which increased according to the distance from the sea or the salt lakes.

As to the postal arrangements, there are two Post-offices, and two only, in Abyssinia, one at Harar, and the other at Entotto, and correspondence is only sent between these two towns, and from Harar to Djibouti. At Harar the service is gratuitous, and is done by the French Capuchin fathers, who sell the stamps and prepay the letters. The mail is made up in bags duly sealed, and is conveyed by two Abyssinians mounted on mules. This is as regards the transport from Harar to Djibouti; but from Djibouti to Harar it is by French couriers, who travel on camels and take three days and three nights for the journey.

We have not given a translation of the article, but only a summary—sufficient, however, to show that if the account is correct, there is no great necessity for the array of postage stamps, &c., with which we have been lately favoured. We were told that a new coinage had been made in Paris. Is this to supersede the small change of the piastres, which, being in small blocks of salt, cannot be very convenient to carry in one's purse. Surely there must be some metallic change for a piastre worth about 2¼d.

The truth would seem to lie in this, that the values are in "piastre," the Amharic of which is "guerche," in the same way as we find a lira equivalent to a franc, or a stotinka to a centime; but that a stamp of ¼ guerche has to be paid for in salt we can scarcely credit.

SIRMOOR.—The old "head" type has received a new setting of the "On S S S" surcharge, with some 30 or more minor varieties in the position of the letters.

Official Stamps. 3 pies, orange; black surcharge.
6 ,, blue ,, ,,
3 ,, orange; surcharge inverted.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. Wilson, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

R. Hollick, Esq. | W. Pimm, Esq.

Committee:

Mr. P. T. Deakin,
Mr. V. Lundeblad,
Mr. W. S. Vaughton,
Mr. H. R. Bewlay,
Mr. C. A. Stephenson,
Mr. W. H. E. Greatorex.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Mr. G. Johnson, B.A.,
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

Annual General Business Meeting, Oct. 1.

The above officers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year.

The accounts, showing a balance of £19 11s. 5½d. in favour of the Society, were audited, approved, and adopted.

The election of the following members was confirmed: Messrs. J. Ferroni, Rep. of Colombia; R. Osborne, Spain; C. Dascalakis, Greece; D. Benjamin, China; H. Cunningham, London; E. G. Cullin, Straits; H. A. Hatton, Natal; P. Kohl, Germany; C. McNaughtan, London; J. N. Coumenos, Greece; Dr. jur C. S. Socolis, Greece.

The following were then unanimously elected members: Messrs. M. Giwelb, London; C. Whitfield King, Ipswich; T. H. R. Crowle, London; Wilmot Corfield, India; J. H. Lewes, India; W. Salisbury, Birmingham; J. R. Smeaton, Birmingham; W. J. Austin, Natal; Guybon Hutson, Glasgow; F. J. Cade, Cheltenham; Mrs. Eaden, Birmingham; Miss A. Benson, Bath.

One application was refused, and several postponed through want of time to examine them.

The annexed programme was approved:

1896.

Oct. 15. Presidential Address. Mr. W. T. Wilson.
Nov. 5. Display—Ceylon.
Nov. 19. Paper—South Australian Officials. Mr. G. Johnson.
Dec. 3. Display—South Australia.
Dec. 17. Display—United States.

1897.

Jan. 7. Paper—Cape of Good Hope. Mr. G. Johnson.
Jan. 21. Display—Postal Curiosities.
Feb. 4. Display—Trinidad.
Feb. 18. Paper—Mexico. Mr. W. T. Wilson.
Mar. 4. Paper—"Used Stamps, and why I prefer to collect them," followed by a display of his collection of West Indies. Mr. R. Hollick.
Mar. 18. Paper—Barbados. Mr. W. Pimm.
Apr. 1. Paper—Austria and Hungary. Mr. V. Lundeblad.
May 6. Philatelic Display. Mr. W. B. Avery.
May 20. Paper—Roumania. Mr. H. Edelmulle.
Oct. 7. Annual General Business Meeting.

The report of the past session, with rules, balance-sheets, etc., will be ready for distribution about October 14th, and the Hon. Sec. will be pleased to send a copy on application, if such is received early. Although 4000 have been printed, they can only be sent to selected names from our lists.

List of Officers and Members from Oct. 1st, 1895, to Oct. 1st, 1896.

President: W. T. Wilson, Esq.

Vice-Presidents: R. Hollick, Esq., W. Pimm, Esq.

Committee:

Mr. V. Lundeblad, Mr. C. A. Stephenson,
Mr. W. S. Vaughton, Mr. W. F. Wadams.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Mr. G. Johnson, B.A.

Official Address:

208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

The numbers correspond with those on their membership cards.

1 C. A. Smith-Ryland
2 G. Johnson
3 C. A. Stephenson
4 G. Bridgman
5 T. D. Dutton
6 F. F. Empson
7 D. Ostara
8 W. J. Colley
9 H. Le Cronier
10 R. T. Stevens
11 S. Lindhé
12 C. J. Phillips (Hon.)
13 J. Campbell
14 R. Peake
15 T. Birch
16 W. T. Wilson
17 W. Pimm
18 E. C. Cooke
19 A. J. Foster
20 D. Davis
21 H. R. Bewlay
22 C. F. Tanner
23 J. E. Sparrow
24 J. S. Goodacre
25 Miss J. Weston
26 W. F. Wadams
27 R. Hollick
28 H. L. Ewen
29 H. Clark
30 V. Lundeblad
31 T. Ridpath
32 M. Z. Kuttner
33 J. Winch
34 A. Allen
35 H. E. Greatorex
36 W. S. King
37 W. S. Vaughton
38 W. G. Walton
39 H. Loveridge
40 G. F. Jackson
41 A. Constantine
42 W. Brown
43 W. A. S. Westoby
44 H. Weston
45 W. C Tyrrell
46 J. H. Cooke
47 A. A. Bartlett
48 J. Tchakidji
49 C. W. Kissinger
50 R. Hughes
51 R. H. Hunter
52 P. Robertson
53 Dr. G. H. Hart
54 C. Manby
55 C. W. S. Kynnersley
56 W. G. Hawkins
57 F. A. Wickhart
58 W. A. Woolley
59 P. T. Deakin
60 F. Seyde
61 Miss E. Lewis
62 T. W. Goonewardene
63 P. de la Tournière
64 E. F. Broderip
65 Mrs. L. Rondel
66 W. Morley
67 H. Hilckes
68 F. J. Crick
69 C. T. Boyton
70 E. Slinger
71 W. Vibert
72 W. G. Ward
73 T. J. Rowland
74 Saml. Epstein
75 H. E. S. de Wilde
76 W. J. Martin
77 E. W. Heusinger
78 T. D. Hume
79 W. R Joynt
80 F. G. Bepler
81 P. Fabri
82 A. Levy
83 F. Hagen
84 P. Kiderlen
85 H. E. M. Rolsted
86 Dr. R.H. Anachoreta
87 W. W. Worthington
88 A. S. Weiler
89 M. de Troostem-burgh
90 T. P. Dorman
91 C. G. Taylor
92 R. Sneath
93 J. A. Galbraith
94 W. E. Jeff
95 A. C. Jones
96 E. Sigerist-Moser
97 R. S. Bhatavadeker
98 J. G. Wilson
99 A. Tsimis
100 E. F. Wurtele
101 R. Reid
102 H. B. Squire
103 W. Hadlow
104 H. J. Stuart
105 G. C. Philippides
106 H. L. Hayman
107 H. Gremmel
108 R. F. Albrecht
109 J. A. Schiedt
110 C. Fendelow
111 C. Dascalakis
112 A. Norman
113 B. Oxehufvud
114 C. H. Grell
115 A. K. Aftandiloff
116 Lieut. T. E. Madden
117 H. C. R. Bell
118 J. H. Parry
119 J. M. Moses
120 G. T. Macdougall
121 A. Hogan
122 Mrs. Simpson
123 Major G. S. Lowe
124 Capt. C. L. Norris-Newman
125 H. Edelmuller
126 F. E. Wilson
127 A. E. Griffiths
128 Sir E. Sullivan, Bart.
129 A. Scheindling
130 W. A. Riley
131 Major W. F. Anstey
132 W. Leigh
133 H. A. Young
134 A. Pulin
135 L. S. Charlick
136 J. de Le Retord
137 W. A. Walker
138 J. P. Way
139 T. Torrabadella
140 W. B. Avery
141 E. Shorthouse
142 R. H. Ridout
143 C. Forbes
144 G. Samarakoon
145 H. N. Flewker
146 M. P. Castle
147 J. Ferroni
148 R. Osborne
149 D. Benjamin
150 E. G. Cullin
151 H. Cunningham
152 H. A. Hatton
153 C. McNaughtan
154 P. Kohl
155 Dr. jur. C. S. Socolis
156 J. N. Commenos

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Vice-Presidents—J. H. Abbott, F. Barratt.
Hon. Secretary—A. H. Harrison.
Assist. Hon. Secretary—C. H. Coote.
Hon. Treasurer—G. B. Duerst.
Hon. Librarian—W. W. Munn.
Committee—W. Grunewald, E. Petri, R. H. W. Whapham.

The meetings are held weekly at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Friday evenings at 7.30.

The opening meeting of the session 1896-97 was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, September 25th, the President in the chair, supported by the vice-Presidents, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Librarian, Hon. Secretary, Assistant Hon. Secretary, Messrs. Ridpath, Grunewald, Petri, Whapham, Gibson, Marsden, Jones, Pemberton, Ranck, Ostara, Fildes, Darlow, and the following visitors: Mr. Ehrenbach (London), Mr. H. Hilckes (London), Mr. J. Neilson (Rio de Janeiro), Mr. Skipwith, junr. (Leeds), Messrs. Oxley, Croxton, B. J. Beckton, Leers, and Waustall.

The President, in a few opening remarks, welcomed the visitors, and mentioned that the committee, knowing their debt to Mr. Ridpath for his services in the last three sessions, felt that they could not trespass upon his kindness this year. Mr. J. H. Abbott had come forward, and had offered his services and lantern for the occasion. He might point out that the only difference noticeable would be, that the stamps would not be thrown upon the screen in colours, but that in the near future, by Mr. Abbott's endeavours, even that might be done.

He was glad to be able to tell them that the Exhibition of 1897 was now on a business basis, and the arrangements in a forward state, and he thought he could assure them that the Provincial Societies would have their interests kept well in the foreground. Mentioning the Nova Scotia find, the President said, much as some might regret it, he did not consider that Philately would greatly suffer. Collectors might not look upon their specimens, bought previously, with the same love and admiration as before; yet it must be borne in mind that Philatelists had an interest something more than the mere value of their stamps, and that the find would enable many to obtain these, out of whose reach they had been before.

The Hon. Secretary being called upon, read the names of those who had replied, expressing their regret at not being able to attend the meeting.

The programme of the Exhibition affixed hereto was then entered upon.

PART I.

1. Hamburg—The Secret Marks. G. B. Duerst
2. Transvaal—Genuine and forgery. W. D. Beckton
3. Tuscany; Romagna . W. W. Munn
4. Venezuela; Corrientes . W. D. Beckton
5. Bremen . . . G. B. Duerst
6. Sicily; Hong Kong . W. W. Munn

Interval.

PART II.

7. Egypt; Roumania . . G. B. Duerst
8. Greece—1862-75 Issue . W. D. Beckton
9. Sardinia . . . E. Petri
10. Greece—1889 Issue . W. D. Beckton
11. Greece—1889 Issue . W. D. Beckton
12. Parma; Modena . . W. W. Munn
13. Greece—1889 Issue . W. D. Beckton
14. Spain—1855 . . G. B. Duerst
15. Spain . . . W. W. Munn
16. Baden . . . J. H. Hilckes
17. Spain—1870 . . G. B. Duerst

That it was a decided success, seemed to be the unanimous opinion of those present.

A vote of thanks, on the motion of Mr. Gibson, was heartily accorded to Mr. Abbott. who suitably replied.

The meeting was brought to a close by Mr. Abbott showing how far he had succeeded in his endeavours to give the stamps in their colours upon the screen.

ARTHUR H. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

GRASMERE, WHITEFIELD,
NR. MANCHESTER.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

THE first regular meeting after the summer vacation was held on Monday evening, September 21st, 1896, in the rooms of the National Philatelical Society, as they had extended their hospitality to our temporarily homeless Society.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read, corrected in a few minor particulars, and approved.

George Tuttle, 9, Pine Street, New York City, having passed the Governing Board, was unanimously elected a member of the Society.

The Committee on club-house reported that over a hundred subscriptions at 25 dols. each had been received; that they have been unable to find a suitable locality within the district to which they have been limited by their instructions. In consequence they had extended their inquiries over a large area, and regretted to report that nothing had been found at a price which the club could afford to pay.

Several offers were still under consideration, and the Chairman of the Committee suggested that Mr. Brevoort be added to their number. The Committee further reported that the building in which the furniture of the Society had been stored during the summer months had been condemned by the Building Department, and it had been necessary to remove the furniture to another place.

Upon motion, the report was accepted with thanks to the Committee for their labours.

The Superintendent of the Exchange Department reported that all the old circuits issued previous to July 1st, 1896, had been returned; that the purchases of stamps from the books had been very liberal. Further, a new circuit had been completed, and would be issued to members at once. Any members of the Society wishing to contribute stamps to the new circuit, or members wishing to be placed upon the circuit, are requested to communicate with Mr. J. W. Scott, 40, John Street, Superintendent of exchanges.

At the conclusion of the meeting, new

stamps and some late acquisitions by members were exhibited. Mr. Andreini had brought with him his album of U.S. Fractional Currency, U.S. Bank Bills, and Foreign Fractional Currency and Bills. It was the first collection of this nature that had ever been seen by any members of the Society, and afforded much pleasure to those present.

Before the close of the meeting, each member had an opportunity of expressing his wishes and views regarding the proposed club-house; and in hopes of meeting together at the next regular meeting in our new quarters, adjournment was made at 10.15 p.m.

FREDERICK A. NAST,
Secretary.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes — Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

THE sale held on September 24th and 25th established a deserving record in Barbados, and the two lots of Reunion were knocked down at prices which, considering their scarcity and condition, were by no means dear. Verily, the opening sales of the new season show no declension in prices for rarities in *fine* condition.

	£	s.	d.
Oldenburg, 2nd issue, ⅓ gros., unused	5	15	0
India, 1867, Service stamps, 4 a., green and lilac, strip of 4, ½ a., green and lilac, a pair surcharged "Service," 2 a., yellow, and 4 a., green, a pair, all used, on original (9)	20	0	0
Shanghai, 1877, Provisional, 1 cand. on 9 cands., blue	3	10	0
Cape of Good Hope, woodblock, 4d., red (error), damaged	24	0	0
Lagos, C A, 2/6, brown	3	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 5/-, blue	6	17	6
Reunion, first issue, 30 c., black on bluish, on entire original	68	0	0
Ditto, another specimen	68	0	0
United States, 1861, 90 c., with grille, unused	6	6	0
Newfoundland, 1/-, orange (slightly torn)	12	10	0
Barbados, Provisional, 1d. on half 5/-, rose, unused pair	105	0	0
British Guiana, first issue, 4 c., black on orange, cut to shape, and used, on original	16	0	0
Nevis, lithograph, 4d., orange, unused	14	0	0
Ditto, 6d., grey, unused, horizontal pair (Nos. 5 and 6 on plate)	28	10	0
Trinidad, perf. 13, 6d., emerald-green, unused	5	0	0
Queensland, 1860, rough perf., 2d., deep blue, imperf. horizontally, unused	9	10	0

Sale on October 8th and 9th.

	£	s.	d.
Dominica, C A, 1/-, violet, unused pair	5	10	0
Nevis, engraved, perf. 15, 1/-, blue-green (no gum)	4	4	0
Ditto, lithographed, 6d., grey, unused	14	0	0
St. Vincent, Provisionals, ½d., in red, on half 6d., light-green, block of 4, showing the error ½ (without dividing bar)	8	0	0
New South Wales, Sydney, 2d., blue, plate 2, unused (no gum)	13	0	0
Ditto, 3d., green, unused (no gum)	13	0	0
Queensland, imperf., 2d., blue	6	10	0
Victoria, 5/-, blue on yellow, vertical pair	6	17	6

MESSRS. CHEVELEY AND CO.

Sale on September 28th.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, wmk. "orb," 2½d., plate 3, horizontal strip of 3, unused	9	0	0
Switzerland, *Geneva*, double stamp, severed and rejoined	27	10	0
Ditto, *Vaud*, 4 c.	16	10	0
Mauritius, 1d., post paid, earliest state of plate	10	10	0
Ditto, 2d., small fillet, medium state of plate, unused pair (no gum)	16	10	0
Ditto, 1d., red, Greek border, unused	5	5	0
South Australia, 6d., perf. x, roulette, unused pair	12	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine	15	0	0
Ditto, ditto, unused	11	0	0
Ditto, 6d., orange, unused	9	0	0
St. Christopher, CA, 4d., blue, unused (no gum)	6	0	0

Sale October 14th and 15th.

	£	s.	d.
Greece, 1862–65, 40 lep, solferino on green, sheet of 180	16	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 40 lep, bistre on bluish, block of 120	10	10	0
St. Helena, 4d., carmine; perf. 12½; dble. surch., 1st 18 mm. long, 2nd 19 mm.	4	15	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow	4	5	0
United States, 1856, 90 c., blue	5	0	0
Nevis, lithograph, 6d., olive-grey, unused (No. 12 on plate)	15	0	0
St. Christopher, 1886, 1s., orange-brown	3	12	6
Virgin Islands, 1s., crimson; single line border, unused	4	7	6

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

THE first sale of the Leicester-square season was held on September 29th and 30th. A total sum of £1,546 12s. 0d. was realised on 488 lots. The illustrated catalogue before us, with prices attached, shows no falling off on the part of purchasers, as the following quotations will justify.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 1d., red, complete set of plate numbers, unused	6	0	0
Spain, 1852, 2 reales, red, pair (heavy cancellation)	20	10	0
Switzerland, *Basle*, 2½ rappen	6	0	0
Ditto *Zurich*, 4 rappen (vertical lines)	19	0	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie, red	10	10	0
Hong Kong, 96 c., yellow-brown, unused	6	0	0
Mauritius, large fillet, 2d., blue	14	10	0
Canada, 7½d., green, unused	15	10	0
Ditto, 10d., blue, thick paper, pair, unused	26	15	0
Ditto, ditto, single copy, unused	9	10	0
Ditto, 6d., violet-black, pair, unused	29	10	0
Ditto, ditto, single copy, unused	12	10	0
New Brunswick, Connell, unused (no gum)	10	10	0
Nevis, perf. 15, 1/-, yellow-green, unused (no gum)	18	0	0
Ditto, 6d., green, C A, unused	8	2	6
St. Christopher, C A, 4d., blue, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., grey, vertical strip of 4	10	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1/-, unused	14	0	0
Trinidad, pin perf., 4d., grey-lilac, unused	5	7	6
Ditto, ditto, 6d., green, ditto	7	0	0
Turks Islands, 1881, 2½d. on 1d., red, of 1873, vertical pair, unused (Gibbons' types, Nos. 6 and 7)	13	0	0
Barbados, 1d. on half 5/-, pair	24	0	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 6d., rose, unused	7	5	0
British Guiana, 1862, Provisionals, 1 cent, pink, complete sheet of unused originals, unsigned	36	0	0
New Zealand, imperf., blue paper, 1d., red, unused	14	10	0

A collection of 10,000 varieties, in permanent album, realised £182 10s. 0d.

Sale on October 12 and 13.

	£	s.	d.
Lagos, 2s. 6d., olive-brown	4	4	0
„ 5s., lilac	4	5	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., orange-red, early state of plate	13	10	0
Canada, 10d., blue, thick paper, unused pair	30	0	0
Barbados, perf. 12 × 15, ½d., dark green, unused	4	10	0
Zululand, 5s., carmine	1	16	0

MESSRS. BUHL AND CO., LIMITED.

September 8th.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, star, imperf., 4d., rose	9	0	0
„ „ perf., 8d., brown, unused	8	8	0
India, 1854, ½ anna, red, error, pair unused	13	10	0
Cape, triangular, 6d., lilac, block of 4, unused	5	17	6
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., red, early plate, on original	12	10	0
Nevis, litho, 6d., unused	9	0	0

September 21 and 22.

	£	s.	d.
Baden, perf. 13½, 3 kr., unused	4	8	0
Bulgaria, 5 stot., carmine on flesh, error, unused	7	7	0
Mecklenburg Schwerin, ¼ sch., roul., dotted ground, horizontal pair	9	5	0
Naples, ½ tornese, "Arms," on entire newspaper	15	0	0
Oldenburg, 1858, ⅓ gros., black on green	5	10	0
Switzerland, *Basle*, 2½ rappen, unused	5	10	0
„ *Zurich*, 4 rappen, horizontal lines	15	10	0
Wurtemburg, 1858, 3 kr., orange, unused	5	0	0
Ceylon, star, 4d., imperf.	12	10	0
„ „ 2s., imperf.	5	7	6
Gold Coast, CA, 1d., blue, unused	9	0	0
Lagos, 1885, 5s., blue, unused	7	10	0
British Guiana, 1851, 1 c., magenta	5	10	0

Sale on October 6 and 7.

	£	s.	d.
Buenos Ayres, 1858, Steamship, 4 pesos, red	15	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet	18	0	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. V. NOVEMBER, 1896. No. 59.

The London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

WE have much pleasure in calling the attention of all our readers to the official Prospectus of this Exhibition, as fully set out in this issue of the *London Philatelist*. It will at the outset be remarked that the venture has the august patronage of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Saxe-Coburg and of York, and that the Committee represents the very *élite* of all ranks connected with Philately in the country. The Prospectus properly calls attention to the manifest advantages for Exhibition purposes of the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters, in Piccadilly; and, writing from a lengthened experience in connection with undertakings of this nature, we feel impelled to go farther than the Committee in recommending the Institute as an ideal place for a Stamp Exhibition. The all-important point is the immunity from any risk of the exhibits; and it may be taken for granted that, in this respect, no Exhibition of Stamps ever held has had such a perfect *locale*. It is indeed no exaggeration to say that had a building been expressly constructed for a Philatelic Exhibition, it could hardly have differentiated from the Royal Institute. We therefore cordially invite the co-operation as exhibitors of collectors at home and abroad—secure in the conviction that their treasures will be returned unsullied—to send us of their best, so that the Exhibition of 1897 may really be worthy of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, and of Philately at the "end of the century."

The Rules and Regulations have been the result of repeated and prolonged deliberation, in which all members of the Executive Committee

have manfully borne their part. Having regard to the experience of previous Exhibitions in all parts of the world possessed by members of the Committee, it will be doubtless conceded that, subject to the necessities of finance, the utmost facilities have been conceded to exhibitors. The charges (of 3d. per square foot, or 5s. for a volume), the low rate of insurance (2s. 6d. per £100), covering all risks, the return of exhibits free of all charge, the very numerous list of gold, silver, and bronze awards, given alike by the Committee and private donors, testify to the many advantages held out to exhibitors, which, we feel confident, will attract such an array of Philatelic exhibits as the world has not hitherto seen.

The classification of the exhibits has naturally been the most difficult task of those engaged in drawing up the Prospectus; and it is no secret that the outcome of their deliberations, in this respect, is the result of protracted sittings, multiplied plans, and assimilation of all that was best under the different schemes. A notable innovation is the creation of Great Britain as an Especial Class — one worthy of all commendation on the grounds alike of patriotism and Philately, and one that should create the liveliest interest in the numerous collectors of the beautiful stamps of our own country. It will further be seen that, diverging from the plan adopted at the Portman Rooms in 1890, Class II. has been grouped—in a politico-geographical manner—into four divisions: British Empire, Europe, Asia and Africa, and America. Each of these divisions is subdivided in accordance with the philatelic importance of the several countries; and as each division is amply furnished with metallic recognitions of merit, there is every inducement for a collector of any country to exhibit. In these days of specializing, it is apparent that these two classes will be the *pièce de résistance* of the Exhibition; but nevertheless it will be noted that due scope in the remaining nine classes is given to general collections, envelopes, post cards, rarities, literature, and indeed everything that can be associated with the pursuit.

Second only in importance to the rooms themselves are the cases in which the stamps are to be shown, and in this respect the Executive Committee has certainly been no laggard. The question has already been long under practical consideration; and the latest specimens of cases submitted are so excellent and simple in their construction that, both on the score of adaptability and finance, they leave nothing to be desired. In all respects "Time has been taken by the forelock," as we are still eight months from the date of opening, and the interval should be used by all connected with British Philately in extending the knowledge and perfecting the arrangements of the Great Philatelic Exhibition—by which title we fondly hope it will be hereafter known.

A Subject Index of Stamps.

A Paper communicated to the Oxford Philatelic Society.

By FRANK ARTHUR BELLAMY, F.R.A.S., F.R.Met.Soc.

Hon. Sec. and Treas. of the Oxford Philatelic Society.

IT may not be known, except to careful writers upon Philately and those interested in the subject upon which I now write, that there does not at present exist any subject index of printed articles, notes, etc., upon stamps which can in the remotest sense be regarded as complete. One of the natural results of this is that many writers of books and articles on stamps exhibit by their statements a serious disregard, or ignorance, of what has already been written upon the subject of their article—not wilfully, perhaps, but through want of time, it may be, to search through dozens of books; and discoveries get noted in current stamp papers which were recorded years ago, and in a more accurate form. At least modern writers often do not do justice to those before them.

I may just notice one instance. About two years ago minor varieties in an Italian stamp were noted as a discovery in one of the stamp papers. A few weeks ago, whilst perusing quite casually a monthly number of a stamp journal published in 1865, the varieties in this particular stamp were noted, and the explanation of their cause given. I am quite ready to believe that the *re-discovery* was genuine and not copied, otherwise the *explanation*, which is the correct one, would also have been copied.

By this brief reference—many others could be cited—I consider I have sufficiently established (1) the great need of a more complete "index" than at present exists; (2) that modern writers should be more cautious and accurate in their statements; (3) and that by having, perhaps, a better knowledge upon the subject upon which they write or speak, they should give honour to whom honour is due.

A *complete* subject index—so far as human efforts can accomplish this—would, without doubt, put further articles and statements relating to stamps upon a firmer and more trustworthy basis.

Again, writers are too apt to think that nothing has been written in another language upon his particular subject which is worthy of mention. I am quite aware that to do that thoroughly would necessitate a knowledge of many languages; but I think that it is that they are not able, or inclined, whether through ignorance of the language, or laziness in making themselves acquainted with what has already been written, to appreciate earlier work. The art of stamp collecting would be placed upon a more accurate basis than at present exists, if they would take greater care and spend more time over the work, or leave the writing of articles for *publication* to others.

It will not be out of place if I give a *résumé*—I do not claim it to be complete—of what has already been done towards forming a bibliography, or subject index of stamps.

In German, chiefly relating to German works, information on this subject may be found in *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, No. 12, published at Dresden in 1871; *Moschkan's Magazine für Markensammler*, No. 9, published at Orgbin in 1871–2; *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal*, Band I., No. 5, Leipzig, 1874. These three lists referred to have been reproduced in *Geschichte der Briefmarken und der Philatelie*, A. Moschkan, Leipzig, 1878. In *Illustrirte Briefmarken Zeitung*, Band I. und II., Leipzig, 1888, two articles will be found, "Bibliographie der Briefmarken Kunde," and "Philatelistische Bibliographie," by A. Moschkan. In *Das Postwertzeichen*, I. u. II., published at Munich, appeared a contribution by Dr. E. Diena, entitled, "Ein Nachschlagebuch über Philatelistische Literatur." In *Die Postwertzeichen-Kunde* (Munich) for 1893, there is a series of papers by Judge Suppantschisch; this information is incorporated in his very admirable work, *Bibliographie der Deutschen Philatelistischen Literatur*, published at Munich in sixteen parts, 8vo, 750 pages, 1892–4. As regards stamp literature before 1891, printed in German, little therefore remains to be done; a small work by Von H. Fraenkel, *Chronologische Tabelle der deutschen Philatelistischen Leitschriften*, gives additional information as late as 1893.

A list of French and Belgian publications concerning stamps will be found in the *Bulletin de la Société Française de Timbrologie*, Tome I., par M. Ph. de Bosredon, 1875; this was reprinted by M. Moens as *Bibliographie Timbrologie de la France et de Belgique*, forming Vol. II. of his *Bibliothèque Timbrologie*. So far as I know, nothing has been done to complete this catalogue to date.

For a catalogue of Italian works *Guida Illustrata del Timbrofilo*, I., Bologna, 1875, may be consulted, the title being *Bibliografica Timbrologica dell Italia*, Guiseppe Leoni.

Señor M. Pardo de Figueroa (more generally known as Dr. Thebussen) gave much time to form *Illustrata Literatura Philatelica en España*, Seville; but this only extends to 1876.

A more general catalogue of Philatelic publications is given in a *Manuale* by Sig. J. Gelli, published by M. Hoepli.

There remain the works published in English.

The first attempt to form a list of these was by Dr. Gray in his book, *A Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps for the use of Collectors*, first edition, London, 1862. In 1863 "A Review of our Postal Literature," by W. H., appeared in *The Stamp Collector's Review and Monthly Advertiser*, vol. i., Liverpool, 1863; also in vol. i. of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, Bath, an article on "Postage Stamp Catalogues" by Dr. J. E. Gray. *The Stamp Collector's Gazette*, vol. ii., published at St. John's, N.B., has an article, "English and Continental Philatelic Literature," which continues the list to 1867.

In 1874, at St. Louis, U.S.A., appeared the first of a series of articles upon this subject by the stamp veteran, J. K. Tiffany. This might fairly

be considered as the earliest attempt to form a catalogue of stamp *publications* issued in various countries, rather than of separate articles. The title of the book is *The Philatelic Library*, and it was published in 1874, 122 pages in quarto. In *The Stamp Collector's Library Companion*, Chicago, 1889 and 1890, later works are referred to by J. K. Tiffany; a very complete list of stamp *periodicals* published in Great Britain was given by him in *The Stamp News Annual*, 1894. An article called the "Philatelic Literature of England and America" appeared in *The American Journal of Philately*, vol. iv., New York, 1871. In Great Britain W. D. Atlee wrote upon "Philatelic Literature" in *The Philatelist*, vols. i., iii., iv., vi., Brighton, 1867-72.

But the most important contributions have been by P. J. Anderson, viz. "Notes on Early English Philatelic Literature" in *The Philatelic Record*, vols. vii., viii. (1886-7); and on "A Manual of Philatelic Literature" in *The Philatelic Record*, ix. In this valuable suggestions are made, and extracts are given from W. F. Poole's work, *An Index to Periodical Literature*, Boston, 1882.

There still remains Dr. E. Diena's letter, "A Manual of Philatelic Literature," in *The Philatelic Record*, ix. 156, and T. M. Wear's list of publications.

Scarcely any of these authors, except Judge Suppantschisch's work, which only refers to articles in German publications, make an attempt to give references to separate titles, contenting themselves by making a catalogue of printed books and papers relating to stamps.

It seems very desirable that a full bibliography, manual, catalogue, or index of separate articles and notes published, should be collected, arranged in alphabetical order, and printed for the use of future writers and investigators on the subject of stamps, or art of stamp collecting.

Such a work I set myself two and a half years ago to accomplish, and have made fair progress, but my duties rather limit the time I can give to it. I have so far written some hundreds of slips, which are arranged as I proceed. I practically ignore the index given in each volume, but peruse every article, and if the original title is insufficiently explicit—a very common thing—I form a new one. I have now almost completed all the works I have in my possession, and take this opportunity of asking for assistance from all those who are interested in the work, and who may have books to lend me for a week or two as I require them. Every care will be taken of them, and postage paid *if required.*

[We trust that Mr. Bellamy may be supported in his highly laudable purpose, to which we have elsewhere referred.—ED.]

The Second Issue of the Republic of Colombia.



IN referring to the recent discovery of the error of 5 centavos—in the colour of the 20 c.—we described the sheet possessed by Mr. W. T. Curtis in America, but did not anticipate that we should so speedily have it "before the eyes." As, however, it is the unanticipated that always happens, the sheet in question having arrived in this country, we are enabled to reproduce it in its entirety for the benefit of our readers. The fortunate possessor is Mr. Robert Ehrenbach, who has a very fine collection of the early issues of the Republic, and is to be congratulated upon the holding of a "piece" that, if not even absolutely unique, is certainly of the greatest rarity, and of the first rank of Philatelic interest. We here say advisedly if not absolutely unique, as, although an entire sheet, or, with the exception in Mr. Castle's former collection, even the two values *se tenant* is unknown to us, we have received a letter from a correspondent well versed in South Americans, and which purports to know of a sheet existing in a collection. This sheet, presuming it is another, also contains the error and the *tête bêche;* and we gather that, although a large quantity of the 20 c. blue has been in remainder, and is readily accessible in blocks, no other of these errors has been seen, and it would therefore be probable either that the error was discovered before the further supply was printed, or that it was in one pane of the sheet of stamps which was hence not put in issue. The Colombian authorities were to a certain extent aware of their failings even in those days, as evidenced by the fact that they defaced the erroneous 50 c. error on each sheet in order to prevent its sale. There are one or two minor points of interest that we are now able to mention from an inspection of the entire sheet.

It will be seen from the illustration that it is the second stamp on the *second* row, and not on the first, as stated in the *Metropolitan Philatelist.* The third stamp on the third row, which has had the value altered, has apparently also been slightly retouched at the left hand. The error of 5 c., as previously stated, is the second stamp on the fourth row; but the sheet consists of five rows of ten stamps, and not eleven, as given in the *M. P.* The transfers seem very irregularly effected, the thirty-seventh stamp being so out of register that the dividing line touches the base of the stamp above.

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The London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

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(*To whom all Communications should be addressed.*)

PROSPECTUS.

A period of nearly seven years has elapsed since the holding of the London Philatelic Exhibition in 1890, under the auspices of the Philatelic Society, London.

During this interval very remarkable progress has been made in Philately. The immense increase in the ranks of Philatelists, and the great interest which is now taken in the pursuit in its more scientific aspects, justify the conclusion that the time has arrived when an International Exhibition could advantageously be held in the Metropolis.

It has accordingly been decided to invite Philatelists to join in the festivities of the ensuing year in celebration of the fact that Her Gracious Majesty the Queen has been spared to reign over her subjects for a longer period than that vouchsafed to any previous Sovereign, by organizing the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897.

The Exhibition will embrace British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Post Cards, Newsbands, Proofs, Essays, etc., as well as Albums, Books, and Philatelic appliances, Literature and Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connection with Philately and the Postal Service.

It will be opened at the Galleries of the Royal Institution of Painters in Water Colours, 191, Piccadilly, W., on Thursday, the 22nd July, 1897; and it is hoped that the Committee will have the hearty

co-operation of all Philatelists in their endeavour to make the undertaking a success worthy of the occasion, and thoroughly representative of all aspects of the pursuit to which it is devoted.

The Galleries chosen have been specially constructed for the exhibition of valuable paintings in oil and water colours; and combining as they do the advantages of ample space, good light from above without fear of damage by exposure to the sun's rays, security against the risk of fire, and a position in a leading central thoroughfare in the West End, they have been selected as the most eminently suitable place in London for an Exhibition of Stamps.

All stamps will be exhibited under glass in locked or sealed cases, night and day watchmen will be employed, and every possible precaution will be taken to secure Exhibits from damage or loss; but no personal responsibility will be undertaken by the Committee.

The provisions against the risk of loss by fire or theft are specially referred to in the Rules and Regulations set out below.

The support of Philatelists throughout the world is cordially invited, and it is hoped that the leading Collectors in the British Colonies and all Foreign Countries will, by sending Exhibits, co-operate in making the Exhibition thoroughly representative of the best interests of Philately.

Special arrangements will be made to facilitate the passing through the Customs of Exhibits from abroad without risk of damage, and for such examination (if any) as may be deemed necessary being conducted in the presence of a representative of the Committee.

The Exhibition will remain open to the public until the evening of THURSDAY, the 5th AUGUST, 1897, and all Exhibits will be returned to the owners as soon as possible after that date.

It will be a great convenience, and the work of the Committee, especially in the preparation of the Official Catalogue, will be considerably lightened, if intending Exhibitors will send full particulars of their Exhibits at the earliest possible moment.

It has been decided that the Exhibition shall be subject to the following Rules and Regulations, of which all Exhibitors will be held to have had notice.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1.—Exhibits in Classes I., II., and III. must be mounted on cards, paper, or loose pages. Although no special size of cards or other material is obligatory, it is hoped that Exhibitors who mount their stamps specially for the Exhibition will, as far as possible, endeavour to assist the Committee in securing uniformity, for the sake of economizing the space at their disposal. This object will be attained by the use of cards of the following sizes, viz.: 10 inches in height by 8 inches or 12 inches in width, or 15 inches in height by 12 inches in width, and, if desired, cards measuring 10 inches by 8 inches can be supplied, on application to the Secretary, at a trifling cost. *The sizes in centimetres will be* 25½ *by* 20¼ *or* 30½; *or* 38 *by* 30½.

2.—A charge for space according to the size of the Exhibits, or of the cards or other material on which they may be mounted, will be made on the following scale:

For each square foot	3d. (minimum charge, 2s. 6d.)
For each album or volume of stamps	5s.
For each volume shown in Divisions 1 and 2 of Class VIII., and for each album or volume, etc., shown in Class IX.	4s.
For Exhibits in Division 3 of Class VIII. for each foot run of space occupied	1s. (minimum charge, 2s. 6d.)

Arrangements have been made by the Committee for Insurance against loss by fire or theft of Exhibits while in the custody of the Committee, either before or during the continuance of the Exhibition, and after the close of the Exhibition until despatched for return to the owners. An inclusive charge of 2s. 6d. will be made for each £100 insured. Owners of Exhibits desiring to insure, and paying the prescribed amount, will have the benefit of the policy effected by the Committee to the extent of the value at which such Exhibits are accepted for Insurance; but no personal liability is incurred by the Committee in regard to loss.

The charge for space and Insurance (if any) will be payable by the Exhibitor on sending in his Exhibit.

All Exhibits will be returned free of charge to their owners by post or otherwise, but transmission will in all cases be at the sole risk of the owner —Insurance in course of transit (if any) being paid by him.

3.—Notice of the nature and extent of the Exhibits, with the value for Insurance, should be sent to the Secretary as early as possible, *but not later than the 1st May, 1897,* on the accompanying form.

4.—All Exhibits must be delivered, post or carriage paid, between the 7th and 10th July, 1897, at such place as may be notified to the Exhibitor by the Secretary. Punctuality in delivery is particularly desired, to ensure accurate description of the Exhibits in the Official Catalogue.

5.—The right of refusing any Exhibit without assigning any reason for such refusal is reserved by the Committee, as also the right of showing such part of any Exhibit as the Committee may decide in case of there being insufficient space available for showing the whole.

6.—All Exhibits entered for competition must be *bonâ fide* the property of the Exhibitor. Joint collections must be shown in the joint names, or firm name, as the case may be; but no combination made solely for the purposes of the Exhibition can be admitted for competition.

7.—Albums and volumes of stamps will be exhibited open at the most interesting pages, to be varied from time to time during the Exhibition by a member of the Committee. No albums will be allowed to be inspected (except by the Judges) without the written permission of the

owner, and at his risk, and then only in the presence of a member of the Committee.

8.—No price or other notification that it is for sale may be affixed to any Exhibit, but the owner may intimate to the Committee his desire to sell, and arrangements will be made accordingly to facilitate this fact and the price being made known. No Exhibit can be removed before the close of the Exhibition, and in case of sale the price will be payable to the Committee, who will account to the owner for the purchase-money, after deducting 5 per cent. to be applied towards the general expenses of the Exhibition.

9.—The Judges will be appointed by the Executive Committee, and their decision will in all cases be final. They will be seven in number, of whom it is proposed that three at least shall be chosen from representatives of Foreign Countries.

10.—No Exhibits by any of the Judges can be entered for competition.

11.—The following scheme of competition has been adopted by the Committee; but all exhibits which the owners may desire to enter as "Not for Competition" will be so marked in the several classes in which they may be shown. *In making their awards, the Judges will be requested to take into special consideration not only the rarity and completeness of the Exhibit, but also the neatness and accuracy of arrangement, method of mounting and condition of the specimens submitted, and the Philatelic knowledge displayed by the Exhibitor.*

Class I.

Will consist of Special Collections of Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain.

Division 1.—Adhesive Postage Stamps (including fiscals available for Postage), *unused* only.

Division 2.—Adhesive Postage Stamps (including fiscals available for Postage), *used* only.

Division 3.—Telegraph Stamps.

Awards in this Class:

Division 1.—One Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze Medal.
„ 2.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal.
„ 3.—One „ one „

Class II.

For Special Collections of Postal Adhesive Stamps of any one of the Countries or combinations of Countries named below:

Division 1. BRITISH EMPIRE, including Protectorates, etc.

A.

British Guiana.
Cashmere and Native States of India.
New South Wales.
Mauritius.
Victoria.

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze Medal.

B.

Canada, British Columbia (including Vancouver), and Prince Edward Island.
Ceylon.
India.
Natal.
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia.
New Zealand.
Queensland.
South Australia.
Do. departmental stamps.
Tasmania.
Trinidad.
Western Australia.

Awards.—One Gold, two Silver, and two Bronze Medals.

C.

Bahamas and Bermuda.
Barbados.
Cape of Good Hope.
Fiji Islands.
Grenada and Jamaica.
Griqualand.
Nevis.
St. Vincent and St. Lucia.
Straits Settlements and Dependencies.
Turks Islands.

Awards.—Two Silver and two Bronze Medals.

D.

Any three or more of the following, or any other British possessions or protectorates not enumerated, viz.:

Antigua, British Bechuanaland, British East Africa, British South Africa and British Central Africa, Cyprus, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Hong Kong, Ionian Islands, Labuan, Lagos, Leeward Islands, Malta, Montserrat, North Borneo, Oil Rivers and Niger Coast, St. Christopher, St. Helena, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tobago, Virgin Islands, Zanzibar, Zululand.

Awards.—One Silver and three Bronze Medals.

Division 2. EUROPE.

A.

Austria, Austrian Italy, and Hungary.
Germany (any three of the following): Baden, Bavaria, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire (including Alsace and Lorraine), Hamburg, Hanover, Heligoland, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemburg.
Italy (any three of the following): Italy, Modena, Naples, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany.
Roumania and Moldo-Wallachia.
Russia, Finland, Russian Levant, and Poland.
Russian Locals, Livonia, and Wenden.
Spain.
Switzerland.
Turkey.

Awards.—One Gold, three Silver, and three Bronze Medals.

B.

Belgium.	Holland and Luxemburg.
Bulgaria, Roumelia, Servia, and Montenegro.	Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.
France and Monaco.	Portugal.
Greece.	Sweden.

Awards.—One Gold, two Silver, and two Bronze Medals.

Division 3. ASIA AND AFRICA.

A.

Afghanistan.	Philippine Islands.
Azores and Madeira.	Portuguese India.
French Colonies and Possessions.	Other Portuguese Colonies.
Japan.	Transvaal.

Awards.—One Gold, two Silver, and two Bronze Medals.

B.

Egypt and Suez Canal.	Persia.
New Republic.	Shanghai and China.

And any two of the following, or of others not enumerated, viz.: Congo, Dutch Indies, Liberia, Orange Free State, Sarawak, Siam.

Awards.—Two Silver and two Bronze Medals.

Division 4. AMERICA

A.

Colombian Republic (including the various States).	Mexico (including Locals).
Confederate States of America (including postmasters' stamps).	United States of America (including postmasters' stamps).
Hawaii.	United States Locals.

Awards.—One Gold, two Silver, and one Bronze Medal.

B.

Argentine Confederation and Republic, Corrientes, and Cordoba.	Peru and Pacific Steam Navigation Company.
Bolivia.	San Domingo.
Brazil.	Uruguay.
Buenos Ayres.	

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze Medal.

C.

Chili.	Guatemala.
Cuba and Porto Rico, and Fernando Po.	Paraguay.
	Venezuela and La Guaira.

And any two of the following, viz.: Costa Rica, Curaçao and Surinam, Danish West Indies, Ecuador, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador.

Awards.—Two Silver and two Bronze Medals.

Exhibitors may compete in all or any of the divisions or subdivisions, and the number of Exhibits is not limited.

Class III.

For Collections of Rare Stamps.

Each Exhibit to consist of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred stamps.

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze Medal.

Class IV.

Will consist of entire Collections of Postal Adhesives, with or without Envelopes, Post Cards, etc., in albums or volumes.

Division 1.—Special or General Collections, without limit as to number.
„ 2.— „ „ „ total number not to exceed 4000.
„ 3.— „ „ „ „ „ 2000.

Awards.—Division 1.—One Gold, one Silver, and two Bronze Medals.
„ 2.—One Silver and two Bronze Medals.
„ 3.—One „ „ one „ Medal.

Class V.

Is for Collections of Entire Envelopes and Wrappers.

Division 1.—One or more of the following countries:

Austria, Hungary, and Lombardy.
Germany, and all States.
Great Britain.
Mauritius.
Russia, Finland, and Poland.
United States of America.

Division 2.—Any four countries not named in Division 1.

Awards.—Division 1.—One Gold and one Silver Medal.
„ 2.—One Silver and two Bronze Medals.

Class VI.

Will consist of Collections of Entire Post Cards, and Letter Cards.

Division 1.—One or more of the following countries:

Finland.
Germany, and all States.
Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad.
Japan.
Luxemburg.
Mexico.
Roumania.

Division 2.—Any six countries other than those named in Division 1.

Awards.—Division 1.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal.
„ 2.—One „ „ one „ „

Class VII.

For Exhibits by Stamp Engravers and Manufacturers of Postage Stamps and Telegraph Stamps.

N.B.—Stamps shown by any person, firm, or company in this class must be limited to specimens of their own work, and may comprise Stamps as issued, Proofs, or Essays, or all three.

Awards.—One Gold and two Silver Medals.

Class VIII.

For Philatelic Literature and Works.

Division 1.—Current Philatelic Journals, exhibited by the Publishers.
„ 2.—Philatelic Works published since 31st October, 1890, and shown by the Publishers.
„ 3.—Collections of Philatelic Literature published prior to 1880.

N.B.—In the case of serial publications, in Division 1 the last volume published, and in Division 3 the first volume only, to be shown.

Awards.—Division 1.—Two Silver and two Bronze Medals.
„ 2.—Two „ „ two „ „
„ 3.—One „ „ one „ Medal.

Class IX.

For Albums, etc.

Division 1.—The most suitable Album or Book for a special collection.
„ 2.— „ „ „ „ general collection.
„ 3.—The best Book, Method, or System for arranging and showing Classes V. and VI.

Awards.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal in each Division.

Class X.

For Philatelic Accessories and Appliances for use by Collectors.

Awards.—Two Bronze Medals.

Class XI.

Special arrangements of Stamps, Stamps on Original Letter Sheets or Envelopes, Telegraph Stamps (except those of Great Britain), Proofs, Essays, Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connection with Philately and the Postal Service.

Awards.—Two Silver and four Bronze Medals.

A Special Gold Medal, being the Grand Prize of the Exhibition, will be given for the most meritorious exhibit of Adhesive Postage Stamps shown in Classes I. or II.

The following Special Prizes will also be awarded:

One Silver and one Bronze Medal in each of Classes I., II., III., IV., and XI. for the best Exhibits by members of Provincial Philatelic Societies resident in the United Kingdom, who do not gain prizes in the open competition in the class for which the special prizes are awarded.

The *Philatelic Society, London,* will give two Prizes for the best Collections shown by any Exhibitors under the age of 16 years, and also Prizes for the best Exhibit by any amateur not a member of the Society; for the neatest and best arranged Exhibit shown; and for the best Exhibit of Stamps in the finest condition; and also two Silver Medals to be awarded to authors of Philatelic Works shown in Class VIII.

*

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have placed at the disposal of the Committee one Gold and one Silver Medal to be awarded for the two best Collections exhibited in any Album of English manufacture containing over 8000 stamps, and one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best Collections in any Album of English manufacture containing under 8000 stamps.

Mr. W. H. Peckitt offers one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best Collections of unused Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain, and also one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best Exhibits shown in Class III.

Mr. W. T. Wilson will give one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best Collections of the Stamps of Mexico.

Mr. M. Giwelb offers one Gold Medal for the best Collection of the Stamps of the Colombian Republic and States.

Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, one Silver and one Bronze Medal for the two best Exhibits shown by ordinary members of the Manchester Philatelic Society.

Mr. M. P. Castle, one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best Exhibits of European Stamps.

Mr. W. Hadlow, one Silver Medal for the most complete Collection of the Stamps of Queensland.

Mr. R. Ehrenbach, one Silver and one Bronze Medal for the two best Exhibits shown by Continental Collectors.

A further limited number of medals will also be placed at the disposal of the Judges, for award in any cases in which they may consider an Exhibit specially deserving of recognition, and the Committee will also award Silver Medals for special services rendered to the Exhibition.

No Exhibitor can take more than one prize in each class (exclusive of special prizes) except in class II., in which class not more than two prizes may be taken by one Exhibitor. The Judges shall be at liberty to withhold any prize if from insufficiency of competition or for any other reason they shall think that it should not be awarded.

Any reader of this journal will be supplied with a copy of the above Prospectus and forms of application on writing to Mr. J. A. Tilleard, the Secretary of the Exhibition, at 4, Lombard Court, London, E.C. (Ed.)

Philatelic Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

DISCOVERIES.

MARTINIQUE.—We have inspected a specimen of the 1892 issue of this French Colony, belonging to Mr. M. Giwelb, bearing a variety of surcharge hitherto unknown to us. The issue in question only embraces one stamp, surcharged provisionally in two values on the general French Colonial design. The values are "05 c." and "15 c." respectively, on the 25 c. black on lilac-rose. The error in question is presumably an unintentional variety of the former, bearing the surcharge "95 c." in lieu of "05 c." on one stamp of the pair submitted to us. Considering the very large size and plainness of the surcharge, and the fact that this overprint increases the value of each stamp so treated by 1800 p. c., it seems to our insularly prejudiced eyes that a postal authority consisting of the smallest office-boy would have seen and corrected the "error" if he wanted to.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Mr. George Blockey sends us some further notes on varieties recently discovered by him, viz.:

2d., pale orange, surch. OS, block type, wmk. S A, wide, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, postmarked July 27th, 1874.

2d., orange-red, surch. OS, block type, wmk. SA close, perf. $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. Do., perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. Both postmarked April, 1877.

Also the ordinary 2d. (without OS), orange-red, perf. $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

All these, our correspondent thinks, must be scarce varieties, as he only obtained one copy of each from a lot of 5000.

A NEW VARIETY OF THE SYDNEY VIEW (?)

IN the November issue of *The Philatelic Monthly*, published by Messrs. Bogert and Durbin, of Philadelphia, we read: "Not long ago we sold to a prominent collector an unsevered pair of the 2d. New South Wales, Sydney View, on *laid paper*, one of the stamps being the rare error with 'Credit' (*sic*) missing. This variety, on laid paper, we believe has heretofore been unknown."

With all due respect to our esteemed American contemporary, we much fear the "credit" is missing as regards the announcement as well as the stamp. The omission of the word "Crevit" occurs only on No. 13—the first stamp of the second row in Plate II. of the twopenny Sydney View. No specimen of either Plates I., II., or III. has ever yet been seen, to our knowledge, of this value on laid paper. This is in fact only met with in the last two stages of the stamp, now generally known as Plate III., 1st and 2nd

retouches. If this is so, either Messrs. Bogert and Durbin have made a startling find, or an equally startling mistake. The last two mentioned stages of the plate are often found much worn, and it is hence possible that the "Crevit" may be absent. It would not be an error in this case, but a defective print. The only variety of paper we know of, with regard to Plate II., where the "No Crevit" really exists, is a fine vertical-*ribbed* one, which is sometimes met with in its worn stages. This, however, is in no sense laid, and, like all this class, is a fortuitous result during some process of its manufacture.

Occasional Notes.

THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE EARL OF KINGSTON.

THE celebrated collection of the stamps of Great Britain, formed during his lifetime with so much care and interest by the late esteemed President of the London Philatelic Society, has been disposed of by the Countess of Kingston to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Ltd., in conjunction with Mr. W. H. Peckitt. The collection was especially rich in the embossed issues with the larger portion of an uncut sheet of the 1/- and in the varieties of the 1d.; the twopennies were also fine, including a block of six of the first of that value without white lines; and the fourpennies included several fine small garters. The plate numbers of all values were strongly shaded, and in all departments the collection was very rich. The price paid for the collection was £1800, which should prove satisfactory to the seller, and not unremunerative to the purchasers. Lord Kingston's philatelic treasures also included a good general collection, and valuable specialized collections of Ceylon, British North America, Australia, and other Colonies, which are also to change ownership.

MORE FORGERIES: FRANCE, ZULULAND, ZURICH, ITALY.

FRANCE, 1849–50, 1 franc, orange. — Writing to *Le Timbre-Poste*, Mons. H. Jouisse gives particulars of this latest work of the forgers. The specimen seen was on the entire envelope, and a magnifying-glass revealed the following differences: the key-pattern work in the frame, instead of being in two lines, as in the original, is only one line of equal thickness. The colour of the forgery looks deeper and thicker than the original, which is not of an even colour. There is a difference in the last "s" of "*Postes*," the curve of the lower part of the letter being a little larger in the forgery, which gives it a falling-over appearance. The first "e" of "*République*" in the original has the lower stroke longer than the loop at the top; in the false the two are of the same length. The base of the original is inscribed "1. FR. POSTES. 1. FR."; the last punctuation is wanting in the forgery.

ZULULAND, 5s.—It appears that well-executed forgeries of the surcharge on the current 5s. Great Britain are being found in France, and collectors will do well to exercise caution. The shiny and oily nature of the ink used by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. is one test in these stamps.

ZURICH.—Through the good offices of M. de Reuterskiöld in the *Bulletin of the Lausanne Philatelic Society*, we are also forewarned against some very dangerous photo-lithographs of the 6 rappen of Zurich. Specimens of Type 1, 4, and 5 have been seen, and the others doubtless exist also—not to speak of the 4 rappen. As the latter are worth their weight in gold—at least—and as the original stamps are lithographs, it would be well for collectors to remember M. de Reuterskiöld's timely advice, and to look before they buy!

MR. JOSEPH CORTESE, writing from Genoa, says: "Besides the forged stamps seen by M. Diena, I have seen some others, as follows:

"St. Lucia, 1863, black; 1864, black; 1864, violet; 1881–82, 1d., red and black.

"Nova Scotia. All six of the cents issue.

"Cape of Good Hope. 1d., 4d., triangular.

"Gambia. The two first imperforate; and 1880, ½, 1, 2, 6 pence.

"Ionian Islands. ½, 1, 2 pence.

"They are well imitated, and are all obliterated and on piece of letter.

"The Nevis stamps to which M. Diena alludes are the 1d. and 4 p., orange. They are very well imitated, but cannot deceive an expert collector. I have also seen two stamps of Tuscany, the 3 lire, and the 60 crazie, on letter, obliterated, offered at £1 each! Some months ago the makers of these forgeries sent boys into the towns to offer them to the dealers and collectors, and among others offered to me. I found the 1859, Panama, 80 c.; 3 lire, yellow, and 2 soldi Tuscany; and the 30, 60, 90 of the first issue of Brazil, all on letters, and duly obliterated!

"We hope with you that our authorities may decide to punish these forgers, who have become now too avaricious."

A SUBJECT INDEX OF STAMPS.

FROM the interesting communication by Mr. F. A. Bellamy (4, St. John's Road, Oxford), the Hon. Sec. of the Oxford Philatelic Society, given elsewhere, it will be seen that he has most courageously attacked one of the standing difficulties connected with our pursuit. In this country no attempt has been made to make a proper classification of Philatelic literature, under the heads of the different countries and issues; and of the extreme value of such no student or collector could for a moment doubt. In Austria Herr von Suppantschisch has practically accomplished the task, and Mr. J. K. Tiffany, in the States, has done much in the same grade; but as yet no really scientific Dictionary of Philatelic articles has, for the English-speaking race, been evolved. Mr. Bellamy therefore merits at once the grateful recognition of all Philatelists, and—beyond their sympathy—is

entitled to ask for assistance. We trust therefore that the latter may be cheerfully given—and that whether in the loan of works, in making searches and excerpts therefrom, or in whatever way the author deems best, such assistance may be loyally given for the benefit of all concerned in Philately.

THE AGE OF GOLD.

MR. E. DIENA has succeeded in unearthing some interesting details of ancient prices, which he rightly characterizes under the above title in the *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung*, and which we think of sufficient interest to reproduce for our readers' benefit. It is curious that hardly any quotation is given for unused stamps, and that, in the same number of the before-named journal, an able article by M. Gernandt-Roux on the Geneva Philatelic Exhibition amply corroborates our previous remarks as to the great dearth there of unused Cantonals. The fact is that these *are* scarce, and are not always at the behest of a plethoric banking account.

The prices following are taken from *Guides to Collecting*, published by George and Chapalay respectively in—

	1864.		1865.	
	Unused.	Used.	Unused.	Used.
Basle, 1845, 2½ rap.	Fr. 4	2	—	2
Geneva, 1843, 5 + 5 c.	—	—	—	—
„ 1845, 5 c., yellow-green	—	1.25	—	75
„ 1847, 5 c. „	—	1.25	—	75
„ 1848, 5 c., deep green	—	1.25	—	75
„ 1849, 5 c., green on white	—	1.25	—	1.50
„ 1849, envelope, 5 c.	—	10	1.50	—
Neuchâtel, 1850, 5 c.	—	1.50	—	1.50
Vaud, 1849, 4 c.	—	1.50	—	2.50
„ „ 5 c.	—	1.50	—	75
Winterthur, 1850, 2½ rap.	—	1	—	—
Zurich, 1843, 4 rap.	—	1	—	1.50
„ „ 6 rap.	—	1	—	0.75
Orts-Post, 2½ rap.	—	0.50	—	0.50
Poste Locale, 2½ rap.	—	0.50	—	0.50

The following is an Account to MR. J. B.....

From H. FÜESSLY AND CO., ZURICH.

Zurich, the 5 *September*, 1684 (*sic*).

	Fr.
4 Zurich stamps at 0.60	2 40
1 Basle	1.20
1 Neuchâtel	0.60
1 Vaud	0.60
1 Winterthur	0.80
4 Geneva, 2 at 0.60, 2 at 0.30	1.80
	Fr. 7.40

THE STAMP DEALER'S DIRECTORY.

FOR the ninth year we have received from Mr. C. H. Nunn, of Bury St. Edmunds, this enterprising little directory, which has grown with the ninth edition to eighty-two pages. The directory includes a list of magazines, Societies, works, auctioneers, etc., the particulars given appearing very accurate; but we scarcely think some of the names included as "dealers" will give satisfaction to their owners. Apart from this the book supplies a certain need, while its nominal cost should secure it a successful sale.

THE LATEST "ERROR"!

IT has remained for the year of grace 1896 to show that stamps as well as collectors may lose their heads—and in company with each other. It is well known that certain values of the older French issues exist in *tête bêche*, *i.e.*, with one stamp inverted in relation to its neighbour. Of the 1849 series, the 15 c. green and 40 c. orange-vermilion have never been known thus, and we have it from a high authority on these matters, who is in a position to know from ocular evidence, that the latter never can have existed. The writer of these notes was, however, offered a specimen of the 40 c. thus inverted when lately travelling on the Continent, and, although saturated with incredulity, actually went so far as to call on the vendor with a view to examination thereof—the price being so far in the hundreds as to preclude anything more than a devout and respectful inspection. He was not fortunate enough to see the specimen in question; but it may be mentioned that when the dazzling bait was held before the writer's eyes, he was informed that the 15 c. green *tête bêche* had also been found and had been disposed of for a few hundreds of pounds; whereas in the case of the 40 c. it was indubitably rarer, as a second copy of the former was also known — we might suggest "already" between the last two words—and add "more were expected." Ultimately after discussions and wagers between the disbeliever and the faithful, a *rencontre* between both was arranged, with the 40 c. in question in the flesh and ready to have the torments of the Inquisition inflicted upon it. Cold water, tepid water, and hot water left its character unassailable, but its constancy submitted to the "something in the boiling line" during a very *mauvais quart d'heure*, and the stamps, so happily wedded in a pair, were separated for ever. "Parting is such sweet sorrow," which adage must have come home to the faithful few, in more senses than one, during this Inquisitive ebullition! Nor is this sad recital finished here, as the report of this incident having naturally been rapidly spread, the owner (lucky man!) of the 15 c. also took alarm and submitted his treasure to the ruthless hands of the Inquisitors of the Order of the Boil, and—alas for the fickleness of ties and attachments, Philatelic or human!—this devoted pair also parted company, and, like their possessors, deeply mourn their departed greatness.

The main facts of this little history, which transpired in a well-known Continental capital, have been known to ourselves and others for some time, and we should have hesitated even to allude to it but for the fact that it is

already matter of public comment in the *Timbre Poste* (to whom we are indebted for the latter "points"), and that in the interests of collectors it is well to call attention to the dangers that exist. As for the transactions in question, they can only be characterized, on the part of the manufacturer, and of the vendors also if they knew, as robbery in the first degree, and we trust that means will be adopted to bring the culprits to justice.

ANOTHER REMOVAL.

WE have been informed that Mr. Chas. Mortimer, junr., has removed from his former position in Leicester Square, and has taken premises at 3, Green St., Leicester Square. This street, as is well known to many of our readers, has lately been widened and rebuilt on the northern side, and now forms a convenient and heavily-trafficked thoroughfare between Charing Cross, Leicester Square, and Regent Circus. The position is therefore a good one, and the premises, we can testify, are well adapted for the many requirements of a stamp dealer.

THE MURDER OF A STAMP COLLECTOR.

WE have no wish to make this journal a Philatelic Police Gazette, as we have, thanks to our kind contributors, a sufficiency of other matter more philatelic, and less gruesome; but we feel justified in placing on record the *dénouement* of the tragic event in which a poor young man was murdered for the sake of his stamps. The account of the crime has already been mentioned in this journal, but the facts briefly are that Delahaieff was inveigled into a rendezvous by Aubert and Marguérite Dubois, and was brutally murdered with a hammer for a collection of stamps worth at most 4000 francs. Aubert disposed of some of the stamps, and ultimately, through an act of "false economy," disclosed the nature of the contents of the box in which he had packed the remains of his victim. The culprits were finally tried at the Paris Assize Court on the 30th of last month, after a trial extending over four days. The jury remained for two hours deliberating over their verdict, and found both prisoners guilty, but gave them the benefit of extenuating circumstances. The President sentenced Aubert to hard labour for life, and Marguérite Dubois to three years' imprisonment. Aubert seemed to be under the influence of morphine when brought in to hear the verdict. "The woman wept bitterly," is added in the account given by the *Standard*; and well she might!

Reviews.

HERR PAUL KOHL'S EUROPEAN CATALOGUE.*

TAKING time by the forelock, Herr Kohl has already issued his new edition for 1897, which continues and improves on the best features present in the previous editions. By the aid of a finger index at the right hand of the book, reference to any country is rendered particularly easy. These European stamps are divided on politico-geographical lines into nine groups, *i.e.* Germany; Belgium, France, Holland, and Luxemburg; Great Britain and European Possessions; Scandinavia and Russia; Austria, etc.; Switzerland; Italy; Balkan States, Turkey, and Greece; and Spain and Portugal. We have reproduced this division, as we consider it an excellent one, dividing, as it does, the great "masses" of European stamps into nine broad "classes," any one of which is amply sufficient in number and interest for the specializing requirements of the intelligent Philatelist. Our first impression was that Germany had once more trodden upon our corns by omitting Cyprus from the list of British Possessions, but this is evidently not intended, as it appears absent altogether. The peculiar feature of setting each value and shade in a square frame, as in an album, is continued, and possibly has advantages, especially for the *commencing* specialist, who can thus, with little trouble, follow the leading varieties with greater ease; but it certainly makes reference more difficult. The prices naturally show great variations, but an attempt has wisely been made to avoid too glaring mis-valuations by giving occasionally a maximum and a minimum price, and also, in cases of rare stamps, by omitting the figures entirely. In this category come the high-value English, which are at last spared the indignity of being quoted at two or three times their face-value. Many of the lists bespeak careful work; and in some, notably Austro-Hungary, they are greatly improved, whether in regard to their Philatelic delineation, or in the sensible elimination of manifestly absurd prices for rare unused stamps. The Catalogue, extending over 400 pages, is clearly printed, suitably bound, and is altogether one that can be recommended to all collectors of European stamps.

MR. H. L. EWEN'S CATALOGUE OF BRITISH STAMPS, 1896.†

THE space of fifteen months that has elapsed since the predecessor of this Catalogue appeared has been well utilized by the author, as the present edition is, in all respects, a better and a more important work. In the mere matter of bulk, it has more than doubled its contents, now embracing over

* *Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Europe.* Paul Kohl, 16, West Strasse, Chemnitz.

† *Standard Priced Catalogue of the Postage and Telegraph Stamps and Postmarks of the United Kingdom.* No. 5, November, 1896. H. L'Estrange Ewen, 32, Palace Square, Norwood.

200 pages, and necessitating an increase of the price asked. It has also gained greatly in lucidity by the new method of arrangement adopted, which, in place of the old system of mixing all the debatable varieties—inverted watermarks, errors of lettering, flaws in plate, "ivoried heads," etc.—now eliminates these from the Catalogue proper, and treats of them elsewhere. The present plan of arrangement is shortly as follows:

CONTENTS OF CATALOGUE.

BOOK I.—STAMPS.

PART. I.—POSTAGE STAMPS: Line-Engraved Adhesives; Embossed Adhesives; Surface-Printed Adhesives; De La Rue Adhesives; Stationery, comprising: Mulreadies, Envelopes, Letter Sheets, Wrappers, Post Cards, Letter Cards, Registration Envelopes, Jubilee Stationery, Stamps Impressed to Order.

PART II.—POST OFFICE TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

PART III.—FISCAL STAMPS.

PART IV.—STAMPS OF RESTRICTED FRANKING POWER: Issues for the Levant, for Government Departments, and for Private Persons.

PART V.—MINOR VARIETIES: Varieties of Design, of Watermark, and of Perforation.

PART VI.—STAMPS OF WHICH NO REGULAR ISSUE WAS EVER MADE, ESSAYS, PROOFS, &C.

PART VII.—STAMPS ISSUED PRIVATELY: Oxford and Cambridge; Circular Delivery Companies'; Railway Letter Fee; Private Telegraph Companies'; Telephone Companies'.

BOOK II.—POSTMARKS.

PART I.—LIST OF BRITISH POSTMARKS.

LIST OF POST OFFICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

We doubt if "Mulreadies" is correct; should we write "Etties" or "Lelies"? We approve, however, of the term "Jubilee Stationery"! The most striking innovation is found in Part I. p. 48, under the head of Stamped Stationery, as to which Mr. Ewen tersely says: "Varieties of the stamps themselves, and of the paper on which they are printed, are alone included, other varieties being out of place in a stamp collection." In pursuance of this note, tresses, sizes, gums, and shapes, whether of ordinary or registration envelopes and wrappers, are rigorously excluded; hence, without regard to the die-numbers—which are not of the highest importance—the list of British entires "is of the most simple." This may induce collectors to take them up, and *may* also be in the author's mind. There is much in his contention. We have always failed to see the philatelic interest in the stationery of registered envelopes, and are of opinion that these have done much to discredit the collection of British envelopes. We cannot, however, agree, in Part IV., to the stamps of the British Post Offices in the Levant, and those of the Government Departments, being classed with stamps embossed around or printed on the reverse with the names of firms, which have absolutely no title to recognition as stamps; the latter should be classed in Part V. with minor varieties—which they certainly are. A highly commendable feature is Part VI., which gives succinct and valuable

definitions as to what are Proofs, Essays, etc., with a list of the known varieties, commencing with the V.R. and terminating with the current 1d. imperf. This chapter is of great importance to collectors, as we are of opinion that many men have been deterred from collecting the stamps of our own country from the dread of these abnormal varieties, and their (quondam) still more abnormal prices. Mr. Ewen classifies and prices them, and hence all their bogey-power to the uninitiated has vanished. A further interesting addition is the list of *imprimatur* sheets at Somerset House. The second half—literally—of the work is composed of an elaborated and freely illustrated description of all cancellations—home, foreign, and colonial—and will be welcomed by the many who, with justice, find here an abiding interest. All told, Mr. Ewen has made a great improvement in the fifth edition of his book, and it will be widely and deservedly popular.

The Stamps of Barbados, published by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, and written by Messrs. E. D. Bacon and Lieut. Napier, appears as we go to press, and will be reviewed in our next issue.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—We have refrained up to the present from mentioning the Revenue stamps, which have been freely chronicled as having been used for postage. The following letter, kindly sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., would appear to throw some light on the subject.

"*November 13th*, 1896.

"SIRS,—I have the honour to inform you, in reply to your enquiry of yesterday, that none of the Revenue stamps of British Central Africa were ever used postally.

"The one you sent me has been taken off an old expired licence, and has been improperly obliterated.

"There is a special stamp issued to cancel Revenue stamps, and, in addition, Revenue officers are instructed to write the date across the stamp.

"In the case in question the Revenue officer at Port Herald is also postmaster, and the mistake has thus arisen.

"I return the stamp sent for me to see.

"I have the honour to be, sirs,

"Your obedient servant,

"(*Signed*) J. E. MCMASTER,

"Postmaster-General, B.C.A."

It appears also from the *Australian Philatelist* that the current issue is appearing on watermarked paper, the values up to 1s. being on Cr. C A paper, and those from 2s. 6d. upwards on Cr. C C paper.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—The current 1 rupee Indian stamp received the "British East Africa" surcharge in three lines, in

addition to the obsolete slate stamp; we have also the ½ anna envelope, and the two wrappers of India, to add to the list, with the same surcharge.

Adhesive. 1 rupee, carmine and green, black surcharge.
Envelope. ½ anna, green, black surcharge.
Wrappers. ½ ,, ,, ,, ,,
1 ,, brown, ,, ,,

Considering the length of issue, and the decidedly large number of varieties created, the plea of emergency hardly seems to hold good in the case of B.E.A.

CANADA.—Mr. Bacon has shown us the new 2 cent post card, which undoubtedly calls for comment as being unusually handsome in appearance: the engraving is exquisite, the inscriptions and stamp all being apparently engraved from steel dies. We notice that the head of the Queen is after that on the current halfpenny post card, but bolder, and much more finely executed. The inscriptions are in English *and* French, and beneath the Royal Arms the word "CANADA" appears in large capitals.

Post Card. 2 cents, vermilion on buff, 132×79 mm.

CEYLON.—The 2 cent. reply card now comes to us from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., in mustard. We chronicled the single card on page 208.

Post Card. 2+2 cents, mustard on *white* (reply).

CYPRUS.—We have a copy of the 2 piastres bicolour stamp from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., which was issued on the 6th November, and completes the set.

GREAT BRITAIN.—It appears that an error has been discovered in the surcharge "ARMY OFFICIAL," the word "OFFICIAL" being spelt "OFFICIAL." From specimens we have seen, the last letter seems a distinct I and not a broken L, and the error always occurring in the same place on the sheet.

We should, however, hardly have anticipated such oversights in these days of careful printing and vigorous supervision.

Adhesives. ½d., vermilion, black surcharge, *error.*
1d., lilac ,, ,, ,,



JOHORE.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write to correct an error made in our description of the $1 stamp last month. From the specimen sent to us we find the colour should be lilac and green.

We give an illustration of these new stamps. *Adhesive.* $1, lilac and green.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Our correspondent sends us the new 1d. post card, the alterations in which have been the same as were introduced into the 1½d card recently, viz., the waratah ornamentation has been removed from the face, and an emblematic waratah and leaves substituted for the words "One hundred years" in the circular frame around the view of Sydney.

The letter card referred to on page 269 is shortly to be superseded by a new card, with the same alterations in the stamp which have taken place in the above 1d. card.

Post Card. 1d., lilac on *pale yellow.*

QUEENSLAND.—The current issue is being redrawn, so that the figures of value will be denoted in the lower corners of the stamps. At present we hear of the 1d. having appeared.

Adhesive. 1d., vermilion.

ST. HELENA.—This colony officially joined the Postal Union on October 1st.

All the "surcharged" issue have been withdrawn, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us five new values in the usual colonial type. St. Helena has chosen to differ from the other colonies in that the stamps are all printed in one colour, wmk. Cr. CA.; perf. 14.

Adhesives. 1d., carmine.
2d., orange-yellow.
2½d., blue.
5d., violet.
10d., brown.

SEYCHELLES.—A specimen of the 18 cents on 45 c. surcharge, sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., shows a slight variety in the "T" of cents., the tail being about 1 mm. shorter than the other letters.

SIERRA LEONE.—We have received three additional values in the new type from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. We give an illustration.



Adhesives. 2s., green and blue.
5s., green and carmine.
£1, brick red on *rose-red.*

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Writing on September 8th, Mr. Geo. Blockey informs us that the One Shilling stamp had that week been modified in colour, the colour having returned to that of the 1876-77 issues, *lake*-brown, the appearance of the stamp being decidedly improved; the same perforation, 11½, is used, but a new machine with larger needles having been employed, gives the perforation a clean-cut appearance.

Adhesive. One Shilling, lake-brown.



TRINIDAD.—We give an illustration of the 5s. and higher values of the new issue generally.

ZANZIBAR.—There are two types of the surcharge alluded to on page 270, the difference being in the size of the "2." The current 8 annas purple-rose Indian stamp has been surcharged, in addition to the same stamp in the obsolete mauve colour. We have also a fresh value of the B.E.A. permanent type to add.

Our remarks under B.E.A. would also apply here.

Adhesives. 8 annas, purple-rose, black surcharge (India).
7½ ,, lilac-mauve, ,, ,, (B.E.A.)

EUROPE.

BELGIUM.—We are informed that the perforation between the coupon and stamp of the Dominical stamps is to be suppressed; in future, instead of the coupon being torn off, this will have to be crossed through with pen and ink. This report, if true, seems, if possible, to add further absurdity to these Non-Sunday Delivery Stamps. An overwhelming proportion of all the letters despatched in the Belgian Post Office are necessarily delivered on week-days, and it seems incredible that if, say, 100 letters are posted by a firm on Monday morning, each stamp has to be pen-marked, in case it should not get delivered before the end of the week!

We chronicle two stamps for use previous to and during the exhibition to be held in 1897 at Brussels. From an official decree dated 5th October, 1896, we learn that the stamps bear the inscriptions "BRUXELLES" "1897" "BRUSSEL" "POSTES" "POSTERIJEN"; that they will be sold together with the ordinary issue at all post offices up to the end of 1897, and they are to be available for postage up to 30th June, 1898. The values are 5 cents. and 10 cents., and the first was issued on the 15th November, and the latter on the 15th October.

It would appear that the status of these stamps is quite in keeping with those for genuine postal use, the length of issue being nearly 18 months, and their object the universal advertising of the great Exhibition.

The designs are somewhat novel; but as we hope to illustrate shortly, we simply add that the only drawback we see is in the size, the stamps, with the Sunday label, measuring about 38×27 mm. The perforation is 14½×14.

Adhesives. 5 cents, violet.
10 ,, brown.

HOLLAND.—We are indebted to both Mr. J. B. Robert and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for news of changes here. The latter send us the new 50 cent. stamp in two colours, as also the 1 gulden, which we have not chronicled. Mr. Robert informs us that, contrary to rumour, there will be no 10 gulden stamp; also that on Dec. 1st a letter card will be issued in two sizes.

The Unpaid Letter Stamps are now all printed on one sheet, in Type I. Mr. Robert sends us the undermentioned values.

Adhesive. 1 gulden, brown and olive-green.
Unpaid Letter Stamps. 1 cent., blue and black, *Type I.*
1½ ,, ,, ,,
5 ,, ,, ,,
10 ,, ,, ,,
12½ ,, ,, ,,
20 ,, ,, ,,
25 ,, ,, ,,

ITALY.—By a decree dated 12th July, 1896, the 50 and 100 lire Postage Due stamps have been suppressed.

PORTUGAL.—We have the following to add to our list of last month.

Envelopes. 25 reis, green on *buff.*
50 ,, blue ,,
Post Card. 10+10 reis, green on *buff* (reply).

RUSSIA.—*Le T.-P.* mentions the 4 kopecs post card, with the inscriptions printed in red in place of black.

Post Card. 4 kopecs, red on *buff.*

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—The *Timbre Post* chronicles a letter card of 80 reis, printed in two colours on pale blue card, having 17 blue ruled lines inside.

Letter Card. 80 reis, violet on *pale-blue.*

COLOMBIA.—*Antioquia.*—It appears there are two distinct sets of the stamps referred to on page 238, the difference being in colours only. The reason is hard to give, and before listing the full set, we wait further news. No doubt there is an explanation forthcoming, but their present appearance is certainly more speculative than necessary.

ECUADOR.—"Iberius," writing in *Mekeel's Weekly*, states that the current 50 cent. blue has been surcharged "Diez—Centavos" in two lines diagonally across the stamp.

Adhesive. 10 c. on 50 c., blue, violet surcharge.

MEXICO. According to a decidedly loose method of issuing new stamps, or varieties of old ones, the current water-marked stamps are said not to give satisfaction; and a fresh paper is already being tendered for.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—The new issue of adhesives and stationery is in preparation, and will consist of adhesives, ½, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 20, 30, 50 cents, $1, each value to be of a different design. The values are in Mexican currency. (*A. J. of Ph.*)

CUBA is looking forward, and already announces the projected issue of stamps for 1898 to serve both postal and telegraphic purposes, as in the stamps of Spain. The values are to be milesimas, 25 and 50; centavos, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 20, 40, 80; pesos, 1 and 2.

CURAÇAO.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the Unpaid Letter Stamps, which are now printed in one type only, all on the same sheet.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 15 c., green and black.

HAITI.—The *P.J. of G.B.* chronicles the 3 c. re-engraved; the size slightly smaller, and inscription ditto.

Adhesive. 3 c., violet.

INDO-CHINA.—A five francs stamp comes to us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., in the permanent French Colonial type.

Adhesive. 5 francs, lilac and blue.

MADAGASCAR.—The following values are to be added to the list given on page 209:

Adhesives. 1 c., red and black on *blue*.
2 c., blue and brown.
4 c., blue and claret.
20 c., blue and red on *green*.
30 c., blue and brown.
Post Card. 10 c., blue and black on *green*.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—A new surcharge, "½d." on 3d., comes to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The block of four sent for inspection shows two varieties; but the *A. J. of Ph.*, just to hand, has seen a complete sheet, illustrates five distinct types, and adds two more, making seven genuine varieties in all. In addition to this, from the same source we learn that some surcharges were so faintly applied that a further surcharge was applied by hand, making ten extra varieties of double surcharge.

Adhesive.
½d. on 3d., blue, black surcharge, 17 varieties.

SAMOA.—Several contemporaries list the current 2½ pence printed "by error" in *black*.

Adhesive. 2½ pence, black.

SHANGHAI.—The *A. J. of Ph.* says: "Mr. D. Benjamin has sent us a 2 cent of the current type, printed in red on white paper, and two new values, 4 c. and 6 c. (as per list underneath). The 2 c. stamps are printed on the paper prepared for the large 2 c. jubilee stamp."

Watermarks Chinese characters; all perf. 13½ × 14.

Since the above was written, specimens of these stamps have come to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives—2 c., red and black.
4 c., orange and black on *yellow* tinted.
6 c., carmine and black on *rose* ,,

TRANSVAAL.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 6d. in two colours, and several of our contemporaries chronicle the 10 shillings.

Adhesives. 6d., lilac and green.
10s., pale brown and green.

ZANZIBAR (French P.O.)—We have received a specimen of the current five francs French adhesive, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., overprinted "50 ANNAS."

Adhesive. 50 annas, on five francs, lilac, black surcharge.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THIS Society opened its 1896–7 session by the members having a supper at the Royal Hotel, Darley Street, Bradford, on the 13th of October last. There was a good muster of members, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The *ménu* contained many tempting morsels, as the following, extracted from the same, will show, viz., Potage à la comp. perf., Poulets à la Emission Nouvelle, Ungezähnte Schuzkin, Leveret à la Gum Pap., Apple and Plum Pie on pieces of original plates, &c. It was also stated in the *ménu* that only original gums could be used.

The second monthly meeting of the Society was held on the 3rd November at the Royal Hotel. Mr. Oliver Firth, the President, occupied the chair, and there was a good muster of members present. The evening was occupied by a display of the stamps of British East, Central, and South Africa, and Zanzibar. Mr. W. M. Gray opened the discussion on these stamps, which he illustrated with his splendid collection of these countries. He produced specimens of every known variety, in many cases having strips or blocks of the rarest types. The next meeting will be held on the 1st of December next, when Mr. Atkinson will read a paper on the "Stamps of Uruguay."

W. H. SCOTT,
Hon. Secretary.
1, PICCADILLY, BRADFORD.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON, ESQ.
Hon. Sec. and Treas.—MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A.,
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

Oct. 15.—Presidential Address.

Messrs. T. Locker (Birmingham) and J. Bramah (Sheffield) were elected members.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. P. Kohl for a bound copy of his Catalogue of the Stamps of Europe.

The regulations for carrying on the International Society Exchange with the Barbados Philatelic Society were unanimously approved.

Mr. W. T. Wilson then gave a most interesting and instructive address on Philately and the Society in general, especially touching on what to collect and what to avoid in shades and colours.

Nov. 5.—Display: "Stamps of Ceylon."

The following were unanimously elected members:—Messrs. C. F. Larmour (India), I. Knaster (Cambridge), G. H. Callf (Sussex), W. H. Maunder (Surrey), T. W. Peck (Birmingham), R. Kronmann (Denmark), W. F. Harvie (London), G. Gelli (Belgium), H. F. Lowe (London), H. Buckley (Norway), H. Tebbitt (France), P. C. Bishop (London), W. J. Pattison (Newcastle-on-Tyne), O. Mangold (Germany), T. S. Parkinson (Newcastle-on-Tyne), J. A. Margoschis (Birmingham), F. J. Buckler (Birmingham).

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Wilmot Corfield for Vols. I. and II. of the *Philatelic World* (bound).

It was decided to purchase a "suggestion book," in which any member may enter suggestions and difficulties on any philatelic subject. These will be answered by the Committee, or discussed at the next meeting.

The Hon. Treasurer was requested to complete the file of the *London Philatelist* by purchasing Vol. II.

Then followed the display of "Ceylon."

Most of the rare varieties were shown in profusion, many of the pence issues being handed round in large blocks, the imperfs. in pairs and strips.

In connection with the above, the Hon. Secretary desires to warn members against a recent fake which he has not seen mentioned in any paper. Some time since part of a proof-sheet of the first issue, 6d., on blue paper, was found.* It has no wmk., but some copies have had a star impressed in the gum. This simple expedient, combined with the irregular transparency of the centre of the stamp, and the similarity of the colour to the original 6d., on blue, have already deceived several fairly advanced collectors, who have not given themselves sufficient time to examine the stamps carefully.

The November Exchange Packets have established another record, having easily beaten our own record of April last, when we circulated £3026 1s. 2d. The totals for November were:

	£	s.	d.
Packet "A" (mixed) .	1351	6	3½
" "B" (colonial) .	1617	0	1
" "C" (foreign) .	458	4	4½
	£3426	10	9

The subjects for December 3 and January 21st on our programme have been transposed: On December 3rd the display will be "Postal Curiosities"; on January 21st the display will be "South Australia."

* This "fake" is well known to us, having seen many copies of late years: it seems to have come into existence parallel with other unused Perkins-Bacon early issues of West Indians, etc.—ED. *L.P.*

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—BARON DE WORMS.
President—M. P. CASTLE.
Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. WILLETT, West House, Brighton.

SYLLABUS FOR SEASON 1896–97.

1896.
Oct. 19. Discussion of Programme.
Nov. 3. Alteration of Rules, etc.
" 17. Notes on France. M. P. CASTLE.
Dec. 1. Display of Rare or Interesting Stamps.
" 15. Philatelic Auction. E. J. W. SANG.
" 29. Notes on Oldenburg. M. P. CASTLE.

1897.
Jan. 12. Display: Great Britain.
" 26. Notes on Austria. M. P. CASTLE.
Feb. 9. Experiences of a General Collector. DR. W. S. BURROWS.
" 23. Display: Ceylon.
Mar. 9. " Nevis.
" 23. Notes on Belgium and Luxemburg . DR. J. H. REDMAN.
April 6. Some Unchronicled Varieties. H. STAFFORD SMITH.
" 20. Display: British West Africa.
May 4. Philatelic Auction. E. J. W. SANG.
" 18. General Meeting and Dinner.

W. T. WILLETT,
Assistant Hon. Secretary.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—JOHN H. THACKRAH.
Vice-Presidents—W. B. SIMPSON, EUGENE EGLY.
Hon. Treasurer—F. J. KIDSON, 5, Archery Place, Blackman Lane.
Hon. Secretaries—T. K. SKIPWITH, 13, Victoria Road, Hyde Park, Leeds.
WM. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S., Sunny Bank, Leeds.
Hon. Librarian—S. E. NIXON.
Ex-Presidents—T. K. SKIPWITH, WM. DENISON ROEBUCK.
(The above form the Committee.)

SYLLABUS.

1896.
Oct. 5. Opening Remarks By the President. Display: Great Britain.
" 19. Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand, and British Bechuanaland.
Nov. 2. German States.
" 16. Queensland.
Dec. 7. Bahamas and Barbados.
" 21. British North American Colonies.

1897.
Jan. 4. India and Ceylon.
" 18. South America.
Feb. 1. Scandinavian Countries and Colonies.
" 15. British African Companies.
Mar. 1. Western Australia and Fiji.
" 15. Leeward Islands.
April 5. Asiatic Countries (except India and Ceylon).
" 26. United States.
May 3. Annual Meeting.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.
Hon. Secretary—A. H. HARRISON.
The meetings are held weekly at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Friday evenings at 7.30.

THE second ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, Oct. 9th, the President in the chair, supported by a moderate muster of members. After the minutes of the opening meeting had been read and confirmed, and the general business of the meeting transacted, Mr. Oxley, of Pendleton, was elected a member of the Society, and Mr. Blockey, of Adelaide (Australia), a corresponding member.

The President read his paper on Philatelic Exhibitions. He commenced by pointing out the many advantages collectors derived from them. He stated the object of the paper to be, in the first place, to form a foundation for next week's discussion; in the second, by promoting the discussion, to stimulate still further the very great interest known to be taken in the coming Exhibition by all the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society; and, in the third place, to lay what information he could before those who had not had experience of the Exhibitions held in previous years. The classification of countries, means of advertising the Exhibition, the kind of show cases to be used, and the general arrangement of the exhibits, were a few of the points upon which he invited discussion. The President gave, briefly, a sketch of the London 1890 Exhibition. He mentioned, too, the interesting shows held every now and again at Effingham House; the result of these, and of the exhibitions held in Vienna, Leeds, Birmingham, and Edinburgh in 1890; in Paris, Zurich, Kimberley, in 1892–3; in Ipswich, The Hague, and Vienna, in 1895, holding the undivided opinion that another (and he hoped the most successful) be held as soon as possible in London. Touching the question of fiscals, the exhibition held in Leeds, taken as an example, showed of how little interest they were to Philatelists.

Mr. Beckton hazarded his opinion that the philatelic community looked upon this branch in much the same way that fiscalites looked upon collectors of railway tickets and wine labels.

The President read the syllabus of classes of the 1890 London Exhibition, and showed how much greater the divisions must be next year to cope with the advance of the last few years. Secondly came the syllabus of the 1892 Paris Exhibition, thirdly that of the Geneva, and lastly the syllabus which he had drawn up and suggested for the sake of discussion next Friday. The main points of his programme to note were, that it was so arranged that, with the exception of I. and II., all the groups are arranged geographically. Groups 3, 4, and 5, are the English colony groups; 6 and 7, European countries; and 8, the rest of the world. In order to make the countries in the various groups as equal as possible in interest and variety, he had taken out those the stamps of which were acknowledged rarities, and placed them in Classes I. and II. Thus the groups would not be deprived of interest to any, as no single exhibit, or a particularly difficult country, could carry off the highest award in the group. Coming nearer home, Mr. Beckton made various suggestions in the interest of provincial collectors. No longer could it be said that the vast majority can have absolutely no chance of success in an international exhibition. Extra medals should be given in the various groups for the best collection exhibited by a provincial collector (being a member of a provincial society) exhibited in the open class, without obtaining an award in the open competition. Provincial societies might also offer two medals to be competed for by its own members in any class. The object of these suggestions would be that probably a larger number of exhibits would be drawn from the provinces; but no doubt the Executive Committee will have the right of declining any exhibit in the case of overcrowding. After a few remarks relating to general regulations, advertising, etc., Mr. Beckton brought his paper to a close, requesting the members to bring forward any suggestions next week, when they would have the opportunity of letting their views be known.

A. H. HARRISON,
Hon. Sec.

GRASMERE, WHITEFIELD,
NEAR MANCHESTER.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Philatelic Society, New York, was held on October 19th in their new quarters, at the Collectors' Club, No. 351, Fourth Avenue, New York City.

The following members were present, with Vice-President Gregory in the chair: Messrs. Scott, Terrett, Luff, Gregory, Duveen, Clotz, Stebbins, Thorne, Quigley, Andreini, Brevoort, Hartshorn, Moreau, Curtis, Adenau, and Morgan.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and accepted.

Mr. F. E. P. Lynde, 325, West 87th Street, New York City, was proposed by Mr. Herrick, seconded by Mr. Scott, and in accordance with the regulation was ordered posted for one month, when the next election will be held.

Mr. C. P. Krauth, Pittsburg, Pa., tendered his resignation on account of increased business duties, etc., and upon motion it was accepted with regrets.

The Committee on club-house made their final report, calling attention to the conveniences as to location, and in the house, and upon motion the Committee was discharged with thanks.

The Society passed a resolution instructing the Chair to appoint a Committee to furnish the Philatelic Society's room in the new club-house. The Chair appointed Messrs. Scott, Clotz, and Andreini as such Committee. The resolution to appoint the Committee was amended, so as to give the Committee general powers to exchange their former furniture, or give the same for use in the club-hall.

The Committee on incorporation reported that papers were in the hands of Judge McLean, who stated that he hoped to have the papers sent to Albany some day this week, and that all the formalities would be promptly complied with.

The Chair called attention to the general custom of the Society to celebrate the anniversary of their existence by a public dinner, reception, or some other formality. After a general discussion it was decided that, in view of the incomplete furnishing of the club-house, the matter be carried over until the November meeting.

Mr. Luff brought with him his very large collection of U.S. stamps, arranged in separate albums, one of which was devoted exclusively to essays and proofs; another to unused blocks; still another to used specimens, etc. As this was the first opportunity to see Mr. Luff's extraordinary collection, it was greatly enjoyed by all members present. Not only the quantity, but also the quality of the stamps exhibited, were a revelation to some of the members. The results of Mr. Luff's profound philatelic studies was evidenced by his collection.

Mr. Thorn, also at the request of several members of the Governing Committee, brought with him a number of the volumes of his collection. While a large number of the stamps exhibited were well known to the older members, the later additions to the collection were numerous and exceedingly interesting.

The meeting adjourned at 10.30.

FREDERICK A. NAST, *Secretary.*

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

SESSION 1896-7.

President—CAPTAIN G. H. W. STOCKDALE, R.E.

Vice-President—R. TYETH-STEVENS.

Exchange Secretary—H. TUCKER, JUN.

Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—W. J. W. MILLER.

Committee—E. MILLMAN, W. E. HARVEY, F. A. COCKS, R.N.

THE first ordinary meeting of the sixth session was held at 9*a*, Princess Square, on Wednesday, October 7th, at 7.30 p.m. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President took the chair. The Hon. Secretary read letters from the following members, tendering their respective resignations, viz.: Mrs. Mayne, the Very Rev. Monsignor Bickerstaff-Drew, Miss Fowler, and Mr. E. Honeysett.

All the resignations were accepted with regret. The Hon. Secretary also read a letter from Mr. A. E. L. Westaway, in which he accepted with thanks the honorary membership conferred on him at the previous meeting. A discussion then took place as to whether the displays held by the Society should be opened at an earlier hour than 7 p.m. It was decided that this arrangement should, if possible, be carried out at the next display of stamps.

Mr. W. A. Walker, of Garfield House, Stoke, Devonport, was unanimously elected an ordinary member of the Society.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of* THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—THE LONDON PHILATELIST *will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of* 6s. ($1.50). *Subscribers' remittances should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

OIL RIVERS AND NIGER COAST.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—When engaged in re-mounting my stamps of Oil Rivers and Niger Coast recently, I noticed that in the 2nd issue N. C. the stamps are perforated both 14 and 15. I have some bearing postmark of July, 1894, both 14 and 15; and an unused set I recently purchased from Messrs. Bright and Son, of Bournemouth, are *all* 15, and some of the values—½d., 2½d., and 5d. especially—lighter in shade. I notice in the *L. P.* that the 1st issue N. C. is chronicled as 15. Does it also exist 14, like the 2nd issue? It was, I think, printed and perforated by the same firm—Waterlow's.

I thought the fact, if not known already to you, might be worth recording, especially as the stamps were not made for collectors, like the surcharges from same region evidently were. Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. ROCK.

PHILATELIC ALBUMS.

DEAR SIR,—I notice with great satisfaction that several of the leading Philatelic Journals are opening their columns to articles and letters on the "Album" question; and it is evident to many that the last word has not been said on the subject, and that there are numbers of general collectors who, in spite of being loftily referred by album publishers to the plain album with movable leaves, are yet of opinion that there is still room for a suitable album, in a series of albums to be found between that highly expensive and non-educational luxury, and the well-known ponderous volumes, constructed so that the stamps must be accommodated to the album, and not the album to the stamps.

I am writing to suggest a series of albums schemed on the following lines.

Let the stamps of the world be classified into a number of sections, and provided for in a series of sectional albums. Let the publishers, at starting, guarantee to issue uniform albums for the whole world, and not merely for a few favourite countries or groups of countries. Let these sectional albums be published quarterly, until a series for the whole world has appeared; and then, when this has been accomplished, let them at once start a reissue of a second series up to date, to be followed in its turn by a third, a fourth, and so on.

By this means collectors would always have a new sectional album to look forward to every three months. They would perpetually have under attention the stamps of a portion of the world, and would be spared the distressing and chaotic upheavals hitherto necessitated—by having to remove at irregular intervals a large collection from one album to another all at once. In fact the passing of a collection from an out-of-date to an up-to-date album would proceed by a continuous, natural, and pleasure-yielding process; and a collector's interest in his stamps would be enormously stimulated thereby.

It does not appear that the cost of such a series of albums need be prohibitive. Given good paper, strong but not elaborate binding; an intelligent grouping of the countries into the several albums; accurate descriptive lists of all stamps without going too deeply into needless minutiæ; no illustrations, except of watermarks, and no (so-called) coats of Arms; and it seems to me the cost of these suggested albums need not be so great as to render their publication impossible. The publishers, having only a section of the world to consider at a time, would be free to devote full attention to that section; and if they welcomed suggestions for future editions from their customers, the happiest results would follow.

The "Album" question is the greatest question of the day to collectors after all. Its best solution is to be found in the production of five-shilling quarterly volumes, each as closely up-to-date as possible, each dealing with a section only of the stamps of the world, each possessing ample space for possible new issues until the round has been gone through and its successor appears, and each giving pleasure to its purchaser, and producing a profit to its publishers, if only they put a sufficient amount of intelligent brain-work into each of their sectional ventures.

I enclose my card, and am,

Yours faithfully,

W. C.

CALCUTTA, *Oct.* 17, 1896.

[Albums for different sections of the world—notably Europe and its several geographical or political groups—have been published by several eminent firms. Mr. Skipton has also done this for the British Colonies.—ED.]

The Market.

A RARE U. S. REVENUE.

THE demand for Revenue Stamps seems decidedly on the increase in the States, and rarities are not wanting on their side of Philately. We notice a copy of the $5 United States Proprietary stamp on violet paper, used, which realized a little over £45 in Messrs. Bogert & Durbin's last sale.

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

Sale on Monday and Tuesday, October 26th and 27th.

	£	s.	d.
St. Vincent, 1s., rose, large perforation, unused	7	10	0
Ditto., 5s., rose, unused (no gum)	11	10	0
Tobago, wmk. CA, 6d., ochre	6	5	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 6d., rose unused (no gum)	5	0	0
Ditto, wmk. CA, 6d. violet, complete sheet of 24	6	10	0
Brazil, 2nd issue, 300 reis, black	3	0	0

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

Cape of Good Hope, woodblock, 1d., red	4	4	0
Ditto, 4d., dark blue	3	0	0
Mauritius, Large Fillet, 2d., blue	7	15	0
and	8	0	0
Oil Rivers, 5s., surcharged on 2d. Great Britain, unused	3	5	0
Ditto, 10s. in red on 5d. G.B.	7	10	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange, no margins	10	0	0
United States, Columbus, unused, complete set	3	3	0
Barbados, wmk. Small Star, 4d., red, unused, horizontal pair	4	10	0
Nevis, litho., 6d., grey, unused	13	10	0
St. Vincent, perf. 12, 1s., indigo-blue, unused	6	15	0
Ditto, wmk. Star, 1d., drab, unused	5	5	0
Ditto, wmk. CA, perf. 12, 4d., ultramarine, unused	4	10	0
Turks Islands, 2½d. on 1s., prune (Gibbons' type 7), unused	6	6	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s., prune (Gibbons' type 9)	3	5	0
Ditto, 2½d. on 1s, blue (Gibbons' type 6), unused	10	5	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., crimson, single line border	3	12	6
Fiji Islands, 2d. in black on 6d., rose, Gothic V.R., unused	4	4	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow	3	10	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

Great Britain, octagonal, 1s., green, unused	4	12	0
Oldenburg, 1858, ⅓ gros.	4	0	0
Saxony, 3 pf., red	3	5	0
Wurtemburg, 70 kr., dark lilac	2	16	0
Barbados, perf. 11×15, 4d., vermilion, unused pair	3	10	0
Buenos Ayres, 3 pesos, green, unused	4	7	6
Nevis, perf. 15, 1s., yellow-green	3	0	0
Ditto, lithograph, 6d., olive, unused with margin of sheet (No. 4)	15	10	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, unused	12	0	0
St. Lucia, 1886, 1s., orange, unused	3	8	0
St. Vincent, ½ on half 6d., unused pair	3	0	0
United States, 1856, 90 c., blue, unused	3	15	0

MR. HADLOW.

October 19th and 20th.

Switzerland. *Zurich*, 4 r., black, vertical lines (No. 2), not fine	8	0	0
Ditto, *Vaud*, 4 c., black and red, not fine	11	10	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie	7	15	0
Ceylon, imperf., 8d., brown	5	15	0
Barbados, 5s., rose, unused	4	0	0
Nevis, CA, 6d., green, unused	4	8	0
St. Vincent, 1s., indigo, unused pair	6	6	0
Ditto, wmk. Star, 5s., rose-red	15	0	0

November 10th.

Confederate States. *Athens*, strip of four of the 5 c., purple, used, on original	45	0	0
New Brunswick, 6d., orange, used, on original	3	15	0
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine-vermilion, used, on original	3	15	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

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An Official Snubbing.

NO more severe "raps over the knuckles" to over-officious officialism have ever been administered than are disclosed in the interesting communications elsewhere recorded, which we owe to the courtesy of Mr. W. Brettschneider, of the Melbourne Philatelic Society. Our readers will doubtless remember to have read during the past year, in this and other journals, of mysterious Philatelic leakages in the stamps of recent but short-lived issues and reprints of the Victorian stamps. Much dissatisfaction has been expressed in Melbourne circles that such grave irregularities should have been allowed to take place, and we believe, mainly through the initiation of members of the Melbourne Philatelic Society, a public enquiry has been held as to these departmental irregularities. As set forth in the official finding, four officials, including the chief of the Distributing Department, are publicly reprimanded for breach of their duties, and are heavily fined by the reduction of their salaries. It is even hinted that Mr. Morkham, the distributor, a gentleman rejoicing in the substantial salary of over seven hundred pounds per annum, may find his health so precarious as to be compelled to retire from the service of an ungrateful country!

We have on a previous occasion made allusion to the "spirit of unrest" that of late years has been visible in some of the Australian Colonies, and in the very truest and best interests of collectors—whether "at home" or in the Colonies—it is earnestly to be desired that the head of this unrestful dragon should be crushed beneath the heel of departmental integrity. To all those who take an interest in Oceanian stamps—and the merits of the latter are as grains in

the sand—it should be patent that if the later issues of the Australian Colonies are allowed to degenerate *à la* Peru, or to be manipulated by Trans-Pacific Bickels, the fine old stamps of Australia will soon sink down to the level of those countries whose issues no longer inspire confidence among collectors. Much harm has been already done, but by a vigorous shutting of the back door of unnecessary issues and official "dealings," "all may yet re-establish itself,"—to quote the late misguided Emperor of the French. Tasmania had a temporary aberration of watermarks half a dozen years since, but has been quiet of late; whereas Queensland has seemed in a perpetual state of unrest during the same period.* Victoria has issued a most dangerous series of reprints, some of which were unsurcharged, and have, of course, escaped from the official holders; while New South Wales has covered itself with Philatelic ignominy by issuing reprints, and postmarking them to order. New Zealand, Western and South Australia, have a better record, though the latter does not seem to know its mind as to perforating machines!

Philatelists in Australia should lose no endeavour to lay before their respective Governments the desirability of avoiding frequent changes in the postal issues, and the true economy, following the example of the leading nations, of having a really good design and of keeping to it; and they should point out that these constant changes lay the department open to loss by forgeries. Finally, they should urge that no departure from the design or details of any stamp in issue should be permitted except by the sanction of the heads of the Government, or a Board of the Cabinet; and above all they should ask for the institution of a rule forbidding any official in the Post Office Departments from collecting or dealing in postage stamps under pain of dismissal. Peace would then reign over Israel, and the soul of the Philatelist would be vexed no more.

* Our Australian correspondent's interesting and amusing article in this number of our Journal, received subsequently to the inditing of this article, amply corroborates this statement.

Notes on Straits Settlements Stamps.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON THE 15TH MAY, 1896.

BY DOUGLAS GARTH.

I FEAR that when I mentioned to the Society's Secretary that I had received several letters from a friend in Perak which had interested me, I had no intention of giving to their contents the importance of a paper, and the following few notes are only intended to serve as a stop-gap in the absence of any more learned treatise being forthcoming for this evening's meeting, and are certainly not in a form suitable for publication.*

The number of collectors in the Straits Settlements appears to have increased very largely during the past two or three years, and there are several very fine and complete collections of the local stamps, as well as some fairly representative general collections in the Colony. My correspondent from time to time has alluded to the opinions of the principal experts in the varieties of surcharge which are found in the English and German catalogues, and some few points are interesting. To begin with Perak itself.

The English price for the "Crescent Star and P" issue of 1878 is considered in the Colony to be absurdly low, and specimens have lately changed hands at very high prices. The surcharge, as in the case of Selangor, was affixed in dies of two surcharges, *i.e.* covering two stamps in the sheet at a time. There is no inverted surcharge known amongst the Peraks of 1878; but the surcharge *is* found inverted on the Selangor stamps. This is confirmed by Mr. Giwelb, who bought a sheet of the Selangor stamps some year or two ago with oval surcharge in red, and found the two specimens in the right-hand bottom corner inverted. He unfortunately broke up the sheet, but still possesses one of the inverted specimens. The watermark was CC in the case of the Perak stamps; but none of the collectors in the Straits appear to recognize the Selangor oval surcharge in *red* on the CC paper, and I have not myself seen a specimen. The same surcharge on CA paper was of course not in use till 1883.

The surcharge "PERAK," measuring $14\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ mm., issued in 1883, was probably the earliest of the numerous types issued, and was, as is well known, impressed from a die covering three stamps at a time. This surcharge is not recognized by the English catalogues as found inverted; and yet it is not only recognized, but seems highly prized in the Settlements. My explanation is that this surcharge was largely "faked," and the majority of stamps with inverted surcharge have been rightly condemned by the dealers. At the same time, the stamp has been undoubtedly issued to the public with some specimens of the surcharge inverted (of course, three specimens together side by side), and I have had parts of two such sheets myself, which have been bought at post offices in the Colony. I append,

* Mr. Garth's notes will be found of quite sufficient interest to refute his modest disclaimer.—ED.

as illustration (*a*), a block of twelve stamps, genuinely surcharged, three being inverted, and a few specimens of what I now deem to be a spurious surcharge, although I purchased them from a leading dealer.

These surcharges, impressed thus in a die containing only three impressions, are naturally found stamped most unevenly, and the letters are consequently thicker or thinner according to the pressure used. It was also a very common occurrence for the die to slip, thus forming a blurred or double impression; but I venture to deprecate any importance attaching to such varieties. I was sent a few sheets of such specimens, with a "double surcharge," as it was termed, at very high prices lately, and I incline to the opinion that they are of no Philatelic interest.

The varieties of type employed in the sheets of the stamps afterwards surcharged "One cent, Perak," and "Perak, one cent," respectively in three lines, were undoubtedly designed for collectors, and are practically ignored by the local Philatelists in the Colony; but an equally undoubted genuine error exists in the small variety of the "Perak" surcharge, one stamp on the sheet having an accidental F for the P. The authenticity of this mistake is established by the fact that all specimens were corrected in ink by the Post Office before they were sold over the counter, and steps were at once taken to rectify the mistake. I am informed that specimens of this error are wonderfully scarce in the Colony, and that the English catalogue price is far under its real value. I have newspaper cuttings to the effect that in 1894 this "Ferak" error was sold by the local dealers at 10s. 6d. apiece; but in August, 1895, it had risen to £5, and at Christmas last an inspector of police in the Perak district parted with two specimens for £20 apiece.

The Perak "Service" stamps have, I think, been somewhat under suspicion since their arrival in this country in 1895. They are, however, quite genuine, but very little used, and the uncancelled specimens in the hands of the officials have been hitherto (either on account of strict supervision, or for private enterprise) jealously guarded, and unused specimens are extremely scarce. It is to be presumed, however, that if the use of these stamps continues, unused sheets will eventually filter on to the market, and I cannot agree with my correspondent, who regards them as a "great investment"! I have before me a Straits newspaper, in which it is definitely announced that no more of the "Service" stamps will be issued after the present small stock is exhausted; but I hear from private official sources that their abandonment is by no means finally determined upon.

Considerable excitement seems to have been occasioned by the recent issue of the 2 cents orange variety of the 1892 tiger type, and I quote from the local newspaper of 10th September, 1895, as follows:

"Yesterday witnessed a panic for postage stamps; there was a rush to the Post Office, and the little building resounded with cries for stamps. The occasion was the appearance of a 2 cent stamp of the old type in an orange colour. By middle day 54,000 stamps were disposed of, bringing in to the Government $1080. The purchasers were Government officers, who gave no chance to the public. To-day a single stamp is not to be had for love or money. We hope not to be considered inquisitive if we ask where these stamps have been all this time. We do not remember to have seen one before, and we do not think there is anyone in Perak who has done so except the officer who has had them in his custody."

The following day, in the same newspaper, a letter appeared signed by "Philatelist," in which he pointed out that "there is now a large Society in England, as well as all over the Continent, under the title 'Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps,' which rejects and declares valueless any stamps which have never been sold strictly for postal purposes," and "warning the purchasers of 2 cents orange stamps yesterday that these stamps will be, under the circumstances, undoubtedly condemned and black-balled by the above Society forthwith."

The result of this letter seems to have been that 2 cents orange stamps were on sale the following day in the shops at prices ranging from 50 cents to $1, until on the 24th September we read, "It is said that the orange stamp is rather weaker in price, and can be obtained at five cents each." This was due to the issue of another 90,000 labels, of which it is stated 70,000 were bought at once for English dealers, hardly any specimens having been sold for postage purposes. As a matter of fact, 180,000 stamps of this value in orange were issued, which was the whole of the Government stock, and there are no more.

A similar boom seems to have taken place with reference to the surcharged 3 cents stamp of 1895. It appears that a 3 cents stamp being much required for public use in Perak, about March, 1895, demand was made, and a supply received; the type of the stamp being similar to that supplied some considerable time before to the other Native States, namely, the 5 cents stamp, coloured rose instead of blue, and surcharged "3 cents." Why this supply had not been received before, as in the case of the other States, is not apparent, but the allegation that it had been so received, and kept back by some of the authorities for their own purposes, seems more than probable. At any rate, on a certain day in June the 3 cents stamp, long expected, was issued, and in a few hours the small supply sold out entirely, and a 3 cents stamp (although much wanted) was as unobtainable as before in Perak until the arrival of the new stock, of the new type with the large tiger's head, in November. The newspapers again record that a large proportion of these 3 cents stamps went into the hands of a high Government official; and although there was considerable grumbling throughout six months of the year on the part of the public at the want of a 3 cents stamp, no further supply was issued, and it is still believed that a considerable stock was, and is now, in hand.

I fear the above statements are only corroborative of the opinion that English Philatelists and members of our Society have long held with regard to the unsatisfactory conditions under which the stamps of the Straits Settlements have always been issued to the public; a fact which has done much to lower the popularity of this Colony and its Native States amongst collectors.

I have some further notes as to some of the surcharged stamps of Bangkok and Sungei Ujong; but as I am expecting further information with regard to the former State in reply to some inquiries which I have instituted, perhaps I may defer my further remarks until another evening.

Trafficking in Stamps by Officials in Victoria.

MR. W. BRETTSCHNEIDER, of the Melbourne Philatelic Society, kindly writes us as under :—

"Dear Sir,—Knowing the interest you take in anything connected with Philately, I thought you might feel interested in the decision of the Public Service Board (appointed to deal with the charges against certain officers in the Post Office here of trafficking in stamps).

"Enclosed please find cutting of this day's *Argus*, which speaks for itself."

As will be seen, our correspondent's information is of the highest interest, and we heartily congratulate him and the Philatelic Society of Victoria upon their prompt and efficacious action in this matter. We refer to it elsewhere in this issue. The quotations are from the leading Melbourne paper—the *Argus* (of November 9)—and are very prominently printed.

"Finding of the Public Service Board.

"Reductions of salaries recommended.

"The Public Service Board has now communicated to the Government the result of the investigation of the circumstances connected with the irregular traffic in obsolete stamps by officers of the Postal Department. The officers concerned were Messrs. W. Morkham, accountant and controller of stamps; W. H. Sinnott, clerk in the accountant's branch; A. Coulson, clerk, now in the Income-tax Department; and H. C. Treyvaud, letter sorter, Geelong. They have been found guilty on some of the charges brought against them, and the Board recommends reductions in their salaries.

"The charges concerning Mr. Morkham were as follows:—(1) Improperly trafficking in stamps; (2) allowing to be removed from the 'spoil' 34 sheets of 2/–, light green, stamps, withdrawn from issue in August, 1895; (3) improperly giving to certain persons, especially one Friedman, undue facilities for the purchase of obsolete and reprinted stamps; (4) selling at their face value to Friedman large quantities of obsolete and reprinted stamps; (5) selling certain reprinted stamps at their face value to Friedman after the sale of such stamps had been forbidden by the Postmaster-General; (6) making untruthful and misleading statements concerning the above matters when questioned by the Postmaster-General; and (7) negligence and carelessness in the discharge of his duties. The Board finds that the fifth and seventh charges have been proved, but not the others. Two additional charges were formulated, that Mr. Morkham did not properly distribute or account for stamps received from the Universal Postal Bureau, and that he was negligent in the discharge of his duties, inasmuch as he did not place in the official album specimens of these stamps. These charges are also considered proved, and the Board recommends that Mr. Morkham's gross salary of £750 (that is, without percentage reductions) be reduced to £700 per annum from the date of his resuming duty.

"Mr. Sinnott has been found guilty on all the charges brought against him, namely:—Improperly trafficking in stamps; removing certain stamps from the department at various times; replacing them with other stamps of current issues, and selling the same at a price above face value for his own benefit; arranging with Coulson to sell certain of such stamps for him, and to share the profits; writing to various persons letters signed 'C. W. Watkins,' and negotiating for the sale for his own benefit of certain stamps; arranging with Treyvaud to receive such letters at Geelong, and forward them to him; arranging with Treyvaud for the sale of certain stamps at a price above their face value; and making untruthful and misleading statements to the Postmaster-General. The Board recommends that his salary be reduced from £485 to £375 per annum from the date of his resuming duty.

"The charges against Mr. Treyvaud were:—(1) Assisting Sinnott in improperly trafficking in obsolete stamps by taking charge of and delivering to Sinnott certain letters which were left at the Post Office, Geelong, addressed to C. W. Watkins; (2) alone or in conjunction with Sinnott improperly trafficking in such obsolete stamps; and (3) making certain untruthful and misleading statements concerning the above matters to a person instructed by the Postmaster-General to enquire into the same.

"The Board finds the first and second charges not proven, and the third proved, and recommends a reduction of salary from £174 to £160 for twelve months.

"Mr. Coulson was also charged with acting in conjunction with Sinnott, but is only found guilty of making untruthful statements when under examination, and the Board recommends the reduction of his salary from £200 to £184 for twelve months.

"It is understood that the Cabinet, following the usual course, will adopt the recommendations of the Board. Mr. Morkham has not been in good health for some time back, and is likely to apply to be retired from the service on that ground."

The *Argus*, in a leader, says:—

"Most people who have followed the evidence in the stamp trafficking enquiry before the Public Service Board will incline to the view that the delinquent officers of the Postal Department have been very lightly dealt with. Reductions in salary amounting in only one case to a substantial sum are the sole penalties recommended for what was certainly no mere irregularity, but a flagrant breach of trust. In the case of Sinnott, at least, it has been held proved that the transactions were undertaken for pecuniary profit — illegitimate profit, as the offender must have known—and although such advantage was reaped without direct loss to the Government, we can see little to remove this from the ordinary category of fraudulent appropriations. Strict secrecy was observed, a change of name resorted to in correspondence, a go-between employed—in short, all the machinery by which shady transactions are generally masked was brought into use. The department was not robbed, because the department takes cognisance of stamps only at their face value; but somebody was mulcted for the benefit which Sinnott and those who traded with and for him derived. In this case it was the stamp dealers and collectors who found the value of their legitimate specimens depreciated by a multitude of others being rushed upon the market from an unauthorised source of issue. It is easy to argue that stamp collecting is but a 'fad,' and that the price attached to obsolete stamps is merely a fancy value; but the business is so far real that certain specimens command in open market far more than the sum which they were originally issued to represent, and a realisation of this fact has

brought hard cash into the pocket of one, at least, of the shrewd officials whose conduct has been under investigation. Had it not been for the representations of the Philatelic Society, this trafficking might have gone on unchecked for years. It says little, we must admit, for the management and general surveillance of the Post Office Department that such practices could flourish. But this cannot be wondered at when, among the culprits brought to the bar was Mr. Morkham, the supervisor and chief of the branch in which the abuses occurred. In the case of an officer drawing a remuneration of over £700, it would be hard to believe that any paltry money gain would impel him to embark in a systematic farming of the stamps entrusted to his custody. The Board's finding does not carry that imputation. But Mr. Morkham is adjudged to have sold reprint stamps at their face value to a certain favoured applicant after such sale had been prohibited at headquarters, and to have been guilty of negligence and carelessness in his duties. That finding carries its own punishment to an officer of his standing—a punishment far more severe than the trifling monetary fine imposed."

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.



THE Committee desires to announce that it is intended to allot 14 stalls of various sizes in the West Gallery of the Exhibition for the use of Members of the Stamp Trade.

The stalls will be let by tender, and full particulars, with plan, conditions of letting, and form of tender, can be obtained on application by letter to the Secretary, *Mr. J. A. Tillcard*, 4, Lombard Court, E.C.

No tenders will be received after the 27th February, 1897.

The tenders will be submitted unopened to a Sub-committee, consisting of the following well-known Collectors, viz., Messrs. W. B. Avery, Douglas Garth, E. D. Bacon, W. Dorning Beckton, and T. Maycock, who alone will have any voice in the acceptance of tenders and the allocation of the stalls.

It will be seen from the above official announcement that the arrangements are being well taken in hand. Several meetings, extremely well attended, have been held, and every point that is likely to operate in favour of the Exhibition is being amply discussed and acted upon by the Executive Committee. We regret to read in the columns of the *P. J. G. B.* some criticisms upon the work of the Committee, which we feel confident are only based upon a want of knowledge of the facts; as we are confident that the proprietors of our esteemed contemporary are equally actuated, with the members of the Executive Committee, by the most sincere wish for the entire success of an undertaking that will advance the best interests of Philately in this country. In reply to the queries propounded in the Salisbury journal, we therefore briefly, but we hope succinctly, state the facts of the case.

1 & 4. The Executive Committee was elected by the General Committee, after due notice given to all members, to carry out the entire arrangements connected with the Exhibition. These are now being proceeded with; but

it is doubtless arranged to report progress to a general meeting of the Committee at a suitable date.

2. The question of Dealers' Stalls, for obvious reasons, could not be dealt with in the Prospectus, but has been, in our opinion, handled in a masterly manner, full information thereon being now procurable from the Secretary.

3. Any Philatelist or Dealer could have—and had an equal opportunity to have—tendered medals for competition, with the list of donors announced in the Prospectus. The Committee will, we understand, however be pleased to receive additions to the lists of Prizes, which will be announced with the same degree of publicity as accorded to their predecessors. The Prospectus was urgently required, and its appearance was long delayed by the vast amount of work entailed in its conception—during which period it was open to anyone to kindly donate Prizes.

4. The practice in all Philatelic Exhibitions has been to make a charge for Exhibition space. Without this the Committee would be flooded, besides the good things, with all kinds and quantity of undesirable Exhibits, and exhibitors would have no inducement to compress their exhibits. The charge made is a very reasonable one, and in view of the great expense incurred, the Finance Committee would be failing in their duty to the guarantors and subscribers if they did not make every reasonable effort to make the affair a financial success.

The almost universally expressed opinion is assuredly not that the Prospectus is "most disappointing." To state that there is "grave disappointment," and that "it is growing," is a flight of poetic fancy that does small credit to the inditer of the article in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. If that gentleman had attended the General Meeting of the Committee, and had evinced as much interest in the undertaking as other members of the Executive, he would assuredly have been welcome to have a share in its arduous labours.

Philatelic Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

DISCOVERIES.

CANADA.—Mr. L. Gibb, of Montreal, kindly submitted to his fellow-members of the London Philatelic Society, at a recent meeting, a curious variety among the stamps of the Colony he resides in. The specimen in question was the 10 c. envelope of 1860 impressed in vermilion, instead of its normal colour — brown, and being presumably printed in error in the colour of the 5 c. The stamp was unfortunately cut round, but was on the diagonally-laid paper usual to the Issue, duly postmarked, and, in the opinion of the members present, had every appearance of authenticity, although surprise was expressed that so marked a variety should never have been noted before.

NIGER COAST.

MR. WALTER MORLEY writes: "I note in last month's *London Philatelist* Mr. C. N. Rock writes of the perforations 14 and 15 of Niger Coast, second issue. I have for some time been hunting up the various perfs. of both the first and second issues, and find so far varieties as under, which may be of interest now the question is opened.

"NIGER COAST, FIRST ISSUE.

Various values, perf. 14.
" " " 15.
1d., 2d., 2½d., and 1/- " 12½ × 14 (very scarce).
1/-, 12½ on left side and 14 on other three sides.
1/- on thin paper, and on thicker and whiter paper.
1d. and 5d. in two distinct shades.

"NIGER COAST, SECOND ISSUE.

Various values, perf. 14, 14½, and 15.
½d., 1d., and 1/-, perf. 12 × 14.
½d., 1/- " 12½ × 14.
½d., 12½ at top and sides, 14 at bottom.
½d., perf. 14 × 15.

"These various compounds of 12 × 14, 12½ × 14, *probably appear* on same sheet as the perf. 14 all round, as they are *very scarce*, especially of the first issue."

AN INTERESTING ENVELOPE.

MR. PHILIPP KOSACK, of Berlin, has become the fortunate possessor of a "piece" that he boldly announces as the most interesting in Philately. It consists of an entire letter sheet, with the following stamps on it, all in fine condition, but, alas! cut round.

MOLDAVIA.

1 81 parale.
1 27 "
2 108 "

This obviously makes up the triple 108 p. rate, and the presence of these four stamps together on one letter is certainly as interesting as rare. We have not as yet heard the price asked, and cannot guess within a hundred or two!

Occasional Notes.

DEATH OF MR. GILBERT E. LOCKYER.

IT is with deep regret that we have to announce the quite unexpected death of this well-known Philatelic author and Member of the London Philatelic Society. Mr. Lockyer's illness was very sudden, as we are informed that, although he had been in delicate health for several years, he was in his normal condition until within a few days of his end. Mr. Lockyer, who was an architect and surveyor, was in his 58th year, and had secured high esteem and respect in the wide circle of all who were acquainted with him or his writings. He had been for many years, and was to the day of his death, a member of the London Society, which body, at their meeting on the 18th of this month, passed a feeling tribute to his memory. Mr. Lockyer was an indefatigable student of and writer on stamps; always a careful and conscientious Philatelist, the collections he had formed were always replete with evidences of close study and complete knowledge of his specimens. The stamps of the English Colonies were always favourites of his, while his collection of Mexicans, which he had continued up to the last, must be one of the finest in the world. He was for many years a frequent contributor to the Philatelic journals; and it is indeed sad to read, in the current (December) number of the *Philatelic Record*, an article from a pen that we little expected would never be handled again. The most important work produced by Mr. Gilbert Lockyer was *Colonial Stamps; also those of Great Britain*, published by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., at 8, Gower Street, in 1887, which was the precursor of the series of Handbooks published of late years by that firm, or rather, its successors. *Colonial Stamps*, written ten years since, could obviously hardly be up to the measure of our standard of knowledge to-day; but at the time it was a careful and clever *resumé* of all that was then known of our Colonial Stamps, enriched by Mr. Lockyer's own extensive experience, and dominated throughout by the great accuracy and conscientious study that was so characteristic of the man. We can but tender, on behalf of all sections of Philatelists, our sincere sympathies to his relatives on the loss of so good and true a man in all his undertakings.

AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

THE further tinkering of the Queensland types, threatened some little time ago, has begun. The 1d. has now figures of value in white on ground of solid colour in the lower angles. The watermark is Crown over Q at present. I understand it is intended to alter the 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., and 2s. in the same way, in order to make the whole current series uniform in general design with the 2½d. and 5d., which already have the figures in the lower angles.

Doubtless at the time of inserting the figures in the four higher values the background will be removed from the central oval, so that the intermediate stage of development, which has recently characterised the 1d. and 2d., will be skipped over.

And, trying as the recent host of varieties emanating from Queensland must be to the patience of the S.S.S.S., they cannot be regarded as in any way speculative. They are simply the outcome of an attempt to economise and utilise the out-of-date and inadequate materials of nearly 20 years ago to cope with the naturally increasing demands for postage stamps. Locally "produced" by an engraver who is a veritable relic of the past, and who, in addition to his weight of years, has to bear the burden of insufficient apparatus, the present penny stamp, for example, is simply a disgrace to such a Colony as Queensland. Compared with those beautiful stamps which the same Colony issued in 1860, artistic to a degree, and executed so as to yield handsome prints, even in the hands of unskilful printers, the current stamps are—well, they are simply beneath comparison!

It is an interesting, though melancholy study, to trace the deterioration—for it can hardly be called evolution—of the current One Penny.

Manufactured in 1882 by a laborious process from the Twopence die, it had a period after the word "Penny," and owing to the limited size of the "bath" at the disposal of the engraver, it was prepared in blocks of four minor varieties. Cheerfully and uncomplainingly it did its duty for several years, although the colour mixed never seemed to get the same shade for two consecutive printings. Then the plate gradually wore away, and a fresh one was prepared in the same laborious manner—four *clichés* at a time. The period after "PENNY" was omitted, which made it uniform in that particular with the other values. The "LA" of "Queensland" was joined in one of each block of four types, and the same distressing range of shade from red to yellow and from vermilion to brown continued to afflict it. All this time it was perforated 12, with one remarkable lapse to 9 × 12 in its first state. Then about 1890 the perforation was increased by one-half a hole or thereabouts—hardly a fact worth mentioning, but that it was effected by a "comb" machine.

Then the paper with Crown over Q watermark ran short, and our friend was printed on the low public-house "Beer" paper, and in this condition was licked in good faith by unsuspecting teetotallers throughout the Colony. However, the "Beer" paper was too thick, and declined to adhere to the envelopes with sufficient tenacity, so an experiment was tried with plain

paper with a lithographed *burelé* band on the reverse. Just before going to press on this paper an accident happened to one of the types on the plate, which appeared with the "PE" of "PENNY" obliterated. This crippled *cliché* was promptly removed after a few sheets had been struck off, and printing proceeded.

Shortly after this it was considered that the whole design was too heavy, and that the cancelling marks did not show up with sufficient distinctness. Consequently the shading was gouged out from behind the profile, and a heavy outline given to the features. This, I believe, is an effect that even the most skilful engravers confess their inability to produce with good results; therefore we can forgive the frost-bitten appearance of the Queensland profile.

By the time this alteration was effected the Crown Q paper was once more available, and used until an attempt was made to introduce a mysterious variety of paper called "Secret Mark" paper—warranted to baffle the most experienced imitator, and to reduce the Philatelist who searches for the secret mark to despair.

Then once again the engraver's art was brought to bear as described at the commencement of these notes.

What will the future have in store for this much-abused stamp?

It is obvious that a serious omission has been made. The curlywigs at the sides should be removed, and "Postage and Revenue" inserted. This alteration should be printed on Beer, *Burelé*, and Baffler papers.

Then, lastly, the figures in the lower angles must be repeated in the upper. Queen and Crown and Bottled Beer papers for this lot, please. Then the original die will probably be worn out, and in sheer desperation, from inability to fake up any other alteration, a new type may possibly be ordered.

* * * * * *

The Philatelic Lantern Lecture is gaining in popularity in these Colonies. The Philatelic Society of Victoria are shortly to have an exhibition, covering New South Wales, Victorian, and South Australian stamps; the slides for the latter having been prepared by Mr. F. C. Krichauff, of Adelaide.

* * * * * *

The Commission enquiring into the alleged irregularities in connection with Victorian reprints of scarce varieties has not yet finished its labours. Had an expert Philatelist been put on the Commission, the facts might have been arrived at sooner.

MADAGASCAR LOCALS.

A CORRESPONDENT has kindly sent us some notes and specimens of these local stamps—we feel more confidence in the adjective than the noun.

"As a member of the Philatelic Society, London (though rather an *inactive* one), I send you specimens of three Malagasy issues. I got copies in the first place from a missionary out there—a friend of at least ten years' standing—who knew that I was interested in such matters. The two "British Inland" series are out of use. I

understand that they were issued during the French invasion. Of the earlier issue—imperf.—I obtained one used specimen from another friend now in London. The N. M. S.'s stamps are of the *Norwegian Mission*, and were still in use this summer. Of them I enclose two lots on the original envelopes; both are addressed to the wife of my correspondent."

The specimens submitted are those bearing British inscriptions, and have already been noted, but those of the Norwegian Mission are new to us. They are of a most primitive design, bearing "N. M. S." within a frame, and, *certes*, made without any expense! We look upon these labels as purely locals, and we share the noted French cynicism as to doubt for the necessity of their existence!

A RECORD IN PATRIOTIC PHILATELY.

THE collectors of the stamps of our own country are legion, and their appetite for fine copies is somewhat difficult to satisfy, hence it is very rare that any large number of the acknowledged rarities in prime condition are seen at one time. A striking instance to the contrary has recently occurred; but no clue shall be given as to the identity of the owners, nor shall wild horses tear from us their names. It happened recently that two collectors of English agreed to inspect together the collection of a third which was on sale. The three collections, for purposes of comparison and examination, lay side by side on a certain study table, in a certain town (in Europe), and the owners, in comparing notes, were themselves struck by the cumulative Philatelic power of the combination. It may therefore be of interest to place these figures before the readers of this journal, a proceeding to which we have the owners' consent. The £1 and 10/- Anchor and Cross in three or four complete sets, besides stray shades; the 2d., without white lines, over 50 specimens, ditto perf. 16, watermark Large Crown, both plates, nearly a dozen; fourpennies, Small and Medium Garters, about 25; and last, but not least, octagonals, between 160 and 170, in blocks and strips of all values. We have only mentioned striking rarities, as in all other grades the same rich results would be attained; and when it is mentioned that only immaculate, or very fine, copies are here included, it will be admitted that the accumulation of the three collections presented such a quantity of British varieties, in mint unused condition, as has never before been gathered together in any house. It will be said, naturally, by the philatelic cynic that mere accumulative power is not collecting: nor is it! In this present instance, however, the proclivities of the fish that hails from Yarmouth were not apparent, as each collection, having been formed during a number of years with great care, embraced many shades that the others did not possess; and even were they all finally amalgamated, in many cases a large proportion of the shades and varieties could have been *conscientiously* retained. To those who have studied English, the number of distinct shades in the early fourpennies, and the colour and die varieties in the octagonals, are well known, and it will be readily apparent that there is a large scope for a number of specimens without the aid of "bloating."

AN UNJUST CRITICISM.

WE have had occasion to review Messrs. H. Hilckes & Co.'s *Auction Summary*, and to cordially commend it. We regret to find that this opinion is not shared by an esteemed Continental contemporary—the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*—which holds that it is quite unreliable as to prices recorded. We should not presume to traverse our German friend's criticism were it not based upon an absolute misapprehension. The writer in the *D.B.-Z.* accuses Messrs. Hilckes of purposely omitting low-priced stamps, such as those belonging to Mr. Hoffman—which were the occasion of a dispute—and others in Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's sales, in order to swell the aggregate prices. The real reason for these omissions is that the specimens were so far below normal condition that the realized prices would not afford a true reflex of price. We have a fairly accurate knowledge of the London Market, and can assure the *D.B.-Z.* that not only are the *Auction Summary* prices not unduly high, but that almost without exception the better stamps that are in fine condition would be bought by the London dealers themselves for resale—certainly at no reduced prices. The real fact is, that of all the vast quantity of stamps submitted to London auctions only a small portion is in the finest condition, or the *Summary* of prices would show far higher. The next time that a really choice *collection* is disposed of at auction, our friends in Berlin will find that Messrs. Hilckes & Co. have "naught extenuated, or aught set down in malice!"

PROPOSED PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF INDIA.

OUR energetic friends in Her Majesty's Empire of India are taking steps to found a General Philatelic Society under the above title, with branches in the several leading cities, and have issued the following letter, setting forth the objects desired. We plead guilty to a blush on reading their opinion of this Journal, and can only hope that our new competitor may be in every way a success. This idea of Philatelic Federation, with the increased amalgamated power, seems to us most excellent, and we trust that the founders' suggestion may be well supported and duly carried out.

"CALCUTTA, 1896.

"SIR,—It has long been apparent to stamp collectors in various parts of India, that some kind of central organisation is required to authoritatively represent Philately in India. An attempt has been made to supply this want by Philatelic Societies in Bengal and Bombay, while various Stamp Exchange Clubs exist in the N.-W. P. and other provinces.

"At the last meeting of the Philatelic Society of Bengal, it was proposed to approach collectors all through India with a view to starting a Society on a really broad basis, to be known as the Philatelic Society of India.

"This Society would publish a monthly journal of the highest class, more or less on the model of the *London Philatelist*. It would also from time to time issue publications dealing with the stamps of India, its native states, and other Asiatic countries, illustrated with photographic plates. It would arrange for annual exhibitions in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, etc., taking the main centres of Philately in turn.

It would provide for an Expert Committee to pronounce on the genuineness or otherwise of stamps. It would, in short, provide a link between all Philatelists in India, and do all that is possible to encourage Philately by giving advice to beginners, assisting the more advanced collectors, and generally spreading Philatelic knowledge and information.

"The promoters of this Society do not desire in any way to interfere with the existing Philatelic Societies and Clubs, but desire, on the contrary, to invite their hearty co-operation and assistance. The Bengal Society has decided, if the larger Indian Society is formed, to merge its identity in the latter, of which it will remain as the Bengal Branch.

"It will be observed that no mention has been made of exchange packets. It is thought that it will be better to avoid this feature altogether, leaving it to Exchange Clubs, etc., which, it is hoped, will be plentiful under the ægis of the present Society.

"In order to produce a really creditable journal, and to do the other work posed by the Society, it was considered, at the meeting of the Bengal Society above referred to, that a subscription from each member of not less than Rs. 20 per annum would be necessary. The usefulness of the Society will of course greatly depend on the number of its members.

"If you agree generally with the above, will you very kindly signify your intention of becoming a member to Mr. C. F. Larmour, 60, Bentinck Street, Calcutta, who has consented to act as Secretary, pending the election of officers when the Society is formed? We need hardly say that your assistance in distributing the additional copies of this circular, sent herewith, among your Philatelic friends will be greatly appreciated. It is, with the present want of a central organisation, unfortunately impossible for us to know anything like all the names of Philatelists throughout India.

"We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

"C. STEWART-WILSON,
"*President, Philatelic Society of Bengal.*
"A. A. LYALL,
"*Vice-President, Philatelic Society of Bengal.*
"E. SASSOON GUBBAY,
"*Late President, Bombay Philatelic Society.*
"T. E. MADDEN,
"*Secretary, N.-W. P. Philatelic Club, Agra.*
"C. F. LARMOUR,
"*Editor, Philatelic World.*"

THE CRAZE FOR FIRST EDITIONS.

ALTHOUGH apparently foreign to Philately we make no apology for reproducing the following paragraph which appeared recently in the London papers. If the words relating to books, etc., are replaced by "first and rare editions" of stamps, it would read a perfectly orthodox Philatelic paragraph, and is, in our opinion, a striking commentary upon the guiding instincts of the collector—whether Bibliophile or Philatelist. The obvious moral in both cases is, firstly, to know what really is rare; and secondly, to acquire it.

"That the craze for first and other rare editions has often been carried to absurd lengths, even ardent Bibliophiles would hardly care to contest; but the price which

was yesterday obtained for a specimen, in the original sheepskin binding, of the first impression of the *Compleat Angler*, published in 1653, suggests that there may be worse investments than scarce books. This copy realized at auction no less than four hundred and fifteen pounds; but he would be a daring man who suggested that the purchaser has paid dearly for his luxury. The original edition of Walton's delightful work has been steadily growing more valuable. In 1879 a fine copy, in a very choice binding, was offered in the catalogue of a famous London dealer for fifty-two pounds; and the seller appended something in the shape of an apology for fixing so high a price. But he explained that, with one exception, a copy had not occurred for sale for twenty years. The exception was an example included in a set of five editions sold at auction for sixty-eight pounds, and afterwards resold for one hundred. Naturally, the first edition was the most valuable volume of the set. In 1889 another copy came under the hammer, and produced one hundred and eighty pounds—an increase of more than three hundred per cent. in ten years. By 1891 the value had amounted to three hundred and ten pounds, though it is true that in the following year a copy fetched no more than two hundred guineas. Probably, however, it was a less choice example. There is obviously some amount of method in what has been unsympathetically called 'first-edition madness,' when prices rise so fast and so high, A purchaser who five years ago gave rather less than three hundred guineas for his edition of Walton, and can now sell it again for nearly four hundred, may be congratulated upon his foresight. He would have netted a very high rate of interest upon his money, while having enjoyed five years' possession of a valuable literary treasure. The City seldom has anything better than this to offer. Moreover, the market for original editions of old books is, as a rule, remarkably steady. 'Booms' there may be, but 'slumps' are not frequent; while the number of copies in existence and their whereabouts are so well known to collectors and dealers, that there is small danger of calculations being upset by what are known in circles less bookish and serene as 'unloadings.'"

UNNECESSARY ISSUES FOR NATIVE STATES.

THE Chairman of the Philatelic Society of Bengal has addressed the following letter to the Director-General of the Post Office of India, protesting against unnecessary issues for Native States:—

"On behalf of the Philatelic Society of Bengal, I beg to address you on what appears to us to be the issue of unnecessary stamps to Native States.

"These stamps being intended for use only within those States of British India, need not, it appears to us, be either of numerous denominations or of high values. We desire to raise no objections to the use of the following denominations:

½ anna.	8 annas.
1 anna.	12 annas.
2 annas.	1 rupee.
4 annas.	

"We would point out very respectfully that these are all which can possibly be necessary for the purely postal purposes of the States concerned. Nearly all the supplies of stamps of other denominations are, according to our information, sold to stamp dealers and collectors. With regard to the values over Re. 1 this is specially true. In short, our information leads us to believe that these States buy

many denominations of stamps from Government at cost price, and sell to dealers and collectors at face value, thus deriving a considerable income without trouble, and at the expense of Government.

"Very respectfully we should like to say that this course is not advantageous to Government. Nor is it dignified for the Government of India to lend itself to practices which have hitherto been considered peculiar to countries such as the Republics of Central America and others. We feel sure that this has only to be pointed out to be remedied.

"While on this subject we venture to take up your time with another branch of it. The surcharging of these stamps is done by the Government Press, apparently without special precaution in correcting the proof, so that almost every printing discloses some mistake. This has led to the belief among collectors that the Government of India orders these mistakes to be made in order that it may dispose of the 'errors' at high prices. No one acquainted with the circumstances of the case could give credence to such an absurd theory; but it is an ascertained fact that this is a very common idea among collectors of all classes in England, Europe, and America.

"We would, therefore, suggest that very special precautions should be taken in correcting the proofs of these surcharges future. It appears to us that a little more care would do away with cases of 'wrong fount' and 'broken letters' being used, and to prevent cases of transposing."

FORGERIES OF URUGUAY.

WE are indebted to Messrs. Ridpath & Co., of Liverpool, for the sight of some very dangerous forgeries of the older issues of this country; *videlicet:*

1859. Small figures.
" "
" "
1864. 12 c., blue.
" 100 c., red-brown.
" 120 c., dark blue.
" 240 c., orange-red.
("REPUBLICA ORIENTAL" and arms.)
1882. 1 c., green (with date, and each stamp wmked).
" 2 c., rose " "

These imitations are so well done that they have already deceived many collectors, and it is well that all collectors of these stamps should be on their guard. We have submitted them to Mr. Robert Ehrenbach, who has a superb collection of this country's stamps, and he kindly gives us the following result of his examination.

"With regard to the forgeries of *Uruguay*.

"120 c., blue; 240 c., red.—Firstly, the blue colour is too much of an ultramarine, and the red colour too orange, in these forgeries. The distance between the first 'C' of 'CORREO' on the left, and the outer border above 'MONTEVIDEO,' is 15 mm. on the forgeries, and $14\frac{1}{2}$–$14\frac{3}{4}$ on the originals. There is also a slight difference in this measurement on the right side, but not so pronounced. In the forgeries of these two values the 'E' in 'CORREO' on the right has curved lines on the top and bottom ('E'), which is not the case in the originals. The left eyebrow is straight in the forgeries, and curved in the originals. These are the chief differences.

"The 100.—The dash after 'CORREOS' on the right is scarcely visible, and the word 'CORREO' slightly larger than in the originals. The colour of this stamp is too much of a brownish hue, and there are discrepancies in the position of the rays. This is the most dangerous of the three.

"1864.—'REPUBLICA ORIENTAL' is a common forgery easily detected, and calls for no comment.

"1882 1 c., 2 c.—These I should not like to condemn without further proofs. The only differences I can find are in the plate numbers, which, in the case of the 2 c., is not so apparent as in the 1 c., which is badly misdrawn, the '6' being too small, and too near the 'ONE.' An important difference, however, I note in the fact that the perforation is $12\frac{1}{2}$ in the case of the originals, whilst the two for examination are about $13\frac{1}{4}$."

DESTRUCTION OF THE CASHMERE DIES.

WE are indebted to a correspondent for a copy of the *Statesman* of Calcutta, under date of November 24th last, which contains the following interesting item as regards these dies. It is, forsooth, full time that they were destroyed, as they have been exercised to very evil purpose of late years, with the result that these uncouth, and in many cases really rare old stamps, have much lost caste in collectors' eyes:—

"Philatelists who go in for specimens of stamps issued by Native States will be greatly excited to hear that all plates, dies, and seals used in the printing of Cashmere and Jummoo State stamps, from the date of the earliest issue to the time of the suppression of the State Post Offices by the Imperial Post, have been recently destroyed by the Accountant-General of the State in the presence of European witnesses. Cashmere stamps will now go up largely in value."

THE BI-UNIAL LANTERN AT THE LONDON SOCIETY'S ROOMS.

AS will be seen from the minutes of the London Philatelic Society, Mr. Thos. Ridpath, of Liverpool, has most kindly placed the Metropolitan collectors on the same basis as those of Lancashire and Birmingham, by giving one of his interesting exhibitions to the members of the London Society. The attendance of the members was excellent, and both by their presence and their applause they testified to their appreciation of Mr. Ridpath's entertainment. The process by which this gentleman throws the representation in full colours on the screen, without the presence of the stamps themselves in the slide, is known only to himself; but it is as brilliant in its results as it is ingenious in its inception. Some of the stamps, notably the 15 c. U. S., 1869, made really beautiful pictures, while in no case were the objects shown the least blurred or indistinct; although in at least two instances there seemed a little doubt in the mind of the gentleman explaining the stamps, as to which was the forgery and which the genuine! A cordial vote of thanks, carried by acclamation, was accorded to Mr. Ridpath at the close of the evening, and the verdict was that a most enjoyable form of instructive recreation had been provided by that gentleman. We give a list of the stamps shown, with the names of the members who explained them; but we must add that the two portraits, while they required no explanation, were a decided surprise to their originals!

Part I.

MR. CASTLE.

Austrian-Italy, 15 s., blue, Types I. and II.
Great Britain, 5/-, I. R. Official, genuine and forged surcharge.
„ „ 1d., Dies I. and II.
Finland, 10 kop., rose, forged and genuine.
Papal States, 1 scudo „ „
Zurich, 6, Type III., normal.
„ 6 „ retouch.
Modena, 15 c., yellow, genuine and forged.
Spain, 1860, 4 c., genuine and forged.
„ „ 4 c., „ „ } 2 types.
Spain, 1867, 4 c., „ „
Naples, ½, Cross, normal.
„ ½ „ arms partly erased.

MR. BACON.

Ceylon, 1/9, genuine and forged.
French Republic, 20 c., black, original and reprint.
N. S. W., 6d., laureated, genuine and forged.
India, ½ a., red, stamp and proof.
Victoria, 1st issue, 3 varieties.
„ 2nd „ 2d., broken step.
U. S., 15 c. { with frame. / without frame. / Gov. reprint.

Part II.

Photo. of Mr. Tilleard.
Photo. of Mr. Castle.

MR. EHRENBACH.

Hungary, litho., 10 kr., genuine and faked.
Bavaria, 6 kr., brown, I. and II.
Hanover, 1/15, genuine and forged.
Thurn and Taxis, 30 kr., genuine and forged.
Montevideo, 240 c. „ „
Saxony, 3 pfg. „ „

MR. OLDFIELD.

Neuchatel, 5 c., genuine and forged.
„ 5 c., forged with 8.
Swiss Rayon, 15 c., genuine and forged.
Zurich, 6 r., 5 types.
„ 6 r., genuine and forged.

MR. GORDON SMITH.

St. Lucia, 4d., Dies I. and II.

MR. TILLEARD.

Great Britain, 1d., V.R., genuine and forged.
Mashonaland, 1½d. card, without *via*.
Sydney, 1d., Plates I. and II.
„ 2d., „ I., II., III.
„ 2d., „ IV. and V
India, 4 a., green, 2 types.

Reviews.

THE STAMPS OF BARBADOS.*



THE functions of the critic are suspended in the case of a work such as the above, which forms another link in the chain of Philatelic Handbooks issued by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. Both the authors are Philatelists of the very first rank, and their collaboration is therefore very powerful; both have had access to magnificent collections and stocks of the West Indian stamps, and beyond this, free access has been permitted by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., thereby earning the gratitude of all stamp collectors to all the store of information, afforded in their archives, as to the manufacture and despatch of the several issues. It will readily be conceded that such a combination of advantages in compiling a Philatelic history is of rare occurrence, and has perforce evolved a book that really leaves nothing to be desired as a scientific work on postage stamps. The only suggestion as to an improvement would be illustrations of the several perforations respectively described as A1, A2, A3, and B, though we gather that in a later work these varieties of perforation, with others of the West Indies, will be exhaustively treated. The important features that marked *St. Vincent* are wisely here repeated, *i.e.* the grouping of perforations according to the machine itself, and the division into issues, each with its self-contained notes and concise history.

As indicated by the title, the most important innovation in the book is the portion dealing with the Star-watermarked paper. The *raison d'être* of both the large and small Star is given, and the discovery is also made of a third variety—broad-pointed and distinct, as in the stamps of Grenada and South Australia. A full account of the provenance and employment of this latter paper is given, which will be found of singular interest, while photographic representations of all three watermarks, in the original sheets, are also most successfully reproduced.

Of equal importance is the chapter devoted to the bisected 5s. stamp, surcharged 1d., two full pages of illustrations being given of the types and sub-varieties. No less than forty-three pairs of this rare stamp have been reproduced, which will of itself afford an indication of the time and labour devoted to this book. This provisional has always been regarded in a fearsome light by the unskilled collector, hence this chapter will be eagerly welcomed in almost every quarter. The final quietus is given to that hoary Philatelic wraith, the red stamp (of the first issue) on white paper, and

* *The Stamps of Barbados in the History and Description of the Star-watermarked Papers of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.* By E. D. Bacon and F. H. Napier. London: Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand.

we trust it may now, after many years, be laid to its long rest. Printing, illustrations, and general appearance of *Barbados* are all satisfactory, while there is not a page of its contents that will not repay perusal nor fail to stamp its authors as Philatelists of the very first order.

EWEN'S ALBUM FOR BRITISH STAMPS.

There can be no doubt that the First Edition of this Album is the cheapest ever issued, as the enterprising publisher, Mr. H. L. Ewen, now of Norwood, has distributed 1000 copies to his customers and their friends. Nor is the Album without value—even if without cost—as it is excellently printed and succinctly arranged, to tally with Mr. Ewen's Catalogue, recently reviewed in this Journal. The place for every stamp is indicated by a horizontal line beneath the description, the first ten pages being devoted to a single-specimen collection, but including the leading shades. We think that it is a mistake to include in this portion the several dies of the octagonal stamps. The Supplements for plate numbers, control letters, etc., occupy some two dozen pages, and the end of the book is devoted to postmarks. In Part V., following the Catalogue, the Levant and Official and Government Parcels sets are degraded to the same level as the Private "stamps"—which are not stamps at all—and is a distinct blot upon the general arrangement. The Album is very neatly turned out, and cannot fail to be of use to the aspiring collector of our own stamps, which for beauty and interest are worthy of far greater popularity than they even now possess. We should add that Mr. Ewen's address is 32, Palace Square, Norwood, and he states that he is ready to forward the Album free, for the present, on application.

MORE AID FOR THE BEGINNER!

A handy little book has been published by Mr. T. H. Hinton (E. Nister, 28, Paternoster Row), entitled—in a curiously alliterative manner—*Hints on Stamp Collecting: an A B C of Philately.* Advice is given as to the choice of albums, methods of mounting, and, above all, what to collect—the latter being in the main sound advice, and to be conned by the new recruit. Coinage tables, lists of inscriptions and surcharges, are also given, and considerable space is devoted to description of the processes of printing, paper, etc., all of which has been done before—notably and excellently by Major Evans—but is none the worse for repetition. The little work is handy, and deserving of support at the hands of its intended readers.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—We have received two further letters from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., with reference to the Revenue stamps with postal obliterations. Our correspondents inform us that both the Postmasters are at present home on leave of of absence.

"SURBITON,
December 18th, 1896.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 14th inst., I have the honour to inform you that those long Revenue stamps you mention were never used postally, and the reason the date-stamp appears on them was that, having a large number of tax-papers to issue in one day, it saved time, as it did away the necessity of writing in the date in ink on the tax-papers.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(*Signed*) H. GALT,
Postmaster, Port Herald.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
B.C. AFRICA."

"BRUSSELS,
December 19th, 1896.

"SIRS,—I have the honour to enclose for your perusal a letter from the Postmaster of Port Herald, B.C. Africa, with reference to the Revenue stamps of that Protectorate.

"You will note that the said Revenue stamps were never used postally, and that the cancellation of same with the postal postmark was, as I expected, a mistake on the part of the Postmaster, who, as collector of revenue of the same district, was supplied with two sets of obliterators, one for Postal and one for the Revenue purposes, and in error used the postal obliterator for the revenue purposes. I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(*Signed*) J. E. MCMASTER,
Postmaster-General, B.C.A.

Messrs. WHITFIELD KING & Co.,
Ipswich."

The above should definitely clear up any mystery attaching to the so-called fiscal-postals at present in the market.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—The *A. J. of Ph.* illustrates the stamp on the Registration envelope. It is the current 2 annas adhesive enclosed in a square frame, "REGISTRATION" at top, "FEE" beneath.

Registration Envelope. 2 as., chocolate on *white*.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—We illustrate two of the recent surcharges. On page 208 we gave the number of sheets issued of each





value, and on page 182 the amounts of each value. These do not, as stated on the former page, differ in quantity, but Mr. Jacobs writes to point out that calculating 240 stamps to the sheet, the quantities given in sheets and £ *s. d.* work out even exactly, which is correct.

CYPRUS.—An error crept in our note last month. The value should have read ½ piastre, and not 2 piastres, that came to us from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Our Correspondent sends us the Letter card referred to on page 269. The inscription, "ONE HUNDRED YEARS" has been removed from the stamp, and the waratah ornament inserted instead. The inscription on the back as to destination now reads, "*This Card may pass through the Post to any place within New South Wales, to the Australasian Colonies, and Fiji.*

Letter Card. 1½, red on *drab* (pink inside).

PATIALA.—*Le T.-P.* adds the 1 rupee to the higher values of India surcharged "Patiala State."

Adhesive. 1 rupee, green and carmine, black surch.

QUEENSLAND.—We give an illustration of the altered 1d. stamp.



ST. HELENA.—Two post cards are to be added to the list of new issues. We illustrate the design, and understand that



the view on the stamp is that of the harbour and surrounding parts of the island.

Post Cards. 1d., carmine on *buff*.
1d.+1d. ,, ,, (reply).

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Selangor.*—We are indebted to Mr. Cullin, of Penang, for a note on the stamps which are at present in issue in Selangor, which are 3, 5, 10, 25, and 50 c., and $1, 2, 3, 5. No 15 cents has been issued here.

ZANZIBAR.—We have to add the 4½ annas B. E. A. stamp surcharged "Zanzibar." The *P. J. of G. B.* gives some details as to the quantities printed of the 2½ as on the 2 annas Indian (p 270); only 1920 were printed, of which 384 had a large 2, but how to distinguish without comparing the two we are not told.

Adhesive. 4½ annas, orange-yellow, black surch.

EUROPE.

BELGIUM.—We now give illustrations of both the Brussels Exhibition stamps.





BULGARIA.—The 25 stot. Unpaid Letter stamp chronicled on page 294 does not exist, and *Le T.-P.* states that this value became obsolete in the old type, being replaced by the 36 stot.

DENMARK.—The *M. J.* adds the following values to the 4 and 8 öre chronicled on page 156, perf. 12½.

Adhesives. 5 öre, green.
10 ,, carmine.
12 ,, pink and grey.
16 ,, brown and grey.
20 ,, blue.

HOLLAND.—The Letter Cards mentioned last month have now been issued, and we have to thank both Mons. J. B. Robert and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for copies. There are three values—3 c., 5 c., 12½ c. The lower values exist in two sizes, the smaller being to enclose for a reply; the 12½ c. exists in one size only.

Letter Cards. 3 c., green on *pale green*, 140 × 85 mm.
3 c. ,, ,, ,, 118 × 70 ,,
5 c., blue on *blue*, same sizes.
12½ c., pink on *flesh*, 140 × 85 mm.

AMERICA.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—The *A. J. of Ph.* chronicles the ½ c. of Bogota re-engraved, the letters of the inscription being larger.

Adhesive. ½ c., black, perf. 12.

ECUADOR.—*Le T.-P.* adds a 5c. provisional to the one we chronicled last month, the 20 c. stamp being surcharged diagonally from left to right downwards in two lines, "CINCO CENTAVOS."

Adhesive. 5 c. on 20 c., yellow, black surch.

PANAMA.—The *A. J. of Ph.* chronicles a 50 c. adhesive in the current type.

Adhesive. 50 c., bistre-brown, perf. 11½.

SALVADOR.—The same journal announces Mr. Seebeck's annual provisional, the 24 centavos stamp surcharged "QUINCE CENTAVOS" in two lines.

Adhesive. 15 c. on 24 c., purple, black surch.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CONGO.—Annexed we illustrate two new values of the picture gallery series, of which we have received specimens from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.; the perforation is 15.

Adhesives. 15 c., ochre and black.
40 c., green and black.





HAITI.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two new colours, 2 c. and 5 c. The 2 c. we have already chronicled, as also the 5 c., but we find the colour to be grey instead of olive.

Adhesive. 5 c., grey, perf. 13½.

MARTINIQUE.—*Peccavi!* In our last issue we gave, on the authority of Mr. M. Giwelb, a presumed novelty, in the guise of an error of numeral, qualifying the announcement by a limited faith in its necessity. Mr. Giwelb has since informed us of his regret that he unwittingly had overlooked the fact that the variety is already catalogued (*Stanley Gibbons*, No. 38), and we are indebted to several correspondents for the like information. We do not lay claim to an intimate acquaintance with French Colonials, and have a hearty hatred for these incessant series of surcharges; but fondly imagining that an "old hand" like our friend, Mr. Maurice Giwelb, *did* understand them, we inserted the notice without exercise of the ordinary editorial incredulity. It is, alas! our friends from whom we want saving in this world.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—We illustrate the surcharge (or one of the surcharges) alluded to last month, as also a second surcharge in





words on the 3d. stamp, "Halve Penny," in two lines. There are various varieties also in this latter surcharge, the most important being "*Peuny*" for *Penny*.

Adhesive. Half Penny on 3d. blue, black surch., *varieties*.

TRANSVAAL.—The *M. J.* adds the 4d. to the bicolour series in use, and chronicles the 5s. as now having been issued.

Adhesive. 4d., olive and green.

Mr. Pearce kindly writes as under:—

"In your last issue, on the faith of 'several of our contemporaries,' you chronicle the new 10s. stamp as 'pale brown and green.' It had been expected that this value would appear in two colours; but the entire stamp is, in fact, printed in a *light brown*. This is doubtless an error, and probably in future supplies the value will be printed in green, in harmony with the other stamps of the series.

"By a second error the value is printed '10 shilling,' without the final s—which we may also expect to see corrected. This is not the first time that the Transvaal authorities have been guilty of this misspelling. A 2s. fiscal stamp of the first Republic was printed 'Twee Shilling,' although the plural was correctly expressed on other values of similar stamps.

ZANZIBAR (French P.O.).—*Le T.-P.* adds the following French stamps surcharged for use here, to the stamp we chronicled last month.

Adhesives.

1½ anna on 15 c., blue, red surcharge.
2 annas on 20 c., red on green, black surcharge.
3 ,, on 30 c., bistre ,, ,,
4 ,, on 40 c., vermilion on green, black surcharge.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, K.G. &c.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—H.R.H. The Duke of York, K.G.

Vice-President—M. P. Castle.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. Tilleard. | *Hon. Assistant Secretary*—R. Pearce.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. Biggs. | *Librarian*—T. Maycock.

E. D. Bacon. | E. B. Evans. | T. Wickham Jones.
R. Ehrenbach. | D. Garth. | H. R. Oldfield.

The first meeting of the season 1896-97 was held at Effingham House on Friday the 23rd October, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The following members were present, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, E. A. Elliott, W. Silk, A. A. Davis, T. Maycock, H. Quare, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, A. W. Chambers, E. D. Bacon, F. Ransom, W. R. Joynt, J. E. Joselin, T. W. Hall, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were taken as read.

Amongst the correspondence read was a letter from the Secretary of the British North Borneo Company, sending specimens of the 25 cents, 50 cents, and one dollar stamps, surcharged for use in Labuan, where a supply of these values was required, and the letter was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

A letter from Mr. Douglas Ellis, with suggestions for dealing with the question of commuted subscriptions, was considered, and, on the motion of Mr. Ehrenbach, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, was referred to the Council for consideration and report.

The Secretary reported the receipt of various catalogues and works for the Society's Library, including Mr. Wm. Herrick's work on Russian Local stamps, which the Librarian was requested to acknowledge with the thanks of the Society.

Mr. A. Odell and Mr. G. J. Bailey, both proposed by Mr. J. V. Painter, and seconded by Mr. G. H. Worthington; and Mr. B. Loewy, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary, were elected members of the Society.

A long discussion then ensued on the work of the season, and it was determined that the course adopted last season should be followed in the present season.

The Secretary referred to the forthcoming Exhibition to be held next year, and it was resolved that special prizes should be offered by the Society, if acceptable by the Exhibition Committee, to be awarded for the best collection shown by any exhibitor under the age of sixteen years; for the best exhibit by any amateur, not a member of the Society; for the neatest and best arranged exhibit shown; and for the best exhibit of stamps in the finest condition. Power was also given to the members of the Council on the Executive Committee of the Exhibition to add two further prizes if they thought fit.

The further consideration of the subject of the Exhibition, and the part to be taken by the Society, was deferred until after the issue of the prospectus.

The second meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 30th October, 1896, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle, R. Ehrenbach, T. W. Hall, R. Meyer, E. D. Bacon, A. R. Barrett, L. S. Wells, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, and J. A. Tilleard.

The Vice-President having taken the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Adolf Rosenberg, proposed by Mr.

Ehrenbach, and seconded by Mr. Castle, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Ehrenbach then opened a discussion on "Minor Varieties of Stamps," reading notes which he had prepared on the subject. In these he called attention to the danger of multiplying varieties by collecting examples of stamps showing minute differences from the standard, due to trifling accidental causes in the manufacture, and not accounted for by actual variations in the dies or plates. He illustrated his remarks by giving examples of the numerous combinations of perforations catalogued in cases of stamps perforated by the same machines, and of the specks and marks often to be found on stamps where the plates have no peculiarities to account for these. And he referred to other causes which are fruitful in providing minor defects and differences not worthy of being classified as varieties.

Many of the members present took part in the discussion, and the opinion was generally expressed that the inclusion of such minor varieties in catalogues should be discouraged.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, the thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Ehrenbach for introducing the subject for discussion.

THE third meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 6th November, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The members in attendance were: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, T. W. Hall, K. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, H. Hetley, A. R. Barrett, T. Maycock, M. S. Cooke, F. E. Horton, E. A. Elliott, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair having been taken by the Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported the receipt of a letter from Mrs. Curteis announcing her resignation of membership, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

Mr. Castle mentioned the receipt of a letter from Mr. John N. Luff, as to the new Philatelic Club in New York; and it was resolved to present to the Club for its library volumes of the *London Philatelist*, and a copy of the Society's work on India and Ceylon.

Mr. R. Ehrenbach then produced for inspection by members present his fine unused collection of the stamps of Russia, Poland, and Russian Levant, and in passing round the stamps explained the dates and particulars of each issue, and the varieties to be found.

On the motion of Mr. Gordon Smith, seconded by Mr. Barrett, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ehrenbach for showing his collection, which was greatly admired, and for the valuable observations and information in regard to the stamps given by him.

THE fourth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 13th November, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The following members were present, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, H. Hetley, C. N. Biggs, R. Pearce, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox, and T. Maycock.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported that confirmation had been received of the death of Major Adam Smith, a member of the Society, an announcement which was received with regret.

A letter from Mr. J. Martin Cripps, resigning his membership, was also read, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

The Secretary explained the arrangements made for the lantern display to be held on the 4th December, and the offer of assistance from Mr. T. Ridpath, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was passed for kindly volunteering to manage the display.

Mr. Castle then read a paper on the "1858 and 1859 Issue of the Stamps of Austria and Lombardy," in which, after some remarks as to the history of the Austrian stamps, he gave a full description of all the stamps of the issue under consideration, with particulars of the differences distinguishing the types. In dealing with the newspaper stamps Mr. Castle explained that, although in case of most of the reprints of the general issue the second type only was found, he had specimens of the newspaper stamps, which he believed to be reprints of the first type, a matter which appeared to call for further investigation and information, which was not yet forthcoming.

The paper was illustrated by the Vice-President's fine collection of the stamps

dealt with in the paper, which were passed round for inspection, and on the motion of Mr. Ehrenbach, seconded by Mr. Bacon, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Castle for his most interesting and valuable paper.

THE fifth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 20th November, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The following members attended, viz.: Messrs. R. Pearce, R. Meyer, W. Silk, T. W. Hall, J. C. Potter, M. S. Cooke, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, Gordon Smith, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the Vice-President the chair was taken by Mr. Pearce, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported the offer made for sale to the Society of a box containing, amongst other things, several cancellation stamps submitted to the Treasury by Mr. Whiting in 1839 for approval, with some explanatory notes by Mr. Whiting himself, and an autograph memorandum of Sir Rowland Hill returning the stamps. The contents of the box were handed round for inspection, and the Secretary was authorized to endeavour to acquire the same for the Society at the price suggested by the firm from whom the offer came.

Mr. R. Meyer then opened a discussion on the "Status of Stamps Cancelled to Order," reading some interesting notes which he had prepared on the subject. Several of the members present joined in the discussion, and the matter was thoroughly considered in all its bearings. The general opinion was expressed that although the practice of obliterating stamps to order was one which should be discountenanced, no steps could usefully be taken by the Society beyond warning collectors that in dealing with used specimens, they should bear in mind the fact that in many cases of recent issues, stamps which have apparently done postal duty have been specially manipulated to give them this appearance.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Meyer for introducing the subject for discussion, on the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith.

THE sixth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 27th November, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The members in attendance were: Messrs. E. D. Bacon, A. R. Barrett, T. Wickham Jones, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, W. Silk, G. B. Routledge, T. Maycock, T. W. Hall, D. Ellis, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, C. McNaughtan, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by Mr. Bacon in the absence of the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. E. Lumley Cator resigning his membership, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

The receipt from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of a copy of their newly-published *Handbook of the Stamps of Barbados*, by Mr. Bacon and Lieut. Napier, was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

In view of the Christmas holidays, it was determined that no meeting should be held between the 18th December and the 8th January.

Mr. Nankivell then read a paper on the "Status of the First Printing of the Transvaal Stamps," in the course of which he explained that the stamps in question, having been prepared in pursuance of the regulations contained in the Postal Law passed in June, 1869, and sold between September, 1869, and March, 1870, for the purpose of defraying expenses incurred in their preparation, should in his opinion be considered as the first issue of the stamps of the Transvaal.

In the discussion which ensued Mr. Pearce gave his reasons for classifying the stamps as proofs, and not as an issue for postal purposes. He explained that by the law the President was to declare the time when the postal arrangements were to come into operation, and the stamps to be issued, and that this time was fixed by proclamation as the 1st May, 1870, from and after which date only the second printing, which are generally recognised as the first issue, were on sale to the public.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Tilleard, the very hearty thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Nankivell for his very interesting paper.

THE seventh meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 4th December, 1896, at 7.30 p.m. The members in attendance were: Messrs. M.

P. Castle, R. Ehrenbach, C. N. Biggs, H. R. Oldfield, A. W. Chambers, T. Wickham Jones, E. J. Nankivell, Gordon Smith, C. McNaughtan, R. Meyer, T. W. Hall, J. C. Potter, F. Ransom, D. Ellis, G. J. Hynes, A. B. Creeke, F. E. Horton, A. A. Davis, G. B. Routledge, W. Silk, C. J. Daun, H. W. Bolland, H. Hetley, B. D. Knox, H. Quare, A. R. Barrett, J. A Tilleard, R. Pearce, T. Maycock, and Lieut. Raby; and there were also present five visitors.

No ordinary business was taken, but the evening was devoted to a magic lantern display of stamps by Mr. T. Ridpath, who very kindly gave his services and lent his lantern and slides, many of which were prepared specially for this occasion. The stamps were all shown in their natural colours, and Mr. Ridpath was highly complimented on his success in the preparation of the slides.

The descriptions were given by Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, Gordon Smith, and J. A. Tilleard, and the display proved eminently interesting and instructive. Amongst the stamps shown were the two types of the 1858 issue of Austria; genuine and forged copies of the 4 cuartos stamps of the Spanish issues of 1860–1864 and 1867; the original and the re-engraved dies of the 1st penny English, and the 5/- I.R. Official (genuine and forged); specimens of the blue Naples, arms, and cross; the 1 scudo Papal States, and the 10 kop. Finland of 1856 (both genuine and forged in each case); all described by Mr. Castle. Amongst those described by Mr. Bacon were the original and reprint of the 20 c. stamp of the first French Republic; the ½ a., red, Indian stamp, and the proof in the same colour of the ½ a., with 8 arches; genuine and forged illustrations of the 1s. 9d. Ceylon; three varieties of the first 2d. stamp of Victoria, and a pair of the second 2d., one showing the variety with the broken steps; two varieties of the 15 c. of the 1869 issue of the U.S.A.; and the 6d., brown, laureated stamp of New South Wales (genuine and forged).

Mr. Ehrenbach described genuine and forged examples of the 3 pf. (first issue) of Saxony; the same of the 30 kr. stamp of Thurn and Taxis, and of some of the Hanover stamps; the two plates of the 6 kr., brown, Bavarian stamp; the 240 (block letters) of Uruguay, both genuine and forged; and the 3 kr. lithographed Hungarian adhesive stamp, with a forgery made out of the envelope stamp of the same type.

Mr. Oldfield undertook the description of the Swiss stamps, including the five types of the 6 rap. Zurich; genuine and forged specimens of the same stamp, and of the 5 c. Neuchatel and the 15 c. of the Federal issue.

The two types of the general Colonial plates were described by Mr. Gordon Smith, and Mr. Tilleard undertook the description of the two plates of the 1d., and all the plates of the 2d. Sydney View; a new error in the Mashonaland 1½d. post card, discovered by Mr. Ridpath; an original V.R. 1d. English, and a finely-engraved forgery of the same stamp; and the two dies of the third design of the 4a. stamp of India.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by Mr. Oldfield, the best thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Ridpath for his valuable services, and for the most interesting display he had given.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. Wilson, Esq.
Hon. Sec. and Treas.—Mr. G. Johnson, B.A.,
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

Nov. 19.—Paper: "South Australian Officials," by G. Johnson.

Votes of thanks were given to Messrs. Brock and Nelson for donations to the Library.

The following were unanimously elected members:—Messrs. R. Palmieri (Italy), L. S. Wells (London), G. H. Howe (London), C. M. Forster (Newcastle-on-Tyne), W. W. Blest (Kent), J. S. Noakes (Sussex), N. H. Withee (U.S.A.), A. G. Serghiades (Turkey), and Lady Blanche Collen (India).

The Hon. Sec. then read his paper on "South Australian Officials," which was followed by a fine display of Departmentals and Officials comprising the collection of

Mr. M. Z. Kuttner (London); the stock books of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, including their specially arranged books from the "Castle Collection." Hearty votes of thanks were given to Messrs. Kuttner, Stanley Gibbons, and the Hon. Sec.

Dec. 3.—Display: Postal Curiosities.

Votes of thanks were accorded Messrs. Stanley Gibbons for a copy of their new handbook on *Barbados;* P. Kohl for a bound copy of the new edition of his *Catalogue of the Stamps of Europe;* R. Hollick for *Hilckes' Auction Summary.*

Messrs. Herman Lindberg (Sweden), C. A. Bornn (West Indies), and J. Graham Taylor (West Indies), were unanimously elected members.

The Hon. Treasurer was authorised to add *St. Vincent, Portuguese Indies,* etc., to the Library, and have all necessary binding done.

Mr. A. Levy (Plymouth) then exhibited his fine collection of South Australia; Mr. M. Z. Kuttner (London), a fine collection of Postal Curiosities, including a very fine uncut copy of Docwra's *Penny Post.* Mr. W. T. Wilson and others also exhibited some scarce and interesting curiosities, errors, old letter sheets, etc. etc.

N.B.—It will save needless correspondence if it is understood that *foreign* membership in the B.P.S. is no guarantee and should not be accepted as such, owing to the Society's inability to make such strict enquiries as with home members, who see the packets. References are required and enquiries made about all foreign members; but as they do not see the packets they are elected much more easily, in many cases, than if they resided in the British Isles.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Hon. Secretary—A. H. Harrison.
The meetings are held weekly at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Friday evenings at 7.30.

The third meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, October 23, the President in the chair. Present, sixteen members and one visitor.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, and the general business of the Society transacted, Mr. Duerst read his paper on the first issue of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia, and illustrated it by stamps from his collection.

It was pointed out that there are traces of a postal service in Austria as early as 1450–93, the time of the Emperor Frederic III. Giving most interesting historical facts, Mr. Duerst gradually traced the postal service, and the uses it was put to, down to the time when the first stamps were issued, in 1850.

The printing, the colours, etc., were all explained. Steel plates were used, each sheet consisting of four panes of sixty stamps—five rows of twelve to each pane, the varying distances between the stamps showing that more than one plate was used. As to the watermark, Mr. Duerst stated it to be in doubt, it never having been reconstructed. The varieties of the 1 kr. printed on the back—defective lettering—varying textures of the paper, errors of colour, etc., were all dealt with in detail.

The paper comes up for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Petri showed a very complete collection, his stamps being, without exception, magnificent specimens.

The fourth meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, November 6, the President in the chair, supported by thirteen members.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Guybon Hutson, jun. (Glasgow), and Mr. J. C. Cadle (Cardiff), were elected corresponding members.

Mr. Darlow drew the attention of the meeting to the remarks made by Sheriff Campbell-Smith, as reported in the *Fortnightly,* and by request the President read the comments thereon.

Mr. Beckton exhibited his collections of Western Australia and Fiji. The first issues were complete, and included many rarities and varieties. Of Western Australia a number of the 4d. blue, unused, showing minor varieties, were shown, and all the subsequent issues, both used and unused, including the 4d. CC, used perf. 14, and the 6d. *bleuté,* unused, etc.

Arthur H. Harrison,
Hon. Secretary.
Grasmere, Whitefield, near Manchester.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of* THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—THE LONDON PHILATELIST *will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of* 6s. ($1.50). *Subscribers' remittances should be sent to* Mr. H. M. GOOCH, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE 2D., TYPE II., OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to see by my September copy of the *L. P.* that a very palpable error has been made somewhere. You report me as having written as follows:

"I have discovered a copy of the small 2d., orange-red, perf. 11½, wmk. *Cr. and SA close*, with dated postmark October 4th, 1869."

It should have been:

"I have discovered a copy of the small 2d., orange-red, perf. 11½×*roul.*, wmk. *Cr. and S A wide*, dated postmark October 4th, 1869."

As at first written, the paragraph to any student of SA stamps reads absurd, as the close SA paper did not come into use until 1876 for the 1d. value, and 1877 for the 2d.

I think if you will look up my letter that you will find that the mistake is not mine. The last line of the list of varieties of the 2d. close SA should read:

July 1st, 1895, perf. 13; not July 1st, 1893.

I have at last to chronicle the issue of the new type 2½d. stamp with surcharge O.S.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. BLOCKEY.

[We much regret that this error of description should have occurred, and quite accept our correspondent's statement as to the correctness of his previous advice, although we are at a loss to account for the slip.—ED.]

The Market.

To prevent mistakes— Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

Sale on November 12th and 13th.

	£	s.	d
Spain, 1855, 2 reales, red	12	10	0
Great Britain, V.R., unused	12	5	0
Ditto, 10s., grey-green, wmk. Maltese Cross, unused	21	0	0
Wurtemberg, 70 kr., violet	3	15	0
Afghanistan, abasi, black, unused pair	8	8	0
Canada, 12d., black (? fine)	22	0	0
New South Wales, 1854, 3d., green, *error* wmk. "2", unused	52	10	0
United States, Columbus, set complete	2	17	0
Bahamas, no wmk., perf. 15, 1d., lake, horizontal pair, unused	3	3	0
British Guiana, first issue, 8 c., black on green	31	0	0
Dominica, CA., 1s., carmine	4	15	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s.	10	10	0
Turks Islands, 4d. on 1s., prune (Gibbons' type 9), unused	3	10	0
Ditto, 2½d. on 1s., dull blue (Gibbons' type 6), unused	10	0	0
Ditto, ½d. on 4d., grey, unused	3	15	0

	£	s.	d.
Victoria, 1852, Queen on throne, 2d., reddish brown, engraved, unused block of 10	19	0	0
Ditto, 1865, 6d., blue, *error*, wmk. "2"	5	5	0

Sale November 26th and 27th.

St. Helena, perf. 12½, 6d., blue, unused strip of 3	5	12	6
British Honduras, CC, perf. 14, 6d., rose, unused	4	10	0
Ditto, small surcharge 50 c. on 1s., grey, unused	3	7	6
St. Vincent, star, 4d., ultramarine, a pair imperf. between, used, on original	5	0	0
New York, 5 c., black, variety, double line at top	5	5	0
Ditto, 5 c., black, double line at base, unused	5	10	0
United States, 1869, 90 c., no grille, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, Justice, 90 c., unused	8	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	7	15	0
Ditto, State, set complete, unused (11)	6	10	0
Ditto, ditto, $10, penstroked	9	15	0
Ditto, ditto, $20, ditto	8	15	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow, a pair	8	5	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

Sale on November 17th and 18th.

Nova Scotia, 1d., red-brown, strip of 3, unused	5	10	0
United States, 1869, 30 cents, block of 12, used	5	0	0
St. Christopher, CA, 6d., grey, block of 4, unused	8	5	0
St. Vincent, no wmk., 1/-, brown, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, star, 1/-, deep rose, large perf., unused	7	10	0
Ditto, 5/-, rose, unused	14	5	0
Tobago, CA, 6d., ochre, unused	9	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	7	0	0

November 30th and December 1st.

St. Lucia, 1/-, orange, pair, unused	7	12	6
Tolima, first issue, 5 cents, on blue wove, block of 16, penmarked, showing the types	8	0	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

Sale on November 20th.

Great Britain, 1862, 3d., carmine, Plate III., secret dot, unused pair	14	10	0
Ditto, 1/-, green, Plate II., Die II., unused	25	0	0
Ditto, 1876, 8d., brown, imperf.	5	15	0
Lagos, CC, perf. 14, 1/-, orange, unused	5	5	0
Nevis, litho, 6d., olive	10	15	0

December 10th.

Labuan, CA sideways, 12c., carmine	5	0	0
Ditto, "6" on 16 c.	8	0	0
British South Africa, £5 and £10 on original cover	6	0	0
Mauritius, envelope, 1s., yellow, cut square, unused	5	16	0
Natal, 1s., green, black surcharge, on entire envelope	6	15	0
New South Wales, 5d., green, imperf., unused	4	0	0
Barbados, 5s., rose, unused	4	15	0
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., black on crimson	10	0	0
Canada, 6d., perf., unused	10	10	0
New Brunswick, "Connell," unused; not fine	9	5	0
Newfoundland, 6½ carmine, unused	11	0	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

November 16th and 17th.

Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	10	10	0
Ditto, perf., 8d., brown, unused	5	10	0
India, ½ anna, red, 9½ arches	5	0	0
Ditto, Service, 8 annas, lilac and green, unused	6	0	0
Western Australia, 4d., deep blue, imperf.	5	0	0
Queensland, script wmk., 1d., vermilion, unused	4	17	6
Ditto, no wmk., 4d., yellow, unused, a pair	5	0	0

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