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THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF THE

PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

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M. P. CASTLE,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

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THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. JANUARY, 1898. No. 73.

Illustrations of Postage Stamps.

AUSPICIOUS is the commencement of the New Year, for a grave danger to Philately has been avoided, and what would have been a heavy handicap for all time, to the pursuit in this country, has been averted. The welcome news is contained in the correspondence following, kindly forwarded to us by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited., and it is not too much to say that all ranks of Philately are indebted to that enterprising firm for the plucky manner in which they stood to their guns by deciding to continue their illustrations, and to let the Government proceed against them. What would have been an expensive and protracted litigation, the expenses of which would have had to be shared all round, is now happily and finally settled. It would seem that the Board of Inland Revenue, after an official justification of their being advised that Postage Stamp illustrations *are* illegal, pays a deserved compliment to the realm of Philately, in that it admits both the innocent use of these dies and the considerable interests involved in their manufacture. The great importance of these dies to the collector, however, far transcends either of these matters, having in view the large numbers of readers that would be affected. The three regulations imposed by the Board are eminently fair and reasonable, and the promise that the Inland Revenue will abstain from interfering where these are complied with is practically all that could be desired.

The authorities are obviously only exercising their first duty when they wish to avoid "any danger to the Revenue" from this or any other cause. In this case, however, subject to the wholesome and necessary restrictions now laid down, not only will no danger arise, but a safeguard of the greatest efficacy is created. In the inception of the Postage Stamp system—practically 60 years since—no style of engraving was too delicate, or system of checking too elaborate, in the eyes of the Postal Reformers, to prevent imitations of

the postal currency—for such it is practically. Long immunity from forgeries in this country, an immunity, however, not shared by many others, apparently gave the Postal Authorities courage to discard precaution after precaution to appease the howl for economical administration. Fortunately this abandonment of almost all that was considered essential for safety in bygone days has hitherto had no bad results, and we cannot refrain from holding the opinion that the absence of attempts to forge our postage stamps is greatly due to the practically omnipresent eye of the Philatelist. The marvellous increase of scientific knowledge in connection herewith, and the manner in which collections of stamps are now specialized, minutely studied, catalogued, and written upon, has so increased the number of accurate and acute judges that a preventive service of the highest training is established in almost every corner of Her Majesty's dominions. The habits of observation of the Philatelist are always being strengthened, and nowadays when the most minute difference of shade as to our own stamps is at once pounced upon, no forgery, however smart, would long escape detection by the Argus eyes of the British Philatelist.

The Postmaster and the Board of Inland Revenue have taken a wise step, and in the kindly and courteous manner in which their resolution has been announced, they have secured a vast army of friends, whose heartiest co-operation is assured in the defence of the Postal Revenues of this country.

This happy result has not been attained without a great amount of work, consultation, and correspondence, official and unofficial, and it is well known that the gratitude of the whole body of Philatelists in this country in securing this happy result is due to a gentleman in Her Majesty's Service, whose name has always been an honoured one in our ranks. There are others—in the Philatelic Society of London—and outside it—who have loyally assisted in this consummation, to whom our thanks are also due. It is a happy auspice for the future of Philately, and we welcome the New Year that has thus so early brought a boon to everyone connected with stamp collecting.

Under date of January 5th Messrs. Stanley Gibbons addressed the following letter and enclosure to the *London Philatelist*.

"SIR,

"ILLUSTRATIONS OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

"In reference to the correspondence on this subject which appeared in the public press in the course of the autumn, we shall esteem it a great favour if you will allow the following letter, which has been addressed to us by the Secretary to the Board of Inland Revenue, to appear in your columns.

"We venture to think that the result of the appeals which have been made to the Postmaster-General, to the Board of Inland Revenue, and to the Controller of Stamps, will be deemed eminently satisfactory to all who are interested in the collection and sale of postage stamps.

"We are, Sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED.

"CHAS. J. PHILLIPS, *Managing Director.*"

"Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London, W.C.

"*5th Jan.*, 1898.

"To MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED.

"SIRS,—Referring to the correspondence which took place with your firm last year, I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to inform you that they have recently considered, in conjunction with the Postmaster-General, the subject of the illustration of Postage Stamps by stamp dealers and others.

"All such illustrations are—as the Board are advised—an infringement of the law.

"It is, however, recognized that the object in view in those cases where the illustrations are intended for the use of stamp collectors, &c., is an innocent one, and that a considerable industry has of late years sprung up in connection with their production.

"In these circumstances neither the Postmaster nor the Board of Inland Revenue desire that the practice should be prohibited so long as no danger to the Revenue arises from its continuance.

"They propose, therefore, in future to abstain from interfering in all cases in which the following regulations are complied with:—

"1. Illustrations must be in black alone. The Board will not abstain from interfering where the same are in colour, no matter what may be the size of the illustration.

"2. The Board of Inland Revenue must be consulted before any black illustrations are made, and, if they decide not to interfere, it will be on condition that they are satisfied as to the proper custody of the dies, blocks, plates, &c., and that their officers are to be always free to visit the premises where the same are kept.

"3. This concession will be limited to certain special classes of publications such as Stamp Dealers' Catalogues, Books on Stamps, Stamp Albums, Articles in Newspapers, Periodicals, &c. Permission will not be given in any circumstances for ordinary advertisement purposes.

"I am at the same time to state that it must be understood that the Board reserve to themselves the full right to withdraw this concession in any case in which they may deem it necessary to do so.

"I am, Sirs,

"Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) "T. N. CRAFER, *Secretary*."

A Few Notes on the Early Issues of Peru.

A Paper read before the London Philatelic Society on December 18th, 1896, and Subsequently Revised.

By T. W. HALL.

THE stamps of Peru are certainly not fashionable at the present time, to which fact the writer is indebted for the possession of what he trusts he may be pardoned for considering a moderately complete and certainly interesting collection, and the reader to the following few notes thereon. Many collectors have expressed their determination to avoid the country owing to the multiplicity of the overprints and the uncertainty as to such overprints being genuine surcharges or mere cancellations. Even our leading dealer, Mr. C. J. Phillips, as late as August last, in an interview reported in the *Golden Penny*, states that the stamps of Peru have fallen in value owing to the many surcharges only made for speculative purposes, which have disgusted collectors.

Personally I think, with the late J. K. Tiffany, that these difficulties are more apparent than real, and that there are few countries whose stamps better repay study and upon which so much actual history has been recorded —notably depreciation of currency, revolutions, and the changing vicissitudes of the disastrous war with Chili and its ultimate result in the loss of the provinces of Tacna and Arica, hereinafter again referred to.

The collector, too, starts with the advantages of the Lima catalogue, a work which cannot be too highly spoken of, but even for which the Society themselves do not claim completeness. There is, therefore, plenty of scope for individual work and research, the certainty to every ardent worker of being able every now and again to score in the way of bargains from our friends the dealers, with a good Philatelical education to be gained in the process, and this, too, at a fractional cost as compared with more fashionable countries. From nearly every point of view therefore, to the real student, I repeat that there are few more interesting studies in Philately than the stamps of Peru. According to the *Coleccion Postal*, by Dr. Jose Davila Condemarin, Director of Posts (Lima, 1870), the establishment of the post at Peru dates from 1772. The initiative of the adoption of postage stamps, however, belongs to M. A. Davila, who made a proposition on the 17th March, 1851, which two months afterwards received the approbation of the Government, as shown by the following letter:—

"*Ministry of the Government,* "Lima, *May 16th*, 1851.
"*To the Postmaster-General.*

"Respecting the communication made by you on the 17th March last to this department on the convenience and accommodation it would be to the public *re* the

sending of correspondence, forwarded by steamer, and for simplifying the services of the couriers of Lima and Callao by adopting in this capital the use of stamps, such as used in Europe, I have given orders to send to V. E., on the 13th inst., the following resolution: 'I approve the project presented by the General Administration of Posts for facilitating the private correspondence forwarded by post, by the means indicated there, and in consequence I authorize you to present the instructions and necessary rules considering the best interests of the public and the Treasury.'

"JEAN CRISOSTOME TORRICO."

In spite of the goodwill of the Government, six years more slipped away before the project received its execution. It is not known to what these delays were due. Nevertheless the final decision did not see daylight until the 19th October, 1857. The Council of Ministers charged with the executive power, considering

"That the system of stamps for the franking of correspondence as well to the interior as the exterior presents accommodation to the public; that it simplifies the operations and accounts of the Post Offices, and facilitates a better service in that branch in accordance with the proposition made by the Administrator-General;

"Decrees as follows:—

"Art. 1. Immediately on putting into force the law of the 2nd of this month, on the monetary system, correspondence shall be franked by the parties interested, by making use of representative stamps of the value of the franking.

"Art. 2. There shall be stamps of one dinero, of one peseta, and of one half peso, which shall bear the National Arms, with modifications and colours of submitted designs, with the indication of the value on each of them. They shall have besides some secret marks to control their authenticity. The reverse of these stamps shall be covered with gum. By wetting the latter the stamp can be made to adhere to the letter.

"Art. 3. Those who in any manner whatever forge the franking stamps shall be subject to the penalties appointed by the laws against forgers.

"Art. 4. The dies of the stamps shall be preserved by the General Administration of Posts in a private case, and the same Officer shall take proper precautions to print the quantity of stamps necessary for consumption.

"Art. 5. The printing of stamps shall be noted in a special book which the principal, the controller, and the principal functionary charged with the superintendence of the impressions, shall sign in each other's presence, with the authority of the agent of the Treasury. The operation once ended shall be transcribed showing the quantities issued, accompanied by the certified copy of the Act and his approval.

"Art. 6. For the sale of the stamps indicated there shall be established shops in all the Republic; the sellers shall receive a corresponding premium, and the Administrators shall exact from them some security equivalent to the value of the stamps confided to them.

"Art. 7. All correspondence shall be paid in advance by the parties interested, by fixing either on the letter or parcel the stamps corresponding to a value equal to that exacted by the tariff.

"Art. 8. On all letters thrown into the different boxes established by the Administration of Posts the controllers shall cancel the stamps by means of a mark placed thereon.

"Art. 9. If it be ascertained that the stamps applied are not equal to the postage to be paid, the letters destined for foreign parts shall be detained. If the sender can be found he shall be notified, or a list shall be placed on the Post Office door on which the letter will be entered, so that the interested parties can complete the insufficient postage.

"If such letters travel only by couriers of the Republic they will be sent to the people to whom they are addressed, who must pay the difference wanting in postage. The same course will be pursued in regard to letters carrying stamps which have been already used.

"Art. 10. As regards letters put into boxes without any stamp, if they are destined for the interior of the Republic they will be forwarded on payment of double postage, exacted from the people to whom addressed. If they are addressed to a foreign country they will not be forwarded, but the parties interested will be warned by the means indicated by Art. 9.

"Art. 11. If parties wish to forward registered letters they must bear the stamps necessary for postage and freight. For these letters the post will undertake the formalities prescribed for delivery to their destination.

"Art. 12. The Postmaster-General is authorized to make the necessary charges and rules to establish the aforesaid system of postage stamps.

"Given at the seat of Government at Lima, October 19th, 1857.

(Signed) "José Maria Raygada.
"Manuel Ortiz de Zevallos.
"Luciano Maria Cano.
"Juan Manuel del Mar."

Another six months had passed before the stamps authorized by this decree were ready for issue. It is probable that the Director-General of Posts was the author of the delay. He apparently thought it better to try the new system first of all between the towns of Lima and Chorillos, and to extend it afterwards to the whole Republic if success attended the innovation. To this end he wrote the Minister as follows:—

"Lima, *Nov. 15th*, 1857.

"I can obtain from the agent of the Steam Company a considerable quantity of stamps for free postage, which he has had for some time, and the design of which has never been made use of until now. These stamps would be delivered free in order to try the system of correspondence between the towns of Lima and Chorillos. Their use offering no inconvenience, the information might be published beforehand, that commencing from the 1st of next month these stamps might be made use of for franking the aforesaid correspondence. This system can be extended later to franking correspondence by steamers. Report to the Supreme Government, so that it may know and approve of my proposition.

(Signed) "A. Davila."

The necessary authority having been obtained, Mons. A. Davila caused the following circular to be forwarded to all the Post Offices in the Republic:—

"Lima, *23rd Nov.*, 1857.

"It has been established by a supreme decree, of the 19th of last month, that the payment of letters by means of stamps shall be introduced for all correspondence. This invention, which simplifies the work of book-keeping in the offices, offers to the public great facilities for franking letters.

"The tariffs for all destinations have been rendered uniform in such a manner that it is sufficient to understand the value of stamps in order to control the payment without applying to the Post Offices. Wishing to try the system of stamps, and to let the public know the advantages to be drawn therefrom, I have published a notice from which I annex examples, in order that you may put the system into practice, from December 1st, for correspondence between Lima and Chorillos. This is simply to give you a preparatory idea of the system; later you will receive detailed instructions, which I will bring to the knowledge of the public and the employés, in order that the usage shall cause no inconvenience. You will do well to communicate my circular to your subordinates, in order that they may also have an idea of the system.

(Signed) "José Davila Condemarin."

December 1st, 1857.

Stamps of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, finely engraved in colour, on coarse bluish paper, steamship in centre of an oval of engraved engine-turned work, the weight of the letter above and the value below—all the inscription in white.

Blue. 1 real for ½ oz. weight, steamship sailing to left.
Red. 2 reales for 1 oz. weight „ „ „ right.

The Lima catalogue states that the Pacific Steam Navigation Company never used these stamps. It presented, free of charge, as before mentioned, a large quantity of them to the General Direction of Posts at Lima, that the system of prepayment by postage stamps might be tried. These stamps were provisionally employed at Lima, at Callao, and Chorillos for the three months from the 1st December, 1857, to the 28th February, 1858. (See *Coleccion Postale*, p. 195.)

The Lima catalogue further states that the other stamps of the same type and of other colours were never used, either by the Company or the Government, and are only essays, fancy stamps, or forgeries occasionally found with postal cancellations.

Mr. Paul Ascher, of Lima, in writing to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* in November, 1890, asserts that only 58 of the 1 oz. 2 reales, red, were ever used; the remainder were burnt in March, 1859. It is generally admitted now by specialists that the Lima catalogue was wrong on this point, and that a small quantity of these stamps were genuinely used by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and bear their cancellation marks, viz., an oval, 19 mm. in depth by 25½ mm. in length, composed of three straight lines and one curved line top and bottom, two curved lines at each end of the oval surrounding a figure in Roman lettering (probably the distinctive number of the carrying vessel). I have two specimens with figure "6." (See Illustration A.) Dr. Burghard possesses one, and Mr. Bacon informs me that one with figure "7" is in the Tapling collection. These are all 1 real, blue. I know of no other numbers, but they may exist; the figure "6" measures 7 mm. high by 6 mm. wide.

The commonest postal cancellation of these Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps consists of the word "Lima" in block letters 4 mm. high, with date, in a three-line inscription, enclosed in a circle roughly 20 mm. in

diameter. Of this style I have two copies of the blue, and that very rare stamp used, the 2 reales, red. (See Illustration B.) A second Lima cancellation is the word "Lima" in a small elongated oval, 12½ mm. × 9 mm., surrounded by a series of dots forming a rough oval. (See Illustration C.) Both Dr. Burghard and the Tapling collection possess used copies of the 2 reales, red, with cancellations B and C. Of the three copies of B here mentioned mine is dated January 15th, 1858; the one in the Tapling collection February 12, 1858; and Dr. Burghard's 1857.

The only Callao cancellation I know of consists of the word "Callao" in tall Roman letters 2½ mm. high, surrounded by the dots, but without the enclosing oval in Illustration C. I have not met with the Chorillos cancellation. I do not suggest the above remarks exhaust the list of genuine postmarks on the P.S.N. Co.'s stamps; indeed, as we find postmarks B and C on the succeeding issues, it is not unreasonable to assume that some at least of the other cancellations to be found on the succeeding issues *may* also have been used for obliterating the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps.

Moens records that the Pacific Steam Navigation Company used in 1858—

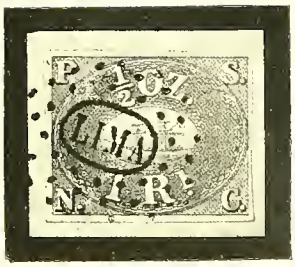
1 real, blue on bluish white paper.
2 reales, red „ „ „ in 1859.
1 real, carmine on white laid.
2 reales, blue „ „ „
Also later on white wove paper.
1 real, blue, carmine, yellow, and green.
2 reales „ „ „ „ and brown.

Except the yellow and green, M. Moens states that he has seen all these stamps used, and that, ignoring the Liverpool reprints, he has received both green and yellow stamps from his correspondent at Lima, and fully believes they were all actually used by the Company. I am making further enquiries on the subject; meanwhile have great doubts of the authenticity of all but the two stamps on bluish above mentioned.

Before the actual issue of the three values provided for in the decree of 1857, a new decree dated January 25th, 1858, authorized the issue of a stamp of un dinero to be sold for 1 real, and another of un peseta to be sold for 2 reales, to come into effect fifteen days thereafter in the provinces of Lima and Callao, and thirty days after its date in the rest of the Republic. By another document this decree was approved, and the date for the sale of these stamps was fixed for March 1st, 1858. The three values authorized by the law of October 19th, 1857, were, however, issued on the date fixed by the second decree and circular. They, as well as the two succeeding issues, were engraved on stone at Lima by D. E. Prugue.

March 1st, 1858, was the date of the first official issue by order of the Government—

Un dinero, blue.
Una peseta, carmine.
Medio peso, yellow.
„ „ carmine.


P
½ OZ
S
LIMA
N
R
C

C


P
1 OZ
S
R
C

A


P
1 OZ
S
N
2 R
C

B


PORTE-FRANCO
CORREOS
CORREOS
UN DINERO

E


PORTE-FRANCO
CORREOS
CORREOS
UNA PESETA

G


PORTE-FRANCO
CORREOS
CORREOS
UN DINERO

D


PORTE-FRANCO
CORREOS
CORREOS
UNA PESETA

H

The stamps of the half peso were used only for four months, as by decree of June 18th, 1858, their use was declared unnecessary.

It is now, I think, established that the medio peso, rose or carmine, was an error arising from the insertion of a medio peso in the plate of the one peseta. Mr. H. L. Calman is reported to have found a strip of ten or twelve stamps long and two stamps wide, the upper pair of which were both medio peso stamps, and the balance of the strip one peseta.

Mr. Calman states that other pairs are known to him, each being the medio peso, red, with the one peseta at the side, and therefore advances the theory that originally these two values were printed from the same plate, and in the same colour, but that as this was found to be inconvenient a new plate for each was made, and the colour of the half peso changed for yellow. The Tapling collection contains two vertical unsevered pairs of the medio peso, rose, *se tenant* with the one peseta, the error in one case being at the top, in the other at the bottom. I have seen a horizontal pair in which the medio peso was on the left.

In the succeeding issues of January, 1859, and April, 1860 (Moens), there are various varieties, such as llama on white, horn of plenty on white—zigzag lines not meeting—background of shield white, which are all said to be caused by the wearing of the lithographic stone.

Personally, I believe the variety of the one dinero, blue, in which the zigzag lines do not meet, to be a genuine retouch.

I differentiate them as follows:—

Normal type (see Illustration D), first working off. 1860.

Shades generally dark, "PORTE FRANCO" in equal letters. The oblique lines in the background reunite without intersection. The tree of the shield is flaky, bushy, with the angles rounded.

The part of the shield supporting the llama is horizontally lined; the ground of the cornucopia is vertically lined.

The *plenty*, which juts out of the horn, does not meet the line of the shield.

There is no other peculiarity in the plate except where the lines in the background are effaced, showing white either the inscription or the background of the llama, or the cornucopia.

Type retouched 1861. (See Illustration E.)

The letter "O" of "PORTE" is much higher than the other letters, as well as the "C" of "FRANCO"—(PORTE FRANCO).

All the letters of the inscriptions are more rounded. The only trace of wear and tear which exists is met with on the lined background of the llama, a little broken towards the left.

The tree, more triangular, is striated with oblique white strokes.

The vertical column of the right, "CORREOS," on a lined background, has nine strokes in height, eight only from the second "R" of "CORREO."

The broken lines of the interior angles are separated horizontally by white spaces.

When I read this paper to the Society I thought I was the first to notice this retouch. Some short time ago, however, on receiving some approval sheets from that well-known Philatelist, Monsieur Pierre Mahé, I found the difference noted, and on corresponding with that gentleman he kindly

forwarded me a copy of his paper, *Le Questionneur Timbrophilique*, for August, 1894, in which the differences as above noted are fully set out.

Of the 1 peseta, red, of May, 1861, there is an undoubted retouch, if not a new plate. In the illustrations G is the original plate, H the retouch. In the retouch (H) there are ten lines in the framework to the left instead of nine, and the shading on the base of the flags has practically disappeared.

There is a so-called provisional series of this issue, consisting of a surcharge "Vale medio peso 50 cvs" in three lines in blue, "Certifdo" in red, and "Habilitado" in black. Mr. Buhl believes in their genuineness. (See *Stamp News* for June, 1890, page 184.) Personally, I fail to see he has sufficient proof. The Lima catalogue states they were made in 1882 by a well-known speculator, and it is pretty generally admitted now that they are bogus.

There is a well-known variety of the one dinero, red, of November 18th, 1882, with the Arms sideways. Mr. Corwin, in the *American Philatelist*, March, 1889, pp. 170–1, states that it was the die of the frame and not the Arms which had "turned," or rather been wrongly placed in the machine, for reasons he there gives :—

All the embossed stamps, including the

1 dinero, red	18th November,	1862
1 peseta, brown . . .	15th January,	1863
1 dinero, green . . .	July,	1868
5 cents, vermilion . . .	April,	1871
1 peseta, yellow . . .	February,	1872
2 centavos, blue . . .	1st March,	1873,

were printed in colour, on white paper in relief, with the Lecocq machine brought from Paris, which prints the stamps one by one on a continuous band of paper about 24 mm. wide, or just wide enough to receive the stamp and leave a margin. The band of paper enters the machine and is first impressed with the coloured frame. The paper is next embossed with the Arms, and then gummed. (In later issues a rouletting attachment was added.) Where the band of paper ended, another band was pasted to it, the joint being about 8 mm. wide, and it often happened that a stamp was printed partly over this joint. As the impression is particularly heavy on the double part, the upper coloured part may be soaked off, leaving the remainder embossed in white. In this manner the various—wholly or in part—"albino" varieties were manufactured.

In June, 1866, and July, 1867, appeared the engraved two llama issues, 5 c., green ; 10 c., red ; and 20 c., brown.

With the fall of the Dictator Prado, in 1868, these stamps were withdrawn from service ; but according to Moens—a fact I can find mentioned nowhere else—they were reissued in 1874, the remainders being first used up and then new printings had in paler colours, which can be *best* distinguished in a used condition by the dated postmarks.

The one dinero, green, of July, 1868, does not differ largely from the

earlier one dinero, red, except that the Arms are in white relief on a coloured disk. In this issue there is a rare error with the Arms reversed.

This stamp was never issued perforated or rouletted, nor do the fabled half peso and one peso of this type exist.

The so-called errors "diniro" or "dinlro" for dinero are caused by defective printing, as are the errors "Call" and "allao" for Callao in the succeeding issue of April, 1871.

The albinos and double papers are produced in the manner before mentioned.

This stamp in either shades is rare, used.

We now come to the Peru and Lima oval surcharges. For some years the Post Office in Peru had received in payment for all postage stamps their face value in paper money also at face value. By a decree of the General Direction of Posts of January 5th, 1880, it was ordered that all stamps used for the prepayment of letters to foreign countries should be paid for in silver, and surcharged—

"Union postal universal Peru Plata."

The Lima Society state that in 1879 several cases containing stamps of the 10 and 20 centavos values were seized on board the P.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Bolivia* by a Chilian man-of-war, and, therefore, stamps of their values and colours were declared null and void, and none existed at the time the other values were so surcharged.

The 1 c., green, and 2 cents, deep rose, of the issue of January 6th, 1880, are found without any surcharge. The Lima catalogue, however, states they were never issued by the Post Office in that condition.

The Peru oval die was destroyed by the Post Office in 1881; no reprints were, therefore, possible.

As most of the Post Offices on the coast of Peru were conducted by the Chilians during the occupation of the capital (January 17th, 1881, to October 22nd, 1883), the General Direction of Peruvian Posts located at Lima resolved to change the surcharge by replacing the word "Peru" in the oval by "Lima." Nearly the entire Lima issue was preserved until 1883, when they were issued with the addition of the Triangle.

The Lima catalogue states that the dies for making this surcharge were also destroyed by the Post Office in 1881; no reprints were possible therefore. Mr. Paul Ascher, however, writing to Mr. Tiffany, states that as the demand for these surcharged stamps from abroad was very large a second die of the Lima oval was made in 1884, the letters of which are larger and thinner, and with this die nearly all the values of this issue and of the deficit series were surcharged by the Post Office.

The best mode of differentiation is the word "Plata." All the letters are one-half mm. higher in the reproduction; the angle of the "A" is therefore sharper, and the shapes of the "P" and the "T" are different.

Although the Chilian occupation of Lima began in January, 1881, the Post Office there remained under the management of the former Peruvian clerks up to November 30th, 1881. During early December, 1881, the Chilians issued ordinary Peruvian stamps of the later issues; they then issued as prepaid stamps the surcharged Peruvian unpaid (Deficit) stamps

already used in October, 1881, as unpaid stamps by the Peruvians, with surcharge "Lima Correos" in a double circle. About the end of December, 1881, began the issue of Peruvian stamps charged with the Chilian Arms, and finally, in June, 1882, they substituted the ordinary Chilian stamps.

Rommel—*vide Metropolitan Philatelist*—states that Novoa, son of the Chilian Ambassador, surcharged several of the issues with the genuine die in wrong colours, and that in 1883 and 1884 certain youths at Lima imitated the die, and issued large quantities of stamps, also in false colours.

The various "fakes" are all well described in the literature on the subject. A list even of these would occupy too much space.

Many of the yellow surcharges (all bad of course) were, as above stated, from the genuine dies. The Lima catalogue states that the Chilians never made use of aniline inks. It follows, therefore, that the surcharges of the Chilian Arms in aniline inks of any colour are bad.

The boundary between Peru and Chili is the river Camerones, as determined by the treaty of peace between these countries in 1883.

By the treaty of Ancon, May 21st, 1884, Peru temporarily ceded to Chili the departments of Tacna and Arica, on condition that after ten years the inhabitants should be permitted to decide by a plebiscite to which of these States they desired in future to belong. It was agreed that the country in whose favour they should decide should pay to the other an indemnity of ten million dollars. The plebiscite was postponed in 1894, and negotiations since then have made no progress, as Peru is unable to give the guarantee that the sum agreed shall be paid if the vote was cast in her favour.

In July, 1882, as before mentioned, the Chilian postal authorities issued Chilian stamps of the 1877–1881 issues, and of the values of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos, at such Peruvian Post Offices as they controlled. The stamps were not surcharged, but can be recognized by the cancellation marks they bear. At the offices of Lima and Callao they were cancelled by postmarks with dates, and at other places by postmarks, such as Paita, Eten, Ica, Pisco, Mollendo, Tacna, Iquique, etc. etc.

The Lima catalogue omits the 1 c., grey-black, of 1877-78, of which I have two specimens, one with "paita," and the other the "Lima principal" postmark of July, 1882. The 5 c., lake, of 1877-78, is, so far as I am aware, not recorded anywhere. I have two specimens with the circular "Iquique principal" postmark, both dated July, 1882.

The 50 centavos, rose, and 1 sol, blue, with horse-shoe alone, were stolen from the Post Offices during the Chilian occupation, and not issued in that condition.

On October 23rd, 1883, the Peruvian employés again took possession of the Post Offices at Lima. The only stamps available were such as the Chilians returned. To prevent the loss to the revenue, which might result from the use of other stamps in private hands, the Department resolved to surcharge all the officially issued stamps with a triangle and "Peru." Two dies, Types I. and III., were used, but as they rapidly deteriorated they were several times repaired, giving rise to at least four distinct types.

Type I. "PERU" in small capitals, interior lines double.
„ II. "PERU," small capitals, interior lines single, side rectangles open.
„ III. "PERU" in larger capitals, side rectangles closed.
„ IV. "PERU," large capitals, interior lines single, terminating in arabesques extended beyond the angles of the frame.

The surcharge was impressed by a hand-stamp, and the details of the triangles being too minute to produce uniformly good impressions, makes it very difficult to discriminate, especially in blurred impressions.

V. Type V. is accepted as genuine by both Moens and Calman. Further light and investigation are desirable. I have a full series on the 5 blue. Some of the postmarks *appear* to be genuine and over the surcharge. Mr. Buhl recently informed me he believed in its authenticity; but it is very doubtful and to be regarded with suspicion. The same surcharge is also to be found on the 10 centavos, green; 2 centavos, red-violet; and even on the 20 centavos, carmine, undoubtedly bad.

If permitted, and the subject-matter of these few straggling notes and extracts is of sufficient interest, I hope later on to continue this article, as it is a singular fact that much more is known of the earlier than of the later issues of Peru.

In the meantime I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Lima catalogue, Mons. Moens (who has kindly allowed me to translate, I am afraid but inefficiently, the earlier decrees from his work on Peru), and the series of articles in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* by the late J. K. Tiffany.

The 1867 Newspaper Stamps of Austria.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, on December 17th, 1897.

By M. P. CASTLE.



THESE somewhat primitive and not highly-regarded stamps have one strong claim upon our sympathies. In these days of rapid changes it is something to be said in favour of a stamp that it remained in use for twenty-seven years without a break. This stamp, generally known as the lilac Mercury, was issued on the first of June, 1867, and was not suppressed until 1894. Very little has been written or said about them in this country, and the fact is that their variety of shade is so infinite, and the variance of impression so marked, that collectors have probably hesitated to devote the time necessary to evolve order out of an apparent chaos by dividing them into types and approximate periods of issue. It is, however, generally known through the medium of the all-pervading catalogue that there are three varieties of the type. The best description of these will be found in M. J. B. Moens' Catalogue of 1892, while a more succinct, if less original,

definition of the types will be seen in the Scott Stamp and Coin Company's Catalogue for advanced collectors. Although I find no fault with these two descriptions, I think that the salient points of difference can perhaps be better summarized, and that in order to enable collectors to readily discern the types it is better to emphasize one, or perhaps even two, marked features. In any case, I take it that the attention of members of this Society is not unworthily occupied in considering or reconsidering type variations on such a venerable stamp! These stamps were, I believe, produced by typography, and were printed in panes of 100, presumably in ten rows of ten, containing the watermark, extending over the panes, "ZEITUNGS MARKEN" in capitals. As will be seen by the specimens shown to-night, the shades are most numerous, and I doubt if any stamp has ever appeared in more varying colours. An interesting account of the causes of this is given in the *Austria Philatelist*, vol. i. p. 391, in the course of a series of able notes on the Austrian stamps by M. Hans Kropf. He says that the constant varieties of colours are caused, firstly, by the employment of aniline colours, such as mauve, and secondly, by the nature of the paper used. Instead of using only chemically free pulp for this, material containing iron, copper, and ammoniacal products was frequently employed. Beyond this, and to complete the dislocation of the colour, the paper would seem to be saturated with chemical products; these colours hence become soluble, and readily turn to a reddish hue, or in cases where these foreign products have an even stronger effect, to dirty greenish or brownish grey. The original colour intended was pale violet, but since the year 1884 the shades have been less prominent, and seem to have settled down to more or less dull lilac. M. Kropf also calls attention to the very defective printing, which must indeed be patent to everyone, by which the most comical appearances are frequently given to poor Mercury's presentment. The question of types is, however, not exhaustively considered by M. Kropf, who mainly contents himself with the observation that he is unable to assign any particular period to the several types, having frequently found specimens of varying types dated in the same year. As a general rule he holds that the specimens issued in 1867 and 1868 are marked by clear printing, those from 1869 to 1879 by heavy printing, and those from 1880 onwards by good and clear impressions.

The central design of the stamp is a head of the god Mercury to left, bearing the winged cap or helmet that mythology associated with his aërial flights. This helmet to right and left, and near the top, bears wings. It is in these wings, or rather in the right-hand one on the portrait, that I consider exists the readiest method of denoting the three types.

Type I.

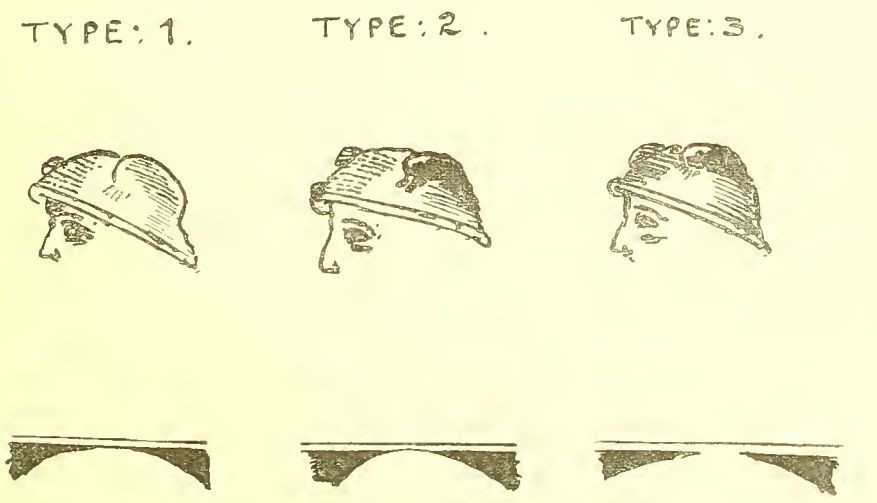
The wing is shaded by fairly clear parallel lines, which in no case touch the outline, and fall in line with the further parallel lines that shade the back of the helmet, but do not project nearly to the fore part of the said wing. At the junction of the latter with the helmet in front where the vertical line occurs, it will be noticed that the shading beneath it consists of five or six small distinct and separate strokes placed at an angle of about 45°. The

lines of shading in the front of the helmet are always composed of dots. There are no vertical lines of shading at the back of the net.

The second test is the outer white circle enclosing the head. This is slightly flattened immediately beneath the third ornament in the Greek border at the top of the stamp, and is drawn apparently so as not to impinge beyond the coloured line that joins the spandrels of solid colour.

Type II.

The right wing is shaded heavily by a number of interlacing strokes that only leave flecks of white, and show no trace of parallel lines; they do not extend to the front, but leave only a narrow and tapering white space on the top of the wing. This shading continued to the back clearly stands out from the parallel lines beneath it. The junction of the wing with the helmet in front has a thick vertical line in front; beneath are two distinct thick lines almost parallel, in addition to a couple of very small ones. The shading is



always (like Type I.) dotted, with the exception of occasional instances where heavy inking makes the dots apparently continuous. There are vertical lines of shading at the back of the neck.

The outer white circle of colour is completed below the third ornament in the Greek border above by a thin line which projects beyond the line that should unite the coloured spandrels, and approaches the horizontal coloured line that encloses the central design.

Type III.

The shading of the right wing is practically the same as Type II., but leaves hardly any white space above. The vertical line of junction in front is rather thinner, while below it reverts somewhat to the design of Type I. in having five or six separate parallel lines, though rather thicker. The helmet is shaded back and front with distinct parallel lines, the former extending up to the front of the wing. There is no vertical shading at the

back of the neck. The white circle above is broken immediately below the third ornament in the Greek border.

These ornaments are irregularly drawn, with a tendency to bulge out, notably in the horizontal borders; the double outer lines of the border are wider apart, and the whole of this has apparently been redrawn.

There are other points of divergence, but in view of the great difference in the impression it is not so safe to rely upon these; therefore I do not further refer to them. I should imagine there was only one original die, and that it had been at least twice altered.

To briefly recapitulate *the* most marked point of difference in each case:

Type I. Several thin strokes beneath wing of helmet.

Type II. Two thick strokes beneath wing of helmet.

Type III. Outer circle does not meet above head.

The shades are so numerous as almost to defy description, and I am sure that there are many that I do not possess. I can only guess at the order of issue, but I have roughly placed them according to what I consider likely.

Type I.

Pale violet.	Lilac.
Dark violet.	Greyish lilac.

Type II.

Lilac.	Lilac-brown.
Dull violet.	Brownish grey.

Grey.

Type III.

Greyish lilac.	Dull violet.

There are, of course, shades of each of these colours, but in Type III. they are much less marked than in the other types. The paper of the former is to be found distinctly yellowish, and is smoother and better manufactured than in the latter. A number of perforations are also found in Type III., but, though apparently executed for legitimate purposes, are not official. These stamps, contrary to the general run of the older issues of Austria, have never been reprinted, and I think, despite their uncouth appearance, are yet worthy of the interest and attention of the collector.

Occasional Notes.

SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

EFFINGHAM HOUSE, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C.
12th January, 1898.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps to inform you that the Sub-Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, have specially considered the question of the proposed issue of stamps in connection with the Jubilee Free Public Library at Otago, New Zealand.

The Sub-Committee are of opinion that these stamps are undoubtedly of a speculative nature, and constitute an attempt to induce collectors to include in their collections labels which are absolutely useless and worthless, and they would advise all amateurs to have nothing whatever to do with them.

Yours truly,
By order of the Committee,
H. R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

[We are glad to see that the Philatelic Society of New Zealand has also emphatically condemned these stamps, and has communicated its views to the Postmaster-General of that colony.—ED.]

OMAHA JUBILEE ISSUE!

THE *A. J. P.* has the following spirited protest against this proposal to make further Jubilee rubbish, and we sincerely trust that the United States Government will refuse to make the issue.

"In some of the daily papers a notice has recently appeared that our Government intends to issue a series of celebration stamps in commemoration of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition to be held at Omaha this year. After the earnest endeavours of almost all prominent Philatelists in all parts of the world to put a stop to the issue of Jubilee and commemorative stamps, it would, indeed, be a sad blow to our hobby if the Government of the United States should lend itself to so reprehensible a scheme.

"We publish below a copy of a letter addressed by us to the Hon. James A. Gary, Postmaster-General of the United States, on December 29th, 1897, and we would earnestly advise all stamp collectors to address similar letters of protest to the authorities at Washington, in order to show that the objections to the issue in question are not held by a few individuals, but pervade the entire stamp-collecting fraternity.

*

"*December 29th*, 1897.

"JAMES A. GARY, ESQ., Postmaster-General, Washington, D.C.

"DEAR SIR,—In a recent issue of the New York *Sun* we find a statement that a series of postage stamps in commemoration of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, which is to be held at Omaha next summer, will be issued by the Post Office Department. It is said that the designs and colours have not yet been determined, but the denominations will be 1, 2, 5, 10 c., and $1.

"We trust we may be excused for what might seem to you an impertinence in addressing you on a subject which concerns your department exclusively, but we feel justified in protesting to you against the execution of any such design as is contemplated in the article referred to. The number of collectors of postage stamps in the United States may probably be estimated as somewhere around 500,000, and for the past three or four years their almost unanimous efforts have been directed against the collecting of Jubilee or commemorative stamps issued by Governments, whether large or small. In many instances issues of this character have been made for purely speculative purposes, and in others to replenish the treasuries of weak Governments. United action has resulted in reducing to a considerable extent the issue of such stamps, and a protest filed in advance has in some instances succeeded in preventing such projected issues. In the majority of instances the offenders, in the view of stamp collectors, have been the smaller states and colonies, and *only in a few cases has a Government like that of Canada or Newfoundland stooped to such a prostitution of the legitimate purposes of a Post Office Department.** We certainly hope that the Government of the United States will not, at this late day, lend itself to a scheme of this character, which can under no interpretation bear any relation to the legitimate ends of the Postal service. The issue of the Columbian series of stamps in 1893 should not be considered a precedent for future issues, as the occasion then celebrated was one of such surpassing importance that it was proper, and perhaps essential, that it should be commemorated in so fitting and lasting a manner.

"We are,

"Very truly yours,

"SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO., LTD."

* [The italics are ours.—ED.]

THE POPULARITY OF BRITISH STAMPS.

STRONG exception has lately been taken—in the form of a protest to the Government—by an influential section of Scotchmen, to the frequent use of the words "England" and "English" in cases where the whole kingdom is referred to. Although "no one seems one penny the worse" for being dubbed English when they are Scotch, there is logic in the proposal that we should all be Britons first, and Englishmen, Scotchmen, Irishmen, and Welshmen afterwards. The Philatelic world has been a sore sinner in this respect, and Scotch Philatelic Societies would have a strong case if *they* protested against the universal allusion to the stamps of the country as "English." The custom has grown up insensibly for so long that we doubt if it can be altered, but it is certainly worthy of a trial. "England and Colonies" is an absolute misnomer extending beyond the former title as applied to these islands only, and debarring the indignant Gael from his share of the British patronymic at home and abroad. In the future we really must

try and say that we are called British and not English—but there will be, aye, many a slip before the former term becomes colloquial.

One thing is, however, certain, that the popularity of the stamps of this country is enormously increasing. It is but a short while since most of the leaders of "British" collections disposed of their stamps, and anxious looks were cast about to seek their successors. These have speedily arrived, and in larger numbers than before. There is, according to statements by leading firms, no more quickly realizable Philatelic possession than fine unused British stamps, while for used specimens there seems to be an extraordinary demand. The advertisement in this journal from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, offering to buy large quantities of 1d. black, is in its way one of the most astounding features ever associated with stamp collecting. That a common stamp such as this, printed in millions and millions, in the possession of every schoolboy, and hoarded up in packets of 100, should become sold out is indeed prodigious. We bear in mind a million sack that was ours to exploit some fifteen years since, and think of the almost countless thousands that would help to stay the market for the present! The advertisement of C. L., in Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen's circular of the 15th of this month, is a fitting comment upon the "appreciation" of Eng—we *mean* British—stamps!

"WANTED IMMEDIATELY.

MINT UNUSED COPIES of the following English Stamps:—

4d., rose, Medium Garter, on blue.
2d., blue, Large Crown, perf. 16.
10s. and £1, wmk. Anchor.

A small fortune in spot cash offered for each."

CONTEMPLATED REDUCTION OF THE CANADIAN POSTAL RATES.

WITH reference to the paragraph on page 349 in our last number, stating the intention of the Canadian authorities to reduce the inter-Imperial postage to 1½d. per ounce, we learn that at the special request of the Colonial Secretary the proposed reduction has for the present been rescinded. It is stated that an Intercolonial Conference on the subject will be held at as early a date as may be found generally convenient. It is obvious that the adoption of this greatly-reduced rate on the part of so important a colony as Canada must force the hand of the mother country to effect the similar reduction in return, and that the question of the rates to the other British Imperial possessions would then crop up. The Government of the country makes a handsome profit out of the Post Office, and it might wisely spend a proportion thereof in the cheapening of communication between the component parts of the empire. There can be no reasonable doubt that the time has arrived for the extension of the penny rate to all our colonies, and we trust that Canada's proposals may lead the way thereto.

THE STAMP AUCTION REPORTER.

It would be generally conceded that there are Philatelic Journals galore, but none the less do we think that this new venture, started this month by Messrs. Wickhart and Kuttner, will, if properly managed, be of great service to the collector as well as, it is to be hoped, to the promoters. In the preliminary prospectus the *raison d'être* of the new sheet is well set forth.

"In these days of specialism and consequent high prices few collectors can afford to ignore the investment side of their hobby. So far as the high-priced stamps are concerned, the reports which occasionally appear in Philatelic papers are perhaps sufficient guide to the advanced collector. But what about the vast mass of eminently collectible varieties ranging in worth from ten to twenty shillings, which must necessarily form the most valuable part of every collection? In only too many instances catalogues are worse than useless, while considerations of space prevent the market prices of such stamps from being chronicled in the Philatelic Press, until—as frequently happens—an apparently startling rise has to be noted, by which time collectors have lost the opportunity of buying to advantage."

It is also explained that the fortnightly issue will be arranged, as far as possible, to follow close on the heels of the leading auctions, the stamps to be most carefully classified and to be described in greater detail than has ever hitherto been attempted, all lots being viewed and reported upon from a thoroughly impartial and independent standpoint. Moreover, "for convenience of future reference the auction report will be printed upon one side only of each leaf, thus facilitating the preparation of a running index of sales and permanent record."

The proprietors state that they "do not by any means affirm that the prices which stamps fetch at auction are their real market values, but they are of opinion that such prices form a sounder basis on which to buy and sell than the rates quoted in dealers' catalogues."

The foregoing statement opens up a wide field of contention. There are auctions and auctions, as there are catalogues and catalogues, and there is a deal of human nature in both!

The initial number, issued on the 15th of this month, hardly fills the aching void. Beyond the chronicle of the auction lots there is only one paragraph submerged in the advertisements. The paper, to be a success, should contain articles and notes upon the market value of especial stamps and classes thereof, notes on trade dealings, sales of collections, and, in short, all that affects the financial side of Philately. The auction reports, which occupy four quarto pages, are, as was to be expected, well executed, and the lots accurately described; but the abbreviations are too short—they should always convey their meaning without the necessity of referring to their index. We make these criticisms in the most friendly spirit, and with every wish to see our new contemporary a success, as we think its especial mission one worthy of encouragement by the stamp-collecting world.

AN ITALIAN PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

WE have received, through Dr. Emilio Diena, news of an Exhibition to be held in Turin during the second half of May, 1898. It will be held in connection with the Fêtes that are to be celebrated at the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Italian National Constitution. We trust that there will be no other Jubilee post card nor adhesive stamps in addition. In general Philatelic interest, in appearance, in variety, and in number the stamps of the Italian States form one of the finest groups in the world, and there is no section of the globe whose stamps are so little understood and appreciated. They have been crushed down by remainders and reprints! We earnestly recommend to the promoters of the Exhibition to have a special exhibit of all the reprints, governmental or dealers', of all remainders, wastrels—"successions Matraire," and forgeries of stamps and postmarks. If this is done, and the results scientifically collated, the result of the future of Italian stamps would be immediately apparent.

It appears that the Exhibition will be open for fifteen days "*au maximum*"; but is in no sense international, as no foreign exhibits will be admitted except those of Italian stamps (inclusive of those of the defunct Duchies). This does not hold out much inducement for foreign competition, and certainly smacks of a very "protective" policy! We should doubt if any collector outside Italy would care to compete under those conditions, although we fancy there are as fine Italian collections outside that country as there are in it! The authorised programme has not yet appeared, but Dr. Diena kindly sends us a list of officers, etc., which we reproduce *verbatim*, while acknowledging the high appreciation of the honour conferred upon the London Philatelic Society in the selection of its Vice-President as a Member of the Committee of Patrons. We extend our best wishes to our friends in Italy for the complete success of their Exhibition, and for the Philatelic rehabilitation of the Italian stamps.

Président d'honneur:

Mr. Emilio Sineo (Ministre des Postes et des Télégraphes).

Vice-Président d'honneur:

Mr. le Comte Robert Biscaretti (Deputé au Parlament National).

Comité Executif:

Mr. l'Ingénieur E. Marchesi . .	*Président.*
Mr. C. Fino	*Vice-Président.*
Mr. A. E. Fiecchi	*Secrétaire.*
Comte L. Cibrario	*Vice-Secrétaire.*
Mr. L. Bottacco	*Caissier.*
Dr. E. Diena	*Délégué du Ministère des Postes et des Télégraphes.*

Comte M. Alberti, Ing. G. Berruti, Chev. S. Bono, Comte F. De Cardenas, and Mr. l'Avocat A. Olivieri, *Membres.*

Comité de Patronage:

Prince Doria Pamphili, *Président.*

Mr. M. P. Castle, Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, Comm. F. Gnecchi, Mr. C. Lindenberg, Marquis Pallavicino, Comte Primoli, Mr. L. Schsvarz, and Chev. S. Sella, *Membres.*

Jury:

Dr. E. Diena, *Président.*

C. Bader-Müller, J. Bernichon, Chev. V. E. Capanna, L. Immelen, I. A. Loli, and E. Stock, *Membres.*

AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

BY OUR AUSTRALIAN CORRESPONDENT.

THE "Record Reign" 2d., of New South Wales, has undergone a change of shade from dark blue to ultramarine. This change was rendered necessary on account of the darker colour failing to show up the postmark with sufficient distinctness. The new colour was issued on the 1st instant.

* * * * * *

I have seen a set of stamped envelopes which it is proposed to issue for Tasmania. There are only two values, viz., 2d. and 2½d. The stamps are printed in the right upper corner of the envelope, from *clichés* of the type of the current adhesives, and in the same colours, respectively green and magenta. The paper is white laid, and the size 142 × 80 mm. On the address side of the envelopes there are very artistic views of Tasmanian scenery, produced from Indian ink drawings made by Mr. D. Warry. There are twelve of such views in all, six on the 2d. and six on the 2½d. envelope. The views are in black. These envelopes are intended to advertise the charms of Tasmanian scenery, and I do not think that they were issued with any intention to exploit the pockets of Philatelists. Of course there are so few comparatively who collect entire envelopes at all that very little harm can be done to collectors by the issue, and they are certainly pretty things for visitors to use when writing home to their friends.

* * * * * *

The new issue of stamps for New Zealand is getting gradually nearer completion. We now hear that supplies are to be placed on sale at the office of the Agent-General for the Colony. This Congo-Borneo method of dealing scarcely meets with the approval of the local collectors, who will be deprived of the pleasure (and possibly profit) of furnishing their home correspondents with supplies. Mr. Seddon, the Premier of New Zealand, is fully seized of the fact that it is impossible to produce really satisfactory engravings in the Colony. Alas! would that all the Australian Premiers were equally alive to this fact!

Reviews.

MR. WESTOBY'S STAMPS OF EUROPE.*

PARTS III. and IV., containing the countries from Bosnia to Germany (Thurn and Taxis, Conf. and Empire), have speedily followed their predecessors, and call for no especial comment, as they present the features already mentioned in our previous remarks. There is no doubt that this work when complete will be of much value—to the advanced collector for the great technical knowledge displayed by the author in the methods of printing, and to the young collector for the plain unvarnished way in which the salient or collectible stamps are marshalled. The illustrations still leave much to be desired as regards the specimens reproduced, those of Bremen especially being hardly of any service to collectors (it would have been advisable here to give the few types there are, to enable beginners to test their own copies). In France the lithographed Unpaid is also not illustrated, and this is generally a stumbling-block to the neophyte. In Brunswick the 3 g.g., rose on white, with straight-cut roulette, should have been included, as its existence has been fully proved. The account of the French stamps is singularly lucid and succinct, and will be more welcome, as these stamps are now the glass of fashion.

BRITISH POSTMARKS.†

MR. GILL, of the *Exchange and Mart*, is evidently determined to use his best endeavour to popularize stamp collecting, a project in which we can but wish him well. Postmarks have always been much studied in relation to postage stamps; but their cult without the better half—the stamp—has not generally been supposed to have had many followers. The author, however, mentions several such, including a long well-known name as a collector of stamps, Mr. T. Stephenson. This work commences with descriptions of the earliest postmarks, stated to be in 1660, and continues them up to date, including chapters devoted to Irish, Scotch, or special branches. Every variety is illustrated, and one cannot but wonder at the enormous amount of work involved in the preparation of this book, as well as the expense of its production. We trust that both author and publisher will find their due reward at the hands of an appreciative public. Complete lists of the obliterations since the date of the introduction of stamps are also given, and the volume will be found of both interest and value as a book of reference.

* *The Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe*, by W. A. S. WESTOBY. L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand, London, W.C.

† *A History of British Postmarks*, by J. H. DANIELS. L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand, London, W.C.

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.

BARBADOS.—It appears that the issue referred to in our December number is a permanent one—at least, for twelve months—hence we append description and chronicle. The following is from the *M.J.*:—"We are indebted to the Assistant Secretary of the Barbados Philatelic Society for copies of a new set of stamps, issued on November 16th, which are intended to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee year; but as we understand that they are being really put on sale, and that a supply sufficient for at least twelve months has been printed, we suppose that they are not to be classed as speculative. They have evidently been produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and all the values are in the size of our own 5s., etc., and are printed upon the Crown and CC paper, perf. 14. In the centre is the device of the colony, as shown upon the current stamps, but in a diamond-shaped frame. This is enclosed in a rectangular frame, which bears the inscriptions; and in the triangular spaces between the sides of the diamond and those of the rectangle are the Arms of the United Kingdom. The inscriptions are —'BARBADOS' at top; 'VICTORIA, R.I.' at left; '1837-1897' at right; and value below. The colours are identical with those of the issue of 1892-96."

Adhesives. ½d., grey and carmine.
½d., dull green.
1d., rose.
2½d., ultramarine.
5d., olive-brown.
6d, mauve and carmine.
8d, orange and ultramarine.
10d., dull green and carmine.
2s. 6d., blue-black and orange.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.—Five values of the current stamps of Great Britain have been overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate," in two lines of sans-serif capitals; these are the ½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., and 6d. We have not yet had an opportunity of seeing these stamps, but learn from *Le T.-P.* that in the case of the ½d. the surcharge is placed at the top of the stamp; on the 1d., 2d., and 6d. in the middle; and on the 4d. at the base.

Adhesives. ½d., vermilion; black surcharge.
1d., lilac ,, ,,
2d., green and carmine; black surcharge.
4d., green and brown ,, ,,
6d., purple on *rose-red* ,, ,,

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—The *Philatelic Record* chronicles on the authority of the *D.B.Z.* a new set of rupee values, of a larger size than previously, but of similar design. The stamps measure 30 × 25½ mm., and include three new values, 10, 20, and 50 rupees.

Adhesives. 1 rupee, ultramarine.
2 rupees, yellow-brown.
3 ,, violet.
4 ,, carmine.
5 ,, black-brown.
10 ,, yellow-brown.
20 ,, yellow-green.
50 ,, lilac.

CANADA.—Three more values of the new issue are to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. These bright colours lend themselves better to the design than the black of the low value, and there really seems little to cavil at in this new design. It has the merits of being a faithful portrait of Her Majesty and of being original, but had the oval surrounding the head been a

trifle larger the general appearance would have been greatly enhanced.

Adhesives. 2 cents, violet.
5 ,, deep blue.
6 ,, brown.

GAMBIA.—From the same source we learn that the new issue of postage stamps was to commence on the 1st inst.

NEWFOUNDLAND. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have also sent for our inspection two values of the new issue, bearing portraits of Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales respectively; these are the 1 c. and 2 c. stamps. The American Bank Note Company are the engravers, the stamps bearing their imprint at the base of the design. We note that the colours in this case do not conform to the Postal Union regulations as to colour, and this may probably mean a change in the near future. The stamps described are printed on white wove paper; perf. 12.

Adhesives. 1 cent, carmine.
2 ,, orange.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that on December 1st last the 2d. stamp was to be changed in colour from dark blue to ultramarine, owing to the cancelling stamp not showing a sufficiently clear impression on the former colour.

Adhesive. 2d., ultramarine.

NEW ZEALAND.—We learn from the same source that a six months' supply of the new stamps has been printed by the engravers of the plates for the new issue, Messrs. Waterlow & Sons. When this supply is exhausted furthur requisitions will be met by stamps printed at the Government Printing Office, Wellington. We are anxiously awaiting a sight of the designs, which, according to the report of a speech by the Premier, will be superior to any other set of postage stamps in the world!

We gather that the designs will be, to some extent, representative of the New Zealand scenery.

The following extract from *N.Z. Hansard* of the 12th ultimo, quoted by the *A. P.*, is interesting reading:—

"NEW ISSUE OF STAMPS.

"Mr. Lewis asked the Postmaster-General if it is true that he has ordered a new issue of stamps to be printed in England; and, if so, why he refused to entertain the proposal that such stamps should be produced in the colony? He had been given to understand that stamps were being printed, or would be printed, in London, or that the blocks from which the stamps would be printed were being prepared in the mother country. He had reason to know that such blocks could be turned out in the colony just as good as they could be imported. Two years ago he had had the honour of submitting to the Postmaster-General samples of stamps which had been produced from blocks turned out on a system in which he had an interest, or of which he was to some extent the originator. Now, if these blocks could be turned out in the colony, it was a pity that the order should be sent home. He desired to ask why the Government had not given the colonial manufacturers the chance of producing the stamps here?

"Mr. Seddon said that the very high-class designs of the proposed new issue of stamps required the best skilled engraving, such as could not be obtained in the colony. After much consideration and consultation with the London Post Office authorities and experts, it was decided that the 'recess' process of printing direct from steel plates, instead of surface-printing from electrotypes, was the only one which would give satisfactory results. This was accordingly adopted, and the engraving intrusted to Messrs. Waterlow & Son, a firm of world-wide repute. On the plates being engraved they would be sent to the colony, where the stamps would be printed. An initial supply, however, of the low-value stamps would be printed in London to enable them to be put in circulation about the end of the year. When in London he went very carefully into this question, and had two sets of stamps submitted to him. He found that the electrotype would not do justice to the designs, and, seeing that the colony wished to have a set of stamps superior to any other in the world, they must have the 'recess' process. They could not get that done in the colony, and that was his reason for sending home. As far as he could he would always support colonial industries. They would have the printing of the stamps done here by their own printing office, but as regards the dies it was necessary to get them at home. They had been ordered, and would be here at the end of the year."

ST. VINCENT.—It is reported that the one shilling value has appeared in a new colour, or shade, salmon; this seems an extraordinary and altogether useless change, if the

same has really taken place. We shall be glad to see a copy of the stamp in question.

TASMANIA. — The illustrated envelope scheme, referred to in our November issue, seems to have spread to British territory, and we hear with regret that 2d. and 2½d. envelopes have been supplied to the Post Office bearing illustrations of local scenery, which, provided the authorities are pleased with the idea, will be permanent. What will become of the few thousands of envelopes, provided the authorities are *not* pleased with the idea, we are not informed. Stamp collectors will possibly be asked to settle the question, and it may be that the scheme is not formulated with entire disregard to their requirements!

ZULULAND.—The *London Gazette* contains a notice announcing that this colony, including Tongaland, has been annexed to Natal. Whether there will be a change of stamps remains to be seen, but we do not anticipate it.

EUROPE.

Beyond a projected change in the Grecian issues we do not seem to have any material addition on the Continent to chronicle this month. Even San Marino is at rest, while the upright character of greater Powers lends weight to the prevailing taste for European issues.

ROUMANIA.—In addition to the 25 bani, chronicled in our last issue, Mr. Castle has of the current set with the perforation 11½ the 1, 5, 10, and 15 bani; and, according to the *D.B.Z.*, other values are now in use with the same perforations, as follows :—

Adhesives. 1 bani, chestnut.
3 ,, red-brown.
5 ,, blue.
10 ,, emerald-green.
15 ,, rose-red.
50 ,, orange.

AMERICA.

GUATEMALA.—The *A. J. of Ph.* announces the 12 c. adhesive, 1897, overprinted "UN—CENTAVO—1898," in three lines.

Adhesive. 1 c. on 12 c., carmine; violet surcharge.

PERU.—*Le T.-P.* announces the 1 centavo "Deficit" stamp, surcharged diagonally upwards from left to right "FRANQUEO," which gives this stamp a postal use. The same label has been surcharged "Deficit," like the 5 c. and 10 c. chronicled in vol. vi. p. 298; while the 20 c. long Unpaid stamp of 1874 has been issued with a similar overprint. An entirely new issue of postage stamps is also announced to have taken place in December last.

Adhesive. 1 c., brown; black surcharge.
Unpaid Letter Stamps.
1 c., brown; surcharge "Deficit," in black.
20 c. (1874), blue ,, ,,

UNITED STATES. — The accompanying cutting from the *Chicago Tribune*, sent to us by Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer, will be read with interest :—

"Dealers in rare postage stamps and Philatelists are protesting against the issuance by the Government of the proposed series of postage stamps to commemorate the Omaha Exposition. The Postmaster-General has already selected designs for the stamps, which it is planned to place on sale on the opening day of the Omaha Exposition. Stamp collectors say the practice of printing postage stamps to commemorate events is becoming a nuisance. They point out that since the Columbian issue by the United States the practice has been adopted all over the globe, little one-horse countries issuing a set of high-priced stamps at the slightest pretext, with a view to filling their treasuries from the pockets of Philatelists who desire to keep abreast of the times.

"P. M. Wolsieffer, local Philatelist, has sent the following letter on the subject to Postmaster-General Gary :—

"Postmaster-General GARY, Washington, D.C.

"DEAR SIR,—I wish to register a protest against the issue of special commemorative stamps for the Omaha Exposition, and respectfully urge that the idea of their issue be reconsidered and abandoned.

"Since the issue of the Columbian set in 1893, or more strictly in the last few years, the custom of emitting special stamps to celebrate occasions of varying national importance has been abused, especially by minor countries that consider such issues primarily as a convenient means through which to replenish governmental exchequers by the sale of the stamps to Philatelists, that the commemorative issues have lost all charm and novelty to the Philatelist or stamp collector. Rather, the Philatelist now views special unnecessary issues with disfavour and impatience.

"By resorting to the hackneyed plan of providing a special stamp for the Omaha Exposition you will unwittingly disquiet stamp collectors, and in consequence exercise a sinister effect on the stamp business.

"Respectfully yours,
"P. M. WOLSIEFFER."

It is stated in an apparently authorized manner that "the United States Post Office

Department is preparing to issue a new set of postal cards, as they call them on the other side of the Atlantic. They are to be smaller than those now in use, a fact which, combined with greater economy in their manufacture, is expected to save the Government at least £10,000 a year. This new issue is to contain three different styles—the ordinary single card for both domestic and international use, which is $3\frac{1}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; a smaller card for domestic use only, which is $2\frac{15}{16}$ by $4\frac{15}{16}$ inches; and a double return card for both domestic and international use, which is $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. These are about a quarter of an inch narrower than the cards which are now in use. The ordinary card is to bear a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, and the single small card one of John Adams, both three-quarter face and looking to the left, surrounded by an olive wreath, and having the name on a scroll or curved tablet at the bottom. To the left of the portrait are three lines of lettering, the first being the words 'Postal Card—One cent,' the second the words 'United States' in capitals, and the third, in small Gothic characters, the words 'This side for the address only.'"

OTHER COUNTRIES.

GERMAN COLONIES.—*China.*—*Le T.-P.* announces the current adhesives and stationery of the Fatherland surcharged "China," in black, obliquely. These are said to be for use in the newly-acquired territory in Kiao-Tcheou; and from all appearances no time has been lost in the supply of postal and Philatelic requirements. It is a pity that the "mailed fist"—rampant—could not have formed the design.

Adhesives. 3 pf., brown; black surcharge.
5 ,, green ,,
10 ,, carmine ,,
20 ,, ultramarine ,,
25 ,, orange ,,
50 ,, orange-brown; black surcharge.
Post Cards. 5 pf., green ,,
5+5 ,, ,, ,,
10 ,, carmine ,,
10+10 ,, ,,

PERSIA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us specimens of the surcharges briefly mentioned last month. The overprint on the 5 kran stamp is an oblong rectangle, measuring 20×16 mm.; a horizontal line divides the rectangle, in the upper space being the Persian characters, and in the lower "1 Kr." On the 8 ch. the surcharge is of similar design, measuring 16×12 mm. From the same source we have the current set of adhesives printed in new colours, with a new design for the high values, bearing a portrait of the Shah, and printed in one colour only; the perforation remains as before, $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesives. 1 chahi, grey.
2 ,, light brown.
3 ,, mauve.
4 ,, red.
5 ,, yellow.
8 ,, orange.
10 ,, ultramarine
12 ,, rose.
16 ,, green.
1 kran, dull blue.

SPANISH COLONIES.—We illustrate the new stamps for Cuba, Philippine Islands, and Porto Rico announced last month. *Le T.-P.* gives the decree accompanying the issue, from which we learn that the stamps were put into circulation as from January 1, 1898, also that the stamps previously in use for telegraph purposes have been withdrawn.







Adhesives. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 m., pale brown.
1 c. de peso, deep violet.
2 c. ,, blue-green.
3 c. ,, blue-black.
4 c. ,, orange.
5 c. ,, rose.
6 c. ,, blue.
8 c. ,, chestnut-brown.
10 c. ,, vermilion.
15 c. ,, olive-green.
20 c. ,, carmine.
40 c. ,, lilac.
60 c. ,, black.
80 c. ,, chocolate.
1 peso, pale green.
2 ,, blue-black.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—The same list.

PORTO RICO.—The same list.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications of Philatelic matters and Publications for Review 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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SIERRA LEONE, 1884, 5s. ON 1s., GREEN.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I have perused with a considerable amount of interest the whole of the correspondence which has recently been taking place in your columns regarding the status of the above stamp, and the very feeble and somewhat contradictory attempts which have been made to elevate it to the position of a postage stamp.

When a stamp, which was in use for a few months only, and was regarded as a revenue stamp at the time of its issue in 1884, and since 1884, suddenly finds strong advocates thirteen years later to change its position from a revenue stamp to that of a postage stamp, it is a somewhat curious proceeding, and if collectors regard the claims put forward with suspicion and distrust, it is not, under the circumstances, to be wondered at.

The first question which naturally arises in one's mind is this: Why all this fuss about a stamp which does not appear in either Stanley Gibbons', Bright & Son's, or Scott's Catalogues, and which collectors, even if they remembered it, have now forgotten all about?

The reason is perfectly clear; there are some remainders of these revenue stamps to dispose of, and those who have axes of their own to grind in connection with the purchase and sale of them have been loudly proclaiming their merits as postage stamps, and with a cool assurance that all that was said about them at the time of issue—when everything was fresh in the minds of those people who were officially connected with the issue, and were supposed to know all about it—was all moonshine, and not to be regarded seriously by collectors, and why? Because it disposed of the theory that they were issued as postage stamps.

It is said there are one or two postally-used specimens in existence, and therefore they must be regarded as postage stamps; but the same may be said of the Prince of Wales' Hospital stamps, and no one seriously contends that they are, for that reason, postage stamps. The fact is, 5s. stamps never have been required at Sierra Leone for postal purposes, for the simple reason that letters or parcels requiring so high a denomination of stamp could be sent cheaper by steamer than by post.

If 5s. stamps were necessary for postal purposes in 1884, why were they not continued instead of being withdrawn?

These stamps were provisionally issued to supply a demand for 5s. revenue stamps, whilst the regular 5s. revenue stamps were being prepared, and when the latter came to hand were withdrawn. When they were withdrawn they were, instead of being burnt when the purpose for which they were issued was fulfilled, cancelled by a red bar and *given* to an official who was leaving the country.

They have been reposing in England since 1885, and I suppose it is considered an opportune moment to plant them on collectors at prices ranging from 10s. and upwards.

It is said there were forty sheets printed originally, but very few were used for any purpose, so that collectors are now asked to provide a large sum for the purchase of stamps which cost the original owner nothing. If these stamps were available for postage purposes they would never have been given away.

It has been suggested that this stamp may be considered on a par with the V.R. and 8d., orange, Great Britain, but I differ with this contention entirely, for whereas these two stamps were prepared for postal purposes, although never used as such, the 5s. Sierra Leone was issued for revenue purposes alone.

I am afraid I have trespassed too long on your valuable space with this matter, but I have done so because I think it is quite time someone spoke out openly on what I consider a very daring attempt to hoodwink collectors in buying these stamps, which never were intended to be used as postage stamps, and cannot be regarded as such now. I am, yours faithfully,

J. R. HESKETH.

BANKFIELD, ASHTON-UPON-MERSEY,
NEAR MANCHESTER, *20th December*, 1897.

[Our correspondent's views are naturally those of a collector, and are entitled as such to the careful consideration of our readers. We are anticipating further statements hereon from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co, and Mr. G. Campbell.—ED.]

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

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

Council for the Year 1897-8.

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.

W. B. Avery.	E. B. Evans.
E. D. Bacon.	D. Garth.
W. D. Beckton.	T. Wickham Jones.
R. Ehrenbach.	H. R. Oldfield.
Gordon Smith.	

The fourth meeting of the season 1897-8 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, December 3rd, 1897, at 7.45 p.m. The following members were present, viz. :—Messrs. E. B. Evans, E. D. Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, W. Silk, H. Hetley, A. R. Barrett, T. Maycock, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, B. D. Knox, J. A. Tilleard, and C. N. Biggs.

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

The Secretary read a letter from the Rev. R. T. de Cartaret, announcing his desire to resign his membership of the Society, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

Major Evans then produced for inspection his very fine collection of the stamps issued by the Confederate States Government. In passing round the stamps Major Evans gave a most interesting account of their history and use, and full particulars of the various issues and printings, and the varieties to be sought for by the collector.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, the most cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Major Evans for the very interesting explanations he had given, and for affording members attending the meeting an opportunity of inspecting his fine collection.

The fifth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, December 17th, 1897, at 7.45 p.m., when the following members were in attendance :—Messrs. M. P. Castle, R. Ehrenbach, W. B. Avery, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, E. A. Elliott, A. R. Barrett, H. Hetley, T. Maycock, W. Silk, F. Ransom, T. W. Hall, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, E. D. Bacon, B. D. Knox, 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 Dr. Emilio Diena of a copy of his recently-published work on the Stamps of Romagna was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

Letters from Mr. Norman Newton and Mr. Walter R. Burrell announcing their desire to withdraw from membership of the Society were read, and their resignations were accepted with regret.

Mr. Ehrenbach then showed his collection of the stamps of Austria, and gave a description of the several issues and types of the stamps, and much valuable information in connection with their history. The Vice-President also showed his collection, and read some notes on the Newspaper Stamps of 1867. On the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Hall, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ehrenbach and Mr. Castle for affording the members attending the meeting an opportunity of inspecting their fine collections, and for the interesting and valuable observations and notes contributed by them.

The sixth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, January 7th, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz. :—Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, T. Wickham Jones, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, C. N. Biggs, H. Hetley, T. W. Hall, T. Maycock, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, B. D. Knox, J. A. Tilleard, and Gordon Smith.

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

The Secretary reported the receipt of a communication from the Board of Inland Revenue on the subject of illustrations of stamps, and the terms on which the authorities would refrain from interfering, subject to compliance with certain regulations laid down for observance by persons proposing to issue works containing illustrations. The Secretary explained the long negotiations which had led up to the arrangements come to, and the general opinion was expressed that the decision of the Board was a very satisfactory settlement of the question, and that the thanks of the Society are due to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, for the part they have taken in bringing about a solution of the difficulties involved in the question.

Miss L. Tullis, proposed by Mr. Loveridge, and seconded by Mr. Sparrow ; and Mr. S. M. Castle, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society.

The business of the evening consisted of a display of the stamps of France by the Vice-President, who gave a very full and able description and explanation of the various issues shown. On the motion of Mr. Ehrenbach, seconded by Mr. Wickham Jones, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Castle for showing his magnificent collection of the stamps under consideration, and for the very interesting observations and explanations he had given.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

President—M. P. Castle.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.—Baron A. de Worms, *27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.*

The first meeting of the season 1897–98 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Wednesday, December 1st, at 8.15 p.m., at which ten members were present. The President took the chair. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary read letters from three members tendering their resignation, which was accepted with regret. A resolution was unanimously passed expressing the sincere sympathy of the Society with Mrs. Hastings Wright on the sad death of her husband; and the Secretary was requested to communicate the same. The programme for the session was considered, and the following syllabus was drawn up:—

Dec.	1. Arrangement of Programme.	
,,	14. Notes on Heligoland	The President.
Jan.	4 Auction of Stamps .	E. J. W. Sang.
,,	18. Display of Rare Stamps.	
Feb.	1. Notes on Unchronicled Varieties .	H. Stafford Smith.
,,	15. Auction of Stamps .	E. J. W. Sang.
Mar.	1. Notes on Cyprus, Gibraltar, and Malta . . .	The Hon. Secretary.
,,	15. Notes on Russia .	The President.
,,	29. Auction of Stamps.	E. J. W. Sang.
Apr.	12. Notes on Bavaria .	The President.
May	3. Annual General Meeting.	

The second meeting was held on Tuesday, December 14th, when five members attended. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Harold Hillman was unanimously elected a member of the Society. The President read some interesting notes on the stamps of Heligoland, which he illustrated by his splendid collection of unused and used, the latter portion being specially noteworthy, as it contained several fine specimens of every variety and shade, many of which are very rare. Mr. Stafford Smith also showed some entire original sheets of the 1875 issue. A copy of Messrs. Bright and Son's catalogue and the second and third parts of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue were accepted with best thanks as donations to the library from the two firms. The Hon. Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Wright thanking the Society for their vote of condolence.

List of Members.

E. D. Bacon.	H. Langton.
W. Balchin, Jun.	C. F. D. Marshall.
C. N. Biggs.	O. Pfenninger.
Col. A. M. Brown.	J. H. Redman.
Sir H. Bunbury, Bart.	E. J. W. Sang.
W. S. Burrows.	H. Stafford Smith.
M. P. Castle.	R. J. Thrupp.
W. H. G. Cruttwell.	A. Upton.
H. Davis.	W. T. Willett.
H. J. Gillespie.	R. J. Woodman.
J. W. Gillespie.	Baron de Worms. (Hon. President).
H. Hillman.	Baron A. de Worms.
G. G. Hodgson.	Baron P. de Worms.
W. E. Hughes.	

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

On the return of the July packets the accounts for that month were submitted without delay, and settled within the prescribed time. Sales were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
July A 1 Packet . . .	94	9	1
,, A 2 ,, . . .	96	14	10
,, B 1 ,, . . .	47	2	10
,, B 2 ,, . . .	39	0	4
Supplementary rounds of A 1 and A 2 Packets .	61	4	2

May packets are expected back from the supplementary (non-contributors) rounds very shortly.

The aggregate value of the December packets was £1972 14*s.* 10*d.*, and many rare European and Colonial stamps in good condition were offered at about half catalogue prices. Old Europeans and Africans seem to be most in demand. (It is useless to send sheets of very common stamps for circulation.) Six applications for membership have been entertained, three declined, and two resignations accepted. Total number of members to date, 321. Members who do not contribute and wish to see packets are requested to notify the Secretary, who will see their names are duly inserted on the lists. Responsible collectors should send references with their applications to prevent delay. Secretary—H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

The Collectors' Club,

351, Fourth Avenue, New York.

Board of Governors.

President—William Thorne.

Secretary—J. M. Andreini, *29, W. 75th Street.*

Seventeenth meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, December 6th, 1897.

Present: Messrs. C. Gregory, Vice-President, in the chair; Calman, Deats, Luff, Lynde, Scott, and the Secretary.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. William Herrick resigning as President of the Club, and his resignation was accepted with regret.

J. M. Andreini, *Secretary.*

Eighteenth meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, December 8th, 1897.

Present: Messrs. C. Gregory, Vice-President, in the chair; Deats, Luff, Nast, Scott, and the Secretary.

The resignation of Mr. Lynde as a member of the Board of Governors was read by the Secretary, and the same was accepted.

J. M. Andreini, *Secretary.*

Second meeting of stockholders and first annual meeting of the Club, held at the Club House, December 8th, 1897.

Vice-President Charles Gregory, as Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8.15 p.m.

To the roll call the following stockholders answered:

Andreini.	Knudson.
Bogert.	Krassa.
Bruner.	Luff.
Calman, H. L.	Meyenberg.
Deats.	Morgenthau.
Dieschbourg.	Nast.
Drew.	Parker.
George.	Perrin.
Gregory, Charles.	Rich.
Gregory, W. F.	Scott, J. W.
Hartshorne.	Scott, W. S.
Hobby.	Terrett.
Holland.	Tuttle, G. R.
Homburger.	Williams.

Reading of the minutes of previous stockholders' meeting, October 5th, 1896, was dispensed with.

The following reports of officers were accepted: — Vice-President's report, Treasurer's report, Secretary's report. Report of Chairman—Executive Committee, House Committee, Committee on Amusements, Auditing Committee, Literary Committee, and Membership Committee.

Amendments to Constitution and Bye-laws were then considered section by section, and passed as follows.

Amendments to the Constitution:

Section 8. Amended to read as follows:—

"Nominations for the office of Governor may be made two weeks before the annual meeting."

Section 9. Amended to read as follows:—

"No member shall vote for more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, and the corresponding number of candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be declared elected as Governors."

Section 12. To add to the section as follows:—

"Any member who shall have transferred his stock to another person shall be deemed to have resigned his membership, but this shall not prevent his applying for and being elected to subscribing membership in the prescribed way."

Amendments to the Bye-laws:

Section 2. Amended to read as follows:—

"The initiation fee for subscribers shall be ten dollars. The annual dues for resident subscribers shall be ten dollars, and for non-resident subscribers five dollars.

"The above initiation fee and annual dues shall be paid by all subscribers admitted after January 1st, 1898, and the annual dues above provided for shall be paid by all subscribers after October 1st, 1898."

Section 3. Amended to read as follows:—

"The annual dues for resident stockholders shall be ten dollars, and for non-resident stockholders five dollars."

The above annual dues shall be paid by stockholders admitted after January 1st, 1898, and by all stockholders after October 1st, 1898.

Section 8. Amended to read as follows:—

"All bills shall be payable on the first Monday of each month, and no member shall, at any time, allow a charge against him to exceed twenty (20) dollars. Should a charge against any member be found to exceed the prescribed limit the Chairman of the House Committee shall notify him, in writing, to that effect. Should a member refuse or neglect to pay his account on written notice of the amount due, he shall cease to have any further credit at the Club until such arrears be paid up. If he should remain in arrears sixty days after receiving notice of default, the Board of Governors may erase his name from the list of members."

The Secretary then read the resignations of Messrs. Herrick and Lynde from the Board of Governors, the Secretary stating that both resignations had been accepted by the Board.

After an explanation made by the Chairman about vacancies, the election of Governors took place, Messrs. Nast and Drew having been appointed tellers.

To serve three years to replace the outgoing class—John W. Scott, Henry L. Calman, and P. F. Bruner.

To serve two years in place of Mr. Herrick, resigned: Mr. William Thorne.

To serve one year in place of Mr. Lynde, resigned: Dr. James H. Stebbins, jun.

And the Chairman thereupon declared Messrs. Scott, J. W., Calman, H. L., Bruner, Thorne, and Stebbins duly elected Governors of the Club.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

NINETEENTH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, December 8th, 1897.

Present: Messrs. Deats (who was chosen Chairman), Bruner, Calman, Luff, Nast, Scott, and the Secretary.

Called to order at 10 o'clock p.m.

Mr. William Thorne was nominated for President, and unanimously elected.

Mr. P. F. Bruner was nominated for Vice-President, and unanimously elected.

Mr. J. W. Scott was nominated for Treasurer, and unanimously elected.

Mr. J. M. Andreini was nominated for Secretary, and unanimously elected.

Mr. John N. Luff was chosen temporary Chairman of House Committee.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

The Market.

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON.

December 14th and 15th.

	£	s.	d.
Switzerland, Zurich, 4 rappen, Type 3, with horizontal lines	12	12	0
Cape of Good Hope, triangular, 1/-, emerald-green, unused, pair	9	10	0
Swazieland, 10/-, brown, unused	3	2	6
Nevis, perf. 15, litho., 6d., grey, unused (No. 10 on sheet)	9	0	0
Ditto, same stamp, No. 11	9	0	0
St. Lucia, CA, 1/-, black on orange	4	12	6
St. Vincent, no wmk., 1/-, brown	3	17	6
Trinidad, surcharged "O.S.," ½d. to 5/- (14), a pair of each, unused	4	6	0
Turks Islands, 4 on 1/-, lilac, Type 16, unused	3	6	0
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., magenta	8	0	0
New South Wales, Laureated, 8d., orange, unused, full gum	27	10	0
New South Wales, Diadem, perf. 12, 1/-, pale red, unused, full gum	10	0	0
South Australia, London print, imperf., 1d., deep green, pair, unused (no gum)	15	15	0
Victoria, 1863-64, 1d., green, wmk. double-lined figure 4, unused (no gum)	10	0	0

January 4th and 5th, 1898.

Switzerland, Geneva, the double stamp, unused (part gum)	20	0	0
Labuan, CA sideways, 12 c., carmine, pen-marked	3	10	0
British East Africa, first issue, 1 anna, unused	3	13	0
Ditto, ditto, second issue, 4 annas, grey, a pair	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1891, hand-stamped, ½ anna, and initialled "A.D.," on 2 annas, red, unused	3	8	0
Ditto, ditto, manuscript surcharge, 1 anna, "A.B.," on 4 annas, brown, unused	4	10	0
Dominica, 1/-, mauve, pair, unused	4	12	0
Turks Islands, wmk. Star, 1/-, lilac	17	15	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY AND CO.

December 20th, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Brunswick, first issue, 3 s. gros., unused	6	15	0
India (1866), provisional, "Service, Two Annas," green surcharge, unused	4	15	0
Colombia, 1862, 20 c., red	3	5	0
Antioquia, first issue, 1 peso	3	5	0
Virgin Islands, 1/-, double outer line, unused, bluish paper	3	10	0

January 3rd, 1898.

Natal, first issue, 9d., blue, unused (no gum)	12	0	0

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

January 13th and 14th.

Great Britain, I.R. Official, £1, green	3	12	0
Mecklenburg-Schwerin, ¼ sch., red, rouletted	3	15	0
Denmark, first issue, 2 r.b.s., blue, unused	4	8	0
Servia, 1866, perf. 12, Vienna print, 10, 20, and 40 paras, unused	6	6	0
Sweden, first issue, 3 sk., green, unused (no gum)	4	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 24 sk., unused	3	3	0
Cape, triangular, 1/-, emerald-green, unused	5	10	0
Lagos, 5/-, blue, unused	6	15	0
Ditto, 10/-, puce, unused	12	15	0
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine-vermilion	6	12	6
British Guiana, 1860, perf. 15, 12 c., lilac, unused	4	2	6
Ditto, 1863, perf. 15, 6 c., blue, unused	3	5	0
St. Vincent, 1d., in red, on half of 6d., deep green	3	10	0
Tobago, 6d., orange, entire unused sheet of 60	11	0	0
Ditto, CC, 1/-, bistre; a ditto sheet	10	0	0
Turks Islands, ½d. on 4d., grey, unused, pair	3	12	6

THE

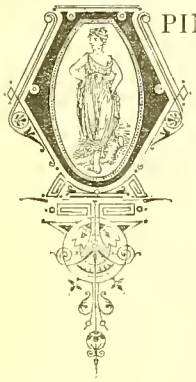
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. FEBRUARY, 1898. No. 74.

Omaha!



OPINIONS on the projected—if not finally adopted—commemorative issue for the Trans-Mississippi Exhibition are by no means unanimous in the States. While many of the leading Philatelic bodies and influential collectors have strongly protested against the proposal, others seem to favour it. Meantime over 100 designs have been submitted to the department, and it seems practically decided that there are to be but five different stamps, and that these will very likely bear reproductions of drawings designed to recall the history of the country. They are further heralded to "promise to be a valuable addition to the art treasures of the department."

Series typical of the country will be depicted, the choicest engravers will be selected, and the heart of the schoolboy will be rejoiced by the further possession of yet another series of pretty pictures!

We have no especial desire to dwell upon this issue, which is no worse or no better than other speculative and unnecessary issues; but the discussions in the States have led to the broaching of a new theory connected herewith, which seems—to use a mild term—distinctly curious. In various quarters we have seen the doctrine promulgated that the status of the country making these issues materially affects the estimation in which they should be held. No less well known a man than Mr. John Walter Scott has recently followed suit herein, and in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of this month argues:—"When a large country issues a speculative series of stamps it is for the benefit, amusement, or whatever you may call it, of its citizens. When Guatemala gets out a similar set it is with the object of 'taxing the foreigners,' on the idea that amateurs the world over must buy the stamps to make their collections complete. Jubilee stamps issued by such countries as the United States, England, France, and Germany are a positive advantage

to stamp collectors. Such stamps are advertised in every paper published, their merits are debated and their shortcomings exposed. Such advertisements as are here secured gratis would beggar the stamp dealers of the entire world."

With all due respect to our friend, "The Father of American Philately," a more pernicious and fallacious theory was never broached. Says Mr. Scott in effect—a rich or powerful body has rights to fleece and plunder that are not permissible to others of meaner estate. Our great poet has well said, "What in the captain's but a choleric word, in the soldier is flat blasphemy." The United States' Jubilee issues are but choleric, but Guatemala's are blasphemous. Where do the middle Powers come in—Canada to wit? Mr. Scott classes with the United States leading European countries, but it is patent to the world that the leading European Powers have preserved a purity for their postal issues that is in every way worthy of their influence and position. There is much in the contention urged by our contemporary that the appearance of such sets as the Columbian issues has greatly recruited the ranks of Philately. Of this there can be no doubt; but attractive and beautiful as were these stamps, they were issued in a manner that leaves no room for cavil; they were, and have been, at the disposal of all who might like to acquire them at their normal value. So great, indeed, were the quantities that a notorious attempt to unduly raise the value has been a disastrous failure. Handsome engraving and choice designs are the poppies in the Philatelic cornfields, and they are welcome where their growth is spontaneous, but an attempt to plant them in alternate furrows would destroy the value of the real golden grain!

Notes on the Danish 2 Skilling Stamp of 1851.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on February 4th, 1898,

By ROBERT EHRENBACH.

UNTIL 1849 the Postal Services of Denmark were in the hands of private individuals, who charged the public according to agreements, etc., when in May, 1849, the State decided to take it over from the parties who had hitherto been doing this probably lucrative business. Anyhow it appears so, for they had to pay indemnities to them, and in the case of the widow who ran the Copenhagen Post this indemnity seems to have been rather a stiff amount.

According to Mr. Rüse of the Copenhagen Club, who has written a little book on Danish stamps, the rates were fixed for Copenhagen at 2 sk. and at 4 sk. for the suburbs of the capital.

It was only about two years later, viz., on March 11th, 1851, that the Department issued definite Postal Regulations for the whole country. The local rate remained at 2 sk., and the 4 sk. rate was extended to the whole

country, charging 6 sk. for unfranked letters. On June 17th, 1853, they further extended these facilities to the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

The above-mentioned law had hardly been made public when the first stamps put in an appearance on April 1st, 1851. They were two values, one of 4 sk. in brown for the country rate, and a 2 sk. stamp in blue for the local rate; this latter stamp is the one which forms the subject of these few notes, and although the stamp is familiar to everyone, I will try to give a short description of it for reference purposes. The stamp is type-printed, coloured impression on medium to stout rough paper, covered with a *burelé* pattern in yellowish, more or less distinct, but never absent. Watermark small crown, gum yellow to brown, shape $17\frac{3}{4}$ mm. square, imperforate. Each stamp bears denomination of value, "2 Rigsbank Skilling," in three lines, colour on white in a double circle of thin lines (diameter $9\frac{1}{4}$ mm.). This double circle is surrounded by a larger circle (14 mm. diam.), thus forming together a circular band of solid colour, bearing the inscriptions "Kgl. Post" on the right and "Frimarke" on the left, in white capital letters. Between these inscriptions is the royal crown at the top and a posthorn at the bottom. A small "F" is visible in the middle of the posthorn, being probably the engraver's mark or a plate number. The outer space is filled up with horizontal line of colour, covered with floreate ornaments of a deeper hue.



TYPE I.



TYPE II.



TYPE III.

There are 100 stamps on the sheet, in ten rows of ten. It has been known now for some time that there were three types of the figure "2" on the sheet. They are as follows: Type I., the "2" is regular; Type II., the foot of the "2" is not joined to the base; Type III., the "2" is similar to Type I., but the left part of base seems to be joined together in an angle. Besides these types in the figure of value, I had already on comparing my stamps found minor differences of all kinds, to which, however, I attached very little importance, believing them to be merely vagaries of the printing-press.

Lately, however, I have been fortunate enough to lay my hands on an entire sheet of Government reprints of this stamp, and on closer inspection, together with our mutual friend Mr. Gordon Smith, have found that every stamp on the sheet varies to a certain extent.

In fact we have been able to spot every single copy of mine on the sheet, which means this stamp can be plated. One stamp even, which shows a big break in the right upper corner, a break which is not on the sheet referred to, and which is due probably to an accident to the plate, can be easily assigned to its correct position.

There can be no doubt that certain scratches, dots and marks, etc., are to be found on stamps of the identical position on the sheets, whether they

are of early printing or not, and that these differences are by no means accidental or casual.

It can serve no good purpose to give a tedious description of every minute variety on the sheet, and I will only try to enumerate the more salient varieties, leaving you gentlemen to seek the further details by the aid of the illustrations which will appear in the *London Philatelist*.

One can divide at once the 100 stamps in three larger groups according to the types of the figure "2," and find that of Type II. there are nine on the sheet, viz., Nos. 2, 4, 6, 10, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, whilst of Type III. there are eight or nine, viz., Nos. 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 86, 88, 90, No. 84 being rather indistinct on my sheet. No. 48 has a big flaw on the foot of the "2" so as to make it impossible to say to which lot it belongs.

All the rest are Type I. A number of stamps then show breaks of more or less importance in the outer frame—*e.g.*, on the right side in Nos. 10, 32, 60, 100; on the left side, 73, 79; and on the top they are visible in 70 and 91.

A prominent variety is No. 96. In this stamp the second "L" in "skilling" is quite distorted, having the appearance of a hook, while in No. 100 the "R" in "Rigsbank" is more like a "K" than anything else. "G's" formed as they appear in Nos. 3, 5, 53, 55 are quite characteristic of these stamps.

The scratches, caused probably by the engraver's tools, as they appear in Nos. 1, 26, 42, 43, 49, 73, 74, 93, 99, and others in a smaller degree, are different in every case, and can be found on every copy of the respective numbers. But even these scratches are by no means the only detail by which these stamps can be distinguished from one another.

I will not go too closely into the matter of minute dots, etc., in the coloured parts of the stamps, but will only further point out how much the lettering, as also the spacing between the letters, in the words "Rigsbank Skilling" varies, variations which in themselves prove the differences among the stamps.

On glancing over the numbers as found belonging to the various types of "2," and those which show similarity of some of the letters—*e.g.*, the "G" referred to above—it would at first sight appear that the plates were constructed of two halves, 1–50 and 51–100, which may be to a certain extent the correct view, but then it is difficult to take this for granted seeing that the corresponding numbers are by no means identical. In fact, in order to ascertain all these points, it would require a much larger quantity of these interesting stamps in pairs and blocks than are known or available. Stamps of the earliest period especially would be desirable—so-called *premières gravures*—because it is quite possible that the plate from which the reprints were taken in 1886 was worn to a certain extent.

There are two reprints, one on white paper like the sheet present, and one on paper covered with yellow lines, imitating the *burelé* pattern.

I quite see that the plating of these stamps can, as far as interest goes, by no means be compared to the type of hand-engraved stamps like the Sydney Views, Mauritius, and the Philippines, but they are quite on a par with the third issue of Oldenburg, which likewise show such a lot of transfer varieties, or other stamps of the same calibre; but anyhow they are, in my humble opinion, well worth a thorough inspection and study.

The Calcutta Philatelic Exhibition.

PHILATELY has been making great strides in India of late years. Societies have sprung up, journals have been published, fine collections made, and the good seed thus sown gives promise of bearing a plentiful future harvest. At the recent general meeting of the Philatelic Society of India, Mr. Stewart Wilson, the President, in his address, stated that the membership had increased to ninety-five during the last (and first) year of its existence, and added that there was every hope of future recruits from the various outlying portions of the great empire.

In addition to their labours in other directions, the Philatelic Society of India decided some months since, as announced, to hold a Philatelic Exhibition, which has now been held at Calcutta, and has proved to be a distinct success. It opened on the 24th December, was closed on Christmas and Boxing Day, and then remained open until the end of the year. The attendances appear to have been most gratifying, and the exhibits of a high quality, while the judging and general arrangements seem to have given general satisfaction. Like all promoters of exhibitions, the Calcutta Committee found they had to endure much and labour sorely. Manual labour is distinctly a component part of Exhibition Committees' duties, and a knowledge of the use of a hammer and nails is indispensable. It may be truthfully said that the value and uses of drawing-pins are firmly embedded in the mind (and body!) of every member of the Hanging Committee of the last London Philatelic Exhibition. The gentle wail of the Calcutta Executive, therefore, creates a sympathetic response on these shores! The exhibitors were not so numerous as had been expected, and as a result there was a plethora of medals; but with this exception it is apparent that the Exhibition has been most successful—a result due to the energetic labours of the Committee. We heartily congratulate our friends in India on their initial venture in the exhibition line, and wish them redoubled success at their next attempt. The judges were Messrs. Schiller, Norman, Lyall, Gordon, Jones, and Dr. Fowler Greenhill.

The donors of medals were:—

Gold medal, Mr. F. N. Schiller. Silver medals, Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, Mr. A. A. Lyall, Mr. F. N. Schiller, Mr. C. F. Larmour, Mr. E. Sassoon Gubbay, Surgeon-Major G. H. Harris, Captain C. H. I. Hopkins, Lieutenant T. E. Madden, Mr. G. Norman (2), Mr. H. Rebeiro (Bombay Philatelic Company) (4), Mr. A. G. Mackenzie, and Mr. M. F. Mehta.

The medals bear the well-known design of the Lion and Palm Tree, almost selected as that for one of the earliest series of Indian stamps, but which was discarded in favour of the Queen's Head.

We append an excerpt from the list of and commentaries on exhibits, quoted by the *Philatelic Journal of India* :—

The Exhibits.

"Sixteen classes and three special classes were selected by the Committee for exhibition. In two classes there were no exhibitors, and in one special class (3) there was no exhibit for competition. The other classes were all fairly well represented.

"The following are the classes, with the names of exhibitors in each class, and the awards made by the judges :—

Class I.—British India.

1 *Silver*, 2 *Bronze Medals.*

C. Stewart-Wilson : British India. *Silver Medal.*
F. A. Larmour : British India.

Class II.—Afghanistan and Cashmere.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

Major J. Day : Afghanistan.
E. Sassoon Gubbay : Afghanistan.
J. Cornwall : Cashmere.
} No award.

Class III.—Not more than two from the following group of Native States: Hyderabad, Travancore, Jhind (native issues only), Soruth, Bhopal.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

No exhibit.

Class IV.—Not more than two from the following group of British Indian stamps surcharged : Chamba, Faridkot, Gwalior.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

C. P. Andrews : Chamba.
J. Cornwall : Chamba. *Bronze Medal.*
C. Stewart-Wilson : Chamba and Gwalior. *Silver Medal.*

Class V.—Great Britain.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

G. Norman.
C. F. Larmour. *Silver Medal.*

Class VI.—Not more than two from the following Colonies : Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, and Ceylon.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

A. A. Lyall : Ceylon.
E Sassoon Gubbay : Gibraltar.
C. F. Larmour : Ceylon and Gibraltar. *Silver Medal.*
C. Stewart-Wilson : Ceylon and Cyprus. *Bronze Medal.*

Class VII.—Not more than three from the following : Gold Coast, Gambia, Lagos, Sierra Leone, Niger Coast, St. Helena.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

C. F. Larmour : St. Helena, Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone. *Bronze Medal.*
G. Norman : Sierra Leone and Lagos.

Class VIII.—Not more than two from the following : British Central Africa, British East Africa, British South Africa, Zanzibar.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

G. Norman : British East Africa.
C. Stewart-Wilson : British Central Africa. *Bronze Medal.*
E. Sassoon Gubbay : British East Africa.
Dr. E. Fowler Greenhill : British East Africa. *Silver Medal.*

Class IX.—Either one of the following : Mauritius, Portuguese India.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

C. F. Larmour : Mauritius. *Bronze Medal.*
A. A. Lyall : Mauritius.
F. A. Larmour : Portuguese India. *Silver Medal.*

Class X.—One from each of the following sub-classes *A* and *B* : (*A*) Barbados, Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent. (*B*) Antigua, British Honduras, Dominica, Jamaica.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

F. A. Larmour : St. Lucia and Dominica.
C. F. Larmour : Nevis and British Honduras. *Bronze Medal.*
G. Norman : St. Vincent and British Honduras.
C. Stewart-Wilson : Barbados and Antigua. *Silver Medal.*
F. N. Schiller :* St. Vincent.

CLASS XI.—Not more than two from the following: New Zealand, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

C. F. Larmour: Queensland and Victoria. *Silver Medal.*
F. A. Larmour: New Zealand and Western Australia. *Bronze Medal.*
G. Norman: Queensland and Western Australia.

CLASS XII.—Not more than two from the following: France, Spain, Italy, Greece.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

A. G. Mackenzie: France.
G. Norman: Spain. *Silver Medal.*
E. Berthoud: Italy.
D. F. Minghis: Greece. *Bronze Medal.*

CLASS XIII.—Not more than three from the following: German Empire and German State.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

F. N. Schiller: Bavaria and Oldenburg. *Silver Medal.*
G. Norman: Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Schleswig-Holstein. *Bronze Medal.*
E. Berthoud: Würtemberg.

CLASS XIV.—One from the following: British North Borneo, Labuan, Siam.

1 *Silver Medal.*

C. H. Crosse: Siam.
Dr. E. Fowler Greenhill: Siam.
C. P. Andrews: Siam.
G. Norman: Labuan. *Silver Medal.*

CLASS XV.—THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

G. Norman. *Bronze Medal.*

CLASS XVI.—Not more than two from the following:—Argentine, Chili, Peru, Bolivia.

1 *Silver*, 1 *Bronze Medal.*

No exhibit.

SPECIAL.

1. The most meritorious exhibit of rare stamps, not to exceed 30 or be less than 15 in number.

1 *Silver Medal.*

E. Sassoon Gubbay, G. Norman (*Silver Medal*), C. F. Larmour, F. T. Smale, E. Berthoud, Captain F. H. Hancock (recommended for *Bronze Medal*), W. T. Wilson.*

2. The best exhibit of 250 stamps by any collector under 16 years of age.

1 *Silver Medal.*

H. Gubbay. No award.

3. The best exhibit of telegraph stamps not to exceed 150 in number.

1 *Silver Medal.*

C. Stewart-Wilson.*

No award.

VARIETIES AND CURIOSITIES.

Wilmot Corfield.*

Defaced plates of the Cashmere stamps and perforating machine, kindly lent by the Cashmere Government, were arranged in the glass case at the south end of the room.

Exhibits marked * were not for competition.

"In Class I. Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson's exhibit contained a pair of each of the two varieties of the half anna red, numerous distinct shades of the half annas, one anna, and two annas of the 1854 issue in large blocks with margins. Several of these showed the date of transfer, one (July, 1854) being so far unchronicled. The pointed bust variety of the one anna was shown in pair, used. There was also a copy of the rare pin-perforated variety of the one anna on a portion of original. The bicoloured four anna stamp was poorly represented, there being no unused copies and no pair showing the rare "medium interval" transfer. In the unwatermarked De La Rue issue, besides pairs and blocks of imperforate proofs, the most noticeable exhibits were unused blocks of eight of the two annas, orange-buff, and the four annas on blue paper. There was also a half anna stamp with a double perforation. In the Elephant's Head series there were blocks of most values showing various plate numbers, and a curious two anna stamp of a distinctly rose colour. The retouched dies of this series were also well represented. Among the service stamps all the provisionals were shown, except the eight annas value. The small service series was

well represented chiefly in blocks and strips of various shades. The error with the wide "S" was shown in several values. Other service stamps were shown complete in a great variety of shades, and a long series of proofs, essays, and reprints followed, the exhibit closing with blocks of the current "On H. M. S." stamps showing the two types of surcharge, and with blocks of the current half anna showing the varieties with and without the so-called "Jubilee line."

Mr. F. A. Larmour contributed from his fine Indian collection six complete panes of some of the rarest stamps of this country.

In Class II. Major Day exhibited Afghanistan, though less than half the issues of this country were shown, and none of the great rarities appeared in the collection. The specimens exhibited, however, were good square-cut ones, and in the reconstruction of the plates much time, research, and trouble were evidenced.

In Class IV. Mr. Stewart-Wilson's exhibit contained a complete collection of all the ordinary varieties of Chamba and Gwalior, which we have no doubt are fully disposed of in his handbook just published.

In Class V. (Great Britain) Mr. G. Norman showed a choice small collection containing such things as the 2d. Mulreadys, the 1d. V.R., a superb unused block of four of the 10d., embossed, &c. This exhibit, however, was wanting in attention to plate numbers and other interesting details. It is in this respect that Mr. C. F. Larmour's exhibit excelled; not that he neglected rarities, as witness his 2½d., error of lettering; 6d., Plate XIII., buff; 8d., brown; 9d., hair lines; 10d., Plate II., and I.R. Officials, unused, even up to the £1 value. The attention paid to detail and to minor varieties, as well as the beautiful arrangement and display of the stamps, made this exhibit one of the treats of the show. It should prove a revelation to many of the interest in the stamps of the mother country, and incidentally of the joys of collecting perfect copies of unused stamps, and of research beyond the lines of ordinary Philately.

Class VI. was practically Ceylon, with a backing up of Gibraltar and Cyprus. Messrs. Lyall, Stewart-Wilson, and Larmour showed Ceylon. Mr. Larmour's exhibit included a complete set of all the imperforate and perforate octagonal stamps of the Star series in superb condition, a very fine unused copy of the 2d., emerald-green, CC, as well as a fine collection of all the rare surcharges, and most of the rare perforations. This exhibit was well supported by a very fine collection of Gibraltar. Mr. Lyall's show was very strong in the pence issues, the most interesting stamps being exceptionally fine copies of the 4d. and 8d., imperforate and perforated; the Star, 2d., perforated, in the rare shade of the CC stamp, and the same value with the CC watermark in the yellow-green shade. Mr. Stewart-Wilson's Ceylons were rich in shades, but deficient in several of the rarities of the pence issues. The 4d., imperforate, and the two shades of the 8d., Star, were, we noticed, conspicuous by their absence. His collection of Cyprus was, however, good, though the plate numbers were not complete. The De La Rue were almost all shown unused, and an interesting series of the rare English stamps used in Cyprus without an overprint was included.

In Class VIII. (British Central Africa, British East Africa, and Zanzibar) Dr. Fowler Greenhill showed British East Africa. This exhibit contained nearly all the extreme rarities of this country, the varieties of surcharge being quite bewildering.

In Class IX. (Mauritius and Portuguese India) Mr. C. F. Larmour and Mr. Lyall showed Mauritius, and Mr. F. A. Larmour Portuguese India. The last

was a notable exhibit, and, we venture to say, would have held its own anywhere. It included almost all the rarest stamps of this exceedingly interesting though difficult country. In such an exhibit it is difficult to specify any particular stamps, but among the extreme rarities were shown several copies of the 1½ on 20 in both types, among them being an almost unique copy of the surcharge on the 1871 issue. In the re-issue of the native series there were several specimens of the 1½ and 6 R. in Type I., with two copies of the latter without figure of value. There was also a superb strip of four of the 1½, hand-stamped, on 5 reis of the first Crown series. The early native issues of both types and in all the varieties were almost complete. The judges considered this the most meritorious exhibit in the show, and awarded to it the gold medal presented by Mr. Schiller.

"In Mr. C. F. Larmour's exhibit of Mauritius the principal feature was the large number of early issues in fine condition, and in every state of the plate, including a reconstructed plate of the 1d., Post Paid, several blocks and pairs of this, as also of the 2d., a superb copy of the 2d., large fillet, with four 6d. Britannia on entire original, and singles and pairs of the 1d. and 2d. Greek border, also on originals. The later issues of the unwatermarked and watermarked series were well represented in strips and pairs, many being unused.

"Mr. Lyall's exhibit, though small, abounded in rarities, conspicuous among them being an immaculate copy of the 2d., Post Paid, very earliest state of the plate, and of a deep blue colour. This is a record stamp in this condition. There was also to be seen a grand copy of the 2d., large fillet, in splendid condition, and with fine margins all round. The 1d. and 2d., Greek border, were shown in fine pairs, and the old issues were well represented.

"Class X. (West Indian Colonies) produced a fine display. Mr. F. A. Larmour showed St. Lucia and Dominica. The early issues of St. Lucia were fine, and both dies of the De La Rue series were complete, amongst them being the 6d., lilac, and 1s., orange, in fine condition. The two higher values of Dominican revenues on portions of original were very desirable stamps. Mr. C. F. Larmour's Nevis was a fine show of the stamps of this Colony, the first issue on blued paper being well represented, and included entire unsevered plates of all the 1d. values, engraved and lithographed, as well as such rarities as the 1s., blue-green, 6d., lithographed, and 6d., green, De La Rue, all unused. Mr. Larmour also showed British Honduras, which was practically complete, among the stamps being the 6d., rose, C C, and 6d. and 1s., C A. Mr. Stewart-Wilson's Barbados contained a wealth of shades and several great rarities, such as the ½d. and 1d., pin-perforated, unused; 6d., vermilion, imperforate; ½d. and 4d., comp. perf., unused, &c. &c. His exhibit of Antigua showed how interesting this greatly neglected Colony is. The specimens were all in good condition, and the shades were numerous. The most interesting item was, perhaps, a pair of the 1d., C A, perforated 14, used in the island of St. Kitts. Mr. Schiller's exhibit of St. Vincent, having been to a small extent supplemented from other sources, was sent in "not for competition." It was a beautiful exhibit containing a large proportion of unused specimens, used copies being in superb condition, while the rare surcharges, the 5s., Star, and the 1d., rose, compound perforated, were all there.

"Class XI. (Australian Colonies) produced three very fine exhibits. Mr. C. F. Larmour showed Victoria and Queensland. Among the former the early issues were well represented, the three values being shown in all the varieties of printing. The 2s., green, rouletted, was one of the gems of the collection. A fine pair of the 2d., lilac, perforated, without watermark, was also shown.

"Mr. F. A. Larmour ran his brother pretty close with New Zealand and Western Australia. The varieties in both were well represented, while many of the rarest stamps in New Zealand were shown.

"In Class XII. Mr. A. G. Mackenzie exhibited a good general collection of France and the general issues of French Colonies. In the 1849–50 issue the 1 fr., orange-vermilion, was shown, as also a copy of the Venetian red, though the latter appeared to be a faded copy of the carmine stamp.

"In this class Mr. Norman showed a magnificent collection of Spain, to which was deservedly awarded the silver medal. The plums of this exhibit are the 2 r., red, of the 1851 issue, unused; 2 r., blue; the error of 1852; 3 c., bronze, 1853, and in the 1865 the 12 r., bicolour, with inverted frame, perf. and imperf. The 2 r., pale red, of 1852 issue, and the 1 r., light blue, of 1854, were also shown. We also noticed a complete set, used, of the Carlist stamps, and anyone who has tried to get these stamps in used condition will fully appreciate the time and patience required to attain the result. Mr. Norman's exhibit also contained several nice strips and blocks of the earlier issues, among which was noticeable a block of four of the 10 r., green, 1851. Although this collection was by no means complete, as representing an entire country, inasmuch as several stamps were missing and no attempt made to show shades, yet on the whole it was one of the strongest exhibits shown. In the same class Mr. Berthoud's exhibit of Italy and Italian States was a good general collection complete in the early issues of Sardinia and the stamps of the Kingdom of Italy, but lacking in most of the rarities of the Italian States, which were particularly conspicuous by their absence in Tuscany, while the want of the ½ T. Arms and the ½ T. Cross went a long way towards weakening an otherwise good and attractive assortment.

"Mr. Minghis showed a fine collection of Greece, to which was awarded the bronze medal of this class.

"In Class XIII. the judges awarded the silver medal to Mr. Schiller for his exhibit of the stamps of Bavaria and Oldenburg. Both countries were practically completely represented, except the Oldenburg errors and some of the minor varieties of Bavaria, in which country, however, nearly all the issues down to 1891 were shown, both used and unused, while the collection of Oldenburgs on originals was remarkable for the fineness of the specimens.

"In Special Class I. Mr. Norman came in an easy first with his superb exhibit of thirty rarities, viz.: Cape Woodblocks, 1d., blue, error; 1d., red, unused; 4d., dark blue; double Geneva, Basle, 4 rap., horizontal lines; 4 rap., vertical lines; Geneva, envelope stamp, used as adhesive, on entire; British Guiana, circular, 12 c., blue, cut square, 1852; 4 c., blue, 1856; 4 c., magenta, 34 × 34 mm.; Provisional 1 and 2 c., border of pearls; 4 c., border of hearts; Natal, first issue, 9d., blue, unused, 39 × 31 mm.; Tobago, 6d., bistre, CA, unused; British Columbia, 2½, pink, imperf.; Tuscany, 60 crazie, 2 soldi, and 3 lire; Buenos Ayres, 4 p., red; Nova Scotia, 1s., plum; Naples, Arms; Reunion, first issue, 15 c.; Moldavia, 54 p.; Newfoundland, 1s., orange, and 1s., orange-vermilion; Turks Islands, 1s., plum; Levant, 1865, 20 kr., blue and red; Canada, 12d., black, used, all fine copies and with good margins.

"Captain Hancock and Mr. C. F. Larmour came in almost bracketed for second place for their shows of rarities, though the honours were finally awarded to Captain Hancock, whose exhibit was recommended for a bronze medal. It contained the following stamps: 1s., New Brunswick; 10 c., British Columbia; St. Christopher, 6d, olive, CA; Nevis, 4d.; Cape Woodblock, 1d., red; Montserrat, 4d., CA; St.

Vincent, 4d. on 1s.; Newfoundland, 2d., orange; Barbados, 1d. on half 5s.; Sydney View, 2d., first state of plate; Labuan, 12 c., CA sideways; Portuguese India, 20 r., Type I., small figures; British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., 1862, provisionals 1 and 2 c.; Tasmania, 1d., first issue; New South Wales, 2d., Star corners; West Australia, 6d., bronze, first issue; Naples, ½ T.; Ceylon, 8d., imperf.; India, ½ a., red, 9½ arches; Afghanistan Tablet; Cashmere, ½ anna and 1 anna, Type I., and 3 ½ a., black, on original covers; Nabha Service, 1 rupee.

"Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham, showed a magnificent exhibit of rare Mexicans on original covers, some of which had historical interest in connection with the dark days of the Republic.

"Mr. Wilmot Corfield's interesting exhibit came under no class, and was not for competition. He showed six sheets of varieties and curiosities."

Philatelic Notes.

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

BRITISH EAST AFRICAN FORGERIES (1891).

MR. W. T. WILSON sends us a kindly note of warning as regards the 1 anna on 4 annas, brown, of this issue, surcharged in manuscript and initialled "A. B." Our correspondent adds: "I have recently had offered me from Bombay several of these stamps, which are fraudulent. The surcharge is genuine, but the stamps have been used fiscally, in the usual manner. This has been partly cleaned, and they have been neatly obliterated with the proper postmark, 'Mombassa, 1891.'"

THE INDIAN STAMP SURCHARGE "O.H.S.M."

MR. WILMOT CORFIELD writes us to say in this connection he has noticed that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., state in the *Monthly Journal* that in future they will not chronicle the "O. H. S. M." stamps in their catalogue; he also notices that the same stamps were recently presented to the Tapling Collection with this supposed surcharge, and he expresses his desire to know if these stamps presented to the Museum bear surcharges that are undoubtedly believed in. We are aware that there has always been considerable doubt as regards several of the formerly-accepted variations from the normal four-letter surcharge, and that this variety has not escaped the ban of suspicion. In our olden days we had the three lower values, and fully believed in them. It is, however, the privilege of middle age to find one's early illusion dispelled, and this may possibly be the case. The acceptance of stamps by the Museum does not involve their absolute acceptance as originals, as in many instances the Tapling Collection includes reprints and forgeries, kept for the purposes of comparison and instruction to the uninitiated.

Occasional Notes.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

WE are informed by Mr. E. D. Bacon that the stamps on view at the British Museum have again been changed. Those now available for public inspection are the issues of Spain from 1850 to the end of 1872. These will be found to include a magnificent series of unused shades, and will well repay the pilgrimage to Bloomsbury. All Philatelists, however, must sigh for the day when this magnificent national bequest shall be displayed as its importance demands, and its testator intended.

RAILWAY LETTER FEE STAMPS.

MR. C. F. DENDY MARSHALL kindly sends us some additions to his paper on "Railway Letter Fee Stamps," published in the *London Philatelist* for December last.

I. ENGLAND, WALES, AND SCOTLAND.

West Lancashire Railway. These are now obsolete, having been taken over by the L. & Y. R.

New issue :—

North Pembrokeshire and Fishguard Railway.

II. IRELAND.

Finn Valley Railway Company. Prior to the amalgamation the stamp used on one section bore the above inscription, and those for the other, "Finn Valley and West Donegal Railways." There never were stamps with "West Donegal" alone.

Waterford and Central Ireland Railway. This was omitted from the list by mistake.

New issue :—

Tralee & Dingle Lt. Rly. & Tramway Company.

THE CHICAGO POST OFFICE.

IN the *Chicago Post Office Bulletin* reference is made to an article giving a list of postmasters from the beginning and the different locations of the post office since 1831, together with other interesting information. Mr. N. Bailey was the first postmaster of Chicago. He was appointed March 31, 1831, during Jackson's administration. Since then there have been twenty-four other postmasters. The post office has had sixteen different locations; it has been in a hotel, a log-cabin, a saloon, a church, a hall, etc. In 1833

the office force consisted of one; annual receipts, $80. In 1897 the office force was 2495, with yearly receipts of $5,327,369. Mail to the number of 1200 pieces was handled in 1833; in 1897, 810,400,000 was the number. In the thirties the mails were carried by stage coach and by private companies. The following quoted paragraphs are not without interest:

"In 1834 the post office was moved to Franklin and South Water Streets, and Thomas Watkins, the assistant postmaster, distinguished himself by marrying a Pottawatomie maiden. After he had obtained the consent of the bride's father, a well-known chief, he issued fifty cards of invitation, handing them out to his friends at the post office. Many persons who had failed to receive cards of invitation came to him and applied for them, so he issued a second fifty, and then a third, and finished by putting out a placard inviting the public in general. From all accounts it was a notable wedding. Not one-tenth of the guests could crowd into the house. The friends and relatives of the bride appeared and did a war-dance. They were in full paint, and carried tomahawks, bows and arrows, and scalping-knives, and a few of them had real scalps at their belts! Some of the white young men and women disguised themselves as Indians, and assisted in the dancing. At present their grandchildren will not attend an evening party unless a list of the guests is submitted in advance."

If not true, the latter portion of the foregoing paragraphs, which we borrow from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* of February 3, is distinctly well invented, but the figures revealed in the growth of the Illinois metropolis would be held far more incredible did they not rest on an assured foundation of truth. Our last visit to Chicago was during the World's Fair of 1893, and there were plenty of Indians—but of a very tame variety—and their only haunt was the Midway Pleasance!

DEATHS OF NOTED PHILATELISTS.

It is with grave regret that we have to note the passing away of several names, all well known and respected in stamp circles.

Mr. Julius Goldner, who died in Hamburg on the 14th January at the age of 56, has been known almost universally for the past quarter of a century as one of the largest importers of, and dealers in, wholesale stamps. It is safe to say that no firm has ever handled such large quantities of commoner stamps, remainders, etc.—and unfortunately we must include reprints, of which so many were made in Hamburg. Mr. Goldner bore deservedly a high character as an honourable man of business, and had a wide circle of friends.

The death of Mr. G. B. Calman is also announced at an earlier age, we believe, than that of his late competitor in Hamburg. Mr. G. B. Calman, who is brother to Mr. H. L. Calman, Vice-President of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., was also senior partner in the wholesale firm of G. B. Calman, and consequently would be unknown to many collectors. His business transactions have, however, during many years been of great magnitude, and he has been a constant visitor to this country, where his

genial manners and straightforward methods of business had made him many friends. We understand that Mr. Calman's health had been giving way during the past two years, and he was on the point of proceeding to the South of France when he succumbed to the malady from which he was suffering on the 25th January, at the early age of 38.

We regret further to have to announce the death of M. Donatis, of Paris. To the modern collector the significance of this name will not be so readily apparent, but M. Donatis will always be regarded as one of the shining lights of the early dawn of Philately. Contemporary with all the great collectors of a generation since, M. Donatis has never severed his connection with Philately. The French Society for many years met under his friendly roof, and to the last he was President of the *Société*.

M. Donatis formed a very fine collection of stamps, which was only disposed of in quite recent years to M. Dorsan Astruc, of Paris. The Philatelists of this country will cordially sympathise with their brethren in France on the removal of such a distinguished Philatelist as M. Donatis.

It appears that M. Donatis' decease took place somewhat suddenly on the 12th of last month, and that he was buried in the Church of St. Thomas d'Aquin, in Paris, on the 14th. The *Révue Philatélique Française*, to which we are indebted for these particulars, pays an affectionate homage to the memory of M. Donatis, while at the meeting of the *Société Française de Timbrologie* on the 19th January the session was suspended as a mark of respect, after adequate expression had been given to the loss that Society had experienced in the death of its President. The late M. Auguste-Armand Réné de Donato Donatis was born on the 1st May, 1817, at Boesse (Loiret), and was educated at the Orleans *Lycée*. Entering the Insurance Company of *La Providence* at an early age, he passed a long life in its service, and finally retired but a few months since with the title of Honorary Director and the great esteem of all with whom he had been thrown in contact.

M. Donatis was a collector "from the first," having commenced a general collection in 1859, which he only renounced in 1889 in order to confine his attention to the stamps of France and Colonies. His general collection was a very rich one, consisting to an equal extent of unused and used specimens, and numbering in all not less than 30,000 stamps. M. Donatis' connection with this *Société* commenced in 1875, and in 1881 he was elected President, an office that he held until January, 1898, when, owing to his resignation through failing health, he was elected Honorary President. M. Donatis has died rich in years and in the respect and veneration of his colleagues both at home and abroad.

We had thought that our budget of sorrow was surely full enough, but as we go to press we hear of another and very severe blow to Philately. It is with very great regret that we have to record the passing away of a distinguished member of the London Philatelic Society, in M. T. Notthafft, of St. Petersburg. Although he has only been able to visit London at rare intervals, M. Notthafft has made the friendship of many collectors in this country, and his loss will be deplored as well here as in Russia. M. Notthafft, who was a brilliant linguist, occupied one of the most important commercial

positions in Russia, being the head of some of the greatest banking houses. He had been intimately associated with the evolution of some of the largest financial schemes in Russia, in the conduct of which he had secured the confidence of all sections of society. It is believed that he was a *persona grata* to His Majesty the Czar of Russia.

As a Philatelist M. Notthafft stood within the select circle of the highest in his own country. His collection, which is a magnificent one, embraces almost all the great rarities, and is, perhaps, only surpassed by two others in Russia. For many years past he had been steadily acquiring the rarest and choicest stamps of each country, and he has left behind a superb collection. The death of a Philatelist of his type at a comparatively early age comes as a sad and heavy blow, and we grieve to think that so charming a companion and so brilliant a man should have passed away from us.

We have received the following additional particulars—which will be found of considerable interest—from Mr. F. Breitfuss, who was a life-long friend of Mr. Notthafft, and worthily voices the general feeling, both here and in Russia, of the loss that has been sustained:—

"It is with great grief that I have to tell you of the death of my friend Mr. Theo. Notthafft, a member of the Philatelic Society, London, which sad event occurred in Nice this year on the 8th of February. The exact cause of his death does not seem as yet to be quite certain, but it is believed he died from an intestinal disease. The general opinion is that Mr. Notthafft was overworked, and that he broke down. His positions were of great responsibility as Director of the St. Petersburg International Bank, the Russo-Chinese Bank and its branches, and of the Russian-Corean Bank. Last autumn he began to complain of his health, and developed an ever-increasing weakness; he became visibly thinner, and during my constant visits to him up to December last he was rapidly falling off in health. The doctors, however, stated that there was no organic disease, and that complete rest would probably reinstate his health, an opinion that was confirmed by a professor in Wurzburg, in Bavaria (his native country).

"He was advised to go to the Riviera to recuperate, a journey which he undertook by easy stages. His stay at Nice, however, was terribly brief, and he died rather suddenly, ostensibly from a weakness of the heart.

"Mr. Notthafft sprang from a Protestant family in Nuremberg, where his father was proprietor of a large tobacco manufactory. He was born in that city on the 28th March, 1853, hence he had not quite attained the age of 45. He commenced collecting at an early age, but his serious collecting really began after I had made his acquaintance in the year 1880. I am proud to think that Mr. Notthafft was one of my many pupils in Philately, and had always consulted me on any important point or as to the adding of any valuable stamps to his collection, and reposed implicit confidence in my judgment.

"As Mr. Notthafft was fortunately in the position to spend large sums of money on his amusements (it may be mentioned that he also collected old books, especially French editions with engravings), he succeeded, in

course of time, in making a collection which was extremely fine and valuable. His Philatelic tastes were catholic, as he took nearly everything, including stamps of the entire world, essays, telegraph stamps, Russian local stamps, used and unused, of which latter he had a complete collection arranged according to my system. Besides these he collected also the entires of every country. His collection of old German envelopes is worthily reckoned as one of the finest and most complete in the whole world. He also took particular interest in the stamps of Australia and the English Colonies; his array of the stamps of British North America was one of the finest extant, and he possessed nearly all the rarities. Indeed, he really lacked of the great rarities all round, only the 2 cents of the first issue of Hawaii, the two 'Post Office' Mauritius, and some of the rare Confederate locals, which latter did not particularly interest him.

"I lose personally in Mr. Notthafft an old and true friend, whom I have always very highly esteemed as a just and upright man. This opinion of Mr. Notthafft is universally entertained in all parts of this country, and I have never heard a single word spoken against him. He leaves to mourn his loss a widow and two children, one son and one daughter. The son is eleven years old, and inherits from his father the passion for collecting stamps, of which he already possesses a really fine lot. It is to be hoped that the fine collection of his father will be preserved for him when he grows older, as fortunately the circumstances of the family are such as will preclude any necessity to dispose of it. I am of opinion that his son will in ten years' time, when he is of age, deeply regret if the collection be now sold, as by that time it would probably be difficult to replace it at three times the expense.

"I can only say in conclusion that the early death of Mr. Notthafft is deeply regretted on all sides in St. Petersburg, and that the memory of him will not likely fade away from our minds. He was buried in Nuremberg on the 16th of February. Peace be to his ashes!"

"*THE SCHWEIZER BRIEFMARKEN ZEITUNG.*"

OUR esteemed contemporary, which is the official organ of the Union of the Philatelic Societies of Switzerland, has, for internal reasons that it is not necessary to discuss, undergone several changes latterly in its management. The important announcement is, however, now made that the editor-in-chief will be a well-known and highly respected member of the London Philatelic Society, the Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, of Lausanne. The great Philatelic knowledge acquired by the new editor, coupled with the very important collection he possesses — some of which was *en évidence* in Piccadilly last summer—renders his selection for the post an admirable one, and we may look forward to seeing an initiative in the *S.B.Z.*, which it has somewhat lacked since the departure of M. Gernandt-Roux. In co-operation with M. de Reuterskiöld will act M. P. Rosselet, of Lausanne,

and M. J. Jaquier, of Morges. The latter gentleman has until quite recently been the editor of the *Philatélic Helvétique*, a journal of considerable merit and interest, and the *tria juncta in uno* should produce a Philatelic paper worthy of a country whose stamps take such high rank in the realm of Philately.

THE FINANCIAL TROUBLES OF SAN MARINO.

"THE little Republic of San Marino is reported to be passing through an acute financial crisis, the consequence of something like an organized pillage of the National Bank. The chief cashier has committed suicide after embezzling a large sum of money, and several of the directors are said to have been arrested. These events will be a heavy blow, not only to the financial stability of the Republic, but to its moral sense, for the San Marinese have ever been as remarkable for their sturdy rectitude as for their patriotic devotion. That a State which has had the courage to reject all the alluring offers of those who would have converted the rocky heights of its simple capital into a gaudy Monaco, crowded with pleasure-seekers, bringing wealth in their train, should fall a victim to over-confidence in its own trusted citizens, is grievous indeed." Thus far the *Standard* in a recent issue. The "courage to reject alluring offers" has not always been the dominant feature of the San Marino Republic—at least, not of its post office officials, as its issues are a byword among those of the continent of Europe. Superfluous surcharges—mostly in the hands of one dealer—and redundant issues of high-value unpaid letter stamps have sunk San Marino very low in the estimation of collectors. It is to be hoped that the defalcation will not have to be covered by a speculative—it can hardly be called Jubilee—series!

PRINCE OF WALES'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

AT the first Annual Meeting of the Council of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London held on February 3, at Marlborough House, the Prince of Wales presided.

After other business had been proceeded with, the Bishop of London said that one of the most useful elements in the work done by the Committee throughout the year had been the sale of Jubilee Hospital Stamps, and it was hoped that a considerable portion, at any rate, of the amount received this year from that source might in future be counted upon as an annual subscription. The provision of the albums and stamps had proved a ready means for collecting subscriptions, and it was believed that there were a number of people who would take advantage of the opportunity thus afforded them of becoming subscribers to the Hospitals. He had, therefore, much pleasure in moving the following resolution:—"That the best thanks of the Council are hereby given to those who have successfully arranged the sale of the Jubilee Hospital Stamps, and that Sir Henry Burdett, in conjunction with the

Executive Committee, be requested to undertake the arrangements connected with the sale of the stamps for the present year, and be authorised to act on behalf of the Council in this respect."

The Duke of Norfolk seconded the resolution, and the Prince of Wales said: "Before putting that resolution, I must endorse what fell from the lips of the Bishop of London and the Duke of Norfolk with regard to the unwearying labour and attention Sir Henry Burdett has given to this matter, which has been so far successful, and will, I hope, continue to be so. I hope also that, in accordance with the unanimous wish of the Council, he will, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, continue to undertake these duties, so that the Hospital Stamps may become an annual source of revenue." The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

A NATIONAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION FOR IRELAND.

As we go to press we are in receipt of the following interesting communication, to which we hope to refer further on a future occasion. The announcement will be received with equal gratification on both sides of St. George's Channel, and the best wishes—not uncoupled with assistance—will go out to Mr. W. R. Joynt in his labour of love—the proper classification of the collection so generously bequeathed to the Irish nation by the late Duke of Leinster.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

Dear Sir,—I am sure you will be very pleased to hear that the stamp collection formed by His Grace the late Duke of Leinster is, in accordance with his directions, to be handed over to the National Museum here for permanent exhibition. This will not surprise those who had the pleasure of knowing the late duke, and the great interest which he took in everything connected with Leinster House and its surroundings. Leinster House, Kildare Street, formerly the Dublin residence of the Leinster family, is now the headquarters of the Royal Dublin Society—so well known in connection with the Dublin Horse Shows—and a portion of it is occupied by the offices of the Director of the Science and Art Museum. During his lifetime the duke was not only an active member of the Society, but took a deep interest in the plans for and erection of the magnificent buildings, the new Science and Art Museum and National Library, which now surround Leinster House. Few departments of the Museum have not at one time or another been enriched by gifts from him, and the collection of Japanese-lacquered articles—one of the finest in the kingdom—was practically completed by his generosity.

The Executors, Lord Frederick Fitzgerald and Mr. C. R. Hamilton, have entrusted me with the arrangement of the collection of stamps thus bequeathed by His Grace the late Duke of Leinster, and Colonel Plunkett, the Director of the Museum, has promised to make the necessary arrangements for its exhibition, so that it may be readily accessible and at the same time properly protected. The collection is contained in five volumes: two of postage stamps, one of fiscals, one of English entires, and one of essays and proofs. The stamp albums are Lalliers, 1870 edition, and contain *no stamps issued subsequent to that date.* The duke's intention was to have

one album for unused and the other for used copies; but he completed the unused or principal collection with fine used specimens when unused ones were unobtainable.

Unfortunately, owing to the different ideas of collecting prevalent at the time this collection was made, differences of paper, watermark, perforation, and shade are ignored; but the second album will in some measure enable me to make the exhibit more in conformity with modern ideas. All the stamps are pasted down, and the amalgamation and proper arrangement will necessarily take some time. The countries which suffer most in a one-copy collection are the British Colonies, and it appears a great pity, now that such a magnificent foundation has been acquired, not to try to complete it. The intention at first was to show the collection exactly as it was made by the duke; but the executors, recognising that when exhibited it will not only be a lasting monument to the duke's public spirit, but will have an increased value, if complete, for reference purposes, have agreed to my suggestion that any stamps received by way of gift may be added to it, and the names of the donors inscribed on the exhibit. I propose, consequently, in the arrangement to try to bring Great Britain down to the present time, and complete all other countries down at all events to 1870. I would appeal to my fellow-Philatelists to aid me in this work. Great Britain unused, all issues, and early New South Wales are particularly required. Should any collectors feel disposed to help, I will only be too pleased to give every information about any country or countries desired. The gift of the Tapling Collection to the British Museum, and the great interest which its exhibition has aroused, have, I think, in a great measure been responsible for the increased favour accorded to Philately of late years, and I look to the establishment of a second national collection in Dublin, confident that the results will be equally gratifying.

The exhibit will be known as "The Duke of Leinster's Stamp Collection."

Any communication to me, care of Colonel Plunkett, Director Science and Art Museum, Kildare Street, or to 66, Northumberland Road, Dublin, will receive every attention from

Yours very sincerely,

WILLIAM R. JOYNT.

I annex a list of some of the stamps, so that a general idea may be obtained of the quality of the collection. The postage stamps number about 5500; fiscals, entires, essays, etc., 5000; the value at present market prices being about £900.

All *unused* except those with star.

GREAT BRITAIN.—V.R., 6d. and 10d., oct.

BADEN.—First and second issues, complete.

DENMARK.—2 Rigs. b. s.

SPAIN.—Madrid, 1 and 3 c.
2 reales of 1852 and of 1853.

HANOVER.—1856, large network, complete.

NAPLES.—* Cross and Arms.

LUXEMBURG.—1852, 10 c., greenish black.

OLDENBURG.—1861, complete; 1860, ⅓, black on green.

SWEDEN.—First and second issues, complete.

NORWAY.—1855, 4 sk.

SWITZERLAND—* Double Geneva.
* Winterthur.
* Basle.

WURTEMBERG.—1851, 1 kr., 18 kr.
18 kr., without silk thread.
18 kr., perf. 10.

CEYLON.—1s. 9d., oct.
* 9d. and 1s. 9d., oct.

INDIA.—2 annas, short service, surcharge in green.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Surcharged issue, complete.

CAPE.—1d. and 4d., wood blocks.
* 3 1d., wood blocks; * 1 4d., ditto.

MAURITIUS.—* 1d., Post Paid, deep colour, eng., very fine.
* 2d. ,, ,, ,,
* 4d., surcharge in circle.

N. S. Wales.—* 3 1d. Sydneys.
* 5 2d. ,,
* 2 3d. ,,
* 4 8d., laureated.
* 5d. and 8d. (2), diadem, imp.

West Australia.—* 6d., oct., rouletted, magnificent.

Philippine Is.—1854, 10 c., pale rose.
,, 1 real, blue.
,, * 5 c., orange, fine lines.
,, * 10 c., carmine.
,, * 1 c., blue.
,, * 2 c., green.

Queensland.—2d., 3d., 1s., no wmk.
4d., 5s. ,,

Bolivia.—500, black, 9 stars.

Brazil —180, 300, * 600, slanting.
280 and 430, perforated.

N. Brunswick.—6d., * 1s.

Canada.—½d., imperf. and perf.
6d., imperf. ; * 6d., perf.

United States.—Post Office, 5 cents.
* ,, ,,
1851, 5 cents, brown.
1856, 5 cents, sienna.
10, 12, 24, 30, 90.

British Guiana.—* 1851, 1 and 4 cents.
* 1856, 4, black on rose.
* 1862, Prov., 2 cents (3).
* ,, 1 cent (1).
* ,, 4 cents (2).

Mexico.—3 centavos, eagle.

Nova Scotia.—3 trian. and 6d. trian., * 1s. 2d.

Newfoundland.—Orange-ver., 2d., 4d., 6d., 8d.
Carmine-ver., 2d., 4d., 6d., 6½d., 8d., 1s.

Nevis.—Engraved, 1d., 4d., 6d., 1s., rose ; 4d., orange.

St. Lucia.—Star, red, blue, and green.

New Zealand.—1s., pelure.

AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

THE "Record Reign" stamps of New South Wales have been re-engraved ; this time the dies are of steel, in the first instance they were of wood. The new types of the 1d. and 2½d. have been issued, and the 2d. will follow shortly. The chief points of difference in the two issued values are—1d., first type : the first pearl of the crown (that on the left side) is imperfectly formed ; the shading between the arabesques and the shield is very much lighter in the outer than in the inner line ; the Maltese cross on the left side of the crown is very roughly formed ; and the lines of shading on the value figures are thick and irregular. 1d., second type : the first pearl of the crown is a complete circle ; the Maltese cross on the left side of the crown is more distinct ; the outer margin of shading between the arabesques and the shield is much heavier than in the first type ; and the lines of shading on the value figures are thin and regular. 2½d., first type : the decorative star on the Queen's breast has twelve lines of shading ; the nostril has a downward droop, and the pupil of the eye is unshaded. 2½d., second type : the decorative star has sixteen lines of shading ; the nostril is almost level, and the pupil of the eye is shaded. In addition to these prominent differences there are many slighter variations, but those mentioned are sufficient to enable the collector to distinguish between the types. The colours are rather deeper than in the first prints.

* * * * * *

The Postmaster-General of New South Wales has under consideration the advisability of bringing out a series of illustrated stamped envelopes or post cards, similar in purpose to those recently issued by Tasmania and New Zealand, viz., to advertise the scenery of the colony. If the plan is carried to an issue, there will be no inducement for speculation in the way of limited

period of validity or number issued, but they will be available to the full extent of the demand. There are many beautiful spots in the colony that are little known, even to some of the residents, and the dissemination of pictorial information by means of postal stationery will go far to induce visitors to extend their journeys into regions hitherto unexplored by tourists. The Philatelic aspect of the question is hardly worth considering. So few nowadays trouble themselves to collect cards and envelopes, and the object being not one of exploitation as regards collectors, a denunciation by the S. S. S. S. (which may be regarded as a foregone conclusion) will probably clear the ground for collectors, and leave the advertising and souvenir element to work out the desired result.

Reviews.

THE BRITISH INDIAN SURCHARGED STAMPS.



HE welcome awakening of Philatelic instincts in India, elsewhere alluded to in this issue, is assuredly to be associated with the publication of such works as that under review. The name of Mr. Stewart-Wilson deservedly ranks high in Indian stamp circles, seeing that he is President of the Philatelic Society of India, while a perusal of this volume at once indicates that the position is one that is eminently his due in virtue of his acquirements. The whole of the surcharged Native States Stamps are to be dealt with, and this instalment embraces the issues of Chamba, Faridkot, and Gwalior. In the general remarks that precede the chapter devoted to each State Mr. Stewart-Wilson gives the history of the origin of these stamps, the special conventions and other official documents relating thereto being given in an appendix. The author justly points out that while these stamps have not a universal franking power they cannot be regarded as local stamps. "They are available over an area vastly exceeding that of the State issuing them, and yet their use is restricted by the fact that they are not available for prepayment of postage on postal articles unless they are intended for delivery at a Post Office of the State itself, or *at a British India Post Office.*" The italics are ours, but it will be seen that they have—even with this restriction—a wide area of distribution; a look at the map will show that "from Chitral to Tuticorin and Kelat to Kengtung" is indeed a far cry. Mr. Wilson claims that these stamps have at least as strong a claim on Philately as those of the Native Protectorate States of the Malay Peninsula—a claim that we may readily concede—while demurring to such being a concession of more than faint praise. The author then

* *British Indian Adhesive Stamps Surcharged for Native States: Part I.*, by C. STEWART-WILSON. Printed for the Society by B. L. Chakravardi, at the New School Book Press, Calcutta, 1897.

explains the methods under which the surcharging is effected—at Calcutta —and says that all work done by human beings is liable to a want of accuracy, especially in the case of Orientals. An examination of the carefully tabulated list of the known varieties of each country more than vindicates the truth of this observation—and invites as a preferable phrase —an absence of all accuracy; *e.g.*:—

CHAMBA.	
Ordinary Stamps	15 varieties.
Errors	117 „
FARIDKOT.	
Ordinary Stamps	17 „
Errors	54 „
GWALIOR.	
Ordinary Stamps	59 „
Errors	72 „

In the last-named the ordinary stamps include minute varieties of the native characters, which Mr. Stewart-Wilson indicates with clearness and ability, and therefore some idea of the difficulty in forming a complete collection himself may be gathered. The choice of an area of collecting is nowadays so wide, and the unsatisfactory guarantee as to value or rarity denoted by a surcharge is so generally accepted, that we fear he has a Sisyphean task in making these native stamps "fashionable." None the less the thanks of the Philatelic community are justly due to Mr. Wilson for the immense trouble he has taken in producing this record of these surcharged stamps. The work throughout—whatever may be the intrinsic merits of the stamps or the cause of their fatal inaccuracy of production—is one that redounds to the credit of the author, and is in every way representative of the best phases of latter-day Philately. The book affords interesting reading throughout, the information is lucidly and carefully set forth, and it is well printed and beautifully illustrated by photo-etchings of all the types, done at the Survey of India Offices at Calcutta. We congratulate Mr. Stewart-Wilson and the Philatelic Society of India on the production of so handsome a work, and hope that its author's purpose of rehabilitating these stamps may be effected.

THE FESTIVAL BOOK OF THE BERLIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.*

There is no Philatelic Society on the Continent whose members have produced such constant and excellent work as the members of this club, and the writer of these lines, who is one of the oldest members thereof, feels a wholesome glow of pleasure in the examination of this sumptuous

* *Festival Book in celebration of the 10th year's existence of the Berlin Philatelic Club.* Edited in the name of the club by H. FRAENKEL, Dr. F. KALCKHOFF, C. LINDENBERG, and P. OHRT. Berlin, January, 1898.

production. This very appropriate method of celebrating its tenth year of existence had perforce long been known to its members; but we venture to say that both they and the outside world hardly anticipated the appearance of a volume of such style and importance. Issued in similar size to the productions of the London Society, this work consists of nearly 300 pages of special articles printed and produced in a superlative manner, the illustrations being copious and excellent. Beyond these there are six full-page illustrations of the stamps, printed or produced by photolithography, which have certainly never yet been excelled in their clearness, and reflect the greatest credit on their producer—probably Mr. H. Krötzsch, of Leipsic. It is beyond our limits of space to exhaustively examine the several articles, all of which have their several points of excellence. Without in any way detracting from the value of those not cited, we might mention some of those as emanating from gentlemen known in Philatelic circles here. Dr. E. Diena, an article on the 1 baj. of the Roman States; Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, on "Blueing by the Gum"; M. J. B. Moens, on the Dutch Essays; Judge Lindenberg, on the Envelopes of British India; Herr H. Fraenkel and Herr O. Wassermann, on the Roumanian Issues of 1866-72. Mr. Fraenkel scientifically and pleasantly corrects recent articles on these stamps, and clearly showing (aided by the aforesaid illustrations) the method of reproduction in groups or blocks, rightly demolishes any ground to consider these stamps as "types." Herr P. Ohrt, on the $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ sch. of Hamburg (1864); Mr. M. P. Castle, on the Rarer Stamps of Great Britain; Herr L. Berger, on the Stamps of Portugal, 1853-1876; Dr. E. von Bochman, on the Swiss Silk Threads, and a variety of other interesting articles by well-known writers. Detailed criticism is in such a case uncalled for and would be invidious, but we cannot refrain from expressing our high appreciation of the Philatelic value of the work of Messrs. Fraenkel and O. Wassermann and Judge Lindenberg. Dr. Bochman has also in his laborious undertaking of the examination of thousands of Swiss "threads" come very near to the true grouping of these stamps, and notably so in his three principal divisions. Mr. Berger's essay is interesting, but we cannot agree with him in several of his deductions; *e.g.*, we do not know of any second type of the 25 Dona Maria; he omits due descriptions of the salient differences between the reprints and the originals of Issue I.; he ignores the rarer type of the 25 reis of the second issue; he only acknowledges five types of the 5 reis of the same issue; and in the sixth issue he makes no mention of the real varieties of type. We hope when time allows to go further into the matter. Meanwhile we congratulate the club on the success of their Festival Book, and hope that on their twentieth year they may even do better—and we "be there to see."

THE STAMPS OF FRANCE.*

Nothing succeeds like success, and the French stamps are *au comble de bonheur* to-day. It is therefore a fitting time to accentuate their position and values for the benefit, or otherwise, of the public. With this view Messrs. Gelli and Tani, of Brussels, have just issued an extremely neat little catalogue of the stamps of France and Colonies. In the preface to the work the authors—who are so generally and deservedly respected as to give authority to their statement—write as follows:—"A large number of our prices will cause collectors to cry out. Nevertheless, we contend that the rise is in no sense exaggerated. It is common knowledge that for several years unused stamps have become more and more affected by Philatelists; it was therefore easy to foresee that certain French stamps, especially in the earlier issues, would inevitably, on account of their rarity, augment in the same proportion as those of other European States that have increased tenfold of late years."

There is certainly a substantial increment in the prices; but there is much reason in the authors' remarks, and this little book will be found a useful adjunct to the student of French and Colonial stamps from Alsace-Lorraine to Zanzibar. We should add that the work is thoroughly illustrated, clearly printed, and published at a nominal price.

THE STAMPS OF FRANCE.†

Charming and interesting as are the stamps of this country, and prominent as the French School of Philately has always shown itself, it is passing strange that almost half a century should have intervened between the dates of the first issue and the appearance of a complete history of the stamps of France. Having regard to the rapidly rising tide of favour for these stamps, Mr. Marconnet's book is especially welcome, and the importance of its subject is vindicated both by the bulk of its contents and the knowledge of the subject displayed by the author. As stated in the preface, contributed by Dr. Legrand, the author is no novice, having gained the gold medal at the Exposition du Livre, being the possessor of a fine collection, and the Secretary of the Philatelic Society of Nancy—one of the most advanced Philatelic sections in France. A perusal of the work amply bears out the Doctor's remarks as to the enormous amount of work involved in the search for and examination of the numerous official acts and documents that form so important a feature of the work. The volume consists of some four hundred pages quarto, the *facsimile* illustrations, over five hundred in number and of fair quality, being contained in a supplement, and is divided into fourteen

* *Illustrated Catalogue of the Stamps of France and its Colonies.* Gelli and Tani, 10, Rue des Fripiers, Brussels.

† *The Postal Vignettes of France and its Colonies* from January 1st, 1849, to July 1st, 1897, with illustrated supplement, by F. Marconnet. Imprimerie Louis Kreis, Rue Saint Georges 51, Nancy.

divisions. The first two parts treat of the general issues, and although some eighty pages are devoted hereto, there are points which might well be amplified. We refer notably to the shades of some of the issues, the question of the reprints, and the *têtes-bêche*, although the chapter devoted to the latter contains much fresh food for reflection—notably as to their *raison d'être*. On the contrary, there is much that is new and valuable. Amongst many points lucidly dealt with, we would cite—the types and varieties of the Bordeaux Issue (1870); the types of the 1876 issue; the unofficial perforations, and the postal history during the war of 1870, and the Commune of the following year. Sections three to seven deal respectively with journal and telegraph stamps, post cards, pneumatic cards, and official franking. Part eight, dealing with the Alsace-Lorraine issue, as might be expected, is full of interest, and the question of the postmarks, that have here an abiding historical interest, is exhaustively considered and illustrated. Parts nine, ten, and eleven treat of French Post Offices in the Levant and elsewhere, and the remaining two sections—constituting about half the book—are devoted to the numerous issues of the French Colonial system. Needless to say these stamps are described in an interesting and comprehensive manner, but even here the learned author will forgive us for suggesting that a subsequent edition will go further. The inference is one that is almost palpable in all cases of the *first* history of a country's stamps, and in the case of such a voluminous series as those under review it is inevitable. M. Marconnet has performed a signal service to Philately in the preparation and production of this book, which at once occupies the vacant niche as the standard work in France and its Colonies. We cordially welcome the advent to Philatelic literature of men who devote, ungrudgingly, their time and abilities for the benefit of the fraternity, and we heartily congratulate both M. Marconnet upon his splendid performance, and our neighbours across the Channel in having at last produced a record of the French stamps that will rank among the classics of Philately.

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.

BARBADOS.—The design of the series of stamps chronicled last month is illustrated; the size of the stamp represented may, at least be said to be "value for money."



CANADA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us four more values of the new set.

The *A. J. of Ph.* adds the 1 c. post card with the new stamp.

Adhesives. 1 cent, bluish green.
3 cents, lake-red.
8 ,, deep orange.
10 ,, violet-brown.
Post Card. 1 c., blue, green, and black.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—We are indebted to Lieut. Raby for a specimen of the two-penny stamp, the colour of which has been changed from ochre to brown, in a shade which might be termed chocolate-brown. This change has no doubt been found necessary to avoid confusion with the 1s., ochre-brown.

Adhesive. 2d., brown.

HONG KONG.—The supply of the two dollars Fiscal stamp which we chronicled in November last overprinted "One Dollar" was, according to the *M. J.*, exhausted by this provisional, and a fresh supply has been printed in pale green, which has also received the provisional surcharge illustrated in our issue of December, 1897. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a pair of these stamps with a suggested variety in the word "ONE" of the English surcharge, the "N" being of a smaller fount; but we suggest, after careful examination, that the variety is due to defective type only, the lower part of the letter "N" having become worn, or perhaps broken off.

The *M. J.* gives the numbers of these stamps issued as follows:—39 sheets (9360 stamps) of the sage-green variety, and, up to the present, 15 sheets (3600) of the pale green.

Stamp Duty Stamp.
$2, pale green; wmk. Cr. CC; perf. 14.
Postage Duty Stamp.
One dollar, pale green; wmk. Cr. CC; perf. 14.

INDIA.—There is likely to be a change in the current 1 rupee stamp. The *I. B. J.* states that this value has been extensively forged, and hence it is proposed to adopt the design of the higher values for the 1 rupee stamp also. This is one of the last stamps of which we should have expected such news, as not only is it bi-coloured, but it is also fugitive if soaked in water.

Mr. Wilmot Corfield kindly writes: "I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the following minor changes in Indian stamps, which I have not seen referred to in the Press:—

"The ½ anna now has a line (called here the Jubilee line) at the edge of the pane.

"The 3 annas now is found in several distinct shades of orange and orange-red.

"The 1 anna is now of a much redder shade of purple-brown than formerly, and its lines are not so clear as they were.

"The surcharge 'On H.M.S.' on the service stamps is changed. I annex specimens. The new surcharge is coarser than the old. The new surcharge is much heavier, the strokes being almost all of even thickness, almost meeting at the bases of the letters; the fount otherwise appears the same."

MAURITIUS.—The *Philatelic Record* has received the 1 cent value in the Arms type, bicoloured, with wmk. Cr. CA; perf. 14.

Adhesive. 1 c., lilac and blue.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Our illustrations are those of the stamps described last month.





NEW SOUTH WALES.—We learn from *Le T.-P.* that the issue of a 1½d. stamp will also take place shortly in this colony.

We are indebted to Messrs. Nicholl and Smythe for the following excerpt from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of January 17th. We, however, entirely disbelieve the "facts" in the sentence that we have queried:—

"POSTAL LETTER ENVELOPES FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES.—The Postmaster-General has under consideration the question of adapting an idea which was acted upon in Tasmania recently in regard to utilising stamped envelopes issued by the Postal Department for advertising purposes. In the case of Tasmania a limited number of envelopes impressed with stamps were issued, whereon had been skilfully lithographed representations of some of the features of the tourist resorts of that colony. These little sketches appeared on the front of the envelopes, and they had been executed in such a manner that it was hoped their circulation in the various colonies would lead to a large increase in the tourist traffic to the sanatorium of the colonies. But unfortunately nearly the whole of the issue fell into the hands of Philatelists, who intend to hold them until such time as, being regarded as a great curiosity, they would sell at an enormous advance on what is technically known as face value (?). Mr. Cook has not yet finally decided upon the form the envelopes he proposes to issue shall take, but he has resolved that the conditions connected with the issue of them shall be such as to forbid the possibility of the whole of them falling into the hands of mercenary stamp collectors. Mr. Cook thinks that whilst it is a good idea to have representations of scenery upon the envelopes, some other method might be adopted for presenting the attractions of the colony before people who live in other lands. He thinks, for instance, that a few telling figures might be put upon the envelopes illustrative of the operations of the savings banks and other institutions, whose success depends upon the prosperity of the people generally."

N. S. WALES.—The designs of the current 1d. and 2½d. have been somewhat altered (see Occasional Notes).

NEW ZEALAND.—By degrees we are approaching the completion of the set of stamps which is to be "superior to any other in the world." The *Australian Philatelist* states that the stamps were despatched by the R.M.S. *Gothic* in November last, and were due in the colony on December 14th. The current halfpenny stamp will appear with the new series printed in green, replacing the present black stamp. Pictorial post cards also have been sent out from London of 1d. and 1½d. values, the first printing of which numbers 250,000. The new stamps are described as depicting colonial scenery, such as sounds, geysers, and lakes. No doubt in addition to these views the issue will also be representative of colonial pounds, shillings, and pence.

SARAWAK.—We are indebted to some unknown correspondent for specimens of two more new values in the 1888 type; these are:—

Adhesives. 16 c., green and orange.
32 c. ,, ,, black.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Negri Sembilan.*—The following stamps are noted by *Le T.-P.* as really being in use now.

Adhesives. 5 c., lilac and ochre.
10 c. ,, orange.
20 c., green and olive.

Selangor.—The *M. J.* has received the following stamps with wmk. Cr. and CC.

Adhesives. $2, green and carmine.
$3 ,, mustard.

EUROPE.

GREECE.—From a correspondent at Athens we learn that the Olympian Games set of stamps is to be used up entirely, it having been decided not to sell any remainders to dealers. The five lower values are already exhausted, and are replaced by the old Athens issue. Proposals for an entirely new issue are under consideration by the

authorities, but as yet nothing definite has been decided upon.

ICELAND.—From the *Philatelic Record* we gather the following particulars of some provisional stamps which have been issued. The stock of 3 aur stamps having run short, the 5 aur stamp was overprinted "Prio" in black, and figure "3" in red underneath, 8600 specimens being issued on November 1st last. On November 3rd, business being brisk, a further lot of 6000 5 aur stamps were surcharged with the word "Prio" alone, there being two varieties of the surcharge, one small and one large.

Adhesives. 3 aur on 5 aur, black and red surcharge.
,, black surcharge.

SWEDEN.—Mr. H. Buckley writes to correct our announcement (Sept., 1897) that the 30 öre stamp had changed to yellow. This stamp is still in use in the brown colour.

SWITZERLAND.—We are informed that a change is contemplated in the 5, 25, and 50 centime stamps, in order that these values may correspond to the recently enacted provisions of the Postal Union Convention.

AMERICA.

COLOMBIA. — *Panama.* — A provisional Registration stamp was in use at Colon during some days of November last. It was formed, we learn from the *M. J.*, by surcharging the ordinary 10 c. orange stamp "AR—COLON—COLOMBIA" in three lines in black.

Registration Stamp. 10 c., orange; black surcharge.

The *A. J. of Ph.* states: "It would appear that the entire set of the current issue is undergoing a change of colour, as the 20 c. has now also been shown to us in a new shade, and on a different variety of paper." The following are two changes chronicled by our contemporary.

Adhesives. 5 c, red-brown on *salmon.*
20 c. ,, ,, *greenish blue.*

PERU.—We have received from Messrs. Williams & Co. a specimen of the Deficit stamp chronicled in our last issue; as also specimens of the "entirely new issue" which we referred to. These we find were issued on December 31st to commemorate the opening of the new Post Office building in Lima, and, to all appearances, are a speculative and unnecessary issue. In addition to the above, from the same source we have a series of seven post cards, all apparently commemorative of the event spoken of. For the present our chronicle is withheld.

REPUBLIC OF CENTRAL AMERICA.—The firstfruits of the Seebeck crop is to hand. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write: "The Republics of Nicaragua and Salvador have become federated under the title of the Greater Republic of Central America" (this we described in our October, 1897, issue, page 298); "but the two states above named have issued separate sets of postage stamps and stationery." We do not intend to weary our readers with a description or list of these stamps. Mr. Seebeck states that these are the last that will be supplied under his contract, but we thought this took place some time back? Probably the two sets mentioned are the *very* last; we hope they are, anyway, and that there will be no very last last! issues to chronicle.

UNITED STATES.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the 1 cent stamp printed in dark yellow-green, to comply with the new Postal Union regulations.

Adhesive. 1 c., dark yellow-green.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

PERSIA.—We illustrate the provisional stamps chronicled last month.





SAMOA.—The *M. J.* has received the 2½d., perf. 11, and the 6d. with the same perforation, but in a new colour. The *A. J. of Ph.* announces a change in the colour of the 2d. value, with the same perforation, 11.

Adhesives. 2d., bright yellow.
2½d., rose.
6d., marone.

SURINAM.—*Le T.-P.* chronicles 20 c. and 25 c. stamps of the Unpaid series, without the word "Cent." In the sheet of 100 stamps there are 14 of Type I., 1 of Type II., and 85 of Type III

Unpaid Letter Stamps. 20 cent, lilac and black.
25 ,, ,, ,,

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications of Philatelic matters and Publications for Review 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 STAMPS OF GRENADA.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I have only just received my December number of the *London Philatelist*, it having been forwarded to me from place to place. In it I find a letter from Mr. Bacon, complaining that I have ascribed to him a more important part in the editorship of the book on the "Stamps of the British West Indies" than he possesses. I regret exceedingly if I have in any way wounded his susceptibility, and quite agree with your footnote, viz.: "That Mr. Bacon's philatelic reputation hardly needed his modest disclaimer."

My few remarks, which were read before the London Philatelic Society, were never meant to be an authentic exposition of affairs; they were simply the result of my own investigations; they were meant to form a basis for some more competent person than myself to write up an article on the stamps of Grenada, and Mr. Bacon was the gentleman I had in view. I fear it was the fact of his name running through my thoughts while I was writing my article that made me ascribe the whole work to him alone, instead of to several members of the London Philatelic Society.

The early issues of Grenada form a very interesting study. Mr. Hausburg does not agree with my classification, and if I remember rightly, he classes them according to the number of perforations.

In the December and January numbers of the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* has appeared a very able article on these issues by Mr. Mercer. He classes them chiefly according to the number of perforations, but whether his perforations are the same as Mr. Hausburg's, I don't know.

There are thus two methods of classification. Which is right? I am sorry to say I cannot give up my method, for I cannot help thinking that as the first perforating machines were so imperfect, they were capable of performing compound perforations even on the same sheet; moreover, it is very difficult (is it not impossible?) to gauge accurately those very rough perforations.

It is these little differences that require a master mind to solve, and I sincerely trust Mr. Bacon will see his way to help us.

Yours truly,

R. STANLEY TAYLOR, M.D.

NICE, *January 22nd*, 1898.

THE SCOTT COMPANY'S CATALOGUE, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I write to ask you if you will allow me to make a slight alteration to my criticism of the United States portion of the new Scott Catalogue, which appeared in your last issue.

In reference to the departmental stamps, I was quoted as saying that "there do not appear to be sufficient varieties of shade in the departmental stamps to warrant *a separate grouping of the stamps* printed by the Continental Bank Note Company": this should have read as if the words "of the colours" had been inserted after the word "grouping."

My attention has been called to this little mistake by Mr. J. N. Luff, and I should be glad if you will allow me to correct it.

I am, sir,

Yours very truly,

STANLEY M. CASTLE.

40, SOUTH STREET, PARK LANE, W.,
February 12th, 1898.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA: LOSSES BY FIRE.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose you a circular which I would ask you to reprint in your journal.

I am pushing forward with arrangements to carry on the work of the Society, and next month I hope to obtain a suitable room where we will refurnish and continue as before. No stoppage has occurred in connection with our exchange circuit.

In reference to S.S.S.S., I am pleased you have tabooed Victoria Hospital Stamps. I may mention that prior to the receipt of your journal I refused to allow them or the N.S.W. to remain on our exchange sheets.

Would you oblige me by asking Mr. Oldfield to forward me a complete list of all stamps condemned to date, for my own reference as exchange superintendent, my list having been destroyed by fire.

By publishing the circular you will greatly oblige

Yours faithfully,

D. S. ABRAHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

MELBOURNE, 28*th December*, 1897.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

178, RUSSELL STREET, MELBOURNE,

1*st December*, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—I have been requested to bring under your notice that the room formerly occupied by the above Society, together with the whole of the contents, have been totally destroyed by the recent great fire in Melbourne, and were uninsured.

Amongst the contents was a valuable library of standard works on Philately, and also bound copies of the leading journals, as well as the recognised catalogues of the world.

The loss sustained by the Society has been considerable, and it has therefore been decided to appeal to the generosity of members and other Philatelists to assist with any books or journals, which will be gratefully acknowledged by the undersigned.

Trusting to receive a favourable reply, and thanking you in anticipation,

I remain, yours truly,

D. S. ABRAHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

[The sincere sympathy of all British Philatelists will be extended to the Victoria Society in their loss, coupled, we trust, with a helping hand in the reconstitution of its library. We are glad to note that the S.S.S.S. finds acceptance in Australia.—ED.]

THE POSTAL UNION CHANGES OF COLOURS AND THE MEXICAN FISCALS.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to remarks on page 355 of *London Philatelist* under "Great Britain," I am surprised at the letter you received from the G.P.O.

I had no idea you had a difficulty with regard to the date, or I would have written much sooner, but if you will refer to the report of the Postal Convention held in Washington last May you will see in unmistakable, although official, language, 1st January, 1899.

In the case of Mexico, 10 c. will be the "Postal Union" rate to be changed to blue. I mention this as Mr. H. L. Calman was under the impression that our 5 c. being blue no change would be necessary.

The values on new watermark Eagle and R.M. paper so far are 4 c., 12 c., 20 c., 50 c., and $1. The 10 c. exists only on CORREOS E U M paper, as the stock printed April, 1895, has not yet been used up owing to the reduction of local postage from 10 c. to 5 c. in July, 1895. Some catalogues show the 10 c. with *R.M.* watermark, but it does not exist.

Yours very truly,

S. CHAPMAN.

MEXICO CITY, *January 21st*, 1898.

SIERRA LEONE, 1884, 5s. ON 1s., GREEN.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly allow us space to reply fully to the letter on the above subject which appeared in your last issue? First of all, Mr. Hesketh says that the stamp was regarded as a revenue stamp at the time of its issue in 1884. We have not a complete file of the Philatelic literature of 1884 and 1885, but the only reference we can find in the few in our possession is the following, which appeared in the *Stamp News* dated May, 1885:—

"SIERRA LEONE.—We have been favoured with information that when the Stamp Act of 1884 came into operation here it was contemplated using postage stamps for revenue as well as postal purposes, and some stamps were prepared for use, being the current 6d. surcharged 'Revenue' in black, and also three other values, being the same type as the current halfpenny, &c., with the value erased, and a new value printed in its place in a different colour; red, brown, and blue for the 1d., 3d., and 1s. respectively, the stamp being in each case printed in lilac and surcharged 'REVENUE' in black

capitals. These were made in England and sent out to the Colony, but it was subsequently considered undesirable, and other large bill stamps were ordered, and, as our correspondent writes, the issue of 1884 was withdrawn. At the same time a small number of the 1s. green postage stamps were converted locally into 5s. stamps, for postage and revenue, by being surcharged in three lines in black.

SIERRA
5s.
LEONE.

Provisional. 5s., in black, on 1s., green."

Perhaps Mr. Hesketh will now produce evidence (not unsupported statements) that the stamps were regarded as revenue only at the time of issue.

The next point is the statement that the stamp has not been catalogued as a postage stamp. We will take the two principal catalogues, which will suffice for our purpose, and we find it classified as a postage stamp in Moens' latest catalogue, that of 1891, and in the following of Stanley Gibbons:—6th edition (1888), 7th (1890), 8th (1891), 9th (1893), and 10th (1895). Why it is not included in the current edition we do not know.

What Mr. Hesketh means by "all that was said about them at the time of issue" we do not know; perhaps he will inform us what was said and who said it.

We strongly resent the charge of attempting to "hoodwink" collectors. So far from that being the case, we have done our utmost to enlighten them by publishing all the evidence we could get, and withholding nothing. The following is the full history of the stamps, so far as we know, since they became obsolete. They were cancelled with a red bar and given to an official, who brought them to London in 1885 (about October or November, we believe) and sold them to a stamp dealer, who immediately resold the whole parcel intact to a Mr. Matthews, in whose possession they have remained until July, 1897, when they passed into our hands. It was the fact of the stamp not being included in the last edition of Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue that led us to make investigations and clear up all doubts, and we did not buy any of the stamps until we had satisfied ourselves that they had been really issued for postage.

Mr. Matthews being a collector, and not a dealer, had disposed of but few of the stamps, mainly by exchanging, the number acquired by us last July being 1226.

Had our enquiries resulted in proving the stamps to have been fiscals only, we should still have published the facts, but in that case we should not have bought the stamps. As we were not pecuniarily interested in them until after our enquiries had been completed, the motive suggested by your correspondent never existed, so far as we are concerned. Whilst upon the subject of motives we will now lay bare the true reason for Mr. Hesketh's irritation at our having, as we maintain, successfully proved that the stamp was issued for both postage and revenue. The following post card and letter, the originals of which are in our possession, were addressed by Mr. Hesketh to Mr. Matthews last year:—

Copy of Post Card and Letter from J. R. Hesketh to W. Matthews.

"Bankfield, Ashton-on-Mersey,
"near Manchester,
"*March 23rd*, 1897.

"I notice 5s. Sierra Leones on your list, but they have the red bar cancelling them, which appears to me to detract (*sic*) from their value. Can you offer me 5s. on 1s. without any red bar?

(Signed) "J. R. Hesketh."

"Bankfield, Ashton-on-Mersey,
"near Manchester,
"*September 23rd*, 1897.

"Dear Sir,—I am very much obliged for your letter of the 31st August, which arrived during my absence from home.

"The true story about these 5s. on 1s. Sierra Leone has not yet been published.

"It is quite correct to say that these stamps were prepared for postage, but none were ever used as such. A friend of mine, who has a business house in Sierra Leone, has known about these stamps being in the post office for years, and has made several attempts on his own behalf and mine to obtain some; but the Postmaster said his instructions were not to sell any at all, and I believe none were ever sold to the public. The authorities then had the lot cancelled by means of a red bar, and sold them to a dealer. I do not, therefore, consider them legitimate stamps with this bar.

"I have never heard of a used specimen being seen. Yours faithfully,

(Signed) "J. R. Hesketh.

"Mr. W. Matthews."

We ask all who have read the correspondence which has already appeared in your columns on this subject to carefully compare the letter published in your last issue with the above, written only a few months ago, and to observe how the writer abso-

lutely contradicts himself in no less than three important points, viz. :

1. In one letter he says "it is quite correct to say that these stamps were prepared for postage," whilst in the other he declares they are fiscals only.

2. He says his friend in Sierra Leone (is it a Mrs. Harris?) "has known about these stamps being in the post office *for years*," whereas they were, as he states in his subsequent letter, brought to England immediately upon their being withdrawn in 1885, after having been in use a few months only. If Mr. Hesketh knew they were in the post office, how can he now have the assurance to declare they are only fiscals?

3. In one letter he says the authorities sold them to a dealer, in the other that they gave them to an official.

We think we have said enough to show how much, or rather how little, your correspondent knows about these stamps. No, Mr. Editor, his views are *not*, as you remark in your footnote, naturally those of a collector, but are those of a certain fox who once upon a time declared that "those grapes are sour." What they would have been had his attempts to acquire the remainders been successful, we leave your readers to judge.

We are, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
WHITFIELD KING & CO.

IPSWICH, *February 14th*, 1898.

[Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have certainly shown that Mr. Hesketh's opinions as regards these stamps were not, as we had imagined, those of a *collector*. In view of the fact that he had attempted purchase of these stamps, his action in now decrying them is to be severely deprecated.—ED.]

STATUS OF RAILWAY FEE STAMPS.

DEAR SIR,—These stamps having attracted the attention of Philatelists, perhaps it may be as well, in trying to form an opinion as to whether they are postage stamps or not, if we, at the outset, carefully consider the postal regulations concerning them.

The first deals with the *Conveyance of single post letters by railway*, and goes on to say that certain railway companies have entered into an agreement with the Postmaster-General to accept and convey by the next available train or steamship single inland post letters, not exceeding one ounce in weight, either to be called for at the station of address or to be transferred there to the nearest Post Office letter-box for delivery by postmen.

Secondly, *Manner of posting*. Every letter intended for transmission as a railway letter must be taken to a passenger station of the railway company over whose line it is to be sent, and tendered, during such hours as the station is open to the public, to a servant of the railway company in the parcel booking office, or, if that office be closed, to a passenger booking office, etc.

Thirdly, *Payment of postage and fee on railway letters*. Upon every railway letter a fee of 2d., in addition to postage at the ordinary rate of 1d. for a letter not exceeding one ounce, will be charged. The total charge of 3d. will defray the whole cost of transmission. No servant of a railway company will be entitled to make a further charge on the delivery of a railway letter, nor any servant of the Post Office, unless it should be discovered to have been accepted contrary to the regulations of the Post Office.

Fourthly and lastly, *Legal conditions in regard to railway letters*. Railway letters, that is to say, letters transmitted under the arrangements just described, will be deemed in all respects *letters sent by post*. The railway companies, in carrying such letters, will act and will be deemed to act solely as agents, and at the sole risk and responsibility of the Postmaster-General, but the companies will take all reasonable care for the security of the letters while under their charge.

As it is distinctly stated in the last regulation that railway letters will be deemed to be in all respects letters sent by post, it appears to my mind that all and every stamp upon such letters which defrays the cost of conveyance are postage stamps, and collectible as such. Having been a constant collector since 1865, I hailed with delight an addition to our British list. Stamps denoting postage due in Great Britain I hope to see in due course. I shall be pleased to hear from anyone interested in these stamps.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. EARL.

NEWCASTLE, STAFFORDSHIRE,
February 16th, 1898.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

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

Council for the Year 1897-8.

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.

W. B. Avery. E. B. Evans.
E. D. Bacon. D. Garth.
W. D. Beckton. T. Wickham Jones.
R. Ehrenbach. H. R. Oldfield.
Gordon Smith.

The seventh meeting of the season 1897-8 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 21st January, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., the following members being present, viz. :—Messrs. M. P. Castle, W. B. Avery, E. D. Bacon, E. B. Evans, R. Ehrenbach, J. G. Tolhurst, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, G. Fraser Melbourn, W. Silk, H. Hetley, A. R. Barrett, T. Maycock, C. McNaughtan, A. B. Creeke, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard.

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

A letter was read by the Secretary from Mr. Stromayer expressing his desire to retire from membership of the Society, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

The Secretary also reported the receipt of information of the death of Lt.-Col. Joseph in July last, an announcement which was received with great regret.

Mr. William Schwabacher, proposed by the Assistant Secretary and seconded by the Secretary, and Mr. H. G. Palliser, proposed by the Vice-President and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society.

Mr. W. B. Avery then produced for inspection by members attending the meeting his very fine collection of the stamps of Mauritius, and in passing round the stamps described in detail the various issues shown. Major Evans also showed the original estimate submitted by Mr. Barnard in 1846 for the production of the first postage stamps of the colony, which has been handed to Mr. Bacon for the British Museum.

On the motion of Major Evans, seconded by Mr. Bacon, the very cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Avery for the display, and for the interesting observations and explanations given by him.

The eighth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 4th February, 1898, at 7.45 p.m. The members present were: —Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, T. Wickham Jones, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, O. P. Pfenninger, H. Hetley, A. R. Barrett, S. M. Castle, W. Schwabacher, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, T. W. Hall, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox, and M. S. Cooke.

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

A letter from Mr. W. Krapp, of Vienna, announcing his desire to retire from membership of the Society, was read, and the resignation was accepted with regret.

The Secretary also reported the receipt of a circular letter from the Philatelic Society of Victoria as to the destruction of the library of that Society in the recent great fire in Melbourne. In response to the appeal contained in the circular, it was resolved to present to the Victoria Society a complete set of the *London Philatelist*, and a copy of each of the other works published by the London Society of which any stock remains on hand.

The receipt from Mr. Stewart-Wilson of a copy of Part I. of *The British Indian Adhesive Stamps Surcharged for the Native States*; from the New York Collectors' Club of their Report and Rules; and from Messrs. Harry Hilckes & Co., Ltd., of a framed copy of their illustration of the two dies of the first 1d. stamp of Great Britain, were directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

On the recommendation of the Vice-President, it was decided to procure for the library of the Society a copy of M. Marconnet's work on the stamps of France and the Colonies.

Mr. R. H. Beamish, proposed by the Rev. W. Bell and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. R. Ehrenbach then read some notes on the 2 rigsbank skilling stamp of Denmark. After referring to the more prominent types found in these stamps, Mr. Ehrenbach called attention to a number of smaller differences noticeable in the specimens in his possession, which had led him to the conclusion that it might be possible to "plate" each stamp on the sheet. To illustrate his remarks, Mr. Ehrenbach showed a large number of stamps from his own collection, and also an entire sheet of one of the Government reprints, and the Vice-President also placed his specimens at the disposal of the meeting for the purpose of comparison. It was admitted that the differences referred to were in most cases very small, and as the result of the discussion which ensued, it was felt that before any definite opinion could be formed in regard to the questions raised, it would be desirable to endeavour to obtain reliable information as to the method of production employed in the manufacture of the stamps.

On the motion of Mr. Gordon Smith, seconded by Mr. Bacon, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Ehrenbach for introducing the subject for consideration, and for the interesting notes which he had read.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Honorary President—W. B. Avery.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—Mr. G. Johnson, B A.
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

Dec. 16th.—Display, "Uruguay and Venezuela."

Messrs. H. Fernier-Kerr, R. Dworzak E. F. Marx, B V. Jenkins, G. B. Seignoret, P. J. Painter, Dr. G. Braine-Hartnell, and Miss Lauge were unanimously elected members.

Messrs Wilson and Johnson then showed the stamps of Uruguay and Venezuela.

Jan. 6th, 1898.—Paper, "Hungary." Mr. G. Johnson.

The following were unanimously elected members:—Messrs. J. N. Marsden, A. C. Pinto-Bastos, H. Beramendi, E Stachle, Count A. I. de Tscherniadieff, and Major C. H. Johnson.

After tracing the history of Austria and Hungary down to 1871, Mr. Johnson gave a short account of the stamps of the latter country, including a description of the various printings, papers, perfs., etc.

Perhaps the most interesting point touched upon was the watermark of the 1878 to 1897 issues, on which all the chief authorities differ. Scott's Advanced Catalogue says it is "KP," in interlaced circles 33 mm. in diameter, evidently following the early editions of Moens, but the latter has now altered it to "KL." This is improved on by Kohl and by Messrs. Gibbons who say it is "Kr," in interlaced circles; but this is scarcely correct, the watermark being "kr" (both lower case sans-serif), in interlaced ellipses, the minor axes of which are 33 mm. and the major axes 39 mm.

Jan. 20th, 1898.—Mr. R. R. Bogert was unanimously elected a member.

Paper, "United States." Mr C. A. Stephenson.

The whole of the evening was occupied in examining Mr. S. M. Castle's magnificent collection of unused U.S.A., in five large volumes, Messrs. Castle and Stephenson giving notes and commentaries on the various issues as the pages were turned over, instead of taking up time in reading the paper. A hearty vote of thanks was given Mr. Castle for the trouble he had taken in bringing his album specially from London to show the members.

It was decided to purchase 25 of the cases used at the London Philatelic Exhibition to be used for exhibits here.

Exchange Packets.

The packets in December were of very fine quality, although they only totalled to £3439 2s. 8½d., but they were largely comprised of fine sheets belonging to English, colonial, and foreign members, who are giving up certain countries in order to specialize in others.

	£	s.	d.
The A packet was . .	1543	9	1½
,, B ,, ,, . .	1816	2	3
,, C ,, ,, . .	1055	4	11
	£4414	16	3½

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Vice-Presidents—F. Barratt and Ernest Petri.
Hon. Secretary—A. H. Harrison.
Hon. Assistant Secretary—C. H. Coote.
Hon. Treasurer—G. B Duerst.
Hon. Librarian—J. C. North.
Committee—W. Grunewald, W. W. Munn, and J. H. Abbott.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Grand Hotel, on Wednesday evening, January 5th, and was numerously attended by members and friends.

The menu, which was printed on artistic cards specially designed for the occasion, bearing emblems of the empire and its principal dependencies, was all that could be desired.

The usual loyal toast having been drunk with acclamation, the President, in a short congratulatory speech, referred with satisfaction to the recent considerable increase of membership, and expressed a hope that the high quality of the work done by the Society in the past might be fully maintained in the future.

The proceedings were enlivened by vocal selections by Mr. G. F. H. Gibson, Mr. W. Cooper (with banjo), and Mr. E. Petri (with guitar); the dinner arrangements being carried out by a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Buxton, Gibson, and Oxley, whose able management was largely conducive to the success of the evening.

The eighth ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday evening, the 14th January. The President in the chair, there being also present 20 members and three visitors.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the President referred with regret to the death of Mr. Watson Hanmer, and moved a vote of condolence with the family of the late member, which the Hon. Secretary was requested to convey to Mrs. Hanmer.

The President moved a resolution to the effect that this Society forthwith undertakes to bring up to date the "Compendium" written by Mr. J. M. Wears, a sub-committee being appointed to carry out this object.

After a short address on the stamps of the British Empire, Mr J. H. Abbott proceeded to give a lantern display, commencing with the mother country, and then throwing on the screen groups of all the different colonies and dependencies. The various printings of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., De La Rue & Co., etc., were pointed out and explained by Messrs. Abbott and Beckton, the proceedings being terminated by a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Abbott and Mr. B. J. Beckton, who helped to manipulate the slides.

The ninth meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel, on January 28th, 1898. The President in the chair, supported by fifteen members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. On the motion of the Hon. Librarian a vote of thanks was passed to the following for donations to the library during January: To Mr. G. B. Duerst for a contribution of six books, viz., *The London Philatelist*, *The Philatelic Record*, *The Philatelic Journal*, *The*

Monthly Journal, *The American Journal of Philately*, and *The Revue Postale*. The Hon. Secretary (Exchange Packet) announced that the sales of the November packet reached 20 per cent. Mr. Petri read a paper on the stamps of Romagna. He touched briefly upon the geography and general history of the provinces, showing with most interesting details how changes in the political atmosphere forecast a change in the stamps. Mr. Petri quoted the figures of the issues, and also explained the means to distinguish the reprints and forgeries from the original stamps. The paper was illustrated by the stamps from Mr. Petri's collection.

A. H. HARRISON, *Hon. Secretary.*

GRASMERE, WHITFIELD, NEAR MANCHESTER,
22nd January, 1898.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

ON the return of the August packets accounts were submitted and settled with the least possible delay. Sales were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
August A 1 packet . .	7	14	7
,, A 2 ,, . .	105	6	4
,, B 1 ,, . .	51	2	11
,, B 2 ,, . .	39	10	2
August A 1 and A 2 supply packets . . .	48	18	3

September packets are expected back from the supplementary (non-contributors) rounds at the end of this week.

Two A and two B packets, consisting in the aggregate of 214 sheets, valued at £1921 12s. 4d., were made up and despatched by the 25th ult. on the January circuit. Unused Europeans were specially well represented, the majority of the rarer stamps being marked at half catalogue prices. The commonest varieties are in little demand. During the past month seven applications for membership have been entertained, six declined, and one resignation was accepted. Among the new members are:—Miss Tucker (Ashburton), F. Heinzel (Vienna), T. A. Rance (London), Miss Kinch (Farnborough), W. D. Perrins (London), H. G. Palliser (London), M. C. Lewis (Newport), and W. Jaggard (Liverpool). The Secretary has decided to forego his privilege of first choice, in order that packets may go out intact, and members have all the benefits of the bargains, etc. Non-contributors are welcomed as buyers, though their names are placed below those who send sheets to the packets. Copies of rules, with full information, can be obtained by applying to the Secretary, H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

The Collectors' Club,

351, FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

President—WILLIAM THORNE.
Secretary—J. M. ANDREINI, 29, *W. 75th Street.*

TWENTY-FIRST meeting of the Board of Governors held at the Club House, January 11th, 1898. President Thorn in the chair. Called to order at 8.25 p.m., the following members being present: Bruner, Calman, Luff, Stebbings, Scott, and the Secretary. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Secretary reported having issued a two-weeks visitor's ticket in favour of Dr. Dahlberg, of Chicago, at the request of Mr. J. C. Morgenthau. The Secretary read the resignation of Mr. John Luther Kilbon, and the same was accepted with regret. The Treasurer's report was then received, showing a balance of $488.35 cash in bank, after deducting the cost of U.S. Bonds bought. The lease of the Club House was ordered to be renewed for one year, and the President and Treasurer were authorized to sign it in behalf of the Club. The Chairmen of House, Amusement, and Membership Committees then made their reports, which were received. Adjourned at 9 p.m.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

The Market.

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

January 27th and 28th.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 2s., brown, unused	4	4	0
Gibraltar, first issue, complete, unused	3	16	0
Denmark, first issue, 2 rb. sk., blue, unused	3	0	0
Ditto, 1853–57, 16 sk., violet, roul., unused	2	5	0
Sweden, 1866, 17 öre, purple-grey, unused	5	17	6
Spain, first issue, 5, 6, and 10 reales	3	7	6
Brazil, slanting figures, 180 reis	2	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 300 reis	4	0	0
Dominica, CA, 1s., deep lilac	3	12	6
Jamaica, "Pineapple," 1d., 2d., 4d., and 1s., unused	3	15	0
St. Lucia, CA, 1s., red-brown, (2) on piece of envelope	5	15	0
New Zealand, 1872, wmk. Lozenges, 2d., vermilion, unused (?)	30	0	0
Queensland, imperf., 2d., blue, on piece of original	5	5	0

February 10th and 11th.

British East Africa, 1891, 1 anna, in MS., on 4 as., brown, on entire with ½ a. and 3 as.	9	15	0
Ceylon, 32 c., slate, 14 × 12½, unused	4	15	0
Antioquia, first issue, 2½ c., blue	10	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 5 c., green, horizontal pair	19	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 10 c., pale lilac	18	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1 peso, red	4	10	0
Great Britain, 1840, 2d., blue, without lines, unused, block of 84 stamps (7 rows of 12), no gum, full margins. The sheet has been folded and creased, hence is cracked; it has evidently been "restored," as the colour of the impressions has "run." Of the 84 stamps 30 are good, 32 creased, and 22 more or less damaged	210	0	0
Ditto, wmk. Sm. Crown, perf. 14, 2d., blue, horizontal pair, unused, gum (medium)	7	0	0
Ditto, octagonal, 6d., violet, unused, gum (medium)	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 10d., brown, Plate 2, unused, gum	3	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., green, Plate 2, unused, gum (3 pin holes)	5	5	0
Ditto, £5, orange on white, vertical pair	3	5	0
Ditto, I.R. Official, £1, green, a vertical pair	6	6	0
Naples, ½ tornese, "Arms," on entire newspaper	14	0	0
Natal, wmk. Star, 3d., blue, imperf., unused	5	5	0
Peru, medio peso, rose	11	10	0
Moldavia, 81 paras, blue on blue, poor copy, cut close above and dirty	65	0	0
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red	15	5	0
British Guiana, first issue, 12 c., pale blue, cut to shape, used, on original	11	10	0
St. Vincent, no wmk., compound perf., 1d., red	7	10	0
British Columbia, 2½d., light brown, imperf., unused	21	0	0
New South Wales, 1855, imperf., 8d., orange, unused (no gum)	17	10	0
New Zealand, no wmk., perf., 2d., blue, unused, with gum	13	0	0

Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

January 18th and 19th.

Ionian Islands, 1d., blue, entire sheet (120)	13	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d., carmine, entire sheet (120)	6	0	0
Russia, imperf., 10 kopecs, blue and brown, pair, "unused"	3	0	0
Basle, 2½ rappen, on original	5	0	0
Neûchatel, 5 c., on original	3	10	0
Japan, 1871, 500 mons, pale yellow-green, block of 10, unused	3	10	0
St. Helena, wmk. Cr. CC, 1s., green, bar 14 mm., pair, unused	9	0	0
Zanzibar, on Indian stamps, 1 anna, with *blue* surcharge	2	12	0
Ditto, same stamp, variety with inverted "q"	3	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1½ as., sepia, error "Zanzidar"	3	0	0
British Columbia, perf. 14, 10 c., pink, unused	13	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1 dollar, green, unused	15	0	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow	3	6	0
Barbados, imperf., 4d., dull vermilion, pair, unused	3	0	0
Grenada, wmk. Broad-pointed Star, 2½d., claret, pair, unused	10	15	0
St. Lucia, CA, 1s., black and deep orange, pair, unused	11	10	0
St. Vincent, Star wmk., 5s., lake, unused	14	0	0
Ditto, CA, perf. 14, 1d., drab, block of 4, unused	18	18	0

THE

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The Financial Results of the London Philatelic Exhibition.

WE have much pleasure in calling attention to the very satisfactory Balance Sheet of the Exhibition held last summer in Piccadilly. It will be seen that the total expenditure amounted to nearly £1350, of which large sum nearly one-third was expended on the show cases, stalls, and fittings. Heavy as this latter outlay seems, it was none the less imperative in view of the great value of the exhibits, and the necessity of their absolute protection from injury. It is gratifying to learn that in no instance were any stamps damaged by being exhibited —the only sufferers being the sheets, which became stained from contact with the unnecessarily varnished backboards of the show cases.

The most important item on the credit side is that for rent of dealers' stalls, amounting to £425; but it is safe to hope that in the great majority of instances this outlay proved remunerative to the members of the trade. Most satisfactory is the omission of any contributions from the Guarantors, whose money has all been returned. The remembrance of this fact will doubtless facilitate the support that will be required for the next Exhibition —some time during the next century!

It is obvious that so brilliant a result must have been due to excellent organisation and hard work, and the appreciation of these qualities in the persons of Messrs. J. A. Tilleard and Gordon Smith has been pleasingly perpetuated and recorded elsewhere. Beyond these two gentlemen, however, there were many members of the Executive Committee who devoted almost their entire time to the Exhibition for many weeks, who incurred considerable expenditure, and left their business or their pleasure entirely on one side, in order to ensure the success of the Exhibition. They have now at least the reward in knowing that their labour has not been in vain, and that in every aspect the Philatelic Exhibition of 1897 may be deemed to have been an unqualified success.

The Roumanian Errors of 1877-79.*

By M. P. CASTLE.

DOUBT and difficulties have always enshrouded these two stamps, the 5 bani, *blue*, and the 5 bani, *rose-red*. The dates assigned in M. Moens' Catalogue for the normal varieties of the 10 bani, blue, are September, 1877, and for the 10 bani, rose-red, August, 1879. M. Moens, with his usual accuracy and foresight, believes in and duly chronicles the 5 bani, blue, error, and states that "the 5 bani, rose, presumed to be a similar error, is an essay, despite all pretence to the contrary." This is in substantial accord with the general belief of the older collectors during the last twenty years, and included in the Philatelic articles of faith which I, among many other collectors of long standing, had duly embraced. I had always held that the 5 bani in the dullish blue was the only genuine error; that this stamp had been reprinted in a darker colour; that the 5 bani, *green*, had been frequently chemically changed to blue; and that the 5 bani, rose or rose-red, generally met with in bygone days with "Annulato" diagonally impressed thereon, was at best but an essay or an unissued variety. This belief has been disturbed of late years by the assertion of a contrary opinion in some quarters, and it is with a view to its reinstatement that I append the following notes, even if they disclose the fact that my eagerness in the exercising of acquisitive faculties has led me into being, for a while, deceived. It is the plain duty of all Philatelists to endeavour that their experience, gained by losses, should be detailed for the benefit of their fellow collectors, and it is also their duty to give due warning as to the quarters from which dangerous forgeries emanate.

The illustrations accompanying this article are from dies prepared for and issued in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* of January 13th last, for the reproduction of which I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. H. Fraenkel, of Berlin, and Mr. H. Krötzsch, of Leipsic, the publisher of that journal. Their *raison d'être* is as follows.

It is now about three years since that I purchased from Mr. Sigismund Friedl, of Vienna, the two vertical "pairs" of stamps depicted in the illustration. The "pair" of 5 bani, blue, I bought direct from Mr. Friedl, and the "pair" of 5 b., rose, from a brother collector in London to whom Mr. Friedl had sent it, and who passed it on to me as being outside the scope of his collecting. The worn impression and the colours did not inspire me with confidence, and I had at the time some qualms as to making the purchases.

* Illustration numbered Fig. I. is a normal 5 bani stamp; Fig. II. is an enlargement of two single specimens of the 5 and 10, blue, and of the Friedl pair of 5+10, blue; Fig. III. shows the 5 and 10, rose, and the Friedl pair of 5+10, rose.

On a *prima facie* examination I did not discover enough to condemn them, and on the explicit assurance of Mr. Friedl I purchased the stamps. I may say here that at this time Mr. Friedl was in possession of a long-enjoyed reputation as a connoisseur of the stamps of the Orient, and was generally believed to be an old-established dealer of integrity and knowledge. So much so that many of the older collectors (myself included) have frequently submitted specimens of these Roumanian errors for him to expertise. Moreover, shortly before this, as detailed by Mr. Fraenkel, a well-known Austrian Philatelist had published articles relating to a find of these errors, which included specimens of both colours *se tenant* with the normal variety, which he considered as undoubtedly genuine. Coming from such a hitherto unquestioned source, and under these circumstances, I did not therefore hesitate to acquire these stamps. In dealing with leading and recognized firms of undoubted stability, a collector frequently will take stamps that he would otherwise hesitate to acquire, as he knows that in the event of subsequent knowledge proving the stamps to be bad, they can always be returned. It is in acknowledgment for this confidence—and justly so—that Philatelists frequently prefer to deal with the leading firms, and perhaps to pay more for their specimens than if they bought them from other sources.

In the early part of last year I mounted my Roumanian stamps, which had for years been reposing in a series of envelopes, and I then naturally very closely examined these two errors. I was dissatisfied with the colour and impression of the 5 b., blue. The former was far paler than my own undoubted single specimen, and the impression was a worn and indistinct one that occurs but rarely in the 10 bani, blue. At the same time it was so close in general appearance to these latter that I could not decide to reject it, but did not incorporate it with my collection. This Friedl pair and a like pair of normal specimens in my collection bear a close resemblance, and it will accentuate this when I state that the colour of the impression—a pale dullish blue—is identical.

With regard to the 5 bani, red, I felt on surer ground in declining to accept the stamp. In the first case the colour was a pale rose and the impression worn, conditions which I could not find applying to any specimen of the 10 bani, rose, of August, 1879, of which this is generally presumed to be the error. Beyond this, however, was the important fact that Mr. Friedl's pair was perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. I may here add an explanatory note as to the importance of this variation of the perforation, and perhaps the readiest method of so doing is to give a *résumé* of the perforations of these issues, immediately following the well-known Paris-printed issue (1872, perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$), and continuing the same design. I give the arrangement followed in my own collection.

OCTOBER, 1876. (*a*) *Perf.* $13\frac{1}{2}$.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ b., bronze-green.
5 „ olive-brown.
15 „ red-brown.

(*b*) *Perf.* 11. *Small Holes.*

1½ b., bronze-green.
5 „ olive-brown.
5 „ blue (error).
10 „ blue.
15 „ red-brown.
30 „ vermilion.

April, 1876. (*a*) *Perf.* 13½.

1½ b., black.
10 „ rose.

(*b*) *Perf.* 11. *Small Holes.*

1½ b., black.
3 „ pale green.
5 „ bluish green.
5 „ deep rose, reddish rose (error.)
10 „ pale rose to red-rose (shades).
15 „ vermilion.
25 „ blue.
50 „ ochre.

(*c*) *Perf.* 11½. *Large Holes.*

1½ b., black.
5 „ bluish green.
10 „ warm rose to deep rose (shades).
50 „ ochre.

(*d*) *Perf.* 11½ × 13½.

1½ b., black.
10 „ pale rose (and 13½ × 11½.)

The foregoing is a schedule of the perforations only, the shades not being included, excepting in the case of the 5 and 10 bani, rose. The perforation 11 consists of small and irregularly-placed holes, while that gauging 11½ is composed of large and regular ones. These latter are evidently the product of a new machine, which would apparently seem to have been brought into use two or three years after the former. The significance of the fact that Mr. Friedl's pair of 5 bani, rose, were perforated 11½ will therefore be at once evident, as in the case of the 11½ perforation the pale rose of the earlier issue (perf. 11)—which Mr. Friedl's stamps endeavoured to imitate —had entirely disappeared.

During the course of the London Philatelic Exhibition of last summer, Mr. H. Fraenkel paid me a visit, and when inspecting my Roumanian stamps made a close examination of these "errors," the result of which was to strengthen the doubts that I assured him I felt thereon. At his request he took the stamps away for further examination, and he has now published the results thereof in the German journal before named. Mr. Fraenkel's renown as a most painstaking and shrewd Philatelist was already assured, but his exhaustive study of and article on these two stamps will assuredly

add to his reputation. He has most thoroughly explored his extensive Philatelic library in order to collect all the previous references thereon, and therefrom has presented conclusions that leave but little more to be said about these stamps. With his kind permission I reproduce the more important portions of his long and interesting article. After some initiatory remarks, as regards statements made by Herr von Horrak, who had promulgated the theory that 500 specimens of the 5 b., blue, had been issued, as to that gentleman's belief in the authenticity of the 5 b., red, and a reference to Mr. Duerst's late work as not having at all elucidated the question, Mr. Fraenkel gives a succinct list of all references to these stamps, from which I give the following excerpts:—

"It is very curious that the blue error is only mentioned for the first time in literature in September, 1879, in the *Timbre-Poste*, page 75. At that time the issue of April 1, 1879, with altered colours—10 bani, carmine, had appeared. The 10 bani, blue, of the issue printed in Bucharest since November, 1876, was already announced as blue in the *Timbre-Poste* of October, 1877, page 74, and its changes in colour, indigo, blue, and ultramarine, were there mentioned in January, 1878, page 1, and January, 1879, page 1. The error is here described as dark blue, as seen by Monsieur Moens in the block of 3, 10 + 5 + 10, used."

"In the report of the *Société Française de Timbrologie*, we find on page 50 of vol. ii. that the Society was occupied with this stamp at their session of the 17th of November, 1879. M. Schmidt de Wilde remarked, as to the issue printed in Bucharest, 'that there had been reported in the 10 bani plate a five bani *cliché* which had been added by oversight.' The report of the *séance* laconically says hereon: 'The fact demands verification.' It was, however, at the same sitting agreed to sanction the Roumanian catalogue, which was then printed off. (See page 58 and following.) This catalogue contains on page 61 the remark: 'Stamp with error 5 bani, blue (5 bani *cliché* wrongly introduced into the 10 bani plate).' In opposition to this, the rose error, in the series of April 1, 1879, is still lacking, which thus until that time had remained quite unknown to all the great experts and collectors who at that time formed the Society, *i.e.*, MM. Rothschild, Legrand, Donatis, Ferrary, Schmidt de Wilde, and so on."

"The alleged rose (or carmine or red) error at length appears in the *Wiener Briefmarken Zeitung*, September 1, 1880, 1–3. Herr Koch had received a whole set of stamps of similar 'design' to those in use hitherto, but of better work; these were 1½ bani in 5 shades, 5 bani in 4 (the blue not included), 10 bani in 5, 25 bani in 2; whereat the editor slyly remarks: 'The difference of the single values leads us almost to suppose that the whole series comprises only errors.'"

"The errors were also once more discussed in the French Society on February 3rd, 1881 (*Bulletin*, vol. ii., page 200), Mr. Campbell raising the question. After the usual explanation of the origin of the error, he said that the stamps which he had seen bore the Bucharest obliteration, but that with a magnifying glass parts of the word 'Annulato' were to be seen under it; that this seemed to point out that the stamp had not really been in circulation, and that they had been obliterated in Bucharest 'with intent to deceive.' Dr. Legrand agreed to the possibility of the existence of the errors, but much desired to see the 5 + 10 bani *se tenant!* At the sitting of March 3rd, page 209, etc., M. Schmidt de Wilde declared the existence of the blue error as certain, as he had seen a pair 5 + 10 *se tenant;* that the Government

had been, however, informed of it, and had immediately withdrawn the errors from circulation. He said that he considered the 5 bani, rose, as an essay. He believed that sheets had been printed in this colour, and that the stamps had been perforated and sold to collectors as errors. Dr. Legrand thereon considers the existence of the blue error as assured; and with reference to the 5 bani, rose, he inclines more favourably, after a comparison of the 5 bani, blue, and the 5 bani, rose, in his collection with a 10 bani, wherein similarity of paper, colour, and impression with those of the 10 bani is apparent. Both his specimens—blue and rose—bore parts of the word 'Annulato' but not the obliterating stamp of Bucharest, as did the Campbell copy. The obliteration 'Annulato' might probably be explained by the fact that this stamp had been placed upon the stamps as soon as the error had been discovered upon the sheets of the blue 10 bani in stock, and before distributing the stamps, which later might have fallen into the hands of the postal officials to their pecuniary benefit. He considered it possible that the 10 bani, rose, was already partly printed, but that the error was reported in time, the stamp eliminated from the sheet, and the *cliché* removed from the plate."

"From this date there is somewhat of a silence in Philatelic literature until the year 1893. In Moens' Catalogue of 1892 the blue only is listed, the red being given as an essay. Finally two important works upon Roumania appeared; the first by Herr von Horrak, in the *Postwertzeichenkunde*, 1893, pp. 107, 121, 133, 147; the second a book on Roumania, by Herr Roggenstroh, beginning of 1894. Both of these authorities quoted the two errors. Horrak says of the rose: 'The existence of the red error as an authentic postage stamp has been much called in question. The actual appearance of the error, *se tenant* with a 10 bani stamp postmarked, assures me that it has been postally used.'"

"The latest work on the subject, *i.e.*, by Mr. Duerst in the *Philatelist*, 1897, as regards these two errors, mentions a new incident with regard to the 'carmine-rose,' namely, that the error has been reprinted in an entire sheet in rose, and that these reprints have been overprinted with the word 'ANNULATO.' Of the many papers upon the *blue* error, to which Mr. Duerst refers his readers without quoting them, I confess to but scant acquaintance."

"According to Horrak (*Postwertzeichenkunde*, 1893, p. 147; 1895, p. 93), who presumably refers to official sources, 500 copies of this error were said to have been issued, the use of the plate being then discontinued until the change of colour to 10 bani, *rose*, in 1879."

"Herr von Horrak does not consider the well-known dark blue clean impressions as official, because his question on this point was answered by the G.P.O of Roumania to the effect 'that there were no reprints of the 5 bani, blue, of 1879'; none the less, the same writer (on p. 23 of the *Pwzk.* of 1895) calls the colour of the reprints fainter than the 'full blue' of the original."

"Herr Roggenstroh mentions no reprints. Moens mentions, for the first time, in his Catalogue, seventh edition, the reprint of 1880. Dr. Kalchoff says in his well-known little work (which had appeared in 1892, before the work of Horrak in 1893): 'This error was officially reprinted in 1880 also in whole sheets'—a view supported by the English catalogues. M. Piet-Lataudrie (*Les Réimpressions*, p. 63) says that the 5 bani was reprinted on entire sheets in 1880. Of the source he says nothing, but on the other hand describes the colour, *e.g.*, the originals have a rather dull blue (*bleu assez terne*); the reprint is of an intense dark blue. The *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors* quotes a reprint of 1880 on blue-green paper, perf. 11½. Mr. Duerst says



Fig. II.



Fig. III.

[*Face p.* 75.

that the Government at a later date (query when) reprinted whole sheets of the 5 bani in blue."

"If the existence of this error is accepted, doubt still occurs if it exists in more than *one colour*. The first notices (*Timbre-Poste*, *Bulletin de la Société Française*) seem to me to have some weight towards showing that the error appeared at first *dark blue only*. If it really existed only in 500 sheets of the 10 bani, it appears to me highly improbable that it should exist in another variety of colour. Otherwise the 'rather frequent' appearance goes, according to Von Horrak, to prove that the number issued must have been much greater, in which case the possibility of different colour would not be out of the question, as the 10 bani was printed blue in 1877, dark blue in 1878, and ultramarine 1879. Against this, however, we have the fact that the error is not known in ultramarine, that it was announced first *only* in dark blue, and that the Roumanian sources of information only allude to an *1879* error. According to this, we should be led first to think of an error in the colour of 1878–79, *i.e.*, ultramarine; but as it does not occur in this colour, the 1878 dark blue may still be the right one, being probably printed in 1878, whilst not being issued till 1879. This is only conjecture, yet it seems to me from all this that only the *one colour* "*dark blue*" is to be taken account of. This is the colour also of the 5 bani which are at present in the "Reichspost Museum," and are in any case from an official source.

In calling attention to the illustrations (herewith reproduced) Mr. Fraenkel mentions the defective printing of the 1876 issue, which I have previously remarked on, and says that it has materially lessened the difficulties of the forgers, who are responsible for the vertical pairs on the illustration (those to right). The result of this observation will be seen on closely examining and comparing the illustrations of the Friedl forgery with defective impressions of the 10 bani, blue, when a striking general resemblance will be found. Mr. Fraenkel gives as his opinion that these forgeries are reproduced by the aid of photography, a view shared by Herr Krötzsch, of Leipsic, and Herr Albert Frisch, of Berlin, both competent experts. Mr. Fraenkel gives a lengthened description of the differences between the real and the sham Simon Pure—differences that, I may say, I do not consider as vital, and all of which might be due to variety of impression. The only practical difference I can see in the case of both pairs of 5 + 10 bani stamps is in the shape of the figure "5." This will be seen to vary palpably from the normal stamps, and I may say that I have in vain examined every 5 bani in my collection in order to find its counterpart. It will be noted that the left-hand "5" in the forgery leans forward, and that in both cases the lower half curves round more sharply than in the originals, and projects beyond the upright stroke of the figure. In the 10 bani (blue or rose) I fail to find any variation of type. Although, as I have said, they both closely resemble the worn type, one general deviation will be found. In the case of the genuinely worn or defective specimens, the background of colour will be found spotty, and the hair, shading of the face, neck, and eyes partially disappeared, whereas in the case of the forgeries these lines are practically all present, although it would at first sight also appear to be a defective impression. The perforation gauges 11, but is very rough. I



FIG. I.

have thought it probable that the forger took a pair of 10 bani stamps, altered the figures to "5" on one, and then reproduced them by photography.

With regard to the 5 + 10 bani, rose, there is less to be said; the colour of the imitation is too pale, the impression is more worn (*i.e.*, indistinct) than any 10 bani, rose or red, that I have ever seen, and the perforation gauges 11½ in small holes (*i.e.*, it ought to gauge 11 small holes, the 11½ being that with large holes). Herr Fraenkel generally reviews the opinion hitherto held as to this stamp, and considers opinions somewhat divided.

I can, however, hardly agree with him here, the general opinion in this country having always been against the belief in the *issue* of this stamp, coupled with a strong tendency to regard all known specimens as reprints and not remainders. Anyhow, Mr. Fraenkel agrees that an authenticated pair was unknown till 1894, when Herr von Horrak received a prize for the two values *se tenant*, at the Vienna Exhibition of 1894 (promoted by Herr Koch). It was the appearance of this pair and one or two similar ones, with comments thereon in the German Press, that shook me in my previous faith, and induced me to become a purchaser of Mr. Friedl's forgeries. Mr. Fraenkel says:—

"After a long search M. Moens has found in his archives the information on Roumanian sent to him by a Roumanian high official, probably for the last (seventh) edition of his Catalogue, and has sent it to me—a proof once more of the uprightness with which M. Moens always sets to work, since herein is proof against his statements. This high official was Herr Theodor A. Myller, General Inspector of Finances in Bucharest. The remarks refer to the sixth edition of Moens' Catalogue, and run under No. 145 (5 b., dark blue), as follows:—

"'The 5 bani, rose, has had a tendency to go wrong, but, unfortunately, it has been observed by a stupid employé; and he had to destroy them before the Inspecting Committee.

"'Later, in 1880, under the pretext of essays, this error was reprinted as well as that of the 5 bani, blue, and fourteen other jewels, among them your number 144.

"'T. F. F.'"

For an official letter the foregoing may well be without a compeer! It is valuable evidence, however, and seems to prove that the *5 bani, rose, was never issued*, but was reprinted in company with the 5 bani, blue, "and other jewels." Mr. Fraenkel sums up as follows:—

"It seems, therefore, that the error had been already noticed, while the blue error was still in issue; that the sheets in question, which could be got hold of, were withdrawn, the errors taken out and cancelled (annulled); that the same thing was tried with the rose value, but before they were issued, and *these were still printed from this plate*. It thus becomes clear that the number of blue errors can be fixed; and by deducting the number of the withdrawn sheets from the number of those previously supplied to the post, the remainder would show how many sheets, and thus how many errors, had been issued. I hold, therefore, the 5 bani, rose, to be an error, which was not issued, and not a postage stamp—truly interesting, but not a stamp."

Mr. Fraenkel's interesting article gives the result of his researches on many subordinate points as to colour, reprints, perforation, etc., all of which

I have carefully read and weighed, but whose reproduction would unduly extend this article. I have further closely examined a very large number of specimens of the stamps of this issue, and have had the opportunity of discussing the matter with gentlemen who know these stamps well, with the result that the short synopsis of these errors here following may be deemed to be the cognate result of up-to-date research. I might state here, that when travelling last year, I was fortunate enough to meet a celebrated Roumanian collector, who showed me a practically complete sheet of the 5 bani, blue, containing the error, from which he was kind enough to present me with a specimen. The exact colour is a dullish blue, of a fairly dark shade, which I find rather deeper, though of the same shade as an undoubted specimen of the error in my own collection. I should thus class the shades of—normal variety—10 bani, blue, of 1876, in their probable order of issue:—

Dullish blue, varying in depth.	Impression clear.	
Dark ,, ,,	,,	,,
Pale ,, ,,	,,	defective.
Ultramarine	,,	fairly clear.

It is from at least one of these shades that the errors were allowed to go forth until discovered; and it is, therefore, important to ascertain their order of issue, which I believe is substantially as preceding, with the result that the error would only be found in the earliest and *possibly* in the second shade.

ERRORS.

ISSUE OF 1876. *Perf.* 11; small holes.

5 bani, dull blue, medium dark, varying slightly in depth of impression.

REPRINT, 1880. *Perf.* 11; small holes.

5 bani, dark slate-blue.

(Paper yellowish; those on bluish or greenish paper are chemical changelings of the 5 bani, green, and are *perf.* 11½, large holes.)

ISSUE OF 1879. *Perf.* 11; small holes.

5 bani, rose, to red-rose (shades). *Not issued;* frequently surcharged diagonally "ANNULATO."

REPRINT, 1880. *Perf.* 11; small holes.

5 bani, bright rose-red.

The latter is difficult to separate; with a little practice the others are readily distinguishable.

As previously stated, these forgeries came to me from Mr. S. Friedl, of Vienna. I have since applied to him for a return of the money paid, but he has refused to pay, and says that he did not sell them to me. Mr. Friedl's latter-day reputation, after the Austrian Mercury affair, hardly seemed to require any embellishment, but until and unless he can show that he has been imposed upon in the present instance, he merits the contempt that all honest men accord to rogues.

Strong as these comments are, they are Mr. S. Friedl's just due, and they are fully shared on the Continent. The following interesting excerpt from Mr. Fraenkel's paper is ample evidence of the truth of my assertions and the justice of my strictures :—

"Herr Friedl was lately in Berlin, and did me the honour to pay me a visit. He brought out to show me his little pocket-book for stamps, which besides many stamps contained also a small envelope. Being inquisitive, I opened this latter, when, lo and behold! as I turned it over, there fell from it four (4) blue errors, all used. I naturally was highly rejoiced at seeing such things, but my delight was short-lived, as a nearer inspection showed me that they entirely agreed in colour and in look with the Castle error. I told Mr. Friedl that probably all four were false, whereupon he answered that this would have interested him very much before, but that now, however, it only saddened him, because he would now sell the stamps without guarantee, although he was convinced of their genuineness. As to the source of these stamps Herr Friedl let nothing out; I could not, unluckily, ask him too much about them, as I was not then quite sure of the case, and also because he (as is well known) knows quite well how to shuffle out of anything. In any case, other gentlemen have also seen 'errors' in the possession of Herr Friedl (especially red ones, according to the *Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung*, unless the notices have got mixed up). I think it is Herr Friedl's duty to name his source. Do they probably come from Schimanek? Perhaps this would assist in discovering the vendor of the Mercury stamps. It would be curious if Herr Friedl had forgotten all about it, *i.e.*, if he again should have bought his supplies from the 'great unknown.'"

An Ideal Collection.

BY C. F. DENDY MARSHALL.

A GREAT authority once said, speaking more particularly of British stamps, that an ideal collection would consist of complete sheets of every variety. This being so, the nearest approach to this somewhat exalted standard is the collection of registration sheets at Somerset House. But these, alas! leave much to be desired from a Philatelist's point of view, as the majority have never been baptized with that gum which delights the heart of a specialist, and rightly so, too, for there is no doubt that by some occult means it adds to the richness of the colour, and softens the appearance of the stamp generally; it is usually easy to form a decision from the face of a stamp as to the presence or absence of the "cement," as the postal authorities used to call it.

With a few exceptions none of the sheets have been perforated, so that they are really more of the nature of proofs than regular stamps; but perhaps the most serious drawback lies in the fact that not a sheet is intact, as all have had stamps removed for official and other purposes.

A few of the sheets, including those of the 2d. without lines, are missing altogether, a small piece of the marginal paper of one of the 2d. sheets only remaining, and no explanation is forthcoming of the reason for their abstraction, nor is it known who was responsible for it.

It is probable that they have not been tended very carefully in years gone by; now, however, they have been removed from the original book, and deposited in several large new ones specially made for the purpose, which are kept in a safe.

Whenever any specimens are removed now, a note has to be made of the fact, giving the number detached, date, and authority.

The sheets are all signed in the margin by a Commissioner of Inland Revenue, and on the back there is a memorandum (written) to the effect that they were submitted and approved for use.

The more recent stamps are gummed, but imperforate. A few of the modern ones are printed twice, side by side on a large piece of paper.

A full description of these sheets may be found in Messrs. Philbrick and Westoby's book on British stamps, so that the writer of these notes only proposes to make a few remarks that naturally occur in the course of examination, and to discuss more fully a point of which no notice was taken in the work above mentioned.

The black stamps do not call for any special remarks; the "V.R." is represented by a nearly complete sheet, the plate number in the corners being, as is well known, "A."

The brick-red series of Die I. vary considerably in colour, as might be expected; the "bluing" is, however, less than one would be led to suppose, in the majority of cases only very partial, and showing little on the face of the stamps, though a large number of sheets show well defined "ivory heads" on the back. Without wishing in the least to combat the opinion that this is due to the action of the ink on the paper, which is undoubtedly the correct one, it is suggested that the gum accelerates and intensifies the process, and tends to make the paper *greenish* rather than bluish. Because the majority of these stamps that are about are tinged with green, whereas those at Somerset House are of a sky-blue tint on the back, not one being of the hue that is generally met with.

The introduction of perforation is unnoticed, as none are perforated until a very much later date.

The colour of the very early plates of Die II. calls for remark, as some of those on the Small Crown paper are of a deep red, almost approaching the carmine of later days, a shade that has never come under the writer's notice in combination with this watermark.

Plate 7 shows this peculiarity, with a faint tinge of blue; Plate 14 is similar, but without any traces of blue.

Three of the sheets of the penny value have inverted watermarks.

There are no specimens of the embossed stamps in the collection.

With the stamps which bear plate numbers on their face comes the point

referred to above, which has not, it is submitted, received due attention up to the present. This is the fact that certain sheets have a number in the margin besides the number of the plate, which is apparently a printer's number, but more than this it is impossible to ascertain. The numbers are in two series, one containing the halfpenny, penny, three-halfpenny, and twopenny stamps, the other the higher values, together with telegraph stamps, and apparently some fiscals. The reason for the blanks in them is not at present known.

The plate number is given in the margin at all four corners of every sheet prior to 1880. Down to Plate 98 of the penny it is a small coloured number, after this it was enclosed in a circle. The values above twopence usually have a large number, white on a coloured disc; frequently this is over (or under, as the case may be) the second stamp in from the end. The other mysterious number is, in the case of the pennies, &c., at the top left-hand corner over the stamp "A.B.," and at the bottom right-hand corner under the stamp "T.K." In the halfpenny it is much farther in, being over "A.G." and under "T.R."

In the higher values it is usually much larger, and enclosed in a frame. All stamps on the paper watermarked Crown of 1880 have the margins quite plain, without numbers of any kind, until the introduction of lines, ornaments, and control letters in the current issue.

In the case of sheets such as Plate 18 of the sixpenny, when a second registration took place, on the rearrangement of the panes to suit the new paper, the numbers have disappeared from the margin.

In connection with this subject attention may be drawn to stamps from the side of a pane which have been perforated close on all sides, without the usual margin within the perforation which forms the division between the panes. In the opinion of the writer it is impossible for this to have occurred in a genuine manner. A Continental dealer is believed to have been in the habit of perforating the edges of stamps which had had this margin clipped off, in order to make them more acceptable to collectors; and he, or kindred malefactors, are probably responsible for the existence of specimens of this kind which occasionally come to hand, sometimes masquerading as "errors of perforation." They will very seldom pass muster under the test of a perforation gauge.

To return to the subject of official numbers, a list is given below, with the corresponding plate numbers, as far as it is possible to make it. On some of the later sheets numbers have been written in ink, which probably form a continuation of these series, but for present purposes they have been ignored, as the object in view is to deal simply with those *printed* thereon, which are possible to be found at the present day, on stamps with the margin intact.

Series I. Stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.
106	1d.	98	140	1d.	125	174	½d.	4	208	1d.	175	242	½d.	15			
107	1d.	99	141	?		175	½d.	5	209	1d.	176	243	?				
108	?		142	1d.	126	176	½d.	6	210	1d.	177	244	1d.	205			
109	?		143	?		177	½d.	8	211	1d.	178	245	1d.	206			
110	1d.	100	144	1d.	129	178	½d.	9	212	1d.	179	246	1d.	207			
111	1d.	101	145	1d.	130	179	?		213	1d.	180	247	?				
112	1d.	102	146	1d.	131	180	1d.	153	214	1d.	181	248	½d.	19			
113	1d.	103	147	1d.	132	181	1d.	154	215	1d.	182	249	½d.	20			
114	1d.	104	148	1d.	133	182	1d.	155	216	1d.	183	250	1d.	208			
115	1d.	105	149	1d.	134	183	1d.	156	217	1d.	184	251	1d.	209			
116	1d,	106	150	1d.	135	184	1d.	157	218	1d.	185	252	1d.	210			
117	1d.	107	151	1d.	136	185	?		219	1d.	186	253	1d.	211			
118	1d.	108	152	2d.	13	186	1d.	158	220	½d.	12	254	1d.	212			
119	?		153	1d.	137	187	1d.	159	221	½d.	13	255	1d.	213			
120	?		154	1d.	138	188	1d.	160	222	1d.	187	256	1d.	214			
121	?		155	1d.	139	189	?		223	1d.	188	257	1d.	215			
122	?		156	1d.	140	190	?		224	½d.	14	258	1d.	216			
123	2d.	12	157	1d.	141	191	1d.	161	225	1d.	189	259	1d.	217			
124	1d.	109	158	1d.	142	192	1d.	162	226	1d.	190	260	1d.	218			
125	1d.	110	159	?		193	1½d.	3	227	2d.	15	261	1d.	219			
126	1d.	111	160	1d.	143	194	1d.	163	228	1d.	191	262	1d.	220			
127	1d.	112	161	1d.	144	195	1d.	164	229	1d.	192	263	1d.	221			
128	1d.	113	162	1d.	145	196	1d.	165	230	1d.	193	264	1d.	222			
129	1d.	114	163	1d.	146	197	½d.	10	231	1d.	194	265	1d.	223			
130	1d.	115	164	1d.	147	198	½d.	11	232	1d.	195	266	?				
131	1d.	116	165	1d.	148	199	1d.	166	233	1d.	196	267	1d.	224			
132	1d.	117	166	1d.	149	200	1d.	167	234	1d.	197	268	1d.	225			
133	1d.	118	167	1d.	150	201	1d.	168	235	1d.	198						
134	1d.	119	168	1d.	151	202	1d.	169	236	1d.	199						
135	1d.	120	169	1d.	152	203	1d.	170	237	1d.	200						
136	1d.	121	170	2d.	14	204	1d.	171	238	1d.	201						
137	1d.	122	171	½d.	1	205	1d.	172	239	1d.	202						
138	1d.	123	172	?		206	1d.	173	240	1d.	203						
139	1d.	124	173	½d.	3	207	1d.	174	241	1d.	204						

With regard to the numbers from 1 to 105, they may have been made up in this way, though the numbers are not given in the margins:—

| | | | | | |

Series II. Stamps printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

(*Those in brackets are Telegraph stamps.*)

Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.	Official Number.	Value.	Plate Number.
205	9d.	2	293	10d.	2	428	4d.	15	[484	1d.	5]	555	2½d.	12
206	4d.	3*a*	294	5/-	2	433	3d.	14	[487	3d.	2]	558	£1	1
207	6d.	3*a*	298	2/-	3	435	3d.	15	488	6d.	16	559	10/-	1
208	3d.	2*a*	301	6d.	8	436	1/-	10	493	1/-	14	565	2½d.	13
212	6d.	4*b*	307	3d.	6	441	1/-	11	[496	3d.	3]	[567	5/-	3]
213	1/-	2*a*	315	4d.	11	442	6d.	15	501	2½d.	6	568	2½d.	14
214	9d.	3*b*	321	4d.	12	447	3d.	16	503	8d.	1	570	3d.	20
215	1/-	3*b*	322	4d.	13	449	4d.	16	510	8d.	2	575	2½d.	15
216	4d.	4*b*	327	4d.	14	454	5/-	4	513	2½d.	7	576	2½d.	16
218	3d.	3	328	3d.	7	455	3d.	17	[522	£1	1]	581	2½d.	17
236	1/-	4	329	6d.	9	456	1/-	12	[523	3/-	1]	583	2½d.	18
237	3d.	4	330	1/-	6	459	3d.	18	[524	6d.	1]	588	2½d.	19
238	6d.	5	331	6d.	10	465	2½d.	1	[525	4d.	1]	592	2½d.	20
239	9d.	4	375	6d.	11	466	2½d.	2	[526	£5*	1]	593	6d.	18
247	4d.	7	376	3d.	8	467	1/-	13	531	2½d.	8	594	3d.	21
248	4d.	8	381	6d.	12	468	3d.	19	[533	4d.	2]			
253	6d.	6	382	3d.	9	473	2½d.	3	[534	6d.	2]			
254	3d.	5	383	1/-	7	474	2½d.	4	535	2½d.	9			
255	9d.	5	405	1/-	8	475	2½d.	5	540	4d.	17			
256	1/-	5	407	3d.	10	[476	5/-	1]	[541	3d.	4]			
275	4d.	9	413	6d.	13	[477	5/-	2]	543	2½d.	10			
276	4d.	10	414	3d.	11	[479	3d.	1]	546	6d.	17			
284	5/-	1	424	3d.	12	[480	1d.	1]	547	2½d.	11			
285	2/-	1	425	1/-	9	[482	1d.	2]	[550	3d.	5]			
286	10d.	1	427	6d.	14	[483	1d.	3]						

a These are the first stamps with small letters.

b These are the stamps with "hair lines."

* When the £5 value was altered to "POSTAGE" the numbers were removed from the margin, but the registration sheet taken after this change has "526" written on the margin.

The following postage stamps have no numbers in the margin:—

4d., Plates 1 and 2.
6d., Plate 1.
1s., Plate 1.

The numbers of the following could not be ascertained:—

Telegraph. 1s., Plates 1 to 12; and 10s., Plate 1.

The following probably account for some of the blanks in the above list, and suggest occupants for the rest:—

1d., lilac, Inland Revenue.

Large type,	Plate	(?)	printer's number 217
Small type, I.	,,	92	,, 463
,, II.	,,	113	,, 538
,, III.	,,	(?)	,, 551
,,	,,	(?)	,, 552
,,	,,	(?)	,, 578
,,	,,	137	,, 586

In conclusion, it is suggested that the nearest approach to an ideal collection of any country's stamps that is possible at the present day lies in the adoption of two principles which are not usually kept in view, even by the most advanced specialists. These are as follows :—

Firstly, the acquisition, where possible, of unused corner pairs (or larger blocks, where obtainable, if preferred) with marginal paper.

This applies equally to perforated and imperforate stamps.

Secondly, used stamps should be taken on a piece of the original cover, cut out so as to show the entire postmark. There are so many advantages in this that it is strange the system should not be more generally adopted. Firstly, the addition of a frame round the stamp enhances its appearance. Secondly, when a stamp has been used to prepay postage the postmark forms a part of the whole transaction, recording the place and date; moreover, a study of the styles of postmark in use at different periods is an interesting adjunct to a collection of the stamps of any country, and indeed forms part of its postal history. Thirdly, it is really wicked to soak a stamp off; the traces of immersion usually remain to a greater or less degree, sometimes amounting to absolute ruin. In the case of exceptionally hardy stamps it is conceded that occasionally their appearance is improved by the bath, but it is quite possible to wash their faces, if they appear to be in need of it, without allowing them to become detached from the envelope.

In the case of Great Britain, reconstructed sheets of the more prominent varieties, with the correct arrangement of panes, etc., are to some extent a substitute for the entire original sheets, now only found in the dreams of an enthusiast.

An ideal collection being now an impossibility (why, oh why did not someone form one as the stamps were issued ?), it is contended that the next best thing is a "New Collection," and these are the lines on which, in the writer's opinion, it should be formed.

For the information relating to Telegraph stamps, acknowledgments are due to His Honour Judge Philbrick; for the list of Revenue stamps, to Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen.

Occasional Notes.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION (1897) *TESTIMONIAL DINNER TO MESSRS. TILLEARD AND GORDON SMITH.*

At the General Meeting of the Committee of the Exhibition held in February last, the Balance Sheet here following was presented, and, needless to say, heartily approved of and accepted. The figures speak for themselves, and so strong was the feeling expressed at the eminently satisfactory financial results, that it was generally felt that means should be taken to express the same, in a practical and pleasant form, to those gentlemen whose labours had been mainly conducive to the success of the Exhibition.

A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. W. B. Avery, M. P. Castle, W. H. Peckitt, and C. J. Phillips, was formed to invite subscriptions, &c., and with a ready and willing response a substantial sum was readily subscribed. This amount was duly invested in the purchase (under exceptionally favourable conditions as to price) of a handsomely chased silver salver and a gold English hunter watch and chain, which were presented respectively to Mr. J. A. Tilleard and Mr. Gordon Smith at a dinner held in their honour at the Café Monico, Piccadilly, on the 10th of the month. Needless to say that the repast was in every way worthy of the traditions of the restaurant, and that, aided by the musical entertainment afforded by Messrs. R. Ray and H. Crimp, a most enjoyable evening was passed. The practical absence of speeches perhaps was the greatest source of enjoyment! Mr. M. P. Castle, who presided, in presenting the testimonial voiced the unanimous opinion as to the real, honest hard work, great capacity, and perennial cheerfulness of Mr. Tilleard, the secretary of the Philatelic Exhibition, and his trusty aide-de-camp, Mr. Gordon Smith. Both gentlemen responded with all due diffidence, but with evident appreciation of the compliment that had been paid to them. The dinner was attended by about thirty-five gentlemen, amongst whom was Mr. J. S. Purcell, C.B., and Mr. Luard, besides the leading elements in Philatelic circles. It was a fitting finish to the most successful Philatelic Exhibition of our times, and truthfully may it again be said, *Finis coronat opus.*

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1897, *BALANCE SHEET.*

Dr. *Cr.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Show Cases, Boards, Stalls, and Fittings	449	9	8	By Donations	144	4	6
„ Entertainments	41	7	8	„ Rent of Stalls from Dealers	425	0	0
„ Insurance	120	0	0	„ Exhibitors' Rent of Cases and Insurance, &c.	273	8	10
„ Cost of Catalogue	135	19	9	„ Advertisements in Catalogue	187	17	5
„ Medals	123	1	8	„ Sales of Catalogue	49	5	3
„ Various Incidentals.	131	6	4	„ Medals presented	50	17	9
„ Printing, Stationery, and Advertising	109	8	1	„ Admissions and Season Tickets	208	14	6
„ Rent and Lighting	124	9	9	„ Commission on Sales	9	8	0
„ Honorarium to Secretary	105	0	0				
„ Accountant's Fees	6	6	3				
„ Treasurer's petty Disbursements	2	7	1				
	£1348	16	3		£1348	16	3

I have compared the above Statement with the Treasurer's Accounts, and found that it correctly shows the results of the Exhibition.

(Signed) A. J. WILLIAMS, *Chartered Accountant.*

77, COLMORE ROW, BIRMINGHAM, *4th February*, 1898.

SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
22nd February, 1898.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps to inform you that the Special Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, have taken into consideration the proposed issue of Trans-Mississippi stamps in connection with the Exhibition to be held at Omaha, U.S.A., and are of opinion that the same is speculative and unnecessary.

In making public the above opinion, this Society recommends to refuse to purchase these stamps, and so assist in preventing the issue of stamps intended mainly for the purpose of sale to collectors and speculators.

Yours truly,

By order of the Committee this 18th February, 1898,

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

"SURTOUT—POINT DE ZÈLE."

THE traditions of diplomacy record the above as a portion of the very cynical advice tendered by a great diplomatist to an attaché who asked for guidance in his duties. Sardonic as was the utterance, it has sound sense. In some cases it is advisable to do one's duty to the letter and then stop, and not take any initiative.

An amusing instance of this "zeal" on the part of officials in the Postal Service has recently occurred. A collector of unused stamps, who is ultra-particular, desired to enrich his collection with the now orthodox square blocks of four of all the stamps of a certain country. Having despatched a couple of pounds—*i.e.*, more than sufficient to cover the *desiderata*—he carefully explained his wants, asked for a remission of unused stamps for the surplus cash remitted, and possessed his soul in patience. The answer duly arrived, adorned with official seals of the most imposing appearance, but both back and front were pasted over with stamps of all values—at least ten times above the amount of postage required. With a sigh at so much waste of good matter, and a malediction on official "zeal," our collector disturbed the sealing wax—to find vertical strips of four all adorned with remarkably heavy postmarks on the face, and with the original gum yet fondly clinging to the reverse!

PHILATELIC JOURNALS: NEW DEPARTURES.

THE *Metropolitan Philatelist*, published by the veteran Mr. John Walter Scott, announces an important alteration, *i.e.*, that with the commencement of the next volume that journal will be published weekly on the Saturday morning, with a subscription price of 25 c. (not too dear!) for America generally, but 75 c. "for New York City and foreign countries"!

*

We can only wish our contemporary success in its new departure, which has the merit of boldness if not of originality. In olden days the *M. P.* was very excellent reading.

The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* has already shown remarkable signs of vitality under the editorship of Mr. Krötzsch, as announced in these columns, and yet another important addition to its influence is now notified. A circular letter from the Austrian *Philatelisten Club* advises us that, in accordance with a resolution of that body passed at a general meeting on February 10th last, the *D. B. Z.* has been selected as the official organ of the Club. The Austrian Society is well known to hold one of the most prominent Philatelic positions in Europe, and it is therefore a fitting and a just compliment to the *D. B. Z.* under its present able management that it should have been selected for this purpose. Already the recognized medium of the Berlin Philatelic Club, whose reputation is of the highest, the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* will now—more than ever in the past—stand far ahead of all its rivals published in the German language. It is a striking instance of the fact that the best Philatelic work does not necessarily emanate from the largest societies. The Dresden Society, in its aggregate capacity of 2000 members, is woefully behind the times in its Philatelic organ, which is conducted on out-of-date and narrow-minded lines quite unworthy so important a Society. The reviewing of auctions, catalogues, the accounts of the weather and rural scenes in Germany, flavoured with a spice of malice borne towards most of its competitors, may be interesting—if not very useful—reading, but *Der Philatelist* should at least have the compensation of presenting sound Philatelic articles in addition. A knowledge of the English language would save the management from many lamentable errors of judgment.

The proprietors of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, encouraged by the deserved success of their Special New York Number, have just published another "Special Issue" of some 30 pages, the main feature of which is a long account of the firm of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, with illustrations of the different departments of the business, and a variety of other matter connected with that enterprising firm that will be found of general interest.

THE RAILWAY LETTER FEE STAMPS.

THE editor of the *Monthly Circular*, in the March issue of that paper, takes up the discussion on the status of Railway Fee Stamps, which was initiated at a meeting of the London Philatelic Society by Mr. Dendy Marshall, and continued after the appearance in the *London Philatelist* of the paper on the subject read at the meeting referred to.

Mr. Westoby considers that the simple question appears to be, "Is this a postal service or not? We confidently assert that it is so: it was organized by the Post Office, and the public have nothing whatever to do with the mode in which the Post Office carries it out. The Railway Company in conveying the letter is not acting as the agent of the sender, but of the Post Office."

It will be remembered that this is one of the arguments urged by Mr. Earl in his letter which appeared in our last month's issue, and is a condition contained in the Post Office regulations regarding this method of posting. Mr. Westoby agrees, however, that the Railway stamp represents a special fee for accelerated service, but regards its status as assured by attributing its original use to the Post Office, and not to the Railway Company.

Mr. Westoby, in his "summing up in their favour," displays his wonted acumen, and as our own view as to the status of these stamps is antagonistic to that expressed here, we think it fair to reproduce Mr. Westoby's conclusions :—

"Now these stamps must be something. The whole question seems to be, What are they? No one, we think, will deny that they are part of the machinery by which the Post Office carries out a special service for the conveyance of single letters. So the registration fee is one by which the Post Office carries out a special service, but in that case the letter never goes out of the hands of the Post Office. In the railway letters, the officer of the Railway Company acts as the agent for the Post Office, which deputes it to cancel its own stamp as well as that of the Railway Company. We fail to see how they can be regarded in any other light than as postage stamps for a special service, limited, moreover, to such railway companies as the Post Office may allow to act as its agents. The general design of the stamp was not left to the Railway Company. The details may differ, but all have to bear the inscription of 'Fee for conveyance of single post letters by railway' and the name of the issuing Company, and therefore dedicated to that particular service. The Post Office gets nothing out of this service, but it loses nothing, as it secures its own postage and leaves the trouble and the cost of conveyance to the public and the Railway Company. It was a clever device of the Clearing Office, and saves a vast amount of trouble."

Reviews.

THE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.*

THE acknowledged merits of Mr. Ewen's British Catalogue are continued in the present edition; information of new issues and varieties is fully recorded, and several important improvements have been effected, notably the separation of the price list from the catalogue proper. The Railway Letter Fee Stamps have also now been listed. It is significant that the list of British stamps with foreign postmarks has been curtailed. We can cordially commend this catalogue as another evidence of the careful study that Mr. Ewen has given to the stamps of our own country, and to his laudable endeavours to increase their popularity. We have so much sympathy with Mr. Ewen's attempt to raise the standard for the inclusion of postal stationery *in specializing*, that we reproduce the following spirited plea on its behalf that occurs in the preface :

* *Standard Priced Catalogue of Stamps and Postmarks of the United Kingdom.* Sixth edition. H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, London, S.E.

"The most important alteration made in the sixth edition of this catalogue is in the arrangement and classification of stamps impressed on postal stationery. The lists of these stamps have been compiled on entirely novel lines, and with a view to rendering their collection more interesting and popular. It is astonishing how few collectors realize that a collection of stamps cannot be complete if only adhesive stamps are included. No doubt this prejudice against envelope stamps and their like owes its existence to a mistaken idea that they lose all value and interest when cut out from the envelope or paper to which they were originally attached, and to their inconvenient size when retained in their entire state. But this is a fallacy. An envelope from which a stamp has been cut loses its value as an envelope, but the stamp remains perfect and fully as interesting as before. It is necessary to distinguish clearly between collection of entire stationery and that of the stamp impressed on same. The former is an entirely different study to the latter, and, strictly speaking, is not stamp collecting at all. Hence, perhaps, its natural neglect by nine out of ten stamp collectors. Unfortunately for the stamps, collectors have hitherto overlooked the existence of such a thing as a pair of scissors, and confusing the collection of stamps with that of entire stationery, have neglected them both. It is hoped that the lists published in this catalogue will tend to remedy this, and to render more popular the interesting and legitimate study of the many varieties of envelope, wrapper, newspaper, and postcard *stamps*."

GREECE.*

We understand that this work is printed for private circulation, and have to acknowledge with thanks a copy sent by Mr. Beckton. It has been appearing in serial form in the *Philatelic Record*, and from its authors' intimate knowledge of the Grecian stamps, the anticipations as to its interest and value were amply borne out. The Paris impressions are very fully described and beautifully illustrated, including a representation of a strip of three of the 20 lepta with the inscription below, "Typographie Ernest Meyer, Rue de Verneil 22, à Paris," a conclusive proof of their birth-place.

The authors divide the varied issues into four broad groups (a system that the writer had personally adopted in arranging the stamps of this country), which seems to us the only method of introducing the principle of homogeneity in the very varied issues of the Hellenic kingdom. The first group is naturally that of the Paris prints. The second group embraces in three subdivisions all the stamps between the first and third groups, the latter being the well-defined issue of 1876 on cream paper, while the fourth group is constituted by the continuation of the last-named series without the numerals of value on the back. An exception to this is afforded by the 1 and 2 lepta, which are worked right out *ab initio*—a plan that obviates many difficulties. The shades of paper and colour are very difficult to separate in the later printings of these two values, and by this plan they are all satisfactorily housed together. No two dealers' stocks that we have ever seen approach each other in assessing these two values—the highest price in one case is frequently the lowest in another! Every value of all these issues is carefully worked out in all its gradations of colour and imprint, and

* *The Stamps of Greece.* By W. Dorning Beckton, in collaboration with G. B. Duerst. Plymouth: W. Brendon & Son, Printers.

will be found of great interest to the many collectors who justly regard the Greek stamps with interest. The authors devote some attention to the vexed question of the 20 lepta of the so-called worn Paris plate, the peculiar defective appearance in the spandrel being by them attributed to their having been the first impression from the plate after it had been cleaned by the German printer despatched to Athens in 1870. We must confess that this theory hardly commends itself to us strongly—but assuredly no other *has* up to the present time—and the last word on this curious variety has yet to be written. There are several handsome plates accompanying the text, one showing the principal varieties of the figure on the reverse (of which an excellent list is given), and the little volume is beautifully printed. It is an honest attempt to induce order in the ranks of the issues of a very difficult country, palpably done by the side of the stamps themselves, and as such merits the most unstinted approval of all who value conscientious and thorough Philatelic study.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR.*

Laudable is the intention with which this book has been designed, and excellent is the manner in which it has been carried out. The enterprising publisher has introduced to the reading world a series of works treating of the different objects of collecting — books, prints, covers, autographs, china, etc.—and the present book on stamps forms one of the series. It therefore appeals to a far wider section than to Philatelists alone, as it will be read probably by all subscribers to the entire series and by the general public. The aim, therefore, of the authors has been to present the study of stamps in a popular and attractive guise, emphasizing many points that Philatelists are well acquainted with, and to a considerable extent setting aside the more purely scientific aspects of the pursuit. The authors have admirably succeeded in their plan of campaign, as we are confident that no thoughtful reader—Philatelist or not—can take up this book and not read it with enjoyment from cover to cover. Mr. Hardy is unknown to us as a Philatelic writer, but that he has wide experience in producing this style of handbook is evident, and in many ways the work under review reveals the introduction of new methods and ideas that can hardly fail to popularize and extend the pursuit. Mr. Bacon's fame as a writer on stamps needs no comment. His experience is immense, his contact with the great collectors and the finest stamps has been for many years unbroken, his Philatelic library is of great extent, and his memory is so excellent that anything he writes will be found to contain solid fact and interesting information. We tender to him and his joint-author our most cordial congratulations on the great success that has attended their labours, and we trust that *The Stamp Collector* will have a very large circulation—in their interests, equally with that of Philatelists, who herein possess a most powerful and attractive advocate.

We are convinced that practically all our readers will be purchasers of this book—the investment will be well repaid—hence no lengthened

* *The Stamp Collector.* By W. J. HARDY and E. D. BACON. London: George Redway, 1898.

account of its contents is required. Eleven chapters, each self-contained and important, deal with the various phases and incidents of collecting, and occupy some 270 pages, followed by an appendix containing much valuable information. No less than twelve plates of autotype illustrations are given. When it is stated that these are so finely executed and are so true that any stamps could be tested thereby, that almost all the great varieties are depicted, and that the majority are the representations of stamps in the Tapling collection, we are fully justified in the statement that the illustrations alone are worth more than the moderate price asked for the book.

The introductory chapter will be found to contain a highly interesting history of the "Rise and Progress of the Philatelic Empire," but we incline to the opinion that for an introduction it is over-long, and that much of the valuable matter would have been better incorporated in the later chapters. Indeed, throughout, the information would be better for being more "broken up" into sub-sections, while the addition of headlines, and perhaps marginal notes, would lend greater attractiveness to the volume. The food is almost too good—the addition of the *sauce piquante* would add zest to the meal.

The chapter devoted to "Famous Collections" will be largely read. Mr. Bacon's long acquaintance with the leading collectors enables him to give valuable information hereon, notably in the case of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling. There are, however, some names that ought to have been added, and should be incorporated in the second edition that so popular a book will doubtless soon attain.

We cite a few instances that occur to us as we write: The collection of Mr. H. J. Duveen, of London, is at the present moment the second in importance in this country, and bids fair very soon to be the first. The specialized collections of the greatest Philatelic importance of Messrs. Harold White, W. W. Blest, and Baron A. de Worms assuredly merit recognition, far beyond some of those included. The magnificent collection of M. P. Mirabaud, of Paris, *one of the very finest in the world*, is not mentioned, while those of the late Mr. Notthafft and Mr. F. Breitfuss, of St. Petersburg (which are only named), merit full attention as being *among the great collections*. In Austria the collections of Mr. L. Schwarz and Mr. H. Mallman are of high rank; and there are several collectors in the States—*e.g.*, Messrs. Thorne, Deats, Crocker, etc.—whose Philatelic possessions are manifold and important.

In the chapter devoted to prices we think there is also room for improvement. Many of the auction prices quoted are fallacious, while a well-tabulated scheme showing the rise in prices (according to groups) during the past thirty years would add vastly to the interest of the book, and tend to draw outside attention to the advantages of Philately. Beyond this there are a few points which the second edition will doubtless find improved, but as a whole we are glad to accord the warmest commendation of this most interesting book. It will redound to the credit of its authors, and it cannot fail in its mission of popularizing and extending the pursuit of Philately.

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 a new provisional, issued in January last, before us, sent by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.; this consists of the three shillings adhesive of the current issue apparently handstamped with the words "one—penny" in two lines of Roman capitals. The surcharge is in red, and for future use it may be well to give the measurements: the word "one" is 8 mm. in length, while the word "penny" measures 13 mm. in its extreme length. There is a distance of 5 mm. (nearly) between the two words.

Adhesive. One Penny on 3s., green; red surcharge.

Canada.—The letter cards have been issued with stamps of the new type.

Letter Cards. 1 c., black on *blue.*
3 c., carmine ,,

Cape of Good Hope.—Writing from the Cape, Lieutenant Raby tells us that he has come across a specimen of the current post card, value "one penny" surcharged on the 1½d. card, with a double surcharge, very distinct and about 2½ mm. below the normal.

Ceylon.—A new shade of the 4 c. adhesive is announced by the *M.J.*, *bright pink*, quite different from the 4 c., *rose*, of 1884. In all other respects the stamp remains the same. *Adhesive.* 4 c., bright pink.

Gambia.—The following notice appears in our advertisement pages. It looks as if this Colony was not above turning an honest penny, even through the generosity of the poor stamp collector.

"Withdrawal of Present Issue of Gambia Postage Stamps.

"On the 1st May, 1898, the present issue, if not previously exhausted, of all denominations of Postage Stamps in the Gambia that are then in the hands of the Government will be destroyed, and a complete new set of stamps will then be put in circulation.

"Administrator's Office, Bathurst, Gambia,
"31*st January*, 1898."

According to our contemporaries the new series of stamps has already arrived in the Colony, although, from the wording of the above official notice, May 1st was to be the date of issue. The stamps are described as of the current De La Rue Colonial type. When we receive a set we will append chronicle.

Hong Kong.—The 1 dollar provisional stamp, formed by surcharging the two dollars stamp duty adhesive, as described in our last issue, has become obsolete, and has been replaced by the obsolete 96 c. grey stamp, with similar overprint. This, we take it, is a return to the 1885 issue (Gibbons No. 50)?

Mauritius.—Some new registration envelopes are announced. Query whether they replace the 12 c. envelopes?

Registration Envelopes. 8 c., grey (F).
8 c., ultramarine (G).

New South Wales.—As noted by our Australian correspondent last month, the current 1d., 2d., and 2½d. adhesives have been re-engraved, steel dies replacing wood. There is also a decided variation in the colours of the finished stamps. We have the 2d. value in deep blue and also ultramarine. The *M.J.* also notes variations in the colour of the ½d., pale grey and dark grey having been met with.

Adhesives. 1d., rose; *re-engraved type.*
2d., ultramarine ,, ,,
2½d., mauve ,, ,,

New Zealand.—At the moment of going to press we have seen a set of the new stamps, which are a credit to this Colony,

and will assuredly find favour with Philatelists everywhere. We shall hope to give descriptive illustrations of these stamps in our April issue.

RHODESIA.—The *M. J.* chronicles three post cards announced some months ago. We mention these again as the inscriptions thereon designate this territory by its correct name, the word "MASHONALAND" giving place to "RHODESIA." We recommend a similar alteration in the forthcoming issue of new stamps, for the appearance of which we have long been waiting.

Post Cards. 1d., blue on *white*.
1+1d., red on *white*.
1½d., brownish yellow on *white*.

ST. VINCENT.—We thought so. The 1s., salmon shade, does not exist. The stamp which has done duty for some eight years is still current, and we are glad to hear it.

VICTORIA.—The colour of the 1½d. stamp, so recently announced, is to be changed; blue has been chosen for its future garb, a colour which will apparently clash with the 2½d. value when the Postal Union requirements come into force.

EUROPE.

GERMANY.—This empire, it is announced, is shortly to have a 2 pfennig stamp added to the present modest and upright series of adhesives.

HUNGARY.—Mr. Castle has received some additions to the 1887 series, with numeral in *black*, viz., stamps of 2, 3, 10, and 20 kr. These were issued under a notification dated January 14, 1898. The stamps are lithographed.

Adhesives. 2 kr., mauve and black.
3 kr., green and black.
10 kr., blue and black.
20 kr., grey and black.

ICELAND.—In describing the surcharges last month we were in error in stating that the overprint was "prio," it should have read "prir." The current series of adhesives is appearing with a new perforation, 12½, similar to the mother country. The *M. J.* has received the 5 aur with this perforation.

Adhesive. 5 aur, green; *perf.* 12½.

ROUMANIA.—Mr. Castle has received an interesting and apparently genuine *error*, which has lately been issued and subsequently recalled on discovery of the mistake. In printing some sheets of 5 bani stamps the printer inserted a *cliché* of the "25" bani in place of the "5" bani in the sheet, and before the error was noticed some 2000 sheets had been sent out. The error is the third stamp in the third row from the right-hand side of the sheet. The date of the occurrence of this mishap was December, 1897. On application at the various offices to which the sheets had been sent, it was found that 216 sheets out of the 2000 had been sold; but 1784 were reclaimed by the officials, promptly withdrawn, and, we understand, destroyed.

As we go to press we hear, through the medium of the *D. B. Z.*, that the 1784 sheets—each containing this error, which were recalled by the postal authorities—*will be disposed of at auction or otherwise*. We can hardly credit this astounding news, or that any civilized Government should stoop so low as to obtain money by such means, and trust that the news may be without foundation.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—*Le Timbre-Poste* announces that a 30 c. adhesive has been issued similar in type to the current 10 c.

Adhesive. 30 c., orange.

BOLIVIA.—The current 20 c. and 50 c. stamps are now printed on thicker paper, and perf. 13 in place of 14.

Adhesive. 20 c., dull blue; perf. 13.
50 c., lilac ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—Mr. David Benjamin sends us the one cent stamp of the new issue printed by Waterlow & Sons, which was issued on February 7th; other values are to hand, and will be issued as the old-type stamps are exhausted. The new stamps are printed in sheets of 240 divided into 3 rows, each containing 4 panes of 20 stamps each. The design of the one cent stamp before us is too complicated for description; we hope to illustrate the full set in a future issue. The paper is medium white wove, the watermark uncertain, and the perforation 16.

Adhesive. One cent, mustard.

We are also indebted to Mr. Benjamin for the following interesting explanation of a query we addressed to him, regarding the use of the French-China stamps with those of the Imperial Post, a letter at present requiring such a stamp to convey it abroad. He writes:—

"Referring to your query in the former letter as to why my letter required a French 'Chine' 25 c. stamp besides the Chinese stamps, this is because China has, at her own request, only joined the Postal Union partially, as she was not prepared to undertake international work while she was improving her domestic service, etc.; but in order that, so far as the public is concerned, her stamps would prepay mail all over,

she made arrangements whereby mail for abroad could be posted at the various Chinese ports, etc., in China, prepaid with Chinese stamps to the value that the letter would require when posted at any of the foreign postal agencies here, and she would then affix the stamp to prepay the postage abroad. She, of course, makes nothing by this system, but it is for the convenience of the public, especially at the outports where there are no foreign post offices. For instance, I must post this letter at one of the foreign post offices here, say, the British Post, which here is an agency of the Hongkong Post Office. Well, the rate of postage is 10 c. Mex.=25 centimes. Instead of posting it at the British Post and affixing a Hongkong 10 c. stamp, I would post it at the Chinese Post, using a China 10 c. stamp. They would then affix the Hongkong 10 c. stamp and forward the letter. So, practically, Chinese stamps, so far as the public are concerned, prepay mail all over the world.

"From good authority I learn that China will fully enter the Union on the 1st July next and undertake international work herself, as at present she is only partially in the Postal Union at her own request. The Post Office are making improvements every day."

DUTCH INDIES.—The following modifications in the current stamps of the "numeral" type are noted by the *M. J.* The 1 c. changes from grey-green to *deep olive-green;* the 3 c., *mauve*, replaces lilac; and the 5 c. is now *ultramarine* instead of blue, all being perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ instead of $12\frac{1}{2}$. In the Queen's head type the 10 c. is now in a deeper shade of red-brown, and the 20 c. is in a paler shade of blue, both being on thinner paper than heretofore.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—Two new reply post cards have been issued, one for inland and the other for foreign use.

Post Cards. ½d.+1½d., green on ? (reply).
1d.+1d., brown on ? ,,

PERSIA.—Following the adhesives the envelopes have been changed. The colours of the stamps impressed thereon are now as follows:—

Envelopes. 5 sh., yellow on *white* (2 sizes).
10 sh., blue ,, ,,
12 sh., rose ,, ,,
1 kran, violet ,, ,,

SPANISH COLONIES.—*Cuba.*—Post cards with stamp of the new type are announced for the three Colonies as follows:—

Post Cards. 5 m., carmine on *buff*.
5+5 m. ,, ,, (reply).
1 c., green ,,
1+1 c. ,, ,, (reply).
2 c., purple ,,
2+2 c. ,, ,, (reply).
3 c., orange-brown on *buff*.
3+3 c. ,, ,, (reply).

Philippine Islands (the same set).
Porto Rico (the same set).

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications of Philatelic matters and Publications for Review 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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"GRENADA."

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I hardly think that Dr. Taylor is correct in saying that his classification of the early issues of Grenada and mine which appeared in the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* are different methods, for they both depend very largely upon manner of perforation.

The real difference would seem to come where he merely takes note of quality of work. I take number of perforations into account as well, a step further.

Neither can I agree with him as to the impossibility of measurement, for with the exception of the issue (or possibly issues) that are compound perforated, and which have a distinctive appearance, the issues III.–VII. in my classification are all fairly clean-cut, issues IV.–VI. being exceptionally so, and consequently very easy of measurement.

We know that the penny and sixpenny values, having various shades, perforations, and watermarks, were not withdrawn until 1883; and, as there are many reasons for believing that those among them that are compound perforated were only used as late as 1873 and not after, should we then expect

the perforations of those stamps issued at the comparatively late period (1873–83) were cut by so primitive a machine as Dr. Taylor leads one to expect?

I think you will find that Mr. Hausburg is somewhat of the same mind concerning these values as myself, for I had a letter from, him after I had had the pleasure of seeing his fine collection and discussing these particular stamps with him, stating that he was arranging them (at any rate the penny value) upon similar lines for the London Philatelic Exhibition.

I remain, yours truly,
J. WRAY MERCER.

NEW OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE CLUB,
68, PALL MALL, S.W.
11th March, 1898.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

President—W. T. WILSON.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A.
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

FEB. 3rd.—Paper, "Mexico," Mr. W. T. Wilson.

W. R. Connolly, Esq., was unanimously elected a member.

Mr. Wilson then gave a most interesting and instructive display, with notes, of the early issues of Mexico, in particular having been able finally to elucidate the difficult question of sub-consignment numbers found on the 1864-66 issues.

FEB. 17th.—Display (with notes), "Belgium," Mr. F. E. Wilson.

Rev. W. N. Usher, Messrs. Crawford Capen, A. Sugg, and E. H. A. Johnson were unanimously elected members.

Mr. F. E. Wilson then gave his display, with very copious notes on all the issues, with remarks on many minor varieties, catalogued and uncatalogued. Nearly every kind was shown, used and unused, singles, strips, and blocks in a fine range of shade.

MARCH 3rd.—Display, "Argentine and Brazil."

Messrs. E. Stock and F. C. Fisher were unanimously elected members.

Messrs. W. T. Wilson, W. Pimm, and G. Johnson showed the stamps of Argentine and Brazil, all the rare varieties and shades being well represented.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

President—M. P. CASTLE.
Hon. Secretary—BARON A. DE WORMS.
27, *Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.*

THE third meeting of the season 1897-98 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Tuesday, January 4th, at 8.15 p.m., at which eleven members and one visitor were present. The President took the chair, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, a letter was read from a member tendering his resignation, which was accepted with regret. Mr. Sang then held an auction of stamps, and offered over one hundred lots, nearly all of which were disposed of. Although no very rare specimens were put up, several lots brought a keen competition, and in many cases good prices were obtained, and the sale on the whole was a decided success. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Sang for all the trouble he had taken in the matter.

THE fourth meeting was called for January 18th, but owing to the extremely small attendance no business was transacted.

THE fifth meeting was held on Tuesday, February 1st, at 8.15 p.m., when four members attended. In the absence of the President and Vice-President the chair was taken by Mr. Stafford Smith, who exhibited and gave an account of a number of curious and unchronicled stamps, consisting chiefly of peculiar varieties of postmarks, colours, and printing, also including pairs of Transvaal ½d., 1d., and 2d. of 1887, some on laid paper. Mr. Dendy Marshall showed a very fine and almost complete collection of railway letter stamps.

THE sixth meeting was held on Tuesday, February 15th, at 8.15 p.m., nine members being present. The President in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Sang held his second stamp auction, which proved quite as successful as the previous sale. A much larger number of lots were offered, which contained many good and desirable specimens, and the prices realized were mostly satisfactory. Mr. Sang was accorded a cordial vote of thanks.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.

THE tenth ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday evening, the 11th of February. The President in the chair, supported by the following members:—Messrs. Duerst, Grunewald, Abbott, North, Broomhead, Jones, Ranch, Barrett, Leech, Oxley, Ostara, E. T. Roberts, Munn, Coote, Petri, Wanstall, and Gillett.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and Mr. W. Chapmann was elected an ordinary member of the society.

The President then read a very interesting paper on the first three issues of Venezuela, giving

much information that was entirely new, and pointing out various private marks, the existence of which had hitherto been unsuspected. The latter were illustrated by enlarged photographs, and a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Beckton terminated a very pleasant evening.

THE eleventh ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday evening, the 25th of February. The President in the chair, supported by the following members:—Messrs. Abbott, Barratt, Coote, Harrison, North, Grunewald, Munn, Leach, Oxley, Wanstall, Chapmann, Ranke, Gibson, Petri, and Dr. Jago.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Thomas Oxley read a paper entitled "The Agonies of a Young Collector," treating in an interesting and thoughtful manner the various phases of collecting, and dealing at considerable length with the arguments in favour of used stamps and "entires."

Mr. J. Leach followed with some *extempore* remarks, couched in a humorous vein, which evoked continuous laughter, the contributions of both gentlemen affording great entertainment to all present.

A. H. HARRISON, *Hon. Secretary.*

GRASMERE, WHITFIELD, NEAR MANCHESTER.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

ON the return of the September packets sheets were returned and accounts were submitted and settled within seven days. Sales were as follows:

	£	s.	d.
September AA Packet . .	82	14	7
,, AB ,, . .	84	14	2
,, BA ,, . .	34	2	11
,, BB ,, . .	39	17	1
Supplementary rounds of AA and AB Packets. . .	49	2	3

October packets have been circulated among a supplementary list of buying members, and are expected back within the next fortnight.

On February 24th the 209 sheets, valued at £1929 11s. 11d. in the aggregate, were made up into four packets, and duly circulated. North Americans, Scandinavians, and West Africans were well represented, and perfect specimens were obtainable at much below catalogue prices. Very common stamps and damaged copies are, however, in little demand. Foreign Philatelists are invited to send sheets, and arrangements are made for them to receive equivalents for stamps taken in cash or exchange as may be preferred. Non-contributors who desire to see packets are requested to notify the Secretary, who will take care that their names are duly inserted on the lists. Among the new members who have lately joined are:—A. Blakeborough (Brighouse), Mrs. Crawford (Colwyn Bay), A. E. Clark (Aberdeen), Miss Kinch (Farnboro'), R. Blenkinsop (London), Mrs. Lincolne (Cambridge), W. D. Perrins (London), H. G. Palliser (London), W. Y. Rumfitt (Seaham Harbour), M. C. Lewis (Newport), F. G. Russell (London), etc. Packets are now sent out intact, so that members who are first on the list have a better choice of bargains.

Responsible members proposing to join the Club should apply for rules, and send references to the Secretary. H. A. SLADE.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS

The Collectors' Club,

351, FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

THE twenty-second meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, February 14th, 1898. Vice-President Bruner in the chair. Called to order at 8.15 p.m. Present: Messrs. Luff, Stebbins, Scott, and the Secretary. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. The Secretary read sundry letters, and reported having circulated copies of Club Year Book among Philatelic societies and papers, as directed by Governors. Upon motion, it was voted that the usual course be followed with share of stock of late Henry Gremmel offered for redemption, to wit, to place it for sale on the Club books. The Treasurer's report was received, showing balance of $372.66 cash in bank. The Chairman of the House Committee then presented his report, which was received. The bound volume of the *American Journal of Philately* for 1897 was received from the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd., to whom a vote of thanks was tendered. Upon ballot Mr. Henry C. Quinby, 222, Fifth Avenue, proposed by Alexander Holland and seconded by Geo. R. Tuttle, was unanimously elected a subscribing member of the Club. Adjourned at 8.50 p.m.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

Philatelic Society of South Australia.

President—E. TYSON.
Vice-President—S. W. HERBERT.
Hon. Secretary—W. L. PECK, *Marylands, S.A.*
Committee—W. J. PONDER and G. G. SHAW.

THE ninth annual meeting of the Philatelic Society of South Australia was held at the Trades Hall, on Wednesday evening, November 3rd. Mr. E. Tyson, in the absence of the President, was voted to the chair, and there was a fair attendance. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. L. Peck, read the annual report, which stated that during the past twelve months, owing to the prevailing all-round depression, the cash purchases of stamps fell far short of previous experience. There were now twenty-three members on the roll. The exchange circuits, both city and intercolonial, had, as hitherto, been a decided success, and formed one of the attractive features of membership. With reference to the temporary issue of Jubilee and Hospital stamps, the Committee desired to emphasize the fact that these stamps had been issued with the express view of extorting money from stamp collectors, and should be strenuously opposed by Philatelists all over the world. The Exchange Superintendent read his report, which was adopted. The balance-sheet showed a credit balance of £5 0s. 6d. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as above. A vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring officers, and a large assortment of approval sheets of stamps was laid before members. One new member was elected. On account of the approaching hot weather it was resolved to go into recess until the end of March, 1898, the exchange circuits to continue as usual.

The Market.

Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.

February 15th and 16th.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, imperf., wmk. Large Crown, 1d., rose-red, block of six, unused	4	0	0
Ceylon, no wmk., perf. 13, 6d., brown, pair, unused	6	0	0
Ditto, wmk. CC, 5d., purple-brown, unused	10	5	0
Portuguese India, issue May 26th, 1883, on 200 reis, yellow, on original	5	0	0
British East Africa, first issue, 1 anna, green and red, block of 6, unused	19	0	0
Cape Woodblock, 4d., dark blue	5	12	6
St. Helena, perf. 12½, 1/-, green, short bar, unused	4	0	0
Baton Rouge, 5 c., red and green (Gibbons' Type 2)	4	4	0
St. Lucia, CA, 1/-, orange-brown	2	13	0
Trinidad, CA, 4d., grey, pair, unused	8	0	0
New Zealand, wmk. Star, imperf., 3d., bright mauve, unused, large margins	23	10	0
Tasmania, 2d., green, serrated perf.	4	7	6

March 1st and 2nd.

	£	s.	d.
United States Navy Dept., the 2 c. error, green, unused and no gum	3	15	0
Bahamas, perf. 13, 4d., rose, unused, no gum	4	0	0
Grenada, wmk. Broad-pointed Star, 4d., blue, block of 4, clipped on two sides	4	0	0
Nevis, Engraved, 1/-, yellow-green, unused and no gum	14	2	6
Ditto, Litho, 6d., grey, unused, and 1 perf. missing	5	7	6
St. Vincent, 4d., yellow, unused	4	0	0
Turks Islands, 2½d. on 1/-, dull blue (Gibbons' Type 10), vertical pair, unused	17	0	0
British Guiana, 1860, 1 c., brown, unused	3	5	0
Colombian Republic, 1862, 20 c., red	3	7	6
Mexico, 1864, surcharged with name and date, 3 c., brown, unused	3	15	0

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper.

March 10th and 11th.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, Medium Garter, 4d., pale carmine, unused, with gum	11	17	6
Ditto, ditto, 8d., brown-lilac, mint	4	4	0
Ionian Islands, set complete, used	4	0	0
Hamburg, imperf., 9 sch., used	2	8	0
Hanover, 10 gros., green, unused	3	2	6
Saxony, 3 pf., red on entire	5	7	6
Wurtemberg, 1859, thick paper, 3 kr., orange, unused	2	6	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 9 kr., carmine, unused	8	10	0
Parma, 1854, 25 c., deep red-brown, unused	3	5	0
Portugal, first issue, 100 reis, lilac, horizontal pair	3	15	0
Spain, 1853, 6 reales, blue, unused	2	7	6
Buenos Ayres, first issue, 4 pesos, scarlet	15	0	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, fine	19	0	0
Ditto, 2s., blue, ditto	7	10	0
Ditto, perf. 12½, 4 c., grey, unused	3	12	6
India, first issue, ½ anna, red, unused	6	0	0
Canada, thick paper, 10d., blue, unused (no gum)	6	15	0
Nova Scotia, first issue, 6d., light green, unused (no gum)	5	17	6
Bahamas, no wmk., 4d., rose, unused (no gum)	4	15	0
St. Vincent, perf. 16, clean-cut, 6d., yellow-green, unused (no gum)	10	10	0
Ditto, compound perf., 1s., rose-red, unused	6	6	0
Trinidad, perf. 13, 6d., emerald-green, unused (no gum)	3	10	0
Tasmania, first issue, 4d., orange, unused (no gum)	3	10	0
Victoria, first issue, 2d., brown, fine border, unused (no gum)	3	15	0
Western Australia, 1861, on bluish, no wmk., perf. 16, 6d., purple-brown, unused (no gum)	4	12	6

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. APRIL, 1898. No. 76.

"War—Horrid War."

AT the time that these lines are indited the clouds of war are rapidly approaching, and it seems scarce probable to clear the air without the storm. It is obviously no part of the duty of a Philatelic journal to dilate upon the events of every-day life, however important, unless the domains of Philately are thereby affected, but in the case of the impending unhappy conflict of the United States of America and Spain there are several points in which the interests of stamp collectors are involved.

In the first instance it seems hardly credible that a Latin race of seventeen millions should conquer a Teutonic nation of seventy millions, and it must be clear to all that Spain is pluckily fighting in defence of her honour, knowing that the final result of her defeat is inevitable. In this latter case the island of Cuba will inevitably pass away from her sway, and will, at the best, be but a self-governing colony under the *ægis* of the American people. The tenure by Spain of the Philippine Islands, already none too strong, may also not improbably be ended by their sharing the like fate of Cuba, and there are beyond these Porto Rico, the Caroline Islands, and further off Fernando Poo. Many of the British Colonies have been the fruits of successful wars, and it will therefore be readily seen how important may be the Philatelic changes caused by the Hispano-American war. If the course of events should be as we have ventured to predict, there would be a great future before the stamps of the quondam Spanish Colonies, which would immediately attain the financial glory that seems to attach to the stamps of any country that ceases their issue.

In the second instance there is likely to be a diversion of ideas among our American cousins that must inevitably affect Philately in the States. In the clash of arms men will find less incentive to follow the quiet paths of

Philately, and with the burdens entailed by a great conflict their means of purchase will also be restricted. The Spanish nation will not lay down their arms without a severe struggle, and being provided with a fairly powerful navy, it is probable that in the earlier stages of warfare the Americans may have the worst of it. To counteract this, very large sums will be spent by America in armaments, and this, with the interruption of ordinary trade, will tell on all articles that are not necessities. It is therefore possible that there may be a distinct depression in the States, notably as regards their own stamps; but we would strongly impress upon our readers, who may be holders of such, that the period of depression will be but transient. In the case of such stamps as the issues of the United States, abounding alike in beauty and Philatelic interest, their rehabilitation is but a question of time. Their warmest appreciators are the collectors in the States themselves, and no surer criterion can be afforded as to the permanent estimation of any Philatelic class.

The recent annexation of the Hawaiian group is a further evidence of America's resolution to extend its "sphere of influence." "Hands off!" has already been cried as to South America, and it seems probable that the foundations of a far greater empire than now exists are being laid, so that in one great continent *and all adjacent islands* only the Anglo-American races will be allowed to rule. The alliance of the Anglo-American races looms in the future, and in the "splendid isolation" thus created may come many changes in the little world of Philately.

A few Notes on United States Stamps.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on February 18th, 1898,

By STANLEY M. CASTLE.

THE scientific research brought to bear upon the various issues of this country has borne fruit abundantly in enormous additions to the ranks of collectors of one of the most beautiful and interesting series of stamps issued by any country.

Consequent upon the large increase of collectors, as is natural, much greater attention is now paid to the minor varieties, which constantly occur throughout all the issues, from the very first down to the current series. This fact has prompted me to write these few notes, in the hope that they may induce other collectors to do likewise, and thereby materially add, perchance, to the Philatelic knowledge of a country which will still undoubtedly amply repay investigation.

The first stamp to which I would call attention is the familiar 5 c., black, issued by Robert H. Morris, Postmaster of New York, on 12th July, 1845.

This stamp is usually found printed on a hardish wove paper of medium thickness, and varying in tint from grey-blue to bluish, and white to yellowish white; but I have met with some few specimens on a very thin, almost pelure, paper, of a very distinct bluish tint, and with a soft silky touch, totally different from that of the ordinary stamp.

The stamps printed on this thin paper correspond in measurement with the size of the originals—namely, $20\frac{1}{2} \times 28$ mm.; and in addition I have in my collection a specimen with the well-known variety caused by a misplaced transfer, showing the outlines of "FIVE CENTS" repeated across the face of the letters, thus proving that these stamps are not the reprints of 1862, of which the measurements are: on blue paper, $20\frac{1}{2} \times 28$ mm., and on white, $20 \times 28\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and in neither case show the above variety.

The stamps of this description which I have seen are all unsigned, but, unfortunately, they bear a pen cancellation in blue ink, showing no date. I have, however, heard of one specimen which has been seen with the signature.

Mr. John N. Luff, in his History of the United States Stamps, now appearing in the *American Journal of Philately*, remarks with regard to the unsigned stamps, "It is said that at first the stamps were sold unsigned, but on the appearance of a counterfeit, it was decided to authenticate the genuine stamps by the endorsement of the postmaster."

Unsigned stamps are occasionally to be found on the ordinary paper, and it is possible that they were sold in mistake for the usual signed specimens; and if such were the case I put forward the suggestion that the thin paper stamps were issued first; but as soon as the necessity for signing arose, the paper, after trial, as evidenced by the single signed specimen above mentioned, was found to be too flimsy for rapid initialling, and so the harder and more substantial paper was ordered from the printer. The extreme scarcity of the thin paper specimens would also seem to lend colour to this view.

I have lately met with a small variety of the 1 c., blue, 1851, which I have never seen mentioned before, apparently caused by retouching the plate. It will be remembered that the value "ONE CENT" is expressed in white letters on a curved panel composed of a ground of fine coloured lines curved to the shape of the panel and shaded by vertical lines of colour between the various letters, leaving a small space between the two words in which the curved lines alone appear. In the stamp to which I refer the curved lines have been deepened or recut, and at the same time have been prolonged through the left half circle of the letter "O," giving that half a bluish colour, while the right still appears white. The stamps on either side of this particular variety merely show a deepening of the shading and background, but no prolongation of the lines through the lettering.

It might have been thought that the retouching of the plate would occur in Type IV. of this stamp, which is an attempt to remedy the "broken ovals" of Type III. caused by the insufficient rocking of the transfer rolls; but such is not the case, as the stamp in question is undoubtedly Type II., and shows no signs of the outer lines having been recut or touched up in any way.

It is possible that the above variety may be found in the 1 c. of the perforate series issued in 1857.

The next value, namely the 3 c., lake-brown, of the imperforate issue, furnishes me with a rather interesting note.

I have lately come into possession of a block of these stamps printed on thin paper of a very coarse but soft texture, much resembling the so-called Indian paper. A single stamp from the bottom row of the same sheet shows a species of irregular vertically-laid lines running through both the stamp and some inch and a half of margin, though the block shows the paper quite plain. I am fortunately able to give a little of the history of these stamps as follows: They formed "part of a sheet or sheets sent ungummed by the Government of the United States to Messrs. Bemrose, of Derby, England, the well-known printers, for their guidance in making a rotary perforator (round hole)."

The words quoted are those used by a member of the above firm on parting with the stamps to the late owner, who kindly supplied me with a copy of the note on the transfer of ownership to myself.

All the stamps were obliterated with a thick, black ink-mark before despatch from America, and I understand that these six specimens are the "sole survivors left to tell the tale."

Another small variety is to be found in the 1857 1 c., Type III., and "broken oval," perforated 15. This is apparently an extra strong double "shift" of impression, whereby the lower portion of the curved panel enclosing the value and the letters "O" and "E" of "ONE," and "C" and "E" of "CENT," appear twice (the second impression being the lower), and so distinctly, that at first glance the oval appears to be unbroken and the stamp to be Type II., although it is really Type III.

The 10 c., green, of the 1851 and 1855 issues show some curious differences in the spacing between the stamps. In all six types of the imperf. issue there is an interval of 1½ mm. (about) laterally, and the same remark applies to Types I., II., and III. of the perforated stamps, but Types IV. and V. of the latter issue are twice that distance apart. Type VI. perforated, it may be added, has yet to be found.

A 24 c., 1857, is shown in a warm red-violet shade, practically identical with the imperforate 24 c. of the previous issue.

Considerable discussion has taken place on the question whether the imperf. stamp was issued or not, but no doubt the difference in colour between this stamp and the cold grey-lilac of the ordinary perforated stamp lends some force to the argument that there was no official issue of the former.

However, since the perforated stamp has been found in the red-violet shade it seems to point to the fact that the stamp in the imperforate condition was really issued, and is not a proof or printer's waste.

The shade in question is almost as distinct as are those of the 5 c., Type I., brick-red, of the same issue, or the 5 c., ochre, 1861, September, from the ordinary colours of their respective issues. Only six specimens are known in this country, of which a fine block of four has lately found a resting-place in the celebrated collection of Mr. Duveen. Any collector

making a successful search for this stamp will be amply repaid for his trouble, as it fetches a very high price indeed, and is considerably sought after by specialists in United States stamps.

A somewhat curious state of affairs exists with regard to one value of the reprints of the 1857 issue, perforated 12, namely, the 5 c.

The 1 c., blue, 3 c., scarlet, and 10 c., green, were each reprinted in No. I. of their respective types, while the 5 c. is either Type II. or III. Personally I have never seen the former, but both types are listed in the Catalogue for Advanced Collectors now appearing in the *A. J. P.*

I am at a loss to understand why, if three of the values were printed from the original die, the remaining value of the issue to undergo retouching should not have been deemed worthy to appear in its first and true form for the purposes of the Centennial Exhibition.

Many collectors on this side of the Atlantic are probably unaware of the fact that the reissued 15 c., brown and blue, of the 1869 issue differs from both types of the stamp as known before 1875. It will be remembered that the first type shows the picture unframed, whilst in Type II. a frame has been added between the word "POSTAGE" and the space left for the picture.

The reissued stamp follows Type I. of the original in that there is no frame to the picture, although in another direction there is considerable difference. In the originals the space reserved for the picture is shaded by numerous parallel, *horizontal* lines in brown, which are plainly visible in the space between the top of the picture and the word "POSTAGE," and they also show up through the blue of the picture, imparting very often a brownish tint to the foreground, on which the figures of Columbus and one of his officers are depicted. And herein lies the difference: in the reissue stamp these lines of shading are non-existent with the exception of one line, which has been left immediately below the letters "OSTA" of "POSTAGE," presumably as a guide for correctly placing the miniature picture, although it not infrequently happens that the top of the latter does not coincide with the line, notwithstanding the care evidently taken to give the picture its correct position in the centre of the stamp.

This difference, then, is an infallible test, in addition to those of colour and gum, whether a specimen of the unframed type of stamp belongs to the ungrilled variety of the original stamps or the reissued series.

Proceeding to the issues 1870–79, or rather the Continental and American Bank Note Co.'s printings thereof, most collectors have doubtlessly seen various specimens on an experimental paper toned deep yellow, imparting to the stamps the appearance of having been dipped in a cup of coffee.

In the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, vol. vi., No. x., page 144, the following values on this paper are listed, namely, 1 c., blue, 2 c., vermilion, 3 c., green, 5 c., blue, 10 c., brown, 15 c., orange, 30 c., black, and 90 c., carmine; but no mention of the 7 c., vermilion, 12 c., purple, or 24 c., violet, is made, nor have I ever seen these values given elsewhere. I have several specimens of the 7 c. in my collection, and since this value can be added to the list it is possible that the 12 c. and 24 c. are to be found also.

Presumably the above experiment and also those of violet wove and laid papers were made by the Continental Bank Note Co. in the first six months of 1875 for these reasons, namely, (1) that the colour of the 2 c. in both cases is vermilion and not brown, the former colour being announced on 21st June, 1875, together with the then new denomination of 5 c., which was substituted for the old 7 c., consequent upon the reduction of the letter rate of postage under the treaty of Berne; and (2) there would have been no object in experimenting on the 7 c., vermilion, if it had been known that that value would be discarded almost immediately.

A variety of the 10 c., brown, 1879, printed on soft porous paper by the American Bank Note Co. from the National Bank Note Co.'s plate without the secret mark, is listed in the catalogues of both Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Limited.

I am disinclined to believe in this variety, as I have seen a pair of the 10 c. on the soft porous paper, one stamp showing the secret mark and the other not. In addition, specimens are by no means uncommon in which traces of the secret mark can be seen with the aid of a glass, although at first sight there appear to be none.

Further, no valid reason has yet been advanced why the old plate should have been brought into use again, while the later plates were perfectly sound to all intents and purposes.

The late John K. Tiffany relates in his *History of the Postage Stamps of the U.S.*, on page 174, that on the contract with the National Bank Note Co. for furnishing stamps for the Post Office Department expiring, 1st May, 1873, tenders were invited for a fresh contract, the award being in favour of the Continental Co., and goes on to say that "the dies and plates by the terms of the contract with the National Bank Note Co. were the property of the Government, and were turned over to the new contractors, who continued to print the stamps from the same plates until they were worn out."

It has since been settled that when the Continental Co. started to print the stamps they added the secret marks to distinguish their stamps from those of their predecessors.

The American Bank Note Co. was a consolidation of printing firms, of which the Continental Co. formed one, and of course took over their deeds, contracts, plates, &c., and it may be assumed that the use of the secret mark was as necessary to them as to the Continental Co.

All these reasons, I venture to think, point to the fact that the so-called 10 c., yellow-brown, printed from the National plate is really printed from Continental plates with the secret mark, and that this mark in the course of production has worn away.

I may add that it is with great diffidence that I put forward the above suggestions, as I have lately had some correspondence on the subject with Mr. Luff, than whom no greater judge of United States stamps exists, and he expresses himself in favour of the opposite view.

Again, the so-called types of the 5 c. Garfield are really only caused by good or bad workmanship on the part of the printers.

If a number of stamps of this type, both in the brown colour of 1882

and the blue of 1887, are examined under a glass, several small differences in the background will be easily noticed.

Specimens can be found showing:—

(*a*) No shading behind the shoulders.

(*b*) Slight shading behind the shoulders, and a few diagonal lines in front of and on a line with the nose.

(*c*) Shading of thick lines behind the shoulders.

(*d*) Shading behind the shoulders consisting of diagonal lines crossing the horizontal lines of the background.

(*e*) Diagonal lines as in (*d*), showing all over the background.

(*d*) and (*e*) are generally found printed in a warmer brown than (*a*), (*b*), and (*c*), and the whole stamp has a soft, woolly appearance.

In this connection it may be mentioned that there are very similar differences to be found in the lined background and edges of the oval in the 5 c., brown, of the three issues 1890-94-95, but they do not appear to be of sufficient Philatelic interest to warrant individual mention.

The 2 c., 1890, with the capped figures has been, I think, correctly attributed to a flaw in the plate, and very similar flaws can be found in either or both of the figures "1" of the 1 c., blue, not only as in the 1890 issue (as in the case of the capped "2's"), but also the 1894-5 issues.

Other flaws can be found in the backgrounds of the stamps of these three issues, but they do not seem to be worth mentioning in detail.

I will conclude these notes by mentioning two little curiosities to be found amongst imprints or, more correctly, plate numbers.

Plate No. 27 of the 1 c., bright blue, 1894 issue shows in addition to the numbers of the plate the figures "35" an inch and a half above and to the left of the plate number; these figures are of the same type as were then used for plate numbers, but are not so clearly printed. It has been suggested to me that this is a "set-off," but if such were the case the figures would read backwards, whereas they do not.

The second plate number variety is found on Plate 82 of the 1 c. stamp of the Executive Department.

The number was first engraved in error as "81" instead of "82." The wrong numerals were then cancelled, and the correct figures were added.

The strip which I have in my possession consists of "Specimen" stamps from the top of the sheet. The cancelled figures are placed above the second stamp of the strip, and the figures "82" are above the third stamp, the former occupying too much space to allow the new figures their correct position.

I have only the one strip, so that I am unable to say if similar errors and corrections appear below and at the sides of the sheet.

THE

Dies used on Registered Envelopes of Great Britain.

By OLIVER FIRTH.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on the 15th April, 1898.

THIS paper professes to be only the result of a study of the stamps themselves in conjunction with the small amount of published information concerning them.

Mr. Ewen published some notes upon them in the *English Specialists' Journal* for December, 1896, and therein deals fully with the characteristics of the dated dies, both oval and circular. The subsequent dies, with florets in the place of the date-plugs, are not dealt with, however, and these notes upon them are the results of an examination of a very large number of copies.

With Mr. Ewen's permission I have embodied his notes in the paper, with additional information wherever I have been able to supply it.

No claim to completeness can be advanced, but a hope may be expressed that possessors of these envelopes will carefully examine them and correct and amend results wherever possible.

The first issue of registered envelopes on January 1st, 1878, was confined to the two small sizes, F and G, and the stamp impressed upon them, to denote the payment of the registration fee of 2d., was the old 2d. envelope stamp, in blue, surmounted by a curved band of the same colour as the stamp, with the words "FOR REGISTRATION ONLY" in white relief.

The old Die 1, with newly-constructed Dies 3, 4, and 5, were used for this purpose, Die 2 not being used at all. There are but few copies that I have seen upon which any die-number can be clearly made out.

Mr. Ewen describes Die 1 as different from the others in having a much narrower outer circle. There are two distinct types of figures to be found in the date-plugs, one set having straight "feet" and plain terminations, while the others have curved "feet" and "clubbed" ends. These were used indiscriminately, both types being often found together on the same stamp.

The following notes embody his observations:—

Die 1.

With narrow outer line. A small white dot on the background between the base of the bust and the inner white line is to be found directly above the "W" of "TWO," and another opposite the first "E" of "PENCE," close to the inner line. These marks first appeared in 1841 and 1866 respectively. Since March 8th, 1878, a short white line has joined the inner white line to the engine-turning about half-way between the third date-plug and the last "E" of "PENCE." (*See plate.*)

Die 3.

There is always a short white bar extending from the engine-turning almost to the inner white line just below the last "E" of "PENCE." (*See plate.*)



Die I.



Die III.



Die IV.



Die V.

Die 4.

Early impressions are uncharacterisable. Since January 18th, 1878, a small dot may be found on the background just opposite the curve of the "C" of "PENCE," and after January 29th a smaller one above the "T" of "TWO." (I have a stamp on a G envelope showing the first mark, dated 17.1.78., and this has a dot above the middle date-plug rather to the left, almost joining the engine-turning to the outer white line.) (*See plate.*)

Die 5.

After December 24th, 1877, the outer blue line is broken completely by a white bar, and partially by two others, the first-named between the others, of which the left one enters from the outside, and the right one from the engine-turning. (There is also a dot to be found in the outer blue line midway between the second and third date-plugs. This shows on a copy dated 13.12.77., which is without the other marks.) (*See plate.*)

Mr. Ewen gives the following dates of printing, which can possibly be augmented :—

Die 1. 21.11.77., 8.3.78., and 11.3.78. only.
„ 3. First used 26.11.77. (and also in Dec., 77., and Feb., 78.).
„ 4. „ „ 17.1.78. (and also in Feb., 78.).
„ 5. „ „ 14.12.77. (?13.12.77., *vide supra*, and also used in Jan., Feb., and Mar., 78.).

I had hoped to be able to give an exhaustive list of dates of printing, but fear the following is by no means so, though my best thanks are due to His Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C., for a list of his dies and their dates, which, with my own and those given by Mr. Ewen, forms the backbone of it.

Date.	Size.	Die.
21.11.77....	F. ...	1 or 4.?
22.	... F. ..	? 1.
23.	... F. ...	1, & 5.?
24.	... F. ...	1 ?, 3.
26.	... ? ...	3.
30.	... F. ...	? 4.
6.12.	... F. ...	5.
7.	... F. ...	? 1.
10.	... F. ...	3.
13.	... F. .	? 1 or 4, 5.
14.	... G. ...	3 5.
15.	...F.G....	3.5.
18.	... G. ...	3.
19.	... ? ...	5.
19.	... F. ...	3.
20.	... F. ...	5.
21.	... G. ...	? 3 or 5.
22.	... G. ...	? 5.
24.	...F.G....	5.
27.12.77....	F. ...	? 1 or 5.
28.	... F. ...	4.
29.	... G. ...	5.
31.	... ? ...	5.
8.1.78.	... ? ...	4.
15.	... G. ...	4.
15.	... ? ...	5.
16.	... G. ...	5.
17.	... G. ...	4.
18.	... G. ...	5.
18.	... ? ...	4.
28.	... G. ...	5.
29.	... ? ...	4.
1.2.	... ? ...	4, 5.
4.	... ? ...	4.
5.	... F. ...	4.
6.	... F. ...	4, 5.
7.	... F. ...	4.
8.2.78.	... F. .	? 1, ? 4, 5.
12.	... F. ...	3, 4, 5.
14.	... F. ...	4.5.
15.	... F. ...	4.
15.	... ? ...	5.
18.	... ? ...	5.
19.	... F. ...	5.
22.	... F. ...	5.
25.	... F. ...	5.
26.	... F. ...	4.
1.3.	... F. ...	5.
5.	... F. ...	? 3 or 5.
6.	... ? ...	5.
7.	... G. ...	3, 5.
8.	... G. ...	3.
11.	... ? ...	1.
12.	... G. ...	? 1.
13.	... G. ...	1.
14.	...F.G.	1, 3, 5 (E).

Note.—Wherever the size is queried, the date is from Mr. Ewen's list of cut stamps. This applies to all the following lists of dated stamps.

REGISTRATION STAMPS. DATED.

The special registration stamps of circular shape came into use on 27.3.78., according to Mr. Ewen, Dies 1, 2 being used, though 3, 4, 5, and 6 were also prepared; 6, however, never coming into use until the florets superseded the date-plugs.

Die 1.

The most permanent mark on this die is a small white projection from the inner white circle just above the middle date-plug. It first appears on copies dated "1.5.78.," and is probably a most reliable test. Afterwards various other marks appear at intervals; an upward-curving projection from the inner circle opposite the first "E" of "PENCE"; clusters of dots, close to the bust, before and behind, and a single dot midway between the nose and inner circle. The number of the die is usually distinct. Mr. Ewen gives its earliest date as 28.3.78., and its latest as 15.5.79.

DIE I.

Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.
28.3.78.	?	25.6.78.	H.	19.10.78.	I.	29.3.79.	?
29.	G.	26.	H.	8.11.	?	3.4.	I.
3.4.	G.	8.7.	I.	27.	F.	4.	?
29.	F.G.	15.	I.K.	14.12.	?	7.	I.
1.5.	K.	16.	F.	20.	?	8.	?
7.	H.K.	1.8.	I.	23.	?	18.	K.
9.	H.I.	3.	H.	15 1.79.	?	19.	K.
14.	I.	15.	H.	17.	?	21.	?
16.	?	16.	?	5.3.	?	22.	K.
17.	H.I.	18.	I.	13.	?	23.	?
20.	I.	22.	H.I.K.	14.	?	25.	?
23.	I.	29.	?	17.	?	28.	?
27.	I.	30.	I.	18.	?	7.5.	?
3.6.	I.	6.9.	G.I.	19.	?	12.	?
5.	I.	11.	F.G.I.	21.	?	14.	?
13.	H.	18.	K.	24.	?	15.	?
14.	G.	3.10.	?	25.	?		
24.	H.	9.	I.	28.	?		

Die 2.

This die seems to have only casual and impermanent marks, but there is one narrow white line, almost uniting the inner circle to the front of the bust that seems fairly persistent: it first appears on 1.5.78. Apart from special marks the die-number is usually easily distinguishable.

Mr. Ewen gives the earliest date as 27.3.78., and the latest as 31.5.79. This is now extended to 13.6.79.

DIE II.

Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date	Sizes.
27.3.78.	?	11.4.78	?	14.5.78.	K.	5.6.78.	H.
29.	G.	18.	G.	17.	H.K.	13.	H.
6.4.	?	1.5.	K.	20.	H.	14.	?
8.	?	7.	?	21.	?	24.	K.
9.	?	8.	K.	23.	H.	25.	K.
10.	?	9.	?	3.6.	I.	28.	?

Date.	Sizes	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes	Date.	Sizes.
29.6.78. ...	?	18.10.78 ...	?	15.3.79. ...	?	19.4.79. ...	?
16.7. ...	G.	8.11. ...	I.	19. ...	?	21. ...	G.
22. ...	?	22. ...	?	20. ...	F.	12.5. ...	?
16.8. ...	I.	27. ...	?	25. ...	?	13. ...	?
18. ...	I.	28. ...	?	26. ...	?	14. ...	?
6.9. ...	?	16.12. ...	?	27. ...	?	15. ...	?
18. ...	I.	17. ...	?	28. ...	G.	27. ...	G.
26. ...	H.	23. ...	?	29. ...	?	28. ...	?
3.10. ...	?	27. ...	F.	3.4. ...	?	30. ...	?
9. ...	?	30. ...	?	4. ...	G.	31. ...	?
17. ...	?	13.3.79. ...	?	18. ...	?	13.6. ...	F.

Die 3.

This die-number is often less distinguishable than the others, so perhaps it is fortunate that it should be more marked than they in other ways. Very early copies do not show any marks, but in such cases the number may usually be distinguished. Late in July, 1879, are to be seen the more permanent marks. There is a diagonal white blotch across the upright line of the second "T" of "REGISTRATION"; it extends quite across the line from a little below the left projection almost to the base of the upright. There are two peculiar crack-like streaks, one proceeding from near the nose-end almost to the inner white circle just below the "G" of "REGISTRATION"; the other is just below it, but beginning further away from the head, it reaches right into the "E" of "REGISTRATION," also sending an offshoot into the "R." From the left-hand date-circle a fine white line joins the inner circle, and there is a white dot just over the right-hand date-plug, pointing from the inner side of the circle to the rear point of the bust. Early in August, 1879, appears a white dot in the background in line with the "C" of "PENCE." The background is sometimes very spotty. Mr. Ewen's earliest and latest dates are 21.5.79 and 19.10.80.

DIE III.

Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.
15.8.78. ...	K.	8.8.79. ...	H.	7.2.80. ...	?	15.7.80. ...	?
21.5.79. ...	?	9. ...	H.	9. ...	?	19. ...	?
22. ...	?	11. ...	H.	12. ...	?	21. ...	?
25. ...	F.	12. ...	H.	14. ...	?	31. ...	?
27. ...	?	15. ...	?	17. ...	?	5.8. ...	?
28. ...	F.	19. ...	I.	20. ...	?	6. ...	?
17.6. ...	?	27. ...	?	23. ...	?	9. ...	?
19. ...	?	2.9. ...	?	24. ...	?	12. ...	?
23. ...	?	16. ...	I.	7.4. ...	?	13. ...	G.
24. ...	?	27. ...	?	8. ...	?	24. ...	?
7.7 ...	?	7.10. ...	?	3.5. ...	?	8.9. ...	?
11. ...	?	9. ...	?	5. ...	G.	13. ...	?
17. ...	?	22. ...	?	6. ...	?	14. ...	?
19. ...	?	24. ...	?	24. ...	?	8.10. ...	?
20. ...	H.	27. ...	F.	26. ...	?	12. ...	?
21. ...	?	1.11. ...	?	28. ...	?	18. ...	?
29. ...	H.	3.2.80. ...	?	9.7. ...	G.	19. ...	?
30. ...	?	4. ...	?	10 ...	?		
6.8. ...	H.	6. ...	?	13. ...	?		

(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.*

A REVIEW OF MR. EHRENBACH'S PAPER ON THE FIRST 2 SKILLING STAMP OF DENMARK.

BY E. D. BACON.

AS I was one of those who were bold enough to challenge the serviceableness of Mr. Ehrenbach's discovery of varieties in the first 2 skilling stamp of Denmark, at the meeting of the Philatelic Society at which his paper was read, so now that the paper has appeared in print I feel it is only fit that I should endeavour to substantiate the views I expressed at the meeting in question.

But before doing so, I should like to point out that it seems a pity that in the very few cases where strong dissent is expressed by members after the reading of a paper, a note to this effect is not appended to the paper on its publication in the *London Philatelist*, as otherwise it goes forth to the Philatelic world with all the *éclat* of a paper read before the London Philatelic Society, and it appears as if it had been received by the members without a word of adverse criticism.

At the meeting when Mr. Ehrenbach read his paper I saw for the first time the sheet of reprints he exhibited, but since then I have had an opportunity of making a careful examination of this very sheet, with the result that I am more convinced than ever that there are no types of this stamp. The discovery of three types of the numeral "2" was said to have been made on the Continent some eighteen months ago, and immediately these so-called types were hunted for by specialists of Denmark in this country, and even found their way into catalogues, without a proper examination of their character being first made. The sheet of reprints incontestably shows that the plate used for the production of the stamps was made in the following way:—Ten impressions arranged in five rows of two were first of all taken from the engraved die, and then from this block of ten impressions ten stereotype casts were taken, so that the sheet really consists of ten blocks of ten stamps each, and not, as Mr. Ehrenbach seems to think, of two blocks of fifty. The so-called Types 2 and 3, allowing for printing, always occupy the same position in each block of ten; Type 2, which is by far the more prominent, being number two of the first row of each of the blocks. If what I have said is true—and anyone who examines the sheet can convince himself that this is a fact—then it follows that every stamp on the sheet must be the same in type, and that it is so is to my mind beyond question. The so-called Types 2 and 3, and all the other little differences Mr. Ehrenbach

points out, owe their origin merely to defects in taking the stereos where they are not due to printing, and Types 2 and 3 are really nothing more than broken numerals. Small variations of this nature may be found in most lithographed stamps, and in all stamps produced by the stereotype process. For instance, take the case of the stamps of the Papal States. An inspection of the sheets or part sheets of the issue with values in "centesimi," the plates of which were composed of separate stereotype casts, will show far more prominent varieties than any to be found on the sheet of the 2 skilling Denmark, and as Mr. Ehrenbach claims for the latter, these stamps might also easily be "plated." But what of this? Surely the most advanced specialists are not going to suggest that collectors should make up the entire sheets of stamps of the description of the 2 skilling Denmark, Papal States, &c., the same as is now done in the very different case of plates on which each specimen was separately engraved by hand. Yet this seems to be the view of Mr. Ehrenbach and the object of his paper. I am among the first to recognize and welcome any new discovery, however small, that is of real importance to Philately, such as, to name two of recent years, the different types to be found in the 1858 issue of Austria and Austria-Italy, and those of the 1867–68 issue of Holland; but at the same time I am one of those who set their face against "new terrors for collectors," such as those opened up to them by Mr. Ehrenbach. I had hoped that all Philatelists, at any rate of the distinction of my friend Mr. Ehrenbach, had long since agreed to give up the collection of such so-called varieties in the case of surcharged stamps as are due to broken letters; but these so-called Types 2 and 3 of the 2 skilling Denmark are of precisely the same nature, for they only show a broken numeral "2," and his other varieties rest on a similar basis.

[We welcome Mr. Bacon's criticism, but we consider that the proper place for remarks or discussions made upon papers during reading at the meetings of the London Philatelic Society is in the minutes. With the author's consent such papers appear in the *London Philatelist*, and after their insertion, we apprehend, comes the time for comment and criticism: the course that Mr. Bacon has himself pursued.

Mr. Ehrenbach hardly intended to convey the idea that there were types of all the stamps in the sheet, and certainly not that they should be collected. He argued rather that there were certain marks on each variety that would practically enable anyone to ascertain its position on the sheet—conditions that would apply (as pointed out by the writer at the meeting) to the 6 rappen of Zurich, or the Roumanian issues of 1866–71, all reproduced like the Denmark 2 sk.—in blocks. These two subvarieties, that Mr. Bacon states occur in each block of 10, are certainly distinct and clear, and in our view, as minor varieties, should certainly be accepted and collected by the specialist.—ED.]

Occasional Notes.

GOVERNMENT DEALERS.

SURPRISING as have been the end of the century developments in Philately, it would hardly have been surmised a few years since that the above title could have been founded on fact. The shifty methods of needy Governments form one of the greatest dangers to Philately, and at no time has the absolute necessity of warning collectors been so plain as it is to-day. In the best interests of Philately the following cases should be carefully noted by all and sundry :—

Portugal.—Already an old offender in the matter of speculative issues, this country is again attempting to foist upon collectors another wretched set of stamps to commemorate Vasco de Gama, or some other worthy, who has mouldered in his grave for centuries. As usual the issue will be extended in needless directions, sets for the several colonies will be provided, and an additional fragrance to the bouquet is to be imparted by the issue of a special set of Unpaid Letter Stamps. All this rubbish will, we trust, be banned by the S.S.S.S. and avoided by all consistent collectors. The stamps of Portugal form a most interesting series—without any Jubilee issue —*crede experto.* The issue of such superfluous trash clearly constitutes, in our view, an act of dealing—with the sole saving grace that the stamps are sold —even if only during a restricted period—at face value.

Roumania.—In our last issue we called attention to the error of the 25 bani in the sheet of the 5 b. of the current issue of this country, and mentioned the rumour that the Roumanian authorities had been disposing of the entire sheets at enhanced prices. From various sources of information we gather that this disgraceful proceeding has been brought home to the Roumanian Post Office. It would appear that they have been acting in collusion with dealers, and also directly disposing of these sheets at a price *many times their face value.* At the time of the discovery of the "error" the number of sheets issued and recalled was carefully explained, and the immediate destruction of the called-in remainder loudly proclaimed! In view of this disgraceful proceeding the very existence of the error is fraught with suspicion, and we should say that a postal authority that would make an unlawful profit out of its mistakes is quite capable of having made the error on purpose. Unless the Roumanian authorities can disprove their complicity in the sale of these "errors" at an enhanced value, they stand convicted of a proceeding unworthy of any nation that aspires to be deemed civilized.

Brazil.—Despite a superabundance of varieties of later years, the stamps of this country, both on account of their interest and appearance, have been accorded the esteem of collectors past and present; but if the following statement is borne out the postal authorities of Brazil rank next to those of Roumania in moral turpitude! The Government of Brazil, finding that it had

a large quantity of old stamps of various issues (in very varying quantities), decided a year or so ago to dispose of them to Philatelists, and with that view duly advertised the quantities for disposal. The sale of these, although very considerable, not having reached their expectations, it would appear that they have decided to continue their sale; but instead of the basis of purchase being the face value, *it will be that of the catalogues.*

"The President of the Brazilian Republic, in thanking his customers for past favours, respectfully calls the attention of his customers to his wonderful variety packets of fifty different Brazilian stamps.

"Sets made up and obliterations provided while you wait.

"No connection with any other firm.

"Special surcharges will be quoted for."

The foregoing might be useful to the Minister of Commerce, to whom apparently the initiation of the Government dealer *régime* is due.

As the Brazilian Government dealers have carefully presented to the world detailed lists of all their stock of obsolete stamps—a practice not generally followed in the trade—their possible clients are amply forewarned that they will practically lose their money in buying these stamps, many of which exist in thousands and thousands. In any case the conversion of Government Post Offices into stamp dealers is a grave scandal, and cannot fail to create disquietude and suspicion in the minds of collectors. The decline of general collecting—as applied to serious Philatelists—is constantly bewailed in many quarters; but can it be denied that the steps taken by many Governments absolutely drive collectors to be specialists? To be a general collector is to set oneself up as a target for all the impecunious, dishonest Governments and postal authorities to fire at. The man who regards his stamp collection as a scientific pursuit and as a reasonably safe investment will more and more protect himself from these unholy wiles by retiring within the lines of specialized collections.

THE EARLIEST RECORDS OF COLLECTING.

THE question as to the earliest known formation of a collection of stamps has been of late mentioned on several occasions in the pages of this journal as well as those of other contemporaries, and it is referred to at some length in Messrs. Bacon and Hardy's excellent book (reviewed in our last number). The date therein assumed is 1857, or "not much before," but Mr. W. A. S. Westoby makes some interesting comments hereon in the *Monthly Circular*, which considerably antedate the earliest era of collecting. Says Mr. Westoby:—

"We can speak of it as existing in Paris in 1856, and in Belgium M. Moens tells us that he began to collect in 1848, and commenced as a dealer in a small way in 1852. It has also been a sort of tradition that it began there at an early date among the collegians of St. Louvain. The oldest dealer we knew in Paris was La Plante, and among the collectors we believe that M. de Saulcy began collecting prior to 1857. There were several other dealers in Paris in 1860 besides Madame Nicolas, whose

shop, by the way, was not in the Rue Tarbout, but the Rue Taitbout, and who was the special correspondent of M. Moens, MM. Baillieu, Maury, Mahé, and La Plante; and with regard to the latter, it was a curious fact that he alone of all the dealers at that time had genuine stamps of the 81 para of Moldavia; and we also found with him another rare European stamp, an unused copy of the 4 cent., commonly called the Vaud stamp, not a cleaned one."

A truly interesting glimpse into the past and a glance at a condition of things Philatelic as they were before the vast majority of present-day collectors were born! If Mr. Westoby is correct in his remarks, it seems clear that with M. Moens rests the longest connection with Philately, and that his jubilee of fifty years has this year been consummated. In any case he was certainly the first dealer—and the best. Actuated in all his business transactions by a strict sense of integrity, with great powers of assimilation as to Philatelic knowledge, and with marvellous foresight and business acumen, M. J. B. Moens has earned a reputation that will never be excelled by any dealer. It is to him that the Philatelic world is practically indebted for many unused stamps that would but for his foresight have been unattainable, and, whether as collector or dealer, the honours of having been the oldest "Philatelist" could not rest on better shoulders. Mr. Westoby himself must share with Dr. Viner the honours of age in this country, as he took his M.A. at Cambridge in 1839, and is described in the *Philatelic Record* as having been "born somewhere about the time when the Duke of Wellington and the Emperor Napoleon met at Waterloo," and of having his attention first drawn to stamp collecting in 1861–2. It is a great satisfaction that Mr. Westoby's ripe knowledge is still available, and all his friends and readers hope that so useful and respected a life may be prolonged for many years.

THE GREEK POST OFFICE "SYSTEM."

"WHEN Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war," and apparently when one issue of these stamps overlaps another, then comes chaos. The Olympian series—doubtless primarily intended to have a short and a merry life—have practically become a permanent issue without having displaced those of the normal type. These latter seem to be issued perforate or imperforate at the sweet will of the employees, and as a new issue is contemplated, and at least the high values of the Olympians are far from exhausted, there will be confusion worse confounded.

The business of a post office is to issue stamps for the purposes of franking letters, and directly this purpose is overstepped the public are put to inconvenience and the postal authorities are discredited. Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, who is slowly wending his homeward way after duly "trotting the globe," writing us from Athens, fully bears out our remarks as to the Athenian chaos:—

"I spent some time investigating the Post Office at Athens, and found a most extraordinary state of affairs. From what I can gather in those journals that haven't been lost in the post on their way to me, the Olympian Games issue is supposed to

be still in use; so it is, with the exception of the 1, 5, 20, and 25 lepta. These latter can be bought both perf. and imperf. (Athens print). If you ask for not more than 5 or 10 the clerk gives you perf. stamps; if you want more he doesn't like parting with the perf. ones, which seem precious, but insists on your taking imperf. If you want to frank a letter abroad you must either use stamps face value 30 lepta instead of 25 lepta, or use an ordinary 25 lepta stamp, for which you have to pay 30 lepta at the post office, although the denomination has not been changed. This is on account of the depreciation of the money."

The sending of remittances to this model post office is also a doubtful pleasure, as we are informed by a collector that two months since he remitted, per registered post, a parcel of Italian paper money for the purchase of stamps, but has been unable to obtain any reply. In despair of getting a reply, the collector at last wrote a friend living at Athens, asking his kindly intervention in the matter, with apparent success, as he writes that "the Post Office (Master?) has been very busy, and he has forgotten to send you the stamps ordered." Comment is hardly needed! The Hellenic nation seems to lack somewhat alike in the arts of war and peace!

THE VALUE OF COURTESY.

THE moral of the following neat story, that we take from *Mekeel's Weekly*, is one of peculiar interest to the unhappy Philatelic editor. Requests for opinion on, or value of, specimens and albums, enquiries, or unsolicited selections of stamps are of frequent occurrence, generally without the saving grace of the reply being provided for.

It appears that at the Annual Meeting of the Boston Philatelic Society on February 15th that well-known local veteran collector, Mr. Foster, was in attendance, and much amused his auditors by the exhibition of some of his rarer stamps and the history of their acquisition in days of yore.

It appears that "Mr. Foster received the Connel from Mr. Connel himself, in exchange for a 5 c. New Brunswick stamp, which Mr. Foster enclosed him with his request for the stamp, for return postage. Mr. Connel wrote, enclosing the Connel, saying that he had received many requests for his famous stamp, but that Mr. Foster was the only one of his correspondents who had had the courtesy to enclose return postage. Consequently he could not refuse Mr. Foster the stamp. This is a case of virtue rewarded, which makes a very pleasing lesson of what care in little courtesies will do and the lack of it undo."

The reminiscences of a veteran are of great interest, and we think our readers will also appreciate Mr. Foster's experience in the purchase of a magnificent unused Brattleboro, which now graces his collection.

"It seems that Mr. Foster early became quite well known as a purchaser of stamps, and was continually approached by all sorts of people who had any for sale, so he was only a little surprised one day, as he was walking down Milk Street near the Boston Post Office, to be accosted by a young man, who said he wished to sell him a stamp at seventy-five cents, producing a funny little oblong label printed in

black on yellow paper which Mr. Foster had never seen before. Mr. Foster refused to purchase the stamp, as he knew nothing about it, but as the young man was so insistent, shading the price to sixty cents, and proclaiming the legitimacy of the stamp, Mr. Foster finally yielded, and sent the young man off quite happy with his sixty cents. That stamp later turned out to be a genuine Brattleboro! This stamp, together with six others, comprising a Millbury, a Livingston, a Connel New Brunswick, the 10 sh. and £1 Great Britain with the rare Maltese Cross watermark, both unused, and a 12 p. Canada, Mr. Foster exhibited to the audience after his talk. The sheet lists at $3500 by current catalogue, the net cost of the stamps to him being less than $100 all together."

THE TURIN PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

WE venture to remind our readers that this Exhibition will be held in the ancient capital of Sardinia from May 16th to the 30th, and trust that many Philatelists from all parts of Europe will foregather to participate in what promises to be a most successful undertaking. As already set forth in this journal, the Exhibition has for patrons all that is best in Italian Philately, and we are informed that the result of their appeal for support has been so liberal that a really fine array of stamps will be placed on view. Following the example of London, the place of honour as Class I. is accorded to the stamps of Italy with all its ancient Duchies, and inclusive of Lombardo-Venetia, the Levant and Eritrea series, and last and least San Marino! No series of stamps abounding in historical and Philatelic interest have ever remained so much neglected as those of the Italian States, and it is to be hoped that the prominent position given to them at Turin may not only develop their patriotic acceptation, but may induce a wider general appreciation than has hitherto been accorded to them.

With all deference to the Council of the Exhibition, we cannot think that a wise discretion has been shown in dividing this Italian section into two classes both exactly the same, but the first open to Italian and the second to foreign collectors only. Surely the main object of an exhibition is to encourage competition and to stimulate the rivalry of collectors; hence the separation of the most important class into two non-competing sections is greatly to weaken and detract from its interest. There are fine collections of Italian States in this country, as elsewhere, but we fail to see any inducement to exhibit under these emasculated conditions. A foreigner would assuredly not take it to heart that he was beaten by an Italian in showing the stamps of his own country (Mr. Harold White would doubtless cheerfully have faced foreign competition at the Institute last year!); while, *per contra*, should the exhibitor gain a reward, there would at least be some glory in fighting "our friend the enemy" on his own ground. It almost looks as if our Italian friends were afraid of this last-named condition being attained.

We wish all success to the Exhibition, and that it may permanently enhance the prestige of Philately in the Kingdom of Italy. Enquirers for information are requested to apply to the President of the Committee of the Philatelic Exhibition, Turin, Italy.

MR. WESTOBY'S ADHESIVE STAMPS OF EUROPE.

PART five of this interesting handbook, published by Mr. L. Upcott Gill, of 170, Strand, has now appeared, and, except in the case of Gibraltar, is entirely composed of the history of stamps of our own country. Mr. Westoby's intimate acquaintance with all that appertains to British stamps enables him to dwell fully and lucidly on all the points that would interest the class of readers for whom this work is intended. It must, indeed, have been difficult for the author to condense and epitomise his remarks, and in some instances these seem at least as suitable for the advanced as for the embryo collector; *e.g.*, the fiscal stamps rendered available for postage in 1881 and 1882, which hardly come within the legitimate scope of the medium collector. The work is divided somewhat similarly to Messrs. Philbrick and Westoby's *Great Britain*, in the several classes of engraved, surface-printed, and embossed stamps—up to the appearance of the "Unified Series." The colour of the 6d. and 10d. octagonal have been transposed, and no allusion to the latter without die-number is made. The synopses are very succinct, and will be useful guides to the author's reading public.

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 HONDURAS.—The *Ph. J. of G.B.* mentions the following additions to the current adhesives and stationery:—

Adhesive. 25 c., red-brown and green.
Post Card. 1 c., green on *salmon.*

CANADA.—We are somewhat surprised at the news which we have just received regarding the present issue of stamps. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* has received information that much dissatisfaction is expressed by the French-speaking inhabitants of the rural districts of the Dominion at the scarcity of the inscriptions on the stamps, their grievance being that the value is in one language only—English—which they are unable to understand. It has apparently been decided to alter the new stamps by removing the maple leaves from the lower corners and inserting large numerals of value in their place. The central oval is also to be enlarged, and the value will be placed on a straight band below.

The International post card with the current stamp impressed thereon has been issued, also the 2 c. letter card.

Post Card. 2 c., vermilion.
Letter Card. 2 c., green on *blue.*

INDIA.—Referring to a comment which appeared in our February issue concerning a likely change in the current 1 rupee stamp, Mr. C. Stewart Wilson, Deputy-Director-General of the Indian Post Office, writes:—

"There is no intention of changing the India one rupee stamp. So far as we know it has not been forged. The story seems to be a *réchauffé* of the old Bombay forgery of the grey rupee stamp."

The news sent by Mr. Stewart Wilson is welcome, and justifies the surprise we expressed at any attempted forgery of the stamp in question. Our information was drawn from a contemporary.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The following remarks are culled from our contemporary the *Australian Philatelist*:—

"Owing to complaints having been made that the notice of demonetization of the N.S.W. Centennial 1d., 2d., 2½d., and 5s. stamps from the 1st January, 1898, was too short, it has been decided to continue the validity of these denominations up to the 30th June next. On and after the 1st July, 1898, only the 'Record Reign' stamps of 1d., 2d., 2½d., and 5s. will be recognized as valid stamps of those respective denominations. The effect of this decision will be to demonetize all the earlier types of the 1d. and 2d. In view of the impossibility of detecting forgery when a large variety of types and colours remain valid, this step appears to be one in the right direction. Doubtless the same course will be pursued in all future cases of new issues.

"There is already another gauge of perforation to record in connection with the current 1d and 2d., both of which are found perf. 12. They were originally perforated by the 11 × 11½ comb machine."

Adhesives. 1d., carmine (Type II.); perf. 12.
2d., ultramarine; perf. 12.

NEW ZEALAND.—We are now enabled to illustrate the very handsome set of stamps engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Son for this Colony. The series will commend itself to all Philatelists as one of the most perfect sets of stamps at present in use throughout the British Empire, while the legitimate and permanent nature of the issue seems beyond question. It will be seen that some of the scenery is already described on the stamps; the following additional information concerning the various scenes depicted is, we believe, correct:—

½d. Mount Cook, a small photograph, but a larger one is obtainable on the 5s. stamp.



1d. A view across Lake Taupo, the largest lake in the North Island. In the background are the active volcanoes of Tongariro and Ngaruhol.



2d A view illustrative of the sounds and fiords of the southern island. Those who have visited Scandinavia will recognize in the picture a close resemblance to the inspiring fiords of Western Norway.



2½d. A handsome stamp, with a view of Lake Wakatipu, South Island. In the distance is Mount Earnslaw.



3d. The Huia birds are sacred in the eyes of the Maori tribes; the feathers of these birds, it is stated, were used for the adornment of their "chiefs" alone.



4d. The colour of this stamp makes the scene indistinct; it represents, however, the Pink and White Terraces destroyed in the eruption of 1885



5d. Otira Gorge, and the active volcano of Ruapehu, another graphic illustration.





6d. The Apterix or Kiwi, the peculiarity of which is that the bird has no wings.



8d. The Royal Crown in the top loop of a central double-lined figure 8, with a Maori war-canoe in the lower loop.



9d. Similar scenery to that depicted on the 4d.



1s. A pair of Kakas, the wild hawk-like parrot of New Zealand.



2s. Milford Sound in the South Island.



5s. Mount Cook.

**

The stamps are all printed on unwatermarked paper with varying perforations.

Adhesives. ½d., puce; perf. 14½×15.
1d., light brown and blue (centre); perf. 15.
2d., dull lake; perf. 14½.
2½d., blue; perf. 15.
3d., ochre; perf. 15.
4d., pale rose; perf. 14.
5d., dark brown; perf. 14.
6d., green; perf. 15.
8d., deep blue; perf. 15.
9d., violet; perf. 15.
1s., orange: perf. 15.
2s., blue-green; perf 15.
5s., vermilion; perf. 15.

Advices from Wellington (N.Z.), under date of April 18th, say:—"The new issue of artistic scenic postage stamps is greatly admired, and the supply is unequal to the demand."

QUEENSLAND.—The sixpenny stamp with the shading removed from the background and figures in the four corners has been issued. The *Australian Philatelist* notices some further minor varieties in the type.

Adhesive. 6d., green; perf. 13.

RHODESIA.—The redrawn type of the 1896 issue has been put into use. The *M. J.* has received the following values, which, with the £1 already in use, is the complete set as re-engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons.

Adhesives. ½d., grey and mauve; *re-engraved.*
1d., scarlet and emerald-green ,,
2d, grey-brown and mauve ,,
3d., red-brown and ultramarine ,,
4d., ultramarine and mauve ,,
6d., purple and pink ,,
8d., olive-green and violet on buff ,,

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Pahang.*—The *A. J. of Ph.* has news that this State is to receive stamps of the values of 10 c., 25 c., and 50 c., $1 and $5; but instead of their appearing in the regular type, with the inscription "PAHANG," they are to be produced by surcharging Perak stamps of corresponding values!

TRINIDAD.—The following letters from the *Port of Spain Gazette* of March 1st have been sent to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The projected twopenny stamp to commemorate the event mentioned in the first of the letters will be an unnecessary one, and the action of the Governor in moving the matter is to be regretted. The quantity to be printed will, however, be sufficiently large to quash any speculation. We advise collectors at home to leave the stamps for the benefit of the inhabitants of Trinidad and the officials on the Island, whose misplaced patriotism merits no approval.

"ON THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY.

"*The Governor to the Secretary of State.*

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
"*22nd December*, 1897.

"Copy. No. 463.

"SIR,—The 31st July, 1898, will be memorable in the annals of Trinidad on account of its being the 400th anniversary of its discovery by Columbus. On that day, in the year 1498, he sighted the Trinity peaks on the south coast of Trinidad, and at the same time first saw the mainland of the Western Hemisphere.

"2. It is my intention to celebrate this remarkable event during the visit of the North American and West Indian Squadron, in February next, on which subject I shall address you in a separate despatch, but I desire to have a lasting memorial in the issue of a Commemorative Stamp, in which desire my Executive Council concurs.

"3. The postage for letters between all parts of Her Majesty's Empire is about to be reduced to twopence, so that a new stamp of that value will be required, and I think this new twopence stamp might well be made commemorative of Columbus' discovery of Trinidad.

"4. I propose that 500,000 of this stamp should be sold to the public, after which a 2d. stamp of the ordinary Trinidad pattern will be issued. This Commemorative Stamp will be used for postage purposes only, so that it may be printed in any colour and of any size. All details I leave to the good taste of the Crown Agents and Messrs. De la Rue & Co., but I enclose a photograph of a stained glass window which is in the Council Chamber here, the design of which I should wish, if possible, adapted to the purpose. The artist would probably reduce the number of figures and otherwise alter the picture, but I would like the stamp in its main points to follow the design in the window.

"5. It is absolutely necessary that the issue should be in Trinidad by June, 1898, so as to be issued on the 31st July.

"6. I may mention that the proposed celebration and the Commemorative Stamp is exciting considerable interest, and I beg that should you approve the proposal, as I sincerely trust you may, the Crown Agents will be at once instructed to take the necessary steps to give it effect.

"I have, etc.,
(Signed) "HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM,
"*Governor.*"

"*The Secretary of State to the Governor.*

"DOWNING STREET,
"Copy. "*25th January*, 1898.

"Trinidad. No. 20.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 463, of the 22nd December, respecting a proposed issue of stamps to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Trinidad by Columbus.

"Nothing is settled yet with regard to the reduction of the Postal Union unit rate of postage within the British Empire, but I have not thought it necessary on that account to delay the proposed special issue of 500,000 twopenny stamps to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the Island. The Crown Agents have accordingly been authorized to comply with your requisition with as little delay as possible.

"I have, etc.,
(Signed) "J. CHAMBERLAIN."

ZULULAND.—With the annexation of this Colony to Natal comes the replacing of the current Zululand stamps by those of Natal. If not already obsolete, the Zululand stamps soon will be.

EUROPE.

PORTUGAL.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us a complete set of stamps which have been issued to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the water route to India by Vasco de Gama, fifty-six stamps in all. We advise collectors to leave these stamps to suffer the just condemnation which will undoubtedly be passed upon them by the S.S.S.S.

ROUMANIA.—In addition to the values perf. 11½ (see January, p. 26) of the current series, Mr. Castle now has the following in that gauge :—

25 bani, blue.
1 leu, brown and rose.

It also appears, according to *Der Philatelist*, that in the compound perforation all values are known except the three highest. The smaller perforation of the two gauges nearer 13 than 13½, and should therefore be so described.

SWITZERLAND.—The 10 c. stamp has undergone a change of colour, the present shade being a decided *red* instead of rose.

Adhesive. 10 c., red.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—A new firm of stamp dealers has been started in Brazil, the enterprising head of which is the Brazilian Postal Department!

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us a cutting from the Brazil *Jornal do Commercio*, which is a notice from the Department stating that the obsolete issues of Brazil stamps, which have hitherto been sold at face value, will in future be sold on the basis of Senf's 1897 catalogue. The notice states that no discount will be allowed on large purchases, and we agree with our correspondents that the results of the year's sale will likely prove a disappointment. (We have alluded further to this under Occasional Notes.)

ECUADOR.—The *A. J. of Ph.* has received a package prepaid with revenue stamps of 10 centavos, dated 1897–1898, a fiscal which has not hitherto been used for postal purposes.

Adhesive.
Fiscal-postal. 10 c., grey; perf. 14.

UNITED STATES. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the 5 c. adhesive in the accepted Postal Union colour—blue.

Adhesive. 5 cents, blue.

VENEZUELA.—Some official stamps are to be issued on May 1st. A special design has been adopted, consisting of the arms of the country, with "Venezuela" at top, "Union Postal Universelle" at base, and figures of value on each side; but as no other "official" designation of the stamp is made than "Oficial" in black over the centre, it seems that the stamps may probably be used for general purposes also. The values will be—

Official Stamps. 5 c., deep green.
10 c., red.
25 c., blue.
50 c. (?), yellow.
1 bolivar, violet.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—We give an illustration of the 1 c. stamp of the new issue.



EGYPT.—The *M. J.* publishes the following extract from the *Weekly Bulletin of the Egyptian Postal Department*, dated 14th February, which has reference to an issue of Unpaid Letter Stamps of 3 milliemes, and the authorization of split 2 mil. stamps until the new value is ready:—

"A correspondent at Cairo very kindly sends us the following 'Extract from the *Weekly Bulletin of the Egyptian Postal Department*, dated 14th February,' relative to an issue of Unpaid Letter stamps of the value of 3 milliemes, to take place shortly:

"In accordance with the regulations now in force the postage on letters from and to non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Egyptian army in garrison on the frontier, as well as at Suakin and Tokar, is fixed at 3 milliemes for prepaid and 6 milliemes for unpaid letters.

"This tariff is applicable also to the letters of soldiers taking part in the expedition to the Soudan; and, in consideration of the fact that such soldiers will most frequently be in places where they are unable to obtain postage stamps, it has been decided that unpaid letters sent by them shall only be liable to the single rate of 3 mil., instead of 6 mil. Consequently all unpaid letters, duly countersigned by the officer commanding the corps to which the sender belongs, and coming from a part of the Soudan where no Post Office exists, will only be charged on delivery with 3 milliemes. For the purpose of indicating this rate the Department proposes to convert the 2 piastres Unpiad Letter stamps into 3 milliemes by means of a surcharge; but until these stamps are ready the 3 mil. rate may be represented by an Unpaid Letter stamp of 2 mil., together with the half of a similar stamp divided diagonally.

"We thus find distinct authority given for the use of the halves of 2 mil. Unpaid Letter stamps to make up a 3 mil. rate as a temporary measure, and the promise of 3 mil. on 2 piastre stamps, with perhaps permanent 3 mil. labels, to follow."

Soudan. — We illustrate herewith a picturesque label, one of a series of eight values sent for our inspection by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg. The stamps have been printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. in sheets consisting of two vertical panes



of sixty stamps each; the sheets with coloured margins. The watermark is a *quatre-foil* device which is employed by the engravers on other stamps of their production, as instance Johore. The perforation is fourteen. A stock of these stamps is to be kept at the Financial Secretary's Office, War Office, Cairo, where they may be purchased. Our correspondent, Mr. Hausburg, writes that the obsolete stamps are of the class postmarked to order, and that he has seen blocks of sixty, postmarked, and with full gum.

Adhesives. 1 mil., carmine and brown
2 ,, brown and green.
3 ,, mauve and green.
5 ,, black and carmine.
1 piastre, brown and blue.
2 ,, blue and grey-black.
5 ,, green and brown.
10 ,, mauve and black.

FERNANDO PO.—Another provisional—this time the 12½ c. has been overprinted, with the "5 CEN." in an oval.

Adhesive. 5 c., in red on 12½ c., brown.

HAITI.—The 7 c. stamp of the current type has been issued in a new colour, brown.

A new design is illustrated by *Le T.-P.*, which has been prepared by the *Compagnie française des papiers-monnaie*. The arms occupy the centre as usual, value at top, "REPUBLIQUE D'HAITI" at base; watermark R. H., and perf. (?).

Adhesives. 7 c., brown.
,, (*New Issue*) 1 c., blue.
2 c., rose.
3 c., violet.
5 c., green.
7 c., grey.
20 c., yellow.

MAZAGAN & MOROCCO.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a set of unpaid stamps which we illustrate; the perforation is 13½, and the watermark none.



Unpaid Letter Stamps 5 c., ultramarine.
10 c., green.
20 c., blue-green.
30 c., carmine.
40 c., yellow-brown.
50 c., puce.
1 peseta, mauve.

PERSIA.—We illustrate the type of the kran values of the new issue, additions to which are to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.



Adhesives. 2 kran, carmine.
3 ,, yellow.
4 ,, grey.
5 ,, green.

TRANSVAAL.—A correspondent writes from the capital of the Republic asking whether there is any sale in England for the 1d. railway jubilee issue. Thanks to the good work of the S.S.S.S., the interest in this class of stamps is flagging, and an effective stop will no doubt eventually be put to a practice which has become seriously detrimental to the best interests of Philately. The Transvaal issue referred to has something of the first-offender aspect about it, but we advise our correspondent to use his stamps for postal purposes; this is their true and only value.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications of Philatelic matters and Publications for Review 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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SIERRA LEONE, 1884, 5/- ON 1/-, GREEN.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I have read the letter which appeared in your February number from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., and should like space to reply to the questions which they ask.

(1) "Perhaps Mr. Hesketh will now produce evidence (not unsupported statements) that the stamps were regarded as Revenue only at the time of issue."

In last August number of the *London Philatelist* (page 237), Mr. George Campbell referred to a letter which he had received at the time of issue of this stamp from the Colonial Secretary at Freetown (Mr. T. R. Griffith), who stated "that this stamp had been issued for fiscal purposes only."

Mr. Griffith confirmed this letter in one written to Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., dated 12th October, 1897, and published in the November number, page 321.

The opinion of the Editor of the *London Philatelist* is given in July, page 221, as follows:—

"This stamp has up to the present been looked upon as a Revenue Stamp ONLY."

(2) "The next point is Mr. Hesketh's statement that the stamp has not been catalogued as a postage stamp."

I never said the stamp had not been catalogued.

I said, and now repeat it, that it does not appear in Stanley Gibbons', Bright and Son's, or Scott's Catalogues, and anyone can verify this statement by referring to the above-mentioned books. I was quite well aware that it had been catalogued in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' previous editions, and am exceedingly surprised to learn that Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. profess not to know the reason of its omission, for Messrs. Stanley Gibbons gave the reason in a head-note which they appended to a letter from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. themselves, which was published in Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal* for July, 1897, page 7.

The reason was given as follows:—

"This stamp was omitted from the last edition of the Catalogue owing to doubts as to its nature."

(3) "What Mr. Hesketh means by all that was said about them at the time of issue we do not know: perhaps he will inform us what was said and who said it."

I referred to the Colonial Secretary's letter to Mr. Campbell which I have quoted above, and again to a private letter written by the same gentleman, dated 4th Aug., 1885, and published on p. 259 of the *London Philatelist*.

(4) "We strongly resent the charge of attempting to hoodwink collectors. So far from that being the case, we have done our utmost to enlighten them by publishing all the evidence we could get and withholding nothing."

This is all very well, but Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have not published everything until they have been obliged, and whilst they still profess to withhold nothing, they are keeping in the background the name of the official who received these stamps as a gift, and having brought them to England, sold them. We should have heard nothing of this giving away of so-called postage stamps if I had not published the information in my letter, and I am of opinion that Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. should give the name of the official, as further light will then be thrown on the matter, and a correct judgment formed of some of the letters put forth on behalf of these stamps.

(5) Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. say: "We did not buy any of the stamps until we had satisfied ourselves that they had been really issued for postage."

If Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have purchased these stamps on the evidence which they have published, namely, on the letters of three different officials (page 259, *London Philatelist*), one of whom flatly contradicted himself, whilst another allows his zeal to overrun his discretion so much that he says: "So far as he can gather the stamps were for *postage*, and *not* postage and revenue," it would almost appear that if they had not been hoodwinked themselves, they have been very easily satisfied and taken in.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us in a letter on page 260 of the *London Philatelist* that a "Mr. C. J. Phillips informs us he has seen a postally-used specimen." This statement has had a short career, for in Stanley Gibbons' February *Journal*, page 159, appears the following:—

"None appear to have been so used (postally), as not a single specimen with a postal obliteration is known so far as we are aware of."

No postally-used specimens are likely to be in existence. As I said in my last letter, 5s. postage stamps were never required at that time at Sierra Leone, because a letter costing so much could be sent as a parcel by steamer for 2s. 6d. or 3s., and this plan was adopted by merchants out there.

I will now deal with the latter portion of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s letter, in which they profess to lay bare the motives which have prompted my letter to you. They have published a post card and letter written by me to a Mr. W. Matthews, both of which I confirm.

I have for some years taken a special interest in the stamps of the English Colonies on the West Coast of Africa, and am indebted to a friend of mine for obtaining me complete sheets of many of the stamps of these Colonies. It is the same friend who has furnished me with information about this giving away business, etc., which Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. confirm, but which somewhat belies the negative character surrounding the mythical Mrs. Harris of Dickens fame, whom Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. suggest is my friend. In July, 1893, Mrs. Harris (or my friend) was obtaining some stamps for me, and incidentally said, "There are some stamps in the Post Office at Sierra Leone which have never yet been issued to the public. Would you like a complete set if I can get you one?"

To this I replied yes. I ought to say that my friend did not mention what the value of the stamp was in the Post Office, but I assumed it was a postage stamp, and the 5s. on 1s. In September, 1893, my friend sent me the stamps which I wanted, but said, "I cannot get the authorities to sell a sheet of the stamps I referred to. I have tried once before to get some myself, but have been unsuccessful." This matter passed from my mind, and it was only on seeing one of these 5s. on 1s. stamps on Mr. Matthews's sheet in the Northern Exchange Packet that I remembered the matter. After hearing from Mr. Matthews, I saw my friend and asked him, "Are those stamps, a sheet of which you tried to get me in 1893, still in the Post Office at Sierra Leone?" He replied, "No; they have been sold to a dealer!"

After reading the numerous letters which had appeared from July to December, I decided to write a letter on the subject, and with a view of giving the true history of the stamps, I had an interview with my friend (still Mrs. Harris). I then learned for the first time that the stamps which my friend had referred to were the 1d., 3d., 6d., and 1s. Revenue stamps, and not the 5s. on 1s. stamps at all.

If Mr. Matthews had written to me before publishing my letters, this information would have been at his service.

I have never made the slightest attempt to acquire the remainder of these stamps, and it is news to me to learn that a collector ceases to be one when he purchases a complete sheet of stamps for his collection!

In order to test the value and truth of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s statements and insinuations, I hereby offer to give the sum of £10 to any hospital or charity they like to name in Ipswich if they will produce a particle of evidence that I attempted to purchase the remainder of these 5s. Revenue stamps.

I am a collector, and have acted throughout in that capacity, and my letter has been written entirely in the interests of collectors; and you, Mr. Editor, have been, I think, a little premature in passing judgment on a matter upon which you had heard one side of the case only.

I am, yours faithfully,
J. R. HESKETH.

BANKFIELD, ASHTON-UPON-MERSEY,
NEAR MANCHESTER, 22*nd March*, 1898.

[With reference to our correspondent's concluding remark, we do not consider our remarks were in any way "premature," or that "we had heard one side only." Mr. Hesketh's own letter, as quoted by Messrs. Whitfield King, clearly established the fact that he was a willing purchaser at one time. The true status of these stamps has, however, clearly been brought out by the lengthened correspondence that has taken place, and we think that no further purpose is served by allowing the intrusion of personal matters, or continuing the correspondence, unless any fresh information should arrive from the Colony itself.—ED.]

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

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

Council for the Year 1897-8.

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.

W. B. AVERY. E. B. EVANS.
E. D. BACON. D. GARTH.
W. D. BECKTON. T. WICKHAM JONES.
R. EHRENBACH. H. R. OLDFIELD.
GORDON SMITH.

THE ninth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 18th February, at 7.45 p.m., the members present being: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, Gordon Smith, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, S. M. Castle, G. B. Routledge, A. W. Chambers, A. R. Barrett, T. Maycock, W. Schwabacher, C. McNaughtan, G. Fraser-Melbourne, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, B. D. Knox, and J. A Tilleard.

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

A letter from Mr. W. Block announcing his desire to resign his membership of the Society was read, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

The Secretary reported the receipt of information of the death of Mr. T. Notthafft; and Mr. Castle, after reading a letter from Mr. Breitfuss on the subject, bearing testimony to the universal esteem in which the deceased member was held, added a few words deploring the loss sustained by the Society and Philately through Mr. Notthafft's death. On the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Bacon, it was resolved, "That the members of the Society have

heard with very great regret of the death of Mr. T. Notthafft, and desire to express their sincere sympathy with Mrs. Notthafft in her bereavement."

Mr. Castle also referred to the death of Mons. Donatis, the President of the *Societe Française de Timbrologie;* and, after referring to the services rendered by M. Donatis to Philately, moved, "That an expression of sympathy with the *Societe Française de Timbrologie* in the loss of its President be sent to the French Society." The resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, was duly carried.

Mr. G. L. Edwards, proposed by Mr. G. Fraser-Melbourne and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. S. M. Castle then read a paper, entitled "Notes on Minor Varieties of the Stamps of the United States of America," in which he called attention to a number of varieties not usually known, which exist in several of the issues, notably in the New York stamp, and some of the stamps of 1851, 1857, and 1869, and in the various reprints. The particulars of the differences from the normal stamps were carefully explained, and the reasons for the conclusions arrived at were clearly and logically dealt with, and will be followed with much interest when the paper appears in the *London Philatelist*. In illustration of his observations Mr. S. M. Castle showed a large number of unused specimens of the stamps under consideration from his fine collection of United States stamps.

On the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Bacon, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. S. M. Castle for his most interesting paper.

THE tenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 4th March, at 7.45 p.m. The members present were Messrs. M. P. Castle, T. Wickham Jones, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, H. G. Palliser, F. E. Owen, E. D. Bacon, T. W. Hall, A. R. Barrett, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, H. Quare, G. Fraser-Melbourne, A. B. Creeke, C. McNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, Gordon Smith, 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 reported that he had been informed of the death of Mr. Geldard, an announcement which was received with much regret.

The receipt from Mr. E. D. Bacon of a copy of the work of Mr. Hardy and himself, entitled *The Stamp Collector*, was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

Mr. E. S. Davidson, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. T. Wickham Jones then produced for inspection by the members attending the meeting his collection of the stamps of Japan, and in passing round the sheets for examination gave an interesting and careful description of the various issues and all points of interest in connection with the stamps.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Wickham Jones for the pleasure he had given to the members by allowing them the privilege of inspecting his very fine collection, and for the observations and information afforded by him.

Both the mover and seconder of the resolution added explanations in regard to some of the questions raised by Mr. Wickham Jones in the course of his observations, and congratulated him upon the really wonderful collection which he had been able to acquire in the short period during which he had been specialising in the stamps of Japan.

THE eleventh meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 18th March, at 7.45 p.m., the following members being present: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, H. G. Palliser, O. Pfenninger, F. E. Owen, T. W. Hall, A. R. Barrett, T. Maycock, H. Quare, E. S. Davidson, C. N. Biggs, W. Schwabacher, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard. Two visitors also attended.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the confirmation of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

The receipt from Mr. Beckton of a copy of his work on the Stamps of Greece was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

Mr. Castle then gave a display of the Cantonal and First Federal Issues of the stamps of Switzerland, in which the whole of these interesting stamps were with one exception shown in unused condition. A full description of the various stamps and issues shown was given by the Vice-President, and many novel and interesting facts and explanations in connection with their history were given by him for the benefit of the members attending the meeting. The collection is undoubtedly the finest which has ever been shown at any meeting of the Society, and the Vice-President was heartily congratulated on the possession of so complete and valuable a collection of these interesting stamps.

In his introductory remarks Mr. Castle stated that it was owing to the purchase some ten years since of the block of unused "Poste Locale" stamps shown this evening that his European collection was commenced. By a peculiar coincidence the present display of the Swiss stamps formed a connecting link between the beginning and the finish of his European collection, as he had only on the previous day finished the arrangement of the last volume. Mr. Castle expressed the view that every Vice-President of the Society would wish to have some work with which his name ought to be always connected, and he ventured to think that the formation of a collection of 85 volumes of the stamps of Europe, of which three quarters were unused, might be regarded by his fellow-members as the *magnum opus* of his connection with Philately.

On the motion of Mr. Oldfield, seconded by Mr. Pfenninger, the heartiest thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Castle for his kindness in showing his magnificent collection, and for his very interesting observations and remarks upon the stamps under consideration.

THE twelfth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 1st April, at 7.45 p.m. The following members were present: Dr. C. W. Viner, Messrs. H. R. Oldfield, E. D. Bacon, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, H. G. Palliser, W. Silk, jun., T. W. Hall, E. S. Davidson, W. Schwabacher, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, A. R. Barrett, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the Vice-President Dr. Viner was voted to the chair, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. H. R. Oldfield then read some further "Notes on the Stamps of Bolivia," and called attention to a new danger to collectors in the appearance, at the end of last year, of a set of reprints of the stamps of the first issue. After explaining that he was at first inclined to the opinion that the stamps were proofs, Mr. Oldfield produced a number of specimens which had been offered to him, accompanied by the original certificate from the Acting Postmaster-General of La Paz, vouching for the stamps being "legitimate and authentic," and printed from the original plates. Many of the specimens submitted for examination bore obliterations intended to represent postmarks, and Mr. Oldfield described in detail such other differences as he had been able to detect for the guidance of members in distinguishing between the originals and the reprints.

In dealing with the 5 c. stamps of the first issue, Mr. Oldfield gave a considerable amount of information on points not generally known, and explained how it was possible, without much difficulty, to form an interesting collection of this value by acquiring about thirty stamps representative of all the plates, in cases where collectors were not desirous of making up the entire plates. He also carefully explained the most prominent types and varieties to be looked for with this object, illustrating his observations by a large number of specimens from his fine collection.

On the motion of Dr. Viner, seconded by Mr. Bacon, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Oldfield for his interesting paper.

In the course of the discussion which ensued it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Bacon, that the Secretary be directed to communicate with the Bolivian Government through the representative in this country, and to express the regret of the Society that the early stamps of Bolivia should have been reprinted, and that a certificate should have been given by an official of the Post Office at La Paz worded in such a manner as to imply that the stamps were original, and thus calculated to admit of frauds on collectors by the sale of the reprints as originals; and also to inquire whether any steps would be taken by the Authorities to prevent a further issue of reprints.

Time did not permit of the reading of a paper by Mr. Oliver Firth on the "Dies of the Stamps Employed for the Registered Envelopes of Great Britain," which was on the agenda for the evening, and the paper was deferred until the next meeting.

The Market.

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

March 24th and 25th.

	£	s.	d.
Belgium, 1851, 10 c., brown, water-marked, unused	2	2	0
Monaco, first issue, 5 francs, unused	1	18	0
Oldenburg, second issue, ⅓ gros., black on green, unused	2	10	0
Servia, 1866, Vienna print, perf. 12, 10 p., orange, unused	2	15	0
New South Wales, 1888, 20/-, blue, unused	2	2	0
Trinidad, no wmk., perf. 16, clean cut, 1d., rose-red, unused pair	2	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 4d., brn.-lilac, unused pair	2	6	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., green, unused pair	2	10	0
British Central Africa, 1895, £10	3	15	0
British East Africa, 1 anna, in manuscript, on 4 as., brown	3	7	6

April 14th and 15th.

	£	s.	d.
Mecklenburg-Schwerin, ¼ sch., red, rouletted, unused	5	10	0
Naples, 50 grana, lake	3	0	0
Ditto, ½ tornese, "Arms," on piece of original	13	0	0
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red	17	15	0
Ditto, 1852 ,, (vertical pair)	15	10	0
Ditto, 1853 ,,	4	15	0
Zurich, 4 rappen, vertical lines	10	5	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie, brown-red	7	10	0
Uganda, 2, 4 (2), and 8 a., and 1 rupee	6	6	0
Sierra Leone, 6d., lilac, imperf., unused	3	0	0
United States, *Justice*, 90 c., unused	6	10	0
Tobago, Provisional, 1d., in manuscript, on half 6d., orange; horizontal pair on piece of original	5	0	0
Turks Islands, 1893, ½d., in black, on 4d., grey, pair	3	0	0
New South Wales, 1855, imperf., 6d., light brown, unused pair	6	10	0
Tasmania, 1868, serrated perf., horizontal pair of 2d., green, on piece of original	9	10	0
Victoria, first issue, 1d., dull red, unused, block of 14	37	0	0
Ditto, 1857-63, wmk. star, 1d., green, rouletted vertically and imperf. horizontally	7	10	0

Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

March 17th and 18th.

	£	s.	d.
Gibraltar, first issue, ½d., 1/-, unused (7)	3	12	0
Great Britain, £5, orange, vertical pair	3	8	0
Heligoland, pf., ¼, ½, ¾, 1 and 1½ sch. (5)	5	0	0
British East Africa, first issue, 1 anna on 2d., block of 6, unused	16	0	0
United States, 1856, 90 c., blue	3	10	0

Mr. W. HADLOW.

March 17th and 18th.

	£	s.	d.
Oldenburg, second issue, ⅓ gros., black on green	3	11	0
Portuguese Indies, first issue, 10 reis, red, on original	3	0	0
South Australia, first issue, 6d., dark blue, unused (no gum)	4	0	0

March 31st and April 1st.

	£	s.	d.
British South Africa, £10, brown, unused	6	0	0
Bahamas, CA, perf. 14, 4d., rose, unused	4	10	0
Montserrat, CA, perf. 12, 1d., carmine, block of 4, unused	3	5	0
Dominica, CA, 1/-, mauve, unused pair	4	0	0
Nevis, CA, 6d., green, unused	4	17	6
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	4	17	6
St. Vincent, 1d., on half 6d., blue-green, pair	8	8	0
Ditto, 5/-, star wmk., unused (no gum)	12	10	0
Tobago, CA, 6d., bistre, unused	6	17	6
United States, 1869, 90 c., unused	3	2	6

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. MAY, 1898. No. 77.

The New Zealand "Pictures."

IT is safe to assert that during the past few weeks no subject has more engaged the attention of collectors than the appearance of this singularly beautiful series. There have been, it is true, murmurs as to the means adopted for their disposal to dealers and collectors, and it has been urged with some force that the distribution of these stamps in this country by the Agent-General, before the supplies of the issue have reached the Colony, savours of a hankering after the "dollars" by the New Zealand Government, and hence acquires a speculative taint. This is, however, by no means a precedent as regards some of our pseudo-colonial issues, and on the whole we do not see any special reasons against the supply of a demand that the authorities now frequently fully recognize and carefully cater for at great expense.

There is but one contingency unprovided for in the case of such a set of stamps as these New Zealanders—that is, their permanent character; and as such is to be reasonably anticipated, nought remains for the collector but to promptly acquire the series and to gloat over their manifold graces.

The attitude assumed by the S.S.S.S., by this journal, and by many of our contemporaries towards new issues generally has frequently been misunderstood. We are confident that in the case of genuinely required or permanent issues, not only is there no spirit of antagonism, but a warm welcome on the part of all supporters of the S.S.S.S. The appearance of a new set of stamps, especially when they are such veritable works of art as these recent issues of Tonga and New Zealand, adds a fresh interest and a renewed incentive to collect to almost every Philatelist. That there are new issues and new issues must, however, be abundantly borne in to everyone who will think the matter over; and no better exemplification of this view could be shown than is afforded by these recent arrivals. We will take the three instances which are to-day most prominent, all handsomely engraved and fair to look upon.

1. Tonga. It can hardly be claimed that this issue, having regard to the Philatelic past of this small and insignificant country, was required. It is acknowledged, however, on all hands that their frailty is condoned by their beauty. If they remain on issue for a considerable period—*i.e.*, until extraneous causes compel their supersession—the S.S.S.S. and all collectors are well content.

2. Portugal and her Colonies. In this instance there is no pretence of a permanent issue. The current stamps are in no way superseded, and this is the third commemoration series issued within a few years by Portugal. The number of varieties in the several sets, inclusive of post cards, is *no less than 146!* We are aware that the celebration of the fourth centenary of the discovery of the ocean way to India by Vasco de Gama is one worthy of all honour by the Portuguese and the British nations; but we fail to see that the issue of 146 varieties of stamps, not required by the public, and mainly intended to bleed the collector, is in any way a worthy or fitting method of showing Portugal's regard for her great navigator.

3. New Zealand. In this case these stamps are the postal currency of a large and important Colony, which might well chafe at the hideous effigies that have latterly taken the place of the former beautiful portrait of Her Majesty. There is therefore a legitimate cause for their issue, there is every reason to anticipate their lengthened existence, and in such case the world Philatelic rejoices at the thing of beauty in the conviction that it will be a joy—for many years.

It seems clear to our view that such differences in the *raison d'être* as, at the risk of prolixity, we have recited, afford an unanswerable argument in favour of some endeavour to point out to collectors the nature of what they are asked to acquire; and until some better means can be devised, we consider that the S.S.S.S. has every claim to the sympathy and support of Philatelists.

The Status of the Railway Letter-Fee Stamps.

By W. A. S. WESTOBY.

AS you have done me the honour of referring to my opinion with regard to the status of the Railway Letter-Fee Stamps, would you kindly allow me to state briefly the grounds on which my opinion is based? as, of course, it is utterly valueless unless it rests on some solid foundation.

Early in the year 1890 the Postmaster-General, Mr. Cecil Raikes, arranged with the principal railway companies the general bases of the terms for the conveyance of single letters by their lines, by which the companies and the senders might legally make use of this means of conveyance without both being exposed to the penalties imposed by the Post Office Acts of 1 Vict. cc. 33 and 36. The general terms were that such a letter was

to be conveyed for 3d., of which 1d. should be the share of the Post Office, and 2d. that of the railway company. To carry out this service it was first of all intended to make use of a special stamp of 3d., and the Postmaster-General requested that a design should be prepared, which was furnished by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. early in 1890, and bore the inscription, "Postage and Railway Service." It will at once be seen that the use of such a stamp would entail an enormous amount of book-keeping between the Post Office and the various railway companies quite out of proportion to the service. A simpler mode was therefore devised, due, it is said, to the Clearing House, which settles the amounts payable to the railway companies for the transmission of the ordinary mails. We know what this mode was, and we also know that the service is not confined to the railway that issues the stamp, but the letter will travel over the line of any other company that has agreed to the terms; that is—taking the example given by the Post Office—supposing a letter to be sent by train from Birmingham to Barrow-in-Furness, it would travel along the London and North Western Railway till it arrived at Carnforth, when it would be transferred to the Furness Railway.

Now the Post Office declares that such railway letters as bear the Post Office stamp of 1d., and the railway stamp of 2d., both duly obliterated by an official of the company, "will be deemed to be in all respects letters sent by post. The railway company in carrying such letters will act and be deemed to act solely as agent, and at the sole risk and responsibility of the Postmaster-General." Can anything be a plainer announcement than this, that, though the letter is in the hands of the railway company, it is under the care of the Post Office, which holds itself responsible for its conveyance and delivery as notified on the address?

Some assert that the stamp of 2d. is no better than a railway ticket; others, that the Post Office stamp of 1d. appears only to come into use if the letter is put into the Post Office letter-box on its arrival. You never justly consider that the stamp represents a fee for an accelerated service. Does not a great deal of the misapprehension regarding these stamps lie in the question whether the service is a railway or a Post Office one? The Post Office in its official *Guide* says that it is a Post Office one, for which the Postmaster-General assumes all the risk and responsibility, provided that the sender does his part, which is to hand the letter to the railway company clothed with a postage stamp of 1d. and pay 2d. in cash. The company then becomes the agent of the Post Office, which it evidences by affixing its own stamp and cancelling both, the railway stamp indicating that the 2d. has been received.

And now as to the status of the stamp. This is a question for Philatelists to determine, and I will simply state my own view of it. According to strict definition, the stamp is not a postage stamp, as it possesses no inherent franking power. This power is only imparted to it when used in conjunction with a Post Office stamp of 1d. It is therefore in an anomalous position, being neither a postage stamp nor a railway stamp, but is part of the machinery by which the Post Office carries out a special service. Had the Post Office itself supplied the railways with stamps of 2d., made something

like those from the misappropriated dies, and overprinted them with the name of each company, it would not, in my opinion, have altered the case at all, though it might have done so in the eyes of some. But it did not do so; it left each company free, only prescribing what the general features of the stamp should be. As to the stamp being called a "Fee," everything in excess of the actual postage is, in Post Office language, called a fee. Thus the extra 2d. on a registered letter is called a fee, as also are the extra stamps on late letters and those posted in the trains. I am not in any way advocating the collection of these stamps; this is a matter which must be left to individual taste; but I confess I should prefer collecting stamps whose legitimacy is unquestionable, and whose use is not only recognized but enjoined by the Post Office, to illegitimates like some products of the hurry-scurry of 1881–82 that one occasionally finds in collections that appear to aim only at quantity.

THE Dies used on Registered Envelopes of Great Britain.

By OLIVER FIRTH.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on the 15th April, 1898.

(*Continued from page* 107.)

Die 4.



HIS number can generally be made out, but it is sometimes indistinct and apt to be mistaken for 3. There are two dots above the left-hand date-plug (one of them is often not visible), one of which almost joins the plug-circle to the inner circle. There are a few white patches on the first "T" of "REGISTRATION," and others appear soon afterwards on the next following letter "R," and these marks are fairly permanent, though they are not to be found on over-inked impressions. Mr. Ewen's extremes of date are 24.7.79 and 24.1.81.

DIE IV.

Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes	Date	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.
24.7.79. ...	?	30.8.79. ...	I.	26.11.69. ...	?	7.2.80. ...	?
26. ...	?	1.9. ...	I.	2.1.80. ...	?	10. ...	?
29. ...	?	17. ...	F.	3. ...	?	17. ...	?
11.8. ...	F.	18. ...	?	20. ...	?	21. ...	?
12. ...	?	23. ...	?	22. ...	?	24. ...	?
13. ...	?	25. ...	F.	23. ...	?	25. ...	?
15. ...	?	26. ...	?	24. ...	?	28. ...	?
21. ...	?	29. ...	?	26. ...	?	5.3. ...	?
26. ...	?	17.10. ...	?	27. ...	?	6. ...	?
27. ...	?	24. ...	F.	30. ...	G.	10. ...	?
29. ...	?	27. ...	?	6.2. ...	?	11. ...	?

Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.
6.4.80. ...	?	1.6.80. ...	?	15.7.80. ...	?	10.11.80. ...	?
7. ...	?	2. ...	?	19. ...	?	19. ...	?
9. ...	?	3. ...	?	20. ...	?	2.12. ...	?
13. ...	G.	7. ...	G.	21. ...	?	9. ...	?
14. ...	?	10. ...	?	22. ...	?	10. ...	?
15. ...	?	12. ...	?	26. ...	F.	14. ...	?
22. ...	?	14. ...	?	16.9. ...	?	17. ...	G.
29. ...	?	15. ...	?	12.10. ...	?	21. ...	?
7.5. ...	?	16. ...	?	16. ...	?	7.1.81. ...	?
8. ...	?	6.7. ...	?	19. ...	?	11. ...	?
19. ...	?	10. ...	?	22. ...	G.	20. ...	?
20. ...	?	12. ...	?	23. ...	G.	21. ...	?
22. ...	?	13. ...	?	4.11. ...	?	24. ...	?
31. ...	?	14. ...	?	9. ...	?		

Die 5.

This die seems to have been used exclusively for sizes F and G. The number is often not very clear, but it is safe to assume that any copy dated February, 1881, and subsequently thereto, is 5. It was used with florets instead of date-plugs, and is the only die to be found in both states.

There is a small white dot in the blue line, outside the engine-turning, between the "O" of "TWO" and the "P" of "PENCE," but it is often scarcely visible. The white dot, mentioned by Mr. Ewen, as opposite the "E" of "REGISTRATION," I cannot find, but there is one opposite the "G" of that word; it is very small, and often almost invisible.

This die was in use when the "date-errors" occurred, the stamps impressed on the F envelopes on February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1882, having the month-figure inverted—1.*c*.82., 2.*c*.82., 3.*c*.82. Mr. Ewen's date-limits are 18.2.81. and 28.3.82.

DIE V.

Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.	Date.	Sizes.
? 18.2.81. ...	?	25.8.81. ...	?	14.10.81. ...	F.	1.*c*.82. ...	F.
? 4.3. ...	?	26. ...	F.	18. ...	?	2.*c*.82. ...	F.
24.6. ...	?	27. ...	?	20. ...	?	3.*c*.82. ...	F.
27. ...	F.	1.9. ...	?	24. ...	F.	10.2.82. ...	F.
28. ...	F.	5. ...	?	25. ...	F.	17. ...	?
29. ...	?	7. ...	?	26. ...	?	20. ...	F.
5.7. ...	?	14. ...	?	28. ...	F.	21. ...	?
11. ...	F.	15. ...	?	3.11. ...	?	1.3. ...	?
15. ...	?	17. ...	?	12. ...	F.	3. ...	G.
26. ...	F.	19. ...	?	23. ...	?	9. ...	?
29. ...	F.	21. ...	?	24. ...	?	10. ...	G.
11.8. ...	?	22. ...	F.	26. ...	?	11. ...	?
15. ...	?	23. ...	F.	1.12. ...	?	13. ...	?
16. ...	?	26. ...	?	5. ...	F.	21. ...	F.
19. ...	?	6.10 ...	?	10. ...	?	24. ...	?
24. ...	?	7. ...	?	4.1.82. ...	?	28. ...	?

REGISTRATION STAMPS. UNDATED.

Die 5, F. G.

Nine-dot florets. Shades of pale blue. There is often to be found, in addition to the earlier marks, a small white dot, almost connecting the circle of the right-hand floret with the inner circle; traces of ink are often to be found in eye, ear, and hair.

Die 6, F. G.

Nine-dot florets. Very pale dull blue; pale blue shades; indigo. I include the indigo stamps (which, so far as I can learn, are only to be found on F and G of the (R) envelopes of the first type, without insurance regulations), not because I have been able to find an indisputable 6, but because the general appearance of them agrees with the others, and on account of the characteristic now referred to, *i.e.*, there is a decided thickening of the outer line at the top of the stamp. Some impressions of this die are "freckled" with numerous white spots in the background.



Fig. 1.

The figure shows the characteristic "curl" of Dies 1 to 6.

Dies 7, 8, 9, 10.

Of these dies I have never been able to find undoubted numbered copies, and it seems probable that they never were numbered, if used; it is also possible that some, or all, of them were not used. I have a very fine impression, queried 7, with five-dot florets on the scarce I, with contractor's name in black; there is ink in the eye and hair, and a rather large white dot near the inside of the inner circle just below the level of the chin, and a few much minuter dots above it, opposite the nose and eye; the colour is a full blue. Another copy of the same envelope has a pale chalky ultramarine stamp, which is very much freckled all over, both background and border being very much spotted. Stamps similar to the first-named are to be found on the ordinary plain-backed I and H sizes. Mr. Ewen tells me that he has differentiated the four dies, but of course there is no means of ascertaining "which is which."

Die 11, F. G. H. I.

Dull blue; full blue; dark blue, with a somewhat faint greenish tinge. There is usually a small white dot immediately over the crown of the head, and sometimes another one opposite the tip of the nose, close to the inner ring. The spandrels are probably worse than in any other die, the circles being all deficient, the middle one most so; in the left are to be found only three misshapen dots, with traces of the fourth; in the middle one an ill-defined +, while in the right one the left-hand dot runs into the border, the upper and lower ones almost make a long line, and the right-hand dot is often missing. Ink is occasionally found in the eye, ear, and hair. The curl is *fully* joined to the *chignon*.

Die 12, F. H. H_2.

Pale blue; dull blue; ultramarine; Prussian blue. Nine-dot florets. Any "frecklings" which are found on this die seem to be accidental, as they seldom coincide; there is, however, a hair-line often to be found, leading from the upper corner of the end of the engine-turned border, just above the right spandrel, to the inner white circle. Colour very seldom found on head. Curl completely joined to chignon.

Die 13, F.

Pale dull blue; full blue. Nine-dot florets. In the later impressions the curve of the neck at the back is broken by a small indentation, and there is occasionally a small dot just inside the inner circle on a level with the meeting-point of forehead and crown. Curl fully joined to chignon.

Die 14, F. H. I. K.

Pale dull blue; dark blue; full blue; Prussian blue. There is a white dot just beneath the chin point; occasionally there is a second one somewhat lower down to the right, and usually there is another just inside the inner circle, above the left-hand spandrel. Curl fully joined to chignon.



FIG. 2.

The figure shows the "curl" of Dies 11 to 14.

Die 15, F. G. H. K.

Pale dull blue; pale blue; dull blue; dark blue. Nine-dot florets, though only five show at times. The pendent curl at the back of the head is almost separated from the rest (sometimes entirely so); there is a small white mark to the right of this curl almost touching the inner circle, and there is usually a flaw between this circle and the base of the "G" of "REGISTRATION."

Die 16, F. G. H. H_2. K.

Dull blue; dark full blue. Five- and nine-dot florets. The small curl is almost cut off, as in 15; and colour is to be found in the eye, ear, and hair. There are "freckles," but their position is not sufficiently constant to serve for purposes of identification.

Die 17, F. G. H. H_2.

Full blue; dark blue; Prussian blue; dark French blue. Nine-dot florets. Curl nearly severed. The most marked and frequent characteristic is the flaw reaching up from the inner circle in the direction of the left side of the "O" of "REGISTRATION"; there is also nearly always a white dot just below the chin level, near to the inner circle. Colour often found in eye, ear, and hair.

Die 18, F. H. H_2. K.

French blue; dark blue. Nine dots. Curl almost severed. No very marked characters, but the floret circles are quite thin in places and thick in others; occasional colour in eye and hair.

Die 19, F. G. H. H_2. K.

Pale blue; full blue; dark blue. Five dots. Curl almost severed. The left group of florets is invariably tilted towards the left, the others being upright as usual; and almost always a small white dot close to the forehead. Colour in eye and hair.

Die 20, H. H_2. K.

Pale blue; French blue; dark blue. Five-dot florets, with the left one tilted like 19, but may be distinguished from it by the other florets being usually more indistinct. Curl almost severed. Colour occasionally in eye and hair. Fortunately the number is usually distinct, or there might be difficulty in separating this from 19.

Die 21, F. H. H_2. K.

Pale blue; light French blue. Five dots. There is a flaw almost connecting the front point of the bust with the inner circle (occasionally, also, there is a similar dot *outside* the circle, opposite to this), and a more minute one from the back point of the bust. Colour in eye, ear, and hair. Curl almost severed.

Die 22, F. G. H. H_2. K.

Pale blue; French blue; dull blue. Five and nine dots. The later impressions of this show a very marked flaw leading from the back point of the bust almost to the inner circle, and though there are other occasional marks, it is difficult to distinguish this die if the number and this peculiar "flame" fail, for good early impressions have no characteristics except the number. Curl nearly severed.

Die 23, F. H. H_2. K.

Pale blue; French blue; full blue. Five dots, with the left floret tilted slightly to the right, which distinguishes this from 22, as this also developed the curious mark at the right base of the bust, and to an even greater extent. Early impressions do not show it. Curl nearly severed. Colour in eye and hair.

Die 24, F. G. H. H_2.

Pale blue; dull blue; French blue. Nine dots. Left floret tilted to left, middle one slightly so; small white mark to left of first "R" of "REGISTERED" joining engine-turning to outer white circle; small white dot joining front point of bust to inner white circle. Curl nearly severed. Colour in eye, ear, and hair.



FIG. 3.

The figure shows the "curl" of Dies 15 to 24. The unnumbered dies that may be 7, 8, 9, and 10, have a similar curl. Dies 26 and 29 show a reversion to this type.

Die 25, F. H. H_2.

Pale to darkish ultramarine. Nine dots. The left floret is tilted to the left, and the middle one to a less extent. In this die there is often to be found a small projection breaking the curve at the back of the neck just above the level of where the chin joins the neck in front; there is also a small cluster of "freckles" reaching from the middle of the neck in front

diagonally to the inner circle, between the left spandrel and the first letter of "REGISTRATION." The curl at the back is altogether different from that of 24, the upward-turning lock of hair reaching quite to the body of the chignon instead of falling short. There is thus no sign of the severed appearance alluded to as characterizing Dies 15 to 24, though the connection is by no means so solid as in Nos. 11 to 14. Also there are very deeply marked incisions on the face just below the eye and just above it. Colour in eye, ear, and hair.



FIG. 4.

The figure shows the "curl" of Die 25.

Die 26, F. G. H.

Ultramarine. Nine dots. No distinctive marks, but embossing is rather flat and unsatisfactory. Curl of "almost detached" type. Colour in eye and hair. The figure of the "curl" of Dies 15 to 24 shows the type of the "curl."

Die 27, F. G. H_2.

Ultramarine; full blue. Nine dots. Sometimes a white dot is seen near the inner circle just opposite the "G" of "REGISTERED." The curl is very similar to 25, and crown, hair, and face generally better embossed than in most other numbers.

Die 28.

Of this I have never seen an undoubted copy.

Die 29, F. G. H. H_2. K.

Pale blue; pale dull blue; ultramarine; French blue. Another clear-cut die, with nine- and five-dot florets, the circles of the spandrels being very clear and with curl like 25 and 27.

I am inclined to believe that this die was not used on envelopes other than those with the Insurance scale running up to £50, though it may have been, and, of course, other dies may also have been used on such envelopes.

Numbers 30 and 31 appear never to have been used, though they were possibly prepared.

CURRENT TYPE (1893).

SMALLER STAMP.*

This series begins with Number 32 (G), and then there is a hiatus, 37 being the next to appear, 33, 34, 35, and 36 not having yet been observed, I believe.

Die 32, G.

I know of only one copy of this. It is in ultramarine on a G envelope. (I find I have noted a G with 34, but cannot recollect where I saw it.)

The remaining dies are tabulated herewith, and are accompanied by the sizes on which they are known to exist. There are only two well-marked shades of colour amongst them, the more usual one being ultramarine, though

* If the number cannot be determined there is no means of discovering the die by means of marks, as none of this series shows them.

occasionally it appears in a rather dull shade. Numbers 44, 46, 48, and 49 do not appear to be known.

Die 37, F. G. H. H_2. K.	Die 42, F. G. H. H_2. K.
„ 38, F. G. H_2. K.	„ 43, F. G. H. H_2. K.
„ 39, F. G. H. H_2. K.	„ 45, F. G. H. H_2. K.
„ 40, F. G. K.	„ 47, F. G. K.
„ 41, G. H. H_2. K. F.	„ 50, K.

NOTE *re* PLATE FACING PAGE 104.—In the reproductions of the dies several minor points, useful for identification, do not come out clearly.

Die I.—There should be white dots just in front of the mouth, below the base of the bust, close below the curl, and quite close to the line of the inner circle, opposite the "E" of "PENCE."

Die III.—The white extension at the rear point of the bust does not exist, and there should be two white streaks showing on the engine-turning between the second and third date-plugs—one proceeding from the outside, the other from the inside.

Die IV.—The background should show no variations of shade, and there should be two white dots near the inner line—the upper one opposite the base of the diadem, the lower opposite the eye.

Die V.—The background here also should be even, and the "tip-tilt" removed from the nose. The white streaks in the outer line should be more decided, and the dot in it, between the second and third date-plugs, should appear. O. F.

The Philatelic Exhibition at Turin.

BY DR. EMILIO DIENA.

THIS Exhibition is the second that has taken place in Italy; the former, which was held at Milan in 1894, was fairly successful, although but a limited number of amateurs from abroad participated therein either as exhibitors or spectators. At the conclusion of that Exhibition it was resolved by the Italian Philatelists who had participated therein to hold another within a reasonable period. It was strongly felt that the many advantages and pleasures to be derived from the interchange of ideas and the meetings between collectors were so obvious, that a further development of the idea was advisable. The suggestion of holding such an exhibition at Turin was also then made.

It will be seen that towards the end of 1895 a committee was constituted in Turin in order to obtain supporters of a Philatelic Exhibition, and that it was proposed to hold the same in the ancient capital of Piedmont, on the occasion of the celebration of the Cinque-centenary of the Proclamation of the Fundamental Statutes of the Kingdom by Charles Albert of Savoy.

This committee placed itself in communication with a large number of Italian collectors, and held numerous sittings; but whether on account of the absence of unanimity, which was apparent, whether by reason of the limited leisure at the disposal of some of its members, or from other causes which it would not avail to dwell upon at the present moment, but little practical work has been the outcome. The Central Committee of the General Italian Exhibition noted with regret that affairs were not advancing in the Philatelic section. One of its members, Count Biscaretti, who is to some extent a collector, endeavoured to awaken the interest therein of the late deeply-regretted Minister of the Posts and Telegraphs—M. Emile Sineo—and besides the proposals that he had made personally to this Minister, he made further representations to the Chamber of Deputies (on the first

session of the 2nd July, 1897). A favourable reply to these propositions was hoped for, as the reorganization of the Italian Postal Museum had already been decreed by the Postmaster. Two days later in the Chamber of Deputies M. Sineo made the following remarks: "The hon. member, Count Biscaretti, desires that the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs should participate in the Exhibition at Turin in 1898. On this point I can assure him that this will be provided for, and I am pleased to be able to inform him that I have just arranged that the Philatelic Exhibition shall be installed, at the expense of the Ministry, near the official exhibits of the Royal Posts and Telegraphs. Nevertheless, it must be understood that if I make certain dispositions with regard to the organization of such an exhibit, I cannot undertake any responsibility in connection therewith. The due safe-guarding of the objects exposed will rest with the exhibitors. It is known that such an exhibition is not confined to objects simply of interest, but at the present time stamp collections frequently represent large sums of money, for which the Ministry could undertake no responsibility." Needless to say that this important statement sufficed to raise a movement in the Philatelic world in favour of the Turin Exhibition. It is well-known that the regretted Minister Sineo nominated a new committee* under the presidency of M. Marchesi, of Turin (engineer), and did me the honour of nominating me to represent the Ministry on the Executive Commission. He further instituted a Committee of Patronage, under the presidency of Prince Doria Pamphilj, member of the Senate (and also a member of the Philatelic Society of London). This committee included well-known Philatelic authorities from all parts, the representative of Great Britain being Mr. M. P. Castle.

Unfortunately indeed the Minister, M. Sineo, died at the age of forty-seven on the 27th of February last, and it was speedily felt what a misfortune this loss was for Italian Philately and for the Philatelic Exhibition at Turin. However, the carrying out of the scheme had been entrusted to persons who were so deeply interested that its success might have been almost confidently affirmed.

The first idea projected was to hold an International Philatelic Exhibition; but the Committee of the General Italian Exhibition, which is national (except for the electricity section), raised difficulties on this point. We were compelled to conform to the principles established by the General Committee, and it was consequently decided that the Philatelic Exhibition should be national.

The *London Philatelist* has criticised—in an amiable manner none the less—the separation into two classes of the competitors for the special classes of Italian stamps, of which the one (Class I.) is restricted to Italian amateurs, and the other (Class I. *bis*) is reserved for foreign competition. The Editor, in commenting hereon, urged that it would have been preferable to have instituted a single class, and to have allowed Philatelists from abroad to compete with Italian collectors. It should be mentioned that this separation was not established in the precepts of Chauvinism, but was in a great measure due to the wish to respect the principles of the General Committee.

* See *London Philatelist*, January, 1898, page 21.

Beyond this, the aim was not to discourage collectors from abroad, who might have feared to measure their strength with the strongest Italian amateurs. It is important, moreover, to add that, according to the classification of exhibits, foreign competitors *had the option* of exhibiting in Class I., that is to say, with the Italian collectors.*

It seemed at one time apparent that the Philatelic section must be located in the outlying portion (*enceinte*) of the Exhibition; but it became apparent later that a large proportion of the collectors would not have been disposed to display their exhibits in galleries largely construeted of wood, as it was in one of these temporary constructions that the Minister had contemplated showing the stamps. I had myself foreseen that no insurance company would have effected insurances upon a Philatelic Exhibition held under these conditions. These facts rendered the inevitable non-acceptance of the *locale* provided with the best intentions by the late regretted M. Sineo. The committee then ardently threw themselves into the task of finding a more suitable location, and it is above all due to the zeal of my friend M. Marchesi, President of the Committee, that a final selection was made in the perfeetly-lit *salon* of the Museum of Merchandise (Museo Mercologico), situated in a fairly central position (1, Via Palestro), on the *rez-de-chaussée*. This building is entirely isolated, is suitable in all respects, and has given satisfaction. The expenses, which have naturally been considerable, have fallen on the shoulders of the committee, but they have been in great part covered by guarantees.

(*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.*

THE RETOUCHED DIADEMED ISSUE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

WE have to thank Mr. E. D. Bacon for the following note:—"It has long been known that the second plate of the Two Pence 'diademed' issue of New South Wales had four stamps upon it retouched before it was superseded in March, 1862, by the Two Pence plate of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Mr. R. B. Yardley has recently submitted to me an undoubted *imperforate* specimen of the same stamp which shows unmistakable traces of retouching in the lines of the background round the head. It will be remembered that Dr. A. Houison states in his paper published in the number of the *Philatelic Record* for November, 1890, that all the stamps printed from the second Two Pence plate were perforated, so that this imperforate variety emanates from the first plate, which consequently, like the second, must have had some of the stamps upon it retouched. The discovery is certainly an interesting one, and reflects great credit on the Philatelic acumen of Mr. R. B. Yardley."

* We take it that Dr. Diena means that in this case the foreign exhibits would be *hors concour*. As previously stated by the author, the committee had good reasons for this division; but on the whole we think still the wiser course would have been to throw open the class to all comers, and probably thus secure competition from the leading foreign collectors of Italian stamps.—ED.

THE 27 PARA OF MOLDAVIA.

THAT doctors differ is an old axiom, and the experts in Philately occasionally follow the example of the medicos in their diagnosis of critical cases. The rare stamp above cited has caused a flutter latterly in the dovecots of the scientists. Three single specimens hereof were submitted to the *cognoscenti* of one of the great European capitals, and were condemned as being spurious, whereas they were pronounced undoubtedly genuine by the leaders of Philately in another metropolis. One of the specimens in question was submitted to a third metropolis and accepted as good, but being again referred to a fourth capital was pronounced bad. It will be apparently necessary to try fresh continents in order to arrive at a majority! We have seen the specimen in question, and at first were of opinion that it was bad, but on a second and lengthened examination and comparison with many specimens we have come to the conclusion that the stamp is genuine. It is of somewhat curious clear dry impression, approaching grey in hue—which certainly gives it a curious look—but we incline to the view that this is due to defective inking of the die. As regards the details of the impression, there is absolutely no variation from the original, and although this might well be so in the case of lithographic reproduction, the postmark seems undeniably genuine, and the paper reveals no difference from the normal.

That the "defenders of the faith" have the courage of their convictions is significantly attested by the fact that they have boldly announced by advertisement of the most sensational type their willingness to buy all specimens of this disputed 27 para up to the full catalogue value of Senf 1897—assuredly a powerful argument in favour of the *bonâ fides* both of these stamps and their advocates.

Occasional Notes.

RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS.

MR. C. F. DENDY MARSHALL kindly sends us the following list of additions to the ranks of these auxiliary carriers :—

I. ENGLAND, WALES, AND SCOTLAND.

Furness Railways. These are now inscribed "Furness Railway."

Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway. Now called "Severn and Wye Joint Railway."

New Issues :—

North Wales & Liverpool Railway Committee.

Dundee and Arbroath Joint Railway.

East London Railway. These are pink and imperforate.

Glasgow, Barrhead & Kilmarnock Joint Ry.

So: West & Mid: Rly Co's Som: & Dor: Joint Line. These have a black control number.

II. IRELAND.

Clogher Valley Tramway Co Ltd. The word "Railway" has been substituted for "Tramway."

New Issue:—

Castlederg & Victoria Bridge Tramway Company.

We are also indebted to Mr. W. H. Earl for the following information:

"From enquiries I find 'Pembroke and Tenby' stamps are obsolete, the company having been taken over by the Great Western Railway Company nearly two years since.

"Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway has been amalgamated by the Great Western and Midland Railway Companies, and the stamps now bear the name 'Severn and Wye Joint Railway.' The old company was wound up June 30th, 1894. The general manager of the Londonderry and Lough Swilly and Letterkenny Railways writes, 'As I find the supplying of these stamps is causing a great deal of trouble and correspondence, I have decided to refuse to allow them to be sold any further.' This applies to the celebrated penny stamps, of which I secured a supply prior to the issue of the order."

HIGH PRICES!

THE collector—whether of stamps or any other cognate objects—is frequently astonished at his own audacity when, on his first venture, he risks a score of pounds to become the owner of some choice specimen. The vast gap between such a sum as this and the four-figure price demanded for a "Post Office" has alarmed the more timorous among Philatelists, but perhaps when stamp-collecting has settled down for a generation or two high prices can be regarded with more equanimity, when they are commensurate with rarity—a condition that does not always apply. It would hardly have been thought that the collector of snuff-boxes is a bold and daring buyer compared to the Philatelist, who actually hesitates before paying a thousand pounds for a stamp! Facts, however, bear out this contention, for we read that at the sale of the Heckscher Collection 3350 guineas was paid for a snuff-box, painted in subjects after the Lancrets in the National Gallery, and 1120 guineas for the watch of Louis XIV. when Dauphin, from the Montgermont Collection, dispersed a few years ago in Paris. The purchasers of these costly little articles were Messrs. Duveen, and the significance of the prices paid is the more striking in the knowledge that a gentleman of that name is one of the foremost stamp-collectors in the world.

U.S. ACTION RE NEWSPAPER AND PROVINCIAL STAMPS.

THIS case, which involved the question of the right of any American to hold or sell these stamps, has been decided before Judge Lacombe in the U.S. Circuit Court, and after a protracted hearing was, on April 15th, emphatically decided in favour of the Walter S. Scott Co., the defendants. A right of appeal exists for 60 days; but Messrs. Scott's counsel says:—

"Whether or not the Government will appeal rests with the Attorney-General to whom the record will be forwarded by the District Attorney.

I am inclined to believe that the positive terms of the decision rendered by Judge Lacombe will induce an abandonment of further prosecution."

It would seem from the finding of the Court, here following, that the presiding judge was very severe in his comments on the plaintiff Government's action, and that in view of this and other pressing matters on hand the appeal is not likely to be prosecuted. We heartily congratulate our American kinsfolk upon the success of their struggle against such an obviously unjust action as that contemplated by the postal authorities, and hope that it may serve the latter as a salutary lesson for their conduct towards collectors in the future.

The report following we take from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* (the italics are ours):—

(The Hon. E. Henry Lacombe, Judge, and a Jury.)

"The Court: I am prepared now to dispose of this somewhat extraordinary case. It is an action for replevin, in which the plaintiff, the Government of the United States, through the Post Office Department, claims title to a lot of postage stamps, that is, newspaper and periodical postage stamps, and the Marshal has levied upon them. They are divided into three classes. The first comprises newspaper and periodical stamps under the Act of 1865, or prior to 1865, as to which it is now conceded by the plaintiff that the facts do not warrant a finding in the plaintiff's favour except as to the one-cent stamps, as to which contention is still made. The second class contains certain stamps which are referred to as 'specimen stamps.' With regard to these the situation is this: In 1875, over the signature of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, who is the one that, in the organization of the department, has special charge of stamps, etc., there was a circular issued from the Post Office Department, Washington, D.C., stating that '*the Department is prepared to furnish upon application at face value specimens of adhesive postage stamps issued under its auspices as follows.*' Then follows a list of various stamps running back as far as 1847, and including the various issues and denominations now in suit. This circular was sent broadcast throughout the community, and was never cancelled or repudiated by the Postmaster-General. Upon the strength of this circular the confiding citizen applies to the Post Office Department, receives the stamps, pays the money, the Post Office Department covers the money into the Treasury of the United States, and, having done so, turns round and insists that the same stamps were stolen, embezzled, and purloined from the United States, and are still its property, not because any Act of Congress has prohibited the sale, but because some years after the circular was issued the Postmaster-General made regulations forbidding Postmasters to sell this particular kind of stamp. Comment on such a performance as that would seem to be wholly superfluous. *If it were a transaction between private parties a well-known phrase of the police court would most properly describe it.*

"There remains, however, a third class, covering other stamps which are not specimen stamps and are not within the terms of this circular offering them for sale, and we must look into the situation with regard to those. Except for one lot of six stamps, described as newspaper stamps, 1895, etc., being lot No. 141, all of these stamps are issued in or prior to 1875, except two lots, 132 and 134, which seem to have been issued in 1879. The newspaper stamps, so called, are postage stamps undoubtedly—so conceded—the description of them in the Regulation, indeed in this circular, is such that it is plain that they are, as one would infer that they were without any evidence, postage stamps. From the time that the Government began to print

and circulate postage stamps to facilitate the prepayment of postage on letters, the Postmaster-General or Post Office Department, or whoever has had them in charge, has been authorized to sell them or have them distributed at places where persons who needed to use them could purchase them, and in some Acts he has been required so to do. I do not find, and I am not referred to any Act of Congress prohibiting the sale of this particular kind of stamps. On the contrary, the Act of 1874, section 6, which authorizes the issue of such stamps within the years which we have last referred to, provides that the parcels containing the newspapers and periodicals 'shall be weighed in bulk and postage paid thereon by a special adhesive stamp to be devised and furnished by the Postmaster-General, which shall be affixed to such matter or to the sack containing the same or upon a memorandum of such mailing, otherwise, as the Postmaster may from time to time provide by regulations.' That is to say, the Postmaster-General is to provide regulations as to how the stamps shall be affixed; but there is nothing at all in the Act prohibiting him selling such stamps to an individual who wants to use them to pay his postage with. It is claimed, however, that under the general powers of the Postmaster-General to make regulations for the government of the service, regulations have been made prohibiting the sale of this kind of stamp. Upon examination of the quotations from the Regulations of the Post Office Department which form a part of the stipulation, I am unable to find any regulation prohibiting the sale of these stamps to the public prior to that contained in the Postal Guide of 1881. On the contrary, immediately after the passage of the Act of 1874, it seems to have been the practice of the Post Office Department to sell these very stamps to the public. In the report of the Postmaster-General for the year 1875, referring to the new stamps which were issued under the Act of 1874, he says that the new system is working very well, and describing the method employed, states that the papers to be mailed are made up in bulk at the publication office, carried to the Post Office, and there weighed. The postage is computed on the whole issue, 'the proper amount in *stamps handed to the Postmaster*,' etc. etc., which plainly indicates that the stamps must have been in the possession of the citizen who wanted to use them to prepay upon his package. He could not very well 'hand them to the Postmaster' unless he had them to hand. It seems clear upon the evidence that the practice under the Act of 1874, immediately after its passage, was to sell and deliver these stamps to the public, who, when they wanted their packages forwarded, gave stamps for the amount of the proper postage to the Postmaster at the office where they turned it in. Now the record contains no prohibition, prior to that one in the Postal Guide of 1881, against the sale of any of these stamps by Postmasters, and inasmuch as, with the exception of lot 141, they are prior to that date (1881), I reach the conclusion that at the time of the issuance of those stamps there was no statute law of the United States and no regulation adopted under authority of statute prohibiting the sale of such stamps to the public, either by the Post Office Department itself or by such subordinates, Postmasters or others, as might have the stamps in charge.

"There remains the single lot of six stamps—one, two, five, ten, twenty-five, and fifty cents respectively of the issue of 1895. It appears that under the terms of the so-called Postal Union over seven hundred complete sets of stamps have been issued by the Government without reserving any further right or title or control of their disposition, whether to foreign Governments, or to delegates of those Governments, to the Postal Congress, or to the Secretary of the Congress, or where not, is immaterial. The stamps so issued passed wholly out of the power and control of the Federal Government, which no longer held any title to them, and the persons to whom they went could have sold them or done anything else that they pleased with them.

"Under those circumstances, in view of the fact that part of those stamps are of the same kind as those which were sold by the Post Office Department under the circular issued in 1875 and the money paid to the department and covered into the Treasury of the United States, that part of them are of issues which were not prohibited for sale by Act of Congress, but which, on the contrary, were, when they were first issued, sold by Postmasters to the public, and the sale of which has never been prohibited by postal regulations until some years after their issue, and that as to all of them there are 700 sets free to the world which the Post Office Department has issued; I am unable, such being the only evidence in the case, to sustain the averment of the complaint that the stamps in question here were 'stolen, embezzled, and purloined' from the plaintiff, and that they are now the 'property of the Government of the United States.' For these reasons I shall direct a verdict in favour of the defendant.

"Mr. Lloyd (Counsel for Plaintiff): I except to that part of your Honour's charge in which you state that there is no regulation or prohibition of any kind issued by the Government prior to 1881.

"The Court: There is nothing other than what you call my attention to here, which is inferential. On that date the language is specific. Prior to that it is inferential, because it says they must put them on the stub.

"Mr. Lloyd: That is what I contend—that it is inferential. I ask your Honour to charge that, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, the jury are bound to presume that the 700 sets of stamps delivered to the Postal Union under the treaty were issued by the Government for the purpose for which they were intended.

"The Court: I decline.

"*A verdict is found, as directed, and motion is granted for judgment on the verdict, and that the Marshal shall be directed to return the stamps to the defendant.*"

Public opinion in the States is as strongly in favour of the Philatelic world as the learned judge, as evidenced by the following excerpt from the *New York Sun:*

"In his decision on the newspapers and periodical stamp case, Judge Lacombe said yesterday: 'The evidence does not show that the defendant came into the possession of the stamps unlawfully. In 1875, under the signature of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, a circular was issued stating that the Department was prepared to furnish specimen sets of newspaper and periodical stamps at their face value back to the issue of 1847. Now the Government claims that these stamps were stolen, purloined, and embezzled, because some years after an order was issued to Postmasters forbidding the sale of newspaper and periodical stamps. The claim is preposterous. The records show that more than 700 sets of these stamps have been sold openly to the public.' Hence rejoicing in the ranks of the Philatelists. The Government didn't know what a hornets' nest it was disturbing when it went for one of the collectors. The bonds that unite the great army of the connoisseurs in stamps are stronger than any others known to the sociologists. It is a dangerous thing to trifle with them, even when the collectors are not backed up by the law, as in this case. The decisive language used by the judge certainly serves to assert his opinion with strength, and though an appeal may be taken by the Government, it is difficult to predict anything but defeat in a case the merits of which are so clearly on the side of the defendant."

THE BERLIN PHILATELIC MUSEUM.

AT a meeting of the Berlin Philatelic Club, held some few weeks since, Dr. Brendicke gave an interesting account of the recent installation of the German National Philatelic Collection in its new home, and we hope to be enabled at no distant period to verify the same by personal inspection. It would appear from the doctor's remarks that, although the collection is at last worthily lodged in a splendid home, the question of lighting leaves still much to be desired. The effects of exposure to sunlight—or even daylight—are patent to all who have had any experience of Philatelic Exhibitions, and we believe that on this score alone the annual waste of specimens by the Berlin Museum amounted in value to a considerable sum. Hence the decision to exclude the daylight and use that of electricity; but it would appear that the service lamps provided in the present instance do not, as might be anticipated, adequately show up the ten revolving cases in which the stamps are displayed. This latter system does not meet with unanimous approval at Berlin, nor in effect do we know any method for the permanent display of stamps that does. The custodians of the Philatelic treasures, whether in London, Berlin, or elsewhere, have practical experience of the almost insuperable difficulty of combining easy access for inspection with safety against damage or theft. We are not enamoured of these revolving show-cases, which only admit of two persons' simultaneous inspection, and are at once cumbersome and ineffective for purposes of display. The Berlin authorities, however, have doubtless been wise in continuing this previously-adopted system until someone shows them a better one.

We are glad to have testimony as to the marvellous improvement in the Berlin collection of late years, due to the untiring energy of the worthy director, Judge C. Lindenberg. It has not been generally known how little straw was provided for that esteemed gentleman with which to make his Philatelic bricks; and the existence of the two splendid collections—one for inspection, and the second for scientific research on the *minutiæ* of Philately—formed at a comparatively slight cost, is a striking testimony to the great ability and exhaustless labour of Herr Lindenberg. We have an idea that these qualities have hardly been as yet appreciated to the full by the German authorities, but the Curator of the Berlin Museum has assuredly earned a Philatelic appreciation by his services that is limited by no bounds of nationality.

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 are indebted to a correspondent for the sight of a new provisional one penny stamp, the history of which is as follows:—

"Stringent orders have been issued that no more surcharging of the one penny on three shillings is to take place, and that, pending the arrival from England of a fresh supply of one penny stamps, the provisional alluded to is to be used for internal postage only. The stamps are not to be sold to the public, but letters are to be handed in, and the postage paid in cash. The stamps are then affixed by the Post Office officials, and cancelled."

The new provisional consists of the red B.C.A. revenue stamp of one penny, similar in design to that impressed on cheques, etc., within a type-set upright rectangular frame, "INTERNAL" above, "POSTAGE" below, in Roman capitals, white wove paper, imperf.

The description of the method adopted by the officials to prevent speculation is somewhat spoilt by the specimen before us retaining its full coating of original gum, although neatly cancelled "BLANTYRE—B.C.A.—14 MR.—98"!

CANADA.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. an addition to the stationery in the shape of a 3 cents envelope, of a design unpretending and ugly. The stamp embossed thereon is oval, the outer line of which is broken at the top, the space being occupied with the one word "CANADA." The central oval contains a profile of the Queen, the proportions of which correspond with the portrait appearing on the postage stamps.

Envelope. 3 cents, red on white, 147×87 mm.

HONG KONG.—We have received from Mr. Gardner and Mr. R. Meyer a specimen of the 96 c., grey-black, stamp, with surcharge "1—DOLLAR" (see March, p. 91); also information that the 30 c., green, stamp has been surcharged "10—cents" and the Chinese characters for "10."

Adhesives.

1 dollar on 96 c., grey-black, surcharged black.
10 c. on 30 c., green " "

KLONDIKE.—The forerunner of a probable golden series of labels for this land of promise has made its appearance. The Alaska Pacific Express Company have issued a 2 cents, green, envelope, which will carry letters posted therein between Portland and Alaska Ports. We may expect to hear of some enterprising stamp dealer in Dawson City! In the meantime we publish the circular issued by the A.P.E. Co., the record of which may be useful and interesting at a time yet to come.

"ALASKA PACIFIC EXPRESS COMPANY.

"OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER,
"PORTLAND, OR., *March 18th*, 1898.

"Circular No. 11.

"FRANKED ENVELOPES.

"Owing to the irregular and very unsatisfactory mail service between Portland, Sound Cities, and Alaskan Ports, we have been frequently importuned to carry letters by express. These demands having become so urgent, and being in a position to give the public much better service than is at present afforded by the ordinary mail, we have decided to inaugurate franked letter service. Having complied with the regulations and requirements of the United States Government, we are now prepared to carry letters by express when enclosed in one of our franked envelopes, over all coastwise routes operated by this Company.

"These government stamped envelopes are for the transmission by express of letters or papers of no particular value only. Patrons using them

must not do so for the purpose of forwarding money or valuables, as it must be understood that this Company does not assume any liability for loss of such letters. We shall always use our best endeavours to forward promptly and deliver carefully any and all such letters, but we do not guarantee safe delivery. If a letter is destined to a point beyond or off our line, it will be carried to the point on our route nearest destination, and there deposited in the Post Office.

"The cost of these envelopes will be TEN CENTS each, in any quantity, and will be found on sale at any and all offices of this Company.

"NOTE.—It is understood at present time we are not prepared to carry such letters to interior points in Alaska, but simply to coast offices. Later on, when regular through service is established to Dawson, Circle City, etc., we will then name rates for carrying letters through to all points on the Yukon.

"M. G. HALL, *General Manager.*"

MAURITIUS.—The Diamond Jubilee stamp, prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., has been forwarded to the Colony, and by this time is probably in use. The stamp is of oblong rectangular shape, the arms of the island occupying the centre. We chronicle this stamp with due reserve, having regard to the edicts of the S.S.S.S. The face value thereof is 36 cents, the equivalent of nearly ninepence in British currency. Watermark Cr. CA; perf. 14.

Adhesive. 36 c., yellow-brown and blue.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The *Australian Philatelist* informs us that owing to the colour of the existing 6d. stamp being the same as that of the 1d., it has been decided to change the former stamp to viridine green—a shade of blue-green. The following official notice authorises the change :—

"POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPT.,
"GENERAL POST OFFICE,
"SYDNEY, *March 11th*, 1898.

"It is hereby notified that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, in accordance with the provisions of the 16th section of the Postage Act, 31 Vic. No. 4, been pleased to approve of the alteration of colour of the existing sixpenny postage stamp from rosine madder to viridine green, as in its present colour it too closely resembles the current one penny stamp. To date from the 1st May next. JOSEPH COOK."

NEW ZEALAND.—Mr. H. Grey writes :—

"On a letter just received from New Zealand, I notice that on the 2½d. stamp, of the new Waterlow series, Lake Wakatipu is spelt 'Wakipitu.'

"Evidently this is a genuine 'error' here, as on all the other copies in my possession the name is spelt correctly."

We understand that the authorities in New Zealand are aware of the error, which, however, has been corrected, and steps were taken to prevent speculation in this value.

QUEENSLAND.—From the same source we learn that the halfpenny wrapper is now current with the inscription altered to read as follows :—

"This wrapper may only be used for newspapers, or for such documents as are allowed to be sent at the book rate of postage, and must not enclose any letter or communication of the nature of a letter (whether separate or otherwise). If this rule be infringed, the statutory penalty will be enforced."

Wrapper. ½d., green on manilla.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The current 2½d. adhesive has been modified in colour, the new shade being a deep blue.

Adhesive. 2½d., deep blue.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—A change in the colour of the 2d., grey, stamp is to take place in the near future; this value having been mistaken for the green ½d. stamp will be printed in orange-yellow. This confusion of colours is not clear to us, as not only is grey a distinct colour from green, but the designs of the respective stamps vary to a marked degree.

EUROPE.

DENMARK.—The 50 öre has now appeared in the perforation 12½, thus completing the set, with the exception of the 25 öre.

Adhesive. 50 öre, dull purple and brown; perf. 12½.

PORTUGAL.—A further supply of commemorative labels has been sent for our inspection by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. These are unpaid letter stamps of a separate design. The labels are large, well executed, and pretty, but are undoubtedly speculative.

Although the general feeling of the collecting world is strongly against these superfluous issues, it is only fair to state that there are others who favour them, and we have a letter from one correspondent who urges that the Vasco da Gama stamps recently issued, although commemorative and entirely speculative, are in demand by collectors, further adding, that no action on the part of collectors will prevent the sale of such stamps. Our friend urges that collectors can be left to themselves to decide for themselves how far stamps are created solely for the purpose of making money, and suggests that they may be interesting or profitable objects of Philatelic study.

In the case of the present issue for Portugal and Colonies, the following is a list of the various stamps issued :—

PORTUGAL AND SIX COLONIES.

7 sets of 8 values,	adhesives	. 56	stamps.
„ „ 12	„	post cards . 84	„
6	„	unpaid . 6	„

Making a total of 146 varieties.

Common sense will decide whether action to prevent the sale of this class of stamps or the unchallenged approval of it, is likely to add to the welfare of the young collector and Philately in general. We are confident that we have the large majority of Philatelists in sympathy with the S.S.S.S., who desire but to show an attitude of indignation at the attempts of needy Governments to foist their commemorative rubbish upon collectors.

SPAIN.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that the official stamp used by the Congress of Deputies has been changed in colour from rose to blue.

Official Adhesive. No value, blue.

THESSALY.—The retiring Turk, eager to preserve some tangible evidence of the occupation of Thessaly, has caused a series of five stamps to be issued, a set of which is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. At the time of writing, transport vessels are awaiting to embark the Turkish troops at present in Thessaly. It seems scarcely credible that these labels should have any official connection with the Turkish Post Office, but they have been issued by Imperial Iradé, and have included in the design the *Thougra*, or arms of the Sultan. *Le T.-P.* informs us that it is the desire of the Government in issuing the stamps to leave on record some *souvenir* of the occupation of Thessaly by the Turkish Empire. At the Yildiz exhibition, the stamps remaining over, after the evacuation of Thessaly, will be sold at an enhanced value, the proceeds being used for the benefit of the families of those soldiers who fell in the late war.

The stamps are octagonal in shape, and are perforated so as to give a square perforation, or an octagonal one, at will, this latter feat being possible owing to the stamps being printed with a margin of paper half an inch in width between each, both horizontally and vertically.

The design includes, in Turkish characters, the following inscription: "Special for Thessaly, that part of the country conquered."

The values are 10 and 20 paras, 1, 2, and 5 piastres.

Although we have gone to some trouble to describe these stamps, it is scarcely needful to say we consider that they are probably unnecessary and speculative.

The following paragraph, which appeared in an evening London newspaper, bears out the spirit of the foregoing remarks:—

"There has been a great run on the new postage stamps for Thessaly, which the Turkish Government caused to be circulated last week. These stamps are of the values of 5, 2, and 1 piastre, and of 20 and 10 paras; and so eager were collectors to possess the new stamps that on the third day following their introduction those valued 5 and 2 piastres were all bought up, and changed hands at eighteen shillings. The stamps of smaller value brought four shillings. The traders in these stamps were Turkish officers and Civil servants, who, now that the evacuation of Thessaly is taking definite shape, evidently thought the first and only issue of stamps by the Turkish Government was an opportunity for making money not to be thrown away."

AMERICA.

CHILI.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send the 1 c. and 2 c. stamps re-engraved. There has also been issued a series of new unpaid letter stamps, bearing the inscription "MULTA" at base, with large numerals of value in a central beaded circle, and "CORREOS DE CHILI" at top.

Adhesives. 1 c., green; re-engraved.
2 c., lake ,,
Unpaid Letter Stamps. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 20 c., carmine.

PERU.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. also send us the 5 c. and 10 c. unpaid stamps of 1874, surcharged "DEFICIT," reading upwards from left to right in sans-serif capitals. We announced the 20 c. so surcharged in a previous issue.

Unpaid Letter Stamps. 5 c., red; black surcharge.
10 c., orange ,, ,,
20 c., blue ,, ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—Our friend Mr. W. J. Gardner, writing from San Francisco, forwards a cover posted at Canton, China, illustrating the remarks of our esteemed correspondent, Mr. David Benjamin, in a recent issue, as to the necessity for letters being franked with the Chinese labels, in addition to either Hong Kong or French "Chine" stamps. Mr. Gardner says:—

"The March *London Philatelist* came to hand yesterday. I had just secured a cover franked both with China and Hong Kong stamps, and the explanation made by your correspondent, Mr. David Benjamin, came just in the right time. Thinking you may like to see an instance of the system on a larger scale than ordinary, I am enclosing it herewith, and you can return at your convenience. The China Post Office seems to do gratuitous work even between Canton and Hong Kong. Incidentally this cover will show you that as late as February the $1 on $2 provisional that they said was

obsolete was still in use. I have not here seen any $1 on 96 c. which has been said to be again in use. Probably the report arose from the $1 on $2, grey, becoming obsolete some months back, and the news having become somewhat twisted."

The cover which Mr. Gardner refers to is before us. It was posted at Canton on the 10th of February, 1898, franked with a $2 and a 20 c. current issue of China; additional to this (and probably on its arrival at Hong Kong), two $1 provisional Hong Kong stamps and one 20 c. value were attached, these being postmarked "Hong Kong, Feb. 11, 98."

HAITI.—A provisional stamp has been created by surcharging the 20 c. stamp with a similar overprint to that used in 1890 and 1892.

Adhesive. 2 c. on 20 c., orange, red surcharge.

SPANISH COLONIES.—*Cuba*, etc.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—

"We have received supplies of the 1898 issue stamps from Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines, and in every case we get the same report that the two denominations of 4 milesimas and 4 centavos, of which only a small quantity were sent out, were all bought by a speculator on the day of issue. We rather fancy that a Government official in Madrid worked this little speculation; we don't see how otherwise it could have been managed simultaneously in all three places."

TONGA.—It is worth knowing that there is at least a fiscal use for the present extensive series of labels. By order of the King, Jioaji Tubou II., receipts above 10 dollars must be made out with the addition of stamps to the following amounts:—

10 dols.	to	50 dols.	a	1d.	stamp.
50 ,,		150 ,,		2d.	,,
150 ,,		500 ,,		3d.	,,
500 ,,		1000 ,,		6d.	,,
1000 ,,		2000 ,,		1s.	,,
2000 ,,		4000 ,,		2s.	,,
4000 ,,		5000 ,,		4s.	,,
5000 ,,		10,000 ,,		5s.	,,

We may perhaps hear of a new issue for Tonga shortly, inscribed "POSTAGE AND REVENUE"!

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications of Philatelic matters and Publications for Review 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 FIRST 2 SKILLING, DENMARK.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I have read the remarks you appended to my review of Mr. Ehrenbach's paper in the last number of the *London Philatelist*, and I write to ask you to allow me to make a brief reply.

As regards the first paragraph I will merely say, and I do not here refer specially to Mr. Ehrenbach's paper, I think, and I do not stand alone in this belief, that the whole subject of the reading of papers at the meetings of the Philatelic Society, and their subsequent publication, is one that needs some revision, and I hope the new Council of the Society, shortly to be elected, will take this matter into consideration before the commencement of our autumn meetings.

With regard to your second paragraph, I feel sure you cannot have made a careful examination of the sheet of the 2 skilling, or you would hardly speak of the so-called Types 2 and 3 as being "certainly distinct and clear." The fact is, the latter is one of the most infinitesimal varieties ever brought to the notice of a collector, and where a little heavier inking than usual takes place on the blocks it entirely disappears on the sheet of stamps. Out of the ten blocks, for instance, on the sheet before me it can only be traced in four—stamps No. 36, 40, 86, and 90. So in a minor degree with the so-called Type 2, on the tenth block there is only the slightest trace of the flaw, while on block four it has entirely disappeared. No, I venture to say, if flaws of this kind are in your opinion worthy of being "accepted and collected," you will find there are other

stamps on the sheet which display flaws of a more glaring description than the so-called Types 2 and 3, and I send you the sheet of stamps, which I think you will admit bears out my contention.

In conclusion, I need hardly add that, as in my previous article, I do not make these remarks in any spirit of hostile criticism, as I am well aware both you and Mr. Ehrenbach are just as anxious as I am to come to a right decision upon the true Philatelic status of these so-called types.

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

[We are quite of Mr. Bacon's opinion that the question of the papers read before this Society is one that requires discussion and alteration in several important respects. The "Types" 2 and 3 *are*, in our opinion, "distinct and clear." The latter decidedly less so than the former; but in both cases the bottom, or horizontal, portion of the figure "2" is detached from the other portion. In the originals this is easily seen. On the reprints which Mr. Bacon has kindly sent for opinion—owing principally to the inferior nature of the paper—these small varieties cannot frequently (as stated) be noted. The "flaws" on the plate are not repeated in the same place in every block of 10 as are these two varieties, and we should not advocate collecting them; but we consider these two "sub-types" of the figure "2" as being on a different footing, and therefore collectible varieties. Mr. Bacon's criticisms are assuredly not "hostile," but welcome, as are the opinions of all such thoughtful and intelligent readers.—ED.]

A PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR PRETORIA.

DEAR SIR,—I have to inform you that a Philatelic Society has been formed at this place, under the presidency of the P.M.G., and I beg to forward herewith a copy of the rules. I should take it as a favour if you would notify the formation in your monthly journal.

I should be pleased to be able to afford you any information on the stamps of the Transvaal that is in my power, or that you may be in need of.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
C. PLOMER, *Hon. Sec.*

PRETORIA, *18th April*, 1898.

[From the accompanying book of the rules (which seem sensibly and clearly drawn up) we extract the following list of officers, and we extend every sympathy to the new society in their endeavours to promote Philately in the South African Republic.—ED.]

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED MARCH 1st, 1898.

OFFICERS:

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Vice-President—J. J. HAUPT, Esq.
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Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

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

Council for the Year 1897-8.

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.

W. B. Avery. E. B. Evans.
E. D. Bacon. D. Garth.
W. D. Beckton. T. Wickham Jones.
R. Ehrenbach. H. R. Oldfield.
Gordon Smith.

The thirteenth meeting of the session 1897-98 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 15th April, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., the following members being present:—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, T. W. Hall, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, W. Silk, C. Neville Biggs, T. Maycock, E. S. Davidson, H. G. Palliser, Gordon Smith, B. D. Knox, J. C. Potter, A. R. Barrett, 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.

Mr. Thomas Girtin, proposed by Mr. Selby, and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

The Secretary read a paper by Mr. Oliver Firth on the "Dies of the Stamps employed for the Registered Envelopes of Great Britain," containing a large amount of information on the subject dealt with, which will be read with interest when it is printed in the *London Philatelist*. On the motion of Mr. Gordon Smith, seconded by Mr. Bacon, the thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Firth for his interesting paper.

Mr. T. W. Hall then produced for inspection by those present his very fine collection of the stamps of "Colombia," reading a series of notes on the various issues, with additional observations on many of the questions arising in relation to the stamps under consideration.

The cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Hall—on the motion of Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Biggs—for the display given by him, and for the interesting notes he had prepared, which it is hoped may be published in the *London Philatelist*.

The fourteenth meeting of the session 1897-98 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 29th April, 1898, at 7.45 p.m. The following members were present:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, T. W. Hall, Gordon Smith, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, Thomas Girtin, A. A. Davis, T. Maycock, E. S. Davidson, W. Schwabacher, B. D. Knox, E. J. Nankivell, C. Neville Biggs, W. Silk, E. D. Bacon, A. R. Barrett, J. A. Tilleard, and one visitor.

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 the Bolivian Legation, stating that the representations of the Society as to the reprints of the first issue of postage stamps of that country would be brought before the proper authorities in Bolivia.

The Treasurer presented his balance-sheet for the past year, and Mr. A. W. Chambers and Mr. R. Pearce were appointed auditors to audit the accounts, and report at the Annual General Meeting.

Mr. T. W. Hall then gave a display of the stamps of Antioquia and the other Colombian States. The display was accompanied by a very instructive paper, containing a large amount of novel and interesting information on the history of the several States, and of the stamps which they had issued.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, a very hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Hall for his most interesting paper, and for affording the members attending the meeting an opportunity of inspecting his very fine collection of the stamps under consideration.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

President—M. P. Castle.
Hon. Secretary—Baron A. de Worms.
27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

The seventh meeting of the season 1897-98 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Tuesday, March 1st, at 8.15 p.m., at which seven members were present. The President took the chair, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary gave a short account of the stamps of Cyprus, Gibraltar, and Malta, and showed his collection of the same, in which all the different varieties, with one or two exceptions, were well represented. The President and Mr. Dendy Marshall also exhibited their collections of these colonies, and were accorded, with the Hon. Secretary, a unanimous vote of thanks for kindly showing their stamps.

The eighth meeting was held on Tuesday, March 15th, at 8.15 p.m., when six members attended. The President took the chair, and when the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, he showed his magnificent collection of the stamps of Russia, consisting only of unused specimens in the finest condition. He made a few remarks on the most interesting varieties, and mentioned that all the varieties on vertically laid paper were difficult to obtain unused, but that the 2, 7, and 8 kopecs were very rare in that condition. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the President for his splendid exhibition.

The ninth meeting was held on Tuesday, March 29th, at 8.15 p.m., five members being present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Dr. Burrows. The minutes of the previous meeting were read

and confirmed. Mr. L'Estrange Ewen having presented a copy of his new catalogue of British Stamps to the Society, the Hon. Secretary was requested to acknowledge receipt of same with best thanks. Mr. Sang then held an auction of stamps, a number of good lots being offered, but owing to the small attendance he had difficulty in obtaining bids, and consequently many stamps were "knocked down" for very low prices. A vote of thanks was passed to the auctioneer.

THE tenth meeting was held on Tuesday, April 19th, at 8.15 p.m., when four members were present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Stafford Smith. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the meeting was adjourned, as the President, who was to have read some notes on the stamps of Bavaria, was unavoidably absent.

THE eleventh and Annual General Meeting of the season 1897–98 was held on Tuesday, May 3rd, at 8.15 p.m., at which nine members were present. The President took the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary presented the report for the session, and balance-sheets of the Society and Exchange Circuit for the year ending December 31st, 1897, all of which were adopted. The election of officers and committee for the ensuing year was next proceeded with, and the following members were unanimously appointed:—

President—MR. M. P. CASTLE.
Vice-President—DR. S. BURROWS.
Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, and Exchange Secretary—BARON A. DE WORMS.
Librarian—MR. O. PFENNINGER.
Committee—MESSRS. J. W. GILLESPIE, W. T. WILLETT, H. STAFFORD SMITH, and C. F. D. MARSHALL.

The office of Assistant Hon. Secretary was not refilled. A discussion took place with regard to future meetings of the Society, and a resolution was carried, "That for the future meetings be held once a month, on the first Tuesday in each month, from November to May."

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

President—MR. W. T. WILSON.
Hon. Secretary—MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A.
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

MARCH 17th.—Paper, "Queensland," Mr. W. Pimm.

Miss Smallwood was unanimously elected a member.

Mr. Pimm then read his paper on the "Stamps of Queensland," illustrating it by means of his own collection, which contained a fair number of almost every variety.

APRIL 21st.—Display, "Roumania."

Dr. Hill Norris and Mr. R. Kost were unanimously elected members.

Hearty votes of thanks were given to the following for their donations to the library:—

Messrs. H. L'Estrange Ewen (*Edition de Luxe* of his *Standard Priced Catalogue of British Stamps and Postmarks*); J. A. Margoschis (bound volume of the *Junior Stamp Collector*); D. J. Mencarini (*Descriptive Catalogue of the Stamps of the Philippine Islands*).

Owing to the only suitable room for the Exhibition being engaged till somewhat too late for holding same, it has been decided to postpone it till the autumn, when the Committee hope that all those who have so kindly offered exhibits will be able to renew those offers. Date and particulars will be announced in due course.

Messrs. Wilson, Pimm, Cooke, and Johnson then showed the stamps of Roumania. Mr. Wilson's exhibit was especially fine, including the errors used and unused, and all other varieties *unused* in a fine range of shades. The pairs, strips, and blocks of the early issues on laid paper are worthy of special mention, as well as some of the varieties of perforation, etc., in the later issues, which are very difficult to obtain in mint condition.

The Clifton and Bristol Philatelic Society.

President—J. P. LLOYD.
Vice-President—F. E. ELLISON.
Committee—
E. F. BRODERIP, J.P. — THOS. C. CARTWRIGHT.
J. PAUL BUSH, M.R.C.S. — N. G. HEAVEN.
A. BIRD. — J. H. REYNOLDS.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—R. DALTON, 30, *Carnarvon Road, Redland.*
Hon. Librarian—T. C. CARTWRIGHT, 17, *York Crescent Road, Clifton.*
Club Room—42, *Cotham Hill, near the Clifton Downs Station.*

THE bi-monthly meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, the 17th March, the President being in the chair.

After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting, and the election of new members, it was proposed and carried unanimously that certain publications, including the *London Philatelist*, should be added to the library; also that Mr. T. C. Cartwright be appointed Hon. Librarian.

The subject for this meeting being the stamps of the United States, some interesting sheets of the same were passed round for inspection.

At the meeting to be held on April 7th the subject will be the Stamps of British North America.

AT a meeting held on the 7th April, the President being in the chair, Dr. Evans was duly elected as a member. The following resolution was passed unanimously, viz.:—

"That the thanks of the Society be given to Messrs. H. L'Estrange Ewen, Walter Morley, S. A. Wood, and Nunn Graves and Co., for the publications sent by them for the use of the Society's Library."

The intended display of "British North America" was postponed, there being only a small attendance of members in consequence of the Easter holidays.

The Hon. Librarian will be glad to receive any additions to the Library from philatelic authors or publishers.

A MEETING of the Society was held on Thursday evening, the 21st April, the Vice-President being in the chair. A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Harry Hilckes and Co., Limited, for

their donation of books to the library. A very interesting display of about thirty sheets of "Victorias" was then made by Mr. Dalton, also some enlarged photos of "Queenslands," showing some of the varieties very clearly.

A MEETING of the Society was held on the 5th May. The chair was occupied by Dr. Bush. It was resolved that all the packets in circulation on the 24th of June should be returned on that date to the Hon. Secretary, and also that no packets be sent out in the months of July and August. A programme of subjects for the ensuing season was discussed and arranged. There was then a display of the stamps of Great Britain. Dr. Bush exhibited about sixty reconstructed sheets of a variety of issues and values, including 1d., black, all with red obliterations; 1d., red, imperf., on blued and white paper; ditto, perf; also 2d., blues; 1½d., red; 2½d., blues, etc.; blocks of 1d., reds, unused, and many interesting specimens of varieties.

Mr. Stooke then displayed some of his reconstructed sheets of "plates," both 1d., reds, and 2d., blues, and 1d., blacks; also a large and very complete collection of "obliterations," most carefully and systematically arranged in chronological order. Mr. Cartwright also showed a complete set of 1d., red, plate numbers, and also four nicely-mounted reconstructed sheets of 1d., red, imperf.; ditto, perf.; and two letters; ditto, four letters, and the Venetian red. The display generally was of so interesting a character that the meeting was prolonged to a considerably later hour than usual. The subject for the next meeting, on the 19th inst. (and which will be the last of this season), will be "The Transvaal."

The Collectors' Club, New York.

President—WILLIAM THORNE.
Secretary—J. M. ANDREINI, 29, *West 75th Street.*

THE twenty-third meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on March 14th, 1898. President Thorne in the chair. Called to order at 8.15 p.m., the following Governors being present: Calman, Luff, Scott, and the Secretary. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. The Secretary read sundry communications, and upon a motion a vote of thanks was extended to Messrs Stone and Knudson for gifts of proofs of New Hampshire paper money and framed essay, and P.O. notice received from said gentlemen respectively. A communication from Mr. Luff as Chairman of the Entertainment Committee of the American Philatelic Association Convention, to be held in this city next August, was read, and upon motion it was decided to grant his request, *i.e.*, the use of the club-rooms for the said Convention free of charge. The Treasurer's report was received, showing $371.51 cash in bank. The report of the Chairman of the House Committee was also received. Adjourned at 9 p.m.

TWENTY-FOURTH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, April 11th, Messrs. Bruner, Deats, Luff, Scott, Stebbins, and the Secretary being present. Called to order at 8.30 by Vice-President Bruner, the Secretary read letters from Rev. Mr. Bell, and cards from Zanzibar collectors, and stated that he had issued a visitor's card to Mr. John F. Seybold, at the request of Mr. John W. Scott. The Treasurer's report, showing balance in bank of $361.46, was then received. The report of Chairman of House Committee was also received. The application of Mr. John F. Seybold, Syracuse, proposed by John W. Scott, seconded by Walter S. Scott, was reported, and upon ballot he was unanimously elected a subscribing member of the Club. Mr. John W. Scott was authorised to prepare a suitable entertainment for the Club members, and to spend as much as necessary within the sum of $50, which amount was duly appropriated for the purpose. Adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON, ESQ.
Hon. Secretary—A. H. HARRISON, ESQ.

THE fourteenth meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday, April 6th, 1898, the President in the chair. After the formal business, a letter was read which the Hon. Secretary had received from the Agent-General of New Zealand, about the sale of the new issue for the colony, and it was unanimously resolved, "That having heard the circular letter read, emanating from the Agent-General of New Zealand, this Society desires to place on record its surprise that any British colony should stoop to methods which have hitherto only been adopted to augment the revenues of bankrupt or moribund states." The Hon. Librarian reported the receipt during the month of *The London Philatelist*, *The Philatelic Record*, *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, *The American Journal of Philately*, *The Auction Reporter*, and *Stamps*. Also that the President had presented a copy of his publication on Greece, and Mr. Duerst had contributed to the library *Indicateur Philatelique*, *The British Stamp Directory*, and *The Penny Postage Jubilee*.

Mr. Duerst then read a very interesting paper on Servia, dealing very fully with the first issue and the legal proceedings which had taken place in connection therewith. The paper was replete with interest, and contained so much information that it was decided to publish the same. Mr. Abbott's very fine collection illustrated the stamps to great advantage.

THE fifteenth and last meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday evening, the 22nd April, the President in the chair, there being an attendance of nineteen members.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Annual Meeting was fixed for the 13th May, and the annual picnic for the 25th June.

Mr. P. Loines Pemberton then read an interesting paper on the stamps of Holland, dealing exhaustively with the various perforations, and the differences of type in the third issue, which were first pointed out by Mr. George Blockey, of the Manchester Society, in a paper read before the members in January, 1894.

The proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Pemberton, who had journeyed expressly from London for the occasion.

For A. H. HARRISON,
MANCHESTER. E. PETRI.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

OCTOBER packets came back from circulation on the 1st April; sheets were returned and accounts were submitted with the least possible delay. Sales were as follows:

	£	s.	d.
October AA Packet . . .	107	9	2
,, AB ,, . . .	89	14	11
,, BA ,, . . .	41	2	7
,, BB ,, . . .	39	3	4
Supplementary rounds of AA and AB Packets. . . .	51	12	9

Two of the best November packets are being circulated among a certain number of non-contributing buying members, and are expected back very shortly.

On March 25th 213 sheets valued in the aggregate at £2399 1s. 10d. were made up into four packets and despatched on their rounds. Perfect specimens of rare and obsolete stamps (such as imperf. Gambias and pence Gibraltars) were obtainable at much (in many cases at fifty per cent.) below catalogue prices, and good sales are expected. The very common varieties and defective copies are, however, in but little demand. Non-contributors who desire to see packets are reminded to notify the Secretary, who will see their names duly inserted on the lists. Packets are now sent out absolutely intact to ensure that all bargains will go to members. Foreign Philatelists are invited to send sheets, and arrangements will be made for them to receive equivalents for stamps taken in cash or exchange as may be preferred.

ON April 24th 222 sheets, valued in the aggregate at £2449 15s. 2d., were made up into four packets, and despatched on their several rounds. Perfect specimens of many rare issues were offered at 50 per cent. below catalogue prices, and good sales are expected. Very common varieties and defective copies are in little demand.

The following were enrolled as members during the previous month:—Messrs. Wotton (London), Woodcraft (London), Clark (Aberdeen), Ward (Jersey), Lloyd (Lichfield), Rev. W. Jenks (St. Albans), Meyers (Johannesberg), and Mrs. Caroe (Copenhagen). Non-contributors, who desire to see packets, are reminded to notify the Secretary, who will see that their names are duly inserted on the lists. Packets are now sent out intact, that all bargains may go to members. Changes of address during the coming holiday season should at once be notified to prevent delay in circulation of packets. Responsible collectors, proposing to join, are invited to communicate with the Secretary.

H. A. SLADE.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Warrington Philatelic Society.

President—JOHN P. REYNOLDS, ESQ.

THE last monthly meeting of the season was held on 2nd May, when there was a fair attendance of members present.

The President contributed a paper on "Forgeries and Reprints," illustrating his remarks with over 30 limelight slides, reproducing the stamps in their natural colours, the genuine stamp and the forgery (or reprint) being thrown on the sheet side by side.

On the proposition of Mr. Proud, seconded by Mr. Fairclough, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Reynolds for his paper.

No exchange packets will be sent out in July or August, but the packets and the meetings will be resumed in September. Due notice will be given to members.

HERBERT WOODS, *Hon. Secretary.*

MOORE, WARRINGTON.

[NOTE.—*We regret that, owing to the heavy demands on our space, the appearance of some of the foregoing minutes has been somewhat delayed.*—ED.]

The Market.

Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.

April 19th, 20th, and 21st.

	£	s.	d.
Malta, 4d., brown, imperf., pair, unused	2	5	0
Madrid, 3 cuartos, bronze (fair)	5	0	0
Zurich, 4 rappen, type 4, vertical lines	12	0	0
Ceylon, wmk. Star, clean cut perfs, 1s., purple-blue, strip of 3, unused	3	18	0
Ditto, no wmk., 6d., brown, clean cut perfs., pair, unused	3	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., brown, a similar pair, rough perfs.	3	0	0
Straits Settlements, 1st issue, 6 cents., violet and orange-yellow, pair, unused	4	0	0
British East Africa, manuscript surcharge, 1 anna AB, on 4 annas, brown, strip of 3	7	0	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., orange, medium, early state of plate, strip of 3, on piece of original	13	0	0
Natal, Star wmk., 3d., blue, unused (no gum)	3	5	0
St. Helena, CC, perf. 14, 6d., milky blue, pair, unused	3	12	0
Barbados, 1d. on half of 5s., rose, pair, the left half variety with slanting serif to figure 1.	8	0	0
Nevis, CA, 6d., green, unused	4	15	0
St. Lucia, perf. 12½, 1s., pale orange, unused pair	4	5	0
British Guiana, 1863, perf. 15, 6 c., ultramarine, and 24 c., green, unused	6	5	0
Buenos Ayres, 1st issue, 4 pesos, scarlet (fair)	10	0	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow	3	10	0
New South Wales, laureated, 8d., orange	3	0	0
Ditto, 1855, 5d., green, unused	2	10	0
New Zealand, no wmk., perf. 12½–13, 4d., orange, block of 6, unused	4	0	0
South Australia, 10d., black on yellow, roulcttcd, inverted surcharge	6	5	0
Ditto, perf. 10 × 11½, unused, pair	4	5	0
Western Australia, 1st issue, 2d., brown on bright red, unused (no gum)	8	5	0
Ditto, 6d., bronze	3	5	0

May 3rd and 4th.

Wurtemberg, 70 kr., rose-lilac, pair	4	15	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 1s., carmine, double-lined border, unused (no gum)	3	6	0

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper.

April 14th and 15th.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin, ¼ sch., red, roulcttcd, unused (fair)	5	10	0
Naples, 50 grana, lake	3	0	0
Ditto, ½ tornese, blue, "Arms" on small piece of original	13	0	0
British East Africa, surch. on Zanzibar current issue, ½, 1, 2, 4½, 5, and 7½ as., and 2½ in red on 1 anna, and 2½ in red on 3 annas (8)	3	10	0
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red	17	15	0
Ditto, 1852, 2 reales, red, vertical pair	15	10	0
Ditto, 1853, 2 reales, red	4	15	0
Tuscany, 2 soldi, red-brown (fair)	3	0	0
Ditto, 60 crazie, brown-red	7	10	0
Wurtemberg, 70 kr., violet, unused	3	3	0
Ditto, 70 kr., rose-lilac, unused	3	3	0
Ceylon, imperf., 2s., blue	4	12	6
Uganda, 2, 4 (2), and 8 as., and 1 rupee	6	6	0
Sierra Leone, imperf., 6d., lilac, unused	3	0	0
U.S.A. Justice, 90 c., unused	6	10	0
Tobago, 1d. in manuscript on half of 6d., orange, horizontal pair on piece of original	5	0	0
Turks Islands, 1893, ½d. on 4d., grey, pair	3	0	0
Mexico, 1864, Eagle, 3 c., brown, unused	2	10	0
New South Wales, 1855, imperf., 6d., light brown, unused pair	6	10	0
Victoria, 1st issue, 1d., dull red, unused block of 14	37	0	0
Ditto, 1857–63, Star wmk., 1d., green, roulcttcd at sides, unused	7	10	0

April 28th and 29th.

New South Wales, Sydney, plate 2, 2d., blue, horizontal pair	5	0	0
Ditto, ditto, plate 1, 1d., red, unused	3	3	0
Ditto, 1860, 5s., purple, unused (perfs. clipped)	6	15	0
Ditto, registered, imperf., unused	3	3	0
Collection of Tonga, nearly complete (80)	2	3	0
Hawaii, 1853, medium paper, 5 c., blue, entire unused sheet of 20	7	15	0
Ditto, medium paper, 13 c., dull red, entire unused sheet of 20	22	0	0
Ditto, inter-island, 1859, bluish paper, 2 c., blue, unused	2	16	0
Tasmania, 1st issue, 1d., blue, horizontal strip of 4	6	6	0
Ditto, ditto, 4d., orange, block of 8	3	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 1d., blue, horizontal pair, unused	4	0	0
Ditto, 1856, no wmk., pelure paper, 1d., brown-red, unused	3	0	0
Western Australia, 6d., bronze	3	15	0
Queensland, 1st issue, 1d., carmine, vertical pair	3	0	0
Ditto, 1860–61, clean cut perf., 1s., dull violet	3	10	0
Ditto, 1881, 10s., brown, horizontal pair, unused	12	0	0
Victoria, 1862–63, 1d., green, no wmk., unused	4	7	6
Ditto, 1865, 10d., slate, wmk. 8, unused	3	0	0
Ditto, 5s., blue on yellow, unused	12	5	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. JUNE, 1898. No. 78.

Turin Philatelic Exhibition.

ITALY has unfortunately during the past few weeks had more serious causes for anxiety than the conduct of exhibitions, but it is gratifying to know that the troubles resulting in such widespread *émeutes* have not in any way militated against the success of the important Industrial Exhibition that is now being held at Turin, the ancient capital of the former and smaller kingdom of Italy.

It is largely due to the initiative of our esteemed correspondent and member of the London Philatelic Society, Dr. Emilio Diena, that under the kindly patronage of the late Minister, E. Sineo, a Philatelic Exhibition has been held at Turin in conjunction with the more important general enterprise. The death of M. Sineo, who had shown such a warm and intelligent appreciation of Philately, and from whose powerful assistance so much good had been anticipated, is an event that we learn is regarded as little short of a catastrophe in Italian Philatelic circles, and it is feared that it will be—to say the least—difficult to imbue his successors with an idea of the due proportions of Philately.

For the present, however, it is pleasing to learn from the succinct account furnished to this journal by Dr. Diena that the Exhibition of Stamps has been a distinct and unqualified success. It will be seen that in many instances the Turin Committee have followed the example of their London predecessors, even including that of "due interchanges of hospitality," a custom that oft leads to the happiest results in connection with such undertakings, and may be the cement of lifelong friendships. The *locale* kindly provided by the Committee of the General Exhibition seems to have been beyond reproach, and, from the dimensions given by Dr. Diena, must be a truly imposing and suitable salon. The visitors included several collectors from this country, and we can but regret that circumstances unavoidably prevented the presence of others among us, who would have

much enjoyed the visit to Turin. The exhibits appear from the official catalogue to have included, notably among the Italian stamps, many fine things, and we shall await with interest the third and concluding portion of Dr. Diena's description, which will include a list of all *pièces de résistance*.

It is gratifying to learn that in the Dealers' Gallery great interest in and demand for the better old Italian stamps was displayed. This is as it should be, and a natural and laudably patriotic outcome of an exhibition. A Philatelic prophet—in the last flicker of the century—*is* beginning to be honoured in his own country. No class of stamps have been less studied or more under-appreciated than those of the quondam Italian States; the fashion for them only requires to be set in their own country to induce greater popularity. To the collector of used stamps they will be found of the greatest interest, and to the collector of unused they appeal equally strongly, as there are many stamps that are easily attainable and but very few great rarities. In appearance and historical interest stamps such as, for example, those of Sicily and Naples are indeed hard to beat, and almost throughout the defunct States points of interest abound.

We trust that the good effects of the Turin Exhibition will not be ephemeral, and that within a short time we may see the Italian stamps—having been duly furnished by Italian Philatelists with standard catalogues and handbooks—occupy the prominent place in Philately that is their undisputed right.

Varieties of the United States Stamps.

By JOHN N. LUFF.

WILL you kindly allow me a small amount of space in your valued journal to add some remarks to the very interesting paper by Mr. S. M. Castle, on "United States Stamps," which appeared in the April number?*

The reprints of the 1857 issue were not all made from the original plates. The plates of the first values issued, the 1, 3, 10, and 12 cents, were not prepared with a view to being perforated, and consequently the stamps were set very close together. Even with the very fine perforations which were afterwards adopted the designs were usually somewhat damaged, and when it was decided to issue reprints it was found that the machines then in use made a much larger perforation, which seriously marred the designs, and it was thought best to make entirely new plates for the reprints of those values.

The plates of the other values of the series having been prepared with a view to the stamps being perforated, it was possible to use them for the

* We are much obliged to our correspondent for his interesting criticism. A valuable one coming from such a source.—ED.

reprints. This will explain why certain values appear only in certain types in the reprints and in others in the originals. As in Plate No. II. of the 5 c., which was used for the reprints, Types 2 and 3 appear in almost equal proportions, I am surprised so sharp an observer as Mr. Castle has not seen them both.

Mr. Castle has transposed the types of the 15 c., 1869. The first type was that with the frame around the picture, and forming a diamond under the letter "T" of "POSTAGE." As it was found difficult to fit the picture accurately into this frame in printing, the latter was removed, making Type 2. Type 3, the variety without shading lines in the space for the picture, was prepared before the 1869 series was abandoned, but, so far as known, no use was made of this plate until the reissue of 1875.

In regard to the use of plates of the National Bank Note Co. by the Continental Bank Note Co., allow me to quote an extract from an article of mine in the *American Journal of Philately* for May :—

"Undoubtedly the object of these marks was to provide a simple and positive proof that the stamps bearing them were the product of the Continental Bank Note Co. For several years previous to 1873 there had been much complaint, both by the public and in the Press, as to the quality of our postage stamps, not only in regard to the designs and colours, but also as to poor printing and gumming. It is understood that the Continental Bank Note Co. believed that large quantities of the stamps made by their predecessors were of inferior quality. And they feared, because the designs used by the two contractors were identical, that these inferior stamps might, at some later date, be thrown on their hands by the Government, with the claim that they were produced under their contract and must be replaced by them. To forestall any such possibility the secret marks were added.

"The new contractors also made haste to provide themselves with new plates, made from the altered dies, that they might not be required to make any use of the plates of their predecessors. By the date of the commencement of their contract they had an ample supply for all values from one to fifteen cents inclusive. In consideration of these facts, the writer has never believed, except for the three higher values, in printings by the Continental Bank Note Co. from plates of the National Bank Note Co., which have been listed in some publications. The correctness of this conclusion is confirmed by those whose position enables them to speak with authority.

"The Continental Bank Note Co. did not make new plates for the twenty-four, thirty, and ninety cent stamps. They did not print any stamps of these values before the year 1874, and then felt themselves safe in using the plates of the National Bank Note Co. For these reasons we do not find any secret marks on the stamps of these three values which were printed by the first-named company. They may only be distinguished by differences in the shades, paper, and gum. Our knowledge of the secret marks is obtained from proof impressions from the altered dies."

This information is from a reliable source, and I feel positive it may be accepted without hesitation.

Mr. Castle says: "The American Bank Note Co. was a consolidation of printing firms, of which the Continental Co. formed one, and, of course, took over their deeds, contracts, plates, etc., and it may be assumed that the use of the secret marks was as necessary to them as to the Continental Co." I wish to call attention to two points here: First, that one of the firms in the

consolidation was the National Bank Note Co., and that, therefore, they were no longer to be regarded as rivals. Secondly, as will be seen in the foregoing quotation, the Continental Co. had already learned that there was no need for protection from inferior products of their predecessors, and had made use of their plates for the three higher values.

Mr. Castle's conclusions in regard to the two varieties of the 5 c. Garfield are quite correct. I have recently learned that all the plates for this stamp are alike, and all have the fine diagonal lines in the background of the medallion. The absence of these lines on a stamp is due to too much pressure in wiping the plates, and especially when the operation is performed lengthwise of the lines, instead of across them.

I am glad to see that English Philatelists are taking interest in the stamps of the United States, and I trust these few notes will not prove wearisome or occupy too much of your valuable space.

The Philatelic Exhibition at Turin.

By Dr. EMILIO DIENA.

(*Continued from page* 136.)

THE inauguration of the Exhibition originally announced for May 16th did not take place until the 18th, a delay that was welcomed by the exhibitors, some of whom had retarded their arrival owing to the troubles that affected the Italian kingdom during this period.* The inauguration fortunately found all the exhibits were in due order.

The Committee had reckoned upon the attendance of H.R.H. the Duke of Aosta, but owing to unforeseen circumstances he was unable to be present and proffered his excuses. For these reasons the inauguration was marked by neither ceremonial nor speech. On Wednesday, May 18th, at ten a.m., nearly all the members of the Executive Committee were present, in the Salon of the Exhibition, where they received the Marquis Guiccioli, Prefect of Turin (the highest representative of the Government in the province), the delegates of the Executive Committee of the General Exhibition, the Mayor of Turin, Deputy Biscaretti, General Rappis, and other well-known personages, inclusive of several members of the fair sex.

The Committee then pointed out to the distinguished visitors the most important exhibits, and accompanied them in an inspection of the gallery set apart for the dealers' stalls, who had profited by the occasion to set forth their most valuable wares, refreshment being served at the *buvette* in the gallery.

* In the preceding number of the *London Philatelist* page 134, the expression "Cinquecentenary" should read "half-century."—Ed.

THE SALON.

In my remarks in the last number of the *London Philatelist* I stated that the Salon in the Museo Merciologico left nothing to be desired from the point of view of a Philatelic Exhibition, an expression of opinion that has been borne out by the visitors with absolute unanimity. I have, indeed, heard that visitors who had attended both the two Exhibitions in Paris, and those of London of 1890 and 1897, considered that the *locale* at Turin was even better. The Salon, measuring about 100 feet by 125, is perfectly lit from above, and is surrounded on all four sides by a gallery. The show cases, in which the ordinary exhibits of the Museum (minerals, wood, etc.) are preserved, lent themselves so admirably to the reception of stamps that one might have imagined they were expressly designed for this purpose.

In recognition of the gratitude felt by the Committee for the favours accorded, the portrait of the late Minister Sineo was displayed at the end of the Salon draped with the national colours. It is pleasing to think that the family of the late regretted protector of Philatelic research should have visited the Exhibition and received the respectful sympathies of the members of the Committee.

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION.

Among Philatelic visitors we may note: From England, W. D. Beckton, H. Griebert, E. Petri; from France, G. Bellac, L. Hesse; from Belgium, G. Gelli; from Austria, R. Friedl; from Switzerland, Mr. and Madame Canard, of Geneva; Mr. and Madame Hasler, of Saint Gall; from Germany, A. Beddig, F. Kienhle, E. Stock; from Spain, M. Galvez, Dr. Laguno, R. Sendra, T. Monclús; from Malta, J. Tayar.

Unfortunately MM. P. Mahé and J. Bernichon, of Paris, whose presence was assured and expected up to the last (the former being a member of the Committee of Patrons and the latter of the Jury) were, to our great regret, kept away by illness. Among the collectors and dealers of Italy I would name among those I can call to mind A. Barocci, E. Bigliani, G. Bignami, G. C. Bonasi, L. Borsari, S. Candrian, V. Capanna, J. J. Christillin, P. Cometta, C. Consonno, G. B. Cresto, Prince Doria Pamphilj, G. Ferri, A. E. Fiecchi, C. Fino, G. Folchi, O. Franzi, L. Immelen, I. A. Loli, B. Macola, Count Marazzani, R. Mezzadri, Mr. and Madame Monchicourt, G. Morotti, E. Neri, E. Ochs, C. A. Pini, P. Pisani, Marquis Ponticelli, E. Ragozino, E. G. Ravel, Dr. Rocereto, R. Sciarra, Stoppani Brothers, E. Tron, E. Tschudi.

Mr. Petri, I may remark here, is contemplating the compilation of an article on the stamps of Modena, and as the subject is not familiar to English-speaking collectors, he will doubtless fulfil a useful function in throwing light upon certain details.* I feel sure that although the visit of Messrs. Beckton and Petri only extended over two days, they will carry back to England an agreeable remembrance of the Turin Exhibition. I

* Dr. Diena makes no mention here of his own exhaustive work upon the stamps of Modena, which, despite the fact that it is printed in his own language, has been thoroughly appreciated and studied in this country.—ED.

may add that many distinguished names outside the pale of Philately were included in our visitors.

DINNERS AND ENTERTAINMENTS.

Several social functions took place during the Exhibition, although in general the Philatelists assembled at Turin had a *rendez-vous* at the Restaurant Voigt, where a salon had been especially reserved for their accommodation. Needless to say that the greatest cordiality prevailed at all times. The first official dinner was held on the 21st May, at the Restaurant Dogana Vecchia, in which a large number of guests participated, and at which the custom of toast-giving was by no means neglected. In view of his Presidency of the Executive Committee, M. Marchesi extended a welcome to all the visitors, and the thanks of the Committee to all who had contributed to the Exhibition. The warm sympathy of everyone present was evoked in M. Marchesi's reference to the great blow suffered by Italian Philately in the death of Minister Sineo. He expressed further his great pleasure in being able to welcome Prince Doria Pamphilj, the President of the Committee of Patrons, associating his name with that of the toast to Royalty; to which the Prince suitably replied, and tendered the greetings of the city of Rome to that of Turin—the cradle of Italian independence.

In responding to the toast associated with my name, I was enabled to demonstrate the success of the Exhibition and the gradual progress of Italian Philately, in which, however, further steps require to be taken. Other speeches were made by MM. Fiecchi, Kienhle, Olivieri, Fino, and others, including Count Biscaretti, who gave voice to the felicitations of the Committee of the General Exhibition in an animated speech. Amongst other functions I may mention a dinner given to the foreign guests, another in honour of the Jury, and a private *réunion* given by M. and Madame Marchesi, which cannot fail to leave a most charming souvenir with all who were fortunate enough to be present. The weather somewhat militated against various excursions that had been projected, but in various ways the amusement of the visitors was duly provided for.

THE DEALERS' GALLERY.

In this gallery, especially reserved, the stallholders were: Mr. Capanna and Mr. Fagiuoli, of Leghorn; Mr. Barelli and Mr. Bottacco, of Turin; Mr. H. Griebert, of London; Mr. Pini, of Bologna; Mr. Mezzadri, of Rome; and Messrs. Stoppani Brothers, of Lecco.

M. Fagiuoli was the fortunate proprietor of three horizontal used strips of five 2 soldi Tuscany, and M. Capanna was proud to exhibit the first issue of Moldavia complete in fine condition. Much business of importance was transacted during the Exhibition, especially in the case of the rarer stamps of the ancient Italian States, which were much in demand. Considerable amusement was created, I should add, by the presence of a well-known dealer who especially affects the sale of stamps of San Marino, but whose appreciation of these stamps led to amusing scenes among the many present, who were impressed neither by their importance nor their "rarity."

In the next issue of your journal I hope to be able to mention some of the principal objects displayed; time, however, now only permits me to add the

LIST OF AWARDS.

CLASS I.

	Medals.		*Medals.*
Div. 1. A. Viterbo Barocci .	Silver.	Div. 6. E. Marchesi . .	Silver.
„ 3. C. Fino . . .	Gilt.	„ 7. A. Barocci . . .	Silver.
„ 5. Ch. Lemaire . .	Bronze.	„ 7. C. A. Pini .	Hon. mention.

CLASS II.

	Medals.		*Medals.*
Div. 4. G. Roussette . .	Bronze.	Div. 7. Prince Doria . .	Silver.
„ 6. R. Sciarra (Grand Prize of the Exhibition). .	Gold.	„ 7. G. Roussette . .	Silver.
„ 7. A. Barocci . . .	Gilt.	„ 7. E. Tron . . .	Silver.

CLASS III.

	Medals.		*Medals.*
Div. 3. A. Monchicourt	Hon. mention.	Div. 4. E. Bigliani . . .	Silver.

CLASS IV.

	Medals.		*Medals.*
Div. 1. A. E. Fiecchi . .	Gilt.	Div. 2. Prince Doria . .	Gilt.
„ 1. E. Marchesi . .	Silver.	„ 2. R. Sciarra . . .	Silver.
„ 1. P. Cometta . .	Bronze.	„ 2. A. Barocci . . .	Silver.
„ 1. B. Arbib . . .	Bronze.	„ 2. B. Arbib . . .	Bronze.
„ 1. S. Canbrian	Hon. mention.		

CLASS V.

	Medals.		*Medals.*
Div. 1. A. E. Fiecchi . .	Silver.	Div. 1. G. Lanzi . . .	Bronze.

CLASS VI.

	Medals.		*Medals.*
Div. 1. G. B. Cresto . .	Bronze.	Div. 3. L. Monchicourt . .	Bronze.

CLASS VII.

	Medals.		*Medals.*
Div. 1. E. Melillo . .	Bronze.	Div. 2. *b. Vertrauliches Korresp.-Blatt*	Hon. mention.
„ 2. *a. Il Francobollo* . .	Bronze.	„ 2. *b. Le Philatéliste Français*	Hon. mention.
„ 2. *a. La Rivista del Franco-bollo* .	Hon. mention.	„ 2. *b. Revue Philatélique Française*	Hon. mention.
„ 2. *b. Der Philatelist* . .	Bronze.	„ 5. A. Ravazzolo . .	Silver.
„ 2. *b. The Philatelic Record and Stamp News* . .	Bronze.	„ 5. Ch. Lemaire	Hon. mention.
„ 2. *b. Le Questionneur Philaté-lique* . . .	Bronze.	„ 7. C. F. Lücke . . .	Bronze.

CLASS X.

	Medals.		*Medals.*
Div. 1. *Società Filatelica Lombarda*	Silver.	Div. 2. *Société Française de Timbrologie, Paris* . . .	Silver.
„ 2. *Internationale Philatelisten Verein, Dresden*. .	Silver.		

CLASS XI.

F. Barelli . . . . Bronze Medal.

(*To be continued.*)

By W. DORNING BECKTON.*

I was extremely pleased to learn from Dr. Diena that he had promised to write the Report of this Exhibition for your columns, feeling that with his knowledge and the peculiar advantages he had, through being one of the Judges, of making a minute examination of the exhibits, a very full and perfect account would be transmitted to your readers.

It is not, therefore, with a view of anticipating anything which may hereafter be written by my friend that I venture to take up my pen, but I have done so in consequence of the desire which has been conveyed to me from various quarters, that the opinion of an English collector should be expressed upon the Exhibition as a whole.

Perhaps the most striking impression left on one's mind was the absence of Philatelic knowledge displayed in the exhibits. The exhibitors knew, of course, the A B C of Philately, and this insured the stamps being correctly arranged under their various issues; but beyond this (with the exception of the collection of Uruguay, gaining the Gold Medal of the Exhibition) there was not a single exhibit which would claim to rank among the specialist collections in this country.

The fact that in the class for the best exhibit of a single State there was only one exhibit, emphasizes the fact that in Italy (as represented at the Exhibition) collectors remain collectors, and cannot claim to be Philatelists. This exhibit, although it contained a very large number of specimens of the first three issues of Sardinia, was badly mounted, the stamps being far too crowded (an observation which also applies to most of the other exhibits), and did not illustrate that the owner had in any way studied the stamps, but conveyed rather that he had simply contented himself with accumulating them.

Dealing with the exhibits which comprised three or more of the States, the same observations apply, but to a greater extent; for in these cases most of the commoner stamps, in which marked varieties of shade are known, were only shown at about a third of their strength, and as is always the case when this is done, the really fine shades or tones were missing. In fact, it seemed to me that collectors considered themselves complete if a single specimen were shown, and that any further copies were surplusage, and when taken at all, that two or three at the most were sufficient. In one or two exhibits certainly I was struck with an abnormal number of specimens of one or other of the rarities; when one, however, examined the remainder of the exhibit, and found the same principle was not extended in anything approaching the like degree to the other stamps, the effect produced on one's mind was not altogether pleasing.

It has been truly said that comparisons are odious, and it is difficult to attempt to draw them without being so. At the risk, however, of

* We are indebted to Mr. Beckton for the following notes, the result of his personal observations, and are confident that our readers will appreciate a criticism emanating from English sources, in addition to Dr. Diena's interesting account.—Ed.

giving offence to some of our friends in Italy (a *contretemps* I should much deplore, and one which I hope will not arise, as it is not in any hostile spirit that these impressions are written), I have no hesitation in saying that had some of the collections of Italian States that are known to me entered into competition with the ones exhibited, the Judges would have had the satisfaction of awarding the Gold Medal of the Exhibition to a collection of their own States. In fact, from what I saw of the exhibitors, they would themselves have been the first to admit the justice of such an event happening. Further, it is unfortunate, from the Italian collectors' point of view, that the Exhibition was not allowed to be international, as they would, in such case, have had the advantage of studying the manner in which stamps are collected outside their own country, and would, in my humble opinion, have benefited from such a study.

In the unused section there was nothing to compare to what was shown in London last year. Tuscany especially was lamentably weak in this respect, only a single specimen collection being shown, while in the class for Italian rarities, which was certainly the best class in the Exhibition, the great majority were used examples.

Among the exhibits I noted the following, unused :—

AUSTRIAN ITALY. 1850. 5 c., five (including strip of three).
,, ,, 10 c., fifteen (including block of twelve).
,, ,, 45 c., five.
MODENA. Large B.G., one.
,, 40 c., pale blue, one (no gum*).
NAPLES. 1858. 50 gr., six (including a pair).
,, Cross. Two (forty-eight used).
,, Trinacria. One (twelve used).
PARMA. 1854. 5 c., four.
,, ,, 15 c., four.
,, ,, 25 c., two.
SARDINIA. 1851. 5 c., blocks of forty (gum), strip of four.
,, ,, 20 c., block of forty (gum), strip of five.
,, ,, 40 c., blocks of forty-six and twenty (gum) and eight.
SICILY. 2 gr., deep blue, one.
TUSCANY. 1851. 1 quat., pair.
,, ,, 1 soldo, four.
,, ,, 2 soldi, two (forty-seven used).
,, ,, 60 cr., two (eighteen used).
,, 1856. 1 soldo, two.
,, ,, 9 cr., three (nineteen used).
,, 1860. 3 lire, one (five used).

In the used stamps the most interesting were Austrian Italy, 1850, 5 c., printed on both sides, the printing on the back showing parts of four *clichés*, the right-hand bottom corner one being *tête-bêche*. Parma, 1852, 15 c., *tête-bêche* on the entire. Papal States, ½ baj., *tête-bêche*. Naples, Cross, cut in half and used on the entire.

There is little doubt that the fact of a stamp being on the entire is more highly thought of in Italy than the fact of its having original gum. Thinking of the Provisional Government issues of Modena, Parma, and

* From this remark it must not be understood that all the other stamps in this list had gum. I was peculiarly interested, however, to ascertain whether this particular stamp had, and hence the note.

the Two Sicilies, one can well understand and appreciate the reason of this, but the principle is carried, to my mind, to excess in such cases as Tuscany, 2 soldi, 60 crazie, 9 cr. on white, 3 lire, and others I could name.

Talking about the Exhibition, I was astonished to be told by one of the exhibitors who figures in the awards—and rightly so, for what he showed—that his Modena were complete; so they might have been had there been no errors in existence, a fact which he, for the time being, apparently overlooked. In speaking of this State, bearing in mind the excellent work of Dr. Diena, the Exhibition was most disappointing, nothing approaching a complete series of the errors being shown, while the minor varieties were entirely absent. The dealers, however, are fully alive as to the value of these errors, and also show themselves well acquainted with all the minor varieties, which are becoming difficult to acquire nowadays. This shows that there is a demand, which I am told is much on the increase, for this State; at the same time, this demand springs almost entirely from collectors outside Italy. When the Italian collectors awaken to the interest attaching to collecting on these lines, I anticipate they will also awaken to the fact that there are rarities among this class of stamps, which they will find quite as difficult to acquire and more difficult to purchase than many of the gems their collections at present contain. The same state of affairs existed in regard to Sicily. Here again not the slightest attempt at scientific collecting was made, not one of the retouches being shown.

With such an excellent Philatelist to lead, it is unfortunate that the collectors do not study what he has written, and then they would, with the rarities which most of them possess, soon ripen into Philatelists, and be able to hold an Exhibition which in every sense could be termed a Philatelic as distinguished from a Postage Stamp one. At present, however, if they read such standard works they do not allow their exhibits to show they have done so, much less do they strike out for themselves a line of Philatelic research in the States which have hitherto remained unexploited.

This being the case in the Italian section, how much more apparent it must have been in the other sections for the rest of the world! This, however, one was quite prepared for, as it is tolerably well recognized that Italian collectors practically confine themselves to the stamps of their own country. There was, however, one notable exception, namely, Uruguay, shown by Mr. Sciarra, which was the only exhibit portraying that Philatelic knowledge which would have caused it to occupy a fairly prominent position had it been exhibited at the London Philatelic Exhibition last year.

In conclusion, I desire to emphasize the fact that I do not wish to be captious, I do not wish to detract from the Exhibition as one containing a very large number of rare and interesting stamps, the condition of which, in the used specimens especially, was in the majority of cases everything that could be desired, but rather to point out where the Exhibition failed to realize that standard which an Exhibition, so admirably carried out in detail as this, ought to have done.

Report of The Work of the Philatelic Society, London,

FOR THE SEASON 1897-98.

By J. A. TILLEARD, Honorary Secretary.

Read at the Annual General Meeting of the Society on Friday, 3rd June, 1898.

IN accordance with the practice usually followed at the Annual General Meeting, it is my duty to present a report on the position of the Society, and the work and events of the year which has elapsed since the presentation of my last annual report.

During this period we have lost, by death or resignation, fifteen members, those who have died being Mr. A. F. S. Duro (a member for seventeen years), Mr. E. Geldard, Lieut.-Col. Joseph, Mr. T. Notthafft, and Mr. Hastings E. Wright; while Mr. C. E. Baker, Mr. W. Block, Mr. W. R. Burrell, the Rev. R. T. de Carteret, Mr. E. F. Hubbuck, Mr. W. Krapp, Mr. N. Newton, Mr. T. A. Rance, Mr. W. Strohmayer, and Mr. F. C. Van Duzer have severed their connection with the Society by resigning their membership. One other member, Mr. Pearson Hill, also tendered his resignation, but has been unanimously re-elected as an honorary member.

Of those who have been taken from our midst by the hand of death, I may perhaps be permitted to refer particularly to Mr. T. Notthafft and Mr. Hastings E. Wright as the most prominent. The former, although owing to his residence in Russia he was unknown to most of us, except by name, was one who could ill be spared from the ranks of Philatelists, and eloquent testimony as to his attainments in the pursuit in which we are all so interested, was given by our esteemed colleague Mr. F. Breitfuss, and by our Vice-President, at the meeting at which Mr. Notthafft's death was recorded. Mr. Hastings E. Wright was personally known to nearly all of us, and no words of mine are necessary to bear witness to the high position he had attained in the field of Philately, and to the general esteem in which he was held. Up to the moment of his death he was occupied in the most arduous work for the benefit of the Society, and the fruits of his last labour of love in the interests of his fellow-members will, it is hoped, soon be made public, and will remain in evidence as a memorial of the member whose loss we all so sincerely deplore.

The new members elected during the season which expires with to-night's meeting are twelve in number, viz., Mr. R. H. Beamish, Mr. S. M. Castle, Mr. E. S. Davidson, Mr. G. L. Edwards, Mr. T. Girtin, Mr. C. P. Krauth,

Mr. Eliot Levy, Mr. T. E. Madden, Mr. H. G. Palliser, Mr. W. Schwabacher, Mr. A. J. Taylor, and Miss L. Tullis.

The total number borne on our books is now 291, showing a reduction of three as compared with the corresponding number of the previous year. I do not think that this very slight reduction can be regarded as evidence of any decline in interest in the Society. The numbers, having increased so largely in recent years, are naturally more liable to fluctuation than was the case when our roll of membership was comparatively small.

In accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, the question of the business of the past season was considered at the first meeting. It was then decided, for various reasons, to hold the meetings during the season 1897–98 fortnightly, instead of weekly, as had been the practice of the past few years. Sixteen meetings in all (including that of this evening) have accordingly been held. The average attendance of members has been eighteen, a number which compares very favourably with that of previous years.

Papers have been read on six occasions, the subjects being, "Railway Stamps used for Letters," by Mr. C. Dendy Marshall; "Notes on the 2 Rigsbank Skilling Stamp of Denmark," by Mr. R. Ehrenbach; "Minor Varieties of United States Stamps," by Mr. S. M. Castle; "Further Notes on the Stamps of Bolivia," by Mr. H. R. Oldfield; "The Dies of Stamps employed for the Registered Envelopes of Great Britain," by Mr. Oliver Firth; and "The Stamps of Holland," by Mr. G. Fraser Melbourn.

Eleven evenings have been mainly devoted to displays, which have been the chief feature of the business of the season. The stamps shown have comprised those of "Great Britain," by Mr. H. J. White; "The Confederate States Government Issues," by Major Evans; "Austria," by Mr. R. Ehrenbach; "France" and the "Cantonal and first Federal Issues of Switzerland," by the Vice-President; "Mauritius," by Mr. W. B. Avery; "Japan," by Mr. T. Wickham Jones; "Colombia" and "Antioquia and States," by Mr. T. W. Hall; and "Holland and the Dutch Colonies," and "The Straits Settlements and Native States," by Mr. G. Fraser Melbourn.

In many cases several members have brought their collections of the countries under consideration, and the united display thus afforded has proved of the greatest value and interest. This was notably the case when the stamps of Great Britain were shown, the collections then seen forming together the most complete and valuable assemblage of the stamps of this country which members have ever been privileged to inspect.

On most occasions the member responsible for the display has read carefully-prepared notes on the stamps submitted to the meeting. These attained, in many instances, to the dignity and importance of a well-considered paper, and, with the information and explanation added by other members in the discussion following on the display, have been most instructive and interesting to all who have been fortunate enough to be able to attend the meetings.

Some few years ago it was no uncommon thing to hear it said in certain quarters that, although the Society comprised many advanced Philatelists, the members, with a very few notable exceptions, had no really good collections available for study. The experience of the past season has

shown how fallacious is such an idea, the fine collections owned by members which have been brought to light by the introduction of displays, and those shown on the occasion of the reading of papers, being a striking testimony to the vitality of the Society, and to the thorough manner in which the pursuit of Philately is followed by its members. This is as it should be, and I trust it always will be in the case of our Society, which is generally recognized as the "Premier" Society.

During the past year there have not been any matters of great importance requiring the serious consideration of the Council. There has consequently been no necessity for so many meetings of the Council as in some previous years, but its members have been always ready to devote their time to the interests of the Society when occasion has required.

The Publication Committee has been fully occupied with the preparations for the publication of the work on the Stamps of Great Britain, by the late Mr. Hastings E. Wright and Mr. A. B. Creeke, jun. The greater part of the manuscript has now passed through the hands of the Committee, and it is hoped that the book may be ready for the printers at an early date. The work has, of necessity, been somewhat further retarded by the death of one of the joint authors, involving the rearrangement of his notes on the enormous mass of details to be dealt with, but it is now being pushed forward to completion as rapidly as is possible.

The Expert Committee still continues to carry on the work entrusted to it, and the services of its members are largely sought by Philatelists from all parts of the world. An admirable report of the work and results of this Committee, from its commencement, was presented by Major Evans at the first meeting of the season.

The annual dinner of the Society was held during the period of the London Philatelic Exhibition, and proved a great success. The arrangements, which were in the hands of Messrs. T. Wickham Jones, R. Ehrenbach, C. N. Biggs, and H. R. Oldfield, were admirably carried out, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by a large number of members and friends. The attendance was considerably in excess of the usual numbers, and the Society had the honour of entertaining, amongst the invited guests, the distinguished foreign Philatelists who gave their services as judges at the Exhibition.

I had the pleasure in my last report to comment upon the improved financial position of the Society. The accounts for the financial year, with the report of the auditors, will presently be laid before you, and I think it will be found that the improvement has been fully maintained, and that the finances of the Society are in a sound and satisfactory condition, comparing most favourably with the position of previous years.

Following upon the recommendation at the last Annual General Meeting, a scheme has been prepared for dealing with the question of commuted subscriptions, under which all money received from this source is set aside, and, with the income to be derived from its investment, is dealt with in such a manner as will give the Society the full benefit which it ought to derive from the funds provided by life members.

In Philatelic circles, outside the immediate sphere of the Society, three

events have occurred during the past year to which I may perhaps be allowed to allude, as matters in which our interests have been closely concerned.

Of these, one of the most important was the holding of the London Philatelic Exhibition in July last, and I have only to mention that seventy medals were gained by our members to show how largely the Society was represented in the undertaking. The Exhibition achieved the great success which was anticipated, and the fact that it has been found possible to hold a Philatelic Exhibition on such a scale without loss, although no expense was spared in the work, is evidence of the ever-increasing interest which is taken in Philately by a large section of the British public.

The vexed question of the illustration of stamps has also happily been settled in a manner satisfactory to all concerned. The matter was one of great importance to the Society as affecting the publication of our journal and works of reference, and the thanks of the Philatelic community are largely due to the firm of publishers who, by taking a determined but respectful stand when they were attacked by the authorities, and by their judicious negotiations, in which they were backed by the Society, have been able to secure a solution of the difficulties raised, which it is trusted will prevent a recurrence in the future of the fears which were at one time entertained on the subject.

The secession of a number of dealers from the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps has involved a reconstruction of that Society, under which the practical part of its business is transferred to collectors. The work of deciding as to the stamps to be denounced as speculative or unnecessary has now been undertaken by a special committee of our Society, and I trust that the good work commenced by the Suppression Society may be continued with useful results.

It only remains for me to express my opinion that the satisfactory condition of our Society is a matter for sincere congratulation, and to thank the members for the kindly assistance received at their hands, by which my labours as your Honorary Secretary during the past year have been materially lightened.

List of Members of the Philatelic Society, London.

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

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F. A. Larmour.
A. B. Langridge.
E. Lentz.
E. Levy.
C. Lindenberg.
P. J. Lloyd.
B. Loewy.
H. Loveridge.
H. F. Lowe.
E. C. Luard.
C. J. Lucas.
A. A. Lyall.
H. H. Lyman.
D. J. Macfie.
T. E. Madden.
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Prince Doria Pamphilij.
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A. Passer.
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W. Pimm.
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F. Ransom.
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Rev. G. H. Raynor.
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J. H. Redman.
Baron A de Reuterskiöld.
J. S. Rich.
Vernon Roberts.
J. S. Robertson.
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L. Rodet.
A. Rosenberg.
G. B. Routledge.
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J. Siewert.
W. Silk, jun.
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H. J. White.
H. Winckmann.
W. E. Williams.
A. H. Wilson.
W. T. Wilson.
N. H. Withee.
Baron de Worms.
Baron A. de Worms.
Baron P. de Worms.
G. H. Worthington.

Philatelic Notes.

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

ANOTHER "POST OFFICE" MAURITIUS.

IN the *London Philatelist* for November, 1897, some remarks were made as to the probable number existing of these celebrated stamps (remarks that, as referring to obsolete stamps, were inadvertently inserted under "Occasional Notes" instead of under the above heading). After estimating the number of copies extant at between 17 and 20 it was surmised that probably over £1000 would be ere long given for a copy. It has been announced in various quarters that another specimen of the one penny had been unearthed in the island of Mauritius after a lapse of fifteen years, and we are now informed by Mr. W. H. Peckitt that he became the fortunate purchaser on March 30th, "paying the largest sum ever given for a single stamp."

The specimen in question is a remarkably fine one on the entire envelope, as will be seen from the reproduction herewith of the photograph



that Mr. Peckitt has kindly sent. The margins seem rather larger than that in the Tapling Collection, but the postmarks are similar (the date of Mr. Peckitt's specimen being also identical; viz., Sept. 21st, 1847), and the writer would appear to be the same, the address, "Monsieur Alcide Marquay," on the Museum envelope presenting the same features as the illustration herewith. The only 2d. on entire we have seen bears a large "Inland" within a frame, and an address, "Monsieur H. Caunter—Avocat—au Port Louis," in a large and sprawling handwriting. The last comer is really

a superb specimen, and cannot be beaten by any copy existing. We congratulate Mr. Peckitt, therefore, upon his enterprising purchase, and hope that this interesting little stranger may be adopted by some Philatelic father of renown.

MEXICO.

LIST OF STAMPS, WITH NUMERAL IN CENTRE, IN USE FROM 1890 TO 1895.



S will be seen on reference to another page, Mr. C. H. Mekeel has kindly presented a large number of the above stamps to the "Tapling Collection," and at our request has drawn up the following list of varieties, which we hope will be found useful to collectors of Mexican stamps:—

The paper used for the 1890 to 1895 issues was watermarked in ten rows to the sheet "CORREOS E.U.M.," so that the sheets of one hundred stamps, if properly printed, would show a watermarked letter in each stamp.

The sheets, however, were not as a rule printed carefully, so that the watermarked letters are often out of centre, and the margins of some sheets show stamps without any watermark.

There were three kinds of paper bearing the above waterwark:—

1st. Thick wove.
2nd. Thick laid.
3rd. Thin tough laid.

The stamps were perforated one row at a time, necessitating, in a sheet of one hundred stamps, eighteen strokes of the row of perforating pins, the outer edges of the sheet being imperforate.

Four varieties of perforation are found in the series.

1st. Perforated 12.
2nd. „ 11.
3rd. „ $5\frac{1}{2}$.
4th. „ $5\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ compound and irregular.

The normal perforation until 1894 was 12, although varieties of Mexican stamps as early as 1884 are to be found perforated 11.

A machine was used with a gauge of 11 in 1894, but it was found to be unsatisfactory, the larger holes weakening the sheets, which in the primitive methods employed in the Government Printing Office required much handling for perforation, gumming, etc.

The $5\frac{1}{2}$ perforation and the compound were intended to remedy this defect temporarily, and this was accomplished by removing every other pin from the line of pins in the machine perforating 11.

The various perforations are to be found *rough* and *clean-cut*, the former showing the particles of paper not well removed.

1890. *Wove paper, watermarked as above. Perforated* 12.

1 c., yellow-green.
2 c., carmine.
3 c., vermilion.
4 c. „
5 c., ultramarine.
6 c., vermilion.
10 c. „
20 c. „
25 c. „

Same paper. Perforated 11.

1 c., yellow-green.
2 c., carmine.
3 c., vermilion.
4 c. ,,
5 c., ultramarine.
6 c., vermilion.
10 c. ,,
20 c. ,,
25 c. ,,

1892. *Same paper. Colours changed. Perforated* 12.

1 c , blue-green.
2 c., rose-lake.
3 c., orange.
4 c. ,,
6 c., orange.
10 c. ,,
20 c. ,,
25 c. ,,

Same paper. Perforated 11.

1 c., blue-green.

1892. *Thick laid paper. Same watermark. Perforated* 12.

1 c., yellow-green.
2 c., carmine.
2 c., rose-lake.
3 c., vermilion.
3 c., orange.
4 c., vermilion.
4 c , orange.
5 c., ultramarine.
6 c., vermilion.
10 c. ,,
20 c. ,,
25 c. ,,

Same paper. Perforated 11.

1 c., green.
5 c., ultramarine.

1893–95. *Thin tough laid paper. Same watermark. Perforated* 12.

1 c., yellow-green.
2 c., carmine.
2 c., dull red.
3 c., scarlet.
4 c. ,,
5 c., ultramarine.
5 c., light blue (shades).
6 c., scarlet.
10 c. ,,
12 c. ,,
20 c. ,,
25 c. ,,

Same paper. Perforated 11.

1 c., yellow-green.
2 c., carmine.
3 c., scarlet.
4 c. ,,
5 c., ultramarine.
6 c., scarlet.
10 c. ,,
20 c. ,,
25 c. ,,

Same paper. Perforated $5\frac{1}{2}$.

1 c., yellow-green.
3 c., scarlet.
4 c. ,,
5 c., blue.
10 c., scarlet.
25 c. ,,

Same paper. Perforated compound and irregular $5\frac{1}{2}$ *and* 11.

1 c., yellow-green.
5 c., blue.
10 c., scarlet.
25 c. ,,

Occasional Notes.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE "TAPLING COLLECTION."

MR. E. D. BACON kindly sends us the following additions to the collection at the Museum :—

GREAT BRITAIN.—Six proofs in black on white card from the engraved dies used for some of the stamps of the Oxford Colleges, struck in 1897 previous to the dies being defaced.—Mr. J. R. F. Turner.

MAURITIUS.—The original estimate of Mr. J. Barnard, dated "Port Louis Nov. 12th 1846," for supplying the Mauritius Post Office with one penny and two pence stamps (the celebrated first issue), and with obliterating hand stamps, &c.—Major E. B. Evans.

MEXICO.—One hundred and two specimens, nearly all unused, of the stamps of 1886 to 1895, with numerals in centre.—Mr. C. H. Mekeel.

NATAL.—Pair of unused 3d., blue, 1860 issue, watermark star, imperforate.—Major E. B. Evans.

REPRINTS.—A number of reprints of the stamps of Heligoland, Tasmania, Victoria, and the Danubian Steam Navigation Company, including entire sheets of the first-named country.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

REUNION.—Set of three types each of the 15 c. and 30 c., 1886 reprints, of the first issue.—Mr. E. D. Bacon.

RUSSIA.—A specimen of the 2 kop., black and rose, issue 1875, on *vertically* laid paper.—Mr. F. Breitfuss.

Three proofs in colour of the stamps of 1864 and 1865.—Mr. J. A. Tilleard.

ST. THOMAS, LA GUAIRA, AND PORTO CABELLO.—Eleven varieties of the stamps of the first issue not in the collection.—Mr. E. D. Bacon.

UNITED STATES.—An unused specimen of the 3 cents, issued in 1876, printed on *double* paper.—Mr. C. H. Mekeel.

THE LONGEVITY OF STAMPS.

THE question of the limits of the life of a stamp is not a new one, and has been considered, for palpable reasons, in the light of theory only, in many quarters. The writer of an article entitled "The Shrinkage of Rarities," contributed some time since to the *Stamp News Annual*, alluded to many of the causes that tend to reduce the longevity of a stamp, mostly fortunately ascribed to the want of taking the necessary precautions. It is beating the air to seriously discuss, within sixty years of their birth, how far will be prolonged the period of natural decay, the only

value in any dissertation thereon being the suggestion of due and proper methods to shield off this decay of old age—until the millennium! It appears, however, from comments made in some of our contemporaries, that *The Herald* has been making a plunge into this question of the future, and in the course of some interesting remarks argues that in five hundred years "few stamps will be intact." We shall see—or posterity will, perhaps! From an examination under a glass of several of the 1d. black of Great Britain, now fifty-eight years old, our contemporary notes a "tendency of decay and slight discolouration." The latter might easily be "acquired" and not natural, but as regards the former we have been unable, after careful examination, to note the slightest symptoms of deterioration. We are strongly inclined to think that, duly preserved from dust, or damp, or daylight, the old steel-engraved stamps on hand-made paper will, in five hundred years' time, be in as good preservation as the early printed books that have now seen that period elapse without serious or indeed palpable decay. The fugitive colours and aniline dies that have lately come into vogue, and the use of machine-made paper, may perhaps open up a vista of diminished longevity, but even in this case "the end is not yet." A more important consideration is that of the gum, which combined with the slightest amount of moisture or damp in its surroundings might well work havoc. The 4d. vermilion of West Australia was a stamp from which we used to remove the gum, and orange and red stamps would all seem to oxidize far more quickly when retaining the original cement. The only course to recommend to-day is to see that valuable stamps are kept in perfectly dry places, between perfectly pure paper; that the hinges contain no deleterious matter; that means be adopted to avoid friction; that they be exposed as little as possible to the light; and that Providence be trusted for the future in Philately as in aught else.

The remarks of *The Herald* include one sentence that has nearly been the means of our confinement in Earlswood; and in the kindly hope that our readers may be enabled to share our fearful joys, we reproduce it in all its glory of resplendent "bulls":—

> "In spite of the predictions given out from time to time of the earth's coming to an end, it has never happened, and probably never will happen until centuries hence, if it does then; and during this time the stamps in existence at the present time and all past issues will not be in existence in the year 2898, or 1000 years from now, or even in a less length of time."

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS' PRICE LISTS.

ACCOMPANIED by a request for review, we have received from this firm a Wholesale Price List and a Prospectus of Sets, Albums, etc., both of which are set forth to a greater extent than has probably heretofore been attempted. The former, occupying no less than twenty-seven pages of large quarto, is for dealers only, and gives one an inkling as to the enormous stock that must be held by this firm. In the latter are to be noted many hundreds of sets of stamps inclusive even of fairly rare ones, which are listed considerably below the single selling rate, and should afford a happy hunting ground to the collector who is not complete, a race happily not yet extinct!

THE LATE MR. JOSEPH F. BEARD.

WE learn with sincere regret of the death, at an early age from an unexpected attack of peritonitis, of this gentleman, who was elected last year to the important post of Secretary to the American Philatelic Association. Mr. Beard was warmly esteemed in his native town of Muscatine (Iowa), having associated with various public institutions, notably with the Fire Brigade, of which he was President, and in whose work he had always taken a leading part and interest. Mr. Beard is stated to have been the possessor of one of the finest collections in the United States, and we tender our condolences to our kinsmen across the sea on this unexpected and sad loss.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News gives the following notice:—

"Joseph F. Beard was born in Columbiana County, Pa., February 29th, 1852, consequently he was just a little over forty-six years of age. With his parents he came to Muscatine in 1855, having lived here all the time since with the exception of a short time spent in Lagrange, Mo., and at Wapello. He was educated in our public schools, and at an early age learned the 'art preservative,' being a trusted and valued employé of the *Journal* for many years, resigning his position several years ago to engage in business for himself as a Philatelist, in which he was very successful, having last year been re-elected to the position of Secretary of the American Philatelic Association, a position which he filled with credit to himself and the organization. He was looked upon as one of the best-posted men in this line in the United States."

MR. WESTOBY'S STAMPS OF EUROPE.

PART VI. of this series has now appeared, and contains the continuation of Great Britain, with a short article on the Railway Letter Fee Stamps, which the author states "are not postage stamps according to strict definition, for they have no franking power of their own, and only acquire it when used in conjunction with a Post Office postage stamp of 1d., but they are part of the machinery by which the Post Office carries out this particular service." A definition that, in our opinion, leaves nothing to be desired. The Greek stamps are next handled at some length, Mr. Westoby acknowledging his indebtedness to Mr. W. Dorning Beckton for some of the information. The Olympian series is accepted as a regular issue as a latter-day repentance on the part of the Athenian Post Office. Hamburg, Heligoland, and Hanover complete this instalment, the author reminding us that King William IV. was, until his death on June 20th, 1837, also King of Hanover. The excellent features exhibited in the foregoing portions of this work are again notable in the present instalment.

MR. HERMANN DECKER, OF HANOVER.

THE proceedings in this case have at length been finished, as we learn in the German newspapers. The Court at Hanover gave judgment on the 6th of this month, condemning Mr. Decker to one month's imprisonment

and the costs of the proceedings. We deeply regret that such an able Philatelist, and hitherto honoured name, should have so fallen. We are glad, however, to hear that 5000 marks have been repaid to those who were losers by Mr. Decker's acts.

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AT UTRECHT.

We are informed that this Exhibition has been brought to a successful issue, and that the anticipations of its promoters have been fully realized. The competition in some of the classes seems, however, to have been scant, and the lady collector in Holland appears to have been endowed with more than the usual feminine timidity, as there were no competitors for the prize offered in this class. It is a pity that some of the excellent displays by ladies at the London Exhibition of last year were not forthcoming! We are glad to announce, however, that two members of the London Philatelic Society were recipients of prizes, to wit: Mr. Ehrenbach, who took the first prize (silver-gilt medal), in the class for "the most complete collection of any country," for his fine collection of Buenos Ayres; and Mr. H. R. Oldfield, who took the second prize (silver medal) in the same class for his collection of Bolivia.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

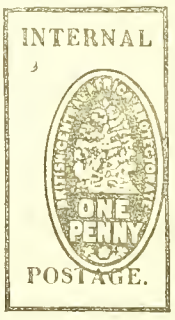
(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

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 give an illustration of the provisional stamp described last month. It appears that a case of stamps which had arrived from London disappeared from a barge on the Zambesi river at Chinde, and the explanation is that the case fell overboard. The stamp illustrated was apparently for use during the time occupied in despatching a fresh supply. If the news that no specimens were sold over the counter be true, it is an interesting and legitimate provisional.



Adhesive. 1d., blue and red; imperf.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—We illustrate the large rupee stamps chronicled in January last, a set of which is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.



CEYLON.—*Le T.-P.* announces an addition to the "On Service" stamps, the

1 r. 12 c. having received the usual surcharge.

Adhesive. 1 r. 12 c., red-brown; surcharge black.

GAMBIA.—We have also received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a set of the new issue illustrated herewith.



The following are the values:—

Adhesives. ½d., green.
1d., carmine.
2d., orange-brown and lilac.
2½d., ultramarine.
3d., red-lilac and ultramarine.
4d., bistre ,, ,,
6d., sage-green and carmine.
1s., mauve and green.

GIBRALTAR.—*British Morocco.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received the current Gibraltar stamps and post cards surcharged "British Morocco," as illustrated.



The cause of this issue is that owing to the depreciation of Spanish money Gibraltar is about to revert to British currency as formerly. The British post offices in Morocco are worked as branches of the Gibraltar post office, stamps of the head office being used; hence to meet the change in the currency and to prevent stamps from the Morocco post offices being returned to Gibraltar to be redeemed at British currency in place of the Spanish currency, all stamps for use in Morocco will be of the surcharged type.

The future will probably see further changes, and at least two new sets of stamps may be expected; one, the present Gibraltar stamps surcharged in British currency, and a second permanent new design.

Adhesives. 5 c., green; surch. black.
10 c., carmine ,, ,,
20 c., olive-green and brown; surch. black.
25 c., ultramarine; surch. black.
40 c., orange-brown ,, ,,
50 c., lilac ,, ,,
1 peseta, bistre and ultramarine; surch. black.
2 ,, black and carmine ,, ,, (?)

Post Cards. 5 c. and 5+5 c. } with same surcharge.
10 c. ,, 10+10 c. }

GRENADA.—The following notice will not be read with any special relish by loyal adherents to the S.S.S.S. It seems almost useless to urge, in reference to the proposed stamp, Mr. Punch's advice of—*Don't!*

"GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

"No. 86.

"The following correspondence which has passed between His Excellency the Governor and the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, respecting the issue of a special postage stamp on 15th August next to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of this island by Columbus, is published for general information.

"By command,
"EDWARD DRAYTON,
"*Colonial Secretary.*

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, *4th May*, 1898."

"*Governor to the Secretary of State.*
"GRENADA, *12th March*, 1898.

"Copy.
"Grenada. No 34.

"Sir,—On the 15th August next the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Grenada will take place, for on that day of 1498 Columbus, after passing through the Strait of Boca del Dragon, which separates Trinidad from the mainland of South America, sighted the islands of Tobago and Grenada, and called them respectively Asuncion and Concepcion.

"2. It is my desire, which is shared by my Executive Council, to mark an anniversary of such interest and importance in the Colony's history by the issue of a special 2½d. postage stamp, of the design enclosed (subject to the discretion of the Crown agents as to its size and colour) commemorative of the discovery, and I accordingly submit the proposal for your approval.

"3. For sale to the public I recommend an issue of 500,000 of the stamp, after which the plate can be destroyed; and should you approve of the proposal, I would ask that the Crown agents may be authorised to take the necessary steps to give it effect in time to admit of the issue reaching the Colony about July next.

"4. I append a requisition in duplicate on the Crown agents for the supply desired.

"I have, etc.,
(Signed) "ALFRED MOLONEY,
"*Governor.*

"THE RIGHT HON. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., ETC."

"*Secretary of State to Governor.*
"DOWNING STREET,
"*16th April*, 1898.

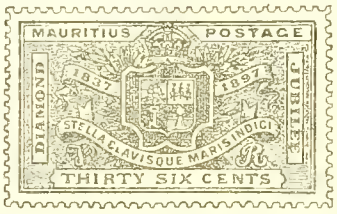
"Copy.
"Grenada. No. 48.

"Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 34 of the 12th of March, submitting a proposal for the issue of a special postage stamp to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Grenada by Columbus, and to inform you that I am prepared to approve of such an issue, and have accordingly caused the Crown agents to be instructed to proceed with its preparation, adopting the design marked *B.* enclosed in your despatch.

"I have, etc.,
(Signed) "J. CHAMBERLAIN.

"GOVERNOR SIR C. A. MOLONEY, K.C.M.G., ETC."

MAURITIUS.—The Diamond Jubilee stamp, described last month, is illustrated herewith.



NEW SOUTH WALES.—We have to thank Messrs. Smythe and Nicolle for early news of a change in the colour of the sixpenny stamp, which is now printed in green.

The *Australian Philatelist* notifies us of further varieties in perforation, both the ½d. and the late 6d. having been issued perforated 12 × 11½.

Adhesives. 6d., green; perf. 12.
½d., grey; perf. 12 × 11½.
6d., rosine-madder ,,

NEW ZEALAND.—The "error" alluded to last month is now illustrated, and not only is the word "Wakatipu" incorrectly spelled, but on comparing our illustration herewith with that of the 2½d. value given on page 116



it will be evident that there are two distinct plates for this stamp. From the first plate, the error, some 300,000 copies were produced and forwarded to the colony; hence there will have been no need for any rush to secure specimens. Curiously enough, all the stamps of this value supplied to the Agent-General's office appear to have been Plate 2, suggesting that a separate printing of all values was made and supplied for sale in London after the quantity for use in New Zealand had been despatched. Altogether the New Zealand "Picture" Issue is not without a philatelic history.

ST. LUCIA.—A new twopenny stamp, which will probably replace the 2½d. value, has been issued. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the postage to places abroad has been reduced to 2d.

Adhesive. 2d., ultramarine and orange-brown.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Johore.*—*Le T.-P.* announces three additions to the current set of stamps:—

Adhesives. 10 cents, green and black.
25 ,, ,, and violet.
50 ,, ,, and carmine.

Perak.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new value of the current "Tiger's Head" stamps—25 c.

Adhesive. 25 c., green and carmine.

EUROPE.

ICELAND.—Various varieties of the recent 3 c. surcharges are being discovered, among them being an inverted surcharge, which is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

MONTENEGRO.—The colours of the current stamps have been changed.

Adhesives. 2 nov., blue-green.
3 ,, red.
5 ,, ochre.
7 ,, mauve.
10 ,, red-lilac.
15 ,, claret.
25 ,, blue.

SPAIN.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that on July 1st two compulsory "War-tax" stamps are to be issued. The colony of Puerto Rico has already been supplied, as will be seen by reference to our description under Spanish colonies.

AMERICA.

CHILI.—We illustrate the new Unpaid stamps described last month.



OTHER COUNTRIES.

CONGO FREE STATE.—Two high values have been added to the current series of adhesives, which are illustrated herewith from specimens forwarded by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The work on these two stamps is by no means equal to that of the other values, being coarser and bearing some resemblance to lithographs. Their use is chiefly for parcels.

Adhesives. 3 francs 50 c., vermilion and black.
10 ,, green and black.





EGYPT.—The provisional Unpaid stamp for use on letters posted by soldiers in the Soudan (see page 119) is illustrated herewith.

Unpaid Letter Stamp.
3 mils. on 2 pias., brown; surcharge black.



ERITREA.—The current 10 c. stamp of Italy has been surcharged for use here.

Adhesive. 10 c., carmine; surcharge black.

HAYTI.—Specimens of the provisional stamps, alluded to last month, are to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.; these



are the 20 c., brown, and the 20 c., orange-vermilion, stamps of the 1893 and 1896 issues, surcharged with a figure "2," with "DEUX" above and "CENT" below, in red. From the same source we have received some values of the new issue, which we illustrate.

Adhesives. 20 c., brown; surcharge red.
20 c., orange-vermilion; surcharge red.

LIBERIA.—The entire set of adhesives has been adorned with the surcharge "O.S.," either in red or blue, to suit the colouring of the various values. The use of these stamps is presumably more philatelic than official.

MADAGASCAR.—*British Inland Mail.*—We have received from Messrs. Croxton & Co. a set of the type-set labels, which were pronounced unfavourably upon two years or more ago. The stamps are accompanied by a letter from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Antananarivo, date 24.3.'98, stating that the stamps were authorized by the Malagasy Government, and were used for outgoing letters posted in Antananarivo during the late war. Our correspondents consider this letter a sufficient guarantee of the legitimacy of the stamps. We do not doubt that the specimens before us are, or were, stamps, but at the very best their nature is that of *locals*. We notice that the specimens before us are all neatly cancelled with a circular date stamp, evidently applied to complete sheets.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new variety of the 1½d. card bearing the twopenny stamp between the words "Brief"—"Kaart," surcharged with the Arms in black and the figures of value "1½d.," in red.

Post Card. 1½d., mauve, black, and red on *white*.

SPANISH COLONIES.—*Porto Rico.*—From our Ipswich correspondents we have received two compulsory "War-tax" stamps, being the 2 c., red-brown, of 1896, and the 5 c., blue-green, of 1891–93, surcharged in violet, with the words "Impuesto de Guerra" in tall capitals, and apparently hand-stamped with a rubber stamp.

Adhesives. 2 c., red-brown; surcharge violet.
5 c., blue-green ,, ,,

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

President—Mr. W. T. Wilson.
Hon. Secretary—Mr. G. Johnson, B.A.
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

May 19. Paper, "Stamps of Egypt," Mr. G. Johnson.

Messrs. L. C. Raphael, N. J. Vidovich, W. Brettschneider, and L. A. Sanderson were unanimously elected members.

Mr. G. Johnson then read his paper on the "Stamps of Egypt," illustrating it by means of his collection. The two types of each value in the first issue and the minor varieties of the second issue received careful attention.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. Lloyd.

The last meeting of the present season was held on Thursday evening, the 19th inst., the President being in the chair.

Some new members having been proposed, and other business matters being disposed of, the President exhibited and explained his interesting collection of early Transvaals, consisting of several specimens in shades of each issue, with the various roulettes, some of which appeared to have but little relation to the frame of the stamp, being on the margin of the sheet, and in an unsevered pair showing no roulette between them. The varieties of paper used seemed to imply the use of whatever was at hand, from almost a "tissue" to a "sugar" paper; to these irregularities were added in 1877, in consequence of the British occupation of the territory, a variety of surcharges until the new issue in 1878 bearing the "Queen's head." The sixpenny stamp of this issue was soon converted by a variety of types of surcharges into a "1 Penny" one. In 1892 the Boers unfortunately were allowed to resume practically the government, and the Dutch "een penny" surcharge on the 4d., sage-green, denotes the change. In 1883 the original Transvaal design was revived, but with perforations. Of these and the latter issues the Hon. Sec. exhibited a considerable number of unused as well as used specimens.

Before closing the meeting the President gave expression to the strong desire both of himself and also of those members who have been regularly attending these meetings that more of the younger and less experienced members of the Society would attend, he also asked for any suggestions that might be made in reference thereto.

The programme of the ensuing season is to be as follows:—

Oct. 9th. West Indies.
,, 20th. German Empire.
Nov. 3rd. Queensland and West Australia (with lantern illustrations).
,, 17th. France.
Dec. 1st. India Native States.
,, 15th. Ceylon and Mauritius.
1899.
Jan. 5th. Annual General Meeting.

No packets will be sent between June and September.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton, Esq.
Hon. Secretary—G. Fred H. Gibson, Esq.

The annual meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday evening, May 13th, the President in the chair, supported by sixteen members.

The Hon. Secretary's report showed that the number of members has increased to 66, and that 15 ordinary and 14 list meetings have been held during the winter, with an average attendance of 16. Allusion was made to the prominent position which the Society attained at the London Exhibition, to the success of the exhibition held in Manchester at the opening of the session, and the Lantern Exhibition given early in the present year, and also to the satisfactory manner in which the whole season's programme has been carried out.

The President, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the interest which the public of this neighbourhood are now taking in Philately, and expressed his regret and that of the members generally that ill-health should necessitate the retirement of Mr. Harrison from the position of Hon. Secretary, which he has so admirably filled for two years.

The report of the Hon. Treasurer showed a balance in hand; and that of the Librarian announced several gifts of books and magazines to the library.

Sheets to the value of £1026 7s. 8d. *net* have been circulated by the Exchange Packet Committee.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected officers:—

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Vice-Presidents—F. Barratt, E. Petri.
Hon. Secretary—G. Fred H. Gibson.
Assist. Hon. Secretary—C. H. Coote.
Hon. Treasurer—G. E. Duerst.
Hon. Librarian—J. C. North.
Hon. Sec. of Exchange Packet—W. Grunewald.
Committee—J. H. Abbott, W. Grunewald, W. W. Munn.
Committee of Exchange Packet—T. Oxley. N. Wanstall.

Mr. Munn proposed—"That in future all stamps in the Society's packet be priced subject to a discount of 50 per cent. for cash, such discount to be forfeited by any member who fails

to pay within fourteen days of the despatch of his account by the Packet Secretary, unless he can furnish an explanation which will satisfy the Packet Committee, in which case they may remit the whole or any part of such penalty."

This was seconded by Mr. Harrison, and carried.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

J. H. Abbott.	Nathan Heywood.
W. Armistead.	R. D. Holland (c).
W. Brown.	M. W. Jones.
F. J. Beazley.	Dr. Jago.
E. W. Bramwell (c).	Ch. Litchfield.
W. Dorning Beckton.	F. W. Lake.
F. Barratt.	H. Lund, F.R.C.S.
Geo. Blockey (c).	J. J. Leech.
Dr. Bradley.	W. W. Munn.
A. Buxton.	J. C. North.
H. Buckley (c).	G. J. Newman.
H. B. Broomhead.	D. Ostara.
W. G. Bowden (c).	Thos. Oxley.
E. P. Collett.	P. L. Pemberton.
C. H. Coote.	Judge Philbrick.
M. P. Castle.	E. Petri.
W. L. Chew.	R. Pellew.
John Cooper.	T. Ridpath.
W. Chapman.	Vernon Roberts.
G. B. Duerst.	F. A. Roberts.
J. W. Etherington.	H. Ranck.
E. Ehlinger.	H. E. M. Rolsted (c).
E. Fildes.	Evan T. Roberts.
J. Flohr.	J. W. Simpson.
O. Gillett.	W. K. Skipwith.
W. Grunewald.	J. H. Smyth (c).
D. S. Garson (c).	W. Terry.
G. Fred H. Gibson.	M. Tchlingnirian (c).
J. E. Heginbottom.	C. Taylor (c).
A. H. Harrison.	J. H. Thackrah.
R. F. V. Harrisson.	N. Wanstall.
H. J. Hill (c).	A. Wallace.
J. R. Hesketh.	Seth Wrigley.

G. FRED H. GIBSON, *Hon. Sec.*

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

THE October packets came back from their supplementary rounds on May 22nd, and sheets were returned and accounts submitted with the least possible delay. Sales were as follows:

	£	s.	d.
November AA Packet . .	84	14	2
,, AB ,, . .	83	3	1
,, BA ,, . .	42	2	3
,, BB ,, . .	39	11	11
Supplementary rounds of AA and AB packets . . .	54	0	1

December A packets have been circulated among a certain number of non-contributing buying members, and are expected back in about a fortnight's time.

On May 25th 199 sheets, valued in the aggregate at £2217 11s. 2d., were made up into four packets and despatched on their rounds. Many rare and obsolete stamps (such as a complete collection of provisional Oil Rivers, Nigers, and Central Africans) were offered much below catalogue prices. Australians and Spains were also very strongly represented. Six new members have joined since last month. Packets will be made up during the summer months, but members who propose to leave home should notify all changes of address to the Secretary. Foreign Philatelists are invited to join and send sheets, and arrangements will be made for them to receive equivalents for stamps taken in cash or exchange, as may be preferred. Packets are sent out intact, the member who is first on list having an opportunity of taking all the bargains. For rules, etc., apply to Secretary.

H. A. SLADE.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

The Collectors' Club, New York.

President—WILLIAM THORNE.
Secretary—J. M. ANDREINI, 29, *West 75th Street.*

TWENTY-FIFTH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, May 9th, 1898, President Wm. Thorne in the chair. Called to order at 8.20 p.m., Messrs. Bruner, Calman, Luff, Scott, Stebbins, and the Secretary being present. Minutes of preceding meeting were read and approved. The Secretary was directed to acknowledge with thanks the gifts of bound volumes of the *Post Office* and *Metropolitan Philatelist*, received from their respective publishers. The Treasurer's report, showing balance in bank of $401.80, was then received. Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, the name of McCoy S. King was dropped from the rolls for non-payment of house dues. Report of Chairman of House Committee was duly received. The matter of book-binding was referred to the Chairman of the Literary Committee, with power. The Entertainment Committee reported progress. Adjourned at 8.45 p.m.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Sec.*

The Plymouth Philatelic Society.

President—MAJOR G. H. W. STOCKDALE, R.E.
Vice-President—R. TYETH STEVENS, ESQ.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—MR. W. A. WALKER.
Exchange Sec.—DR. C. E. RUSSEL RENDLE.
Committee—
H. TUCKER. F. A. COCKS, R.N.

THE fifteenth ordinary meeting of the seventh session was held at No. 9A, Princess Square, on Wednesday, 4th May, at 7.30 p.m., eleven members being present, the Vice-President in the chair. The date for the Annual Meeting was fixed for May 25th. The main item on the agenda was to accept the resignation of Mr. Miller, Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, and Exchange Secretary. After some remarks by the Chairman the following resolution, on the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. H. W. Mayne, and supported by Mr. Walker, was passed:—

"That this Society receives and accepts Mr. Miller's resignation as Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, and Exchange Secretary with extreme regret, and begs to record its sense of its indebtedness to him for the valuable services he has rendered during the three years he has held the offices. It also begs to express a hope that the reason of his resignation, *i.e.*, his proceeding to London, may result in the achievement of his immediate object and his future general welfare."

Mr. W. E. Harvey at the same time resigned his office of Assistant Secretary. This was accepted with extreme regret and a hearty vote of thanks accorded him for the valuable services he had rendered. Mr. W. A. Walker, of Garfield House, Stoke, Devonport, was then unanimously elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and Dr. C. E. Russel Rendle, of 7, Buckland Terrace, Plymouth, was appointed Exchange Secretary. A paper from Mr. Walker followed, bearing on certain issues of the stamps of the British South African Company and of the second Republic of the Transvaal, and special attention was called to varying peculiarities of type and surcharge. At its conclusion Mr. Walker was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

THE sixteenth ordinary meeting of the seventh session was held at No. 9A, Princess Square, on Wednesday, 18th May, at 7.30 p.m., five members being present, the Vice-President in the chair. The Rev. E. A. Donaldson contributed an exhaustive paper on the "Stamps of Russia," dealing fully with varieties of paper, watermark, perforation, etc. After passing in review the locals and certain special issues requisitioned for the Levant, Poland, etc., Mr. Donaldson discussed the twelve issues proper of the Empire that date from January 1st, 1858, illustrating his remarks throughout by his own collection, and acknowledging his indebtedness to the section on Russia as treated in *Scott's Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the reader of the paper.

THE eighth annual meeting of the Plymouth Philatelic Society was held at No. 9A, Princess Square, on Wednesday, May 25th, at 7.30 p.m. The reports of the Hon. Secretary and of the Hon. Secretary of the Exchange Branch showed that the past session ('97-98) had been distinctly satisfactory, as the financial deficit had been diminished by more than one-half, and the record of the Exchange Packet was in every respect an unqualified success. Papers had been read or notes contributed of Philatelic interest at fourteen meetings, and an interest shown in the Society's work that augured well for the future. No exhibition or display of stamps had been held, as it was not deemed advisable to incur fresh expenditure in this respect. Through the Exchange Branch stamps had been circulated to the value of £473 10s., and as many as 663 copies had been sold in one packet alone, viz., December, '97. The success of the packet was a matter of congratulation to all concerned in its circulation. The Hon. Treasurer's report was also satisfactory, pointing to a diminished deficit of £1 1s. 7d., and calling attention to the fact that in the future the ordinary and exchange accounts were to be combined.

The following officers were elected for the session of 1898–99:—

President—MAJOR G. H. W. STOCKDALE, R.E.
Vice-President—R. T. STEVENS, ESQ.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—W. A. WALKER, ESQ.
Hon. Sec. Exchange Branch—DR. C. E. RUSSELL RENDLE.
Committee—REV. E. T. FYFFE, R.N., F. A. COCKS, ESQ., R.N., H. TUCKER, ESQ.

W. A. WALKER, *Hon. Sec.*

The Market.

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

May 12th and 13th.

	£	s.	d.
Belgium, 1861, 40c, carmine, unused strip of four	4	17	6
Naples, 50 grana, lake, unused	4	8	0
Oldenburg, second issue, ⅓ gros., black on green, unused	5	7	6
Sweden, 1866, 17 öre, purple-grey, unused	2	17	6
Tuscany, 2 soldi, brick-red, horizontal pair, used, on piece of original, with 1 soldo, yellow	21	0	0
Philippine Islands, first issue, 5 c., orange, horizontal pair	2	7	6
Ditto, 10 c., carmine, block of four	4	7	6
Ditto, 1 real, blue, block of six	4	7	6
Natal, first issue, 1d., blue, and 1d., rose, on piece of original	7	10	0
Oil Rivers, 10s. in vermilion on 5d., unused	8	5	0
Ditto, 5s. in violet on 2d., unused	4	7	6
U.S.A., *Providence*, 5 c., black, entire sheet (12)	7	10	0
British Columbia, perf. 14, 10 c., carmine and blue, unused pair	5	2	6
Ditto, ditto, 1 dollar, green, unused	4	12	6
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., magenta, cut square	5	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1853, 4 c., blue, line above value, unused pair, no gum	3	12	6
British Honduras, CA, 6d., orange, and 1s., grey, unused	4	0	0
Tobago, CA, 6d., ochre	3	15	0
Peru, medio peso, rose	7	10	0
New South Wales, 1853, 6d., brown, error of wmk. "8," unused	3	5	0

May 26th and 27th.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 4d., *vermilion*, Plate 16	3	10	0

Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

May 17th and 18th.

	£	s.	d.
Finland, 1883, 5 and 10 marks, unused	2	18	0
Spain, 1854, 1 real, light blue, on original	7	15	0
Switzerland, Geneva, the double stamp, on entire original	16	15	0
India, service, 2 as., green and purple, short type, unused	4	7	0
British East Africa, first issue, ½, 1, and 4 annas, unused	3	7	6
United States Justice, 90 c., unused	6	15	0
Ditto, ditto, State, $10, unused	7	5	0
Ditto, ditto, State, $20, unused	7	10	0

June 7th.

	£	s.	d.
United States periodicals, 1 c. to $100, complete, unused	11	0	0
Trinidad, "O.S." set, ½d. to 5s., complete, no gum	4	0	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. JULY, 1898. No. 79.

The Season of 1897-98.

NOT "cast on lines of heroic mould" was the Philatelic season that has just passed, but none the less has it presented features of a satisfactory nature. The able and succinct report of the London Philatelic Society, presented by the Hon. Secretary to the Annual General Meeting on the 3rd of last month, and published in our June number, shows clearly that neither in interest nor progress has the Premier Society anything to complain of. The sad loss of two such esteemed Philatelists as Mr. Hastings E. Wright and Mr. T. Notthaft really constitutes the only regrettable incidents during the past winter. The death of the former no doubt prevented the appearance of the long-expected work on the stamps of our own country, which will, we trust, constitute *the* feature of the history of the Society next season.

In the other Philatelic Societies there has been generally a marked increase of vitality, whether regarded in the increasing number of members, the work and attendances at the meetings, or the importance of the collections, both from a Philatelic and an intrinsic point of view. In former days Philately was almost exclusively Metropolitan in this country, and we are of opinion that no brighter augury for the future can exist than the fact that many of the leading cities and towns of Great and Greater Britain have each firmly-established and powerful Societies, rich alike in scientific collectors and valuable collections.

Without a doubt the most important feature of the past season has been the break in the prices. "Catalogue value" has continuously risen for many years past, sometimes with reason and sometimes without, and reflecting collectors had cause to ask whither this upward procession would lead. The laws of arithmetic forbade the continuance of a rate of progress

that doubled "values" every two or three years, and it was well time, in the best interests of Philately, that a wholesome check should be administered.

It is natural that any break in the increasing value attached to stamps should be viewed with dislike, and even alarm, in many quarters; but we are convinced that there is no valid reason for either. The attractions of Philately are established on too firm a basis to be shaken, and it will continue, with necessarily varying phases, long after the present generation has passed away—beyond which is "the deluge." The broad results of the past season, from a financial aspect, are, in our opinion, briefly as follows:—

In a few cases of scarce stamps that have been driven too high there has been a drop; in the more recent issues of some of our colonial possessions, and in a very few other instances, the fictitious prices demanded by large holders and speculators have been refused, resulting in a decided and deserved fall in price; in the general run of used specimens, more especially where they have only been of medium quality, there has been a disposition to accept somewhat lower figures; in the case of rare stamps, especially when fine, there has been a demand bigger than the supply, and hence no depression. As regards unused stamps generally, especially older issues, the values have been at least fully maintained, and where "mint" condition is available, "catalogue" prices have been practically disregarded; inferior and damaged specimens have distinctly fallen in value.

It cannot be consistently argued from these conditions—which we believe to be a fair and just view of the situation—that there is any cause to be dissatisfied with the present aspect of affairs. On the contrary, we hold that, as in other stocks and shares, an uneventful and stationary maintenance of price is the best index of security.

We have purposely omitted one important factor in this question of values—the auctions. There can be no two opinions but that auctions are immensely overdone in this country. We have no wish to cast stones at our leading auctioneers; like others, "what they want is orders," and failing the best goods, they sell inferior quality. The blame, if any, is at least as much to be attached to those who send the stamps for sale, the principal result that we deplore being that a false estimate of value is formed by those who scan the realized prices. In the *Stamp Auction Reporter*—a little journal most ably carried on, and of the greatest value and utility to all collectors—we noted, *e.g.*, in one column (taken haphazard), that of fifty-eight stamps described consecutively only seven were really fine, and even these not important specimens. If a collector has given £5 for a specimen from a dealer, and sees that the same stamp was sold for 30s. at auction, it naturally acts as a cold douche; but he may rest assured, in nine cases out of ten, that the quality was of another order. Even good stamps are occasionally sacrificed at auction, but as a general rule it may be affirmed that real worth commands fair prices.

Our contemporary, previously referred to, has wound up its first season's appearance by an accurate and conscientious review of the financial results of the season that is worthy of the most careful perusal, and which, with

minor exceptions, fairly and fully represents the present phase. We venture to reproduce from the *Stamp Auction Reporter* of June 18th one or two paragraphs, which will be found to fully coincide with the general purport of our remarks.

"Taken all round, the prices realized at auction during the past season were decidedly lower, especially for the more expensive stamps. It must not, however, be assumed from this fact that Philately is in any measure declining in popularity, the reasons for the drop being almost entirely due to two causes: (1) the auctioneers, (2) the condition of the specimens offered. In the first place, we have had, for a great part of the season at any rate, far more sales than had ever before been crowded together in such a space of time. The natural consequence followed. Buyers were unable to follow up each sale, or to find sufficient money to purchase everything that they fancied, so that fluctuations became frequent. Then, too, the majority of the catalogues were circulated only a very short while before the sales, so that country and foreign buyers were considerably handicapped.

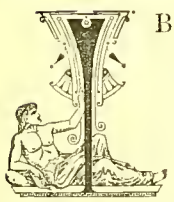
"Again, in consequence of the number of dates fixed by the various auctioneers, it frequently became necessary, if sales were to be held at all, to fill up the catalogues either with wholesale lots or commoner specimens, the effect being that the stamps of better quality generally suffered on account of their environment.

"Above all, one fact has to be insisted upon. The quality of the stamps submitted to public sale is steadily deteriorating. Superb specimens are still met with, it is true, but the greater number of the single lots that nowadays comprise a sale is, if anything, rather below than above the average for the various stamps. Wealthy collectors, to whom cost is a secondary consideration, withdraw therefore from competition for such specimens, consequently they realize lower and lower prices. Unfortunately, however, in many instances the really rare varieties are dragged down in sympathy with the others of the same issue or colony, though the rise in the former case may be as well deserved as it was unwarranted in the latter."

The 1858-59 Issue of Austria and Lombardy.

By M. P. CASTLE.*

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, Nov. 13th, 1896.



I BELIEVE I am correct in saying that I am breaking entirely fresh ground in making remarks upon the stamps of these countries, and that there is no record in the annals of this Society of these stamps having formed the subject of debate. There is perhaps hence an excuse for a few general remarks before I proceed to the especial point of the article. I should, however, premise that, as indicated by the title, I have somewhat enlarged the scope of my notes, for reasons that will be apparent later on.

The Austro-Hungarian Empire not being an immediate neighbour of

* The reasons for the long interval that has elapsed between the reading and the publication of this paper will be found under the remarks relating to the two dies of the 2 kreuzer value.—M. P. C.

ours, has perhaps failed to excite the close interest given in Philatelic circles here to Germany or France. Next, however, to Russia, it is the largest State on the Continent, and its population of 44 millions embraces a variety of nationalities—Hungarians, Bohemians, Germans, Poles, Slavs, and others—necessitating, as is well known, the issue of Post Cards with inscriptions in the languages of the different races. The Emperor, King Francis Joseph, has occupied this dual throne for nearly half a century, having succeeded to the throne of Austria on December 2nd, 1848, and that of Hungary some twenty years later. Thus, next to our gracious Sovereign, he is the monarch who has had the longest reign in Europe. It is beyond the province of this article to dilate upon the beneficent character of His Majesty that has so endeared him to all classes of his subjects alike; but it may be opportune to mention that, regardful as the Emperor has always been of all that affects his subjects, he has extended his sympathies to Philately also. At the recent Philatelic Exhibition held at Vienna His Majesty was present for some considerable time, and evinced the liveliest personal interest in the treasures exhibited by the collectors of the Austrian Empire and others. It is worthy of remark that, deservedly popular as is His Majesty, his portrait has not always been *en évidence* on his country's stamps, and in fact has alternated with curious persistency. The 1850 issue bears the Imperial Arms, the 1858 issue has the portrait of the Emperor, as does the succeeding issue in the oval (1861). The oval issues of 1863 and 1864, with the Eagle, intervene between the latter and the 1867 issue, in which the Imperial head again appeared, and which remained so many years in use. The Eagle type again appeared in 1883, while the current issue, commenced in 1890, again bears the portrait of the Emperor, although not depicted in an attractive manner.

It will thus be seen that in the variety afforded by these several issues there should be considerable Philatelic scope, and I am confident that those who have studied the Austrian stamps will maintain that this expectation is not belied. I venture to suggest these stamps as being well worthy of the attention of collectors, whether on a modest or an ambitious scale. As to the former, owing to the vast population and the generally long periods during which the issues remained in use, used specimens of almost every stamp can be procured with slight expense, and a large field of specializing is thus opened out even to those who can afford to spend time only and not money on their Philatelic pursuits. The obliterations are not as a rule heavy, hence a *nice-looking* collection of them is readily attainable. On the other hand, those collectors who are prepared to undertake the difficult task of procuring these stamps unused will find that they have "their work cut out." Many of the stamps, as in the case of Belgium, Great Britain, France, and other European countries, that are easily obtained obliterated, will be found very hard to meet with, notably in fine condition, unused. The first issues of Austria and Lombardy show a great deal of white on the design, while the second, third, fourth, and fifth all have an embossed white centre. The delicate colours in which the lower values were printed, combined with the foregoing, render the continued existence for 30 to 40 years of copies in prime and unsoiled condition almost "providential." As a last straw I should mention the centring, which is frequently much out of symmetry

DIE: 1.



DIE: 2.



DIE: 1. DIE: 2.



DIE: 1



DIE: 2.



in the stamps of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. However, either used or unused, I am sure there is a good and almost untrodden field of collecting in the stamps of this Empire, and the wish to inculcate a more intimate acquaintance with them must form my apology for this general digression from my subject.

The second issue of the Austrian and Lombardy stamps took place on November 1st, 1858; they are printed in relief from electrotypes, being reproduced from metal dies—probably steel. Each stamp has a different design, and is printed on thick, smooth, yellowish, wove paper; they are perforated 15, and have the peculiar limy adhesive matter that is so general with the early issues of this country, and, I may add, has a provoking habit (to a Philatelist), after having once encountered the slightest moisture, of staining the stamp right through. All the values bear the head of the Emperor to left, but the remainder of the design varies for each value, although the kreuzer and soldi set run nearly parallel. I may here mention that after examining the former I found that I should be assisted, or corroborated, in my surmises if I included the latter; even irrespective of this, I think that the study of these stamps, which are so closely related, cannot well be divided. The design of the 2 kr., or soldi, is a large wreath tied at the base and surrounding the head, the value being upon a horizontally-lined label that extends right across the lower part of the stamp. It is curious that no stamp of this issue contains any inscription except the numeral of value and its corresponding denomination. The 2, 5, and 10 contain this but once, the 15 thrice, and the 3 no less than eight times!

The 3 kr. and soldi have the head in an oval of solid colour, within a wide frame containing the inscription I have just referred to—the spandrels being filled up with vertical lines. In the case of the 3 kr., all the labels in the forenamed frame have fancy ornamentations at either end, but in the 3 soldi they are all colour. The 5 kr. and soldi have the head with a wreath beneath, in a circle of colour. The lower portion of the design has the value upon a band of colour extending across the stamp, with fancy ornamentation at either end (cut away in the case of the 5 soldi—to make room, apparently, for the additional lettering); the remainder of the stamp is formed of fancy ornaments which literally square the circle. The 10 kr. and soldi (varying in minor details) have the head surrounded by a wreath intersected in the upper portion by the Austrian and two other coats of arms; this wreath is continued in floreate ornaments to the bottom of the stamp, enflanking the horizontally-lined label of value; the upper angles have large triangular-shaped labels of colour. The 15 kr. and soldi have the head in a smaller circle of colour surmounted by a crown; the remainder of the design consists of floreate ornaments, and the horizontally-lined label of value below is also enclosed by the like. The 3 kr. and soldi, green, issued shortly after, are, of course, in all respects the same design as the black stamps. (Type II.) I have thought this short description of the issue advisable, even if only to call attention to the delicacy and artistic pose of the design. I should add here that I have found the 3 kr., black, Die I., on a thin paper, and apparently an early impression—this being the only paper variety I have met with.

The information hitherto available as to the issue is somewhat scant. In

the leading catalogues, Moens', Colin and Calman's, Gibbons', there are but the normal varieties.* In the *Austria Philatelist* for April, 1895, Herr Krapp supplemented his previously written list by stating that there were two types of each value, and giving a short description of the three higher values. In *Das Postwerthzeichen*, the organ of the Bavarian Philatelic Society, on October 10th, 1895, M. Krapp's article is alluded to, and a third type, or rather sub-type of No. 1, of the 15 kr. is given and illustrated. The variety consists apparently in a sharply-printed bust, which it is stated was the only one found among thousands of specimens, and a copy of which I have not been as yet enabled to see for verification.

In Senf's Catalogue for 1896 both types are illustrated, and it is practically stated that they exist in all the twelve stamps of Austria and Lombardy. So far has our knowledge of these types proceeded, and the object of this paper is to supplement or correct the sum of previous knowledge as far as my humble ability will allow. I may be forgiven for mentioning that for some years past I had known of the existence of types, but deemed it unadvisable to proclaim this on the housetops until my study of them was more advanced; but in view of the present general acquaintance with these varieties, I considered it a fitting opportunity to state what I have learnt from the stamps, in the hope that at the hands of our Austrian *confrères* my present incomplete knowledge may be ultimately fully extended.

(*To be continued.*)

The Philatelic Exhibition at Turin.

By Dr EMILIO DIENA.

(*Continued from page* 162.)

I NOW proceed to consider the principal exhibits, following the official classification.

CLASS I.

Collections of Adhesives and Entires of Italy.

Division 1. Unused Stamps.

In this division there were but two exhibitors, M. I. A. Loli and M. A. Viterbo Barocci. The former exhibited, *hors concours*, portions of—and entire—sheets. I might mention among the latter: Modena, 1852, 1 lira; Provisional Government, 15, 20, and 40 c.; Roman States, 1 scudo; also a block of forty estero, 20 c., blue, of Italy, issue of 1874.

M. Barocci showed in a small album a collection of all the Italian States, unused, including: Austrian Italy, 1850, horizontal strip of three 5 cent., orange, and three 45 cent.; Parma, 1854, two 5 c., two 15 c., and a 25 c.; Modena, large B.G., an extremely fine specimen; Naples, 1860, Trinacria

* Since this article was written some of the leading catalogues have accepted the two dies, but in no case is the information complete.—M. P. C.

and Cross, both very fine; Tuscany, 1851–52, 1 soldo, 2 soldi (no gum), 60 crazie, 1853, 1 soldo, 9 crazie; Provisional Government, complete set, including the 3 lire. The last-named, although a good colour and with part gum, was cut into below. It was the only unused 3 lire shown at the Exhibition! Sicily, blocks of all values, and a 2 gr., *dark* blue. This collection, got together in two years only, was much admired, as it was well arranged, and, with minor exceptions, was practically complete.

Division 2. Used Stamps.

In this class, containing only used specimens, M. Fiecchi was the sole exhibitor with a collection of 570 specimens, among which I noticed a fine 6 baj., Romagna, being the only one with postmark other than the well-known lozenge formed of horizontal lines; in this case the obliteration was that of a small post office (Comacchio). Tuscany included all the varieties, with two copies of the 3 lire. Neapolitan Provinces, 50 gr., two specimens, etc.

Division 3. Stamps on Entire.

Two important collections competed here, one being the well-known one of M. C. Fino (previously shown at Milan in 1894, and Geneva in 1896, and embracing almost every Italian stamp). Among the Extinct States the strongest was, perhaps, Sardinia, which included 20 fine shades and varieties of postmark of the 40 c. of 1851; in 1853 issue, 22 of the 5 c., with block of 8, and 17 of the 40 c., with strip of 5; 1860, 3 lire (a difficult stamp to find on entire); 1861, two copies of the error 1 c., with figure 2. Parma, 1852, 15 c., *tête-bêche* (very rare). Naples, Trinacria and five copies of the Cross, including a vertical pair. Tuscany, two 2 soldi, 60 crazie, 1856, six copies of 9 crazie, including a letter with five specimens of this rare stamp. Modena, 1 lira, various errors of 1852, and the large B.G., Roman States, a pair of ½ baj. printed both sides, Romagna complete, and various split stamps, some being very rare. This collection was assuredly one of the stars of the Exhibition, but the arrangement was somewhat marred by the large sheets on a heavy border, and I am glad to hear that it will be remounted.

M. Loli's stamps (not for competition) in some cases surpassed M. Fino's, and the system of arrangement was better. The strongest State shown was Romagna, which included no less than four of the 6 baj., five of the 8, fifteen of the 20, and various split stamps. Sardinia was also very fine with a strip of three 1854 40 cent.; 1855, half of 40 cent.; a 20 and 40 cent. with inverted head (very scarce on the entire); Parma Provisional Government, six 5 and three 40 cent.; Modena, 1852, four errors; Provisional Government, complete, the 80 cent. (on piece of original), used with a 5 cent. Sardinia, 1855, also Modena large B.G.; Roman States, *tête-bêche* pair of ½ baj.; seven 1 scudo, including a horizontal strip of three; 1867 and 1868, 3 cent.; Tuscany, 1851–52, a block of ten 1 quattrino, on blue; eleven 2 soldi, including a vertical strip of five (a beauty); 60 crazie; 1856, 9 crazie; Naples, 1858, horizontal strip of four 50 gr.; 1860, Trinacria and two copies of the Cross; also ½ gr., 1858, and half of a Cross, bisected, on newspaper bands, and many other rare varieties too numerous to mention.

Division 5. Essays, Proofs, and Curiosities.

In this group there were three exponents. M. J. C. Bader showed 91 different essays of Italian States, and M. T. Lemaire those of the Legrand collection—the latter's late arrival being unfortunate. Exhibited by the Government Printing Office, of course not for competition, was a fine frame showing the series of stamps and unpaid letter stamps of the later Italian issues. There was also a proof struck in eight different colours of an effigy in profile of the King of Italy, engraved quite recently, which will probably be adopted ere long by the Government to substitute that of the current set of stamps, which represents His Majesty as of a youthful appearance that no longer distinguishes him. It had been anticipated that our Government Printing Office would have prepared a richer exhibit, as in London in 1890 and 1897 several printing houses did, but the fault rests with the Administration in not having shown sufficient enterprise.

Division 6. Collection of Adhesives and Entires of the Italian States, Used or Unused, with Essays, Proofs, etc.

In this class, which should have revealed the progress of specializing in Italy, it is sad to relate that there was but one exhibitor, as the stamps of the different Italian States, taken separately, offer a vast field for study.*

M. E. Marchesi, as President of the Executive Committee, was perforce so occupied by his numerous duties that he neglected his own exhibits, and it was really only owing to my earnest intercession that he consented to exhibit Sardinia, which was truly an admirable display, but under these circumstances without the proper classification.

Included herein were the following blocks of the 1851 issue: 5 c., forty; 20 c., forty; and 40 c., twenty, demonstrating the irregular spacing of the specimens on the sheet. The other issues were strongly represented; and I believe, in fact, that this is the strongest collection of Sardinians extant. The criticisms expressed, that this exhibit was rather an accumulation than a collection, were not, in my opinion, merited, as M. Marchesi has taken pains to collect all varieties of the numerous shades of the issues of 1851 and 1854, in addition to many interesting varieties of obliteration, a study of which is so useful in recognizing the too numerous reprints that exist. With the requisite time at disposal, the proper arrangement of this exhibit would have stifled all such criticisms!

Division 7 (as Division 6). Stamps of some or of all Italian States.

M. I. A. Loli showed a collection of 716 stamps, unused, including: Tuscany, block of six 1 crazia, on white, the used ones embracing Naples, 1858, 50 gr.; pair Parma Provisional Government 5 c. (9); Tuscany, 2 soldi (7), 60 crazie, 3 lire; Naples Arms, etc. M. Barocci showed a fine collection, an enumeration of whose treasures would take too much time. I must, however, mention a perfect copy of the 3 lire Tuscany on piece of original envelope, used with an 80 cent.; two 60 crazie, two 9 crazie, on white; Modena, 1852, four 1 lira, with different postmarks; Sardinia, 1855–58, 5, 10 (two), 20, and 40 cent., with inverted head (used), etc.

* We cannot help thinking that the classes for Italian stamps were unduly spread out. Condensation and competition would have probably brought about better results.—Ed.

CLASS II.

Specialized Collections of Foreign Adhesives, Envelopes, etc.

Division 4. Stamped Envelopes, Post Cards, etc.

M. G. Roussette showed a collection of cards, including several varieties of Japan first issue, Jamaica type-set, Roumania, etc.

Division 6. Essays, Proofs, and Curiosities.

M. Bader, collection of essays, including many Swiss.

Division 7. Collections of Adhesives and Entires, Used and Unused, with Essays, Proofs, etc.

This division attracted the largest number of competitors. M. Bader showed Turkey, hardly worked up as yet to its full capabilities. M. Barocci showed his collection of Europe (up to 1891), and though its classification was not, perhaps, perfect, it was certainly of great importance. Among the unused I would cite: Austria Mercury, red; Baden, 1862, 6 kr., prussian blue; Great Britain V.R., *Official*, 5s. and 10s.; Russia, 1858, 30 kop. (watermarked paper); Saxony, 1850, 3 pf.; Spain, 1851, 2 reales; 1853, 3 cuartos. Used: France, 1 fr., vermilion (a beauty); Moldavia, 27, 54, and 108; horizontal pair of 80 paras on *bleuté;* Zurich, 4 rap. (three); Vaud, 4 cent.; double Geneva, etc.

Prince Doria Pamphilj exposed a choice collection of the stamps of Great Britain and Colonies (up to the end of 1896), containing 4600 specimens. Among the unused I would name: Great Britain, 1d., Archer roulette; 10d., octagon, with full gum (a gem); India, 1855, 2 annas, green; Service, 8 annas; Lagos, 1885, 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s.; Vancouver, 1895, 10 cents, imperf.; St. Vincent, 1869, 4d., yellow, 1s., brown; 1883, 4d., dull blue (perf. 12), 5s., star; Nevis, 1861, complete set; 1883, 6d., green; New South Wales, large square series, 6d., watermark "5" (a rare stamp in this condition); *Fiji Times*, complete set on laid *bâtonné*; St. Lucia, set, perf. 12½; Tobago, 6d., CA. Among the used specimens: Ceylon, imperf., complete set; Labuan, 6 and 12 c. (watermark CA sideways); British Guiana, 1850, 12 cents; 1851, 4 cents; New Brunswick, 1s. (two); Nova Scotia, 1s.; Barbados, 5s. on 1d., a single and a pair; Western Australia, many rouletted varieties; Montserrat, 4 p., blue, CA; Mauritius, 1859, 2 p., fillet; Nevis, litho., 6 p. This collection, arranged in twelve volumes (movable leaves), with neat and accurate remarks as to issues, etc., certainly deserves Mr. Beckton's expressed opinion that "it was compiled on Philatelic lines, and was a model of neatness in mounting and general appearance." The unanimous opinion of all present was that in the care displayed in mounting this was the best in the whole Exhibition.

M. Roussette showed a fine collection of Europeans (with envelopes), especially strong in Swiss Cantonals (Zurich 4 r., double Geneva, and envelopes in three sizes), and including rare Russian and Finland envelopes.

I now come to the grand Uruguay collection of M. R. Sciarra, whose modesty did not prevent his attainment of the grand prize—the only gold medal of the Exhibition. No less than 4000 specimens were to be found in the two volumes, the first containing unused specimens, with many blocks,

and the second the used, with specimens on letters, envelopes, etc. This collection is probably unique in containing three specimens in varying shades of the second type of Diligencia 60 cent. (Greek border at sides replaced by short vertical lines), two of them being on original. It is well known that the existence of this second type has been long contested, although the late Dr. Wonner, of Monte Video, maintained its authenticity. There must, however, be an end to all doubt, as the official publication, the *Anuario Postal y Telegrafico de la Rep. O. del Uruguay* (1898), records this type, attributing to it the date of 1st October, 1857. Dr. Wonner was wrong only as to the date, which he had assumed to be 1856. According to M. Sciarra, who has long resided at Monte Video, only nine specimens of this rarity are known. My own convictions (at first sight) confirm M. Sciarra's assurance as to the undoubted authenticity of his specimens, the disposition of the sun's rays and other details all tending to demonstrate that these stamps were the work of the same artist who executed the series with the figures repeated. There are beyond this thirty specimens of the Diligencia, and others of the 120, 180, and 240 with figures repeated, used (in which condition they are very rare). In the succeeding lithographed and later issues the collection is very rich, inclusive of errors, etc. etc. In its *ensemble* this collection was really a marvel; in choice of specimens, in richness of varieties, or system of arrangement, there was nothing to be desired, and the judges were very pleased to confirm the public opinion that this was the *chef-d'œuvre* of the Exhibition.

M. E. Tron's exhibit of Europeans, inclusive of Italians, was good, also including a horizontal strip of five of the 2 soldi Tuscany; Spain 1851, '52, and '53, 2 reales (latter unused); Swiss Cantonals; complete U.S. 1875 set of Periodicals, etc.

CLASS III.

General Collections.

Divisions I. and II. in this group, being limited to small collections, do not call for comment, but the third division (5000 to 8000 specimens) embraced a fairly good collection belonging to M. A. Monchicourt. In Division IV. (about 8000) M. E. Bigliani showed a rich collection, which contained *unused* Switzerland Poste Locale, 2½ r.; Western Australia, 1854; 2d. *Fiji Times* complete set, British Columbia 1 dollar, perf. 12½, and Mexico, 1864, 3 cent. Among the *used* were Mecklenburg-Schwerin ¼ rouletted, all the Tuscan rarities, good Swiss Cantonals, and Sydney Views.

CLASS IV.

Division 1. Italian Rarities.

Miss B. Arbib showed 29 rare stamps—Lombardy 15 c. on *vertically laid* paper; Tuscany 2 soldi (5), 60 cr., 3 lire, and other good Italians.

M. A. Barocci's exhibit consisted of 90 stamps, *all on original*, including Roman States, two *tête-bêche* pairs of ½ baj.; Modena 80 cent. (only copy known then); Trinacria, etc.

M. S. Candrian showed many fine Lombardy and rare Italians, the Tuscans being complete, and a Modena Provisional Government error, *used*, of the 20 c. (cent.)

M. P. Cometta's specimens were remarkable for their beauty; Naples, both Arms and Cross; Tuscany, all but 3 lire, and many other fine Italians being noticeable.

M. Fiecchi exhibited a formidable array of 200 varieties, which included, among unused, Lombardy, 1850, complete, and a block of twelve 10 cent., 1863, 10 soldi; Parma, 1854, 5 and 15 cent.; Tuscany, 1851–52, 1 quat., a horizontal pair; 1 soldo, a horizontal pair; 60 crazie, 1856 (on white); a block of *eighty* 1 quattrino (largest known); 9 crazie, etc. In used copies I noted: Austrian Italy, 5 cent., printed both sides, one of the four portions of the stamp shown on the reverse side being inverted; Parma Provisional Government, 5 cent. (three), 40 cent. (two); Modena, 1852, 1 lira, seven different errors; Roman States, 4 baj., printed both sides; Romagna, 6 baj.; Tuscany, four copies of the 2 soldi, two 60 crazie, 1876, two 9 crazie, and a brilliant specimen of the 3 lire.

M. E. Marchesi showed 200 rare stamps of the component Italian States (excepting Sardinia, elsewhere referred to). The following were all unused: Parma, 1854, two 5, two 15, and a 25; Provisional Government, five 80 cent., in varying shades; Tuscany, 1856, 1 soldo and 9 crazie. Among used specimens: Parma Provisional Government, strip of four 5 cent., dark green, and three yellow-green, 40 cent.; Modena, four 1 lira, including a horizontal pair; two large B.G.; Provisional Government, complete; Romagna, 6 and 20 baj.; Tuscany, 2 soldi (two), 60 crazie; 1856, 9 crazie (six), 3 lire; Naples, 1878, 50 gr. (seven). This exhibit comprised also many rarities "on entire."

Division 2. Foreign Rarities.

Among the 50 objects exposed by Miss B. Arbib were: Virgin Islands, 1s., single-lined frame; United States, 1851, 5 cents; 1860, 90 cents; Nevis, 1882, 6d., green; all unused. Also used: France, 1 fr., vermilion; Spain, 1851–53, 2 reales, etc.

M. Barocci was again to the fore in this division with 77 non-European rarities, the unused inclusive of United States, *Justice*, *Executive*, *State*, complete sets, including dollar values of the last-named department; Tobago, 6d., C A; Newfoundland, 6½d.; Virgin Islands, 6d. (perf. 15); Montserrat, 4d., blue, C A; New Caledonia, first issue, complete sheet. In *used* condition: Buenos Ayres, 3, 4, 5 pesos; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia shillings, etc.

The highest award for the exhibition of foreign rarities was gained by Prince Doria Pamphilj, who showed 67 specimens, among which I remarked: France, 1 fr., vermilion; Zurich, six copies of the 4 rap., and the five types of 6 rap., both with horizontal and vertical lines; Vaud, 4 rap.; Geneva, 5+5, and the same stamp interverted; 1850, 5 cent. (on white), on entire; horizontal pair of 2½ rap.; Poste Locale, cross unframed; Austria Mercury, rose, on part of original (very fine); United States, 1869, 15 cents, inverted centre; Buenos Ayres, steamship, 3, 4, 5 pesos; Peru, ½ peso, yellow, and the ½ p., rose, *error*.

M. Fiecchi presented, *hors concours*, 150 stamps, many fine and rare.

The 100 rare stamps of M. R. Sciarra formed a worthy appanage to his Uruguayan collection, especially noteworthy, *unused*, being Great

Britain, V.R.; Spain, 1851 and 1852, 2 reales; Bergedorf, 1861, ½ sch., on lilac; Buenos Ayres, steamship, complete set (the 3 pesos, green, only being used); United States, *State* 5 dollars. Among *used* specimens: France, 1 fr., vermilion (an extremely fine specimen, brilliant colour); 1853, horizontal strip of six 1 franc; Saxony, 3 pf.; Mauritius, 1d. (very early state of plate); Cape, 4d., woodblock, dark blue; New Brunswick, 1s., large margins, light cancellation; Peru, ½ peso, yellow; Brazil, slanting figures, 180, 300, 600 reis, etc.

CLASS V.

Collections of Obliterations.

Division 1. Italian.

Two exhibitors, M. A. E. Fiecchi with a fine show of the stamps and postmarks of Italian Post Offices in the Levant, and M. G. Lanzi with those of the Roman States, 1852–70, worthily upheld this class. They both represented much study, and obviously are of the greatest utility.

As I have necessarily occupied considerable space in your journal, I will pass over the Fiscals, Albums, and other various exhibits.

It is to be regretted that this Exhibition has not been signalized by the appearance of any especial monograph or work on the Italian stamps beyond the General Catalogue published by M. A. Ravazzolo. As this catalogue was, however, the first published of late years in the Italian language, it has been accorded a silver medal, in the hope of inducing further progress.

It only remains for me to make some general observations upon the Exhibition, on what it might have taught us, and what lessons we have learned; but Mr. Beckton has already explained in the *London Philatelist*, to my satisfaction, to a considerable extent the impression I have formed. There is only one point of difference between Mr. Beckton and myself; that is, that my friend had visited the London Exhibition of 1897, and could not help being struck with the marked inferiority of that of Turin, while I, who had not this advantage, felt constrained to acknowledge with pleasure the great strides made by Italian Philately since 1894; the Milan Exhibition of that year being in point of fact far inferior. I cannot, anyhow, abstain from remarking that my friend Mr. Beckton was a little too severe in affirming that in Italy "collectors remain collectors, and cannot claim to be Philatelists." There are some Philatelists also among us,* but they are not numerous enough, and I feel convinced that this Exhibition will give a favourable impulse to our National Philately.

It is also equally true that certain varieties of stamps were completely ignored by the exhibitors, and that specialists are not so thorough as in Great Britain, the United States, Germany, etc.; but *natura non facit saltus*, and the progress that I have referred to will continue, without doubt, in a manner that will allow us speedily to compete with other civilized nations on equal terms. If it be indeed true that one knows in the morning if the day will be fine, I am convinced that we may wait with confidence for the speedy accomplishment of these hopes.

* We are convinced that Mr. Beckton will agree with us that Dr. Diena is not the only distinguished Philatelist by many in Italy, but only deplores the fact that such good leaders are unable to get more numerous disciples.—Ed.

Philatelic Notes.

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

NEW SOUTH WALES—DIADEM ISSUE, 1854.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd., have shown us specimens of a somewhat dangerous forgery. It appears that considerable quantities of the 2d. and 3d. values of this issue have recently been turning up in Sydney, the former with watermark "8," and the latter with watermark "2." It seems that the Sydney collectors, according to the *Australian Philatelist*, were considerably exercised in their minds by this sudden apparition, and were inclined to suspend their judgment, when their suspicions were deepened by the appearance of a 2d. with watermark "1," and also with watermark "6"! Investigations have been commenced, and will doubtless lead to the same pronouncement of opinion as held here, viz., that these stamps are fraudulent. The fraud consists in the alteration (query by the aid of grease) of the normal "2" or "3," or the frequently-found "5" (on the 2d. value), to the desired varieties. The "alteration" to the 3d value seems to have presented more difficulty, owing to the relative scarcity of imperforate specimens even used—unused copies being of the highest rarity—and recourse was had to the later perforated stamps, which were cut down. In the specimens shown to us, however, the colour was not any one of those that we have ever seen imperforate, but of a pale *clear* green, that denotes the impression several years later. Mr. C. J. Phillips informs us that on boiling the stamps almost the whole of the watermark disappeared! It is well, therefore, that collectors here should be on their guard. As regards the 2d. value, the only common "error" of watermark in this set is the "5," *on the 2d.;* with "1" it is very rare —at most two, or perhaps three, copies being known (one was in the writer's collection, acquired from Mr. J. A. Tilleard many years since, and highly prized); with "8," we believe but one copy is known. As regards the 3d., watermark "2," even this is also now a scarce stamp; a few copies—several in pairs—were found about ten years since, but we have heard of no subsequent finds, so that it is not a likely stamp to turn up, and collectors will do well to carefully examine all deviations from the normal watermarks in this issue.

THE 27 AND 54 PARAS OF MOLDAVIA.

REFERENCE to the lower value will be found in our May number, page 137, wherein it is stated that the defenders of the genuineness of three newly-discovered specimens had advertised their offer to buy at full catalogue any like copies that might be found. Messrs. L. Schwarz and W. Krapp are the two well-known experts who have thus taken their courage in both

hands, and they now announce in the *General Anzeiger* that despite the fact that their advertisement has appeared for six weeks in this widely-circulated advertising medium, no "copies" of the so-called forgery have been offered to them, "for the simple reason that there are no such forgeries." This is hardly a conclusive proof, as, were the stamps bad, great caution would naturally be exercised, in view of the public attention aroused, in endeavouring to "plant" further copies. As we have, however, previously said, we fail to see anything against these stamps, and believe that time *will* show that the Viennese experts are correct.

As regards the 54 para, we would mention that a copy of this value has recently been sent to us for opinion, which as regards colour and general appearance is highly dangerous. The impression is so well done that without comparison it would probably be taken for genuine, and as usual the specimen was adhering to the "original." The horizontal laid lines, however, have a rather ribbed look, and approach each other too closely. It would seem that the day is approaching when all the really rare stamps, having been expertized, will also be located, and their history and ownership known. As in pictures and books, the history of its ownership would then appreciably increase the value of a stamp. The future auction catalogues may yet read: "The well-known copy in the collection of So-and-so, from whom the vendor acquired it."

Occasional Notes.

IMPORTANT TO MEMBERS OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE Society's Rooms at Effingham House will, by order of the House Committee, be CLOSED from August 1st to August 27th inclusive. Communications by letter may, however, be made as usual.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1898.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1897	123	4	2
Subscriptions received	360	3	6
Entrance Fees	23	2	0
	383	5	6
Commuted Subscriptions	15	15	0
Sale of Society's Works	45	6	7
Sundry Receipts	31	0	1
Due to Treasurer	0	9	2
	£599	0	6

	£	s.	d.
Paid for *London Philatelist*, &c.	74	18	3
Printing, Stationery, Postages, &c.	60	12	7
Rent and other Outgoings for Rooms	137	1	9
Exhibition Expenses	9	16	4
Extra Expenses at Annual Dinner	12	11	0
Loan repaid	50	0	0
Clerical and Sundry Expenses	82	10	2
Balance at Bank on Deposit and Current Account	171	10	5
	£599	0	6

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE.

WE are desired to state that the members of the Expert Committee of the London Philatelic Society will not be able to receive stamps for examination during the months of August and September. After these months stamps for examination should be sent as hitherto, to the Expert Committee, London Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C., accompanied by the fee of 2s. 6d. for a single stamp, or 2s. each for two or more sent together.

AN APOLOGY.

IT is fortunate for the Editor of the *London Philatelist* that the era of *lettres de cachet* is passed, or he might be immured and forgotten, pending his trial—as were so many other unfortunates in the "good old days"! The heinous offence of which he stands convicted is not less than having charged Her Majesty's Government, as represented by the authorities at Somerset House, with *theft!* In Mr. Westoby's article on the Railway Letter Fee Stamps, in the May number of this Journal, on page 128, the "mis-appropriated dies" are referred to, and we hasten to assure the Government, with all humility and regret, that no aspersion was intended on their good faith, or that of their officials, and that the prefix "mis" is an inadvertent substitute for "un." The Editor, conscious of the gravity of the offence, is prepared to offer a full-grown compositor for immediate execution at the hands of a justly-incensed Government, and to plead for indulgence on behalf of those of its contemporaries who have unwittingly copied the mistake! In the same article, on page 127, 19 lines from the bottom, the word "never" should read "very."

U.S. ACTION RE NEWSPAPER AND PERIODICAL STAMPS.

WE are glad to read in the American journals that, as anticipated in our report of this important case in our May number, the U.S. Government do not intend to appeal against the decision in this case. Mr. John Walter Scott, the defendant in the case, announces in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that the Government notified his attorneys in the case on the 13th of June that "they acquiesced in the decision of the Court, and that the case would not be appealed." The amount subscribed for the defence of the action was 1184 dollars, of which 56 per cent. has now been returned, and the whole affair is closed. We tender our sincere congratulations to American collectors upon this happy termination of a very troublesome business.

DEATH OF MR. FRED JEPPE, OF PRETORIA.

WE regret to announce the death, after a short illness, of Mr. Fred Jeppe, of Pretoria. Mr. Jeppe was best known as the expert typographer to the South African Republic; but although not an avowed Philatelist, his name is well known in Philatelic circles as being intimately connected with and interested in the stamps of his native country from their commencement, when he occupied the important post of Postmaster-General of the Republic. In 1896 (May) Mr. Jeppe contributed to the *London Philatelist* a kindly criticism of a paper appearing in our columns on the "Stamps of the Transvaal," and as recently as the commencement of the present year, when in London, promised further contributions on the same subject.

IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE.

SCHEME PARTIALLY ADOPTED.

THE following important announcement was communicated to the press on the 13th of this month:

"We are authorized by the Postmaster-General to state that, as the result of the Imperial Conference on Postal Rates, it has been agreed, on the proposal of the Representative of the Dominion of Canada, that letter postage of one penny per half-ounce should be established between the United Kingdom, Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape Colony, Natal, and such of the Crown Colonies as may, after communication with and approval of Her Majesty's Government, be willing to adopt it. The date on which the reduction will come into effect will be announced later on. The question of a uniform reduced rate for the whole Empire was carefully considered; but it was not found possible to fix upon a rate acceptable to all the Governments concerned. A resolution was therefore adopted, leaving it to those parts of the Empire which were prepared for penny postage to make the necessary arrangements among themselves."

It will be evident that, although "Imperial Penny Postage" is not yet an accomplished fact, the half-way house on the road thereto has been arrived at, and the remainder of the journey will ere long have been accomplished. Mr. Henniker Heaton will now feel that the scheme for which he has laboured unceasingly these many years past, will be ultimately adopted by the entire Colonial Empire of this country. It appears that the Australasian Colonies have not found themselves able to join the new Union. Financial reasons, which we must be content for the time being to regard as sufficient, have prevented them from falling into line with Canada and South Africa. They are willing that there should be a penny postage from the United Kingdom to the Antipodes, but they cannot see their way to incur the pecuniary sacrifice by which letters home would be carried at the same charge.

Philately will not at present be materially affected—the penny stamps of the leading Colonies will become practically valueless. In due course, when the entire Empire has adopted Imperial Penny Postage, the collector of the future will be enabled to accumulate quite a number of varieties at absolutely no expense—and this may be the means of bringing in fresh recruits. The Penny Rate may also lead to the reduction of redundant values—a consummation devoutly to be wished, as collectors will have varieties enough to satisfy their requirements! Since the foregoing was written the following paragraphs have appeared in the daily press:

"It is understood that the postage outward to Australia will be reduced from the beginning of January next to one penny. There is some reason to believe that the Colonial Office has been rather opposed to this, without some definite reciprocal arrangement; but the Australian Colonies are in a somewhat difficult position financially at the present time, and have raised their own inter-Colonial rates."

"A good deal of credit is given in well-informed quarters to the Postmaster-General for Canada, the Hon. W. Mulock, who moved the Resolution in favour of the scheme of penny postage; and it is now understood that the Cape of Good Hope and Natal declared from the first in favour of an uncompromising adhesion to the scheme of penny postage. The utmost confidence is expressed that there will, at no very distant date, be a universal scheme of penny postage throughout the British Empire."

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES

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

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—The following notice accompanied the issue of the provisional stamp illustrated in our last issue:—

"POST OFFICE NOTICE.

"Whereas it is enacted by the Post Office Acts that the Postmaster-General shall have the option of requiring the payment of postage to be made either in money, or by the use of postage stamps, and Whereas Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner and Consul-General has approved of the temporary exercise of this right of choice, Notice is Hereby Given that on and from this date the public will be required to make payment in money for the postage of all correspondence addressed to places within the British Central Africa Protectorate for which penny stamps would ordinarily be used. Provided always that stamps already in the possession of any person shall be accepted in payment of postal charges, and may be affixed to letters in the ordinary way

"During the time that this arrangement remains in force all unstamped internal correspondence liable to a charge of one penny should be brought to the Post Office counter, and payment made in cash.

"Postmasters will affix a Token to all letters so presented, as an indication that the postal charges thereon have been paid.

"These tokens are issued for purpose of Departmental administration, *and are not for sale to the public: they will be used only for internal correspondence.* "By order,

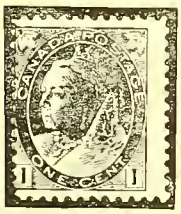
"(Signed) J. T. GOSLING,
"*Acting Postmaster-General.*

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, ZOMBA,
"*March 11th*, 1898."

CANADA.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. two values of the redrawn issue with figures of value in the lower corners. Our illustration renders further description unnecessary.

We also illustrate the ugly embossed stamp now appearing on the stationery.

Adhesives. 1 c., green.
3 c., carmine-red.





GOLD COAST.—A series of stamps of the usual Colonial type has been supplied to this Colony, and is by this time probably in use, although specimens have not been seen by us.

HONG KONG.—Annexed is an illustration of the 10 cents on 30 cents surcharge,



described on page 143.

Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg has shown us a specimen of this stamp, but *without* the surcharge in Chinese characters on the left. It is stated that this variety occurs once or twice in the sheet, on which point we shall be glad of further information.

MAURITIUS.—The surcharging business has been resorted to again. The supply of 4 c. stamps, for unexplained reasons, ran short, hence the following stamps were overprinted "4" "Cents," and in the quantities given:

Adhesives, 16 c., 50,000; 18 c., 300,000; 25 c., 80,000; 50 c., 50,000. Envelopes, two sizes of which we have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and illustrate herewith, 18 c., 80,000; 36 c., 80,000.



Our Ipswich correspondents write that but 40,000 each of the two sizes of envelopes were issued; a contemporary states 80,000.

Envelopes. 36 c., brown on *cream*; surch. black (2 sizes).

NEWFOUNDLAND. — The colours of the 1 c. and 2 c. stamps of the design illustrated, not being in conformity with the Postal Union regulations, have been changed to green and red respectively. We are also informed that some more portraits will appear shortly, or by this time are probably in issue; the ½ c. to bear a portrait of Prince Edward of York; the 3 c., the Duchess of York; and the 5 c., the Duke of York. Newfoundland has thus once again distinguished its postal equipment by a gallery of Royal portraits covering four generations. Such

stamps cannot fail to meet with approbation from all British subjects, and are an example which might well be copied on our own postage stamps.





The 3 cents stamp of the 1890 type has been printed in mauve on *rose* tinted paper.

Adhesive. 3 c., mauve on *rose*.

NEW ZEALAND.—It will be useful to place on record the quantities of each value of the new issue ordered from London. The following list is supplied by Mr. L. A. Sanderson, of New Zealand, and we take it that the figures represent the total number of stamps printed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons.

The quantities are :—

½d. . .	6,000,000	5d. . .	130,000
1d. . .	13,000,000	6d. . .	900,000
2d. . .	6,000,000	8d. . .	80,000
2½d. (error) .	218,000	9d. . .	80,000
2½d. (correct)	300,000	1s. . .	300,000
3d. . .	300,000	2s. . .	70,000
4d. . .	240,000	5s. . .	35,000

QUEENSLAND.—Two more values of the current set with figures in the lower angles have been issued.

Adhesives. 2½d., light red ; perf. 12½.
3d., olive-brown ,,

ST. LUCIA.—It appears that the 2d. stamp chronicled last month has, for the present, become obsolete, owing to a refusal on the part of the Home Government to sanction the proposed reduction of rates from 2½d. to 2d. As is usual on such occasions, local speculators bought the entire issue ; at least 150,000 copies are so held.

With the prospect of a reduced postage throughout the British Empire, consequent upon the conclusions arrived at by the Convention of Colonial Representatives held in London this month, there is all probability that the stamp will be reissued ; if so, local speculators will look foolish. In any case speculation to-day in current issues cannot be made to yield the substantial profit it once could !

SIRMOOR.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that Service stamps are no longer used in this State.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Pahang.*—The following Perak stamps have been surcharged "Pahang," in *black*.

Adhesives. 10 c., lilac and yellow.
25 c., lilac and carmine.
50 c., green and black.
$1, green.
$5, green and blue.

EUROPE.

NORWAY.—The current set in the redrawn type ("NORGE" in Roman instead of sans-serif capitals) has been completed by the addition of the 1 and 25 öre stamps.

Adhesives. 1 öre, grey-brown.
25 ,, lilac.

PORTUGAL.—Some new values have been added to the current set, one of which we illustrate. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. state that these have been issued in consequence of the depreciation of currency ; the rate for letters abroad has been raised to 65 reis per ½ oz. in place of 50 reis.

Adhesives. 65 reis, grey-blue.
115 ,, salmon-red on *pink*.
130 ,, brown on *pale yellow*.
180 ,, mauve on *lilac*.





SPAIN.—We illustrate the "War Tax" stamps spoken of in our June issue.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent a set of these stamps up to 1 peseta. They write, however, explaining that the 5 c. stamp illustrated is the only one used for postage ; the other values are for fiscal purposes only.

Adhesive. 5 c., black ; perf. 14.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—The 100 reis Unpaid stamp ("TAXA—DEVIDA") has been issued.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 100 reis, brick-red.

UNITED STATES.—A set of the Omaha stamps is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The following are the values and colours :—

Adhesives. 1 c., green.
2 c., copper-red.
4 c., orange.
5 c , blue.
8 c., purple.
10 c., grey-violet.
50 c., sage-green.
$1, black.
$2, chestnut-brown.

We cannot commend either the designs or the execution of these stamps ; as they were issued for the purposes of *exhibition*,

they should at least have had the one redeeming merit of beauty. The American Philatelic journals generally give vent to their disappointment as to their appearance.

We are indebted to Mr. William Thorne, of New York, for the following announcement, taken from the columns of the *New York Sun* of June 17th :—

"PERIODICAL STAMPS ABOLISHED.

"An order has been issued by the Post Office Department at Washington discontinuing the use and printing of newspaper and periodical stamps, which are highly valued by stamp collectors, on and after July 1. Thereafter Postmasters will collect in money, for which they will give receipts, the postage on second-class mail matter sent in bulk by publishers and newsagents.

"This postage must be paid in cash, for the order says that 'no credit is ever to be allowed for newspaper or periodical postage, but for convenience the Postmaster may receive from a publisher or newsagent a deposit of sufficient money in advance to pay for more than a single mailing.'

"Heretofore publishers and others sending second-class matter in bulk have paid for periodical stamps, which were retained at the post offices and posted in a record book. These stamps were highly valued by stamp collectors and dealers on account of the difficulty in obtaining them, there being a postal law prohibiting any but post office officers from having them in their possession.

"Several persons within a year have been arrested for having sets of these stamps, or offering them for sale, and not long ago a prominent head of department in Washington was removed from office for allowing sets of the stamps to leave his custody.

"They were traced to this city, and the man having them in his possession was arrested. By reason of all this collectors were obliged to pay a big price for the periodical stamps, and now that no more of them are to be printed, their value will be considerably enhanced."

OTHER COUNTRIES.

HAYTI.—We are now able to illustrate the



type of the two surcharges chronicled on page 177.

Le T.-P., after examination of a complete sheet of the 20 c., orange, stamp, with this surcharge, has discovered various errors, accidental or intentional. If the reports of speculation are true, probably the latter description applies.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES. — Sets of 13 stamps each have been issued in the Colonial type for the following Colonies :— Cape Verde, Guinea, Macao, and Timor. Other Colonies to follow.

There is probably as little postal use for these stamps as there is Philatelic!

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

Honorary President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &C.

Council for the Year 1897-8.

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.

W. B. AVERY. E. B. EVANS.
E. D. BACON. D. GARTH.
W. D. BECKTON. T. WICKHAM JONES.
R. EHRENBACH. H. R. OLDFIELD.
GORDON SMITH.

THE fifteenth meeting of the season 1897-8 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 13th May, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., when the following members were present, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, G. Fraser-Melbourn, E. D. Bacon, T. W. Hall, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, W. Silk, A. R. Barrett, E. S. Davidson, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, T. Maycock, and T. Wickham Jones.

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

In view of the Whitsuntide holidays it was determined to hold the next meeting on the 3rd June.

Mr. Ehrenbach showed three bisected stamps of Servia, kindly sent for inspection by Mr. C. J. Phillips, amongst which was included one of the third issue.

Mr. G. Fraser-Melbourn then gave a display of the stamps of Holland and the Dutch Colonies, and read a paper on the stamps of Holland, in which the history of the various issues was explained, and the types and numerous perforations were fully described.

Amongst the stamps shown by Mr. Melbourn, which formed a practically complete collection of the several countries under consideration, was the provisional 15 cents. envelope stamp of the Dutch Indies, with the surcharge in figures and words. This stamp was unchronicled for a long period, and doubts were entertained as to its existence, but the copy shown was obtained by the owner from the Post Office in the usual course at the time when it was issued.

On the motion of Mr. Gordon Smith, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Fraser-Melbourn for his interesting paper and for the display he had given.

THE sixteenth meeting of the season, being the Annual General Meeting, was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 3rd June, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., the following members being present, in addition to one visitor, viz., Messrs. E. D. Bacon, G. Fraser-Melbourn, W. B. Avery, T. Wickham Jones, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, T. W. Hall, W. R. Joynt, W. Schwabacher, T. Maycock, H. G. Palliser, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, A. W. Chambers, C. N. Biggs, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, R. Ehrenbach, A. R. Barrett, and B. D. Knox.

The Vice-President being unable to attend through ill-health, the chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported that it had only recently come to his notice that early in the season Mr. Pearson Hill had notified his desire to resign his membership of the Society—an announcement which was received with great regret; and on the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Fraser-Melbourn, Mr. Pearson Hill was unanimously elected an honorary member.

Mr. T. E. Madden, proposed by Mr. C. F. Larmour and seconded by Mr. F. A. Larmour, and Mr. A. S. Taylor, proposed by Mr. A. F. Bassett-Hull and seconded by the Vice-President, were duly elected members of the Society.

The Secretary then presented his report on the work of the Society for the year, for which the thanks of the meeting were voted to him, and the report was directed to be received and adopted, and to be published in the *London Philatelist*.

The Treasurer's accounts and balance-sheet were read and considered, and the report of the Auditors was explained by Mr. Chambers, who congratulated the members on the satisfactory financial position of the Society. On the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Avery, the accounts as audited were directed to be received and adopted, and the Treasurer was requested to prepare a short abstract of the balance-sheet for publication in the *London Philatelist*.

The hearty thanks of the Society were also voted to Mr. A. W. Chambers and Mr. R. Pearce, the Auditors, and to Mr. C. N. Biggs, the Honorary Treasurer, for their valuable services, on the motion of Mr. Fraser-Melbourn, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach.

The meeting then proceeded to the consideration of the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the Secretary reported that Mr. Garth did not desire to offer himself for re-election to serve on the Committee. The retiring officers having been duly proposed and seconded, were all re-elected. For the remaining nine places on the Council twelve names were proposed, and a ballot having been taken, the following members were elected, viz., Mr. Avery, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Beckton, Mr. Ehrenbach, Major Evans, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wickham Jones, Mr. Oldfield, and Mr. Gordon Smith.

The business of the evening concluded with a display of the stamps of the Straits Settlements, including the Native States, given by Mr. G. Fraser-Melbourn, to whom the very hearty thanks of the meeting were voted, on the motion of Mr. Gordon Smith, seconded by Mr. Pearce.

MEETINGS, open to all members, are held, from May to October inclusive, weekly or fortnightly, as may be decided at the first ordinary meeting in each season, on Friday, at 7.45 p.m.

Notices of meetings are despatched regularly to all members resident in the United Kingdom.

The Market.

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

June 16th and 17th.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, perf. 14 × 12½, 64 c., red-brown	3	12	6
Natal, first issue, 1s., buff	3	10	0
Sierra Leone, C A, 4d., blue, unused	2	7	6
Swazieland, 10s., brown	2	0	0
Zanzibar on Indian, ½, 1, and 1½ as., *errors* "ZANZIDAR"	3	10	0
Nova Scotia, half of 6d., yellow-green, used as 3d., on entire	3	3	0
Barbados, 1874–78, perf. 12½, 6d., yellow, unused	2	4	0
Ditto, 1d. on 5s., rose, pair (Gibbons' 86 and 88)	10	10	0
British Guiana, 1852, 4 c., black on deep blue, on piece of original	4	17	6
British Columbia, perf. 12½, $1, green	2	10	0
St. Lucia, 1883–86, 1s., orange-brown, two specimens on piece of original	4	8	0
St. Vincent, Star wmk., 5s., rose-red, unused	12	10	0
Ditto, C A, perf. 14, 4d., bright blue, unused	3	10	0
Tobago, C C, 6d., bistre	2	16	0
Ditto, 1880, 1d. in manuscript on half of 6d., orange, on piece of original	3	0	0
Turks Islands, 1893, ½d., in black, on 4d., grey, horizontal pair, unused	2	15	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 6d., pale rose, unused	3	15	0
Victoria, 1857–63, no wmk., perf. 12, 4d., rose, unused, vertical pair	3	0	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. AUGUST, 1898. No. 80.

The United States and Colonies.

THE acceptance of the Americans' conditions of peace by Spain, and the subsequent despatch of the orders to cease hostilities, is welcome news to the Philatelic world. The "wild incursions and alarms" of war are ill adapted to further the interests of the peaceful stamp collector, and the cessation of warfare between two nations—both among the most important in Philately—will be acknowledged with general relief.

Brief as the war's duration has been—less than four months having elapsed since its outbreak—it has been marked by events of the utmost importance to the world in general, and the Philatelist in particular. The United States will now practically rule the "Republic" of Cuba, and it is not difficult to foresee, in due process of time and under the influence of the contiguous continent, the practical enrolment of Cuba as one of the "United States"; but, at any rate, the Cuban stamps with the presentment of Alfonso XIII. will speedily disappear. The absolute cession of Porto Rico to our American cousins, marking an event whose significance to the whole world is hardly yet grasped, inaugurates the foundations of the American Colonial Empire. The cession of an island in the Ladrones, and another in the Philippines (even should the whole group not be acquired by treaty), the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, and the probable further foothold at Samoa constitute a fairly respectable start in the foundation of a Colonial Empire. As the "appetite is said to increase in eating," it is probable that other naval and coaling stations will be acquired, and that within a short period the collection of the stamps "America and Colonies" will—in the States, if not elsewhere—rapidly acquire adherents. The quondam issues of Cuba, Porto Rico, and Hawaii will doubtless also share in this increased estimation; but the stamps of the two former are somewhat monotonous, and may, like

the South American Republic stamps, be difficult to galvanize with renewed Philatelic vigour.

If, contrary to general anticipation, Spain should retain the Philippine Islands—at the expense of a new navy, and to the detriment of an already depleted treasury—the collection of "Spain and Colonies" would be remarkably simplified, and the Luzon issues should share, as is their just due, the high estimation in which the stamps of the mother country are held. We are aware that, logically speaking, the past issues of Cuba and Porto Rico could still be included in the last-named group, but the tendency of album and catalogue makers, and collectors, *pace* Heligoland, is to regard the new Colony and its antecedent issues as forming part of the fresh group. The issues of the States are already sufficiently formidable, and if the interminable varieties of stationery among the envelopes were—as they should be—disregarded, the collection in the future of the stamps of "the United States and Colonies" would offer attractions to the American specialist that it would be hard to rival in the realms of Philately.

The 1858-59 Issue of Austria and Lombardy.

By M. P. CASTLE.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, Nov. 13th, 1896.

(*Continued from page* 186.)

I WILL now give a short description of the notable difference in type, mentioning only the salient points.

	Type 1.	Type 2.
2 kreuzer, orange, Type 1; yellow, Type 2.		
Wreath.	This shows a thin inner white line following the shape of the leaves where they impinge on the solid colour surrounding head, notably beneath bust, where it makes this *apparently* closer to the wreath, both to left and below; the separate leaves, notably at base, *seem* to be coherent.	This line is frequently—to all appearances—practically absent, and is only occasionally visible in indistinct and detached fragments; the separate leaves seem isolated, especially below the neck.
	As regards the inscription of value, the thin horizontal stroke above the foot of the figure "2" is clear and distinct.	This line is absent.
3 kreuzer, black.		
	The wreath only projects above the head in three short blunt points, and is well away from oval frame; the leaf in front hardly projects beyond the forehead, and is round at the extremity; the ribbon at back is thin and wavy, and the knot does not join in the centre.	The upper leaves of the wreath project in three distinct upright points, which approach the edge of the coloured oval. In the white band surrounding this latter, close to the forehead, is a small horizontal black line. The ribbons are thicker and less wavy, and the bows are not so heart-shaped as Die I.

Type 1.	Type 2.

5 kreuzer.

As foregoing with regard to the wreath; but the ribbons and the knot are badly impressed, the former being quite indistinct, and are parallel for half their length, when they abruptly diverge. The nose has a broken-in appearance about the bridge. There is a long line of colour in the ribbon binding large wreath below head.	Wreath as in the 3 kreuzer; the ribbons and knot are evenly tied, and are thicker.

10 kreuzer.

The wreath as preceding; the knot and ribbons as in the 3 kreuzer. Between the "10" there is a small spot, immediately below the figures.	The wreath touches the frame of the shield above the head; the upper half of the knot is much larger than the lower.

15 kreuzer.

The wreath, knot, and ribbons as in the 3 kreuzer, the first being well away from the edge of the central circle; above this are two floreate ornaments enflanking the crown, in the left-hand one of which is a stroke of colour descending most of the way down; stop after kr(euzer).	Wreath as preceding, but is markedly nearer edge of circle than in Type 1; the knot is rather larger in the upper half, and, with the ribbons, is composed of thick even lines; the floreate ornament to left of the crown has a short line of colour less than half way down; no stop after kr(euzer).

3 kreuzer, green.

MARCH 16, 1859.

None.	As the 3 kreuzer, black.

1 kreuzer, blue, Newspaper Stamp.

NOVEMBER 1, 1858.

Wreath, knot, and ribbon exactly as in the 15 kreuzer.	None.

1 kreuzer, dull violet.

MARCH 16, 1859.

As 1 kreuzer, blue.	The wreath projects above the head in high sharp points; the knot is larger in the upper half; the ribbons are thin, and are much like Type 1 of this value.

LOMBARDY.

2 soldi.

The leaves of the wreath above the head and over the forehead only project slightly (as in the 3 kreuzer, Type 1); the former are well away from the large central wreath surrounding the head; the ribbons are thinner, and the upper knot larger than the lower.	Leaves of the wreath as in 2 kreuzer (Type 2); the upper half of the knot seems, however, to be narrower, leaving inside it only a slit of colour; the bust seems placed slightly higher than in the 2 kreuzer, Type 2.

Type 1.	Type 2.

3 soldi.

Wreath and ribbons as foregoing; the knot has two parallel lines in centre, and loses the heart-shape alluded to in the 3 kreuzer, Type 1; the four labels of value are on solid colour.

Leaves as preceding; the ribbons are more wavy than in Type 2 of the 3 kreuzer, and more nearly resemble Type 1 of the 3 soldi; the knot is, however, like neither, being in the shape of an "8"; labels of value as Type 1.

5 soldi.

Wreath as foregoing; knot and ribbons very thin—former has top half considerably larger, and it does not join in the centre, while the inner ribbon is detached from the head; it is, however, better drawn than the 5 kreuzer, Type 1; the label of value, and all the ornamentation below the bust, have been redrawn.

Leaves as preceding, but not so projecting as in the 5 kreuzer, Type 2; ribbons and knot thick, latter defective in centre; the nose is more *retroussé* than any of the other kreuzer or soldi in this value; there is almost always an indentation of colour marking the mouth; long line of colour on the ribbon tying the large wreath below bust, as in 5 kreuzer, Type 2.

10 soldi.

Leaves of wreath short in upper portion of knot, slightly larger than Type 1 of the 10 kreuzer; inner ribbon detached from head; the nose is small and straight; the "1" of "10" has a distinct head.

Leaves of wreath long, and practically touch the shield above it; knot thicker, and having the upper half larger; ribbon also thicker, the inner one joining the head; the nose is larger, and more *retroussé*; the "1" of "10" has no head; the "s" of "soldi" is badly formed.

15 soldi.

Leaves of wreath short; knot larger in upper portion, being thicker and better-shaped than the 15 kreuzer, Type 1; the inner ribbon tapers to a point; the "s" of "soldi" is badly drawn, the tail almost touching the centre of the letter; the "1" and "5" of "15" are practically on a level.

Leaves of wreath high; knot well formed of two almost equal halves; ribbons thick, the inner one curving more than in the 15 kreuzer, Type 1; the "s" of "soldi" has a more normal shape; the base of the "1" of "15" stands one horizontal line higher than the "5."

3 soldi, green.

MARCH 16, 1859.

None.

As 3 soldi, black.

REPRINTS.

All values, kreuzer and soldi, with one exception, that I have seen of the reprints of 1865, 1871, 1885, and 1888 are of Type 2. The impressions however, are occasionally so indistinct as to make it difficult to define the types. The exception is the 1 kr., blue, of November 1st, 1858, and the 1 kr., dull violet, of March 16th, 1859, which were reprinted in 1865 in Type 1, and thus form a striking exception to the general rule.

It will be seen from this apparently involved list of differences that there are several points inviting both consideration and indeed further elucidation than I am at present able to give.

Firstly.—As to the 2 kr., orange and yellow.* The difficulties in connection with this value are considerable, and have been the cause of the long delay in the publication of this article. As will be seen by the note appended, I had not, at the time this paper was read, arrived at any satisfactory solution of the question as to the two dies of the 2 kr., and I thought it advisable to examine and compare further copies before publishing. I felt that it would be passing strange if there were not two dies of the 2 kr., as of all the other values, both kreuzers and soldi; the differences (if any) would probably be slight, having escaped previous notice, and the pale colours of the impression, and the difficulty of procuring unused specimens (which alone would form reliable examples) was so great that a long period has elapsed before I could obtain confirmation of the "theory" I have advanced in describing the two dies. Within a few months of reading this paper, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., kindly forwarded me a photograph showing apparently two distinct types of the 2 kr. On comparing these, however, with the stamps in my collection, I was unable to find specimens exactly corresponding; and in view of the fact that the photographs were considerably enlarged, and in one case was taken from a defective copy, I did not feel on sure ground in accepting them as final. Moreover, there was nothing to distinguish which was the orange or the yellow, or even to indicate if both were not of the same colour. The examination of a number of the stamps themselves would alone serve to show if one die was peculiar to the orange, and another to the yellow, or if one or both dies were found in the two colours. It had always seemed to me very improbable (assuming the existence of two dies) that the orange should be anything but Die 1. Although I do not pretend that my diagnosis herein is faultless, such is the present view that I hold. I admit that the differences detailed in the preceding list are slight, and seem such as might be attributable to the processes of inking and printing, but they are constant. I have examined, in collections and dealers' stock books, a large number of copies of both the orange and the yellow stamps, and have found no instance in which the characteristics (detailed in the list) attached to the one colour are found in the other. I consider that I am on fairly safe ground in saying that my present investigations have led me to draw the following conclusions:—

That the 2 kr., orange, exists only as Type 1, and that the 2 kr., yellow and pale yellow, exist only as Type 2. The hope of finding Type 1 in the yellow also has been the main factor in the delay of the publication of these remarks; but, despite my examination of some of the largest Austrian collections in the world, I have been unable to find any yellow specimen that is not clearly Type 2. The numbers printed of the orange stamp must

* NOTE.—The observations on this value have been written subsequently. The following are the remarks made with respect to the dies of the 2 kr. that I made on reading the paper: "I have examined all Mr. Ehrenbach's stamps, as well as the stocks of several of the leading dealers, and have been unable to find any copy of Type 1, and I have therefore queried its existence, although I should have fully expected it.

have been relatively very small, as compared with the yellow one, as even used it is scarcer than many another stamp listed fourfold higher, and unused (in fine condition) is one of *the* difficult stamps of Europe.

Secondly.—What was the date of issue of Type 2? By the aid of the newspaper stamps, which I have purposely included, as they have not apparently been touched upon before, and certainly belong both in date and appearance to this set, it is possible to suggest a date. The 1 kr., blue, of November 1st, 1858, is always in Type 1; the 1 kr., dull violet, issued on March 16th, 1859, is also in Type 1, but in view of its scarcity must have been quickly superseded by Type 2, printed in paler shades, ranging from lilac to lavender and grey. With regard to this 1 kr., dull violet, Type 1, I have only unused specimens, and it is possible therefore that it may be a reprint; but this would more closely specify the date of issue for Type 2 as March 16th, 1859. This stamp is noticeable for the fact that the word "Post" at the base is inverted.

Thirdly.—There is also no Type 1 of the 3 kr. or 3 soldi, green, issued, like the blue newspaper stamp, on March 16th, 1859, which seems to afford a further corroboration of the date of the introduction of the new die, although obviously it may have been in use earlier for other values.

Fourthly.—It is apparent that, excepting the 3 soldi and 3 kr., green (all Type 2), and the 1 kr., blue, newspaper stamp, Type 1, there are two types of each of the other values, and that the soldi and kreuzer, Types 1 and 2 respectively, differentiate.

It will be seen that some of the characteristics to which I have referred in giving the types, overlap each other in the two sets. As an instance of this, I would refer to the long line of colour in the ornament as regards the 15 kr. and soldi value. In the Austrian series this line is shortened in Type 2, while in the Lombardy 15 it appears in both types. There are many other curious details, which may yet be of use in determining how, when, and where these two types severally appeared. I do not feel in a position to surmise on this point, but trust that further study, notably by our Austrian friends, may lead to full light being thrown upon the subject. It is obvious that if, as suggested, Type 1 was only practically in use for four and a half months, it should be immeasurably rarer than Type 2, which was only superseded on January 1st, 1861, after twenty-one and a half months' use. In most cases Type 1 is the rarer, and sometimes considerably so; but on the other hand, especially with the soldi, one type is sometimes as common as the other. There has been a fair-sized remainder of the latter in existence for years, and it may have naturally consisted of both types; but, on the whole, there seems no support given by the stamps themselves to the four and a half months theory. The kreuzer series were never in remainder, and have always been rare unused, especially the 2 kr., orange, and except the 3 kr., green, it cannot be said that any stamp is aught but scarce unused. I append a list of the shades as far as I have them in both series, and commend these notes to intelligent criticism as showing that there is yet a great deal to learn regarding the stamps of the Dual Empire.

SYNOPSIS.

Austria-Lombardy, 1858 (November 1st) to 1859 (March 16th).

Type 1.	Type 2.
2 kr., pale orange.	2 kr., pale yellow.
2 ,, orange.	2 ,, yellow.
3 ,, black.	3 ,, black.
5 ,, vermilion.	5 ,, pale red.
	5 ,, vermilion.
10 ,, dull brown.	10 ,, pale brown.
10 , warm brown.	10 ,, brown.
15 ,, blue.	15 ,, blue.
15 ,, dark blue.	15 ,, dark blue.
	3 ,, (1859) pale green.
	3 ,, pale yellowish green.
1 ,, blue (newspaper stamp).	1 ,, lavender (newspaper stamp).
1 ,, dark blue ,, ,,	1 ,, grey-lilac ,, ,,
1 ,, (1859) dull violet ,,	1 ,, grey ,, ,,
2 soldi, yellow.	2 soldi, pale yellow.
	2 ,, yellow.
3 ,, black.	3 ,, black.
5 ,, red.	5 ,, red.
5 ,, vermilion.	5 ,, vermilion.
10 ,, brown.	10 ,, brown.
	10 ,, reddish brown.
15 ,, dark blue.	15 ,, blue.
	3 ,, (1859) pale green.

The 1854 Retouched One Penny Die of Great Britain.

By E. D. BACON.

WHILST engaged in making researches at Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Limited, into the history of the early perforation of British Colonial stamps, I came across some interesting information connected with Humphry's retouch of the die of the One Penny Great Britain in 1854. The particulars referred to were contained in a letter addressed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., on May 19th, 1855, to Mr. Edward Barnard, at that time the Agent-General for the Crown Colonies, and was written to explain a delay that had taken place in furnishing certain plates, etc., ordered for the Government of New South Wales. The letter reads as follows:—

"We deeply regret the delay which has taken place, and think you are entitled to know the cause why we have sometimes of late been so wanting in our usual

punctuality. When we undertook to supply our Home Government with postage stamps we did not anticipate anything like the demand, which began and continued annually to increase, and therefore prepared ourselves with but one original die; but from that one die we have had to prepare and produce over 50,000 engravings on steel. This die experienced no visible deterioration for many years. But about two years since the plates from it showed signs of weakness, which continued gradually to increase until those that formerly produced 100,000 good impressions latterly gave only 20,000 to 30,000. The time occupied in preparing these plates at first was great; but owing to these causes we have been kept incessantly occupied in their manufacture with the machinery appropriated to that purpose, as it was utterly impossible for the Government to suspend any part of their supply of stamps to the public, as required. When we ascertained the origin of this falling off in the productiveness of our plates, and that it was not accidental, which at first we suspected it to be, we obtained permission to prepare another original die similar to the first, but from which we have now secured a sufficient number of flat dies to last for centuries, and these we could easily have done in the former instance, had we supposed it would prove necessary. The plates are now even better than they were at first; but it has taken a long time to meet this extraordinary and unexpected drag upon us, which will, however, cease in two or three weeks, and we can promise the New South Wales 2d. postage plate, with its accompaniments, in three weeks, and the 1d. and 3d. in six weeks from the present time."

The statements contained in this letter show so concisely the actual reasons why a retouch of the one penny die became necessary, that the letter cannot fail to be of interest to the many students of Great Britain stamps. A fact is also brought out, I have not seen noted before, namely, that after the retouched die was completed secondary dies were taken from it, in order to obviate the necessity of a further retouch at any future period.

The New South Wales plates mentioned in the letter are those used for the "diademed" issue of 1856.

In connection with the subject of the above letter, some of my readers may remember that at the London Exhibition of last year Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Limited, showed the original communication they received from the Board of Inland Revenue, approving of the retouched die. As this letter has so far remained unpublished, and it is important as giving the exact date when the die was approved, I add a copy of it here:—

"INLAND REVENUE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.
"*November 11th*, 1854.

"GENTLEMEN,—The Board of Inland Revenue have had before them your letter of the 3rd instant, transmitting an impression of a new steel die prepared by you for the one penny postage label.

"I am directed to state that the Board approve of the impression submitted, and I am to authorize you to proceed with the preparation of steel plates by transfers from the die from which this impression was taken.

"I am, etc. etc.,
"(*Signed*) THOMAS KEOGH."

"MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO."

Philatelic Notes.

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

FORGERY OF THE 1/-, GREEN, PLATES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THE above might seem to be one of the *canards* that usually fly about at this time of the year, but is founded on sober fact, and has indeed been known to officials and leading Philatelists for some considerable period, the article in the *Monthly Journal*, from which we reproduce the information, having been held over at the request of the Secretary of the Post Office. The discovery of this forgery is due to the Philatelic world, and is but another instance—*pace* India, Switzerland, and Germany—of the valuable supervision exercised by stamp collectors against the issue of forgeries. It is indeed no exaggeration to say that, but for the watchful and universal eye of the Philatelist, the present disregard of precautions against forgery (fugitive colours being only safeguards against cleaning) would necessitate radical, and probably expensive, alterations in the methods of stamp printing. The "old order" of Post Office officials in this country, with one or two notable exceptions, apparently regarded collectors as their natural enemies; but events have proved too strong for them, and Philatelists can now claim to be substantial and valuable allies. We quote from our contemporary, the *Monthly Journal* (to whom we are also indebted for the illustrations), as follows:—

"It has been the proud boast of British Philatelists that, with the exception of imitations of the 1d., black, there has been no dangerous forgery of our stamps during the fifty-eight years of their existence; but, alas! this boasting is vain, for we have found in our stock a *very large* number of counterfeits of the one shilling, green, plate 5. Many of these stamps had been on telegraph forms, as the reader will see by the postmark, which is that of the Stock Exchange Telegraph Office, and shows the date of July 23, 1872. No less than 100 of these forgeries, all used upon the same date, were found in this one parcel; and, as the fraud was never discovered, the Department may have been robbed to the tune of £5 a day for many months.

"The points of difference between the genuine and forged stamps are chiefly as follows:—

"First of all the forgeries are without watermark, whereas the genuine stamps from this plate are always watermarked with a 'Spray of Rose.'

"It would appear that the stamps have been copied by a photographic process, for every line in the original is to be found in the forgeries, but it is in the minute details that the forgery fails to be an exact copy.

"The chief differences to be noted are:—

"First. In the originals the square corners containing the letters are always sharp and clear; in the forgery they have a rounded or blurred appearance in the angles.

"Second. In the lace-work just after the 'E' of 'POSTAGE' there is a four-sided space formed by the lines of the lace-work and its curved end; this space in the forgery is nearly twice as large as in the originals."

These differences, as others of minor consequence, will readily be discerned in comparing the enlarged specimen of the forged and genuine article. Despite this, the general appearance and tone of the imitation is so good that the ordinary official would hardly notice the variation; and it seems probable that a large loss of revenue has taken place.





The lapse of twenty-six years since the perpetration of this fraud makes its further elucidation very doubtful, and we doubt if the "investigations of the proper authorities" will lead to any result. The scheme was certainly cleverly devised, as the difficulties in the way of conversion into cash are obviously far greater than in the case of false coins. Few people would buy—outside of ordinary channels—any considerable number of anything but halfpenny or penny labels, and these low-value stamps might seem to offer but a penurious form of livelihood to the would-be stamp forger. The substitution of the one shilling value, however, at once "changes all that," and the acceptance of postage stamps for telegraphic purposes afforded a wide scope for enterprise, which the forger of 1872 promptly and efficaciously embraced.

It is difficult to see how this fraud could have been consummated without the connivance of someone inside the Post Office, as without this co-operation the sum to be realized would hardly be worth the risk involved. It is, of course, possible that in the case of a firm of great magnitude the daily expenditure for telegrams would be considerable, but in such a case it is hardly probable that the same clerk would have the handling of them all. The examination of the defaced telegraphic forms—if not, alas! too late—would throw valuable light hereon. Even if no longer extant, the forms of subsequent years would be worth examination, as the game must have been worth the candle—the temptation being to go on until found out. The co-operation of an official would smooth away most of the difficulties of finding an outlet for the forgeries, while the large demand that exists in a central London telegraph office would speedily allow of a large accumulation of the real shilling article. It is therefore highly probable that this cleverly devised fraud has been the cause of a large and serious loss to the revenue of this country.

THE 27 PARAS OF MOLDAVIA.

AFTER a protracted siege the defenders of the position have repulsed the attacks of the enemy, and the war is at end. We are not referring to the Spanish-American war, but to that of the Moldavians. This matter has been a subject of repeated reference in the columns of this and other Philatelic journals, and now that the vexed question has been solved it may serve to very briefly recount the original facts.

A specimen of the 27 paras of Moldavia, postmarked "FOKSCHANI," was sent (in company with two others) or sold a few months since by a well-known dealer in Paris to a prominent firm in Berlin. Doubts having been expressed as to the authenticity of this specimen, it was submitted to the leading Philatelists in Berlin, who pronounced it bad. It was then returned to Paris, and sent to Vienna, in both of which capitals, after elaborate examinations, it was held to be genuine. London was next visited by the interesting foreigner, where the verdict was also given in an unfavourable sense. (The writer, after a cursory examination in London, at first shared this view; but, after a lengthened subsequent examination and comparison with many copies, was convinced of its genuineness.) We have now received an interesting letter from M. Jules Bernichon, of Paris—who had all along staunchly advocated the authenticity of the stamp—stating that the adverse opinions of Berlin and London have been withdrawn, that the four capitals are once more in accord, and the maligned 27 paras is duly rehabilitated! M. Bernichon writes:—"I have duly read your last article on the Moldavian stamps, which has involved me in a long correspondence with all the experts of the Continent. As you will gather, I have all along taken this matter seriously to heart, having throughout maintained that this 27 paras was genuine. I have now received a letter from Berlin which recognizes the stamp as an original, without reference to the other two specimens, which, I am sure, are absolutely beyond suspicion. The solution of the matter is as follows: Inquiries having been made, by the attackers, as to the source of origin of the three specimens, I fancy they were surprised to find that the one in question emanated from the collection of Dr. Legrand, of Paris." M. Bernichon then details the impression made upon his correspondents by this important fact, and gives instances of well-known collectors who had doubted other rare stamps emanating from the same celebrated collection, until they had learned the source. This, however, is faith, not Philately! The best Philatelist is he who makes the fewest mistakes, and even the venerable doctor at Neuilly nodded occasionally, as many of us could testify who saw his stamps at the last Philatelic Exhibition at Paris. M. Bernichon adds: "I have carefully studied these Moldavian stamps and their forgeries, but have never found any great difficulty in deciding between them; but I am glad that the matter is now settled, as a divergence of opinion on such a scarce stamp is likely to have a bad effect on the Philatelic public." Our correspondent adds—though it is not necessary in the case of all who know him—that although he has tenaciously defended his stamp, he has avoided all extraneous or polemical "arguments," and that "all is well that ends well."

Since the foregoing was written we have received the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, which confirms the above, and states that, despite certain apparent

slight deviations which originally created suspicion, "we must now loyally declare that the stamp is undoubtedly good." These differences apparently relate to minute breaks in the frame and lettering, which we have previously attributed to a lightly-inked impression. These stamps, being hand-struck, vary much in depth of colour, as we have seen specimens of the 27 paras (notably one in Herr Fraenkel's collection) with thick and intense black impression. The converse of this might, in our view, well account for the "dry" look of Dr. Legrand's stamp. The 54 paras varies even more than this. We do not hold to the opinion expressed in various quarters, that this stamp had been treated with "*Savon de Marseille*," thus accounting for its deviation from the normal specimens, as in the case of so rare a stamp we think this would not have been attempted. In referring to the previous ownership of this stamp, our contemporary states this was *the* first known copy of the 27, prior to the acquisition of which by Dr. Legrand, as is well known, only the 54, 81, and 108 paras were known. It is said that statistics can be made to prove anything, and the numbers issued of these four stamps (if correct) in no way represent their rarity. Twenty years since, and up to 1887, the 27 paras was a rarer and higher priced stamp than the 81. We have on several occasions seen the latter priced at £8 to £10, and the former at £12 to £15. Some ten years back, however, there must have been a small "find," as the writer recollects seeing quite a number of the 27 paras at the Munich Exhibition a few years since. At a considerably later period there was also an interesting *trouvaille* of this stamp, inclusive of two or three very fine pairs, one being *tête-bêche*. This value has, however, been absorbed, and is rapidly approaching the ranks of the Philatelic Immortals, whither the 81 has long preceded it! The stamps of the first issue of Roumania are the "Post Offices" of Europe, and it is well, therefore, that this question should have been thus amicably and satisfactorily settled. This case clearly indicates that it is quite time that in the instance of such rarities some record of *ownership* (not for publication), *and of the number of existing copies* (with photographs, if possible), should be made in the leading Philatelic countries. We are quite ready to undertake the task in this country, if the suggestion should meet with the approval of our esteemed Continental contemporaries.

Occasional Notes.

MORE GOVERNMENT DEALERS.

THE latest accession to these ignoble ranks—referred to on page 111 of this year's *London Philatelist*—according to *Meked's Weekly*, are Guatemala and Bolivia. As regards the former, it is stated that it has ordered recently about 3,000,000 stamps, envelopes, postal cards, and wrappers, commemorative of the Central American Exposition, to be sold at public auction. The case of Bolivia is even more sad, as that Government has issued "a circular, headed 'Sold to collectors only. Guaranteed by the Government. No

dealers!' and offers used and unused regular issues with government, fiscal, telegraph, and other stamps at 50 per cent. discount from Senf's prices."

There has been a great quantity of "stamps" from the latter enterprising volcanic area on the London market lately that will also be described as "regular issues." "No dealers" or collectors should buy any stamps of obsolete issues from this Government without first inspecting them, or it may be a "regular sell" for the buyer!

THE GERMAN PHILATELIC DAY AT GÖSSNITZ, SAXONY.

THE tenth Annual Congress of German Collectors and Dealers was held this year at Gössnitz, from the 16th to the 19th of July, and was as numerously attended as on previous occasions. The papers read included one by the President, Herr A. E. Glasewald, the well-known dealer of Gössnitz, on the "Enemies of Philately, Internal and External," dealing to a considerable extent with "Exchange Fiends"; and one by Herr C. Krome, entitled "The Daily Press and Philately," which was certainly amusing if not of a high scientific order; but the most important feature was undoubtedly Herr Glasewald's paper on the Bulgarian and Roumelian stamps. Few of the European countries have been "understudied" like these two states, and we shall hope to return to this subject on receipt of the full text. The question of the authenticity of the provisional Bulgarian surcharges of 1884–85, in the brighter shades, was much debated, nor does the real existence of the "5 black on the 30 st." seem to have been demonstrated by the reading of the paper and the subsequent debate. We must confess to have always regarded this stamp with considerable suspicion.

The reports of the various affiliated societies, and other official matters, fully occupied the remainder of the sessions, while the perhaps more attractive side of this Congress was characteristically exemplified by excursions, social gatherings (Kommers), and various exercises of the digestive faculties.

The attendance of the leading dealers was, as usual, a marked feature, including that of several well-known London firms, and it is satisfactory to know that the business resulting was far in excess of that effected on some previous occasions. We are informed that the demand for good stamps was in excess of the supply, and that the considerable sum total of the sales would have been largely increased had the *desiderata* been on the market. Dresden was selected for the holding of the Congress in 1899—truly a charming choice—leaving only the regret that the "views" of some of its Philatelic members there are not so pleasant as those afforded by the beautiful Saxon capital!

PHILATELIC CONGRESS AT MAGDEBURG.

UNDER the auspices of that now influential body, the Germania Ring, an additional opportunity to meet in Philatelic converse and amity has been afforded by the institution of an Annual Congress, which was inaugurated this year at Magdeburg on the 2nd of last month. We understand that this meeting is no way antagonistic to the well-known

"Philatelic Day" held in various cities in Germany, but aims rather at a reunion of less imposing dimensions, where Philatelists shall predominate and the "Market" be kept in the background. The programme included interesting papers and speeches by Herren Berger, of Brunswick; Brummer, of Munich; Fraenkel, of Berlin; Kroetzsch, of Leipsic; and other well-known gentlemen, enlivened by a Lantern Exhibition of Stamps. To Lieutenant Paul Ohrt, of Berlin, who has so rapidly come to the front as one of the first European Philatelists, much of the credit of this successful meeting is due, which seems to have more than realized the anticipation of its promoters.

It is indeed to the unflagging energy of the worthy lieutenant that the rapidly achieved success of the Germania Ring itself is due. The most important function of this Union of Philatelists is the Expertising Department. This has been placed in most able hands, and by the aid of chemistry and photography has at a bound become the most reliable and soundest Expert Committee on the Continent.

AN ISSUE OF STAMPS STOLEN.

THE following paragraph is helping out the dearth of news in the London papers during "the silly season":—

"The London police are investigating a mysterious robbery. It appears some time back the English authorities had printed a whole new issue of postage and revenue stamps of various values for one of the British Central African States. These were consigned in due course to the Governor of the State, who has now, however, reported that he never received them, and that they are missing. The face value alone of the stamps is computed at over £1000, and Scotland Yard is endeavouring to trace them. Whether the loss is due to the unlawful zeal of some stamp collector, or the negligence of some native, is uncertain. Meanwhile the whole issue, printed in three colours, has been cancelled."

PHILATELY IN MANCHESTER.

THE "Cotton Metropolis" has fairly earned the claim to being the second Philatelic centre of the country, nor are signs wanting that, with characteristic energy, it is determined to fully maintain its reputation. Auctions are to be started, Messrs. Ostara and Darlow (18, Piccadilly) having announced their intention to hold one at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on the 15th September, to be followed by others during the forthcoming season. The auctioneers anticipate, owing to the central position of Manchester, a ready response to their undertaking, the success of which will be welcomed by collectors generally.

It is also possible that a Philatelic Exhibition will be held in the same city at a convenient period next year. There are many fine collections both in Manchester and the north, and with the co-operation of Philatelists from the south, there is every reason to hope for the unqualified success of such an Exhibition.

Review.

MESSRS. SENF'S CATALOGUE FOR 1898–99.*



IT would appear that the issue of this Catalogue somewhat later than usual, and the addition to its title of the figures "99," foreshadow the omission of its appearance next year. The same intention is presumable on the part of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and is one to be commended. Catalogues, like auctions, bicycling, or nougat, are all good in their way, but it is possible to have too much of them. The collecting world requires rest for its Philatelic digestion. It takes time for the average person to assimilate the novelties, alterations in issues, and fluctuations of prices in a 700-page catalogue, and the preparation of fresh literary meals in rapid succession is apt to derange the system, and sometimes to bring on Philatelic paralysis.

It is idle to deny that the greater interest in these modern catalogues lies in their reflection of the financial state of stamp collecting. This is notably the case in Germany, where, on these grounds, the advent of the 1898 "yellow Senf" has been anxiously awaited these many weeks past. The apprehensions of many Continental collectors as to falling prices had been roused by the circular lately issued by Messrs. Senf, stating that alterations of prices, mostly reductions, would affect no less than 8800 stamps, and there were some who imagined the Leipsic firm were going to kill the goose that laid their golden eggs. The more timorous doubtless expected to find circular British Guianas at 10 marks each, and round Moldavians 25 marks the set complete—while unused early issues of European and Colonials would be found only in packets.

The hastiest of glances at the new work will, however, suffice to disperse these apprehensions. The alterations in prices, it is true, are numerous; but, except in a few instances, they are unimportant, and pfennigs, not marks, are generally the "rates of exchange." In the majority of instances these alterations are such as cannot be taken exception to. It is well known that many stamps of which large supplies can be had have been notoriously over-priced, notably those bought up by speculators. The high price paid for fine unused specimens has also most erroneously been employed as a lever for the raising of like stamps postmarked, forgetful of the fact that the relative rarity of unused and used has scarcely any connection. The stamps of the United States and several of the old German countries are notable instances of this; in each case the stamps were largely used, but not saved, hence probably millions were used to one left unused. The history of the twopenny and fourpenny stamps of Great Britain bears out this fact in its fullest significance. It may, therefore, be readily conceded that no harm has ensued to the collecting world by the reductions made in general as regards the adhesive stamp, but that Messrs. Senf,

* Messrs. Senf Brothers' *Illustrated Postage Stamp Catalogue*, 1898–99, Leipsic, Germany.

having a giant's strength, have been guilty of no tyranny in putting it forth. France: The prices here are still far below their proper level, notably the first issue. New Brunswick and Canada: The figures here require revising, especially as regards unused. Sweden shows a moderate increase. Swiss Cantonals unused are notably higher. We do not note, however, any reduction on the medium used German stamps, which is significant.

The envelopes and post cards seem to have been dealt with by a heavier hand, the reductions being in some cases sweeping, and in our opinion frequently ill deserved. It is greatly to be deplored that the collection of "entires" should be so much at a discount to-day, but it must be borne in mind that, small as is the demand, the supply of many or most older envelopes is almost as diminutive, and that the slightest recrudescence of "entire" collecting would speedily absorb them. The prices at which many of the old and fairly scarce German envelopes are now offered (?) seem to us scarce beyond the figures paid by collectors a decade since, and we should be inclined to doubt if Messrs. Senf are in a position to supply them. This is not entirely the fault of Messrs. Senf. The Philatelic public foolishly insists on having a catalogue which prices everything; the stamp cataloguer, being more or less human, naturally does not mind how low he puts the stamps he does not hold—but where he *has* a snug little "nest" of a few assorted dozens his better feelings as a Christian, and his duty to his family, compel him to make the "price firm with a tendency to rise." These observations are not levelled at Messrs. Senf or any other firm in particular; their application is general.

The feature of the most importance from a Philatelic aspect is probably the reinstatement in the general body of the text of the few countries included in the appendix last year as locals. The stamps of such places as Wenden and Shanghai assuredly are far worthier of collecting than a vast number of other countries that could be named. In several cases, such as Finland, France, Hungary, Newfoundland, Montenegro, and British African Companies, all the later information is embodied. A notable omission occurs in Spain: the 25 mils., blue and rose, of 1867, with the frame inverted, is again left out in the cold—an undeserved slight, as it is perhaps the rarest of all European stamps.

In Denmark we notice that the perforation of the 1870 is loosely given as 13 to 14—this should surely be the latter—but with a note that the 2 and 4 sk. occur also perf. 12½, and that the 48 sk. exists only thus. The arrangement of the Greek stamps is greatly improved, but the 80 lepta on the *thin* paper is omitted. The list of Holland wants bringing up to date.

The Catalogue in general, as regards Philatelic merit, is worthy of the highest praise—there was indeed room for but little improvement in the last edition—and it is in most respects a model of perspicuous and scientific classification, the footnotes being excellent. It is depressing, however, to note how the contents swell each year. The 1898–99 edition has sixty-three pages more than its predecessor, and in the next issue will assuredly exceed 1000 pages. The printing and "turn out" of this Catalogue are in every way worthy of Leipsic, the home of typography, and the work as a whole merits the keenest appreciation of all collectors.

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 BECHUANALAND.—The *Monthly Circular* notes a third edition of the overprint of the halfpenny Cape of Good Hope stamp. The three editions may be distinguished as follows, the first two columns showing the length of the word, and the third the distance they are from each other:

British . .	7¾mm.	7⅞mm.	8mm.
Bechuanaland .	15¼ ,,	15¾ ,,	16¼ ,,
Distance between the two words	14 ,,	10½ ,,	13 ,,

Le Timbre-Poste adds the current 3d. stamp of Great Britain with the surcharge "Bechuanaland-Protectorate."

Adhesive. 3d., brown on *yellow*; surch. black.

BRITISH GUIANA.—A correspondent has forwarded a series of five new stamps, illustrated herewith, which, as far as we can ascertain at the moment of writing, are late arrivals in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. If this be so, the date "1897" appearing on the stamps is accounted for. We cannot admire either the design or workmanship of the new stamps, and, if the "Ship" issue is to be superseded by the labels illustrated, it is a change for the worse.

The following remarks made by our correspondent will be read with interest:—

"The stamps represent two popular views as recorded in the colony's history, but on account of their distance in the interior few persons have been able to gaze on their grandeur. Foreigners predict that when the beauty of the Kaieteur Falls has become known some company will be formed to lay a railway, and make it accessible to tourists; it is said to exceed in grandeur the Niagara Falls. Below I give a few particulars of each.

"Mount Roraima is the highest peak of any mountain in this colony. Situated in lat. 5° 9′ 30″ north, long. 60° 47′ west, it reaches a height of 8,740 ft. above sea level. It was always considered inaccessible, on account of its peculiar formation, until 18th December, 1884. Its summit was reached by Mr. E. F. In Thum, an officer of the Government, the path up to then only being known to the Indians. Three times only since has the top been reached, it being principally barred on account of the trouble, expense, and time a journey takes.

"Kaieteur Falls—an Indian name meaning 'The Old Man Falls'—situated lat. 5° 8′ north, long. 59° 19′ west, are on the Potaro River, a tributary of the Essequibo River, which flows over a sandstone conglomerate tableland into a deep valley below — a descent of 822 ft. in all, 741 ft. of which is in a perpendicular column. The head of the falls is 1130 ft. above sea level; the width at top varies from 240 ft. to 370 ft. according to the season. The width of the river 200 yards above is 400 ft."

Adhesives. 1 c., lake (frame) and slate-grey (centre).
2 c., blue and brown.
5 c., brown and green.
10 c., red and blue.
15 c., blue and red-brown.











CANADA.—We give an illustration of a ten cents Special Delivery Stamp which was issued on the first of July. A correspondent sends us a cutting from the Montreal *Witness* containing a description from their Ottawa correspondent as follows :—

"The Post Office Department has just concluded arrangements for the inauguration on the first of July of a special delivery service, whereby a letter bearing in addition to the ordinary postage a special delivery stamp of the face value of ten cents, posted at any post office in Canada and addressed to a city post office having now free delivery by letter-carrier, shall be specially and promptly delivered to the person to whom it



is addressed within the limits of letter-carrier delivery at any one of the following post offices, viz.: Halifax, St. John, N.B., Fredericton, Quebec, Montreal, London, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Brantford, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Victoria, and Vancouver. Whilst the delivery of such letters will, for the present, be restricted to the city post offices named, they may be mailed at any post office in the Dominion. It is expected that by the first proximo, or very soon thereafter, special delivery stamps will be on sale at all money order post offices. The special delivery stamp differs materially in design and size from the ordinary series, the dimensions of the engraved work being $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long by seven-eighths of an inch wide. The advantage of such a contrast is obvious. The letter to which a special delivery stamp is affixed can thus be at once picked out by those handling the mails including it, and its delivery greatly hastened. The design of the special delivery stamp is without any vignette, and consists substantially of a panel across the top of the stamp containing the words 'Canada Post Office,' with a lathe-work border round the other three sides of the stamp. The centre of the stamp is occupied by an oval containing lathe-work, with the word 'Ten' in the centre, and the phrase 'Special delivery within city limits,' in a white letter on a solid panel encircling the word 'Ten.' On each side of the stamp, connecting the oval with the border, is a circle with the numeral '10'; the space between the oval and the border is occupied by ornamental work. At the bottom of the stamp, in the lathe-work border, appears a white panel with the words 'Ten cents.' The colour of the stamp is dark green. The regulations relating to first-class matter (inland post) will apply with equal force to special delivery letters, the only difference being the special treatment which the latter receive with a view to accelerating their delivery. The object sought by the establishment of special delivery—namely, the special delivery of letters transmitted thereunder—will be much promoted if the senders of all such letters are careful to address them plainly and fully, giving, if possible, the street and number in

every case. Such care will serve not only to prevent mistakes, but also to facilitate delivery."

Adhesive. 10 cents, green.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The threepence value, which has hitherto been watermarked Crown and C A, has now been issued with the "anchor" watermark. A specimen is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. To prevent the confusion of this stamp with the 6d., the latter has been changed to a bright violet colour. We have also heard of a probable change in the 4d. value; and the old 2½d. on 3d. provisional has been put on sale, it being doubtful whether this is a new setting or whether remainders of the old stock are being used up.

Adhesives. 3d., mauve.
6d., bright violet.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—We learn that two new values have been added to the current set of adhesives. The new stamps—2/6 and 5/—are fully in accordance with the graceful designs of the lower values, and are apparently from the works of Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. Wmk. Crown CC, perf. 14½.

Adhesives. 2s. 6d., deep blue.
5s., red-brown.

GOLD COAST.—The colonial type appears to have definitely come into use in this colony. *Le T.-P.* lists the following values:—

Adhesives. ½d., lilac and green.
1d., lilac and red.
2½d., lilac and ultramarine.
3d., lilac and orange.
6d., lilac and mauve.
1s., deep green and black.
2s., deep green and carmine.

HONG KONG.—The *Monthly Journal* notes that there is a second type, larger than the first, of the Chinese surcharge upon the 10 c. on 30 c. recently issued; and we gather that this portion of the overprint is done by hand, as a correspondent tells us that when some of the last sheets were being surcharged the Chinese type was mislaid, and another was obtained to finish off the supply. Specimens are also to be found without the Chinese surcharge, thus making three varieties. The $1 on $2, *sage-green*, likewise, we are told, may be found without the Chinese characters, but not the $1 on $2, *blue-green*.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have received a specimen of the new 3 c. stamp, bearing a portrait of the Princess of Wales, and not, as stated in our last issue, the Duchess of York. The stamp in all ways fully conforms to the other values of the portrait series; the colour is, nevertheless, a little inconvenient.

Adhesive. 3 cents, orange-brown.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*Le T.-P.* informs us that the 10d. has been appearing for two months with watermark Crown and N S W.

Adhesive. 10d., violet.

NEW ZEALAND.—Our friend Mr. Arthur Bate has forwarded for our inspection a specimen of a new registered envelope, bearing a threepenny stamp — the first *stamped* registered envelope issued in New Zealand. It was issued on June 21st, in three sizes. The envelope is of the new pattern with flap closing on the face or front. The stamp is the old type—threepence, surrounded by a rectangular frame of ruling, bearing at the sides "Registration Fee,"—"Three pence."

Registration Envelopes. 3d., blue on white; 3 sizes.

The *Monthly Journal* has received a pair of the new 1d. stamps, perf. 15 all round, but imperforate between the two stamps.

NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.—Three new values have been added to the current set—6d., 2s. 6d., and 10s. The designs are similar to the low values, but with varying frames. The colours are a little unhappy. Wmk. Crown C A, perf. 15.

Adhesives. 6d., yellow-brown.
2s. 6d., olive.
10s., deep violet.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Pahang.*—We give an illustration of the surcharges described last month.



TRINIDAD.—Just on going to press we received the Commemoration Stamp from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.; a handsome stamp, evidently the work of Messrs. De La Rue and Co. The central design is a scene representing the landing of Columbus. The frame bears inscriptions, at top—"1498-1898—Trinidad—Commemoration." At base, "2d.," on either side, in coloured letters on octagonal tablets with white ground, and the title "The Landing of Columbus."

Adhesive. 2d., mauve and brown.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Messrs. Smythe and Nicolle having addressed a letter to the Postmaster-General of Western Australia, regarding the Coolgardie Express Stamps, received the following official reply, which renders the status of these stamps plain.

"POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
"GENERAL POST OFFICE, PERTH,
"*6th June*, 1898.

"GENTLEMEN,—Replying to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, I beg to inform you that the Express Carrying Company of Coolgardie did illegally issue the stamps in question, but as soon as my attention was drawn to it, I directed them to cease issuing them as being contrary to the Post Office Act, which provides for a heavy penalty for such contravention of the law.—I am, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,
"(Signed) R. A. SHORT,
"*Postmaster-General, and General Supdt. of Telegraphs.*"

EUROPE.

ROUMANIA.—*Le T.-P.* states that the postage due stamps are now printed on white paper, with watermark "P.R."

Adhesives. 2 bani, emerald-green.
5 ,, ,, ,,
50 ,, ,, ,,
60 ,, ,, ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the ½ c. stamp as re-engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons.

Adhesive. ½ c., chocolate; perf. 16.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the various colonies, Angra, Horta, Funchal, and Ponta Delgada, have received the four new values described last month under Portugal. The colours also are similar in all colonies.

TRANSVAAL.—From the same source we have received the 5s. value in the current type, which completes the set. The stamp is printed in one colour, and the value is in the singular—"SHILLING."

Adhesive. 5s., grey-black.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

The Collectors' Club,

NEW YORK CITY.

TWENTY-SIXTH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, June 13th, 1898. Vice-President Bruner in the chair called the meeting to order at 8.25 p.m. Present: Messrs. Luff and Scott and the Secretary. The Chairman of the Literary Committee was requested to follow his judgment as to binding of books. The thanks of the Governors were extended to Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co., for gift of a volume of the *Post Office* to complete the Club's file. The Treasurer's report was then received, showing $252.05 cash in bank. Report of Chairman of House Committee was also received. Adjourned at 8.50 p.m.

TWENTY-SEVENTH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, July 11th, 1898. Vice-President Bruner in the chair. Called to order at 8.15 p.m. Present: Messrs. Calman, Luff, Scott, and the Secretary. Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The Secretary was directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of two bound volumes of the *Boston Stamp Book*, sent by its publisher as an addition to the Club's library. Treasurer's report, showing balance in bank of $327, was received. Chairman of House Committee made his report, and he was authorized to proceed to have the pool table properly recovered Adjourned at 8.40 p.m.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

DECEMBER sheets have been returned and accounts duly submitted. Sales were of a high average, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
December A 1 Packet . .	84	9	11
,, A 2 ,, . .	77	2	4½
,, B 1 ,, . .	39	2	10
,, B 2 ,, . .	41	17	1½
Supplementary rounds of A 1 and A 2 packets . . .	53	15	4

January packets have just terminated their rounds, and sheets and accounts will be forwarded without delay. February and March packets are nearly round.

In spite of the "off" season, June packets have shown but little falling-off in point of value; 167 sheets, estimated in the aggregate at £1842 11s. 11d., have been made up and put into circulation by the 25th instant. Members leaving home for more than two days should notify dates of absence to prevent delay; otherwise the proper fines will be exacted. Packets will be circulated throughout the summer. Among the new members enrolled this month are: A. Still (Liverpool), Miss Higgins (Luton), W. Brettschneider (Melbourne), J. Johnston (New Deer), S. Seon (Reading), L. Magnee (London), and Mrs. Stirling (Strathpeffer). One resignation (Mr. C. Lewis's) was accepted with regret. The Suburban will not be absorbed by the proposed Herts Philatelic Society, but both will run concurrently for the present. Philatelists at home and abroad are welcomed on production of satisfactory references, and arrangements are made for settlements either on cash or exchange bases. Regulations sent on application to the Secretary. H. A. SLADE.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. SEPTEMBER, 1898. No. 81.

The Last Full Season of the Century.

SCARCELY have the heat-wave and the abnormal temperature of the autumn passed away before the Philatelic season has opened with a vigour that portends a merry time in the ensuing winter. Extending over some seven or eight months, the Philatelic season is necessarily divided by the old and new years. It is therefore obvious that next year's season will be but midway passed before the advent of January 1st, 1900, and that this season is the last one in its entirety of the century. We are aware that mathematically the close of the hundred years is with the expiring day of December, 1900; but in popular estimation, and doubtless following precedents, the new century will be held to have been inaugurated with the first day that marks so striking a change in the date of the year. We may, however, well leave all surmises of the future until then, and occupy ourselves with the immediate present.

The season of 1898–9 seems already predestined to be one of great activity as far as the change of Philatelic ownership is concerned. It is already announced that the fine Australian collection of Mr. Calvert (of financial fame) is to be dispersed at auction, and the well-known Swiss collection of Mr. Isidore Dreyfus (that gained medals at the London and Geneva Exhibitions) has been placed in commission for sale *en bloc*. Another justly celebrated and splendid specialised collection is also, alas! to be handed over to the tender mercies of the rostrum. We have also heard of another marvellous "find" (in the R. R. R. class) that, like the recital of M. de Rougemont, seems hardly credible, but is yet well authenticated. The auctioneers are announcing large and important sales, and all that is required by them and the trade is a brisk demand.

Philatelic Exhibitions are undoubtedly a powerful fulcrum in raising Philately in public estimation, while the success of last year's show in London has apparently stimulated further enterprise of the like nature. Manchester is the first of our provincial cities to organize an Exhibition on a large scale, and we cordially trust that a full measure of success may attend its efforts in August next. Calcutta will hold an Exhibition that seems founded on liberal and comprehensive lines during the winter, and these examples will doubtless find imitators between now and the Paris Philatelic Exhibition of 1900.

The principal exhibitors are naturally those Philatelists who have spent long years in building up their collections, and have, so to say, worked their way up in the societies to which they may belong, and it is therefore eminently the duty of all Philatelic bodies to see that the greatest possible amount of instruction may be afforded to their members during the winter meetings.

The modern system of "displays" has much to recommend it as familiarizing the less advanced Philatelist with the systems and treasures of the leading collector. During the past season of the London Philatelic Society, no less than ten evenings were devoted to exhibitions of this nature, and accompanied, as they were, by able and exhaustive commentary on the stamps shown, were a means of instruction and enlightenment that found a wide circle of appreciators. The one drawback to this feature is, however, that the circle to which it applies is limited to those present. The reading of papers (for publication) should therefore be the *point d'appui* of all well constituted Philatelic societies, towards which object the co-operation of all prominent collectors should be strenuously invited. It has been a little unjustly urged against the London Society that it has been latterly somewhat deficient in this respect, but with seven excellent papers read during the last season—all the remaining nights being devoted to the forementioned displays—we can see but little to cavil at. It would, however, be well to have a paper read at each alternate meeting, and we hope to hear of the re-appointment of an influential sub-committee that will take the matter in hand and secure this result. We have been already informed of the preparation of two or three important papers, and quite hope that, coupled with the appearance of the work on the Stamps of Great Britain, the semi-final season of the expiring century may be one of the best on record.

TYPES.



McCorquodale, London.



McCorquodale, Glasgow.



Waterlow (*lithograph*).



Waterlow (*steel plate*).



Manchester Type (*with outer line*).



Great Western (*lithograph*).



Great Western (*steel plate*).



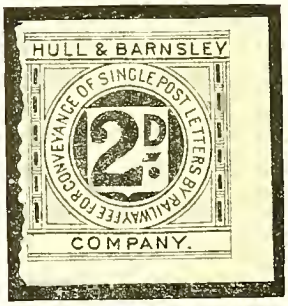
Bemrose.



Cleator & Workington.



Colne Valley.



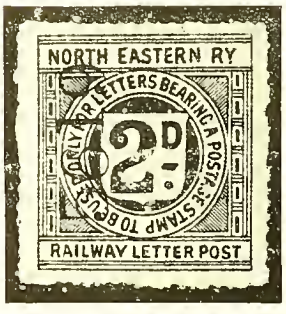
Hull and Barnsley.



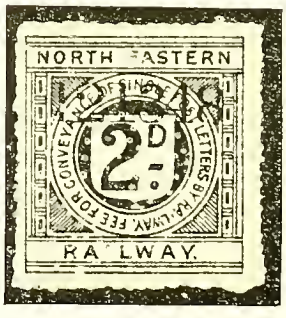
Lancashire and E. Coast.



London, Chatham, and Dover.



North Eastern (*first type*).



North Eastern (*second type*).



North Staffordshire.

Reference List of Railway Letter Post Stamps.

By H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

IN the following article I propose to give a detailed list of all varieties of railway letter post stamps that have been issued, other varieties, such as proofs, reprints, etc., being also noted where such are known to exist in collections. The question as to the status of these interesting stamps has already been discussed, and need not be entered into here.

In the first place, it must be understood that for the purposes of this article each "printing" has been treated as a variety and separately described, whilst minor varieties, such as shades, etc., which do not denote separate printings, have been ignored. Accidental varieties are omitted, unless of sufficient importance to warrant their description in a footnote.

In the second place, the companies have been grouped according to the district served by them.

Group 1. England. The Great Central and the four smaller lines in which it is interested as part owner are placed under the Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincolnshire.
Group 2. Wales.
Group 3. Scotland.
Group 4. Ireland.

In the third place, all stamps may be taken as having been lithographed unless otherwise described. The majority of letter post stamps have been printed by six firms: McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., of London and Glasgow; Bemrose, of Derby; a Manchester firm (name unknown); Waterlow & Sons, London; and Sealy, Bryers, and Walker, Dublin. The design and characteristics of the stamps printed by each firm are for the most part uniform.

Letter post stamps were brought into use on Sunday, February 1st, 1891.

ENGLAND.

Aylesbury & Buckingham Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. Black control numbers. One printing only; rouletted.

1. 2d., yellow-green.* Obsolete since 1891.

Cheshire Lines Committee.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Bemrose. Sheets of 24, 6 rows of 4. Two printings. Perf. 10.

2. 2d., dark green; brown gum.
3. 2d., green; white gum.

* My description of the colours is not to be taken too seriously. It is impossible to find distinctive names for the innumerable shades of green in which the letter post stamps are printed.

Cleator & Workington Junction Railway.

1891. Special type. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3. One printing. Perf. 12.

4. 2d, emerald-green, pale and dark.

Cockermouth, Keswick, & Penrith Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Perf. 12

First printing. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4.

5. 2d., very dark green, dark green; glazed paper.

Second printing. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3.

6. 2d., yellow-green; thin paper (1897).

Colne Valley Railway.

1891 (Feb). Special type. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3. One printing. Perf. 11.

7. 2d., bright green, slight shades.

East and West Junction Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Bemrose. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Black vertical control numbers, figures $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high. The sheets are numbered from bottom to top and left to right. Two printings. Perf. 10.

8. 2d., green.

9. 2d. ,, slightly paler, better margin to sheets.

NOTE.—The two specimens from the N.E. corner of the sheet that I possess are numbered 1335 and 2079, which, as the sheets consist of twelve stamps, should be divisible by 12 The remainder of 3 in each case seems to point to another issue at present unknown. The numbers of the current printing (No. 9) commence at about 1600.

Eastern and Midlands Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 30, 6 rows of 5. Two printings. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$. Obsolete since 1894.

10. 2d., green, dark and pale shades.

11. 2d., pale green, thinner paper.

NOTE —The former may be found with imperforate outer margin. Specimens are known surcharged with a hand-stamp, in violet, "Midland and Great Northern Joint Committee," but such overprint is simply a cancellation.

East London Railway.

1891 (March). Type, Waterlow. The stamps are printed in sheets of two, but cut up before delivery. The two stamps differ slightly in type, the letters of the word "RAILWAY" being larger in the right-hand stamp, especially the letter "R," which has a longer tail. In order to facilitate the even division of the sheets, the stamps are generally threaded, the left-hand stamp at the N.W. corner, and the other at the S.E. corner, hence the pin-holes, without which specimens are seldom met with. Four printings. Imperf.

12. 2d., pale pink, very clear impression, no pin-holes.

13. 2d., pink, shades (1897).

14. 2d., red, deep rose (1898), no pin-holes.

15. 2d., orange-red (1898).

NOTE.—But very few were ever printed of the first and third issues The two types are, of course, found in each issue.

Furness Railways (The).

1891 (Feb). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 10, 2 rows of 5. Three printings. Rouletted in colour. Obsolete since 1897.

16. 2d., dark green.
17. 2d., yellow-green; thin glazed paper.
18. 2d., pale green (shades).

Furness Railway (The).

1897. Same as above, but final "s" cut from inscription "Railway." Two printings. Rouletted in colour.

19. 2d., green, extremes of shade.
20. 2d. ,, black control numbers.

NOTE.—Specimens may be found showing traces of the final "s," which was imperfectly removed.

Garstang & Knot End Railway.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. One printing; rouletted. Small black control numbers.

21. 2d., yellow-green.

Great Central Railway Company. See under M. S. & L. Ry.

Great Eastern Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. *Lithographed.* Size of sheets unknown.

22. 2d., green; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$; margin of sheet imperf.
23. 2d. ,, ,, $14\frac{1}{2}$.

Printed from steel plate. Design differs, the principal difference being in the omission of the stop between the words "Railway" and "Fee." Sheets of 30, 6 rows of 5, the control number of each sheet being written in pencil on the margin at the N.E. corner of each sheet. Perf. 12. Two printings.

24. 2d., bright green.
25. 2d., green (shades).

Great Northern Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Size of sheets unknown. One stamp in four is a variety without a stop between the words "Railway" and "Fee."

26. 2d., green; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
27. 2d. ,, perf. 10.

Great Western Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Special type. *Lithographed.* Size of sheets unknown.

28. 2d., green (shades); perf. 12.

Printed from steel plate. Sheet of 60, 10 rows of 6; perf. 12. The type of this stamp differs from the lithograph in the absence of the stop before "Fee." The shield is on a lined instead of solid ground, and the word "RAILWAY" measures 15 mm. as against 14 mm.

29. 2d., bluish green (shades).

Hull & Barnsley Company.

1891 (Feb.). Special type. Issued in books of 18, with counterfoils. Perf. 12 on left side.

30. 2d., yellow-green.
31. 2d., green, pale and dark shades.

Lancashire & Yorkshire Rly.

1891 (Feb.). Manchester type. Sheets of 6, 2 rows of 3. All six stamps differ slightly in type. In the later printing the second stamps in each row have defective spandrels, and in the third stamp of the top row the word "FOR" is spelt "FCR." Two printings. Perf. 12.

32. 2d., dark green, with fine outer line.
33. 2d., green (shades), no outer line.

Lancashire, Derbyshire, & East Coast Railway.

1897 (March 8th). Special type; value in oval, without shield; inscription, "Fee for conveyance, etc.," at bottom. Sheets of 24, 6 rows of 4. Black control numbers. Perf. 10.

34. 2d., green, yellow-green.

London and North Western Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6. Rouletted. Black horizontal control numbers; height of figures varies. Three printings.

35. 2d., yellow-green; figs. 3 mm. high.
36. 2d., green, dark green; figs. $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm. high.
37. 2d., green, pale green; figs. $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm. high.

NOTE.—The control numbers of the first printing run to about 60,000, of the second to 100,000, and of the current stamps numbers up to 116,000 have so far been issued.

London and South Western Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 24 divided into 2 panes of 12, each 4 rows of 3, divided into panes before delivery. Five printings.

38. 2d., dark green; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
39. 2d., bright green; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
40. 2d., green (shades); perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $14\frac{1}{2}$ (2 varieties).
41. 2d., yellow-green; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $14\frac{1}{2}$ (2 varieties).
42. 2d., green; perf. 10.

NOTE.—In the third and fourth issues there is a white bar attached to the left-hand side of the letter "O" of the word "SOUTH" on each stamp. The third issue may be found imperforate.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Arrangement of early sheets unknown. Six printings.

43. 2d., yellow-green; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
44. 2d., dark green; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
45. 2d., pale green; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
46. 2d., green; perf. 10.
47. 2d., yellow-green; perf. 10.
48. 2d., dark green; perf. 10.

NOTE.—Of Nos. 43 and 48 the outer margin of the sheet is imperforate. It is possible there may be one or more printings I have not met with, nor am I certain the order of the first three varieties is correct.

London, Chatham, & Dover Railway.

1891. Special type. Size of sheets unknown; stamps are placed 11 mm apart. Four issues.

49. 2d., emerald-green; imperforate.
50. 2d., emerald-green; perf. 11½.
51. 2d., deep bluish green; perf. 11½.
52. 2d., dark green; perf. 10½.

London, Tilbury, & Southend Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 24, in 2 panes of 12, with plain margin between each pane, 4 rows of 3. Two printings. Perf. 11½.

53. 2d., green.
54. 2d., green; smooth paper.

Macclesfield Committee. See under M. S. & L. Ry.

Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincolnshire Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Manchester type. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4; there are 6 types, differing only slightly, the arrangement of which differs in the several printings. The type with single instead of double line at top is placed first in the second and fourth rows of the later sheets. Perf. 11½. Obsolete since 1897.

First variety. Fine outer line. Four printings.

55. 2d., dull green.
56. 2d., green, slight yellowish tinge.
57. 2d., dark green.
58. 2d., dark green, faint traces only of outer line.

Second variety. No outer line. One printing.

59. 2d., green, pale, and dark shades.

1.—Great Central Railway Company.

1897 (Sept.). As above. Perf. 11½.

60. 2d., dark green, with outer line.

2.—Macclesfield Committee.

1891 (?). Same type as above. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4, with 6 minor types, each occurring twice. Perf. 11½.

61. 2d., dark green, with outer line.

3.—North Wales & Liverpool Railway Committee.

1896 (?). Same type as above. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4, with 6 minor types, each occurring twice. Perf. 11½. The variety with single line at top occurs four times. Two printings, showing different settings, but otherwise alike.

62. 2d., green, no outer line.

4.—Oldham, Ashton, & Guide Bridge Rly.

1891. Same type as above. Sheets of 6, 2 rows of 3, each differing slightly. Two printings. Perf. 11½.

63. 2d., dark green, with outer line.
64. 2d., dull green (shades), with outer line.

5.—Sheffield and Midland Railways Committee.

1891. Same type as above. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3, 6 types, including the variety with single line at top. Perf. 11½.

65. 2d., dark green, with outer line.
66. 2d., pale green, with outer line.

Manchester, South Junc. & Altrincham Ry.

1891 (Feb.). Manchester type. Sheets of 25, 5 rows of 5, showing 6 distinct types, the setting of which differs in the several issues. Size of sheet of first issue is unknown. Perf. 11½.

First variety, without outer line. No control numbers.

67. 2d., dark green.

Second variety, with outer line. Black vertical control numbers.

68. 2d., green (Nos. 1 to 1000).

69. 2d., grey (Nos. 1001 to 2000).

70. 2d., bright green (Nos. 2001 to 3000).

Maryport & Carlisle Railway Company.

1891 (Feb.). Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Three printings. Perf. 12.

71. 2d., green; glazed paper.

72. 2d., dark green; thin paper (July, 1894).

73. 2d., yellow-green (April, 1898).

NOTE.—Of Nos. 71 and 72, 300 stamps each were printed; of No. 73, 480. The sheets of the latter have imperforate outer margin.

Metropolitan Railway.

1891 (December?). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 60, 6 rows of 10. There are two types, showing similar differences to those of the East London Railway. Black control numbers.

74. 2d., lilac-rose; perf. 11½; figs. 3½ mm. high.

75. 2d., brown-rose; perf. 11½; figs. 3¾ mm. high.

76. 2d., rose, bright rose (shades); thick paper; perf. 10½; figs. 3½ mm. high.

77. 2d., pink (shades); perf. 11½; figs. 3¾ mm. high.

78. 2d., pink (shades); perf. 11½; figs. 3¼ mm. high.

NOTE.—The control numbers run approximately as follows: No. 74, 1 to 1000; No. 75 to 2000; No. 76 to 3000; No. 77 to 3600; No. 78 beyond 3600.

Midland Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Bemrose. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Black vertical control numbers.

79. 2d, dull green; perf. 11; figs. 4¼ mm. high.

80. 2d., yellow-green; perf. 11; figs. 4½ mm high.

81. 2d., green; perf. 10; figs. 5 mm. high.

82. 2d., bright green; perf. 10; figs. 4½ mm. high.

NOTE.—Another issue was possibly made between Nos. 79 and 80, my latest copy of the former being numbered 16,959, and the earliest of the latter 67,543. The third issue bears numbers up to 78,000 (approximately), and the fourth beyond this.

Midland & Great Northern Joint Railways.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 30 (?). Perf. 11½.

83. 2d., green (shades).

Midland & South Western Junction Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 30 (?). Perf. 11½. Two printings.

84. 2d., green.

85. 2d., dull green.

Northampton & Banbury Junction Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3. Perf. 11½.

86. 2d., green; glazed paper; margin of sheet imperf.
87. 2d. „ „ „ „ perf.
88. 2d., dark green; thin paper.

NOTE.—In No. 88 the vertical spaces between the stamps are 5 mm. wide; and in No. 87, 3½ mm. wide.

North Eastern Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Special type, inscribed at top "North Eastern Ry.," at bottom "Railway Letter Post," and in the centre, "To be used only for letters bearing a postage stamp." Printed in sheets of 30, 5 rows of 6. Black vertical control numbers, running from left to right. One printing, consisting of 600 sheets or 18,000 stamps; those numbered 17,401 to 18,000 were destroyed. Perf. 11½. Figures 6 mm. high.

89. 2d., vermilion, rose-vermilion (shades).

1891 (?). Second type, with normal inscription. Sheets of 30, 5 rows of 6. Black horizontal control numbers, running from left to right and top to bottom; the types of the figures differ apart from the measurement. The exact number of printings is unknown, but if each consisted of 10,000 stamps, as has been the case during the past two or three years, there have been twelve, the first numbered 18,001 to 28,000; the second 28,001 to 38,000; and so on (?). Perf. 11½.

90. 2d., dark green; figs. 4¾ mm. high (second issue?).
91. 2d., pale green; figs. 5 mm. high (Nos. to 88,000).
92. 2d. „ „ (Nos. to 98,000).
93. 2d, green; figs. 4 mm. high (Nos. to 108,000).
94. 2d., pale green; figs. 5 mm. high (Nos. to 118,000).
95. 2d., green; no control numbers.
96. 2d. „ figs. 5 mm. high (Nos. to 128,000).

NOTE.—The figures of Nos. 93 and 94 present a very worn appearance; those of Nos. 91, 92, and 96 are of different type, No. 92 being similar to No. 94.

North London Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. Black control numbers.

97. 2d., yellow-green; rouletted (Nos. 1 to 960).
98. 2d., green; perf. 12 (Nos. 961 to 1920).

North Staffordshire Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Special type. Sheets of 20, 4 rows of 5. Three printings.

99. 2d., green; perf. 12.
100. 2d., dark green; perf. 12.
101. 2d., olive-green; perf. 11.

NOTE.—In the latter issue the stamps are placed much further apart.

North Wales & Liverpool Railway Committee. See under M. S. & L. Ry.

Oldham, Ashton, & Guide Bridge Rly. See under M. S. & L. Ry.

Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3. Two printings. Perf. 11½. Obsolete.

102. 2d., green (shades); margin of sheet imperf.

103. 2d., pale green (shades); margin of sheet perforated.

Severn and Wye Joint Railway.

1895 (Jan.). Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3. One printing. Perf. 11½.

104. 2d., dark green (shades).

Sheffield & Midland Railways Committee.

See under M. S. and L. Ry.

So: West & Mid: Rly. Co.'s Som: & Dor: Joint Line.

1891 (?). Type, Bemrose. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Black control numbers (letter A with figs. 4½ mm. high), running from top to bottom and left to right. Perf. 10. One printing.

105. 2d., pale green.

NOTE.—There was an earlier issue of stamps for this line, but I have not been able to obtain a description of it.

South Eastern Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Bemrose. Sheets of 20, 4 rows of 5. Black vertical control numbers, running from left to right and top to bottom. One printing of 10,000 stamps. Figs. 4½ mm. high. Perf. 11.

106. 2d., pale green, dull green, olive-green.

1892 (December?). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 60, 6 rows of 10, except in the case of the first variety (No. 107), of which the arrangement is not known for certain, but seems to have been 10 rows of 6.

107. 2d., dark green; perf. 12; vertical control figures, 3¼ mm. high (Nos. 10,001 to 20,000).

108. 2d., yellow-green; rouletted; horizontal figures 3¼ mm. high (Nos. 20,001 to 30,000).

109. 2d., dark green; perf. 12; figs. 3¼ mm. high (Nos. 30,001 to 40,000).

110. 2d., green (shades); perf. 12; figs. 3¼ mm. high (Nos. 40,001 to 50,000).

111. 2d., bright green; rouletted; figs. 3½ mm. high (Nos. 50,001 to 60,000), June, 1898.

Southwold Railway.

1891 (?). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. Black control numbers; figs. 3¼ mm. high. One printing. Rouletted.

112. 2d., deep green (shades).

West Lancashire Railway.

1891 (Feb.). Type, Bemrose. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Black vertical control numbers running from left to right and top to bottom; figs. 4½ mm. high. Perf. 10.

113. 2d., green.

Wrexham, Mold, and Connah's Quay Ry.

1891 (Feb.). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6 Black control numbers; figs. 3 mm. high. One printing. Rouletted.

114. 2d., yellow-green.

(*To be continued.*)

New South Wales.

THE "POSTAGE" SURCHARGED SERIES, ISSUED FROM 1885 TO DATE.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

UNDER date 17th August, 1885, Mr. P. B. Walker, then Assistant-Superintendent of Telegraphs, reported on the system of prepaying telegrams by means of stamps,* as pursued in Victoria, and recommended the adoption of the system in New South Wales.

The course recommended was approved by the Postmaster-General, who was of opinion that it would be necessary, before bringing the new system into force, to issue some stamps of higher denominations than those in use. He suggested values of 10s. and 20s., and one of £10 for Press telegrams.

Upon further consideration the proposal to issue a £10 value was abandoned, and approval was given to issue 10s. and 20s. stamps, and to introduce the system of stamping telegrams as an experiment.

On the 22nd September, 1885, the Executive Council approved of the following regulations:—

1. "The charges on telegrams are to be prepaid by stamps, and the public will be required to affix them to the message form, just as they are required to affix them to letters. No 'collect' messages will be accepted, unless in answer to a 'reply paid' or Press.

2. "Stamps are to be sold by the officers who may receive the telegrams, and are to be cancelled with an obliterating stamp. Combined offices† will use their post office date stamp for this purpose. . . ."

The system was thus brought into operation before the necessary stamps of higher denominations were prepared. A suggestion was made that adhesive Duty stamps might be used for the purpose, but an objection was advanced that such a course might lead to a large amount of revenue being credited to the Stamp Commissioners' Department instead of to the Telegraph Department. It was therefore decided to request the Government printer to supply, as soon as possible, a sufficient number of Duty stamps of the value of 10s. and 20s., surcharged with the word "POSTAGE," so that they might be used for either postal or telegraphic purposes.

* The system had been introduced in 1871, but abandoned after one month's trial.

† The Post and Telegraph Departments, though under one Ministerial (political) head, were (until 1893) administered by separate permanent heads. In the larger towns the post and telegraph offices were separate, while the smaller towns had "combined" offices, where both services were performed by the one official.

As early as the 14th October, 1885, executive authority was obtained for the issue of the two new stamps, but the *Gazette* notice did not appear until the end of November. The Electric Telegraph Act contained no provision authorising the preparation or issue of Telegraph stamps, hence the necessary authority for the issue of these high denominations had to be obtained under the provisions of the Postage Act.

The following is a copy of the notice:—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
"*23rd November*, 1885.

"In accordance with the provisions of the 16th Section of the Postage Act, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the issue of postage stamps of the values of 10s and £1, such stamps being the same as those now used for Duty purposes, but surcharged with the word 'POSTAGE.'

"JOHN SEE."

Nothing had been said, when the arrangements for the issue of the two high value stamps were being made, of a 5s. stamp of the same description, but it appears that as early as the 15th October, 1885, a supply of 8000 of that value had been furnished to the Telegraph Department on requisition.

Early in November a question was raised as to whether the Duty stamps surcharged "POSTAGE" were intended for postal use, as specimens of the 5s. had been placed on letters and posted. No authority having been obtained for the use of this value, the matter was referred to the Government printer, who explained that he had used the Duty stamp because the then current postage plate was of steel, and would not long bear the extra work. The process of printing from it, moreover, was ten times slower than that from the Duty plate, which was an electro-plate. He recommended that the use of the 5s. Duty stamp, surcharged, should be authorised for *telegraph* purposes.

Executive authority was obtained for the issue of a *postage* stamp of 5s., and published some two months after the stamps had actually been brought into use.

The *Gazette* notice is as follows:—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
"*22nd December*, 1885.

"In accordance with the provisions of the 16th Section of the Postage Act, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the issue of a new 5s. postage stamp of the following description:—

> "Profile of Queen Victoria to left, with diadem, on tinted background, enclosed in circle containing the words 'New South Wales' above and 'Stamp Duty' underneath, in white letters, on oblong-figured field, with '5s.' at top and 'Five Shillings' at bottom, the whole enclosed by border lines attached to centre at sides. The word 'POSTAGE' in black erased letters printed over 'Stamp Duty.' Colour: centre and border lines violet, with green diaper field. Value 5s.

"The new 10s. and £1 postage stamps, referred to in notification dated 23rd ultimo, are of a similar description, with the exception that the former has a scroll, and the latter a carmine field.

"JOHN SEE."

The system of stamping telegrams was abandoned on the 1st April, 1886, but reintroduced in 1893. In the meantime, however, the three "POSTAGE" surcharged stamps were continued in use solely for postal purposes. The 5s. and £1 were superseded by the Centennial types of similar values in 1888–1889, but the 10s. is still in use.

The Duty stamps, from which these provisional postage stamps were made, were designed and engraved by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., London, and printed from electro-plates at the Government Printing Office, Sydney. The plates contained 100 stamps each, in two panes of 50, arranged in five rows of 10 stamps. The paper is watermarked "N S W" in single-line sans-serif capitals. That of the 5s. and £1 is white, while the 10s. is found on both bluish and white; the stamps at present issued being on the latter paper.

The word "POSTAGE" was at first printed in black on all three values, but was changed to blue in the case of the two higher values. The £1 with blue overprint is catalogued by Moens (1892), but the other catalogues omit any mention of it. I have only seen unused copies, but it is worthy of remark that the reprint and specimen set contains the £1 with blue overprint, surcharged "Reprint." I strongly incline to the opinion that these stamps are not reprints at all, but merely remainders, as I saw a large quantity in stock at the Government Printing Office in 1889, some time after the issue of the Centennial £1 stamp.

The perforations found on these stamps are like most New South Wales issues—rich in variety! A list will be found in the synopsis at the end of this paper, but it may be possible even to add to the number.

The postal cancellations are the ordinary postmarks of the types now current. Only the 5s. appears to have been used for telegraph purposes during 1885–6, and in this case the cancellation generally consists of an oval rubber hand-stamp impression, struck in red. The 10s. is now used for both postal and telegraph purposes, the system of stamping telegrams having been reverted to in October, 1893.

The stamps surcharged "POSTAGE" were never used as fiscal stamps.

With regard to the numbers issued, I find that 8000 of the 5s. were issued on requisition to the Telegraph Department on the 15th October, 1885, and a further supply of 8400 in 1886. The number of stamps of the value of 5s. sold by the Post Office between 1885 and 1889 (when the Centennial type was issued) amounted in the aggregate to nearly 44,000, but at least 10,000 of these were either the circular or the Centennial type. None of the 10s. or £1 were issued to the Telegraph Department, and the Post Office does not record any sales of these values until 1886. The total number of the 10s. issued from 1886 to 31st December, 1897, was 13,932, but 33 of these were repurchased by the Department as spoiled, and destroyed. Of the £1 only about 200 appear to have been issued, as the Centennial type came into use on the 1st May, 1888.

The table on next page shows the numbers (not including those overprinted "Specimen" or "Reprint") sold in each year, together with other interesting particulars.

Year.	Number of Stamps Issued.				Number Destroyed.		Remarks.
	5s.		10s.	£1			
	Telegraphs.	Post Office.			10s.	£1	
1885	8,000	10,726	..	...	...	...	"Postage" surcharged first issued 15th October.
1886	8,400	8,678	155	141	...	...	Stamping telegrams abandoned 1st April.
1887	...	9,133	11	11	2	3	
1888	...	7,934	325	180	...	1	Centennial £1 issued 1st May.
1889	...	7,473	606	...	5	...	Centennial 5s. issued 13th March.
1890	...	...	829	...	...	...	
1891	...	...	318	...	1	...	
1892	...	...	609	...	5	...	
1893	...	...	636	...	2	...	Stamping telegrams resumed 1st October.
1894	...	...	2,478	...	5	...	
1895	...	...	2,501	...	11	...	
1896	...	...	2,647	...	2	...	
1897	...	...	2,817	...	...	...	
	16,400	43,944	13,932	332	33	4	

Probable number of "Postage" surcharged stamps used as Postage or Telegraph Stamps—

5s.	10s.	£1
40,000.	13,900.	200

Synopsis.

Description.	No.	Denomination.	Paper.	Perforation.	Colour of "Postage" overprint.
Stamps issued for Postal and Telegraphic use	1	5s.	White	12 × 10	Black.
	2	,,	,,	12, 11½	,,
	3	,,	,,	10	,,
	4	10s.	Bluish	12 × 10	,,
	5	,,	,,	12, 11½	,,
	6	,,	,,	10	,,
	7	£1	White	12 × 10	,,
	8	,,	,,	12, 11½	,,
	9	,,	,,	10	,,
	10	10s.	Bluish	12 × 11½	Blue.
	11	,,	,,	12	,,
	12	,,	,,	10	,,
	13	£1	White	12 × 10	,,
	14	10s.	,,	11½, 11	,,
Official Stamps	15	5s.	,,	12	Black.
	16	10s.	Bluish	12	Blue.
	17	£1	White	12	Black.
Surcharged "Specimen"	18	10s.	Bluish	12	Blue.
	19	10s.	White	10	,,
Surcharged "Reprint"	20	5s.	,,	12 × 10	Black.
	21	£1	,,	12 × 10	Blue.
O.S. "Specimen"	22	5s.	,,	12 × 10	Black.
	23	10s.	Bluish	12	Blue.
	24	£1	White	12	Black.
O.S. Reprint Cancelled	25	5s.	,,	11	,,
	26	10s.	,,	11½	Blue.
	27	£1	,,	11	Black.
O.S. Reprint Cancelled and Surch. "Specimen"	28	5s.	,,	11	,,
	29	10s.	,,	11½	Blue.
	30	£1	,,	11	Black.

All three values were surcharged "O.S." in large Roman capitals in black, for official use, the approximate dates of issue being: 5s., 15th December, 1885; £1, 7th January, 1887; and 10s., 30th April, 1889. Only five of the £1 were issued to a public department, and the 5s. is also very scarce. Some 260 copies of the 10s. were issued for use; they were all printed on the bluish paper. The numbers of "O.S." stamps are included with the ordinary stamps in the foregoing table.

Copies of the "O.S." stamps marked "Specimen" are comparatively common. The type of this "Specimen" overprint differs in each value. The 10s. is on bluish paper, the other two on white.

The "O.S." reprinted set of 1895 contains these stamps, all on white paper, and cancelled with "N.S.W." in concentric ovals, placed in the centre of each block of four stamps; the cancellation thus showing but slightly on one corner of each separate stamp. The word "POSTAGE" is in blue on the 10s., and in black on the other two values. This set is also found with the overprint "Specimen" in addition to the obliteration.

The "SPECIMEN" and "REPRINT" set of stamps at present sold at the General Post Office contains the 5s. and £1 surcharged "REPRINT" in small Roman capitals in black, placed across the neck of the vignette, and the 10s. overprinted "SPECIMEN" in the same type, placed over "10s." in the upper part of the stamp. The word "POSTAGE" is in black on the 5s. only, and in blue on the other two values. The paper is white for all values, but the 10s. on bluish is also known with the overprint "Specimen."

Mr. Basset Hull desires us to state that he cordially invites criticism or further information from collectors touching these stamps, "as there are doubtless some points upon which interesting particulars could be gleaned from inspection of the large collections available in London. I have been unable to see a single copy of the £1, used or unused, with black surcharge, in Sydney." We regret that we are unable to supplement the author's valuable article beyond the statement that we coincide with his remarks as to the scarcity of some of these stamps. They are indeed but rarely seen nowadays, and with the surcharge "O.S." have in our opinion always been extremely scarce.—ED.

Philatelic Notes.

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

SWITZERLAND: THE GENEVA "ENVELOPE STAMP."

THE remarks made by the Editor of *Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular* last month anent this stamp, while of a very interesting nature, certainly constitute a "bolt from out the blue." The stamp referred to is that of the envelope issued for the Canton of Geneva in 1846 with the Cantonal Arms, green on "white," and in three sizes. As is well known,

the use of these envelopes found but little favour, and a not inconsiderable number, having been cut off from the original envelopes, were used as adhesive stamps.

Mr. Westoby asserts the issue of this green on white die *as an adhesive* independently of its user as a cut-out envelope, and in support of this contention states that "M. Moens, who is the oldest dealer in stamps in the world, and whose reputation as an expert and dealer is universally acknowledged, states that he has had several of the stamps in unsevered pairs. M. Mahé, also a great authority as an expert and dealer, states that about 1864 a block of five of these stamps was sent to him by a correspondent in Geneva, and is of opinion that such stamps were used.

"We may add that Mr. Philbrick, who was in the Sixties a great collector, is satisfied that the stamps were employed as adhesives; we know also that we ourselves had many specimens sent to us before we could find one that answered the tests we required. The question was fully discussed at two meetings of the 'French Timbrological Society,' and Dr. Legrand, who was at first an unbeliever, appears to have been convinced of his error after an examination of two specimens in the collection of M. de Ferrari."

After the citation of these esteemed authorities, Mr. Westoby adds that in his recollection "the paper on which the adhesives were printed is not the same as that of the envelopes. The envelopes were of yellowish paper. What we consider to be adhesives are on thickish white paper.

"So far as we can ascertain, the stamps were not known in pairs or block till about 1864, and at that period a high price was asked for them. Is it not likely that there were some remainders sold by the Geneva Post Office, a few sheets that had been printed and gummed, some of which had been sold when it was permitted to cut the stamps from the envelopes?"

He adds the following conclusion :—

"To us the facts would appear to point to the issue of some few stamps of an obsolete type in 1850-51, possibly to assist the stock of the 5 c. white cross on red ground, formerly known as the Vaud stamp, and this ceased as soon as the 5 c., formerly known as the Neuchâtel stamp, was issued in August, 1851. Whether these were all cut from envelopes then issued, or some of them were issued cut from sheets, can only be determined by the paper of the specimens; but of the existence of the stamp in sheet, gummed ready for use, there does not seem to be the least doubt."

Any opinion promulgated by so experienced a Philatelist as Mr. Westoby is worthy of all consideration, and fortified by such names as those he has quoted, it is with some diffidence that we feel constrained to state our non-acceptance of the theory advanced.

Thirty years since the writer had a respectable collection of Swiss Cantonals (perhaps not all *sans peur et sans reproche*), and since that remote period has seen practically all the finest collections of Swiss stamps extant, with the exception of that of M. la Renotière. The existence of an adhesive Genevan green on white has never even been gleamed at during this period, and this experience is confirmed by other collectors. Mr. Westoby suggests that there is no reason why the Federal Government should not have

reverted to the use of this die, but we think there are many reasons to urge against the likelihood of this. The so-called large eagle on the blue-green paper was issued in the latter part of 1848, and to all appearances the dies were fully capable of producing excellent impressions, as we have never met with any that were defective in their imprint. The reason for the supersession of this stamp was therefore due to other causes. Its immediate successor was the 5 c. "Vaud," altered from the plate of the 4 c. These two stamps, as well as the so-called 5 c. "Neuchâtel" and the $2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen of "Winterthur," constitute the stamps issued in the transitional period between the separate Cantonal administrations and that of the Federal Government; and it is noteworthy that all of them bore the national white cross. If, as Mr. Westoby himself suggests, the adoption of the national emblem was compulsory, it seems to us the strongest argument against any reversion to the obsolete local design. There is but a lapse of about fifteen months between the issue of the 5 c., blue-green, and the 5 c. Vaud, and we should think it highly improbable that any *interim* die should have been printed from.

We are not, of course, prepared to controvert the eyesight or memory of the distinguished Philatelists whom Mr. Westoby has cited, but until we have seen a pair of these stamps on the original cover our faith would be of the order of St. Thomas.

A possible explanation of the mystery occurs to us, and one that is apparently supported by the late appearance of these adhesives, *i.e.*, fourteen years after their presumed issue—that a sheet or two of reprints were printed in or about 1864. There is support in another direction of this theory, to which we are not at liberty at present to refer.

M. A. de Reuterskiöld, whose authority on Swiss stamps is of the highest, writes us hereon :—

"I am very much astonished by this article and by the stated opinions of Moens and Mahé, which I have never heard of before. All I can say is that I am perfectly satisfied that all the genuine specimens of this stamp that I have examined are *all* cut from envelopes. I have never heard of blocks, except of a clever forgery which was printed on the face of original envelopes.

"The remainder of envelopes was very large; the 800 noted here were only those found a few years ago behind a case in the Geneva Post Office when it was removed to a new building.

"These stamps were certainly only authorized to be used as adhesives early in 1850, or perhaps at the end of 1849. The only postmarks found on this stamp are the fourth Geneva rosette (without cross), in red or black; the Geneva grille (which was used in Geneva from March, 1850); PD in a circle (used at Chêne), generally in blue, and the Confederation grille (1851–53). A few specimens are known obliterated in 1847 with the first Geneva rosette, and it is believed these were used by a banker, who cut them from the stamped envelopes which he did not use, and which were allowed to pass through the post.

"I shall certainly never believe these stamps were printed in sheets till someone can show me a genuine pair."

We have also had the pleasure of consulting Mr. Otto Pfenninger on this matter, a gentleman whose experience in Swiss Philately is of long standing, and whose works on the Helvetian stamps are widely known. Mr. Pfenninger

has never heard of any adhesive 5 c., green on white, and absolutely disbelieves in its existence. He argues that during the period of transition before the general Federal issue (the assumed epoch of its appearance) no new stamp would have been allowed bearing the local Arms, thus apparently harking back to the Cantonal administration. If, on the contrary, the date of the appearance of this stamp had been assigned to the period before 1850, when the Geneva commune had the sole control, he feels confident that some record of the cost of production would have been preserved in the archives. Mr. Pfenninger has had ample opportunities in the past for inspection thereof, and in his papers on the stamps of Geneva has given the records as to the entire production and several printings of the Envelope stamp. Independently of this he argues that half a century would not have elapsed since the issue of this presumed adhesive without specimens having been discovered, and he rather leans to the belief that the specimens seen in 1864 were clever forgeries.

FORGED SOUDANS.

MR. W. T. WILSON kindly sends us the following timely warning of a new and dangerous forgery of the first issue of provisional stamps for use in the Soudan, surcharged on current Egyptian stamps, which has just appeared. The surcharge is a clever forgery, the principal differences being that the first Arabic character is not sufficiently like a crescent, and the last character but one is quite different from the original, being in two parts instead of one, as in the original.

THE RETOUCHED DIADEMED ISSUE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

MR. E. D. BACON writes to us as follows: "Referring to the note I sent you on a retouched imperforate specimen of the 2d. diademed issue New South Wales, which was published in the *London Philatelist* for May last, I see from the July number of the *Australian Philatelist*, just to hand, that a retouched imperforate copy was known in Sydney about two years ago, and it has been shown Dr. Houison was in error when he stated that all stamps from the second plate of the 2d. were issued perforated, as imperforate copies undoubtedly exist. These discoveries were notified in a paper by Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, which was published in the *Australian Philatelist* for August, 1896. This fact does not in any way affect the acumen of Mr. R. B. Yardley in making an independent discovery, but in writing the note I am sorry I fell into an error. I took the precaution to look up the New South Wales portion of the Oceania catalogue running through the *Australian Philatelist*, but I found no mention of the variety therein, and the paper in the August number of 1896 entirely slipped my memory. With the large number of Philatelic journals now current it is almost impossible to read, much less to remember, every discovery, and it once more shows what a great need there is of a good English Philatelic index, which, when once made, would require to be brought up to date at the end of each year."

NEW SOUTH WALES—DIADEM ISSUE.

FURTHER information is to hand with reference to the forged watermarks of this issue, referred to on page 193 of the *London Philatelist* of this year. It will appear from the following excerpts from the *Australian Philatelist* of July 25th last that, despite vain endeavours to enlist the assistance of the Government, the perpetrators of these forgeries have been secured in the nationality of the "gentle Jap."

The methods of the "Japanese engraver" were by no means childlike, and Mr. Hagen thus describes them in his journal:—

"The faked watermarks are exceedingly like the original numerals in size and shape, and a great deal of ingenuity is displayed in fixing them up. I find that the genuine stamps have been thinned as fine, if not finer, than the Prussian stamps on so-called goldbeater's skin. The stamp, instead of being backed up by one piece of paper as mentioned by Mr. Ackland, has two separate pieces attached to it, both covering the whole of the skinned stamp. Both papers are very white and exceedingly thin, one apparently thinner than the other. In appearance it is fluffy when torn or rubbed, and soft, something similar to fine Japanese rice paper. The thinnest is attached to the stamp, and on this the watermark is either impressed or cut out. Owing to the genuine paper showing clear where the watermark is outlined it appears as if the figure was cut out, and the second paper is placed over the lot. The mucilage used in fastening the papers together must be very strong to withstand the boiling for some minutes, as applied in England, and the soaking I gave it. Although, again, a certain firm sent one to England, which arrived in two pieces, and Mr. Ackland does not speak of leaving the stamp in the water extra long. A brown or dirty gum is placed on the back, thereby adding age to the new paper and destroying the whiteness of it. I had great trouble in separating the papers. The stamps were in water for three hours, then placed in boiling water; still they would not separate. As it was I was unable to remove the papers intact. After carefully removing the second layer of paper from Mr. Ackland's 2d., and with it all traces of the '8,' I discovered slight traces of the normal watermark on the edge of the stamp, a portion of the thick part of the '2' showing, and part of the tail right away down in the corner of the stamp. I have treated three of the stamps, inclusive of the above 2d., one other being another 2d. from which I have removed the outside thin layer of paper, laying bare the inner paper, exceedingly white, with the figure '8' showing clearly as if outlined in pencil, also with a corner of this paper again removed, showing the genuine paper underneath. The other stamp treated was a 3d. This I have cleaned of all foreign paper, and the normal watermark is clearly seen, being the LARGE CROWN, second type, reversed. The papers removed from the backs of these stamps are being preserved for future reference, as I have still hopes of being able to sheet the fraud home to the fakers, and have them convicted.

"Further developments have occurred since the above has been written. The accompanying paragraph from the *Evening News* of July 19th explains itself:—

"'In consequence of certain enquiries which Detective Roche has been making lately, that officer, with Detectives Brown and Donovan, acting on the authority of a warrant issued by a well-known stamp dealer, arrested a young married woman this afternoon at a house in Derwent Street, Glebe. Later on her husband, a Japanese engraver, was also arrested. The charge preferred against the female prisoner is that of having obtained the sum of £45 from the prosecutor by means of a false pretence, with intent to defraud, and a charge of having, in company, forged and uttered seven postage stamps was preferred against them both. It is alleged that certain stamps,

of small value, as they were originally, have been "faked" to represent others of great value. The stamps forming the subject of the charge, seven in number, were sold to the dealer for £45, and he almost immediately sent four of them to London, where experts purchased them for £100, failing to detect anything wrong. Two of the others were sold locally for £30. The vendor's suspicions were then aroused by the fact that others, equally rare, and of a similar design, were being offered for sale in the city, and he sent home without delay, communicating his suspicions to his late customers. Subsequently his suspicions were strengthened, and he refunded the £130, placing the matter in the hands of the police. The alleged fraud is said to have consisted of an interference with the watermark, a slight alteration in which increased the value of some of the stamps from 2d. to about £80. The change is alleged to have been very cleverly effected. Both accused were brought up at the Central Police Court this afternoon and remanded to the Water Police Court, bail being allowed."

THE PROVIDENCE PLATE.

THE following announcement is by Messrs. Bogert and Durbin, of 722, Chesnut Street, Philadelphia. We have but scant respect for "Dealers' Reprints," and regret the step taken by Messrs. Bogert, although, as might have been expected from a firm of their high standing, they have taken every precaution to avoid their reprints being mistaken for originals. There has been during the past few years a somewhat redundant quantity of entire sheets of "originals." The purchasers thereof have doubtless assured themselves of their authenticity, but the existence of the plate raises the fear lest any of the old paper might have been also found:—

"It is well known that we are the owners of the original plate from which these stamps were printed. We purchased this plate just five years ago, in September, 1893. We have now decided to place reprints on the market, and have had same prepared. Although the colour is almost exactly the same as that used for the originals, the paper varies somewhat. As an additional preventive of fraud we have had our name printed on the back of each sheet in the following manner, so that one letter comes on each stamp:—

B O G
E R T
D U R
B I N

It will be noticed there are two B's and two R's, but the position of each stamp on the plate can be easily ascertained, for the first B comes on the back of the 10c. stamp and the second on a 5c. stamp; the first R comes on the back of No. 5 without period after 'CENTS,' and the second on No. 7 with period after 'CENTS.'"

Occasional Notes

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

WE are informed by Mr. E. D. Bacon that the stamps on view at the British Museum have again been changed, and that those now available for public inspection are the stamps of Spain from January 1st, 1873, and those of France down to the issue of October, 1862. The late Vice-President of the London Society was always keenly interested in the French stamps, and it will be found that his collection of the latter is exceedingly fine.

THE NEW HOSPITAL STAMPS.

WE have been desired to insert the following notice as to these stamps for 1898. We wish all success to the benevolent objects that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has in view, but from a Philatelic aspect must respectfully demur to the opinion that they "secure the approval of the most fastidious Philatelist." We all support the Hospital scheme, but as the British public, and not the British Philatelist.

"A new series of stamps in connection with the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund will be issued on Tuesday next, the 20th instant, and will include four varieties, ranging in price from one to ten shillings. The designs and colours, which were selected by His Royal Highness, are in each case different; but the central figure, a striking and pathetic representation of Charity, and the Prince of Wales's signature, as President of the Fund, are repeated throughout the series. The number of this year's issue will be limited to 340,000, which is a third of that issued last year; and it is hoped that the whole will have been purchased by the end of the twelvemonth. The engraving of the dies, which has been carried out by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., is admirably executed; while the designs are an improvement, if anything, on those of the earlier issue, and cannot fail to secure the approval of the most fastidious Philatelist. There seems little doubt but that this method of appealing to the charitable has been very generally approved. The sale of last year's stamps yielded a sum of about £35,000."

SUPPLYING THE STAMP COLLECTOR.

A SHORT while ago we referred, in connection with the death of the Rajah of Faridkot, in the Punjaub, to the advantage which some of the smaller States of India have taken of the craze for stamp collecting to increase their postal revenues, and to the improbability that the Faridkot State—whose legitimate postal business scarcely exceeds that of an English country town—will forego the opportunity afforded by the Rajah's death of issuing a complete new set of stamps, and selling the entire old stock for what it will fetch in the Philatelic market. Kashmir is now about to test the

elasticity of the Philatelist's purse-strings. The Kashmir stamps used to be picturesque woodblock productions, but, among the other tokens of reform in the State, these were lately abolished and the Indian postage adopted. At the time when the change was made paragraphs appeared in the Indian papers stating that the stock of Kashmir stamps was to be burned and the blocks destroyed—announcements which were not without effect in sending up the local value of Kashmir stamps. And now it is officially announced that the State authorities have determined to sell the old stock; and a State agent has been appointed to dispose of them to the best advantage. In the catalogues of stamp dealers many Kashmir stamps are highly priced; and it is evident that the Kashmir State need only adapt its own lower prices to the market to make a very good thing out of the business to the end of time. When the stock is exhausted, what is there to interfere with the printing of a new supply for trade purposes? In the circumstances our advice to Philatelists is simple: do not buy any Kashmir stamps in future which have not been through the post.—*Globe*, Sept. 2nd, 1898.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1899.

WE are pleased to give publicity to the following announcement, which conveys the confirmation of the suggestion in our last number, that a Philatelic Exhibition should be held at Manchester in the ensuing year. A meeting of the Manchester Society was held recently to consider the subject, particulars of which we duly hope to give to our readers:—

"In consequence of the feeling expressed at the Annual Meeting in May that a Philatelic Exhibition on a large scale should be in Manchester, the Committee have been busily engaged in making preliminary arrangements. The result of their labours has been so successful as to justify them now in announcing that such an Exhibition will be held in July next. G. H. GIBSON, *Hon. Sec.*"

Since the foregoing was written we have received the announcement following:—

"The members of the Manchester Philatelic Society held a small exhibition amongst themselves at the opening meeting of their last session, which elicited so many expressions of opinion that an exhibition worthy of the Society might be organized, that the Committee felt the matter to be one demanding their serious attention. It was, however, at that time considered to be too soon after the great Exhibition in London to entertain the idea of arranging another; but the seed sown has grown so rapidly, and promises of support from collectors, not only in Manchester but also in other parts of the country, have been so freely offered, that the Committee have unanimously decided to hold an Exhibition during the summer of 1899.

"At the outset the question as to whether the exhibition should assume a national character, as was the case in London, or be held under the auspices of the Manchester Society, and consequently confined, so far as the management is concerned, to its members, received prolonged consideration; but valuable as the assistance, the guidance, and the advice of those gentlemen who worked so successfully in London would have been, it was felt that the

distance is too great to justify any hope that they would be willing to act on the Executive Committee. The members, therefore, of the Manchester Society will have to undertake the burden of the work, and a committee of twenty is being appointed to carry out the details, forming themselves into sub-committees as and when required, and reporting from time to time to the Society.

"It is, of course, too early to state definitely the full scheme of the Exhibition, but it will be conducted mainly on the lines of the London one, an effort, however, being made to promote greater competition amongst Philatelists of the first rank, and also to enable the large body of medium collectors to compete against one another without coming into contact with the leading Philatelists, against whom it would of course be futile for them to exhibit. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded in the different classes as well as for special purposes.

"The whole of the guarantee fund has been raised by the members of the Manchester Society, who will also be responsible for all the expenses. Several Philatelists have already promised to give medals for particular objects named by them, and as it is most desirable that the Prospectus, which will be issued early in November, should contain all the available information, it is hoped that any of your readers or any Societies who wish to follow their example, or have any suggestions to offer, will communicate as early as possible with the Hon. Sec., G. Fred. H. Gibson, Kersal, Manchester."

PARIS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1900.

IT was hardly probable that the *comble de gloire* of the fourth International French Exhibition in 1900 would be allowed to pass without Philately's participation. The Committee of Organization is apparently nominated by the *Société Française de Timbrologie*, and M. Albert Coyette, 138, Rue de Rivoli, Paris, is the Secretary. A communication from the Committee has been received by the Vice-President of the London Philatelic Society, desiring his name for the list of patrons—a request, needless to say, granted with pleasure. The date of the Exhibition is fixed for August.

CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

THE Thirteenth Annual Convention of the A.P.A. was held this year at New York, from August 23rd to 26th, was attended by about seventy members, and despite a full share of the abnormal temperature that seems to have been the general experience this summer, seems to have been a great success. In the absence of the President, the Hon. F. Olney, the Vice-President, Mr. G. L. Toppan, presided, and made an interesting and patriotic inaugural address. As usual the meeting consisted of business details sandwiched between pleasurable excursions and entertainments. Among the latter were a steamer trip on the East and Hudson Rivers, giving the members an opportunity to inspect some of their recently-returned victorious warships, and an excursion to Staten Island, where the hospitable Philatelic Society of that name royally entertained the visitors.

(We ourselves have a very pleasant recollection of the exercise of a similar hospitality a few years since.) The Collectors' Club, with their genial Chairman of Entertainments Committee, Mr. John N. Luff, was much to the fore in adding to the pleasure of the week, and evoked the most cordial appreciation of all who attended the Convention. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* was chosen as the official organ of the Association for next year, but owing to an insufficiency of voting power the affair could not be clinched. Detroit was selected for next year's *rendezvous*.

THE CATALOGUE QUESTION.

REFERRING to the recently-issued catalogue of Messrs. Senf in our last issue (p. 215), we alluded to the fact that being dated 1898-99, it presaged no further issue until 1900, and that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' example in this respect had been apparently followed. We now read in the *American Journal of Philately* an announcement by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. that they also will refrain from reissuing their catalogue until the spring or summer of 1899. This unanimity of action between the three most important cataloguers of the world is doubtless the result of mutual arrangement, and should meet with the warm approval of all those collectors who can see beyond the immediate present. "Rest and be thankful" was the advice given to an over-zealous advocate by one of England's great Premiers, and no text could be more applicable to the stamp collector. From a financial aspect Philately has been in a constant state of excited activity during the past few years. The vital necessity of the hour is a period of quiet and normal transactions that in the long run will consolidate the security of good stock, and demonstrate the rottenness of speculative investments.

There is no firm connected with Philately in the whole world that stands higher than the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. for straightforward dealing and wise policy. Their explanation of the situation to their friends is manly in its tone and lucid in its statements; hence we take the liberty of reproducing some of its remarks that are equally worthy of the close attention of the thoughtful Philatelist on either side of the Atlantic Ocean :—

"In this, as in every other line of business dealing with an article which is dependent purely upon the actual demand and supply of the moment, there is a constant fluctuation of values, and it must be conceded that some stamps have receded from their previous high-water mark, and could with advantage be reduced to a lower level as far as the catalogue quotation is concerned. However, even as to these stamps the market is decidedly unsettled, and after a careful review of the entire situation, we have decided that it would be inadvisable for the present to publish a catalogue. A true basis of value could not be established at this moment, as the balance between the existing depression and the active demand of two years ago is still unadjusted. Owing to the slackening of demand the absorptive capacity of the dealers has been greatly limited, and they have been compelled to allow stamps to be offered at retail at prices at which, under ordinary circumstances, they, themselves, would have been glad to buy them at wholesale. As soon as the expected improvement in general trade arrives the demand for stamps will grow with the demand for other merchandise; dealers will again be able to compete in the market as purchasers, and to absorb any material quoted below its fair value. This will restore ordinary

trade to a normal basis, grounded on the desirability and scarcity of each particular item. We, ourselves, have great confidence in the future of the business, and feel that the condition of affairs will change entirely within the next three or four months; but, nevertheless, we would not feel justified in publishing a new catalogue at this time, with prices based on the active demand existing about two years ago. We are confident that we are approaching the time when a true and stable basis of values will be re-established, and when prices based on the relative rarity of specimens will be recognised as reasonable, and will prevail. We have, therefore, decided to continue, for the present, the use of the 1898 edition of the catalogue. We feel certain that the great majority of thinking collectors will approve our stand and commend our decision to postpone the publication of our catalogue; and, while we may be harshly criticised in quarters where harsh criticism of our catalogue, when published, was equally to be expected, we have no doubt that the future will justify our course, and prove that we have acted for the best interests of all concerned."

RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS.

MR. W. H. EARL kindly sends us the following information hereon:—"Since your notice, in May last, the following changes in the above have come under my personal notice:—

Barry Railway. These are now yellow-green.

Great Northern Railway. These are now light green.

Midland Railway. Control numbers are now $4\frac{1}{2}$ mils. long instead of 5 mils.; five figures now occupy a space measuring $17\frac{1}{2}$ mils. in place of $20\frac{1}{2}$ mils.

IRELAND.

Cork and Macroom Direct Railway. In place of blue these are now printed a bluish green, and the design has undergone a slight alteration, there being now three lines at the bottom instead of two.

Waterford and Central Ireland. These have appeared in brownish vermilion in place of green."

"THE AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIST."

WE regret to read the subjoined announcements in the July issue of this journal. The work done by our Australian contemporary has been so excellent that its disappearance would be a loss to Philately. The announcement of the severance from this journal of its editor and publisher is assuredly unwelcome news, the reasons for which we are at a loss to imagine.

"Mr. Fred Hagen desires to inform the subscribers of the journal that he has disposed of his right, title, and interest in the *Australian Philatelist* to Mr. Oscar Schulze, 113, Pitt Street, Sydney. The August number, being the commencement of vol. v., will inaugurate the new proprietorship. The journal will be continued under the same editor and in the same style as heretofore."

Following this announcement, however, is one by Mr. A. F. Basset Hull to this effect:—

"I regret that circumstances prevent me from editing the July number of the *Australian Philatelist*. Will you be good enough to remove my name from the cover and to publish this communication in the July issue of your journal?"

MR. PEARCE'S TRANSVAAL COLLECTION.

THE dispersal of a specialised collection of the first rank is always regretted by the true Philatelist, and we are genuinely sorry to have to announce that Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, have received instructions to dispose of this well-known collection on the 22nd and 23rd of November. No less than 450 lots will be required in the breaking-up of this grand collection, which was awarded the Silver Medal in its class at the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897, and a special Gold Medal for the best exhibit of Transvaal stamps. Mr. Pearce has been specialising Transvaals for over ten years, and has always aimed at getting good copies, having especially studied the early issues of the First Republic, with the view of identifying and classifying the several prints of the early local printers. The paper dealing with these issues, which was read before the Philatelic Society, London, and published in the *London Philatelist*, attracted much attention, and has done much to induce collectors to more carefully study the stamps of a most interesting country.

No such opportunity to fill up the blanks of a very difficult country is likely to occur for many years. It is well to place on record some of the most interesting stamps, many of which, it is safe to say, have never been seen by the ordinary collector.

Mr. Pearce has *tête-bêche* pairs of the *first* locally-printed 6d. and 1s. values, and a superb series of the stamps of the British Occupation, with the lines of the overprint spaced wider apart; viz., the 1d., unused, in a strip of three, and used with wide roulette; the 3d., with red surcharge; the 6d. (one copy with surcharge inverted); the 1s., red surcharge, in a strip of three, and the same value with black surcharge in a pair.

There are also two stamps with surcharge omitted, the 6d., blue on rose, and 6d., blue on blue; the 3d., lilac on buff, with inverted surcharge; the 6d., blue on green, with two stops between the "V" and "R," and those letters spaced wider apart; and the error "Transvral," unused. There are many of the scarce roulettes and inverted surcharges, and a number of entire sheets.

Review.

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.*

THE appearance of the third volume of this series completes a work that should be invaluable to the general collector. Excellent in many ways as were its predecessors, the present edition far surpasses them. Under the able guidance of Mr. Gordon Smith the entire system has been revised. The elimination of many varieties that appealed only to the specialist, the division of the work into three separate and independent volumes, and the grouping of the countries in their geographical sense have been material factors in the evolution of an album for the general collector that has assuredly no superior in the Philatelic world. The disappearance of the superfluous frame on the page, and the symmetrical grouping of the

* *The Imperial Album.* 3 vols. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

spaces (on excellent surfaced paper), with plenty of marginal space, adds vastly to the appearance of the mounted stamps. The arrangement of complicated issues, such as the Sydney Views, the Afghanistans, and many of the Australian and West Indian Colonies, is at once lucid and comprehensive, affording every assistance to the less advanced collector. The publishers state that, "adhering to the principle laid down by Mr. E. Stanley Gibbons, that 'Philately made easy' should be the chief aim of the compiler, we have endeavoured in the pages of this edition to omit all those minor varieties, etc., with which the collector need not concern himself, and insert only those which are what may be called standard varieties, and are universally recognized. The collector will therefore find that, on the whole (putting aside new issues), there are scarcely any more stamps to be considered now than were included in the edition of three years ago."

The first volume (431 pages) is devoted to Great Britain and Colonies.

In the second volume, consisting of Foreign Countries (658 pages), are included the postage stamps (as well as "Official," "Unpaid," and other stamps authorised for postage) of all foreign countries; but local stamps, formerly provided for at the end of the countries to which they belonged, are excluded. To this rule, however, exception has been made in favour of those stamps of a local nature issued directly by the Government, or by Government officials under implied sanction of the authorities.

Volume III. contains the local stamps of the world—Railway Letter Fee stamps being included. This separation is certainly a striking innovation; but whether it will lead to their greater acceptance of favour for locals remains to be seen. The publishers say hereon: "The task of separating local postage stamps from the general issues of the country has been in many cases by no means easy, and the editor of these volumes, Mr. Gordon Smith, has laid down the broad rule that where stamps of a local nature were issued by the Government of a State (as in the case of Madrid, Stockholm, etc.), or where stamps issued by Postmasters provisionally occupied the position of postage stamps issued by a sovereign State (as in the first Postmaster stamps of the United States), the stamps should be placed with the general issues of the country. Therefore this class of stamp has been provided for in the second volume of the *Imperial Album*, and the present volume only embraces those *locals* properly so called."

The history of most local stamps, like that of politicians, can hardly bear the light of day until they have long passed out of our daily life; but amongst them (the stamps of course, and not the politicians!) there *are* some of legitimate birth and respectable employment, while there are many who lamentably fail herein. These stamps have mostly the saving merit of being inexpensive, and they are, like Joseph's coat, of many colours; but with the redundancy of stamps to be collected, we fear that locals in the twentieth century may be "squeezed out of existence."

It only remains to add that as regards bindings, typography, illustrations, and notably the paper, these new *Imperials* are worthy of all praise, and reflect the greatest credit upon their enterprising publishers. Succinct and reliable albums such as these are the means of preserving and educating the collector, hence their issue is to be cordially recognized as a real assistance to Philately.

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 HONDURAS.—The following clipping from a local newspaper will afford interesting reading to collectors of the old school. The Governor of British Honduras scores a point, and evidence is furnished that there is at least one official who regards his Government as existing for other purposes than stamp speculation.

"Governor Wilson of British Honduras is arousing the full blast of *The Clarion* because, in spite of the wishes of the people, he has refused to sanction the issue of a commemorative postage stamp to perpetuate the memory of the battle of St. George's Cay. *The Clarion* says the Governor has been advised by addle-pated people, and for failing to meet the laudable wishes of the people *The Clarion* (to use its own words) has 'chalked this up against Mr. Wilson'; but it does not suggest that the Government could have made a handsome 'deal' in connection with the issue of stamps. Honduras must be in funds."

CANADA.—It is stated that the Government has decided not to reduce the internal postage rate from three to two cents until the effect of the Imperial penny post on the Dominion revenue has been ascertained, an arrangement that seems very anomalous!

The outcry against the crude profile of Her Majesty appearing on the embossed stationery (see page 197) appears to have been effectual in bringing about a change; and we are glad to see that already the 1 c. envelope has been issued with the old profile in place of the new. No doubt other values will follow.

Envelope. 1 c., dark green on *white*; new head.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Our friend Lieutenant Raby, writing from the Cape, informs us of further changes here. The 4d. has been issued in pale sage-green, and the old-type ½d. stamp has given place to a new one similar in design to the current 1d. value. It is also rumoured that the remaining values of the current set will give place to the 1893 design.

Adhesives. ½d., green.
4d., sage-green.

COOK ISLANDS.—Three values of a new issue are to hand from Ipswich. The design, which is apparently lithographed, consists of an oblong-octagonal frame containing a view and representation of a bird on the wing. The figures of value are in the four corners, and we note that the same stone is used for all values, with the figures separately impressed. Wmk. "N Z" and small star; perf. 11.

Adhesives. 2d., brown.
6d., mauve.
1s., rose-red.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—The stamps chronicled last month are illustrated.





GIBRALTAR.—We are indebted to Mr. A. Mattana for the following notice which appeared in the *Gibraltar Chronicle* of September 14th:—

"His Excellency the Governor desires to notify for public information that Orders in Council have been approved by Her Majesty making British Sterling Money legal tender in Gibraltar under the conditions of the Coinage Act, 1870.

"It is intended to promulgate these Orders on the 1st proximo, from which date the Order in

Council of 1881, regulating the Currency of Gibraltar, will be repealed, but the Spanish Coins specified therein will continue to be legal tender in payment of all engagements entered into before the promulgation of the new Orders in Council.

"From the 1st October, 1898, all postage fees will be payable in British money, and stamps having the duties expressed in Spanish currency will cease to be valid in prepayment of postage in Gibraltar, but those overprinted 'Morocco Agencies' will continue to be valid in the Postal Agencies maintained in Morocco by the Gibraltar Government.

"From the 1st to the 15th day of October next, both days inclusive, unused Postage Stamps having the duties expressed in Spanish currency will be repurchased at the Post Office at their face value, provided that the stamps be not soiled or otherwise damaged, and that they are presented in strips of not less than two.

"The new Postage Stamps, etc., with sterling duties, will be on sale on 1st October, 1898.

"By Command,

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, GIBRALTAR, *14th September*, 1898." "H. M. JACKSON, *Colonial Secretary.*

GRENADA.—The influx of British Colonial Jubilee issues is happily confined to single stamps. It also has to be noted that stamps at present emanating from British possessions in celebration of any laudable event have been issued in quantities sufficiently large to effectually prevent speculation. The Grenada Commemorative Stamp, heralded on page 175 of our journal, conforms to this description, at least 500,000 copies having been printed. The value is 2½d., and, provided it is not followed by further commemoratives, the choice of this value lends additional weight to the suggestion that the stamp is for the purpose specified in the Government notice, and not for speculation.

The design is crowded, the most conspicuous part being a representation of Columbus' ship, *La Concepcion*, in full sail, approaching the land. The stamp is inscribed at the foot with the date of issue, "1498 × 15TH AUGUST × 1898." Watermark Crown C C; perforated 14.

Adhesive. 2½d., ultramarine.

HONG KONG.—Mr. W. J. Gardner kindly writes in response to our appeal for information:—

"In the July *L. P.* the Hong Kong 10 c. on 30 c. is chronicled without the Chinese character surcharged, whereat I am not surprised. You ask for information in the matter that one such omission occurs in each sheet. I am not in position to furnish such 'information,' but I cannot rest satisfied without saying that I don't believe that is the case. I have always understood that the Chinese portion of all these Hong Kong surcharged stamps is done at the colony. The erratic positions they take would indicate this. Kindly look at strip of $1.00, reds (enclosed), and compare the relative positions of the Chinese characters. They are not even 'true' vertically in relation to the stamp; if they were set up in a forme, the types should certainly fit correctly vertically at least. The same observations will apply to the block of the 10 c. on 30 c., also enclosed.

"The recent remainders of the $1.00, reds, happily cremated by the P.O. officials — peace to their ashes—(those of the stamps, of course), comprised more copies unsurcharged with the Chinese characters than surcharged, another indication that this portion was done at Hong Kong.

"In the cases of the two varieties of the $1.00 on $2.00, you will recollect that the Chinese surcharge occurs twice on each stamp, once *diagonally* placed, a position which I imagine is rather difficult to set up in a forme. Of both varieties of this $1.00 on $2.00 I happen myself to possess a copy, on which the vertical surcharge has been omitted.

"All things considered of which I have ever noticed, then I believe that the surcharging of the Chinese character for '10' on the 10 c. on 30 c. was done by hand, like all the rest, and stamp by stamp was operated on; consequently I cannot believe that there could result such a uniformity as one error on each sheet! I hope, however, you will receive information that will be more 'authoritative' than my 'reasons.'"

The specimens kindly forwarded by Mr. Gardner certainly bear out his contentions.

INDIA.—A correspondent kindly forwards us the *Statesman*, of Calcutta, of August 24th, containing the following interesting letter, with whose spirit Philatelists will cordially agree:—

"The August number of the *Philatelic Journal of India* makes the interesting announcement that a 3-pie postage stamp will appear on the 1st October next. The new stamp will consist of the current ½ anna, green, surcharged '¼,' in black, and it will be followed in about six months' time by a new permanent issue of the obsolete 9 pies, carmine, of 1883, with the value altered to 3 pies. The further application of a surcharge to an Indian stamp is apparently in this case justifiable. The Post Office of India has hitherto been most exemplary in the matter of the surcharges of its general issues, the only other instances of an adhesive postage stamp having been so dealt with that occur to me being that of the 2½ annas on the old 4½ annas, yellow-green, effected in 1893, and that of the word 'NINE' surcharged on the old 8 pie, lilac, in 1876, the authenticity of which manipulation is, however, doubtful. From the illustration of the new surcharge given in the *Journal*, it seems, however, a pity that a less easily forged surcharge has not been adopted by

the authorities. The surcharge '¼' is large and extremely crude. It could be successfully imitated by almost any type-setter. I am aware, of course, that for ordinary purposes it would not pay to surcharge an unused ½ anna stamp so as to reduce its value to 3 pies; but lightly postmarked ½ anna stamps could probably be so carefully cleaned, that when disfigured by the large heavy surcharge that has been selected for adoption, it would be no difficult matter for them to pass muster. From the collector's point of view the design of the new surcharge is most objectionable. The Indian adhesives are high favourites with collectors, and the intrusion of an ugly surcharge into their ranks, even when genuine, will be by no means welcome. The new provisional stamp will, of course, circulate chiefly in India. Its use for six months will prevent its becoming common for many years here; but in other lands this will not be the case, and it is unpleasant to think of the thousands of collectors who will, as the years go on, have spurious copies of the ¼ anna surcharge of 1898–99 foisted upon them. This will all tend to break down the popularity of our beautiful Indian series, and also to react unfavourably upon the revenue derived from the sale of unused Indian stamps to collectors. It is evident we must put up with a surcharge (though why it should require half a year to procure a supply from England of the new stamps prepared from an altered, but previously used, design is not so evident); but it seems to me that the inevitable surcharge might at least be of a character sufficiently complicated to render the detection of a forgery easy to anyone. The letters 'V.R.I.' worked into a cunning monogram in the centre of the stamp, with a small '¼' in each corner, would make a novel and not unpleasing surcharge, and offer at the same time unbounded difficulties to a would-be forger. It also seems to me a pity that this opportunity should not be taken to use up the remainder of the stock of the old 6 annas 'East India,' bistre, which is still in issue, but which belongs to the former series in use prior to 1882. The new 6 annas of the current issue has, I believe, been prepared for many years, but has never been placed on sale. A copy—said to be the property of the Duke of York—was shown at the London Philatelic Exhibition last autumn. The current number of the *Journal* also contradicts the rumour that the Government have in view the preparation of an entirely separate issue of service adhesives to replace the current 'On H.M.S.' series. This is disappointing. The surcharge is often, as in the case of the coming 3 pies provisional, an unavoidable necessity; but the surcharge as a permanent institution of the postal system of any country is worse than a mistake, and as an incentive to fraud little short of a crime."

A provisional stamp in India is something of a novelty. The *P. J. of India* announces the creation of a ¼ anna stamp, for which purpose the ½ anna, green, value has been overprinted "¼" in black, in large numerals. Our contemporary explains this provisional as follows: The "privileged newspaper" system is to be abolished, and for the future newspapers weighing not more than 4 tolas (nearly 2 ozs.), provided the same are registered at the Postmaster-General's Office, will, from October 1st, be entitled to a ¼ anna rate. To meet this charge a new ¼ anna (3 pies) stamp, similar in design to the obsolete 9 pies value, has been ordered from England. As six months must elapse before the new stamps can be received the provisional described is to be issued.

We note that Indian collectors are looking for probable changes in the current stamps, owing to the new regulations respecting reduced postage which will come into force in December next.

Adhesive. ¼ on ½ a., green; surcharge black.

NEWFOUNDLAND. — The portrait series has been further enlarged by the ½ cent value, which bears a tolerable representation of Prince Edward of York.

Adhesive. ½ cent, bistre-brown.

NEW ZEALAND.—It is interesting to note that the error of spelling in the 2½d. stamp of the new issue was first noticed when a proof of this stamp was exhibited, by permission of the Government, at the annual meeting of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand; also that the official descriptions of the stamps were supplied, at the request of the postal authorities, by Mr. E. G. Pilcher, Vice-President of the above Society.

The following cutting from the *Otago Witness* speaks for changes in the near future; the news, coming from official sources, appears to be reliable:—

"The following changes in the other stamps are also to be made as soon as practicable: The design at present in use for the 1d. (Lake Taupo) will be used for the 4d., and the present 4d. design (the White Terraces) for the 1d. This was the original intention, but in some way the designs were confused in London. The new 4d. will be printed in *brown* and *blue* tints, which have been so much admired in the present 1d. stamp; but opportunity will be taken to transpose the colours of the new 1d. and 9d. stamps, as being more suitable for the representations of the White and Pink Terraces. Future supplies of all

stamps have been ordered to be printed on watermarked paper. The present 1d. design has to be printed in two colours, and is too expensive for a stamp which is used in such large numbers. At the late Postal Congress it was agreed that the colours of the ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps of countries within the Postal Union should be uniform. These colours were agreed upon: The ½d., *green;* 1d., *red;* 2½d., *blue.* A bungle has evidently been made here by the authorities, for of the three values the 2½d. is the only one printed in the correct colour. The change in colour to be made of the 1d. and 4d. stamps will bring the 1d. to its correct colour. There will then remain to print the ½d. in *green.* When this is done we may conclude that the colours will be finally settled—so far as regards these three values. There are only two stamps that have greenish tints—the 6d. is a *yellow-green*, and the 2s. a *blue-green.* The latter is a large stamp, and not likely to be confused with the ½d., and so will not need any alteration; but the 6d. might, in a bad light, be taken for the ½d., and it may be found necessary to find a new colour for the 6d. But why should not these colours have been all arranged when the order was first given?"

NIGER COAST.—The three new values described last month are illustrated.







STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Johore.*—It is reported that some new values have been added to the current series of stamps. These are—10, 25, and 50 cents, and $2, $3, $4, and $5, the latter being high values for a Malay state.

EUROPE.

HOLLAND.—At the moment of going to press we receive news of the appearance during the past week of certain values of the long-heralded new issue, the salient feature of which is the new profile of the Queen Wilhelmina, representing Her Majesty as she is. Tasteful in design and well printed, the Netherlands issues of 1898 will be a future reminder of an auspicious event, as well as an acquisition to Philatelic collections. By our next issue we hope to be in a position to illustrate the stamps.

AMERICA.

ECUADOR.—The loose method of creating fiscal-postals and provisional stamps in this republic renders it almost impossible for the home collector to keep in touch with the multitudinous issues.

The *M. J.* says: "The surcharging business is still going on merrily here. We have received three values of the '1897-1898' fiscal stamps, overprinted with a new value across the centre, and the words 'CORREOS' above and 'OFICIAL' below, all within a single-line rectangular frame.

"Mr. Morley tells us of two more of these fiscal stamps employed for postage without any surcharge."

Fiscals used Postally.

Ordinary. 50 c., lilac.
1 s., orange.

Official. 5 c., in *green*, on 50 cent., lilac.
10 c., in *black*, on 20 sucres, orange.
20 c. ,, on 50 ,, green.

UNITED STATES.—While scarcely conforming to the description of a new issue, the discovery of a sheet of the current 1 cent stamps on laid paper is interesting and worthy of record.

The internal revenue stamps — current postage stamps surcharged "I.R." — are being allowed through the post, attributable probably to carelessness rather than to official sanction.

Adhesive 1 c., green; *laid paper.*

URUGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received the 1 c. stamp surcharged, in black, "PROVISIONAL—½—CENTESIMO."

Adhesive. ½ c., blue; black surcharge.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—The following values of the London print are now said to be in use.

Adhesives. ½ c., chocolate.
1 c., ochre.
2 c., red.
5 c., carmine.
10 c., green.

It is stated in the London Press that the Imperial Postal System is to be forthwith established throughout the whole of the Chinese Empire—or such portions thereof as the European nations may not elect to annex!

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

The Philatelic Society of Victoria.

THE Annual General Meeting of the above Society was held at its new room, 271, Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, June 29th last. Mr. A. J. Derrick, President, occupied the chair, and presided over the best-attended meeting ever held since the Society was inaugurated.

The Hon. Secretary was not present, owing to recent bereavement in his family, and Mr. C. Chapman acted in his stead.

After the minutes of the last Annual Meeting had been read, the President addressed the meeting. He stated that it was necessary that he should speak of the doings of the Society, but he would not confine himself to the twelve months just past. The Society had been in existence for six years, and had done work which had been instrumental in circulating stamps through the medium of the exchange books, and it seemed only a few months ago when Exchange Book No. 1 was circulated, and now Book No. 64 was doing its duty. The exchange system had entailed a lot of work upon the Hon. Secretary and Exchange Superintendent in balancing the books, charging the various members and deducting commissions, keeping records, etc. etc., but the work had been carried out with satisfactory results. Most of the members knew that the Society originated by a dinner given by Mr. C. Hesselman to his friends who were interested in Philately, and it was then agreed that a Philatelic Society should be started, and the result had been most successfully carried out, the members' roll now numbering sixty-three. At some of the meetings the attendance had not been startling, but comparing with other societies of the world it had been good. What gave the greatest satisfaction was the good fellowship that had always existed between the members; and the great object for intending members was to get stamps, Philatelic intercourse, and lastly, the benefits of the Exchange system. Corresponding members got no benefits beyond the Exchange Books, and they as well as other members anxiously looked forward to the receipt of the books. Mr. Derrick regretted that want of time on his part had debarred him from compiling papers on Philatelic subjects. He (the President) referred to the loss sustained by the Society by the largest fire Melbourne had ever seen. He next mentioned that during the year the Post Office authorities had issued Hospital stamps to extort money from those who were foolish enough to buy them. He had not done so, and he would not under any circumstances have them in his collection, and he thought it was a great pity the Government had lent themselves to such a practice; but it had met its just reward, and was a disappointment to those promoting the venture. In conclusion, he thanked the officers and members for the support they had given him during his term of office.

The annual report and balance-sheet not having been printed and circulated amongst the members, a motion adjourning the consideration of the same was carried.

The election of office-bearers for 1898–9 was then proceeded with. Mr. W. R. Rundell was unanimously elected President, while Mr. A. S. A. Wheeler was elected Vice-President, and Mr. C. Chapman Librarian. The next office to be filled was Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, for which a keen contest ensued, and resulted in the re-election by a substantial majority of Mr. D. S. Abraham, who was also elected Exchange Superintendent. The Committeemen elected were Messrs. A. J. Derrick, J. Davis, O. W. Rosenham, and W. Brettschneider.

The newly-elected officers returned thanks to the officers, after which the meeting adjourned until July 13th, upon which date the members again assembled. Mr. W. R. Rundell, the newly-elected President, occupied the chair.

The annual report and balance-sheet had been printed and circulated, and was unanimously received and adopted.

"Your Committee begs to submit to you the sixth annual report and balance-sheet. The number of members now on the roll is sixty-three, comprising forty-six town, sixteen corresponding, and one honorary member. Your Committee regrets that the room formerly occupied by the Society, together with the whole of the furniture, library, and stationery, which were uninsured, were totally destroyed by fire on the 21st November last. The balance at the Society's credit is £24 12s. 10d., which your Committee thinks very satisfactory when the expenditure incurred through losses by the disastrous fire beforementioned is taken into consideration. A new room has been rented at No. 271, Collins Street, Melbourne, and refurnished, the expense of which has been partly met by voluntary subscriptions by some of the members in response to the invitation of your Committee, which desires to express its sincere thanks to all those who contributed to this fund. An appeal was made to members and Philatelists generally to assist the Society with donations of books and journals to re-form the library, which was most liberally responded to, and the thanks of the Society are tendered to the gentlemen and firms who so generously complied with the request. The library thus formed has been arranged and placed in the new room, where access can be obtained to it by the members, and your Committee hopes that every member will patronize the room whenever possible, especially as it is situated in a most central position of the city. Before procuring the present rooms the meetings of the Society were temporarily held at the offices of The Accountants and Clerks Association, Limited, who, through the courtesy of Mr. A. S A. Whelen, generously placed them at its disposal. The exhibition of stamp collections at the meetings of the Society inaugurated last year has been continued with success, and, as predicted, has been instrumental in improving the attendances. In conclusion your Committee is pleased to report that the Society maintains its prosperous position, owing greatly to the zeal of the Hon. Secretary (Mr. D. S. Abraham), who is untiring in his efforts to advance the interests of the Society."

The Hon. Secretary returned thanks to the members for re-electing him, and also for their kind expressions of sympathy during his recent troubles.

D. S. ABRAHAM *Hon. Sec.*

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. OCTOBER, 1898. No. 82.

Philatelic Auctions.

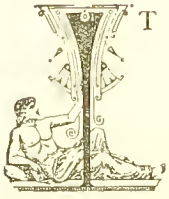
WE have always recognized the fact that the Philatelic Auction, practically started in this country by Mr. Douglas Garth, ex-Secretary of the London Philatelic Society, has been and is a most powerful factor in the well-being of stamp collecting. In former days the collector was almost at the mercy of the dealer, and in the event of wishing to dispose of his stamps, had no option but to accept whatever the latter might offer; nor are we for a minute imputing to dealers anything beyond the inherent tendency of every man to do the best he can for himself in business, and to avail himself of all the sweet uses of monopoly. With the auctions came, however, greatly increased facilities both for purchase and sale, and among the effects were an enlarged number of collectors and a rapid rise of price. This latter feature was watched with interest, and the early auctions were attended personally by the principal buyers of all classes. As auctions became more frequent in their occurrence there was a decided tendency to entrust the bid to agents, and to remain content with noting the result in the published lists of prices realized. During the last three years, however, the number of auctions held has not only enormously increased, but in the aggregate, and perhaps as a natural result, the general quality has distinctly deteriorated. The publication of excerpts from the auction lots, with the prices attained, has for both these reasons become increasingly difficult. During the past season the number of prices quoted in the *London Philatelist* was materially reduced, and we have now decided to entirely omit any stereotyped tables of the values realized. We have

not taken this step without due consideration and respect for the wishes of the several parties concerned, and we are confident that in the best interests of the auctioneer, the dealer, and the collector, the withdrawal of these price lists is eminently desirable.

In taking this step it must clearly be understood that it is conceived in no spirit of opposition to the auctions, which we and all collectors welcome —especially under the able guidance of the leading houses—as being of the greatest value and interest to Philatelists in general. Where the collector has been enabled to personally inspect the lots perhaps not much harm is done, but when the description alone is relied upon, the value realized is frequently most misleading. Stamps, in a small way, are like other goods that auctioneers dispose of, *e.g.*, houses or horses or furniture, any of which articles would be unsafe to bid for from catalogue description only. Needless to say, we shall by no means ignore the doings at the rostrum, but shall endeavour to inform our readers of the various points of interest presented, and to duly indicate the tendencies of the market. There are to be several important sales this winter, and we trust sincerely that their results may be commensurate with the wishes of the auctioneers and their clients. We would once more suggest the advisability of issuing the catalogues not less than a month prior to the sale.

Sydney Views: Collectible Varieties.

By M. P. CASTLE.



IT is striking testimony to the attractions of the Australian stamps that they should so firmly maintain their hold upon our affections. Although "the old order changeth," there are now in this country alone many enthusiastic specialists of the stamps of Oceania, some confining their attention to one country, but the majority "taking all Australia." I have on several occasions been approached by collectors of the latter stamp for advice as to the scope of their collecting, *i.e.*, where they should draw the line as to varieties.

Despite bushels of sound advice the specialist is often apt to accumulate according to his opportunity, and to discard nothing, with the result that in the long-run he has many duplicates and many blanks. In order to avoid this the man who intends to spread his energies over so wide a group as Australia would do wisely to look ahead and lay down his foundations on the bed rock of finiteness. In my humble judgment those Australian collectors who wish to achieve the last-named and difficult quality would do well to discard plating.

Everything concerning the plates of New South Wales and Tasmania has been learnt, and even in Victoria there is nothing momentous to be

unearthed, although much is yet unexplained. There is, however, no real necessity for our would-be "finite" Australian specialist to take all these type varieties, as an autotype or photograph of each plate can be placed at the end of the respective volumes for reference, etc.

The difficulty of "drawing the line" does not, however, end here, as there are certain long-recognized varieties on some plates, the non-possession of which would constitute a defect in the eyes of the critic—or of the Exhibition jury. In the case of Victoria, Issue 1, the value omitted is a stamp that should be taken—when it can be got! In Queensland, South Australia, New Zealand, West Australia, and Tasmania the type sub-varieties are also but few in number.

It is in New South Wales that the chief difficulty occurs. In the Laureated series there are some six or eight salient variations from the remaining specimens on the plate that have been long dignified as errors, while on the registered plates there is no specimen strikingly at variance with its compeers. As regards the all-important first issue, there are really but seven errors of importance, *e.g.*:—

1d., Plate II., hill unshaded.
„ „ „ no clouds.
2d. „ I., background of *all* diagonal strokes.
„ „ II., "CREVIT" omitted.
„ „ „ pick and shovel omitted.
„ „ III. (first retouch), fan with 6 segments.
„ „ „ (second „) „ „ „ „

There is assuredly no necessity or advantage—to the Australian specialist—in collecting each of these varieties on the different papers. The absurdity of this is shown in Scott's *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, where by listing each variety on each kind of paper no less than 137 varieties of Sydneys are listed. In Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue (1897), by avoiding this repetition, the list is compressed to 43 varieties, and in this same firm's new *Imperial Album*, which appeals, however, to the general collector, the total is diminished to about 24.

In "drawing the line" (for the Australian specialist), however, there are two further considerations, *e.g.*, the paper employed and the colours used, and it is because these two elements are so important in connection with the Sydney Views that I have advised our friends to aim at *the real completeness of a specimen of each printing*, and not to attempt the impossible task of recruiting types on the different papers. In those early days of colonial printing the mixing of the colours and the selection of the paper presented the greatest variety, hence the gathering together of these will be found to afford the fullest interest.

I append a list of the several papers employed and of the shades found thereon, which was compiled some time back from my own collection and observation, and afterwards submitted to competent experts. From this list, which may be deemed fairly inclusive, it will be seen that all the distinct shades on all the paper varieties can be compassed in about 90 specimens, and if to these be added the seven (or, say, ten) "errors" of

type, it will be seen that to the patient specialist the horizon of *completeness* in Sydney Views is bounded by the acquisition of about one hundred specimens. Q.E.F.

ISSUE I. OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Synopsis of Shades and Papers.

1d. Plate I.

A. *Paper—soft, yellowish wove.*
Pale carmine-red. Full carmine-red. Lake-red (shades). Bright brick-red. Bright brownish red. Dull lake. Rose to pink. Brownish red.

B. *Paper—hard, closely ribbed, bluish to almost white.*
Dull brownish red. Lake-red. Dull pink.

C. *Paper—hard, bluish.*
Dull pink (shades). Reddish pink. Brownish red.
Bright red (the only specimen I have seen of this value).

1d. Plate II.

A. *Paper—hard, yellowish.*
Vermilion. Bright red. Orange-vermilion. Brownish red.

B. *Paper—hard, bluish.*
Crimson-lake. Brownish lake.

C. *Paper—blued on both sides.*
Dull pink. Dull brownish pink.

D. *Paper—hard, dull greyish.*
Rich lake (generally known by the expression "gooseberry," which faithfully represents the shade).

E. *Paper—grey.*
Dull red. Dull brownish red.

F. *Paper—bluish to yellowish, laid (or ribbed) horizontally.*
Deep crimson. Crimson-lake. Warm brownish red. Dark red. Bright red.

2d. Plate I.

Paper—soft, medium, thick, and yellowish.
Early impressions (showing full details, etc.).
Greyish blue. Pale blue. Indigo-blue. Violet-blue.
Prussian blue (very rarely seen in this condition of plate).

As preceding, but plate more worn.
Dull blue. Greyish blue (pale to full). Prussian blue.

The later worn specimens also include:—
Dark greyish blue. Light blue. Blue. Prussian blue.

2d. Plate I. (retouch).

Paper—as last.
Pale blue. Milky blue. Prussian blue. Blue.

2d. Plate II.

Paper—as last.

Early impressions showing full clouds and details.
Pale milky blue. Pale blue. Deep chalky blue. Bright blue.
Dark blue. Prussian blue.

As preceding, but more yellowish.
Blue. Blue-violet (light to dark).

As preceding, but with plate gradually becoming more worn.
(*a*) Dull blue. Bright blue. Prussian blue.

Paper—hard (occasionally showing narrow vertical ribbing).
(*b*) Dull blue. Bright blue. Prussian blue.

2d. Plate III.

A. *Paper—hard and greyish.*
Ultramarine (this is a very scarce variety, and I do not remember seeing a specimen other than in my own collection). Lilac-blue. Pale to full blue (shades).

B. *Paper—rather harder; and impressions showing less distinctly.*
Deep bright blue. Deep lilac-blue.

2d. Plate III. (first retouch).

Paper—hard, blue to grey.
Dark slaty blue. Rich dark blue. Prussian blue. Deep ultramarine. Violet-blue.

Paper—laid (or ribbed) vertically, and yellowish.
Dullish blue (shades).

2d. Plate III. (second retouch).

Paper—hard, grey.
Violet-blue (shades), as last.

Paper—laid (or ribbed) vertically.
Violet-blue (shades).

3d.

Paper—hard, bluish.
Bright green. Dull green. Apple-green. Full green. Brownish green.

Paper—soft, yellowish wove.
Slightly bluish green. Green. Deep apple-green. Myrtle-green (shades). (Rare.)

Paper—soft, bluish to greyish.
Emerald-green. Dull brownish green. Pale green.

Paper—horizontally laid (or ribbed).
Yellowish green. Dull green.

Paper—as last, but bluish.
Pale yellowish green. (Extremely rare; only one or two copies known.)

Reference List of Railway Letter Post Stamps.

By H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

(*Continued from p.* 230.)

WALES.

Barry Dock & Railways.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. Black horizontal control numbers.

151. 2d., yellow-green; rouletted (Nos. 1 to 500).
152. 2d. „ perf. (?) (Nos. 501 to 1000).

NOTE.—The latter issue was brought into use March 14th, 1894. In the following year the title of the company was changed to Barry Railway, and the above stamps became obsolete.

Barry Railway.

1895 (Sept. 16th). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. Black control numbers. Perf. 11½.

153. 2d., dull green (Nos. 1001 to 1600).
154. 2d., green (Nos. 1601 to 2800).
155. 2d., yellow-green (Nos. 2801 to 4000).

NOTE.—The sheets consist of 12 stamps, but are printed in 2 panes of 6, side by side. As each pane is printed separately, their position in relation to one another varies. In the latter of the three issues, a margin, 8 mm. wide, is left between the panes. No. 154 was issued October 13th, 1896, and No. 155, March 30th, 1898.

Brecon and Merthyr Railway.

1891. Type, Bemrose, Derby. Sheets of 60, 6 rows of 10. Perf. 11.

156. 2d., yellow-green, dull green.

Cambrian Railways.

1891. Special type. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4.

157. 2d., green (shades); perf. 12½.
158. 2d., dark green; perf. 11½.
159. 2d., pale green; glazed paper; perf. 11½.
160. 2d. „ thin paper; perf. 11½.

NOTE.—No. 157 always has a white spot in the centre of the figure "2." Another peculiarity of this stamp is that the stone from which it was printed made a row of four impressions only, so that each sheet required three impressions. The rows vary greatly in colour, and also in their position. On this account, vertical strips are more interesting and valuable than horizontal. Unfortunately blocks and sheets, as in the case of most old railway stamps, are practically non-existent.

TYPES.



CAMBRIAN.



GREAT N. OF SCOTLAND



R. CARSWELL & SONS, BELFAST.



PURCELL & CO., CORK.



BROWNE & NOLAN, DUBLIN.



JAMES CALHOUN, DERRY.



N. HARVEY & CO., WATERFORD.



SEALY, BRYERS & WALKER, DUBLIN.

Manchester & Milford Railway.

This line is wholly in S.W. Wales, and runs between the towns of Aberystwith and Pencader.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. Black horizontal control numbers. Rouletted.

161. 2d., yellow-green; fig. 3 mm. high (Nos. 1 to 3000) (?).

162. 2d., pale green; fig. 3¼ mm. high (Nos. 1 to 600 issued).

Neath & Brecon Railway.

1891. Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3. Perf. 11½.

163. 2d., dark green, green.

1897. Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. Perf. 11½.

164. 2d., dull green.

North Pembrokeshire and Fishguard Railway.

1897. Printed from a steel plate in large sheets, but divided into blocks of 8 without margin before delivery. Perf. 11.

165. 2d., green.

NOTE.—These stamps are now obsolete, the Great Western Railway Company having taken over the line.

Pembroke and Tenby Railway.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6. Black control numbers.

166. 2d., yellow-green; rouletted (?). Nos. 1 to 1000 (?).

167. 2d., dark green; perf. 11½. Nos. 1001 to 2000 (?).

NOTE.—These stamps are now obsolete, G.W.R. stamps having been issued since 1894. I have not been able to meet with a specimen of the first issue.

Rhondda & Swansea Bay Railway.

1891. Type, Waterlow. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6. Perf. 11½.

168. 2d., green.

Rhymney Railway.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6. Black horizontal control numbers. Rouletted.

169. 2d., yellow-green. Nos. 1 to 1700 issued.

Taff Vale Railway.

1891. Type, Bemrose. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Black vertical control numbers.

170. 2d., green; perf. 10. Nos. 1 to 3600 issued.

SCOTLAND.

Ayrshire and Wigtownshire Railway.

1891 (March). Type, McCorquodale, London. Said to have been printed in deep green, and rouletted, but only an imperf. proof is known.

201. 2d., green (?). Nos. 1 to 2000.

Caledonian Railway Company.

1891 Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

202. 2d., pale green; glazed paper.
203. 2d., deep green; thin paper.
204. 2d., dull green, yellowish green.

City of Glasgow Union Railway.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12 (?).

205. 2d., deep green; perf. 12 (?).

NOTE.—In May, 1898, a reprint of 12 sheets was made, 12 stamps to the sheet (3 rows of 4), similar in colour, perf., etc., to the third issue of the Caledonian Railway (as above).

Dundee and Arbroath Joint Railway.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

206. 2d., dark green; glazed paper.

Glasgow and South Western Railway.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

207. 2d., dark green; glazed paper.
208. 2d., olive-green; glazed paper.
209. 2d., deep green.
210. 2d., green.

Glasgow, Barrhead, and Kilmarnock Joint Railway.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

211. 2d., dark green; glazed paper.
212. 2d., deep green; glazed paper.
213. 2d., pale green; thin paper.

NOTE.—Sheets of the latter have the outer margin imperforate.

Great North of Scotland Railway.

1891. Special type. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

214. 2d., yellow-green; thick paper.
215. 2d., green; thin paper.
216. 2d., dark green (shades).

NOTE.—All the above have margin of sheet imperforate.

Highland Railway Company (The).

1891. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

217. 2d., olive-green; glazed paper.
218. 2d., yellow-green.
219. 2d., green.

North British Railway Company.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

220. 2d., pale green; glazed paper.
221. 2d., green; thin paper.
222. 2d., olive-green, yellowish green.

Portpatrick and Girvan Joint Line.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Perf. 12.

223. 2d., yellow-green.

NOTE.—These stamps have been obsolete since January, 1894.

Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Railways.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Perf. 12. *Sheets of* 12, 3 *rows of* 4.

224. 2d., green.

225. 2d., bright green (pale).

Sheets of 12, 2 *rows of* 6.

226. 2d., green.

227. 2d., yellow-green.

IRELAND.

Ballycastle Railway.

1891. Lithographed by R. Carswell & Sons, Belfast. Sheets of 9, 3 rows of 3. Perf. 11.

251. 2d., green.

252. 2d., olive-green (shades).

Belfast & County Down Railway.

1891. Lithographed by Carswell & Sons. Sheets of 9, 3 rows of 3. Perf. 11.

253. 2d., deep green.

254. 2d., olive-green, yellow-green.

255. 2d., grey, grey-green (1898).

Belfast & Northern Counties Railway.

1891. Lithographed by Carswell & Sons. Sheets of 9, 3 rows of 3. Perf. 11.

256. 2d., green.

257. 2d., olive-green, yellow-green.

258. 2d., grey, grey-green.

Castlederg & Victoria Bridge Tramway Company.

1897. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker, Dublin. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6.

259. 2d., green (shades); perf. 10.

260. 2d. „ „ perf. 12½.

NOTE.—These appear to be of the same printing.

Cavan, Leitrim & Roscommon Light Railway.

1891. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6. Pin-perf. 11.

261. 2d., bluish green.

NOTE.—About June, 1898, a large number of stamps were printed in sheets of 48, but without the knowledge or authority of the Company. The "stamps" differ only slightly in design, are deep green in colour, and perf. 10 and 12½. The entire stock is stated to have been sold to a dealer.

Clogher Valley Tramway Co., Ltd.

1891. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6. Perf. 11.

262. 2d., green (shades).

NOTE.—These stamps are now obsolete.

Clogher Valley Railway Co., Ltd.

1898. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker. Sheets of 48, 6 rows of 8. Perf. 10.

263. 2d., dark green.

Cork & Macroom Direct Railway.

1891. Printed by Purcell & Co., Cork. Sheets of 8, 2 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

First type, 2 lines at bottom.

264. 2d., bright blue (shades).

Second type, 3 lines at bottom.

265. 2d., bright green (shades).

NOTE.—The blue stamps, of which 1000 were printed, are now obsolete.

Cork, Bandon & South Coast Railway.

1891. Printed by Purcell & Co., Cork. Perf. 12.

First type, with comma after "Bandon"; thicker lettering; larger "2d." in centre.

First printing. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4 (?).

266. 2d., yellow-green.

Second printing. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6.

267. 2d., pale green (shades).

Second type, no comma after "Bandon"; lettering and value thinner; general impression clearer.

Third printing. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6.

268. 2d., dark green (shades).

Fourth printing. Sheets of 12, 4 rows of 3.

269. 2d., green (shades).

Fifth printing. Sheets of 12, 2 rows of 6.

270. 2d., dark green.

NOTE.—Nos. 267, 268, and 269 have the number "195" between brackets at the top left-hand side of each stamp; No. 270 has the number "92"; and No. 266, the first issue, is without number.

Cork, Blackrock & Passage Railway.

1891. Printed by Purcell & Co., Cork. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

271. 2d., green.

272. 2d., dull green.

Donegal Railway Company.

1892 (October). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 10, 2 rows of 5. Rouletted in colour.

273. 2d., pale green, green; glazed paper.

274. 2d., dark green (shades); thin paper.

1898. Type, McCorquodale, Glasgow. Sheets of 12, 3 rows of 4. Perf. 12.

275. 2d., green (shades).

Dublin, Wicklow & Wexford Railway.

1891. Printed by Browne & Nolan, Dublin. Sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6. The number of the sheet is printed in black on the margin above the third stamp in the first row. Perf. 10½.

276. 2d., pale green, green.

Dundalk, Newry & Greenore Railway.

1891. Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 20, 5 rows of 4. Black control numbers. Rouletted.

277. 2d., yellow-green; Nos. 1 to 500.

278. 2d., bright green (May, 1898).

Finn Valley Railway Company.

1891. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker. Sheets of 24 (?). Perf. 11.

279. 2d., yellow-green (similar in type, colour, and perforation to the stamps of the Clogher Valley Tramway Co., Ltd.).

280. 2d., dark green.

NOTE.—I have not met with a specimen of this latter variety. Proofs are known in dark green, perf. and imperf. In May, 1898, a reprint of 8 sheets of 12 (3 rows of 4) was made, the stamps being bright emerald-green, perf. 12½. Finn Valley stamps ceased to be issued in October, 1892.

Finn Valley and West Donegal Railways.

1891 (June). Type, McCorquodale, London. Sheets of 10 (?). Rouletted (?).

281. 2d., green.

NOTE.—These stamps ceased to be issued in October, 1892. In August, 1898, a reprint of 12 sheets was made, the sheets consisting of 10 stamps, 2 rows of 5, printed in yellow-green, and rouletted in colour.

Great Northern Railway Company (I.).

1891. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker. Perf. 11. Present size of sheets, 48, in 8 rows of 6.

282. 2d., green.

283. 2d., dark green.

284. 2d., dull green (dark).

285. 2d., emerald-green (1898).

Great Southern & Western Railway.

1891. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker, Dublin. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6. Perf. 11.

286. 2d., dark green.

287. 2d., emerald-green.

Kanturk & Newmarket Railway Company.

1892. (In use a few months only.) Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker. Sheets of 24 (?). Pin-perf. 10.

288. 2d., dark green.

NOTE.—Two transfers, differing slightly, were made, but imperforate proof impressions alone exist of the former. Reprints—I cannot say whether authorized by the G. S. & W. Company or not—have also been made, similar in design to the first transfer, but slightly larger, yellow-green in shade, and perf. 10.

Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company (I.).

1893 (Sept.). Printed by James Calhoun, Derry. Sheets of 40, 5 rows of 8. Perf. 12.

289. 1d., blue (pale and dark shades).

1898 (Oct.). Special type; oblong. Inscribed "Fee for post letter by rail" at the sides, and "Vita, Veritas, Victoria" in the centre. Value, "2d," at each corner. Arms in centre. Sheets of 30, 5 rows of 6.

290. 2d., rose; perf. 10.

Midland Great Western Railway.

1891. Printed by Browne & Nolan, Dublin. Sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6. Perf. 10½.

291. 2d., green, pale green.

NOTE.—The number of the sheet is printed in black on the margin over the third stamp in the top row. About 450 sheets have been issued up to the present.

Sligo, Leitrim, & Northern Counties Railway.

1891. Printed by Carswell & Sons, Belfast. Sheets of 9, 3 rows of 3.

292. 2d., green.

293. 2d., olive-green (shades).

NOTE.—The third stamp of the top row has no comma after "Sligo."

Tralee & Dingle Light Railway and Tramway Company.

1897. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker, Dublin. Sheets of 48, 8 rows of 6. Perf. 10.

294. 2d., dark green.

Waterford & Central Ireland Railway.

1891. Printed by N. Harvey & Co., Waterford. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6.

295. 2d., green; perf. 12.

296. 2d., red-brown; perf. 11.

Waterford & Tramore Railway.

1891. Printed by N. Harvey & Co. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6. Perf. 11.

297. 2d., green (shades).

Waterford & Limerick Railway.

1891. Printed by N. Harvey & Co. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6.

298. 2d., yellow-green; perf. 12.

299. 2d., emerald-green; perf. 11.

300. 2d., dull green; perf. 11.

NOTE.—The stamps have been obsolete since January, 1896.

Waterford, Limerick & Western Railway.

1896 (Jan.). Printed by N. Harvey & Co. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6. Perf. 11.

301. 2d., emerald-green.

302. 2d., yellow-green.

Sheets of 24, 6 rows of 4.

303. 2d., green.

304. 2d., dark green.

Waterford, Dungarvan & Lismore Railway.

1891. Printed by Harvey & Co. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6. Perf. 12.

305. 2d., vermilion (shades).

Sheets of 24, 6 rows of 4. Perf. 11.

306. 2d., pink (shades).

West Clare Railway Company.

1891. Printed by Sealy, Bryers & Walker. Sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6. Perf. 11.

307. 2d., green (shades).

Before concluding, I should like to point out one or two errors that occurred in the first part of the above reference list, and also to mention several varieties recently discovered, or newly issued.

East & West Junction Railway.

The first issue was numbered 1 to 1000 (not 1600), and the second 1001 to 3000.

East London Railway.

A new issue has been made (Sept., 1898) in brown-pink.

Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway.

A new issue has been made with control numbers.

London & North Western Railway.

There were 4 issues, numbered respectively, 1 to 50,000, 50,001 to 70,000, 70,001 to 100,000, and 100,001 to 130,000. The third has large control numbers.

London & South Western Railway.

Mr. B. Ramsden informs me that No. 40 is also found perf. 10.

London, Brighton, & South Coast Railway.

These stamps appear in several other shades of green.

Midland Railway.

There were eleven issues, perf. respectively 10, 11, 10, 10, 11, 10, 10, 10, 11, 10, 10. The highest numbers of each issue I have met with are 3064, 17,195, 23,359, 31,112, 45,432, 48,833, 57,444, 65,766, 71,856, 76,236, and 85,573. The third, seventh, and tenth issues have large control numbers.

Somerset & Dorset Joint Line.

There were three earlier issues, one without control numbers, one with vertical, and another with fractional control numbers. The current issue has horizontal compound numbers (letter "A" and figures).

South Eastern Railway.

No. 108 may also be found with large control figures.

British Central African Stamps.



IT would seem that, through lack of proper information, Philatelists generally have come to wrong conclusions with regard to the *bona fides* of the stamps issued from time to time by the Imperial Administration of the British Central Africa Protectorate.

When, in 1891, Sir Harry Johnston proceeded to British Central Africa, and the present Protectorate was created, he found it necessary to issue postage stamps. The Protectorate geographically forms part of that huge tract of country lying to the north of the river Zambesi, and known as Northern Zambesia. The Protectorate is the most eastern portion of this territory; the remainder, and by far the larger area, being in the hands of the British South Africa Company. There being no facilities in British Central Africa for making stamps, Sir Harry Johnston did the best thing he could to meet the demand, namely, to surcharge the stamps of the British South Africa Company with the letters "B.C.A."

At that time the British South Africa Company had no representatives in Northern Zambesia, and Sir Harry Johnston acted for them as well as for the Imperial Government. Later on, somewhere about the end of 1894, the British South Africa Company sent out an administrator for their territory, and Sir Harry Johnston apparently thought it a fitting time for the creation of an Imperial stamp for the British Central Africa Protectorate; and, being an artist of some repute, he himself drew out the design which appeared on the stamp issued in 1895. Through an oversight this stamp was printed on paper having no watermark. This omission was pointed out officially, and attention was called to the fact that it facilitated forgery. A new issue on watermarked paper had then to be printed.

This accounts for the first three issues. The fourth and present issue was decided upon after very lengthy and careful consultation here in London with the authorities at the General Post Office. One of the main points which caused the fourth issue to be created was, that it was thought absolutely necessary for each stamp to have a different colour as in the previous issue; two stamps, the 3s. and the £1, were so similar in size and appearance that serious mistakes were likely to occur in their use, the 3s. stamp being largely used throughout the Protectorate for the collection of the native hut tax.

Reference has been made elsewhere to the loss of a case of stamps at Chinde, and it has been stated that this case contained a fifth issue. This is incorrect. The case contained a repetition of stamps of certain values of the *present issue*, mostly, if not entirely, of the lower values. The loss of this case caused the postal authorities in British Central Africa to run

out of the 1d. blue stamp, and to meet the demand the Postmaster-General decided to surcharge the 3s. green stamp. He selected this stamp for the reason that it was being no longer used for the collection of the Hut Tax, an embossed stamp being now used for that purpose. When his stock of 3s. stamps gave out, and sufficient time had not elapsed for the arrival from England of a second supply of the original blue penny stamp, the only thing to be done was to print a temporary stamp locally, and this was done by printing on small sheets of paper twenty-four squares of blue lines, with the two words "Internal Postage" in each square. These squares were then passed one at a time through a die press, which embossed a red oval stamp of the value of one penny, ordinarily used for cheques. These stamps were not sold over the counter to the public. Letters had to be brought to the Post Office, the cost of postage paid, and the stamp was stuck on by the Postmaster, so that in no case was an unused stamp issued to the public. Further, when attempts were made by certain people to obtain numbers of these stamps by sending, say, sixty letters all addressed to one person at one place, the attempt was promptly defeated by the Postmaster tying all the letters into one bundle and affixing a 5s. stamp.

In conclusion, it has been asserted, and in the catalogues issued by some dealers it has been specially noted, that some of the issues above referred to were made for the purpose of creating a revenue. It appears to have been overlooked that the British Central Africa Protectorate is under the control of the Foreign Office, that it is not a colony with its own independent Government, and obliged to make a revenue somehow, but that it is a Protectorate pure and simple, does not pay its way, and receives each year a large grant from the British Government to enable its work to be carried on. Add to this the fact that the Treasury distinctly and imperatively discountenances and prohibits the creation of a fictitious revenue by the sale of stamps, the genuineness and *bona fide* of each of the British Central Africa issues must be admitted by everyone who takes the trouble to go carefully into the matter.

[We insert with pleasure the foregoing interesting article, which emanates from an excellent authority on this subject, but we do not go quite so far as our correspondent in some respects!—ED.]

Philatelic Notes.

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

THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE BELGIAN STAMPS.

THE well-known handsome design of the first issue of the stamps of Belgium—generally designated on the Continent as *les epaulets*—bears the watermark "LL" in a script monogram, placed sideways within a square frame composed of single lines. After an existence of thirteen months the portrait of King Leopold I. was presented within an oval frame, but the watermark remained unchanged. The first issue consisted only of the 10 and 20 c., but some three months after their appearance a 40 c. of the second type was issued. It would seem that the new design was preferred, and the 10 and 20 c. followed suit about ten months later. These stamps were all three superseded in 1851, but at what precise date has not yet been ascertained. The Philbrick Collection (*pace* M. Moens) contained a specimen with the date of impression "...2—1851," which would seem to denote an early appearance in that year. Assuming that the "2" indicates the second month of 1851, the three stamps with watermark within the lined frame had the following period of existence before being superseded by the series with "LL" without frame :—

	Issued.	Superseded (say)	Period of Existence.
10 c. . .	Aug. 10th, 1850 ...	Feb. 1st, 1851 ...	$5\frac{2}{3}$ months.
20 c. . .	,, ,, ...	,, ,, ...	,,
40 c. . .	Oct. 17th, 1849 ...	,, ,, ...	$14\frac{1}{2}$ months.

Although the period of the user of the 40 c. is nearly twice and a half that of the other values, it was used comparatively infrequently, and it can therefore be readily conceived that these stamps, *unused*, must be of great rarity. In common with such stamps as certain of the 2d., Great Britain, or first issues of Trinidad and Barbados (fallen now from their high estate by the modern "find"), these Belgians were the object of the keenest quest of the leading collectors of bygone days. Mr. Westoby, who was and is a collector of the stamps of Belgium, could corroborate this, and an examination of the *encadrées* in either the erstwhile Philbrick Collection or that of the British Museum would afford striking evidence of the difficulty of getting any of these three stamps in mint condition. The compilers of "Priced Catalogues" are not as a rule sheepish in their manners, but they emulate the harmless sheep in the way they follow each other through a gap—wherever it may lead to! For years past all the leading catalogues (Gibbons' last edition being an exception) have erroneously assessed the rarity of the 40 c. (with "LL" in frame) as about one-fifth of that of the other two values, the fact being that it has always been fully as rare, and to-day—in view of recent developments—is far rarer. The "gap" that our modern cataloguers have rushed through is the fact of the existence of a sheet or sheets of the 40 c. in a deep carmine shade, which have generally

been regarded as an unused remainder. They are, however, not unused, but have been defaced by the ruling of horizontal lines (in ordinary ink apparently), one of which crosses the centre of every stamp. By some skilful chemico-Philatelist, these lines have been removed without disturbing the colour of the impression or the gum, but if the stamps are held on a level with the eye, the indentation caused by the pen that made the stroke will be distinctly seen. There are two distinct printings of this stamp, one being a full carmine, and the other a dull rose-carmine, several shades paler than the other. Both of these two shades, *really unused*, are very rare, and should be quoted at a higher price than the 10 and 20 c.—if such scarce stamps need any quotations at all! I should add that the three values are all printed upon hand-made paper, varying in substance from quite thin to very thick as regards the 10 and 20 c., but only on medium thin as regards the 40 c.

In the case of the 10 and 20 c. no penmarked remainders were known, and the stamps without obliteration have always been most difficult of attainment, pairs or blocks being unknown. Some four or five years back the rumour began to spread of the existence of an entire unused sheet of each. Credence was, however, generally refused to the idea, that after half a century, entire intact sheets of stamps whose issue was only during a few months should still be in existence. It is, however, no Belgian de Rougemont, and the sheets, consisting each of 200 specimens "in mint condition, and with full original gum," have been purchased from their fortunate owner, in Antwerp, at a substantial price, cut up into blocks, and offered to the collecting world generally. These facts have been known to some people for a long time past, but we think it desirable, in the interest of collectors, that the whole circumstance of the find should be publicly stated. From advices we have received both from the Continent and this country, we gather that these stamps have been offered in blocks at such high prices that we are prone to believe "the whole truth" has not always been stated. We should counsel collectors to remember that each sheet would cut up into fifty blocks of four stamps each, and that the number of collectors who would buy even eight of these stamps at big prices is not legion. It would be well, therefore, if Philatelists would exercise a little caution in the matter. The modern system (?) of stamp speculating seems to be, that if a rare stamp is found in bulk its value is immediately doubled.

TWO MORE "POST OFFICE" MAURITIUS.

IN our last issue we referred to "another find that seems hardly credible," of which we had private information. It is, however, now of general knowledge in London that two more specimens of the 1d. "Post Office" Mauritius have been discovered at Bombay, both on the same entire envelope, and being fine specimens. Mr. Peckitt has, we are informed, disposed of his specimen, which we illustrated lately; but M. J. Bernichon, of Paris, has still the two (1d. and 2d.) in the Legrand Collection to dispose of. It is evident that these stamps are *not* rare, despite the popular belief! We should think the time is ripe for a "corner" in "Post Offices," subject to the conversion of the present holders to the belief of the commonness of the article.

Since the foregoing was written, we note that an esteemed German contemporary bewails the endless surprises that emanate from this country, and solemnly warns German collectors against rushing to acquire these rarities (at £1200 apiece!), as it is possible that there has been a "find," and that others may turn up! With all due respect to our Teutonic friends, we should have thought this caution needless. How many of the "Post Office" stamps of the world can Germany claim to possess?

THE "TYPES" ON THE 2 RIGSBANK SKILLING OF DENMARK.

WITH reference to the paper read by Mr. R. Ehrenbach on this subject before the London Philatelic Society, on February 4th last (see pp. 34–6), and Mr. E. D. Bacon's subsequent criticism (see pp. 101–110), there are some interesting notes in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* of last month (which journal continues to maintain its position as the undoubted premier Philatelic authority of Germany). The author, Herr H. Krötzsch, in addition to being a well-known and able Philatelist, has great experience as a printer, and his remarks as to the preparation of these stamps will be found of interest. He corroborates Mr. Bacon's statement as to the dies being in groups of ten, and states that the design of the stamp is made from a single woodblock, from which ten transfers were taken by stereotype process, and put together in two vertical rows of five. This transfer block of ten was then repeated ten times, and in its *ensemble* forms the plate from which the stamps are printed.

Mr. Krötzsch calls attention to two other varieties in the ten "Types" which he considers as important as those first mentioned by Mr. Ehrenbach, and justly differentiates all these from the varieties caused by defective printing. The question of whether they are types or varieties is also discussed, but is hardly worth pursuing, as each collector will judge for himself—the specialist will probably take all the varieties he can get, and the general collector will wisely ignore them all! Mr. Krötzsch examined several sheets of reprints in arriving at his conclusions, but, as we have before said, these impressions are by no means so clear as the originals, and hence these minute deviations can hardly be truly diagnosed unless they are seen on the original stamps.

Occasional Notes.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE following arrangements for the present session have been notified by the Sub-Committee of the Council of the London Society to whom has been entrusted the scheme of the season's work. It will be seen that, in accordance with the decision arrived at by the meeting of October 14th, the fortnightly sittings of the Society are to be continued. The date of the second meeting in December falling on the 23rd, it was thought desirable to make it a week later, so as to ensure a fuller attendance.

The Sub-Committee would be glad to receive proposals as to the countries for display. Several suggestions have already been made; but as it is especially desired to have stamps displayed by a number of collectors on the same evening, any communications hereon (addressed to the Society's room) will be welcomed.

Oct. 14.	Paper—"The Supposed Bermuda Stamp of 1849–55"	Mr. E. D. Bacon.
Oct. 28.	Display—"Curiosities in Mexican Stamps" .	Mr. R. Frentzel.
Nov. 11.	Paper—"The 1876 Issue of Spain—Alfonso XII., full face" . . .	The Vice-President.
Nov. 25.	Display—"The Stamps of Moldavia and Roumania"	The Vice-President.
Dec. 9.	Paper—"The 1866-1872 Issues of Uruguay" .	Mr. R. Ehrenbach.
Dec. 30.	Display—"The Stamps of Hongkong" . .	Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg.
1899.		
Jan. 6.	Paper—"Behind the Scenes" . . .	Mr. E. J. Nankivell.
Jan. 20.	Display.	
Feb. 3.	"On Speculative Issues" . . .	Mr. R. Meyer.
„ 17.	Display.	

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, MANCHESTER, 1899.

MATERIAL progress has been made during the last month in connection with the preliminary arrangements for the above Exhibition next summer in the City Art Gallery. These arrangements are in the hands of an Executive Committee of the following twenty members of the Manchester Society: Messrs. Abbott, Barratt, Beckton, Buxton, Castle, Coote, Duerst, Garson, Gillett, Grunewald, Harrison, Heginbottom, Hesketh, Munn, North, Ostara, Oxley, Petri, Roberts, and Wanstall, who at their first meeting formed five Sub-Committees, viz., Advertising, Exhibitors', Finance, General Purposes, and Prospectus.

The Prospectus Committee have drafted the Prospectus, which will be circulated amongst the members of the Executive Committee for perusal prior to its being submitted for correction and final approval at the meeting on November 4th. By the following week it will be in the hands of collectors, and it will save considerable trouble if those Philatelists who wish for an early copy will communicate such fact to the Hon. Secretary.

The Finance Committee have much pleasure in announcing that the promises of guarantees are very satisfactory; and, bearing in mind that several members of the Society have still to be approached, they have little doubt that the requisite amount will be forthcoming. The list of guarantors is strictly confined to members of the Manchester Society; but to enable Philatelists outside who take an interest in the success of the Exhibition to participate, it is intended to form a list of subscribers, particulars of which, as well as an announcement in reference to the list of special medals, will be made next month.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Fred. H. Gibson, wishes to thank all those to whom he has not been able to write personally for their kind offers of help and support, and also to request that all communications may be sent to him at the Exhibition Offices, No. 2, Cooper Street, Manchester.

PRESUMED ROBBERY OF STAMPS IN PARIS.

ALTHOUGH the "silly season" has now passed by, and the daily press has had enough matters of moment to occupy its space, the announcement of a stamp robbery in Paris has been widely copied from the French journals, and circulated throughout this country. We reproduce portions of a lengthy article hereon that appeared in the *Echo de Paris* on the 9th of this month:—

"A robbery of stamps, which will cause amazement throughout the Philatelic world, was committed yesterday at the Hotel des Postes in Paris, in the bureau of M. Guillaumin. Our National Collection of postage stamps has been partially despoiled, but at present it is not known to what extent.

"The Swiss capital, Berne, is the seat of the International Postal Union, to which all nations issuing postage stamps remit complete sets of all new issues, and the central office at Berne distributes them among the States in the Postal Union.

"France receives as her share five copies of each new stamp, the first copy of which goes to the great National Collection [Query.—Ed.], which was commenced twenty years ago, the second is remitted to the Postmaster-General of France, and the three others remain at the disposal of the Secretary of State and his chief officer.

"The National Collection furnished by the State has thus an inestimable value, in view of the fact that its only rivals can consist of the collections formed by other countries in the Postal Union.

"This collection is arranged in the following manner: the stamps are fastened on large leaves of vellum, held together in pairs by a band of red morocco leather; these leaves are arranged in drawers, each bearing the title of the country from which the stamps have been collected. These drawers are fastened by secure locks, and form, in fact, portions of four spacious library *secretaires*, which are never opened more than once a year.

"On September 20th last M. Guillaumin received some new stamps remitted for the collection, and took from the drawers the stamps he had need of, carrying them into his study, after having closed and locked the *secretaires*. Fifteen days elapsed ere the mounting of the stamps was complete. M. Guillaumin then returned the leaves to their places, but noticed that although the *secretaires* were closed and locked, the entire collection seemed less voluminous than previously. He counted the leaves, and found that those containing the rarest stamps had been stolen.

"The stolen leaves are very valuable. It is known for certain that they contain stamps worth 500, 1000, and 2000 francs apiece. The total number of stamps stolen is about 2000.

"A close watch is being kept amongst stamp collectors, dealers, and frequenters of the Stamp Bourse, etc. etc., in the hope that the audacious thief will soon be captured."

There are so many obvious misstatements in this report and others (some alluding to lost Réunions at hundreds of pounds each!), that we sought information from Philatelic friends in Paris, with a view to ascertaining if there was *any* fire in these clouds of smoke. From the information we have received, part of which is from M. J. Bernichon, it appears that the report is practically a *canard!* As pointed out by our correspondents, however, the report has been widely spread; the general public believe the information to be official and correct, and that the nation has sustained a serious loss, and it is therefore desirable that the truth should have an opportunity to be circulated as widely as the lie. The collection referred to is that of the library (*Bibliothèque*) of the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, which is practically placed at the disposition of the employees of the Minister. The stamps in the "collection" consist only of the modern issues emanating from the Bureau at Berne and a number of reprints, *e.g.*, Lombardy, Austria,

Wurtemberg, etc., and most assuredly included no "specimen of a value between 500, 1000, and 2000 francs." Apparently the only really correct portion of the reported robbery was that wherein it is stated that of the five copies of each stamp emanating from Berne two only were required for official purposes, the remainder being at the disposal of the employees of the department. It would appear that the various officials—secretary, sub-secretary, chef de bureau, etc.—have, according to practice, and assuredly without any idea of despoiling the country, appropriated some of the stamps for their own collections or those of their friends. It would seem, further, that this laudable example has been contagious, and has developed to somewhat large proportions during the last few months, thus accounting for "the collection seeming less voluminous" to M. Guillaumin. *Voilà tout!* Needless to say, the enquiry will not be further prosecuted.

M. Bernichon sarcastically adds to the information he has so kindly furnished: "The article has certainly revealed to us a 'fact' that we were entirely ignorant of previously, *i.e.*, the existence of a National Philatelic Collection, which I should be somewhat curious to inspect and appraise! Perhaps, however, the official mind will now decide some day to create a Postal Museum similar to those existing at Berlin and Rome"—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

"HOBBIES."

THIS attractive little magazine, whose readers embrace a large proportion of young people, has from its commencement devoted a considerable portion of its space to special articles on stamps. The editor of this department is evidently a writer thoroughly *au courant* in matters Philatelic, and the interest and attention of embryo collectors cannot fail to be enlisted by the practical remarks and information contained in these articles. The education of the collector of the future is of vital importance to Philately, and the seeds from which will spring the trees of the next century cannot be too widely sown. Collections are examined and reported on, numerous prizes are given for competition, and in short everything possible is done to smooth the path of the young collector. Among the "stamps to look for," we note the first issue of Hawaii, the discovery of which, on old correspondence, the stamp editor naïvely says he will be glad to hear of—and so say all of us!

We believe *Hobbies* is the only magazine giving weekly, without fail, a solid article on some branch of Philately, in addition to other regular departments which cater to the wants of stamp collectors.

DEATH OF MR. HAROLD FREDERIC.

WE regret to have to announce that the death occurred on October 19th, at Kenley, Surrey, of Mr. Harold Frederic, the well-known American author, and for many years London correspondent of the *New York Times*. Mr. Frederic, who partly broke down from overwork some two months ago, took a keen interest in Philately, as evinced in many ways, and his contributions to Philatelic literature have been much appreciated—coming from so distinguished a *littérateur*.

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 publish elsewhere in this issue some interesting notes, written by a correspondent, relating to the B.C.A. issues generally and the recent provisionals in particular.

Referring to the 1d. Internal Revenue provisional, illustrated on page 174, we have elicited the further information that to prevent forgery the Postmaster at B.C.A. initialled some of the stamps on the back; but this operation, proving irksome, was suspended after a few hundred copies had been signed.

Mr. H. M. Gooch has shown us an interesting variety of the same stamp, *perforated 12* all round. These were officially perforated at Zomba, but just how many were issued we do not know.

We understand that all the three provisionals (One Penny on 3s., and One Penny Int. Rev., perf. and imperf.) are now obsolete, a supply of the 1d. blue stamps having reached the Protectorate.

It is also rumoured that the entire current issue is to receive some surcharge ("V.R." suggested), in order that any attempt to dispose of the case of stamps supposedly stolen may be checked.

Adhesives. 1d., blue and red, imperf.; *reverse initialled.*
1d. ,, perf. 12.

CANADA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent for inspection the ½ c., 2 c., and 6 c. values in the redrawn type. All values up to 10 c. are now current, but it is stated there are still large stocks of the old 15 c., 20 c., and 50 c. stamps to be used.

Adhesives. ½ c., grey-black.
2 c., violet.
6 c., brown.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—We give an illustration of the halfpenny stamp in the new type, an improvement in appearance on the 1d. value, but inferior to the design, which is now obsolete.





COOK ISLANDS.—We also illustrate above the design of new stamps for these islands, described in our last issue.

GIBRALTAR.—The reappearance of the 1887 issue seemed likely to receive scant favour at the hands of collectors, until it was discovered that the authorities had been thoughtful enough to print the values from 2d. upwards in two colours! The ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps are, however, identical with numbers 8, 9, and 11 of Gibbons' Catalogue.

A correspondent has shown us a copy of the 50 c., purple, with the surcharge "Morocco Agencies" apparently in indigo.

We illustrate two of the newly issued stamps, a set of which is to hand from





Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The value is in the second colour named.

Adhesives. ½d., green.
1d., rose
2d., lake-brown and blue.
4d., orange-brown and green.
6d., mauve and carmine.
1s., bistre and pink.

INDIAN NATIVE STATES.—*Dhar.*—The *Philatelic Journal of India* illustrates a new design for the stamps of this microscopic dependency. Two elephants are supporting the armorial bearings of someone yet to be known, all of which is contained in an oval frame of solid colour containing inscriptions in white letters, "Dhar State Postage," "Half Anna." Other values will follow. Perforated 11½.

Adhesive. ½ anna, carmine.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—We have omitted to illustrate the 3 c. adhesive, with portrait of the Princess of Wales.



QUEENSLAND.—Although chronicled in April last, the 6d. stamp with letters in four corners has, apparently, only recently been issued. From a copy sent by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we note that the numerals in the upper corners are smaller than those in the lower, while no two numerals are exactly alike.

Adhesive. 6d., green.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Selangor.*—Two new values have been added to the current "Tiger" stamps, viz.:—

Adhesives. 8 c., lilac and ultramarine.
50 c., green and black.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.—It is announced that this colony is to be separated from the Leeward Islands, so far as its postal requirements are concerned, and a set of stamps will be issued for the exclusive use of the Virgin Islands.

EUROPE.

HOLLAND.—We illustrate the new issue alluded to last month, regarding which opinions seem to conflict. It is urged by some that the stamp, being disapproved by Queen Wilhelmina, has been recalled; while others announce the impending issue of higher values. Which is correct?

We cannot but remark on the beauty of the stamp now illustrated; we hope the first of the two statements may prove incorrect.

Adhesive. 1 gulden, pale green; perf. 11.



HUNGARY.—Mr. J. C. Prückler informs us that the projected new issue of stamps may be expected in December next. In the meantime the watermark on the current stamps has been changed. The watermark "Kr" in interlaced circles has been replaced by a crown (or mitre) within larger circles. We believe that this is the paper on which the fiscal stamps are printed. At present the following values have appeared:—

Adhesives. 1 kr., grey-black; *new wmk.*
10 kr., blue ,, ,,
20 kr., grey ,, ,,
24 kr., purple & rose ,, ,,

ROUMANIA.—A new value has been added to the adhesives—40 bani.

There are also two more values of the Unpaid Letter Stamps with watermark "P R" in use—10 and 30 bani. The set now in use includes the following: 2 b., 5 b., 10 b., 30 b., 50 b., and 60 b.; four of these we chronicled in August last.

Adhesive. 40 bani, green.
Unpaid Letter Stamps. 10 bani, green; *wmk.* "P R."
30 ,, ,, ,, ,,

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The *M. J.* has received the current ½ c. stamp in a *dark* blue tint, a decided change of colour.

Adhesive. ½ c., dark blue.

GUATEMALA.—We have a long list of provisional stamps to list, all having been made by surcharging the 1886 issue. The surcharge consists of the following: "1898" "—" "1" "Centavos" in four lines, and the following have been besmeared:—

Adhesives.

1 c. on	25 c., orange;	surcharge	black.
1 c. on	50 c., olive-green	,,	red.
1 c. on	75 c., rose	,,	black.
6 c. on	10 c., red	,,	,,
6 c. on	20 c., green	,,	,,
6 c. on	100 c., brown	,,	,,
6 c. on	150 c., dark blue	,,	red.
6 c. on	200 c., yellow	,,	black.
10 c. on	20 c., green	,,	red.

HONDURAS.—A new series of stamps, roughly lithographed, is being issued. The design consists of a New England express train; in the lower left-hand corner an upright rectangular tablet containing the value, surmounted at the top by a semi-circle bearing the date "1898." Inscriptions at top, "U P U Correos," "DE HONDURAS."

The following values have at present been issued, perforated :—

Adhesives. 1 c., brown.
2 c., lilac-rose.
6 c., violet-brown.
10 c., blue.

PARAGUAY. — From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have received a new provisional made by surcharging the 40 c. adhesive "Provisorio"—"10"—"Centavos" in three lines. This provisional was issued on May 19th last, to the extent of some 150,000 copies.

Adhesive. 10 c. on 40 c., dark blue; surcharge black.

SALVADOR. — This Central American Republic has been jubilating for some unknown cause, which, whatever its nature, was sufficiently important for the issue of two special stamps, copies of which are to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The design consists of the "Arms," within a triangle, superimposed upon two concentric circles, the outer of which contains the inscription, "Republica Mayor De Centro America," "Estado De El Salvador." Value in upper angles in numerals, and in words along the base. Perforated 12.

Adhesive. 1 c., blue, gold, pink, and carmine.
5 c., pink, gold, blue, and carmine.

UNITED STATES.—The Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* writes :—

"The most interesting fact this week is the announcement of some new colours in the regular U.S. issue. Four denominations are being changed, and most of them have been printed and form part of the stock at the Bureau, though none of them have yet been issued. Additional spaces will soon have to be provided in our albums for the following :—

4 c., dark red-brown.
5 c., light blue.
6 c., maroon.
10 c., light brown.

The designs will remain the same. The 4 c. has been considered too dark a colour for a stamp so frequently used, as the cancellation does not show sufficiently well. The 5 c. is too dark for the International Postal Union and has to be changed again. The 10 c. is the colour of the 1 c., which, of course, causes confusion; and the 6 c. has to make room for the 4 c., which will be printed with the same ink as the present 6 c."

A new 1 cent. card has been issued with portrait of "John Adams" within an oval.

Post Card. 1 c., yellow-green.

VENEZUELA.—We illustrate a new series of official stamps which has been issued. The Arms and the word "OFICIAL" are in black, the remainder of the design in colour.

Official Stamps. 5 c., green and black.
10 c., red ,,
25 c., blue ,,
50 c., yellow ,,
1 b., violet ,,



OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—Some more values of the London print have been issued. (*A. J. of Ph.*)

Adhesives. $1, red and pale rose.
$2, red-brown and yellow.
$5, grey-green and pale rose.

CURACAO.—The same contemporary announces the addition of the 30 c. and 50 c. values to the Unpaid Letter Stamps in Type III.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.
30 c., green and black.
50 c. ,, ,,

PORTO RICO.—We now give a list of the stamps which were surcharged in connection with the late war. This list is compiled from a set forwarded by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Surcharged "Habilitado," "Para 1898-99."
1 mil, pale brown; surcharge red.
2 ,, pale green ,,
4 ,, blue-green ,,
1 c. de p., lake-brown ,,
2 ,, red-brown ,,
3 ,, pale-brown ,,
3 ,, deep blue ,,
4 ,, black-brown ,,
5 ,, ultramarine ,,
6 ,, lilac ,,
8 ,, pink; surcharge violet.
20 ,, olive; surcharge red.
40 ,, salmon ,,
80 ,, slate-black ,,

Surcharged "Impuesto de Guerra."
2 c. de p., violet; surcharge *violet*.
2 ,, brown ,,
5 ,, pale-green ,,

With additional surcharge.
"2 cvts." or "5 cvts."
1 mil., deep blue; surcharge red-violet.
1 ,, violet ,,
2 ,, salmon; surcharge violet.

SAMOA.—King Malietoa is dead, which event may possibly cause the issue of a new series of stamps in Samoa.

The 5d. "flag" stamp has made its appearance in deep red; we suggest a further change to black!

Adhesive. 5d., deep red; perf. 11.

SURINAM.—We illustrate a new surcharge which has been printed upon the 12½ c., 15 c.,



20 c., 25 c., and 30 c. stamps in order, it is said, to use up the stock of these values, and to enable the authorities to introduce at once the new set with head of the Queen.

The following figures are given by the *A. J. of Ph.* as the quantities of each value surcharged:—

80,000	10 c. on 12½ c.
6,300	10 c. on 15 c.
54,000	10 c. on 20 c.
45,000	10 c. on 25 c.
69,000	10 c. on 30 c.

There should be enough to go all round and still leave some for postal uses! Specimens to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives.

10 c. on 12½ c., blue	surcharge	black.
10 c. on 15 c., grey	,,	,,
10 c. on 15 c., green	,,	,,
10 c. on 25 c., blue	,,	,,
10 c. on 30 c., brown	,,	,,

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

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

Council for the Year 1898-9.

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.

W. B. AVERY. E. B. EVANS.
E. D. BACON. T. W. HALL.
W. D. BECKTON. T. WICKHAM JONES.
R. EHRENBACH. H. R. OLDFIELD.
GORDON SMITH.

THE first meeting of the season 1898–9 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, October 14th, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., when the following members were present, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, T. W. Hall, W. D. Beckton, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, T. Girtin, B. D. Knox, A. A. Davis, T. Maycock, T. Wickham Jones, C. McNaughtan, W. Schwabacher, E. S. Davidson, A. B. Creeke, E. J. Nankivell, W. R. Palmer, R. Pearce, E. B. Evans, Gordon Smith, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, having already been published in the *London Philatelist*, were taken as read.

The Secretary reported the death of Captain Northey, a member of the Society, an announcement which was received with great regret.

The Vice-President, in referring to the proposed Exhibition at Manchester, informed the meeting of the recommendation of the Council, that the Society should offer to the Exhibition Committee a special medal or medals for some object to be approved when the arrangements were completed and the prospectus of the Exhibition had been issued.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by Mr. Hall, it was resolved that the recommendation of the Council be approved and adopted, and that the final determination as to the number of medals to be offered, and the selection of the objects for which they should be given, be left to the Council.

The Chairman then called attention to the presence of Mr. Henry Calman as a visitor at the meeting, and in a few appropriate remarks assured Mr. Calman of the pleasure which it afforded the members to welcome him as a guest at their deliberations.

On the motion of Mr. Wickham Jones, seconded by Mr. Oldfield, it was resolved, in accordance with the statutes, that the meetings for the present season be held fortnightly.

Mr. Bacon then read a paper on "The Supposed Bermuda Stamp of 1849–55." In introducing the subject the author reserved the right of publication, as he considered that the paper, being intended for a reply to an article which had appeared in the *Monthly Journal*, ought to be offered to the editor of that journal. After stating that he had entered into the investigation on the assumption that the stamp in question was not a genuine issue, Mr. Bacon explained the result of the researches he had made and the information obtained from official documents in connection with the Postal Service of the Bermudas, and the reasons which had induced him to come to the conclusion that the stamp had, in all probability, been *bona fide* issued by the Postmaster at Hamilton, and used by the public for the postage of inland letters.

A long discussion ensued, in which many of the members present took part. Mr. Calman explained the circumstances which had influenced him in deciding against the stamp when it first came to his notice, and Major Evans reiterated his views against the genuine character of the stamp in question.

On the motion of Major Evans, seconded by Mr. Oldfield, the very cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Bacon for his most interesting paper.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Hon. President—W. B. Avery.
President—W. T. Wilson.
Vice-Presidents—R. Hollick. W. Pimm.
Committee—
H. R. Bewlay. T. W. Peck.
P. T. Deakin. C. A. Stephenson.
W. F. W. Adams. W. S. Vaughton.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—G. Johnson, B A.
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

Oct. 6. Annual General Business Meeting. The officers for the ensuing year were elected as above.

The accounts, showing a net cash balance in hand of £62 19s. 4½d., were audited, found correct, and approved.

The election of Mr. W. Schwaite was approved.

The following were unanimously elected members:—Madame C. Capt, Mrs. H. G. Campbell, Rev. W. D. B. Curry, Rev. J. H. Astley, Messrs. G. A. Coombs, V. Essayan, R. C. Bach, E. D. Hissard, A. Manoli.

The annual report showed that during the past session 35 members died, resigned, or were dropped, and 49 new members were elected, being a net increase of 14 over the previous session, and making a total of 241 members on October 1st, 1898.

The total amount circulated in the exchange packets during the year ending June, 1898, was £38,625 16s. 2d., of which £5437 6s. 7d. was sold.

4000 copies of the report were ordered to be printed and distributed as in previous years.

At the suggestion of several members it was resolved to devote alternate meetings to exchange, discussion, and short papers, in order to make the meetings even more interesting than previously. The programme was settled as follows:—

Oct.	6.	Annual General Business Meeting.	
,,	20.	Presidential Meeting.	W. T. Wilson.
Nov.	3.	Exchange, Discussion, short Papers.	
,,	17.	Display, St. Vincent.	
Dec.	1.	Exchange, Discussion, short Papers.	
,,	15.	Display, Novelties, Curiosities, etc.	
Jan.	19.	Exchange, Discussion, short Papers.	
Feb.	2.	Display, New South Wales.	
,,	16.	Exchange, etc.	
March	2.	Paper, "New Zealand."	W. Pimm.
,,	16.	Exchange, etc.	
April	20.	Display and Paper.	R. Hollick.
May	18.	Exchange, etc.	

Herts Philatelic Society.

Hon. President—Harold J. White.
Vice-Presidents—R. Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, Gordon Smith, M.A.
Committee—G. Gaffe, Rev. Walter Jenks, Dr. Earl Norman, J. H. Roskilly.
Counterfeit Expert—
Rev. R. B. Earée, *Miserden Rectory, Cirencester.*
Librarian—G Haynes, *Donnington House, St Albans.*
Sec. and Treasurer—H. A. Slade, *Ingleside, St. Albans.*

At a Committee meeting held at "Ingleside" on September 20th, in addition to ordinary business, it was resolved that the first general meeting be held at the Inns of Court Hotel, London, W.C., on Tuesday, October 18th, at 7 p.m., arrangements to be made for the reading of a paper, displays of stamps, social intercourse, etc. Members to be invited to introduce friends interested in philately. Thirty-one members were proposed and accepted at this meeting. Exchange packets, confined to members of the Society, will be started on October 20th, sheets to be received by the Secretary on the morning of that day.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

SESSION 1898-9.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Vice-Presidents—F. Barrett. E. Petri.
Hon. Treasurer—G. B. Duerst.
Hon. Librarian—J. C. North.
Hon. Secretary—G. Fred. H. Gibson,
Kersal, Manchester.
Assistant Hon. Secretary—C. H. Coote,
Holmefield, Sale.
Committee—
J. H. Abbott. W. Grunewald. W. W. Munn.

The Meetings are held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, every Friday evening at 7.30.

1898.		Syllabus.
Sept.	23.	The 1899 Exhibition in Manchester. W. Dorning Beckton.
,,	30.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
Oct.	7.	The Collection of Minor Varieties. G. Fred. H. Gibson.
,,	14.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,,	21.	The Stamps of South Australia. W. W. Munn.
,,	28.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
Nov.	4	The Exhibition Prospectus.
,,	11.	Exhibition Arrangements.
,,	18.	,, ,,
,,	25	,, ,,
Dec.	2.	The Stamps of Baden. G. B. Duerst.
,,	9.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,,	16.	The Stamps of France from 1870. W. Grunewald.
,,	23.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
1899.		
Jan.	6.	Annual Dinner, 7 p.m.
,,	13.	The Stamps of Venezuela (Part II.). W. Dorning Beckton.
,,	20.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,,	27.	The Triangular Stamps of the Cape (with Display). Vernon Roberts.
Feb.	3.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,,	10.	Mulready Envelopes (with Display). J. R. Hesketh.
,,	17.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,,	24.	Stamp Collector or Philatelist? J. J. Leech.
March	3.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,,	10.	The Seamy Side of Philately. J. C. North.
,,	17.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,,	24.	The Stamps of the Italian States E. Petri.
,,	29.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
April	7.	Lantern Exhibition. J. H. Abbott.
,,	14.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,,	21.	Philately as an Education. O. Gillett.
,,	28.	Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.

The opening meeting of the Session 1898-9 was held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday evening, September 23rd. The President occupied the chair, and there were nineteen other members present.

Mr. A. H. A. Bennett was duly elected an ordinary member, and Mr. John Westhorpe a corresponding member of the Society.

The President then read a paper on "The 1899 Exhibition in Manchester," the substance of which appeared in last month's issue of the *London Philatelist.*

It was afterwards unanimously resolved "That an International Philatelic Exhibition be held in Manchester during the summer of 1899," and an Executive Committee of twenty members, with Mr. Petri as Treasurer, was appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements.

The Hon. Secretary of the Society was elected Hon. Secretary of the Executive Committee, and all communications should be addressed to him at the Exhibition Offices, 2, Cooper Street, Manchester.

THE second meeting took place at the Grand Hotel, on Friday evening, October 7th, Mr. Petri in the chair, supported by sixteen members.

The Hon. Secretary read a paper on "The Collection of Minor Varieties," dealing, amongst other things, with the correspondence on the subject in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* in 1866, and advocating a judicious discrimination between intentional and accidental variations of type.

KERSAL, MANCHESTER. G. FRED. H. GIBSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

IN spite of the effects the hot weather had on Philately, the Club packets have been in circulation throughout the summer, and have maintained a very fair level of excellence. Thus in July the packets amounted in value to £1588 14s. 2d., and in August to £1474 15s. 10d. It is satisfactory to note that but little delay in forwarding either packets or accounts has occurred through absence from home, etc. Presumably September will see a great improvement in the value of packets and an increase in the roll of membership, which now musters about 320; only three notices of resignations were received to August 20th, 1898. February accounts have been settled, and nearly all those of March. April sheets will also be returned within the next fortnight. February sales (including supplementary circuits) amounted to £265 2s. 2d., and March sales to £241 0s. 2d. The list of new members includes several residents on the Continent, Australia, etc., and sales from the sheets of such foreign members will be liquidated either in kind or in cash, as may be arranged. Very common stamps are in little demand, but the rarer varieties, in good condition, sell well at reasonable prices. Collectors proposing to join are requested to send references with their applications, in order that proper enquiries may be made if it is thought necessary. Rules, with full information, will gladly be sent on demand by the Secretary.

THE April packets have come back from circulation, and accounts for that month have been duly submitted. Sales were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
April A 1 Packet . . .	83	14	7
,, A 2 ,, . . .	74	11	2
,, B 1 ,, . . .	44	13	3
,, B 2 ,, . . .	46	0	7

The supplementary rounds will be discontinued in future, as they take up too much time; non-contributors will be placed at the bottom of the list of the packets they wish to see. Bulky sheets will be excluded, as they add to the cost of postage, and are difficult to examine.

The sheets received for the September packets are valued at upwards of £2000, and contain good specimens of rare colonials, priced reasonably. Selections are usually marked for sale at half-catalogue. Six new members have joined this month, and four applications are being investigated. Members returning from their holidays and wishing to see packets again, are requested to communicate with the Secretary. Collectors of all grades proposing to join the Society should apply for rules, etc., without delay. Two references should accompany every application.

H. A. SLADE, *Hon. Sec.*

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. LLOYD.

THE first meeting of the present session was held on Thursday evening, the 6th inst. The Vice-President was in the chair.

After the election of several new members, there was a display of the stamps of the West Indies, those of Messrs. Ellison, Dalton, and Reynolds being especially admired. Amongst those shown by Mr. Ellison was a remarkably fine specimen of an unused St. Vincent, bright vermilion, 1s., with 4d. surcharge; also a 1d., lake, used, imperf., Bahamas. In Dominica was a half 1d, lilac, with vertical black surcharge "HALF PENNY," in combination with another half, having the ½d. red surcharge, a space between each equal to one of them, and the colonial obliteration over all.

Mr. Cartwright notified that he had lately seen several specimens of our current 4d. with the inside of the bottom left-hand "4" without the usual lines in, and also that the control number of the 1d, lilac, had been changed from "V" to "W."

Victoria Philatelic Society.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the above Society was held at its rooms, 271, Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, 10th August, 1898, Mr. W. R. Rundell, President, occupying the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, after which a ballot for positions in Exchange Book No. 66 took place, and a settlement for Book No. 57 was also held.

The Hon. Secretary reported the receipt of a complete series of *The American Journal of Philately* from the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Limited, New York, and it was unanimously resolved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to the company for their generous gift towards the library of the Society.

Mr. J. Reford Corr, M.A., was unanimously elected a member of the Society.

A discussion was held upon the exchange system, and several suggestions were made and referred to the Committee for their consideration and report.

Mr. A. W. L. Paul exhibited his Australian collection, which was greatly admired by the members present. It included, among other rarities, a pair of "Too Late," Victoria, used as registered.

Mr. W. Brettschneider exhibited: Victoria, two copies 2d., half-length, and 2s., "POSTAGE" at side, perforated, and 1s., octagonal, all unused, and a used copy of 2d., half-length, fine background.

The Hon. Secretary exhibited: Tasmania, ½d., surcharged with "AL," inverted, which was a forged surcharge, and warned members respecting the stamp.

Several nice books of English colonial stamps, forwarded to the Hon. Secretary for sale, were passed around among the members, after which the meeting terminated. An interesting article, which it had been proposed to read, on "Postmen of the World," had to be deferred.

D. S. ABRAHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

The Market.

NOTE.—*Under this title will be inserted all the information that may refer in any way to the financial aspects of Philately, e.g., the sales or values of stamps, the state of the Market, Trade publications, etc.*

THE first portion of the collection of Mr. A. F. Calvert was sold by Messrs. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON on the 20th and 21st September, and included some fine Australians, notably a considerable number of selected Sydney Views, including some fine pairs and blocks, especially a strip of four of the 2d., Plate II., in grand condition (£29), and three fairly good specimens of the 1d., unused, which latter hardly attained their full value. A considerable number of West and South Australians were disposed of at fair prices. A strip of four fine 1d. woodblock Capes realized £27, but two pairs of the 4d. were sold cheap; the non-Australian lots were relatively unimportant.

* * *

AT the same firm's sale on the 4th and 5th Oct. the one hundred and twenty lots of Europeans contained nothing of any moment. The 4d. and 8d. Ceylon, imperf., a Cape woodblock, unused, and a set of the high values of Lagos fetched satisfactory prices. There were several fine Mauritius that attained good prices, notably a grand early 2d., unused (£46), and two "large fillets" on entire letter. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 1s., St. Vincent 5s., as also Nevis 6d., litho, went low, but the yellow-green 1s. of the latter country, unused, realized £22.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL & COOPER'S sale of Sept. 29th and 30th included about one hundred and fifteen lots of Europeans of medium rarity, many of them unused, which in the aggregate sold at excellent prices. A block of Indian 4 a., red and blue, unused, was a nice thing, and went a bargain at £8. An unused set of British Central Africa, up to the £25 value, must have realized a handsome profit to that Company over cost of production (£26)! A brilliant 1s. New Brunswick, with full gum, was sold for £63. No less than nine copies of the 1862 Provisional British Guiana were submitted, one of the 4 c., blue, going as high as £10. West Indians generally, and a number of Sydney Views, went fairly well.

* * *

MESSRS. PLUMRIDGE & CO. held an auction at 63, Chancery Lane, on the 19th of last month, which included over 200 lots, which were disposed of at satisfactory prices, including some fine old Germans and West Indians.

* * *

AT the auction of Messrs. OSTARA & DARLOW, held at Manchester on the 15th of last month, the sale of a "Post Office" Mauritius was announced, but was withdrawn at a somewhat late hour. Is this yet another, or a stage procession?

* * *

MR. ROBERT S. GRAY announces another auction of stamps in Glasgow in November, and claims that better prices (as Glasgow is the Philatelic centre of Scotland), have been realized than elsewhere. Without going so far, Glasgow is certainly second only in population to London, and should assuredly be able to well maintain one Philatelic auctioneer, to whose energetic efforts we wish all success.

* * *

MR. HENRY L. CALMAN, the head of the well-known Scott Stamp and Coin Co. of New York, has recently been visiting the Metropolis, and states that, now that the war is over, he believes there will be a marked Philatelic revival in the United States, all the present appearances pointing to brisk condition of trade. Mr. Calman says that the stamps of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines are in great request just now in America, and are evidently to be "boomed."

* * *

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., make the following announcement in their *Journal*, with the moral of which (in the last sentence) we cordially agree :—

"What has struck us as a remarkably good sign of the times has been the wonderful and unprecedented sale of postage stamp albums during what are usually termed the quiet months. It is difficult to give exact figures, but we are of opinion that the sales during the past four months have been fully 40 per cent. higher than those of any previous year. Of the new edition of the *Imperial Album* alone, up to September 8th, we had sold 4417 copies. Considering that these books range in price from 7s. 6d. to 70s. each, the sale is certainly very striking. But another very good point is, that the demand for the cheap albums, at 1s. and 2s. 6d. each, has also been phenomenal, and we have been continually running out of stock. The wholesale orders alone have been clearing us out much quicker than we are able to get the books bound. We are glad to say in this connection that we find a steadily-increasing demand for our books from the colonies, especially from India and Australia. During the past four weeks we have shipped fully £400 worth of albums to Australia alone, showing that our friends there are taking a largely-increased interest in stamp collecting. All this increase in the number of younger collectors is to be highly commended, as amongst such a large number no doubt many will develop into serious Philatelists."

* * *

THE remainder of the Hawaiian stamps rendered valueless by the recent colonizing efforts of our American cousins have been acquired by a gentleman of speculative instinct, and the American journals announce that these stamps are already quoted at considerably higher prices. There seem to be some thousands of each value, and until these stocks are exhausted there is no reason for raising the prices beyond those at present quoted.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. NOVEMBER, 1898. No. 83.

"Catalogue Value."

WE have no wish to make this Journal a vehicle for the undue discussion of the financial side of Philately, but the question involved in the discussion that is now raging as to "Catalogue Values" has so much importance to the average collector that a few plain, homely truths and deductions may be of service at the present juncture. The interests of collector and dealer are concurrent, hence we have no wish to tread on the corns of either; but the "speculator," in the interest of Philately, requires treatment beneath Lord Salisbury's celebrated "steam roller." It should be clearly understood that the three species are not absolutely and invariably separable, but that in the pure and unsophisticated soul of the collector, as in the humble mind of the self-sacrificing dealer, there is frequently to be found the leaven of the speculator. When, therefore, we inveigh against the latter we include not merely the operator in prices as a separate entity, but the speculative instincts and habits that are embodied in many collectors and dealers.

As in the great Bourses of the world, so in our limited Philatelic circle, speculation, fostered by schemes for undue inflation, such as cornering, etc. etc., is as far removed from honest increment as are the poles asunder. And even in the case of articles of daily consumption and vital necessity, such as bread-stuffs, we have seen how great can be the fall. When, however, similar operations to interfere with the normal conditions of sale and

purchase are made in a market where the only articles dealt in are of no intrinsic value, and are a pure luxury, the inevitable result will be the falling off of the demand. The only true criterion of value is that caused by the natural supply and demand. We have urged again and again that "confidence is the bed-rock of Philately" as regards all those who have money invested in the pursuit which they do not consider as spent. It is clear that to induce this confidence prices do not want to rise—and fall—with startling rapidity, and it is equally clear that, as a large proportion of these fluctuations is due to speculative acts, the sooner these are suppressed the quicker will Philately have the healthy tone that betokens a long life.*

"Catalogue value" is the value that dealers place upon the goods they have to sell, as are the prices detailed in the copiously illustrated modern catalogues of almost every business. It is not reasonable, as a rule, to expect that articles bought under these conditions should even maintain or have an increased re-sale value. There are in stamps, as in other articles whose production is limited, obvious exceptions to the rule; but the collector cannot expect that he will be able to obtain more than the value in the market for immediate cash. This value is necessarily governed (at auction or otherwise) by the stocks and requirements of the dealers. In the case of stamps whose prices have been unduly forced up, this means that the supply is secretly in advance of the demand, and that therefore the realizable value is practically nil. The average collector is hardly in a position to discriminate sufficiently on this point, and the remedy is difficult to suggest. The "normal catalogue," to be published by collectors, has long been urged in Germany, but no mouse has been found to "bell the catalogue." It would be a long and difficult operation. The prices ruling for stamps are by no means equal all over the world, and by the time that an edition appeared, inclusive only of the better stamps, it would be partially obsolete. Beyond this again the question of condition, that has latterly become so prominent, overshadows the whole matter of realizable value.

Due consideration having been given to these various factors in the case, it can hardly be wondered at that the too frequent auctions often reveal the *great gulf* that such divergencies cause in realizable prices. The only visible remedy is for collectors to realize that "catalogue value" means dealers' selling price, and to regulate their purchases accordingly. There are one or two catalogues published whose prices are on the whole fair; but in the general run the really rare stamps are underpriced—*i.e.*, the publishers would not sell at such, *if they had them*—while the minor rarities, of which there are frequently considerable stocks, the commoner and smaller stamps, and in a word all those which *can* be replaced, are—for the most obvious reason—held up at full or excessive value. The dealers who, like M. Moens and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, price only the goods that they have to sell, have the courage of their opinions, and their quotations are entitled to consideration. On the other hand, the catalogues which aim at setting up a "standard" or guide, founded upon imaginary stocks and ignorant appraise-

* Since the foregoing was indited we have received the remarkable article in this issue by Mr. Walker. It would be difficult to imagine a more striking example of the truth of our remarks.

ments, should be entirely tabooed as regards their financial aspect. The quotation of prices of goods that he has not got to sell, is utterly indefensible on the part of the publisher, and absolutely misleading to the buyer. As an instance hereof, we know of a case where an order for £500 was sent by a dealer, on the appearance of a new edition of a well-known catalogue—*four pounds* of which could alone be supplied! Many similar instances could be cited, and—taken in conjunction with our previous remarks—clearly indicate that the *juste milieu* is widely removed from "catalogue price."

In conclusion—if a last word can be said upon such a topic—we must recognize that "times are changed, and we with them." The inherent weaknesses of humanity lead the collector to recklessness and headlong haste in forming his collection, and impel the dealer to exact an undue profit. With the vastly extended competition of to-day the majority of those who now collect have therefore been practically forced to expend capital, whereas in olden days income alone was trenched upon. It follows that extra caution is required in the former instance. Undue rises probably mean unsound security, while it is in the *gradual* increment in value—the product alone of time and legitimate demand—that the real collector will find his best reward.

Breakers Ahead!

A Paper read before the Plymouth Philatelic Society on November 2nd, 1898.

By W. A. WALKER, Hon. Sec.*

THE theme that I purpose to handle this evening is such that, to a large extent, I must deal with it from a personal standpoint. I must inevitably force upon you, or put before you—to phrase matters more delicately—my own convictions and my own surmises. Now personal bias is, in the main, a thing to be deprecated, failing, as all personalities must, to enliven or promote the interests of a meeting such as this. Hence I must ask your pardon in advance, if what I have to say is both dull and one-sided and distinctly egotistical. My object, at any rate, in taking up your attention to-night is a sincere one. I wish to draw your thoughts to a phase, or condition, or as I would put it, an arrested development, in this our common study—the Science or Art of Philately.

Of late, that is within the last month or two, the Philatelic press has raised afresh its war-cry for the campaign of the coming stamp year. The

* It will be obvious that there are considerable portions of this article which do not bear out our views, and in fact many statements that are absolutely opposed to any appreciation of "Philately" at all; but their elimination would weaken the force of the *lesson conveyed* in Mr. Walker's article, which is that expressed elsewhere in this issue in referring to the speculator. The insertion of the article *in its entirety* is, moreover, due to the fact that it was read before the Plymouth Philatelic Society, and that it would not be courteous to that body, although we have the author's consent, to eliminate any material portion.—Ed.

journals and periodicals that exist for the stamp collector have unanimously opened the session with a chorus most anthem-like in its high notes of congratulation over the coming New Year. The tide is on the turn, and we are all to face confidently a rise in the value of our goods. It is certainly pleasant tidings to learn this, that the signs of the times are auspicious—and that the increased auction sales—the extension of Philatelic Exhibitions into the provinces—the advent of large collections on the market—all indicate increased interest and further progress.

This is, of course, as things should be. No one desires to pose as a pessimist. Such an attitude is far from my own inclinations, and I am rejoiced to hear that the times have been "out of joint" but temporarily, the more so as I happen to have stocked a few low-valued Africans, and have the remainder of a collection to dispose of.

But while I am quite ready to listen to each worthy optimist, and to view my stamps through his rose-tinted *pince-nez*, I am uncomfortably conscious of a series of reflections that have been borne home upon me during the past half year or so of my stamp collecting. I seem to be a wanderer, roaming afield through tracts of market values, stamp auctions, catalogue prices, press predictions, exchange rates, etc. etc.; and as I stray I hear the dull, uncomfortable sound of breakers ahead. I must confess that I cannot see any clear outline of surf before me to indicate where the precise danger lies; but none the less I hear and wonder, and I pause in my wandering and turn to you to ask, "Do you also hear and wonder, or is it all fudge and distemper?"

But to come to simple prose. My acquaintance with stamps as a collector has been so far a limited one. I have collected definitely—that is, with a knowledge of catalogue and of the possibilities that lie before the collector—for less than four years. Hence I can in no sense affect to speak authoritatively; only here is what I gather as I collect.

Within no long period from the outset I realized what I now think is a cardinal home-truth—a veritable axiom, though, unlike an axiom, its truth is not self-evident—and that is this tenet: no stable market value or monetary status can be attached to a new issue, either *en bloc* or *singulatim*, until a year at the very least has elapsed since its appearance. If collectors realized this homely fact, I think Philately would be a real gainer. There is nothing more degrading to our study, nothing more disheartening, than to find that the particular stamp or stamps, issued, it may be, with blare of Philatelic trumpet; acquired, it may be, as something worth having and worth keeping; paid for, it may be, in good round figures at something much above face value, is after all, when the twelve months have expired, merely an ordinary outcome of the stamp impressions of the country it may represent. How little this fact is understood! An issue, long expected or hurriedly brought about, comes within the collector's hands and is eagerly accepted, perhaps too eagerly paid for; and lo and behold! the good thing proves no better than its fellows. I cannot quote a better instance to illustrate my text than that of the 12½ perf., thick paper, British South Africa Company, in the two low values of 2d. and 4d. These saw the light in 1895. More than a year later, in Gibbons' Catalogue, we find 25s., unused, as the price of either,

and verily the African prophets swore by thick papers, 12½ perf. Here one felt that one could and should secure as fast as circumstances would permit. My own personal experience was a curious one in regard to these two varieties, for a well-known dealer offered me by wire two complete panes (*i.e.*, 60 stamps apiece) of the values in question for £80. Had I wished for the panes, I was in no wise able to dream of the price. But there was a sense of relief when I learned a little later from the same dealer that he had lost heavily over his African purchase, as he had found himself compelled to refund to a number of purchasers the long prices paid for what was after all merely a current variety.

The 8d. lyre-bird of New South Wales is yet another example that bears out my contention. It was till recently catalogued at 2s. 6d. unused and 2s. used; and I know that when I first rushed into stamps it was regarded as "the good thing" among the low values of the issue in which it appeared in 1888. I believe that the lyre-bird, somewhat *à la* Mr. Rougemont, must be taken at face value only out in the colony, even now some eleven years after its birth.

From this point I am at once led to the all-important and much-vexed issue of the stamp market. And here I would voice my opinion in no measured terms, for I hold that it is the bounden duty of every collector to consider his or her responsibility as a Philatelist, and to examine certain conditions of Philatelic growth or arrested development, as the case may be; that is, if collectors, as a body, wish to forward the study of stamps and to safeguard their possessions. To myself it seems there is a spirit of unrest and of marked uneasiness around and about us. The stamp world is overcrowded with dealers, amateur and otherwise. The smaller dealers, more particularly those in the trade in a petty way, who combine stamps with tobacco or fancy stationery, who fill no position in the Philatelic world, and do not care a brass cent for the study of stamps, these men simply serve as brokers for the exploitation of never-ending new issues and pretty rubbish. They cater for the beginner, for the schoolboy, for the buyers who buy because a stamp is pretty, or can flaunt a garish tint, a pronounced landscape, or a novel design. These are the beasts of prey who do stamp collecting no possible good, because their sole gospel is that of "small profits, quick returns."

And what of the dealer proper—the big-wig, who is an authority? Well, he is unfortunately a dealer, and that, to my mind, means that he must inevitably from the circumstances of the case occupy a position disadvantageous to Philately as a pure science. To him Philately can be only an art, and a profit-making art. Stamp collecting, as we all know, is a wonderful development of what was in the first instance a genuine hobby. We can all recall the bargains and rarities that we might have had in the prehistoric schoolboy days, or that we did have and let drift as soon as had. But in place of a hobby—an amateur pursuit of pure collecting—we are now face to face with Philately. She wears a Greek dress, and tops her front with a capital P. Here there is the shadow of a pleasure and the substance of a business. We are girt about by a ring of worthy gentlemen who pass us on our favourite tokens for a consideration. We are stifled by catalogues,

dealers' lists, special bargains, and auction notices. We find traps for the unwary, webs for the coy fly, in every street as we walk abroad; and the dealer is the biggest trap of all.

And the net result of our environment? That nowadays the collector proper, the being who strives to study and to gather together the stamps of a country or a continent, finds himself face to face with this other being who bars all further progress until the purse-strings have been loosed. Now, were the relative value of the tokens thus to be exchanged known or approximately known, were the laws that control the supply and demand of stamps patent to all, or in themselves capable of study and explanation for both buyer and seller, then I hold the dealer might step in as a helpful medium, as an honest broker, but no more; whereas, as things are, the dealer can only appraise the value of the stamp he is selling by its *value to himself*, and he is fatally influenced by the fact that the depth of a customer's purse can enhance or depreciate the value of the token which he would sell; hence the result of a stamp market, regulated by a few leading sellers who control the stock, and who cater *in the first place* for the needs and purses of buyers, not collectors.

It is for the wealthy buyer *primarily* that the existing stamp catalogues are called into being every eighteen months or so; and on the fall or rise of issues or of separate stamps, as new impressions succeed or the supply and demand varies, plenty of scope is given for the delicate *finesse* of buying, selling, and profit-making. I maintain, then, a stamp catalogue, as it exists, is absolutely untrustworthy. (?) It is the voice of a man, or of a number of men, who must make his or their monetary profit the sole standard of the prices quoted. To the collector this view of stamps is grossly misleading. Personally I may be fully prepared, in the case of a stamp, to give that price which will represent in some degree its value relative to the number printed, or to the number that may be gauged to be out in the stamp world. Is it too much to ask that as issues cease to be current some such standard should be set up? But when Messrs. Palm-it-off issue their periodical lists, I find that I must steer through a sea of fictitious values. I must blindly accept their prices; I have no other criterion by which I may gauge their treasures.

I take it that there is a real revolt against this trade catalogue tyranny, a revolt which is in part a spontaneous outcome of expression, in the fact that as soon as a collector begins to feel his feet and to know his way about, he learns—and the lesson is often one of costly experience—that he can readily secure most of the stamps he wants at a handsome discount. And so we now have the absurd anomaly of books that profess to give stamp prices checked by large trade discounts, by auctions at which mediocre stamps—yet stamps well worth serving as a nucleus—go for the proverbial song, by exchange packets, which in their turn often allow still greater margins of discount, and by the underselling of traders, who must realize their stock and sell out to keep pace with fresh demands. Dare we hope that, as times progress, the amateur collector—*i.e.*, the genuine collector, who is not a dealer thinly disguised—will come to the front and take a more pronounced attitude than hitherto? Is it too much of a chimera, too dreamy a Utopia, to hope even

for a catalogue some day that will print in parallel columns values according to condition, and values relative to the approximate numbers of the stamps issued? Surely in a large number of cases records and stamp archives could be searched for this object? Surely an influential body of pure amateurs, men of leisure with large collections and unbiassed interest, might combine, and at some date not too remote rescue us from the professional catalogue? Wanted, an amateur catalogue!

Yet another evil, which is part and parcel of the same misfortune of a stamp world groaning under its professional catalogues, is that of the market-rigging. Here again there is, to my mind, a very real source of danger and discredit. No outside amateur can hope of himself to master this problem. Let me adduce an illustration. For a long time the 1s., green, shaft issue, Transvaal Republic, was not to be had. Dealers apparently were hunting high and low for the stamp; and I know that I wearied several members of the trade by my importunity. At last a copy or two began to filter through the auction lists, always in single blessedness. Finally, a leading firm quoted me, in reply to correspondence, £8 for an unused, and 56s. for a used specimen. A little later a second dealer assured me that I would do unspeakably well if I bought at his figure—12s. 6d. per copy. Of course, the copies at his disposal were extremely limited! And of course through another source I gathered that in fair Birmingham more than one collector had secured his copy at 1s. 6d. per stamp, and this at more or less coincident periods of time. From £8 to 1s. 6d. is a flight of genius.

Time and space will not allow me to do more than touch upon such pitiful frauds as Jubilee Issues, Omaha Exhibition labels, Commemoration rubbish, etc. I turn from these in disgust as real dangers, and as fraudulent growths. I note that even our prophet of the Strand flings his stone of reproach when in leaderette he writes of "the ever-increasing crop of labels created solely because there are people to collect them."

In close touch with this crop must surely be reckoned the expansive elasticity of modern catalogues, which now threaten to run into departments and side issues as uninteresting as they are endless. I do not so much refer to the hair-splitting differences and variations that one now finds catalogued, as to the fresh fields and pastures new into which the dealer invites us to roam. For example, a Circular Delivery Company's stamp may have a very real status, and be collectible enough from a certain standpoint of view, but to have this form of label thrust upon one in pure advertisement as fitting company for one's precious adhesives is another thing altogether. In all this puffing I see but one word writ large—trade. "The trail of the serpent is over them all," and as climax we have our precious bantling, the stamp proper, boiled down into the Philatelic Christmas Card and Competition Packets that realize the lucky "fiver"!

In conclusion, I would strongly reiterate the fact that stamp collecting is at root a hobby, and not merely a buying and a selling. Hence the monetary value attached to its tokens is purely fictitious when used, and but equivalent to face value when unused and current. A genuine danger threatens us if we ignore this truth and allow our judgments and penchant for collecting to depend upon conditions that have arisen of late years, and if we overlook the

reality that rising or falling prices and so-called market values hang upon the fiat of wealthy buyers and big stock-holders. Given conditions favourable to this interchange of Philatelic tokens and hard cash, both collector and dealer may indulge their respective proclivities to the top of their bent. But what if these fair-weather conditions vanish or change? What if some great national crisis (as war, for instance) arrest the attention of this nation of shopkeepers? Then I hold the present unsound financial basis of stamps would be laid bare. Stock would come tumbling into the market, and the catalogue quotations be unveiled as absurdities.

There are other points in connection with my warning which I would fain touch on, but which I must leave for discussion at another time. But I cannot refrain from pointing out that as a study Philately is very limited and one-sided; its influences are engrossing yet narrowing, and keep the collector from the self-improvement and the wider range of sympathies that come of general reading or special study. Hence when the world at large, which we are anxious to proselytize, realizes that in addition to laborious and painstaking research it is asked to face the question of fictitious values and bolstered prices, small wonder if the world refuses to be wooed, and scoffs at our collecting as so "much ado about nothing."

I trust that I am no Tirēsias, predicting truths to ears that will not hear. Rather would I see my fancies shaken out as thin gossamer webs by the wind of discussion that will follow; rather would I find your pardon for thus trespassing on your leisure hours.

The Manchester Philatelic Exhibition.



THE arrangements in connection with this exhibition, that, under the auspices of the Manchester Philatelic Society, will be opened on June 29th, 1899, are now in a forward state, and from the prospectus which has now been issued we are enabled to form some idea of the magnitude of the undertaking.

The patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of York has been happily secured, and the Philatelic Societies of London, Paris, Dresden, and India, and many other cities, have "signified their approval." Mr. W. D. Beckton, whose energy is resistless, heads the Executive Committee, composed of twenty members of the Manchester Society, the active and able Hon. Sec. being Mr. G. F. H. Gibson (address—Exhibition Committee Rooms, 2, Cooper Street, Manchester). Over 150 names of leading and influential collectors at home and abroad are also cited as having promised their support. The prospectus states:—

"The Committee have obtained the use of the Manchester City Art Gallery, which possesses the advantages of ample space and good light from above, without the risk of undue exposure to the rays of the sun, as well as a commanding position in a leading thoroughfare in the centre of the city, and is therefore in every way most

suitable for an exhibition of stamps. All the stamps will be shown under glass in locked or sealed frames and cases, and every possible precaution will be taken to ensure the security of the exhibits, including the employment of day and night watchmen, but no personal responsibility will be undertaken by the Committee. The Exhibition will remain open to the public for one week, a charge being made for admission, which will afford a better opportunity for supervision by the members of the Committee (two of whom at least will always be in attendance during the time that the Exhibition is so open), thus securing additional safety."

All exhibits will be shown under glass frames, as in London, and in such a fine building as that of the Manchester Art Gallery there can be no possible damage to the stamps.

The prospectus states very clearly the several conditions, rules, and regulations by which exhibitors will be bound, and affords, in fact, information on every point connected therewith. The features following seem to have a great deal to recommend them:—

"In the scheme of the Exhibition the Committee wish to draw attention to the fact that whilst every provision has been made to secure keen competition amongst advanced specialists, the interests of general collectors have been carefully protected. It is with the first object in view that more divisions have been made in the prospectus than was the case in London, and for the latter purpose that certain favourite and most difficult countries have been introduced twice: in the first instance as a country complete, which the advanced specialists can exhibit, and secondly, after omitting the earlier and usually rarer issues, for the benefit of those who specialize in these countries, but are not strong enough in such issues to compete with collectors of the first rank.

"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.

Special Collections of Postal Adhesives of Great Britain.

Division 1.—Unused only.
Division 2.—Ditto, single specimens only.
Division 3.—Used.

CLASS II.

For Special Collections of Postal Adhesive Stamps of any one of the Countries or Combinations of Countries following.

Division 1.—BRITISH EMPIRE, including Protectorates, etc.

A.—British Guiana, Cashmere and Native States of India (any two), Ceylon, Mauritius, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria.

B.—Canada, Cape of Good Hope, India, Natal, Newfoundland; New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Vancouver: Straits Settlements and dependencies, South Australian departmental stamps, Tasmania, Trinidad, Western Australia.

C.—Barbados, Fiji Islands, Heligoland, Labuan, Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent,

Turks Islands, Ceylon (from 1863), New South Wales (from 1860), Victoria (from 1862), Western Australia (from 1861).

D.—Bahamas, British Bechuanaland and Protectorate, British Honduras, Cyprus, Grenada, Griqualand, St. Helena; British Central Africa, British East Africa, British South Africa, Oil Rivers and Niger Coast (any two); British Guiana (from 1863), Mauritius (from 1863).

E.—Any two of the following:—Antigua, Bermuda, Cook Islands, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Hong Kong, Ionian Islands, Jamaica, Lagos, Leeward Islands, Malta, Madagascar, Montserrat, North Borneo, Prince Edward Island, St. Christopher, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tobago, Virgin Islands, Uganda, Zanzibar, Zululand.

Division 2.—Europe.

A.—Austria, Austrian Italy, and Hungary, France and Monaco, Greece, Roumania with Moldo-Wallachia, Russia, Finland, Russian Levant, Livonia, Wenden, and Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey.

B.—Germany (any two of the following):—Baden, Bavaria, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire (including Alsace and Lorraine), Hamburg, Hanover, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemberg. Italy (any two of the following):—Italy, Modena, Naples, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany.

C.—Bulgaria, Southern Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, Servia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina (any three), Roumania, Russian Locals, Switzerland (including Federals, but excluding the Cantonals, Orts-Post, and Poste Locale). Germany (any three of the following):—Baden, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire, Alsace and Lorraine, Hanover, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Prussia, Thurn and Taxis. Italy (any three of the following):—Italy, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, San Marino, Sicily, Eritrea.

D.—Belgium, Denmark and Iceland, Holland, Luxemburg, Norway, Portugal, Sweden.

Division 3.—Asia and Africa.

A.—Afghanistan, Japan, Philippine Islands, Portuguese Indies, Transvaal.

B.—Azores and Madeira, Egypt and Suez Canal, New Republic, Persia, Shanghai and China (no locals).

C.—Any four French colonies or possessions, any four Portuguese colonies or possessions, Orange Free State, and Swaziland. Any four of the following:—Congo, Liberia, Dutch Indies, Sarawak, Siam, Corea, Formosa, German colonies.

Division 4.—America.

A.—Brazil, Buenos Ayres, Bolivia, Colombian Republic (including various States), Hawaii, Mexico (including locals), Peru and Pacific Steam Navigation Co., San Domingo.

B.—Confederate States of America (including Postmaster stamps), United States of America (including Postmaster stamps), United States Locals.

C.—Argentine Confederation and Republic, Chili, Cuba, Porto Rico, and Fernando Po, Uruguay, Venezuela and La Guaira, Hawaii (from 1864), and Tonga. Any two of the following:—Corrientes and Cordoba, Costa Rica, Curaçao and Surinam, Danish West Indies, Ecuador, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Samoa.

Division 5.

A.—Any three countries in Europe, etc. etc.

Division 5 is not intended for the advanced specialist.

CLASS III.

For Collections of Rare Stamps.

Division 1.—Each exhibit to consist of not less than 75 nor more than 100.

Division 2.—Each exhibit to consist of not more than 50 stamps, and each stamp in Division 2 not to exceed catalogue (Stanley Gibbons) value of £2 each.

CLASS IV.

Will consist of entire General Collections of Postal Adhesives, with or without Envelopes, Post Cards, etc., in Albums or Volumes, not less than ten Countries to be shown in any Exhibit in Divisions 1, 2, *and* 3.

Division 1.—Without limit as to number. Division 2.—Total number not to exceed 10,000. Division 3.—Total number not to exceed 5000. Division 4.—Collections of British Railway stamps. Division 5—Special Collections of a single country. Division 6.—Special Collections of any three of the British Colonies all of whose stamps are obsolete at the date of this prospectus. Division 7.—Special Group Collections.

CLASS V.

Division 1.—For Collections of entire Envelopes and Wrappers, one or more of the following countries or combinations of countries:—Austria, Hungary, and Lombardy, Great Britain, Germany and all States, Mauritius, Russia, Finland, and Poland, United States of America.

Division 2.—Not less than three of any countries not enumerated in Division 1.

CLASS VI.

Will consist of Collections of entire Post Cards and Letter Cards.

Division 1.—One or more of the countries, or combinations of countries, following:—Russia and Finland, Germany and all States, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad, Japan, Luxemburg, Belgium, Mexico, Roumania, Spain and Colonies.

Division 2.—Not less than three of any countries not enumerated in Division 1.

CLASS VII.

For Exhibits by Stamp Engravers and Manufacturers of Postage Stamps and Telegraph Stamps.

CLASS VIII.

For Philatelic Literature and Works.

CLASS IX.

For Albums, etc.

Division 1.—The most suitable Album or Book for a Special Collection and for a General Collection.

CLASS X.

For Philatelic Accessories and Appliances for Use by Collectors.

CLASS XI.

Special Arrangements of Stamps, Stamps on Original Letter Sheets or Envelopes, Proofs, Essays, Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connection with Philately and the Postal Service (including Engravings).

The Prizes are numerous—Gold, Silver, and Bronze—and so broadly are they divided over every section and division that there is the greatest incentive to competition, not only for the big collector, but for the small one whose inclusion the Committee has so wisely provided for. Beyond this there are between 30 and 40 Special Prizes given by leading societies, collectors, and stamp dealers, the Medals given by the Philatelic Society, London, being one Gold Medal for the finest Special Collection of any one country, having regard to the difficulty in forming it, apart from the monetary value, and one Silver Medal for the best Special or General Collection shown by a lady.

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 the Exhibition.

It is also announced that two Silver and two Bronze Medals will be placed at the disposal of the Judges to award all or any, as they think fit, to exhibitors whose exhibits display the most Philatelic knowledge, regard being had to individual research; and that any further Special Medals which may be offered to and accepted by the Executive Committee will be published in the *London Philatelist*.

Philatelic Notes.

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

DENMARK: PERFORATED 12½.

IT has been announced in various Continental sources that almost complete sets of the issues of 1870 and 1871 Service are to be chronicled with the perforation of 12½. The 2, 4, and 48 sk. of the former have been long known—the last-named not existing otherwise—and to these, it appears, must now be added the 8, leaving only the 16 skilling out in the cold—for the present. In the Service series of 1871 the 2 skilling has apparently to be added to the already known 4 and 16 s. Should the information be correct, as seems quite likely, there only remains to find the 8 sk. to make both sets complete.

FRANCE: THE 1 FRANC, VERMILION.

THE increasing reputation of this stamp as the *chef-d'œuvre* in a French collection, and its consequent demand, has led to the attempt to foist upon the unwary Philatelist a dangerous imitation thereof. Messrs. Stanley

Gibbons have sent us three copies, two being a pair "postmarked," and the other unused; and that firm state that the pair was sent to be auctioned in London, the single one was submitted to a collector in the provinces, and that they all came from Italy.

These forgeries are apparently produced by photolithography, and hence present a very close resemblance to the original. The designs, however, are not absolutely identical in detail, as shown by the lines on the face, the hair, the head, and in the shape of the lettering, while in its dimensions it is also not true. The general appearance is rougher and has a lithographic look, while the paper is too thick and soft. Further details are hardly advisable as yet, until, as we sincerely hope, the forgers are tracked down.

Occasional Notes.

PENNY POSTAGE TO INDIA AND CEYLON.

TWO very important accessions to the new movement for the establishment of Imperial Penny Postage are announced.

We are officially informed that the Government of India and the Colony of Ceylon have decided to join in the scheme of Imperial Penny Postage from the beginning of its operation on the 25th December next.

THE DUKE OF LEINSTER'S STAMP COLLECTION IN THE SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM, DUBLIN.

WE have received from Mr. W. R. Joynt a communication with regard to the difficulties he has to overcome in carrying out the late Duke of Leinster's bequest to the Irish nation. We would cordially invite the aid of collectors to help Mr. Joynt's modest request. (We do not gather that the 4d., West Australian, with inverted swan, figures in the collection. *Rara avis* indeed is the blue swan!)

"The arrangement of the collection is now finished; but before mounting it on the sheets for exhibition purposes I propose, with your permission, giving in the *London Philatelist* a list of some of the principal wants. As pointed out in my former communication (see February No., p. 50), owing to the collection having been made in Lallier (1870 Edition) Albums, varieties of paper, watermark, perf., and shade were ignored, and the British Colonies consequently require a good deal of filling in.

"I hope Philatelists in Great Britain and also in the countries named below will generously aid in the completion of the gift made to the museum by the late Duke of Leinster. I know that his desire would be to have it useful as a work of reference, as well as interesting as an exhibit, and in the former state its value would undoubtedly be enormously increased. Space permits me to enumerate only the chief stamps and varieties lacking, but I will be only too pleased to give further particulars about any country to collectors interested in the matter. All communications should be addressed to *Wm. R. Lane Joynt,*
c/o Col. Plunkett,
Director, Science and Art Museum, Dublin.

"All stamps presented will have the donors' names indicated.

"List of stamps wanted:—

TASMANIA.

4d., Plate II., and on laid. Star, imperf., 1d. No wmk., 1d. and 2d., and 1d. on *pelure*. All roulettes and pin-perf. except 1d. All issues from 1870 are unused.

WEST AUSTRALIA.

First issue, 1s.* 2d. and 1s., roul. 1860, 2d., orange.* No wmk., 6d. CC, 12½, 2d.* and 1s.* All subsequent issues unused.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Imperf. London prints, 2d. and 6d. Colonial, 1d. Rouletted series, shades of all values. Perf. and roul., all. All subsequent issues.

QUEENSLAND.

First issue, imperf., 2d. and 6d. Clean-cut perf., large star, 1d. and 2d. Rough perf., small star, 1d., 2d., and 1s. 1854–5, all. 1866, script, ditto, and all subsequent issues.*

NEW ZEALAND.

First issue, London, printed on white, 1d. and 1s. on *bleuté*. No wmk., thick and thin papers, all; and ditto, pin-perf. and roul. No wmk., perf. 13, 2d. *Pelure* paper, imperf., 1d. and 2d., all roul., and 1d. and 1s., perf. Wmk. star, imperf., 2d, lavender, 1s., dark green. N Z, imperf., 2d., 6d., and 1s., all values roul., and 1s., perf. All subsequent issues unused.

VICTORIA.

1850, 1d., brown shades; 2d., Type 1; Type 2, cinnamon shades; Type 3, lilac shades. 3d., Type 1. 1854, engraved,* lithographed,* and used copies, showing different stages of error of plate. 1854, 1s., roul. Emblems, star, 1d. and 4d., roul. No wmk., roul, all. Laid paper, imperf., 4d., roul., 2d. and 4d. 1862, 2d., value in words, and 2d., error. Diademed heads and 6d. of 1865, all errors of watermark. All subsequent issues.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydneys, Plate I., 1d., date on white, and all shades on blue. Plate II., 1d. on yellow and on laid, and errors. 2d., Plate I., Plate II, III. on wove and laid. 3d. on laid. Laureated, 1d. on laid. 1d. on wove, light shades. 6d., Plate II, and all varieties of this issue. Diadem, imperf., all errors of watermark. Everything subsequent to 1871.*

FRANCE.

First Republic, 40 c.,* and 1 franc, orange and orange-vermilion. 1870, Bordeaux, 2 c.;* Paris, 40 c., pale orange.* 1876, Type 1, set.* Type 2, 75 c. and 1 franc, all.* Current 5 francs.* Unpaid letter stamps, 1884, 2 francs.

FRENCH COLONIES. All the general issues.

DENMARK.

1851, 4 R.b.s.,* same, perf. (? ED.) 1853, 4,* 8 roul., 4, 8, 16 perf. 1858, all roul. and perf. 1870–1, set.* 1896, 5, 10, 20 small and medium figures.*

DANISH WEST INDIES. 1873–91, set.

ICELAND. All.

HOLLAND. First issue in pairs."

SAN MARINO.

ACQUAINTANCE with anything affecting this minute Republic is not very extensive on the part of collectors. Those, however, who are readers of the *Wide World Magazine* will find an able and interesting article in the current number, from which we venture to give a few short excerpts.

"It seems little short of a miracle that the only survivor of the old state of things should be a Republic with an area of thirty-two square miles, and a population of about eight thousand peasants, earning a precarious existence on a rock among the Apennines. The wonders of cannibal countries, the strange prehistoric customs which still survive in the unexplored interior of other continents, are not more extraordinary in their way than the survival of this fantastic political freak in the middle of a very modern country, whose every aspiration is for uniformity and commonplace progress. It is strange how few people have taken the small amount of trouble required to visit this extraordinary spot. There is no difficulty whatever in reaching San Marino. Rimini is on the main line to Brindisi, and, therefore, to Egypt or India, and thousands of travellers who have passed that way must have discerned, from the windows of their trains, the three castled crags scarcely three leagues away to the west."

A vivid description by pen and pencil is given of this quaint and mediæval town, the following having special interest for our readers:—

"In the middle of the square is a gaunt statue of Liberty, which figures conspicuously upon the post cards of San Marino.

"At one end is the post office, with the standard measures of the Republic on the stone let into the wall. The post office is one of the institutions of which the citizens are most proud, and they derive quite a respectable portion of their revenue from the sale of their various issues to collectors. I have before me a long printed document, issued by authority, setting forth the style and price of all stamps, both obsolete and in present use. In 1894 there was a special commemorative issue, by which they made a handsome profit. The Republic had also issued a number of pennies and halfpennies, which are accepted as currency in Italy, but these are rarely to be met with in San Marino itself, where the ordinary Italian paper is the regular currency."

There is an ominous "moral" to the article, the application of which seems inevitable in the near future.

"Already politicians at Rome speak of her as an anomaly and a blot upon the unity of the country, and in 1895 the Italian Government denounced the treaty of protective friendship, which it concluded in 1872."

EXHIBITION BY THE BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE Birmingham Philatelic Society will hold an Exhibition of Stamps from 1 p.m., December 7th, to 9 p.m., December 9th, at Graves' Picture Gallery, 44, Cherry Street, Birmingham. The Exhibition is open to all collectors and dealers, whether members of the Society or not. Adhesive stamps only (including stamps on originals) will be admitted. (Envelopes and post cards and collections of stamps in bound books cannot be accepted for want of space.) The gallery is extremely suitable for the perfect and safe exhibition of fine stamps, being on the ground-floor and lighted from the roof only, so that no direct sunlight can affect the stamps.

Electric light and efficient reflectors are available for evening use. It has been specially built for the purpose of exhibiting valuable pictures; therefore exhibitors can have perfect confidence that their stamps will not suffer in any way. The Committee will take every possible precaution for the safety of exhibits while under their charge, but cannot hold themselves responsible for theft or loss in any way. A watchman will be specially engaged to remain in charge of the premises at night, and a member of the Committee will always be in attendance during the time the Exhibition is open. The exhibits will be shown in the same frames as were used in the last London Exhibition, and each case will be sealed after arrangement by the Committee. The inside measurement of the frames is 30 × 47 inches.

Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Johnson, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

"CONDITION."

THE recent sale of the Mackellar Library has been a revelation to a large portion of the general public as regards the fluctuation in price caused by the condition of the objects sold; but the general lesson conveyed in the remarks of the *Standard* (Nov. 7th) hereon will well repay the attention of the Philatelist who wishes to be well abreast of the times. The motives that guide the collector of any kind seem to have a very common origin—no less than that of mother nature—and our contemporary's remarks seem so apropos of the instincts of the especial genus Philatelic of the common collector, as to afford most appropriate reading, marking, and digesting for us all.

"Bibliopolists who measure the value of books mainly by the prices they fetch will hear with concern of the fallen fortunes of the Syston Park copy of the Mazarin Bible. One of these much-prized editions was purchased, at the auction of the Mackellar Library, for the sum of £2950 This amount, although to the uninitiated it may not appear startlingly inadequate, is open to the fatal reproach that it is nearly a thousand pounds below the cost at which the book was acquired by its last possessor. There is, happily, a reassuring explanation. Since the volume changed hands certain imperfections have been discovered, the existence of which was not previously suspected. Thus the decline in individual worth implies no loss of *prestige* in the class to which it belongs, and it is still permissible to hold that a perfect Mazarin Bible is the most precious product of the press. It owes its place of eminence to the circumstance that it is one of the very oldest members of the family. At any rate, it is the first Bible that was printed with moveable metal type, and only twenty-five copies on paper are believed to survive. Of all the forms of competition few are more innocent than the rivalry for the possession of these rare and fascinating relics of the days when the art which was to revolutionise civilisation was still in its infancy. The stern economist will refuse to frown at expenditure which involves no appreciable diversion of labour from strictly utilitarian channels. By the mere transfer of a cheque in four figures the treasure which gladdened the life of one collector becomes subservient to the delight of another. Nor is the pleasure less keen because it is associated with a certain degree of solicitude. When the detection of some slight flaws which baffled scrutiny, and therefore cannot be regarded as, in the æsthetic sense, glaring, sends down the quotation by a round thousand, we can imagine what apprehensions must haunt the library of the ambitious *connoisseur*. Yet to note the drawback is to hint at no small part of the attraction,

To be quite frank, the book fancier, like the picture buyer, is only an elegant variety of the speculator. When he makes a daring bid he probably has in his thoughts the day—which he hopes to be distant—when the prize will be again placed before a judicious assembly of *cognoscenti*, and when some splendid advance will do credit to the penetration or signalise the rare felicity of the last owner. To those who combine a taste for sport with a love of folios the moral of yesterday's sale will, no doubt, be to cultivate a microscopic vision for latent faults."

"THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH."

MR. J. W. SCOTT, whose interest in stamps is almost patriarchal, gives a very accurate definition of the collector of the old order. In referring to the announcement of the disposal of the Philatelic library of Mr. J. J. Casey, he says, in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*:—

"In old days there were many such amateurs as Mr. Casey; they collected stamps because they loved them for their beauty and intrinsic interest. They selected the finest specimens they could obtain, because such stamps showed off the original beauty to the best advantage, yet they never refused a rarity because it might happen to be in poor condition, for the historical interest of a damaged specimen is as great as that of one in mint condition. In their pursuit of a collection they spent their pocket-money, not their capital, therefore the saleable value of their album was a subject seldom thought of and more rarely discussed. The advance in prices was not considered an advantage, because, although doubling or quadrupling the value of the amateur's possessions, it had the depressing effect of placing so many stamps above the reach of the ardent collector, unless he could bring himself to invest his capital instead of his surplus, and become a speculator instead of an amateur."

POSTAL FACILITIES IN THE SOUDAN.

NO time has been lost in the newly-opened Soudan in organising an efficient postal service, as is evidenced by the fact that letters have been delivered in London, early in November, bearing the Khartoum postmark dated 25th October. The stamp with which the impression was made was evidently of quite up-to-date manufacture, for in addition to the word "Khartoum" the postmark indicates the hour of posting, and it also bears an Egyptian inscription.

Some of our foreign contemporaries who, in evident misapprehension of the extent of the Anglo-Egyptian protectorate over the Soudan, have been girding at the Camel Series as having been primarily issued for collectors, will perhaps now modify their opinions. A good many pious opinions have yet to be shed with regard to Egypt and its Soudanese provinces!

THE PROLIFIC PHILATELY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THERE are few portions of the globe terrestrial more constantly asserting their Philatelic existence than those of the British Protectorates in Africa, and the *London Philatelist* and other journals have frequently been the recipients of communications—suave, plausible, and courteous—demonstrating the absolute necessity of the issue of each series, and the entire impeccability of all connected therewith, from their native source down to their absorption in the great Philatelic Ocean!

Far be it from us to endeavour to stay the course of this placid stream which doubtless, like its great rival stream in the north of the continent, is the fertiliser of the districts through which it flows. British Africans are largely sought for, and all is for the best as yet; but while we announce our unlimited belief in mankind generally, and the African Companies' Postal Issues in particular, we think that the following statistics, which are the work of an apparently more "difficult" person, are worthy of record. Perhaps some other "doubting disciple" will next month proffer a list of the white population of all and sundry since 1890!

ADHESIVE STAMPS (excluding minor varieties) issued by

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.		BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.		BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.		ZANZIBAR.	
1890	3	1891	14	1891	19	1896	26
1891	22	1892	1	1892-94	3	1897	16
1895	16	1893	1	1895-96	13		
—	16	1894	2	1896	14		
1896	23	1895	12	1897	8		
1898	8	1896	11				
		1897	10				
		1898	2				
	88		53		57		42

Total issues to date 240

THE KASHMIR DIES.

IN our September number, p. 241, under the title of "Supplying the Stamp Collector," we quoted the statement—evidently promulgated with intent—of the Kashmir States' wish to embark on the obsolete stamp (and reprint) business. The objections to this course are patent, and it is therefore a source of satisfaction to learn from the following letter in our Indian contemporary that the Kashmir State has evidently some compunctions as to its past and future sales!

"*To the Editor*, '*Philatelic Journal of India*.'

"DEAR SIR,—With reference to the note published in your Journal of July, 1898, page 180, concerning the Kashmir State circular stamps, it may interest you to know that I was requested by the Resident in Kashmir and the State Accountant-General to meet the Rev. Father C. B. Simons, who has been appointed State Agent for the sale of the old Kashmir stamps, and Mr. D. P. Masson, C.I.E., with a view to determine which of the circulars should be disposed of and which should not be sold.

"There are in the possession of the State a very limited number of the circular issues. Of these one set were certainly struck from the dies (since defaced) which are now in the possession of the State. Others were stamped from dies which are not forthcoming. It has therefore been decided to sell only those circular stamps which were impressed by the dies now in the possession of the State, and not the impressions from the missing dies.

"The now defaced dies, of which impressions will be sold, are clearly described by Mr. Masson in his article in your Journal of July, 1898. STUART H. GODFREY,

"KASHMIR RESIDENCY, SRINAGAR, 27*th September*, 1898." "*Assistant Resident.*

Commenting hereon, the *Philatelic Journal of India*, in rather withering accents, writes:—

"We rejoice to hear that the State has withdrawn all the *forgeries* in its stores, and should be glad to hear further that all the *reprints* have been eliminated from what is left. Will Capt. Godfrey and Mr. Masson not take this up now and earn still more of the gratitude of Philatelists? We presume, by the way, that Rev. Father Simon will return their money to all persons who have purchased official forgeries from him before their existence was brought to his notice."

Reviews.

MESSRS. GELLI AND TANI'S CATALOGUE.*



THE second edition of this acceptable catalogue marks great improvement on its predecessor. Several praiseworthy innovations strike us on examination of the contents, notably a following of the plan adopted by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of illustrating surcharges by a reproduction of the actual surcharge. A marked improvement in the illustrations has also been effected, the remarkable cleanness of the blocks used being a sure advertisement for the book.

Minor varieties in the present edition are generally included, and additions to the usual illustrations have been made by the inclusion of the *tête-bêche* varieties of France, and the best-known varieties of plate or printing in such countries as Great Britain and the United States.

As was to be anticipated, the list of Belgian stamps is excellent. The varieties of paper in the middle issues, though known to the leading specialists of Belgians, have hitherto not appeared in any other catalogue. The Finland list, with very useful representations of the three varieties of the serpentine perforations, and many of the European lists, show sound and careful work, while other countries are scarcely inferior.

The printing and get-up of this book leave nothing to be desired; 450 pages occupy but a thickness of half an inch! The authors have issued a valuable little catalogue that cannot fail to be widely appreciated.

AN ALBUM FOR REVENUE STAMPS.†

This joint production of Messrs. Walter Morley and G. C. Lundy consists of two large and well-printed volumes, the first embracing Antigua to India. We have no personal acquaintance with fiscals, and cannot therefore criticise the contents of this work, but in its general preparation and presentment it should fully answer the requirements of the fiscal Philatelist. In the preface of the work the authors say, though we should hardly have expected the first line:—

"Consequent upon the ever-increasing number of fiscal collectors and the demand for albums, we have felt it incumbent upon ourselves to come to the assistance of collectors by compiling this volume, which we trust, with the support of those interested, will only be the first of a series. No pains have been spared to bring the compilation up to date by personal research and cordial help of others (especially A. P. Pearce, Esq., of Plymouth). Although being the first of its kind ever published in Great Britain, we feel that naturally some omissions have occurred, for which we crave the

* *Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps.* 1898–99. Second Edition. Price 3 francs. Gelli and Tani, Brussels.

† *Album for the Revenue Stamps of the British Colonies.* Walter Morley, 15, Brownhill Gardens, Hither Green, Catford, London, S.E.

collectors' lenience. Doubtful surcharges, inverted watermarks, etc., have been purposely omitted, but authentic differences in kinds of papers, perforations, and various watermarks have been carefully noted."

BOLIVIAN STAMPS.*

"Extensive and peculiar" is Mr. H. R. Oldfield's knowledge of the stamps of this country. It is now several years since he abandoned other countries' issues to take up these, and by papers read before the London Philatelic Society (and published in the *London Philatelist*), by articles read before other bodies, and appearing in other journals, he has abundantly shown that he is well entitled to advise "How to Collect Bolivian Stamps." This sound advice he has been giving for some months in the pages of the *Philatelic Record*, and the present *brochure* is a reprint of the whole series of articles. The methods for distinguishing the numerous plates are most concisely stated, and with the aid of the numerous and excellent enlarged reproductions of types of all the plates and their prominent varieties the student of the Bolivian stamps should readily learn how to collect them. Mr. Oldfield's advice is not only Philatelic but practical (might we say paternal?), as he tells his Bolivian disciple what he ought to pay for all his specimens. We would that the author had adopted this *rôle* in a more extended sphere, such as Europeans, for the benefit of all and sundry who collect them! The work in question is marked by conscientious study and thorough grasp of his subject throughout, and will add to Mr. Oldfield's growing reputation as a Philatelic writer.

* *How to Collect Bolivian Stamps.* By H. R. OLDFIELD. Buhl & Co., Ltd., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

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

BRITISH EMPIRE.

CANADA.—We give an illustration of the stamp upon the 1 c. envelopes which we described in a recent issue. We also again illustrate the profile on the 3 c. Envelope Stamp. Readers will decide for themselves whether the 1 c. stamp is an improvement on the 3 c. or not!





The new stamp for Canadian Imperial Penny Postage, to come into use on Christmas Day, is now in course of production under the direction of Mr. Mulock, the Canadian Postmaster-General. Philatelists may be interested to hear that, instead of the Queen's head, it will represent two sides of the globe, with the British Empire defined on its surface and coloured red.

INDIA.—Of the "¼" on ½ a. provisional 8,000,000 copies were printed. Some idea of the extent of the Indian postal system may be gathered from this prodigious number of provisionals. But, although extensive, the Indian Post Office is in all its arrangements perfect.

QUEENSLAND.—The *P. J. of G. B.* announces the fourpenny stamps with figures inserted in the four corners.

Adhesive. 4d., yellow.

RHODESIA.—The new design for postage stamps, which we were privileged to describe as far back as April, 1897, has at last been issued. (See vol. vi. p. 97.) We hear of the 1d. value, printed in pale carmine and perf. 15.

Adhesive. 1d., pale carmine; no wmk.

ST. VINCENT.—Alas! The beautiful series of labels of Perkins, Bacon, & Co.'s engraving are to become obsolete, and a new issue, supposedly the Colonial type, will be current in January next.

UGANDA.—Some new stamps of handsome designs, evidently produced at Bunhill Row, have been issued for this Protectorate. Following the design of the B.E.A. stamps, the centre is occupied by a similar portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in an oval, surrounded, in the case of the small-size "annas" stamps, with foliage, elephants' heads looking left and right, and inscriptions, "UGANDA PROTECTORATE," "POSTAGE," "REVENUE," and the value. On the large rupee stamps the head is surrounded by foliage and native weapons of war, while in each lower corner a lion *regardant* appears, with fierce mien—a warning, perhaps, to any who might stigmatise their presence as being speculative or unnecessary!

The small stamps have C A watermarked, and the large ones C C. Perforated 14.

Adhesives.

1 a., carmine.
2 as., lilac-brown.
3 as., grey.
4 as., deep-green.
8 as., olive.
1 rupee, ultramarine.
5 rupees, brown.

EUROPE.

BELGIUM.—The 50 c. stamp with the Sunday label is announced in a new colour—grey. *Adhesive.* 50 c., grey.

HOLLAND.—Mr. O. Firth writes:—

"It was stated in the *Bazaar* Supplement (October 12th), on the authority of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., that the new 1 gulden stamps were withdrawn soon after issue. On writing to a friend in Amsterdam for a few copies I obtained them at once, and he asked if I wanted more of them, or of the old issue; so they are evidently not withdrawn, but are on sale, side by side with the old 1 gulden stamps. No other value of new design has as yet appeared."

HUNGARY.—We add the following values, with the new watermark, to the list given last month:—

Adhesives. 3 kr., green; wmk. Crown.
5 ,, rose ,, ,,
30 ,, olive-green and brown; wmk. Crown.
Newspaper Stamp. 1 (kr.), orange; *imperf.* ,, ,,

"The paper with the Crown watermark was made in anticipation of the series in the new coinage which is to be issued early next year. Meantime some of the values have run out, and the old paper being no longer in stock, recourse has been had temporarily to that watermarked 'Crown' vice 'Kr' (eutzer)."—*Austria Philatelist.*

SERVIA.—The *I. B. J.* announces a change in the paper upon which the current adhesive stamps are printed. The granite paper is giving place to a thick white wove paper. Up to the present the following values have been seen:—

Adhesives. 5 paras, green; *white paper.*
10 ,, rose ,,
Unpaid Stamp. 20 ,, red-brown. ,,

AMERICA.

MEXICO.—Mr. C. H. Mekeel has received specimens of the current stamps on *unwatermarked* paper, as follows:—

Adhesives. 1 c., green; no wmk.
2 c., carmine-red; no wmk.
3 c., brown ,,
5 c., ultramarine ,,

PERU.—The 1 c. adhesive has been issued in a new colour—green replacing blue.

Adhesive. 1 c., green.

URUGUAY.—We illustrate the type of the surcharge chronicled on page 251. The 1 c. stamp of 1895 (gaucho) has been treated in a similar manner, the specimen before us having come to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive. ½ c. on 1 c., yellow-brown; surcharge blue.



OTHER COUNTRIES.

HAYTI.—The *M. J.* gives the following particulars of the new issue. The 4 c., 5 c., and 15 c. bear the Arms of the Republic; the other values show the profile of President Simon Law. There is also a small set of Unpaid Letter Stamps, with numerals in the centre.

Adhesives.

1 c., blue.
2 c., orange.
3 c., light green.
4 c., red.
5 c., carmine.
6 c. (?), deep blue.
7 c., grey.
15 c., olive.
20 c., black.
$1, violet.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

2 c., deep blue.
5 c., bistre.
10 c., orange.
50 c., black.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—The *Madrid Filatelico* states that the 1 c. stamp has changed colour, from carmine to violet.

Adhesive. 1 c., carmine.

SAMOA.—Another provisional! This time the One Shilling stamp has been surcharged in black "Surcharged—2½d." in two lines. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., in sending us this stamp, state that the death of the King is likely to cause the Samoan postage stamps to again undergo changes. The present provisional will perhaps pay the expenses of a State funeral!

SPANISH COLONIES.—We quote from a reliable source the quantities printed of each value of the 1898 issues for Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippine Islands.

	Cuba.	Porto Rico.	Philippine Islands.
1 milésima	1,000,000	800,000	900,000
2 ,,	800,000	600,000	700,000
3 ,,	500,000	400,000	400,000
4 ,,	50,000	30,000	50,000
5 ,,	1,400,000	400,000	600,000
1 centavo	1,000,000	300,000	500,000
2 centavos	800,000	400,000	500,000
3 ,,	7,000,000	3,000,000	4,000,000
4 ,,	20,000	20,000	20,000
5 ,,	300,000	200,000	200,000
6 ,,	1,000,000	400,000	100,000
8 ,,	150,000	100,000	500,000
10 ,,	200,000	100,000	100,000
15 ,,	150,000	100,000	100,000
20 ,,	200,000	100,000	100,000
40 ,,	80,000	40,000	60,000
60 ,,	60,000	30,000	50,000
80 ,,	40,000	20,000	40,000
1 peso	20,000	10,000	50,000
2 pesos	10,000	5,000	80,000

SURINAM.—This Dutch colony seems to be suffering from impecuniosity, a decree having been published authorizing the sale, on December 14th next, of the following paltry lots of obsolete stamps and post cards :—

1000 cards, 12½ c. (King).
100 ,, ,, ,, surch. 7½ c.
300 ,, 15 c. ,,
200 ,, ,, ,,
1000 ,, (type without stamp).
100 ,, (money order).
1500 postage stamps, 2½ c. (numeral).
150 ,, 50 c. (King); surch. 2½ c.

As the latter stamp is quoted by Senf at £3, there will probably be a good number of bidders.

TUNIS.—Stamps of 20 centimes, both postage and Unpaid Letter, have been added to the current set.

Adhesive. 20 c., red on green.
Unpaid Stamp. 20 c. ,,

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A.
208, *Birchfield Road, Birmingham.*

OCT. 20. The meeting was devoted to a discussion *re* Exhibition to be held in December.

NOV. 10. The following were unanimously elected members: Messrs. W. Scott, H. F. W. Deane, J. H. Telfer, R. Lajos, O. Grilstad, S. Frascati.

A PHILATELIC EXHIBITION will be held in Birmingham at Graves' Picture Gallery, 44, Cherry Street, on Dec. 7th to Dec. 9th, 1898. Admission free, by ticket, to be obtained from the Hon. Sec. or on presentation of address card. All collectors are welcomed. The Exhibition will be open on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.; on Thursday, Dec. 8th, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; on Friday, Dec. 9th, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bradford Philatelic Society.

THE monthly meeting of this Society was held on the 8th of November. The President, Mr. Stamford, occupied the chair, and there were also thirteen members and one visitor present. After the election of one new member, which will bring up the membership of the Society to thirty-eight, it was resolved by the Society to offer a gold medal for competition at the Manchester International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in June next. There being no other formal business, Mr. Gray then read his paper on "The Triangular Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope," which was both very instructive and exhaustive. He illustrated his remarks by some fine specimens from his own collection, and a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him at the close of his paper.

W. H. SCOTT, *Hon. Sec.*

1, PICCADILLY, BRADFORD.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

President—M. P. CASTLE.
Hon. Secretary—BARON A. DE WORMS,
27, *Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.*

THE first meeting of the season 1898–99 was held at Markwell's Hotel, on Tuesday, November 15th, at 8.15 p.m., when six members were present. The President took the chair, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, a slight discussion took place with regard to future meetings. The President read some notes on the 1876 issue of Spain, stating that he had discovered that for most of the values two plates were used, and that these had been retouched in many places, causing numerous varieties, the most prominent of which he described in detail. He also mentioned that this set of stamps was prepared in London, and was the only issue made out of Spain. A cordial vote of thanks was passed for the President's most interesting paper.

Herts Philatelic Society.

Hon. President—HAROLD J. WHITE.
Sec. and Treasurer—H. A. SLADE, *Ingleside, St. Albans.*

THE first general meeting of the above Society was held at the Inns of Court Hotel, W.C., on Tuesday evening, October 20th, Major E. Evans, R.A., in the chair, in the absence of the Hon. President (Harold J. White). The ordinary business of the meeting being concluded, Major Evans handed round his superb collection of Confederate States for the inspection of members, and imparted much interesting information as to the different plates, printings, etc., of these stamps. Curiosities and new issues were displayed by Messrs. Bois and Bradbury, and lack of time prevented the reading of a paper prepared by the Secretary. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting.

THE second general meeting of the above Society was held at the Inns of Court Hotel, on Tuesday, November 1st, at 7 p.m. As it was resolved that meetings should be held in London for the present, it was deemed advisable to reconstitute the Committee, and the following were elected to serve: L. Bradbury, W. A. Bois, G. Gaffe, E. A. Mardon, Rev. Walter Jenks, F. A. Wickhart, with power to add two more to their number. It was agreed that the name of the Society be placed on the Prospectus to be issued in connection with the International Philatelic Exhibition to be held at Manchester, in June next, and that steps be taken for offering at least one medal for competition. At the termination of the business, Mr. Herbert R. Oldfield gave a display of his collection of Bolivian stamps, accompanied with lucid and interesting explanations of the various plates, etc. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Oldfield brought an enjoyable evening to a close at 9.30 p.m. The first exchange packet of the Society contained twenty-eight sheets, valued at £572 3s. 4d.

H. A. SLADE.

The Collectors' Club, New York.

351, FOURTH AVENUE.

TWENTY-EIGHTH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, August 8th, 1898, Vice-President Bruner in the chair. Present, Messrs. Bruner, Luff, Scott, and the Secretary.

The Secretary read several communications, the Treasurer presented his report, showing balance in bank of $171.12, and the Chairman of House Committee read his report. The following applicants were unanimously elected subscribing members of the Club: F. P. Richardson, Salem, Mass.; W. Kelsey Hall, Peterborough, Ont.

TWENTY-NINTH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, September 12th, 1898. Present, Dr. Stebbins (who was called to the chair), Messrs. Luff, Scott, and the Secretary. Minutes of preceding meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read sundry letters, and was instructed to reply thereto.

The Treasurer presented his report, which was accepted, showing a balance in bank of $123.26, exclusive of $500 U.S. Bonds.

The Chairman of the House Committee read his report, which was received.

The Secretary was directed to insert in next month's meeting's notice a request to the Governors for full attendance in order to discuss the question of a stamp exhibition, as proposed by Mr. Scott, and, in case of inability to attend, the Governors to be requested to express their views upon the subject. J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

The Market.

NOTE.—*Under this title will be inserted all the information that may refer in any way to the financial aspects of Philately*, e.g., *the sales or values of stamps, the state of the Market, Trade publications, etc.*

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER'S sale on October 13th and 14th included about 450 lots from a private general collection, containing, however, no especial rarities. Among the good stamps there is little calling for comment, perhaps the most interesting lots being the following:—

Grenada.—1892, "SURCHARGE"—POSTAGE, 1d. on 8d., 2d. on 8d., 1d. on 6d., and 2d. on 6d., all unused, with full gum, and very scarce (£13).

South Australia.—Perf. 11½, 10d. in black on 9d., yellow, unused, with full gum, and very fine (£10).

Several fine general collections were disposed of, two containing over 6000 varieties, at an average of over £40 apiece.

At the same firm's sale on October 27th and following days, some fair specimens of rare Europeans were sold at unremunerative prices, including, however, a 4 c. Vaud that realized £19 10s. A 27 p. Moldavia, and a 2 r. 1851 Spain, both inferior specimens, went low. Some forty lots of African stamps contained desirable acquisitions, including a pair of the 5s. Zululand. In North America, New Brunswick 6d., yellow, unused, Newfoundland 4d., carmine-vermilion, unused, and the same shade of the 1s., unused, attained decent figures.

West Indies contained nothing of great importance beyond some few British Guianas. A brilliant copy of Victoria 5s. blue on yellow would have realized considerably more than £8, had it been evenly centred, and an Antioquia 10 c. went for half its value on account of a short margin.

* * *

THE collection of Mr. F. D'A. Vincent was offered for sale by Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON on the three days October 18th, 19th, and 20th. The general quality of many lots being fine, good prices were realized. The catalogue contained some 650 lots all in unused condition. The few Europeans in this collection that were really fine realized satisfactory prices, though the early Spain went cheap.

A three days' sale by the same firm of a large private collection, held on November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, included a number of fine stamps In Great Britain a block of 30, 2d., blue, imperf., with white lines, sold well at £12; Naples ½ t. blue, "arms," a copy with heavy postmark, £10; the Spain 1851, 2 reales, red, £23; and the 1852, 2 reales, also without gum, £14; Tuscany first issue, 60 crazie, red, £10 15s.—a big price considering condition; Ceylon 8d., brown, with light cancellation, £11 12s. 6d.; a block of four Barbados, wmk. small star, ½d., green, unused, was doubtless a desirable purchase at £13, as also was the 5s. St. Vincent unused at £9 12s. 6d.! British North America and Oceania were fairly represented, and sold in proportion.

* * *

MESSRS. PLUMRIDGE & CO. have issued during the month No. 2 of their Private Treaty List, which contains over 200 lots offered for sale at fixed prices. We notice that a feature of these lists is stated to be accurate descriptions of the stamps offered. The list before us contains many desirable stamps.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., of New York City, is about to offer at auction the Philatelic library belonging to Mr. J. J. Casey of that city. During late years a remarkable increase of interest in Philatelic literature has manifested itself, and as a result prices of the scarcer works have risen, provided they come into the market at all. The various works published by the London Philatelic Society have already been commented on in these pages, both for their scarcity and the avidity shown by collectors to obtain copies which occasionally turn up. Novices in this line of collecting would perhaps be astonished at the marketable value of many old Philatelic books, small in size and primitive in get-up.

Some idea of the interest taken by Mr. Casey in the literature of Philately may be estimated from the fact that the average cost of the binding alone of each volume of his library, shortly to come under the hammer, was 8s. !

* * *

MESSRS. BRIGHT & SON announce a new edition of their A B C catalogue to appear early in 1899. Collectors using the A B C will note with interest the illustrating of the Great Britain portion, now possible by permission of the Inland Revenue authorities.

* * *

MR. C. WILLADT, of Pforzheim, in Baden, has forwarded his new stock price list for October, 1898. As indicated by its name, this is a catalogue only of what Mr. Willadt has to sell, and, moreover, only indicates the better stamps. Its value to the collector is therefore purely financial; but as Mr. Willadt is known to hold one of the very finest stocks on the Continent, it has a distinct importance. There is assuredly no evidence of any downward tendency in the prices quoted here, and we doubt if they could in a number of instances be obtained. It should, however, be remembered that immaculate specimens only are cited, and that the responsibilities of the dealer as to this point are more clearly defined than those of the auctioneer. The quotations for Zurich 4 r. are somewhat lower, and those of Nevis well deserve a similar fate!

* * *

THE dispersal of Mr. Pearce's well-known collection of Transvaals by auction has naturally formed a subject of discussion in Philatelic circles. The disposal of a large and valuable specialized collection in one auction seemed to many to be a somewhat risky proceeding. It is not given to the majority of collectors to be keen hunters for the subordinate, if equally interesting, varieties that are the specialist's delight. The latter takes years to accumulate his varieties, and the dispersal of his slowly-acquired hoards within a couple of days savours to many of a daring that is almost presumptuous.

We have heard, however, of many collectors who intend to be present, and we sincerely trust that in our next issue we shall be able to announce a result satisfactory alike to the vendor and the public.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER, on November 10th and 11th, dispersed the collection made by a well-known collector of British Colonies, especially India and Ceylon, which contained a number of desirable stamps, in the aggregate realizing excellent prices. Among others, Tuscany, a pair of the 2 soldi, red, used, together on a piece of original with a 1 soldo, yellow, was cheap at £18 10s., as also was a good copy of the India 4 annas, red and blue, with blue dividing lines, unused, at £8 5s. In Mauritius a heavily-cancelled 2d., blue, "Post Paid," early plate, brought £30; and a fine "large fillet," used, £22. A number of Africans, notably British East Africa, realized fair prices. There are, however, at the present too many of the recent surcharges on the market to allow of their attaining prices commensurate with their rarity.

A *pair* of the scarce Tasmania, 1868, serrated perforation, 2d., yellow-green, used, on piece of original, was sold for £10 10s.; New South Wales, 1855, 6d., brown, imperf., *with* watermark "8," unused, a very fine stamp, £10; and an unusual general collection of 6246 varieties for £90.

* * *

THE Catalogue Season brings announcements of new editions from various sources. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, will issue, in December next, a new edition of Part I. of their Catalogue, the Stamps of the British Empire. Of the same work Part II. (Foreign Countries) is announced to be ready in February, 1899. A new volume, dealing with the Local Stamps of the world, will be called Part III., and be ready in March, while envelopes and post cards will be issued as Part IV. in April.

In addition to revision of prices, several novelties are announced to figure in these new editions of the accepted British Catalogue.

* * *

THE two "Post Office" Mauritius One Penny, previously mentioned in this Journal, are believed to have found a purchaser.

* * *

AN energetic protest against the presumably misleading advertisements in foreign stamp journals has been issued from Cassel this month, signed by the following firms: Albert Beddig (Hanover), Paul Kohl (Chemnitz), Hugo Michel (Apolda), Ernst Stock (Berlin), and Carl Willadt (Pforzheim). The substance of the protest, which has been widely circulated, is to the following effect: That it is impossible that *really fine* and scarce stamps can be sold at 50% discount or more under catalogue prices; that the firms mentioned have satisfied themselves by repeated experience that the vast majority of such announced reductions are "frauds," and that the contents of these "approval selections" consist mainly of "damaged, nicked, heavily-postmarked copies, and in general, stamps of but little value," forgeries, reprints, etc., being declared to be found among such; that it is not in the interest of the collector that through such methods prices should be driven downwards; that good collections with fine specimens are by no means too plentiful in the market, and that they attain such high prices that it is practically impossible for really fine stamps to be sold at these prices.

The firms in question, who are of high repute, announce their intention to give practical proofs of their statements, and we do not think that they will have much difficulty in so doing. We have no sympathy with the rapacity of some of the dealers who have, by asking such large profits, unduly driven up the prices, but there is undoubtedly much truth in what is urged by these firms. The result of all experience in Continental travelling will convince everyone that nearly all the *desirable* stamps gradually filter into the hands of the prominent dealers or collectors, *i.e.*, those who by the command of money attract the good things. The man who has the poorest stock frequently quotes the largest discount—an instinct of humanity by no means confined to stamps!

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VII. DECEMBER, 1898. No. 84.

Imperial Penny Postage.

IF the shade of the great founder of Penny Postage could revisit the world, he would see that the close of the same century that saw its birth, witnessed an extension of the movement that even the foresight of Sir Rowland Hill would hardly have aspired to predict. It seems indeed marvellous that the hundreds of millions of the inhabitants of the great Indian Empire should be in a position to write to the heart of the Empire for the sum of a penny, and that but little more than a fortnight is required from the remotest parts of India. Nor would the great postal reformer be less astonished at the wealth and population of the Canadian nation—as we may fitly call it—and the extraordinary development of the British rule in Africa, both of which are adherents to the new scheme of Imperial Penny Postage. Indeed, with the exception of Australia and the Cape, the whole of the more important British colonies and possessions are included, and, despite the loss on intercolonial rates, it will not probably be long before the Australians complete the circle.

In almost all the changes that have cheapened down the luxuries of life the result has been an increase of use that has astonished the inaugurators of the reduction and turned an assumed financial loss into a gain. As with the Sixpenny Telegram so will it probably be with the Colonial Penny Postage. This marvellously cheap international rate will prove a great boon to the vast majority who are not blessed with a redundancy of this world's

goods, and whose kinship are so often divided up in widely-scattered divisions of the British Empire.

Mighty has been the civilizing power of the Penny Postage Stamp, and the accumulation of the symbols that denote the system must hence always be regarded an interesting and attractive pursuit, and one that cannot be affected by future developments of the system. In the present momentous change there is practically nothing that affects Philately in any adverse way, and such alterations of issues as will inevitably take place make rather for the increased popularity of the hobby. Canada has already issued a special design as the Imperial stamp, an example that will probably find imitators, but the unification of the rate of inland and foreign postage must have a tendency to reduce the number of varieties issued. Beyond this, the 1d. and, to a great extent, the 2d.—for double rate—of all our colonies will become so common as to be valueless, and a complete series of a colonial issue should be quite easy of attainment. In places of no recognized Philatelic stability, as the African Companies, Tonga, North Borneo, etc., varieties will be made primarily for the collector, but in the long-run the simplicity of issue and reliability that form the staple of the greatest states in the world form the soundest guarantee for Philately in the next century.

Notes on the 2 Rigsbank Skilling (Blue) Stamp of Denmark,

EMBODYING A COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

READ BY THE HON. SECRETARY AT A MEETING OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER, 1898.

I HAVE the honour of being entrusted with a communication from our President on the subject of the 2 Rigsbank Skilling (blue) stamp of Denmark.

It will be in the recollection of members that in the course of last season a paper on these stamps was read by Mr. R. Ehrenbach at a meeting of the Society, having for its object the consideration of the question of the types and varieties which were said to exist, and the possibility of "plating" the stamps.

Various points of distinction were described, and in regard to the marks to which attention was called in certain of the stamps, it was stated that they were "caused probably by the engraver's tools," while suggestions were made as to the probable mode of the production and setting-up of the plate.

Although a large number of the members who heard the paper read did not agree with the deductions formed by the author, it was felt that an interesting question had been raised which called for further investigation, and the paper was subsequently criticised by Mr. E. D. Bacon in the *London Philatelist* for April of the present year.

The whole question is obviously one which depends upon the precise methods employed in the manufacture and production of the stamps, and our President thought that it might prove of interest to members of the Society if some authoritative information could be obtained on the subject.

Accordingly, taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by his visit to Denmark in the early part of September last, his Royal Highness caused inquiries to be made from the postal authorities in Copenhagen.

Owing to the temporary absence of the official competent to give the desired information, our President, before returning to England, prepared and left for the consideration of the official referred to a series of questions, having for their object the elucidation of the matters upon which the question as to "types" most largely depends.

The questions so propounded, with the answers which have recently been received, are :—

Questions as to the first stamp of Denmark —the 2 Rigsbank Skilling (blue). Issue 1851.	*Answers.*
1. Was more than one original die used? In what manner was the die made or engraved? And what material was used for the purpose?	1. In the manufacture of this stamp *one* original die only was used. It was engraved on steel.
2. What method was employed in reproducing impressions for making the plates?	2 and 3. From this die a matrix was produced in plaster for making the plates. From an examination of the plates, which are preserved in the General Post Office in Copenhagen, there is no doubt that ten of these matrices were joined together in one block (in five rows of two stamps each), and that the plates were cast on the block by stereotype process.
3. What process was used in manufacturing the plates from which the stamps were printed?	Ten of the plates so produced—in type-metal (a composition of lead, tin, and antimony)—were used to make the printing plate. These were soldered together and mounted on a mahogany bed, and framed also in mahogany.
4. Were the figures and words in the centre of the stamp, for denoting the value, inserted in the original die or dies, or added to the impressions taken for making the plates, or to the plates themselves, and if so, by what process?	4. The figures and words in the centre of the stamp are engraved on the original die.

From these details it would seem clear that there cannot be "types," properly so-called, of the stamps in question; and the facts which our President has been the means of ascertaining demonstrate clearly the accuracy of observation displayed by Mr. E. D. Bacon in his remarks on Mr. Ehrenbach's paper to which I have referred.

I am desired, in conclusion, to assure the members of the pleasure which it affords his Royal Highness to be able to assist in the deliberations of the

Society, and to express the hope that the information which has been obtained may be considered of some use in the determination of the questions to which it relates.

[We are confident that the foregoing interesting Philatelic Note, which was communicated to the members of the London Philatelic Society as the direct outcome of the personal researches made by its President, will be eagerly welcomed by all who take any interest in stamp collecting. It evinces beyond doubt that the presidency of H.R.H. the Duke of York is not merely perfunctory, but that he takes an abiding and keen interest in the more scientific aspect of the pursuit, a point that it is necessary to sometimes belabour, in view of the many unfounded statements that creep into a credulous Press. As an instance hereof we may cite the case of an influential provincial journal which, as recently as November 13th, gravely announced the retirement of his Royal Highness from Philately, and the sale of his collection, the proceeds to be devoted to philanthropic purposes! The result of the Duke of York's inquiries fitly terminates the very interesting discussion that has ranged round the question of "types" or variations of the 2 R. B. S. of Denmark, and places on record the exact cause of the varieties that occur. The fact that the plaster casts were used for reproduction from the matrix is very interesting, as it at once indicates how the differences in the shape of the figure "2" arose, viz., that in the cases of divergence the plaster failed to fill in entirely some portions of the die of the numeral, and that these being reproduced in blocks of ten, constituted the varieties that recurred regularly on the plate. The entire question has been one both of interest and utility, and the successful entrance of the President into the arena of discussion will be hailed by all Philatelists as the happiest of *dénouements*.—ED.]

Switzerland.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE GENERAL-FEDERAL-POST, 1850-51.

BY OTTO PFENNINGER.

IN writing about the stamps of this period it is necessary to describe the paper used in their manufacture, because, as in the case of the obliterations, it discloses the time more fully when it was in use.

If we inspect the paper of the first Swiss stamps through a magnifying glass we find a firm, smooth, creamy white paper in the following stamps:—Basle: horizontal stamps of the I. Postal District ("Vaud"), the greater part of both Orts Poste; a few of the Poste Locale, with framed cross, and a very small part of Rayons I. and II. During the first printing period the paper seems to have been taken from a different source, for we find the following stamps on a bluish white, thinner paper, with a tendency to granite-like roughness; in a word, it is an ordinary and

cheaper manufactured paper. To this class belong Postal District I.: vertical stamp, so-called "Vaud"; Postal District VIII. ("Neufchâtel"), horizontal stamp; all the Poste Locale of Canton Thurgau; all Rayon I., light blue; all Rayon III.; also Poste Locale (unframed); and in general all the later printings.

Mr. Schulze discovered that a certain Mr. Durheim, photographer and lithographer, printed all the postage stamps for the Federation until 1854, and that six million was the greatest number delivered in one year. This latter may have been the case in 1854; but for previous years we must reckon much smaller numbers, as the obligation of prepayment did not exist, and people were even under the impression that the delivery was much quicker when the amount was paid at the destination.

In the business report of the Federal Postal Department we have seen the number of letters transmitted in 1850 and 1851 (see *Lon. Phil.*, vol. iv. p. 289), where we find ten millions for 1850—of which only a quarter belong to this stamp period—and eleven and a quarter millions for 1851, which gives for this first period about thirteen and three-quarter million letters, of which only about a quarter were prepaid, indicating that up to the end of 1851 about three and a half million stamps were used. Of this number we may count one-tenth as local stamps; and if we count six-tenths for Rayon I., it will leave us three-tenths for Rayon II.

This three and a half millions could also be divided by a rough calculation on the following stamps: Postal District stamps, 23,000; Orts Poste (unframed), 80,000; Orts Poste (framed), 140,000; Poste Locale (framed), 160,000; Poste Locale (unframed), 1000; Rayon I. (framed), dark blue, 164,000; Rayon I. (not framed), dark blue, 400,000; Rayon I., light blue, 1,500,000; Rayon II. (not framed), 1,031,000; also Rayon II. (unframed), perhaps 1000. About four millions for 1852, five millions for 1853, and six millions for 1854 do not come under our notice; in this latter period only Rayon I., light blue, Rayon II., yellow, and Rayon III., red, all not framed, were used. For my part I am inclined to think the above calculation is possibly even over-estimated.

With regard to the framing, it is well to notice that the Orts Poste are the only ones which are neatly and correctly framed; this frame to the cross has stronger shaded lines on the left side and below. The framing of the cross on all other stamps is composed of lines of equal strength. The plate of types consists of 40 stamps, and always in four panes of 40 each; that is to say, 160 stamps were printed at one time, but naturally not from four original stones, but from transfers of one.

For the first requirements, stamps for the Postal Districts were printed for the cantons that were already accustomed to the use of the postage stamp. For the second requirements, on the installation of the Locale Poste for April, 1850, the Orts Poste (unframed) were printed, and it is probable that the issuing of the proof coincides with the delivery. For the third requisition, October 1st, 1850, Rayon I. (unframed), dark blue, and Rayon II. (unframed), yellow, were printed for delivery.

Mr. Naef, Minister of the Postal Department, may have thought that framing the cross would give the stamp a neater appearance, so all the

above stamps were duly framed. This supplementary work was probably entrusted to two workmen, of whom the one made the Orts Poste neatly and correctly, probably working at a slower rate, while the other one doubtless made the remaining three values in a more simple and expeditious manner. Following demand, the Poste Locale (framed) were printed for delivery, and probably also the Rayon I. (framed), dark blue, and the Orts Poste (framed). On a casual inspection by the chief of the department these borders or frames failed to please him, and they were condemned. Those already printed were not destroyed, on account of the shortness of the supplies.

It appears to have been a difficult thing at that time to make a transfer from a lithographic stone, and it would seem to have been easier to erase the frames by corrosion. We find hence that after being used for a time, some parts of these effaced borders *regained colour*, thus accounting for the re-appearance of parts of the framed border.

The Poste Locale not framed were probably printed from a stone from which the cross had been erased, as one generally finds traces of the cross thereon, and they are also found on the thinner paper. The erasure of these crosses (by corrosion) was effected at a later period, there being a sufficient supply already printed of the stamp (with framed cross). Although the Minister had apparently approved of this erasure of the cross, it seems that his intentions were disregarded, and that the subsequent printings of this stamp were effected from stones on which *the cross was still allowed to remain*, although the few trial sheets printed from the stone with the cross erased were allowed to circulate with the others, thus accounting for its rarity. According to my idea the Poste Locale was the only one of these stamps that was drawn directly on to the original stone with the cross framed.

It is suggested that a few impressions were made of Rayon I. (framed), light blue, from a transferred uncorrected stone, and certain collectors assert that this stamp really exists; but when I consider that all the dark blue Rayon I. framed stamps were made and delivered before October 1st, 1850, and entered into circulation the same day, I cannot understand that types already condemned should have been used for a fresh supply in March, 1851. There are also types of the dark blue known, which are partly framed, and there is not the least doubt but that they were printed before the light blue ones. These two facts are strong proofs as to there being only unframed Rayons light blue.

The oldest connoisseur of Swiss stamps, Mr. Schulze, says, concerning this framing of Rayon II., that he only knows of about twenty specimens, and all are of the following types: 7, 8, 16, 24, 32—that is, the right-hand strips of the plate. In my opinion it is only possible that this questionable stamp can exist in one shade, and on one sort of paper, and not in different shades or printings (it is noticeable that the colour of the frame is the same impression as the rest), as half-framed specimens of all the types of Rayon II. are found, and we can conclude that the whole plate was once framed and afterwards again erased; but it remains very doubtful if impressions were made therefrom for official use. The half-framed Rayon II. are much rarer than the half-framed Rayon I., but the half-framed dark blue is a great rarity.

Further enlightenment as to this mysterious epoch is given us in letters. There are only two letters bearing stamps known before October 1st, 1850; they are dated July and September, both of which are Orts Poste (unframed). Poste Locale, October 1st, 1850; Rayon I., dark blue, October 1st, 1850; Rayon II., October 2nd, 1850; Orts Poste,* October 18th, 1850; Poste Locale,* October 23rd, 1850; Rayon I.,* dark blue, October 30th, 1850; Rayon I., dark blue (half framed), October 2nd, 1850; Rayon I., light blue (half framed), May 30th, 1851; Rayon III., small Rp., January 5th, 1852; Rayon III., cents, February 6th, 1852; Rayon III., large Rp., July 19th, 1852.

Some of the stamps supplied to the offices were a mixture of framed and unframed, others again contained only one variety, as, for instance, Canton Thurgau (issuing stamps only from January 1st, 1851) had only Poste Locale (framed); St. Gallen nearly all Orts Poste (unframed); Appenzell and Vaud only Poste Locale (framed). Zurich and Berne have in some parts Orts Poste, in others only Poste Locale. Graubunden and Lucerne seem to have had Poste Locale (framed); Neufchatel, on the other hand, Orts Poste (unframed). The Rayon I. were a mixed lot nearly everywhere. Vaud had nearly all of the earliest issues on creamy paper, with exact and brilliant printings, Thurgau only "sooty" prints on the commoner paper.

All the Swiss stamps were called in at the end of 1851, sorted out, and all destroyed; except the following, which came in use for January 1st, 1852: Rayon I., light blue; Rayon II., yellow shades; Rayon III.; and these stamps were also called in during October, 1854, and destroyed. There is no doubt that there are no remainders left, and that the original plates were also effaced; therefore we are quite sure there can be no reprints.

It is also possible that after January 1st, 1852, some stamps of the former period were still put into circulation by private individuals; and as such stamps were purchased at the old currency rate, which was of a higher rate, their use was not objected to. In any case, there were no official directions given that militated against their continued use.

The types of the Rayon III., large figure, were taken from the Orts Poste, unframed, the fourth and fifth vertical strips, the other Rayon III. from the second and third strips.

* Those marked with an asterisk have the cross framed.

The Birmingham Philatelic Exhibition.



WE are glad to be able to record that this minor Philatelic Exhibition has quite answered the expectations of its promoters—the Birmingham Philatelic Society—both in regard to the nature of the exhibits and the number of its visitors. Great thanks are due for this success to the labours of Mr. W. T. Wilson and Mr. G. Johnson, respectively President and Secretary of that Society. The Exhibition was opened at midday on December 7th, and did not close till the evening of

the 9th, the *locale* being Messrs. Graves' Picture Gallery in Cherry Street, an eminently suitable place, in which the lighting, both by day and night, left nothing to be desired as regards the due and proper display of postage stamps, which is saying much. It will be seen that the exhibits comprised many fine stamps, and we may add that many more would have been shown but for the absence from home of the owners of some of the largest collections. The presence of the two "Post Office" Mauritius (kindly lent by M. J. Bernichon) seems to have elicited much interest, and was judiciously used as an advertisement through the medium of the Press.

As the Birmingham Philatelic Society has borne the entire cost of the Exhibition out of its funds for the benefit of Philately, it is gratifying to record a satisfactory attendance of visitors, upwards of 800 having visited the Gallery during the two and a half days. It was very noticeable that the visitors displayed an intelligent interest in the subject. Members of the Committee were in attendance all the time, and were willingly pointing out and explaining the most interesting stamps. Old-time collectors in Birmingham were surprised at the numbers here interested in our hobby, and we can only regret that the "Father of Philately" in this city was not spared to see such a successful show; we allude to the late Edward L. Pemberton. His *confrères* of olden days, W. E. Jeff, W. Pimm, E. Shorthouse, and W. T. Wilson, still remain faithful to Philately.

On the Thursday and Friday during the Exhibition, Mr. H. W. Plumridge held a very successful auction sale at the Grand Hotel. Many of the prices obtained were very satisfactory, and only some half-dozen out of the 500 lots were unsold.

We have received the following list of exhibitors and exhibits kindly submitted by Mr. G. Johnson, the Hon. Secretary of the Birmingham Philatelic Exhibition:—

W. Dorning Beckton (Manchester).—The collection of Greek stamps which was awarded the silver medal of the London Philatelic Exhibition.

J. Bernichon (Paris).—1d. and 2d. "Post Office" Mauritius.

T. Buhl (London).—Proofs and trial impressions of English stamps.

M. P. Castle (Brighton).—The unique collection of Saxony, which includes the block of four ½ ng. in the colour of the 2 g., with a grand lot of the 3 pf. of 1850, used and unused, and the whole 1851 issue by pages in mint condition.

E. A. Clark (Aberdeen).—British Guiana, 1852-6, in singles, pairs, and strips; Newfoundland, orange-vermilion; Labuan, 6 in red on 16 blue; Barbados, 1d. on 5s.; B.E.Af. ½ on 2 signed A.D.

G. A. Coombs (Bath).—A fine collection of triangular Capes.

Dum Dum (Calcutta).—Post Office book showing early postmarks.

E. Heginbottom (Rochdale).—Barbados; Virgin Islands, used complete; St. Vincent, 5s. star (used), ½d. on half 6d., 1d. on 6d.; Lagos, 1885, 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., all used; collections of Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Gambia.

R. Hollick (Birmingham).—African colonies, including a nice lot of "Post Paid" Mauritius in all stages of the plate, Cape wood blocks, and many other rare stamps; sheets of Indian native states.

G. F. Jackson (Birmingham).—The complete and rare collection of Spanish stamps which was awarded the silver medal of the London Philatelic Exhibition.

G. JOHNSON (Birmingham).—Hawaiian Islands, 1862–94, including errors of surcharge; reconstructed sheets of English.

C. F. LARMOUR (Calcutta).—Complete sheets of India with margin uncut, including ½ a., 1 a., and 2 a. of first issue.

H. LOVERIDGE (Wolverhampton).—Complete collection of Tasmania, including reconstructed sheets of plates 1 and 2 of the first issue 4d.

H. F. LOWE (London).—A fine collection of Ceylon, including 4d. and 8d. imperf. on originals, 2d. deep green CC, 25 c. on 32 c. perf. 14 × 12½; also a grand collection of St. Helena, including the error of 1863, 6d. without surcharge.

G. MACKEY (Birmingham).—Block of 12 1d. black Royal Reprint; block of 11 L.C. imperf.; block of 84 Prince Consort essay; block of 84 2d. blue, no lines.

J. A. MARGOSCHIS (Birmingham).—An artistically-arranged frame of colonials, mostly used, but including 4d. and 8d. imperf. Ceylon used.

W. PIMM (Birmingham).—Fine collections of Canada, St. Lucia, St. Christopher, and Tobago, used and unused.

J. E. SPARROW (Aberystwith).—A fine display of triangular Capes of all values, in mint condition, in large blocks as well as in singles, pairs, etc.

MAJOR STOCKDALE (Plymouth).—A very good collection of French and French colonies

C. F. TANNER (Birmingham).—A good lot of unused colonials and U.S.A.; the Ceylons, Victoria, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent were especially good.

MRS. TEBAY (London).—A good collection of Uganda.

MISS J. WESTON (Bournemouth).—St. Vincent nearly complete, making up a very nice collection.

F. E. WILSON (Birmingham).—Good collections of Austria and Belgium.

W. T. WILSON (Birmingham).—One case of stamps on original covers and two cases of rare stamps, including fine copies, used and unused, of the following:—N.S.W., "Sydneys," all values; British Guiana, early issues; British Honduras, ditto; Buenos Ayres; India, provisionals; British Columbia and Vancouver Island; Canada, pence issues; Nova Scotia, 4 1s. and a good number of other values; New Brunswick, 3 1s.; Nevis; West Australia; etc.

Philatelic Notes.

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

THE 27 PARAS OF MOLDAVIA.

MR. W. A. S. WESTOBY has an interesting note, which smacks of the *vieux sabreur*, touching the stamps of this issue, and more especially of the 27 p. value, which has latterly been mentioned in the *London Philatelist* on several occasions. Mr. Westoby gives the following interesting account of the acquisition of Dr. Legrand's specimen, which it will be remembered is the one over which the experts so furiously raged and the critics imagined a vain thing!

"M. Moens, not being able to find that there were any copies still in the Jassy Post Office, induced his correspondent to search for copies that had been used

postally, and his first despatch, received in 1872, contained about seven copies of the 27 para, all of which we had the satisfaction of seeing. As all these were exactly alike, Dr. Legrand retained his original copy, for though he was a collector, he was neither a gormandiser nor a dealer, and only took a second stamp in case it showed a variety. This stamp, as we understand, originally acquired by him in 1868, is the one whose authenticity has been disputed in Germany and England, but has, after protracted examination, been acquitted, and has at length left the courts without a stain on its reputation. The finest copies we ever saw of this stamp were in the Philbrick Collection, where there was an unsevered pair."—*Monthly Circular.*

THE EARLY ISSUES OF DENMARK.

THE examination of some 6,000 stamps of the older issues of this country, all on the entire envelopes, has led Herr C. Lindenberg into some interesting remarks as regards the dates of issue and relative appearance of the different shades of the three first issues. With regard to the 4 skilling with dotted background, Herr Lindenberg bears out Herr Rosenkranz's recent statement, in his work on the Schleswig-Holstein stamps, that this stamp was issued in November, 1854, and not in 1853 as generally catalogued. The author further claims to have proved by examination of numerous specimens that "for a certain time stamps of the old plate with dotted spandrils were printed and issued, although the stamps with wavy-lined spandrils had been more than a year in issue." Mr. Lindenberg also asserts that the chief or leading shades of all values in both series bear out this contention, as they present marked similarities. The official notification of the issue of the rouletted stamps is also quoted—dated May 27th, 1863—and Mr. Lindenberg mentions the "very interesting private perforations," to which he calls the attention of Danish collectors, and states that he can at present answer for the genuine use of the following: 4 sk. (perf.) in Hamburg and Altona, 1855; 2 sk. (perf.) in Copenhagen, end of 1858 and early in 1859. We are quite of Herr Lindenberg's view that (despite one or two commercial bogies that we know of) these perforated stamps are of genuine origin and undoubted interest. The old school of European collectors did not despise them.

With regard to the 4 R.B.S. of Issue I., Mr. Lindenberg divides them into three colours. Catalogues differ hereon, but we are inclined to think that four distinct shades are to be cited. It appears from the letters examined that the dark, or chocolate-brown, was the first to appear, and that in the yellow-brown or bistre shade did not appear until 1854, the red-brown being an intermediate colour. Chocolate-brown is an excellent designation for the first impression, but even if shades hereof are not accepted, the printings are so varied that they should be collected by the specialist and even catalogued as fine or defective impressions. The second prints, to our mind, are those that, while they somewhat resemble the first lot, have a distinct warm reddish, or lake-brown tone, and are scarce unused, whereas the chocolate shades were at one time plentiful, and are only now beginning to become extinct! The chestnut alluded to by Mr. Lindenberg is a distinctly different colour from the last-named, and can have had but

a short existence Even used, it is far from common, and as we have never seen an unused one we also think that its quotation in Senf at 15s. is distinctly reasonable! The fourth shade is of course the yellow-brown or bistre, that it appears came latest and is also a distinctly good stamp unused. We have, of course, only glanced at the article which is published in the November issue of the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, and is most excellent reading throughout The old issues of Denmark are extremely interesting, and Herr Lindenberg is to be congratulated on his conscientious study of them.

Occasional Notes.

DEATH OF MR. PEARSON HILL.

THE announcement of the death of the only son of the late Sir Rowland Hill will receive the respectful sympathies of Philatelists all over the world, while in this country many will mourn the loss of a valued personal friend. Mr. Hill, although never a persistent collector, was in bygone days the possessor of many stamps of great interest, and it is practically through his strong sympathies with Philately that we have become better acquainted with several scarce varieties. In former days Mr. Pearson Hill was in close commune with some of the leading British collectors, and, indeed, a reference to the journals of those days will fully reveal how close was the contact maintained with Philately by the son of its founder.

Mr. Pearson Hill passed a long and active life in the Post Office, having entered that service in 1850, and being the originator of many valuable improvements therein.

Mr. Hill, who had retired some years since, expired on the 13th inst. at the age of sixty-six, and carries with him to the grave the grateful appreciation of good work done, both by his countrymen at large and his fellow-members of the Philatelic Society of London.

MR. A. F. BASSET HULL.

WE are pleased to announce that the apprehensions founded on the presumed retirement of this gentleman from the editorship of the *Australian Philatelist* (to which we referred on page 245 of this year's issue) are unfounded. With the last-received number of our antipodean contemporary we find Mr. Hull's name on the cover as editor, and it would appear that his secession was but temporary, and mainly due to absence.

The retirement of Mr. Basset Hull—an old member of the London Philatelic Society, and the best-known Philatelic author in Australia—would be a loss to the cause that would be deeply deplored on both sides of the "Great Water."

PENNY POSTAGE TO INDIA.

THE Postmaster-General gives notice that, on and after Christmas Day, the postage to be prepaid on letters from this country for the undermentioned British possessions and protectorates will be 1d. per ½oz., instead of 2½d., as at present :—

Aden.
Ascension.
Bahamas.
Barbados.
Bermuda.
British Central Africa.
British East Africa.
British Guiana.
British Honduras.
Canada.
Ceylon.
Cyprus.
Falkland Islands.
Fiji Islands.
Gambia.
Gibraltar.
Gold Coast Colony.
Hong Kong.
India.
Johore.
Lagos.
Leeward Islands—
  Antigua.
  St. Kitts.
  Nevis.
  Dominica.
  Montserrat.
  Virgin Islands.
Malay States (federated)—
  Perak.
  Selangor.
  Negri-Sembilan.
  Pahang.
Natal.
Newfoundland.
Niger Coast Protectorate.
Niger Territory.
St. Helena.
Sarawak.
Seychelles.
Sierra Leone.
Straits Settlements.
Tobago.
Trinidad.
Turks Islands.
Uganda.
Windward Islands—
  Grenada.
  St. Lucia.
  St. Vincent.

Letters to and from her Majesty's ships abroad will be transmissible at the same rate of postage. The postage payable on letters addressed to any other British possession, or to any foreign country, and that payable on post cards, printed papers, samples, &c., for any part of the world will remain unchanged.

PROLIFIC PHILATELIC SOUTH AFRICA.

IN our last issue we commented upon the redundancy of these issues, but it appears that the totals of Zanzibar (see p. 248) should, including varieties which can hardly be called minor, be practically double. In Stanley Gibbons' new catalogue the figures are—

Number of stamps issued by	
British East Africa	109
British South Africa	61
British Central Africa	55
Niger Coast	63
Zanzibar	78
	366

The issues of North Borneo now amount to 115 varieties!

Five of these possessions are "run" by companies, and it is evident that their post offices are largely subsidised by the exploitation of Philately.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

M. GIWELB announces that he has secured new premises, situated at 4, Northumberland Avenue, Charing Cross, London, W.C., where he will carry on his business on and after the 1st December, 1898.

"The position of the above premises for a stamp business is unique, as besides being easily accessible from every part of the Metropolis, Northumberland Avenue is one of the finest and quietest thoroughfares of London; free from that congestion of traffic which makes some of the other thoroughfares so troublesome to traverse."

The concluding sentence, which occurs in a circular that M. Giwelb has issued, is distinctly good, and is unimpeachable, *if* the Strand is referred to, as that thoroughfare is practically impassable at most hours of the day and night. The new premises of M. Giwelb are certainly well situate, being exactly opposite the entrance to the Grand Hotel; they are spacious and lofty, fitted up with the very latest ideas in electric lighting, and are in every way adapted for the purpose. We understand that M. Giwelb has acquired a lengthened lease of the premises, and we think he has in his own interests taken a wise step.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, MANCHESTER, 1899.

DURING the past month the following Philatelic Societies and well-known collectors have consented to become supporters of the Exhibition. Their names have been received too late for publication in the Prospectus, but they will, of course, appear in the complete list to be printed in the Catalogue:—

The Collectors' Club, New York.
Liverpool Philatelic Society.

J. M. Andreini.	Th. Fierz.	Major du Moulin.
Edw. Blossfeldt.	Chas. T. Harbeck.	Conte Guiseppe Primoli.
Geo. Churcher.	Geo. H. Harris.	E. Sassoon Gubbay.
Harvey R. T. Clarke.	Fred. C. Hill.	Wm. Alex. Smith, jun.
Henry Clotz.	Enrico Marchesi.	C. J. Tyas.
W. Corfield.	T. Maycock.	T. M. Wears.
H. J. Duveen.	William Moser.	G. H. Worthington.

Further offers of Special Medals have been received and accepted by the Committee as under:—

Bradford Philatelic Society.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best exhibits, from a resident in Yorkshire.

Liverpool Philatelic Society.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best exhibits from Liverpool and district (*i.e.* within a radius of fifteen miles).

Plymouth Philatelic Society.—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit of Uncatalogued Varieties shown in Class II., consisting of stamps issued up to the end of 1896, and not catalogued by Stanley Gibbons or Scott.

By a clerical error in the Prospectus, which the Committee greatly regret, and which was only discovered after most of the copies were in circulation, the name of Mr. A. H. Stamford, and the medal which he has offered for competition, have been associated with the Philatelic Society of Sheffield, instead of with that of Bradford.

THE COLLECTION OF PAIRS AND BLOCKS.

MR. FREDERIC C. FISHER writes to us from 43, Park Street, Bristol, that he is starting an Exchange Society of a novel nature, Rule 3 reading—

"No single stamps will be permitted on the sheets; pairs, strips, and blocks of perforate or imperforate stamps only will be admitted."

Mr. Fisher, who is a partner with Mr. A. H. Dingwall as stamp importers, etc., may be relied upon to give a fair trial to the idea, but we are somewhat dubious as to its ultimate success. Blocks and pairs are only necessary to the specialist; in printed albums they are clearly in the way, and the majority of collectors use the latter. Our own personal predilections are in favour of them, especially horizontal pairs; blocks of four look handsomer, but they *kill* the other single stamps on the page.

AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

THE Intercolonial Postal Conference having confirmed the desirability of establishing a uniform colour scheme for the stamps most used on international correspondence, as approved by the Washington Congress, steps are being taken to give effect to the change in January next. Some of the Australian colonies will not have to make many alterations, in fact Western Australia already has her ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps in the approved colours, and is therefore "in line." Tasmania, New South Wales, and Queensland have the 1d. in the defined colour, if we allow some little latitude in the matter of shade, and the last-mentioned colony has the ½d. in green. South Australia and Victoria must alter all three values in order to conform to the new rule, and doubtless the appropriation of the green, red, and blue will necessitate changes in other values now clothed in those shades. In New South Wales proofs have been submitted, and January will probably see the ½d. and 2½d. in their new garb. There are no less than three green stamps in the current set, 3d., 5d., and 6d.; but neither is in the usual shade selected by De La Rue to represent the Postal Union green. By the way, the Congress resolution stipulated red for the 1d., and *dark* blue (bleu foncé) for the 2½d. Now we are all familiar with De La Rue's rose 1d. stamps and ultramarine "twopence ha'pennies." Query: Will these shades be deemed correct according to the resolution? If not, what a grievous prospect is opened up!

Queensland has announced that the 2½d. is to be printed in carmine on blue paper, a delightful combination which, it is claimed, will not only bring the stamp into the stipulated scheme, but will also assimilate it to the current British stamp of the same value. The latter stamp is generally catalogued as *purple* on blue or *lilac* on blue. If, therefore, carmine on blue is also purple on blue, and both are dark blue, then black is white!

* * * * * *

New South Wales is taking steps to advertise the scenery and public buildings, etc., of the colony by means of a series of illustrated post cards.

Fifteen views have been selected as a trial assortment, and these are all to be photo-lithographed in colour on the message side of the 1d. card, and ten of them on the 1½d. card, the colours in the latter case differing from those selected for the 1d. The stamped, or address, sides remain unaltered, but the message side is prepared with a surface to give effect to the views, which are very well produced, and in marked contrast to the blurred prints recently issued by Queensland. The complete set of twenty-five varieties will be sold at face value (2s. 6d.), and as care has been taken not to vary the stamped side, they cannot be considered as having any taint of Philatelic speculation about them. The issue is to take place in time for use as Christmas and New Year cards for transmission to English or foreign friends, and each card bears an inscription—"With Christmas (or New Year) Greetings."

In issuing the 1½d. cards with views on the address side Queensland has anticipated the regulation permitting such adornment. Up till the end of the current year the regulation forbidding anything but stamp and necessary inscriptions on the address side remains in force, and in consequence many of the European recipients of these cards will be taxed 2d. on delivery.

* * * * * *

Rougemont, *alias* Grein, whose pleasant "aboriginalities" have afforded us as much amusement as the account of his successful gulling of the grave British scientists, missed one grand opportunity. He did not establish a postal system on his island, and failed to initiate the wild tribes with whom he subsequently foregathered into the mysterious rites of Philately. Just imagine the feelings that would have filled the surging bosoms of Philatelists all the world over had they learned that Rougemont, thirty years ago, issued a series of postage stamps made of gold leaf, with an original portrait of her Majesty embossed thereon, to prepay the correspondence between (say) Tallawudjerebingera and Gunyerwarildicoppermarenbillen, and that only one set, on the original message-sticks, remained. Great pioneers sometimes miss the grandest opportunities. Let us feel duly grateful that Kitchener was more thoughtful and considerate of our requirements.

Reviews.

STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE.*



FOLLOWING the system adopted in their new edition of the Imperial Albums, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have now divided their Catalogue into four parts, of which the first, relating to the stamps of this country and her possessions, has now appeared, for some occult reason, in advance of its date of issue, 1899. We are most distinctly of opinion, as stated previously, that there are too many *priced* catalogues, or rather their issue

* *Priced Catalogue of Stamps.* Part I., The British Empire, 1899. STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

is too frequent, and we hold to the views we expressed on the announcement by the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, that they did not for a while intend issuing another catalogue. (See page 244.) It is idle to pretend that the collector each year needs a bringing up of all new issues to date, or that the amount of fresh knowledge on old issues requires annual proclamation. The bald fact is that it is the prices only that cause the greatest demand for the modern (dealers') catalogue, and we are convinced that the less prices are *disturbed*, either up or down, the better it is for the security of the dealer and the well-being of the philatelist. *Locutus est!* We also doubt the wisdom of dividing the catalogue into four parts—two, as in the last edition, or at most three, should suffice. The relegation of cut envelopes and locals to *separate* volumes will do much to achieve the reverse of the publishers' aim—in driving them still further into the back seats of Philately. Locals, with a few exceptions, are pure rubbish, that collectors will do well to eschew; but envelopes for the general collector, on the contrary, are worthy of interest and a better fate.

There is comparatively little calling for detailed comment as regards the literary portion of this work, the excellence of the previous edition leaving but scant room for improvement. This has, however, been effected in some instances, as, although the contents are extended some fifty pages, the paper employed is so superior that the bulk is distinctly less. The illustrations are certainly not monotonous, as they now proceed from all manners of dies; and it is to be hoped that the next edition may include only the later-added fine-grain blocks, which are unexceptionable. The most important feature, perhaps, is the inclusion of the illustrations in the British stamps, which has now been permitted by the authorities, and by which the list gains greatly in lucidity and coherence. The Native States of India also embody much fresh information—evidently by a practised hand—and Cashmere, which is now included as a "British Colony," has some excellent illustrations of the two types of the first issue, which will probably interest Mr. Masson. Heligoland, which was a British Colony, is included; but the Transvaal, which was the like, is excluded! The lists of some of the Australian Colonies, *e.g.*, later portions of New South Wales and Fiji, have been brought up to date by the inclusion of the several gauges of perforation in latter-day use. Taken altogether, the literary portion of this Catalogue is of a very high order of merit, and cannot yield precedence to any rival.

With regard to the question of prices, there will be found many material and mostly desired alterations. The advent of the Colonial portion of this Catalogue has been awaited with misgiving in many quarters, but we think that a careful inspection will remove any cause for apprehension—but in any case it should be recollected that this Catalogue is not a financial guide. It is a guide as far as its Philatelic aspect goes, but in its financial aspect it is *a price list of the goods that the publishers have for sale*, a fact to which attention is drawn in the preface. There has been far too much inflating and deflating of prices, and if the dealers' catalogues do not in future exercise more care, their value will be utterly discounted and their sales reduced. In this respect Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have been one of the greatest offenders; their prices have frequently been made ridiculously

high, despite bushels of advice, and the necessary and wholesome reaction has now come. We consider the prices at which the recently-found Nova Scotians are catalogued as simply monstrous; there are vast quantities of these stamps, and they should be quoted at far less prices. We believe that the publishers are not responsible for these quotations; but the interests of collectors are to us greater than that of the "syndicate," and we counsel them to leave these alone. We have made some calculations as regards this variation in price with regard to the following countries, including, except as regards the Sydney Views, both used and unused, the third and fourth columns being the aggregate of all such as catalogued in pounds.

	Numbers.	Old Edition.	New Edition.	Result.
St. Vincent	1–35	239	230	− 4 %
Trinidad	1–94	289	228	− 21 „
Nevis	all	255	205	− 20 „
New Brunswick	all	60	50	− 16 „
Newfoundland	all	168	139	− 15 „
Queensland	1–83	156	163	+ 4 „
New South Wales	Sydneys (used only)	178	123	− 25 „
Gambia	all	39	45	+ 15 „
Lagos	all	86	103	+ 20 „
Hongkong	all	36	62	+ 70 „
Ceylon	1–77	291	307	+ 5 „
Cape	1–28	73	111	+ 50 „
Virgin Islands	all	181	114	− 35 „

It will be seen that there is no "slump"—in the hideous jargon of Capel Court—in any country, Nevis and Virgin Islands and Trinidad being the most prominent falls, that of the Sydneys being governed too much by the condition of the plate to be reliable. Fine copies of these stamps and unused are as good as ever. We think that Newfoundland does not deserve a fall; fine copies of the orange and vermilion sets are not to be seen anywhere except in firm hands.

SUPPLEMENT TO M. MOENS' CATALOGUE.*

This is a continuation of M. Moens' last great Catalogue of 1892, incorporating the new issues since that time and a few discoveries, etc. It is, however, printed in octavo, and is rather an appendix than a continuation, indicating clearly that no new issue of the Catalogue is to be issued—a fact that can elicit but small surprise, in view of the colossal labour involved. As usual, the work of M. Moens leaves little to be desired on the score of accuracy, and it is enlivened by the excellent illustrations that are, in modern fashion, interspersed in the text. There are 125 pages of text, and we find that the varieties on a page average about 43, which makes a total of about 6300 newly-issued stamps in six years. Who shall say that the new collector has no chance?

* *Price List of Stamps, Envelopes, Cards, etc.* Part I., Postage, Telegraph, and Fiscal Stamps. J. B. Moens, 42, Rue de Florence, Brussels.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES

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

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BAHAMAS.—The *M. J.* chronicles a new printing of the one shilling stamp in a *blue-green* shade, said to be very distinct from the previous printing. Apart from this the stamp is unchanged.

Adhesive. 1s., blue-green.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—We learn from an authoritative source that when the 1d. provisional (Internal Revenue) stamps of British Central Africa were printed in Zomba on the native press there, all of the stamps, both the imperf. and the perf., had impressed on the back of them, by means of uninked type, certain private letters and numbers. The only stamps which do not bear these letters and numbers are the very first which were printed, amounting to 480 in number. These 480 stamps were used for local needs, and as the type for the private numbers and marks was not set up, were initialled on the back by the Postmaster-General, Mr. J. T. Gosling, with his initials, "J. T. G." These initialled specimens are evidently those to which we referred last month. All the 480 initialled stamps were *imperf.*, and as a detection of any attempted forgery of the Postmaster's signature on an ordinary stamp we might suggest that the presence of the private marks on an initialled specimen would at once condemn the signature. British Central African Philately is becoming a little complex.

CANADA.—A correspondent forwards us the following cutting from the Montreal *Star*:—

"OTTAWA, *November* 25.—When Mr. Mulock was in England recently he was struck by the failure of the great mass of the people there to appreciate at their true value the portions of the British Empire beyond the sea. The thought occurred to him that no more effective object lesson of the vastness and solidarity of the Empire could be given than by presenting a picture on the new Imperial penny postage stamp, contrasting the dimensions of Greater Britain with those of all other Powers.

"The feature of the stamp is a neatly executed map of the world, in miniature, distinguishing the British Empire from the possessions of all other Powers. The British possessions are printed in red, and these stand out in bold relief against a dark background. Surmounting this picture is a representation of the Crown, underneath which is a bunch of oak and maple leaves, symbolizing the unity of England and Canada.

"At the upper edge of the stamps are the words 'Canada postage' in a neat letter. Underneath the map is placed 'Xmas, 1898,' so that the date of the inauguration of Imperial penny postage shall be made a matter of record. On each of the lower corners appears the figure '2,' indicating the denomination of the stamp, and at the lower edge is this suggestive passage, taken from the words of one of our patriotic poets, 'We hold a vaster Empire than has been.'"

We have received information that arrangements have been made for the sale of current unused Canadian stamps at the London offices of the High Commissioner for Canada. There are, however, none of the Jubilee issue on sale.

We illustrate the new stamp, also adding a further cutting from the Montreal *Star* relative to its use.



"OTTAWA, *December* 5.—The Post Office Department has issued a circular advising all accounting offices and non-accounting offices that they can be supplied direct from the Department with the Imperial penny postage stamp. The stamp may be applied for as the 'Two cent Imperial Stamp,' this term being used simply to enable postmasters in their requisitions to make known to the Department which of the two cent stamps in use, the Imperial or the ordinary, they require. The new stamp will be available forthwith to the extent of its value, for the prepayment of postage on all classes of mail matters to all destinations, whether domestic, British, or foreign. Postmasters are also informed that in this case the new stamps may be sold to the public as soon as supplies are received."

We are informed by the *Standard* that

"It will not, however, be sufficient to carry a letter to Britain and those countries that have given their adhesion to the scheme for reduced inter-Imperial postage until Christmas Day. The British possessions are printed in red. According to the Dominion statistician, the area of the inhabitable world is forty-six million square miles; the British portion of this, not including Egypt, is eleven million six hundred thousand square miles. Canada has got three million six hundred thousand square miles of this eleven million six hundred thousand. It will, therefore, be seen that Canada is larger than the United States, leaving out Alaska and its newly-acquired possessions. The idea of the Hon. William Mulock, Postmaster-General, in selecting a map of the world as a design for inaugurating penny postage between Britain and those Colonies that have adopted it, is to bring more prominently before the Motherland the extent, and, probably, in this way, the value, of the Dominion as an integral part of the Empire. The Imperial idea is making great headway in Canada at the present time."

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—At the moment of going to press Lieut. Raby writes that the new ½d. green stamp has been withdrawn from use. No reason is given at present.

CEYLON.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send the new 2 r. 50 c. stamp, which is of the old type, but which has been printed on red paper, similar to the 12 annas India. The watermark is Crown CA, and the perforation 14.

Adhesive. 2 r. 50 c., brown-violet on red.

GIBRALTAR.—The following stationery has been issued, all bearing stamps with the new "pence" currency denoted.

Reg. Envelope. 2d., red.
Wrappers. ½d., green on straw.
1d., carmine ,,
Post Cards. ½d., green.
½d.+½d. ,, ,, (reply).
1d., carmine.
1d.+1d. ,, (reply).

GRENADA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following official notice relating to the recent commemorative stamp of 2½d.:—

[*Copy.*] "GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

"With reference to Government Notice No. 86, of the 4th of May last, it is hereby notified, for general information, that it has been decided, in consequence of recent postal changes, to limit the issue of the Special Postage Stamp in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Grenada by Columbus to 240,000, instead of 500,000, as at first announced.

"(Signed) EDWARD DRAYTON,
"*Administrator.*"

"Colonial Secretary's Office,
"Grenada, *7th November*, 1898."

INDIAN NATIVE STATES.—*Cochin.*—Some new stamps, more in keeping with present-day Philatelic requirements, have been issued. The design is a large square, the centre of which is occupied by three concentric circles. In the inner circle the value in numerals, around the second circle the name inscribed "COCHIN — ANCHAL." We are in ignorance as to the "ANCHAL" part of the inscription. Around the outer circle the value appears in words, "HALF PUTTAN," etc. Perf. 12, watermark (?).

Adhesives. ½ puttan, green.
1 ,, pink.
2 puttans, purple.
3 ,, blue.

Dhar.—We illustrate the design of the new issue described on page 275.



RHODESIA.—We illustrate the design of the new issue, the values of which are ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s., as already described and chronicled. It will be noticed that the colours are the same as those in use for the stamps of Cape Colony.



STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The *I. B. J.* announces an addition to the current set in the Colonial type—a 5 dollar stamp, with watermark Crown C A; perf. 14.

Adhesive. 85, orange and carmine.

Johore.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have forwarded specimens of the 10 c., 25 c., and 50 c. stamps mentioned on page 251. These are in the current type (head of new Sultan).

Adhesives. 10 c., green and black.
25 c. ,, violet.
50 c. ,, carmine.

Perak.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. also send the 50 c. Perak stamp, with the colour changed from lilac and black to green and black. Wmk. C A; perf. 14.

Adhesive. 50 c., green and black.

UGANDA.—We illustrate the new issue described last month.

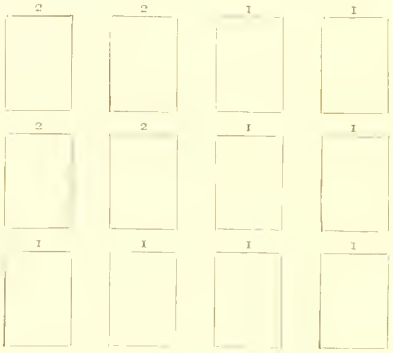


EUROPE.

BELGIUM.—The 2 c. stamp with Sunday label is now current in a reddish brown tint, instead of chocolate-brown.

Adhesive. 2 c., red-brown.

FRANCE.—Some excitement has been caused among our Parisian *confrères* by the appearance of certain unused specimens of the current 10 c., black on *lilac*, stamp of the first type ("INV" under "B" of "REPUBLIQUE"). The explanation is curious and worthy of record. It appears that the plate of the 10 c. value was in some way damaged, and while the mischief was being remedied some old *clichés* of the first type were made to occupy the damaged positions on the sheet. The 10 c. value is printed in sheets of 300 stamps (which, however, are distributed to the Post Offices in half-sheets of 150 each), composed of 12 small panes of 25 stamps each. We append a plan of the sheet which has been issued composed of the two types:—



There are therefore 200 stamps (8 panes of 25 each) of the first type on the sheet, and 100 stamps (4 panes of 25 each) of the second type; or, as distributed to the Post Offices, the right-hand half of the sheet contained 150 stamps all of the first type, and the left-hand half 50 of the first type and 100 of the second type.

HOLLAND.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have forwarded for our inspection certain letters having reference to the alleged withdrawal of the 1 gulden stamp. Their authority for the statement was unimpeachable, and on investigation the actual state of the matter is that decided disapproval of the Queen's likeness was manifested in royal circles, owing to the portrait being "too female." Having regard to this, only 10,000 copies were struck off, and not nearly this number were issued, the Hague Post Office receiving but 1000. Great secrecy was maintained by the authorities as to the expressed disapproval by Queen Wilhelmina of the new stamp, and it is more than possible that it will, after all, be replaced by a new design. We do not think the information supplied by our correspondent last month cast any blame upon our Ipswich friends for the apparent misstatement; we should be sorry were it so taken.

ITALY.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* announces the 10 lire Unpaid stamp with the figure of value in carmine instead of brown.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 10 lire, blue and carmine.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received a new provisional, the 100 reis Newspaper stamp, surcharged in three lines, "200—1898—200," for use as an ordinary postage stamp.

Adhesive. 200 on 100 reis, violet; surcharge black.

HONDURAS.—We illustrate the new stamps described last month.



PANAMA.—A Registration stamp has been made by surcharging the current 10 c. stamp with the letter "R" and "COLON," both within a single-line circle.

Registration Stamp. 10 c., orange; surcharge violet.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—In addition to the values already mentioned, the *A. J. of Ph.* notes the 15 c. adhesive with colour changed to olive-green.

Adhesive. 15 c., olive-green.

URUGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us some more values of the current issue, surcharged "½ c.," as illustrated on page 301. These are the 1 c., 2 c., and 7 c.

Adhesives. 1 c., lilac; surcharge red.
2 c., blue ,, black.
7 c., green ,, red.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—We illustrate two values of the London print, which by comparison with the illustrations of the Japanese stamps





which we gave in vol. vi., pp. 299 and 323, will be found to be of quite a different type. The most noticeable alteration is in the inscription; the London print reads, "Chinese Imperial Post," and the Japanese, "Imperial Chinese Post." The entire set, from ½ c. to $5, is now current, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that all stamps of the Japanese printing have been withdrawn.

The *A. J. of Ph.* announces a provisional which has been created by using the oft-surcharged 3 c. Revenue stamp. This time it has been overprinted "5 DOLLARS" in black.

Adhesive. 5 dollars on 3 c., red.

GERMAN COLONIES.—*South-west Africa.*—A new setting of the surcharge has been effected, by which the Colony is designated "Deutsch—Sudwestafrica" in two words, instead of "Deutsch—Sudwest—Africa."

Adhesives. 3 pf., brown.
5 pf., green
10 pf., carmine.
20 pf., blue.
25 pf., orange.
50 pf., brown.
Post Cards. 5 pf., green.
5+5 pf. ,,
10 pf., carmine.
10+10 pf. ,,

HAYTI.—We illustrate two values of the stamps chronicled last month. The high value is 1 *gourde*, and not $1.





Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

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

Council for the Year 1898-9.

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.

W. B. AVERY. E. B. EVANS.
E. D. BACON. T. W. HALL.
W. D. BECKTON. T. WICKHAM JONES.
R. EHRENBACH. H. R. OLDFIELD.
GORDON SMITH.

THE second meeting was announced to be held on October 28th. A number of members were in attendance, but owing to a misunderstanding in regard to the notices it was decided that the meeting was not properly constituted.

Mr. R. Frentzel produced for examination his fine collection of rarities and curiosities in the stamps of Mexico, and he was asked to give a further display at a later meeting.

THE second meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, November 11th, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., when the following members were present, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, Gordon Smith, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, A. B. Creeke, W. R. Palmer, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, G. E. Davidson, W. Schwabacher, H. G. Palliser, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, E. B. Evans, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox, T. W. Hall, and C. McNaughtan.

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

The Secretary reported that he had received intimation of the death of Colonel Chermside, a member of the Society, an announcement which was received with much regret.

Sir Henry Bunbury, Mr. D. C. R. Greathead, and Mr. W. J. Hardy having notified their desire to resign their membership of the Society at the expiration of the current year, their resignations were directed to be accepted with regret.

The receipt from the publishers, Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, of a copy of Mr. Oldfield's work, *How to Collect Bolivian Stamps*, and from Mr. Nicholson of a copy of the 18th

edition of *Oppen's Postage Stamp Catalogue*, by Dr. Viner, was in each case directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society. The Vice-President then read a paper on "The 1876 Issue of Spain, Alfonso XII., Full Face." After briefly referring to the reasons, historical and otherwise, which render the stamps of Spain an interesting study for Philatelists, Mr. Castle described the several values comprising the issue under consideration and the varieties of paper employed in the printing. He proceeded to describe how, in arranging his collection, he had been struck by the fact that there were distinct varieties from the normal type observable in some of the specimens of most, if not all, of the values, varieties which apparently could only be due to "retouches" or "touching-up" of the plates. On investigating the matter further, and with the assistance of Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, & Co., the engravers and printers of the issue, who were at first very sceptical on the subject of the "discovery," the Vice-President ascertained that it was undoubtedly the fact that some of the impressions on the "rollers" had been touched up or modified in some way before the plates were put to press.

Mr. Castle was able to give a description of the methods employed in the manufacture of the stamps, describing also the varieties which he had found amongst his own stamps, and the paper was fully illustrated by the author's fine collection of the stamps under consideration.

The subject is one of unusual interest, and the paper, which will be published in the *London Philatelist*, will deserve a careful study by all Philatelists.

The very hearty thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Castle for his most interesting paper, on the motion of Mr. Gordon Smith, seconded by the Secretary.

THE third meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 25th November, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., when the members present were: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, Gordon Smith, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, H. Hetley, T. Maycock, F. E. Owen, G. E. Davidson, W. Schwabacher, H. G. Palliser, E. J. Nankivell, C. McNaughtan, and J. A. Tilleard.

The Vice-President having taken the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Amongst the correspondence a letter from the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Manchester Exhibition, thanking the Society for the medals offered, was read.

Messrs. B. P. Rodd, E. Shorthouse, and Elliot T. Sturgis having intimated their desire to resign their membership, the resignations were directed to be accepted with regret.

The Secretary read a short note containing a communication from the President in reference to the information obtained by him as to the first 2 Rigsbank Skilling stamp of Denmark, dealing with the question of "types" of this stamp, as raised by the paper read by Mr. Ehrenbach at a meeting held in the course of last season, and explained the trouble which had been taken by H.R.H. to obtain authentic information on the subject.

The Vice-President then gave a display of his very fine collection of the stamps of Roumania, giving full explanations as to the issues, and answering numerous questions raised by the members present on the various matters of interest in the stamps of this country; and on the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Hetley, the very cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Castle for his most interesting display.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. LLOYD.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—R. DALTON,
30, *Carnarvon Road, Redland.*

THE fortnightly meetings of this Society were held on Nov. 3rd and 17th, when several new members were elected. There was a display of the stamps of Queensland and of France and her Colonies. Amongst the latter attention was directed to several varieties in the type, letters inserted at the foot.

Mr. T. C. Cartwright showed a very distinct specimen of the 25 ct. COTE D'IVOIRE, on which the final E was without any foot.

ON Dec. 1st (the President being in the chair, and Mr. T. C. Cartwright acting as Secretary, in the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Secretary) there was a very full attendance of members, thus justifying a recent resolution of the Committee to advise in future each resident member of the date and special object of the next meeting. The stamps of India were passed round, and amongst them were some fine specimens.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.

AT the fourth meeting, held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday evening, November 4th, the President took the chair, and there were also thirteen members present. Mr. Sam Luke was elected a member of the Society, and the evening was occupied in the revision of the Exhibition Prospectus.—The President again took the chair at the fifth meeting on Friday evening, November 18th, and was supported by eleven members. Mr. William Bancroft and Mr. T. Battersby were elected members of the Society. No paper was read, as the attention of those present was devoted to the preparation for despatch by post of a large number of copies of the Exhibition Prospectus.

G. FRED. H. GIBSON, *Hon. Sec.*
KERSAL, MANCHESTER.

The Collectors' Club, New York.

351, FOURTH AVENUE.

THIRTIETH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, October 10th, 1898, the following members present: Messsrs. Deats, Luff, Scott, Stebbins, and the Secretary. Mr. Deats was unanimously elected to the chair. Resignation of Mr. Arthur E. Tuttle as a non-resident stockholder was read and accepted. Resignation of Mr. R. R. Bogert as a stockholder was read and accepted. Resignation of Mr. Robert S. Lehman as a subscribing member was also read and accepted with regret. Treasurer's report received, showing a balance of $228.53 in bank, exclusive of U.S. bonds. The Governors requested the Amusement Committee to have an entertainment at the Club as soon as possible, and an appropriation of $75.00 to defray expenses was made on motion duly seconded and carried.

Then followed a discussion on the wisdom of holding an exhibition of stamps at the Club House for a day at least. The remarks of Mr. Scott were commented upon by Messrs. Deats and Luff, and it was unanimously decided to endeavour to carry out Mr. Scott's idea of an exhibition between December 1st and January 31st, and to appropriate the sum of $100 to meet its necessary expenses. The Chair then appointed an Exhibition Committee, consisting of Messrs. Scott, Thorne, Deats, Luff, Duveen, Harbeck, and Andreini, with power to add to their number. Adjourned at 10-40 p.m.

THIRTY-FIRST meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, November 14th, 1898. President Thorne called the meeting to order at 8.20 p.m. Present: Messrs. Bruner, Luff, Stebbins and Scott, and the Secretary. Minutes of preceding meeting were read and approved. The hearty thanks of the Governors were unanimously offered to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, for gift of bound volumes of the *Journal*, and for their promise to send their publication to the Club each month; to Mr. C. H. Mekeel for gift of bound volume of Tiffany's *History of U. S. Stamps;* to Messrs. J. W. Scott and Alvah Davison for gifts of A. P. A. photographs taken during last summer's convention. Communication from Mr. G. Fred. H. Gibson, Hon. Sec. Manchester Philatelic Society, about the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1899, was read, and upon motion the Governors unanimously agreed to permit the use of the Club's name in connection with the list of Exhibition supporters. Treasurer's report was received, showing balance in bank of $413.16 exclusive of U.S. bonds. The Chairman of House Committee then presented his report, which was accepted. Adjourned at 10.10 p.m.—J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

MAY packets returned from circulation at the end of September, and accounts were submitted and settled within eight days. Considering the number of accounts involved this must be deemed very satisfactory. Sales were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
May A1 packet . . .	102	14	11
,, A2 ,, . . .	91	7	4
,, B1 ,, . . .	41	2	3
,, B2 ,, . . .	40	15	10

June packets have been received at time of writing, and sheets will be returned without delay. A fresh supply of stationery is now at the disposal of members. No supplementary rounds will be instituted in future, but non-contributors will be placed at bottom of lists. Bulky sheets will be excluded, except under special circumstances.

Two hundred and thirteen sheets, valued at £2112 0*s.* 10*d.* gross have been included in October packets for circulation. Medium and rare stamps, in good condition (especially Colonials) are now priced so moderately, that buying members have excellent opportunities for completing sets very advantageously. Seven applications for membership have been received during the past month. Responsible collectors of all grades are invited to apply for rules, etc., references to accompany every application.

H. A. SLADE, *Hon. Sec.*
INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Warrington Philatelic Society.

THE third annual meeting was held at the Patten Arms Hotel, on Monday, 17th October, when the chair was taken by Mr. John P. Reynolds, the President. The Secretary's report showed that the Society is still a progressive one. There was a slight increase in the membership during the year, and the balance-sheet shows a balance in hand. The sales from the nine exchange packets that have been sent round have averaged 18 per cent. Two papers, one on the "Stamps of Greece," and the other on "Hints to Collectors," have been read before the Society, and the President gave a most interesting descriptive lecture on "Forgeries and Reprints," illustrating his remarks with some 32 limelight slides reproducing the stamps in their natural colours. The officers were re-elected as follows: President, Mr. John P. Reynolds; Committee, Mr J. D. Fairclough and Mr. Percy Silcock; Hon. Sec., Mr. Herbert Woods. A resolution was passed "That it is not in the interests of the Society that persons resident away from Warrington and the immediate neighbourhood should be elected as members of the Society." Arrangements have been made to hold periodical meetings during the winter months, when papers will be read and matters of Philatelic interest discussed.

HERBERT WOODS, *Hon. Sec.*
MOORE, WARRINGTON, 31*st October*, 1898.

The Market.

NOTE.—*Under this title will be inserted all the information that may refer in any way to the financial aspects of Philately*, e.g., *the sales or values of stamps, the state of the Market, Trade publications, etc.*

THE sale of Mr. Richard Pearce's collection of Transvaals, dispersed by Messrs. BUHL & CO. during the past month, realized generally good prices, and may be said to have fairly escaped the dangers (pointed out in our last issue) of disposing of a specialised collection by auction.

In a few particular cases some noteworthy prices were attained; in some instances there were really records, but naturally these lots were sold cheaply. We are indebted to Mr. E. J. Nankivell for the following list of some of the best prices realized. We understand that the sale realized between £700 and £800, an amount that must be considered remarkable for the disposal of a country's stamps that, however meritorious, do not command an extensive following.

	£	s.	d.
FIRST REPUBLIC.			
6d., imperf., *tête-bêche* pair, unused, on previously gummed paper, local print	5	0	0
1s., 1870, used, vertical pair, *tête-bêche*, local print, on thick paper . .	7	0	0
1d., 1874, Natal printing, perf. 12½, strip of five, unused . . .	5	0	0
1s., yellow-green, pair, imperf., unused	9	0	0
BRITISH OCCUPATION.			
3d., "V. R. TRANSVAAL," red surcharge, wider apart variety, used . .	12	10	0

	£	s.	d.
3d., "V. R. TRANSVAAL," double surcharge, one in red and one in black .	19	10	0
1d., red, "V. R. TRANSVAAL," unused strip of three, the centre stamp being the great rarity with "V. R." and "TRANSVAAL" printed wider apart .	13	0	0
Very fine used copy of the same variety	8	5	0
6d., blue, imperf., "V. R. TRANSVAAL" wider apart, black surcharge, used .	7	15	0
6d., same variety, but surch. inverted .	9	15	0
1s., yellow-green, "V. R. TRANSVAAL," red surcharge, a very fine imperf. strip of three, the centre stamp being the wider apart rarity, unused . .	19	0	0
1s., yellow-green, "V. R. TRANSVAAL," black surcharge, one stamp being the wider apart rarity, unused . .	16	10	0
1s., yellow-green, "V. R. TRANSVAAL," black surcharge, a very fine unused *tête-bêche* pair with wide roulette on right-hand margin . . .	16	0	0
6d., blue on rose, imperf., without surch.	15	0	0
1d., red on blue, imperf., error "Transvral," stained at top and thinned at back	27	0	0
6d., blue on blue, imperf., "V. R. Transvaal," surcharge inverted, used	5	15	0
SECOND REPUBLIC.			
"Halve Penny" on 1s., green, an unused block of four, surcharge reading upward, one stamp being *tête-bêche* .	6	6	0

* * *

OF other sales which have been held in November and December an inspection of the lots generally reveals a marked scarcity of fine and rare stamps, although these have not been altogether wanting. The collection formed by the late Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch of Russia contained some examples of rare stamps, which are reported on lower down. In addition to this sale Messrs. PUTTICK and SIMPSON sold, on November 15th and 16th last, over 400 lots, included among which were the Gibraltar "error" 10 c., with value omitted (£4); B.S.A. Co., a pair of the One Penny on 3d., grey (£5 17s. 6d.); and Gold Coast, an unused copy of the 20s., green and rose, with gum (£4); Nevis, a nice unused copy of the engraved 1s., green, perf. 15, realized £5; and a copy of the St. Kitts, CA, 4d., blue, in the same state, almost full catalogue value (£5 10s.). * * *

THE same firm dispersed, on November 29th and 30th, the remainder of Mr. A. F. Calvert's "collection," remarkable alike for the quantity of stamps representing each country, and the general poorness of the specimens. An examination of the bulky stock books in which the "collection" was sold would create horror in the mind of the latter-day collector, to whom fine condition is indispensable. There are no lots that call for quotation. * * *

AS regards fine condition, we are informed that some high prices may be anticipated on January 5th and 6th, when Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, and COOPER will offer the remaining portion of the late Mr. Gilbert Lockyer's collection, in which a poor specimen was a decided "rarity."

* * *

ON November 24th and 25th Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER disposed of 445 lots, containing a fair sprinkling of good United States stamps, a country, certain rarities of which, always bring high prices when in fine condition. We note the 1851 5 c., brown, imperf., unused (£6), the 5 c., ochre, of the 1861 issue, unused (£6 2s. 6d.), and an uncommon block of six of the 90 c., 1868 issue, used (£7 5s.). The Columbus set, complete, unused, maintains a steady price of £3 5s. Despite their commemorative stigma, the Omaha issue appears to be in universal demand with our Transatlantic *confrères*, especially used and in fine, lightly cancelled condition. The extension of their term of office is certainly, like the Olympic Games stamps, in their favour.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER held another sale on December 8th and 9th, which supplied many desirable stamps, including a collection of Portuguese Colonies, represented by 1036 varieties, for £40. We also note Madrid 3 cuartos, bronze, unused, £14: Ceylon, 1s. 9d., green, imperf., unused, £3 10s., and the same stamp, perf., £3 12s. 6d.; Indian Service, long rectangular stamp, 8 as., green and purple, with gum, £13; Guinea, 1st issue, 25 reis, rose, £5 5s.; United States, 1861, 90 c., deep blue, an unused horizontal pair, £6 10s.; Tobago, the "error" 1s., *orange-brown*, dropped down to 20s. for a block of four, something like the correct value of this stamp. A number of good medium varieties, notably some nice Trinidads, realized steady prices, ranging from £2 to £4 10s.

* * *

THE moral of the result of Mr. Pearce's Transvaal sale is that were more trouble taken by auctioneer, and more patience exercised by the vendor, very different financial results would frequently accrue from Philatelic auctions. Doubtless owing to peremptory instructions valuable and rare stamps are occasionally submitted at the rostrum with catalogues issued 48 hours before, and frequently with inadequate descriptions. Small wonder is it that the smaller dealers buy bargains, or that the owner thinks that stamps *have gone down*.

* * *

THE Union of German Dealers referred to in our last issue have lost no time in getting to work, as they are already gratuitously advertising one firm as being one of the class who advertise large discounts, and sell mostly rubbish. According to their published statement a selection was sent to a member of that Union cataloguing to 1979 marks. On close examination it was found that the value of the stamps washed or damaged was 1690, thus leaving 289 marks as balance of "sound" stock. If this is a fair specimen, the large discount system would pay very well for the vendor!

* * *

PRICES at the "Michaelovitch" sale on December 13th and 14th (Messrs. PUTTICK and SIMPSON):—

	£	s.	d.
Baden, 18 kr. envelope, unused, poor .	6	7	6
,, 12 kr. ,, ,, ,, .	4	2	6
Naples, ½ tornese "Cross," unused (fair)	9	5	0
Prussia, 4 s. gros. envelope, unused .	9	10	0
,, 5 ,, ,, ,, .	12	0	0
,, 6 ,, ,, ,, .	15	0	0
,, 7 ,, ,, ,, .	5	12	6
,, 6 ,, (small size) env., unused	8	10	0
Russia, Moscow envelope, 1845-46, 5 kop., red, used, and entire . .	21	0	0
Ditto, ditto, another, larger size . .	22	0	0
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red . .	17	0	0
,, 1852 ,, ,, . .	9	0	0
New Caledonia, 1st issue, 10 c., black, entire sheet of 50 (cut and rejoined) .	9	15	0

A quantity of Sydneys and other N.S.W. stamps in reconstructed plates, as well as the above, were slaughtered! We reserve further comment until receipt of full list of prices realized.